



GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

AGENDA

Council Meeting

6.00pm Tuesday 28 May 2024

VENUE:
The Well
19 Heales Street, Smythesdale

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING
6.00pm Tuesday 4 June 2024

Copies of Golden Plains Shire Council's Agendas & Minutes
Can be obtained online at www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au

Code of Conduct Principles

WORKING TOGETHER

We Councillors will:

- acknowledge and respect that a diversity of opinion exists among us;
- recognise that each of us has different life experience, knowledge and values, and that all of these contribute collectively to our discussions;
- behave with courtesy towards each other, Council officers and our citizens;
- conform to the policy and precedents that guide the conduct of meetings;
- attend punctually and participate in all relevant meetings, workshops and briefings;
- share reasonably in the representation, ceremonial and hosting tasks of the full Council; and
- honour the majority decisions made by the Council, irrespective of our own position, and explain these decisions frankly to the community, once made.

BEHAVING WITH INTEGRITY

We Councillors will:

- identify our financial and personal interest, or potential interest, in any matter that comes before the Council;
- be honest and truthful;
- comply with laws and the regulations deriving there from;
- respect Council property and be frugal in its use, where allowed;
- avoid using our position for personal gain or to achieve advantage over others or to obtain preferential treatment;
- be sympathetic to the legitimate concerns of our citizens;
- act impartially when making decisions and have due regard to the needs of the community as a whole, rather than that of narrow vested interest; and
- acknowledge the role of Council officers in providing advice to us and in implementing Council decisions.

MAKING COMPETENT DECISIONS

We Councillors will:

- without diminishing the short term focus, approach decisions with due regard to the long term needs of the municipality;
- form policies with regard to the needs of the entire Shire;
- direct our attentions to the strategic and statutory needs of the municipality rather than short term, transient, operational issues;
- seek to fully inform ourselves on the issues before Council before making a decision;
- take all reasonable steps to improve our knowledge of matters relevant to our municipal duties; and
- use and respect the professional knowledge of Council officers and other advisers to Council.

Members of the Gallery

Welcome to a Golden Plains Shire Council meeting and thank you for joining us.

MEETING PROCEDURES

The procedures for this Council meeting are provided in Council's Governance Rules. A copy of the Governance Rules can be found on Council's [website](#).

MEETING FACILITIES

Council meetings are generally held at:

- Golden Plains Shire Council Civic Centre (2 Pope Street, Bannockburn)
- Linton Shire Hall (68 Sussex Street, Linton)
- The Well, Smythesdale (19 Heales Street, Smythesdale)

EXPECTATIONS OF THE GALLERY

Council meetings are decision-making forums and it is important that they are open to the community to attend and view proceedings. Community members may participate in Council meetings in accordance with Chapter 2, Division 7 of the Governance Rules.

At each meeting, there is an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions of the Council. Questions must be submitted to Council no later than 10:00am on the day of the meeting in order to be asked at the meeting.

Members of the public present at Council meetings must remain silent during the proceedings except when specifically invited to address the meeting. Mobile devices are permitted for silent use but must not be used for recording, talking or any usage that generates noise, unless permission is granted by the Chairperson of the meeting.

The Chairperson of the meeting may remove a person from the meeting if the person continues to interject or gesticulate offensively after being asked to desist. The Chairperson may cause the removal of any object or material that is deemed by them to be objectionable or disrespectful.

The Chairperson may call a break in a meeting for either a short time or to resume another day if the behaviour at the Council table or in the gallery is significantly disrupting the meeting.

RECORDING OF MEETINGS

Council meetings are recorded and streamed live on the internet. Recordings are archived and available on Council's [Youtube page](#).

All care is taken to maintain your privacy however as a visitor in the public gallery, your presence may be recorded.

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Membership

Councillors

Cr Brett Cunningham, Mayor (Chair)
Cr Gavin Gamble
Cr Ian Getsom
Cr Helena Kirby
Cr Les Rowe
Cr Owen Sharkey
Cr Clayton Whitfield

Officers

Michael Tudball, Interim CEO
Phil Josipovic, Director Infrastructure and Development
Lynnere Gray, Director Corporate Services
Governance & Risk Advisor
Governance & Risk Specialist

1 OPENING DECLARATION

We the Councillors of Golden Plains Shire declare that we will undertake, on every occasion, to carry out our duties in the best interest of the community and that our conduct shall maintain the standards of the code of good governance so that we may faithfully represent and uphold the trust placed in this Council by the people of Golden Plains Shire

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Golden Plains Shire spans the Traditional lands of the Wadawurrung and Eastern Maar Peoples.

Council acknowledges them as the Traditional Owners and Custodians and pays its respects to both Wadawurrung and Eastern Maar Elders past, present and emerging.

Council extends that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People who are part of Golden Plains Shire.

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES****Recommendation**

That Council confirms the minutes and the confidential minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 23 April 2024.

5 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**6 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

7 BUSINESS REPORTS FOR DECISION

7.1 DELEGATES REPORT & INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS RECORDS

File Number:

Author: Elise Holmes, Executive Assistant to the CEO

Authoriser: Michael Tudball, Interim CEO

Attachments:

- 1. Informal Meeting of Councillors Record - Strategic Briefing - 7 May 2024**
- 2. Informal Meeting of Councillors Record - Briefing - 21 May 2024**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Delegates Report and Informal Meetings of Councillors for the past month.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At each Council meeting, Councillors have the opportunity to update their colleagues and the community about attendances at various Delegated Boards/Committees/Meetings that they attended on behalf of the Council, and can acknowledge significant community events or Council functions / engagement opportunities that they have attended over the past month. This report contains records of informal meetings of Councillors as defined under Rule 1 of Chapter 5 of Council's Governance Rules.

MANDATORY BOARDS / COMMITTEES / MEETINGS

- Audit Committee
- G21 - Board of Directors
- Ballarat Regional Alliance of Councils
- Peri Urban Group of Rural Councils
- CEO Review Committee
- Municipal Association of Victoria
- Geelong Regional Library Corporation
- Tourism Greater Geelong and the Bellarine Board
- Golden Plains Emergency Management Committee
- Council Meeting, Strategic Briefing, Councillor Briefing and Portfolio Meetings

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT / EVENTS

Cr Cunningham

- Anzac Day Services:
 - Linton Primary School
 - Bannockburn
 - Teasdale
 - Shelford
 - Smythesdale
 - Bannockburn/Inverleigh Football Match
- Official Opening of Haddon and Napoleons Kindergartens by Minister for Children
- Official Opening - Central Highlands Regional Karting Complex Upgrade
- Meeting with Libby Coker MP, Member for Corangamite including tour of the Golden Plains Youth Hub

- Community Leadership Program 2023/2024 - Final Presentation
- 2024 LGPro Awards for Excellence Dinner
- Mayoral Forum - LG Amendment Bill Briefing
- Meeting with Catherine King MP, Member for Ballarat and CEO
- Golden Plains Farmers Market
- Meredith Historical Group Meeting
- Launch of the 2024–2027 Garibaldi Community Plan
- Meeting with Christine Couzens MP, Member for Geelong
- Inverleigh Drainage Meeting
- Meredith Community Centre Annual General Meeting
- Golden Plains Careers Expo
- Teesdale Pop-up Oppie Market
- Launch of the Cressy Water Tower Mural
- Recovery to Resilience Workshop - Shelford

Cr Gamble

- Anzac Day Services:
 - Teesdale
 - Inverleigh
- Golden Plains Farmers Market
- Smythesdale Country Market
- Community information Session - 66 Brooke St, Smythesdale
- Golden Plains Career Expo

Cr Getsom

- Anzac Day Service – Haddon
- Mannibadar Plaque Unveiling

Cr Kirby

- Anzac Day Services:
 - Corindhap
 - Rokewood
- Cape Clear Primary School Opening
- Teesdale Pop-up Oppie Market
- Launch of the Cressy Water Tower Mural

Cr Rowe

- Nil

Cr Sharkey

- Nil

Cr Whitfield

- Nil

INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS

Rule 1 of Chapter 5 of the Governance Rules requires that if there is a meeting of Councillors that:

- a) is scheduled or planned for the purpose of discussing the business of Council or briefing Councillors;
- b) is attended by an absolute majority of Councillors and one member of Council staff; and
- c) is not a Council meeting, delegated committee meeting or community asset committee meeting

then the Chief Executive Officer must ensure that a summary of the matters discussed at the meeting is:

- a) Tabled at the next convenient Council meeting; and
- b) Recorded in the Minutes of that Council meeting.

Records of informal meetings of Councillors are reported to an open Council meeting in order to promote transparency of Council decisions, actions and information, in accordance with the Governance Principles as contained in s9(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020*. The informal meetings of Councillors records are attached to this report. Rule 6 of Chapter 5 of the Governance Rules provides procedures for the declaration of a conflict of interest at a meeting being held under the auspices of Council, which includes a meeting which meets the definition of an informal meeting of Councillors under Rule 1 of Chapter 5. The informal meetings of Councillors records attached include any declarations of conflicts of interest made at these meetings.

7.2 BANNOCKBURN RECREATION PRECINCT (DARDEL DRIVE) - UPDATE

File Number:**Author:** Peter Ridsdale, Coordinator Economic Development**Authoriser:** Michael Tudball, Interim CEO**Attachments:** 1. March Council Report - Dardel Drive**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Note the comments received through the Have Your Say engagement and the outcomes from the community drop-in session.
2. Advise the lead petitioner of the outcomes of the engagement.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A petition was received and tabled at the Council meeting in February 2024 in relation to 3.5 hectares of Council owned land in the northern part of the Bannockburn Recreation Precinct that Council declared surplus to its needs, and which has since been rezoned to Neighbourhood Residential and a Planning Permit issued for a 51-lot residential subdivision.

BACKGROUND

In March 2021, Council decided that some of the land in the Bannockburn Recreation Precinct would not be needed for public open space, as originally planned. Since that decision was made, Council has prepared the necessary documents and plans and lodged an application to rezone the land to 'Neighbourhood Residential'. The application also included permission to subdivide the land into 51 lots.

In March 2023, the Minister for Planning commenced the public exhibition of the proposal to rezone the land. As part of the Planning Scheme Amendment process, the community was invited to make submissions. Residents were then provided with the opportunity to present their submissions to a Ministerial Panel in September 2023. In December 2023, the Minister rezoned the land and a planning permit for a 51-lot residential subdivision was issued.

A petition was received and tabled at the Council meeting in February 2024 opposing the rezoning and development of the residential subdivision on land that residents feel should remain public open space.

DISCUSSION

Since receiving the petition, several actions have been taken, most of which were identified in the Council report tabled at the March 2024 Council meeting (attached).

More recently, 39 submissions were made via the Have Your Say engagement page (Councillors have been provided with a full copy of those comments (attached) and 19 residents attended a drop-in session from 3:00pm–7:00pm at the Golden Plains Civic Centre on 22 April. The submissions/comments can be summarised as:

- More recreational and open space is required, not less
- Residents bought into the area expecting the land to be open space, not housing
- There is not enough infrastructure or services to support social/affordable housing residents
- The existing roads cannot accommodate the additional traffic
- The lot sizes are too small

REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS

Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)

Implications	Applicable to this Report
Governance Principles (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
Policy/Relevant Law (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
Environmental/Sustainability Implications (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	No
Community Engagement (Consideration of Community Engagement Principles under s.56 LGA 2020)	Yes
Public Transparency (Consideration of Public Transparency Principles under s.58 of LGA 2020)	Yes
Strategies and Plans (Consideration of Strategic Planning Principles under s.89 of LGA 2020)	No
Financial Management (Consideration of Financial Management Principles under s.101 of LGA 2020)	No
Service Performance (Consideration of Service Performance Principles under s.106 of LGA 2020)	No
Risk Assessment	No
Communication	Yes
Human Rights Charter	No
Gender Equality (Gender Impact Assessment required by s.9 of the <i>Gender Equality Act 2020</i>)	No

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

The submission and presentation of petitions to Council supports the overarching governance principles, specifically that the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

POLICY/RELEVANT LAW

Local Government Act 2020 and Council's Governance Rules

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Petitions are a form of community engagement and allow community members to demonstrate community support for a request or views on a matter and for that request or view to be presented directly to Council.

PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

Petitions allow community members to demonstrate community support for a request or views on a matter and for that request or view to be presented directly to Council. The processes in the Governance Rules provide transparency in the way that petitions are presented to Council and how Council decisions relating to petitions are made.

RISK ASSESSMENT

There are no identified risk implications associated with this report.

COMMUNICATION

The Interim Chief Executive Officer will provide a response to the lead petitioner, as the obvious intended contact for the petition. If Council passes the officer's recommendation, the Interim Chief Executive Officer will bring a report to a future Council meeting in response to the petition.

HUMAN RIGHTS CHARTER

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

OPTIONS

Option 1 – Receive the update on actions relating to a petition.

This option is recommended by officers as it is required based on the resolution to receive the petition.

Option 2 – Do not receive the update or request that additional actions be undertaken.

This option is not recommended by officers as this report satisfies the Council resolution.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officer involved in preparing this report has any conflicts of interest with regard to this matter.

CONCLUSION

Following receipt of the petition, additional information sharing and consultation has occurred and it is recommended that the lead petitioner be advised that the next opportunity for the community to become involved in the process will be when the Council resolves to sell the land.

7.3 QUARTER 3 FINANCE REPORT

File Number:**Author:** Kathryn Fulton, Acting Manager Finance**Authoriser:** Lynnere Gray, Director Corporate Services**Attachments:**

1. Q3 Financial Dashboard
2. Q3 Financial Reports
3. Q3 Capital Report

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the Quarter 3 Finance Report for the 9 months ended 31 March 2024.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Quarter 3 Finance Report outlines the financial results for the nine months ended 31 March 2024, together with a comparison to the revised budget adopted by Council (inclusive of carry forwards from 2022-23 and additional funding received to complete projects).

This report includes a summary of Council's financial performance and position for the 2023-24 year up to 31 March 2024, and an update on capital projects as at 31 March 2024. A high-level full year forecast is also included in the financial statements.

The Quarter 3 report was presented to the Audit and Risk Committee at its 14 May 2024 meeting.

BACKGROUND

The contents of this report assist the Council to gain assurance in relation to financial management of Council's operations. The *Local Government Act 2020* requires a statement, comparing the budgeted revenue and expenditure for the financial year with the actual revenue and expenditure to date, to be presented to Council at least every three [3] months.

Council has completed nine months of the 2023-24 financial year. The attached budget report has been prepared on an operating basis and includes a comparison of actual results for the period to 31 March 2024 to the annual budget adopted by Council for the following financial statements:

- Income Statement
- Balance Sheet
- Statement of Cash Flows
- Statement of Capital Works
- Service Area Summary

DISCUSSION

The financial report and attachments provide a comprehensive overview of Council's financial performance and current financial state for the third quarter of the 2023-24 financial year up to 31 March 2024 and an update on the status and progress of capital projects.

Operating Result

The operating result for the period is reporting a surplus of \$4.2m compared to the original budgeted surplus of \$9.8m and revised budgeted surplus of \$13.1m. This \$8.9m unfavourable variance to the revised budget is primarily due to:

- Operating Grants – variance in operating grants is largely due to the FY24 Victorian Grants Commission General Purpose Grant being received 100% in advance in FY23 (additional \$2m), compared to 75% budgeted to be received in advance. Also contributing to the variance is operating grant income received in advance which is not yet recognised in the income statement due to delay in project completion. The recognition of this grant income, when appropriate, will offset the majority of this variance.

- Capital Grants – unfavourable variance is predominately due to capital grant income that has been received in advance and is not yet recognised in the income statement due to delay in project completion.
- Monetary Contributions – \$411k favourable variance with public open space contributions higher than budget.
- Net Gain/Loss on Disposals – unfavourable variance due to only 1 Lomandra Drive lot sold offset by increase from fleet sales.
- Materials and services – \$1.2m favourable variance due to timing variances - \$380k Smart Shires, \$204k Development Contribution Plan, Bannockburn Industrial Estate \$195k and \$180k Core Systems Transformation project.
- Depreciation – \$362k unfavourable variance due to significant increase in asset values of \$46.8m from the asset revaluation of building and infrastructure assets at 30 June 2023.

Adjusted Underlying Result

The 'Adjusted Underlying Result' removes any non-recurrent grants used to fund capital expenditure, non-monetary asset contributions and other capital contributions to fund capital expenditure from the operating result. This formula is prescribed within the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.

At 31 March 2024 the 'Adjusted Underlying Result' is generating a loss of \$697k, compared to a revised budget underlying surplus YTD of \$3.2m. This unfavourable variance of \$2.4m to the revised budget is primarily due to variances in the operating result as outlined above (lower grant income, lower land sales, and higher depreciation compared to budget).

Council's 2023-24 budget generated an Adjusted Underlying Deficit of \$443k. The revised budget has been updated with forecast grants received in advance, reduction of Lomandra Drive land sales from 4 lots to 2 lots, \$1.5m additional gifted assets reflecting year-to-date subdivision handovers, \$1.4m additional depreciation costs, and \$115k additional savings identified – which generates an Adjusted Underlying Deficit of \$1.1m.

Financial Snapshot

	2023-24 Annual Original Budget	2023-24 Annual Revised Budget	Revised Budget March 2024	Actual March 2024
Operating Result	12,398	15,177	13,078	4,215
Adjusted Underlying Result	(443)	(1,101)	3,191	(697)
Capital Expenditure	22,678	30,741	23,525	7,892
Cash Balance	13,052	7,636	n/a	15,352
Total Borrowings	8,333	8,350	n/a	8,978

Key Issues / Risks

The key items and risks to note at the end of the first quarter of the 2023-24 financial year up until 31 March 2024 are:

- One lot from the Lomandra Drive development has been sold, with three more lots included in the 2023-24 original budgeted income. (Please note that since the end of Q3 two more lots have been sold – one settled in April 2024 and the second will settle in June 2024. This will have a positive impact on the Operating Result and the Adjusted Underlying Result.)

- The flood emergency works claims of \$230k in 2022-23 and \$280k lodged to date in 2023-24 are still awaiting finalisation of assessment and payment by the relevant government department. Significant costs were incurred by Council that are either still being worked through for claim lodgement or are not potentially claimable.
- Depreciation expense will be higher than budget due to an increase in asset values of \$46.8m resulting from an asset revaluation of infrastructure and building assets required due to material movements in indices. The impact from the increase in asset values is estimated to generate an additional \$1.4m in depreciation for the year.

Capital Projects

Actual versus Budget

Total expenditure in the Statement of Capital Works is \$7.89m which is \$15.6m below the revised budget of \$23.5m.

The revised budget includes projects totalling \$7.3m rolled forward into 2023-24 for multi-year projects and projects that were delayed due to the damage to road assets from the flood events of October and November 2022 requiring rectification works.

Delivery of Projects

The following projects have been completed during the quarter as outlined below:

Project
Kopkes Road reconstruction (\$1.3m Local Roads Improvements [Roads to Recovery])
Cape Clear-Rokewood Road

The following projects were carried over from 2022-23 into the 2023-24 year with status updates and/or roll-forward details provided below:

- \$768k Rokewood Landfill Rehabilitation Works – tender assessment finalised. Awarding imminent (contract currently being drafted).
- \$375k LRCI Phase 3 – public open space asset renewal – path works, street furniture and BBQ/shelter have been completed at Edinburgh Reserve. Lethbridge public toilet, including new septic system, is scheduled for installation in May 2024 and will include improved car parking and path works for accessibility. All open space works under LRCI 3 are scheduled to be will be completed by 30 June 2024.
- \$871k Linton Oval Reconstruction – All ground works including irrigation, sprinkler installation, drainage and root zone layer have been completed. Turf works will occur in September 2024 to coincide with the growth establishment period for warm season grasses.
- \$400k Lethbridge Play Space – Play space is open to community with works to complete nature play and furniture elements undertaken in March 2024.
- \$250k Leighdale Equestrian Upgrade Female Friendly – Contractor appointed for construction of final component – the undercover arena surface and fencing. All works will be completed by early May and formal opening event dates have been proposed to the Minister for Sport for June 2024.

Contracts approved under CEO delegation via the Contracts, Tenders and Grants Committee

As part of continuous improvement and reporting in relation to procurement activities, contracts that have been awarded between the values of \$200,000 and \$450,000 are presented to the Contracts, Tenders and Grants Committee to recommend for approval to the CEO. Contracts awarded between these values during the quarter are listed in the table below.

Contracts Awarded – Contract Value Between \$200,000 - \$450,000			
Project	Approved By	Awarded To	Contract Value \$
Rokewood Construction of Capping and Landfill Rehabilitation	CEO (supported by Contracts, Tenders and Grants Committee)	Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd	314,583

Council officers have been proactive with earlier planning of projects and allocation of budgets than traditional processes, which has enabled a number of tenders to be issued and awarded well in advance of a normal year. Projects advertised during the quarter include:

- Woody Yaloak Recreation Reserve Sports Lighting – AFL Oval and Netball/Tennis Courts
- Rokewood Community Hub and Pavilion Upgrade
- Sebastopol-Smythesdale Road and Tom Jones Road Intersection Improvement
- Teesdale Don Wallace Oval Upgrade
- Provision of Environmental Health Services
- Corporate Geospatial Solution

The table below outlines Tenders/RFQs awarded during the quarter.

Project	Awarded To	Contract Value (ex-GST) \$
Woody Yaloak Recreation Reserve Sports Lighting – AFL Oval and Netball/Tennis Courts	IPower (Vic) Pty Ltd	453,439
Sebastopol-Smythesdale Road and Tom Jones Road Intersection Improvement	Central Vic Civil	180,911
Inverleigh Active Youth Space	LIM Construction (Australia) Pty Ltd	2,053,607
Road Conditions Assessment	Shepherd Services Pty Ltd	99,275
Replacement of Henderson's Road Bridge, Bamganie	Road & Bridge Pty Ltd	711,401

In addition, if there have been any contract variations to contracts valued over \$200,000 greater than 10% but less than 15%, they will be reported to provide transparency in relation to variances. There were no variations in this category during the quarter.

REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS*Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)*

Implications	Applicable to this Report
Governance Principles (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
Policy/Relevant Law (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
Environmental/Sustainability Implications (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
Community Engagement (Consideration of Community Engagement Principles under s.56 LGA 2020)	Yes
Public Transparency (Consideration of Public Transparency Principles under s.58 of LGA 2020)	No
Strategies and Plans (Consideration of Strategic Planning Principles under s.89 of LGA 2020)	Yes
Financial Management (Consideration of Financial Management Principles under s.101 of LGA 2020)	Yes
Service Performance (Consideration of Service Performance Principles under s.106 of LGA 2020)	No
Risk Assessment	Yes
Communication	Yes
Human Rights Charter	Yes
Gender Equality (Gender Impact Assessment required by s.9 of the <i>Gender Equality Act 2020</i>)	No

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

The Golden Plains Shire Council Quarterly Finance Report has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

POLICY/RELEVANT LAW*Local Government Act 2020**Local Government Amendment (Fair Go Rates) Act 2015*

Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020

Financial Plan

Annual Budget

ENVIRONMENTAL/SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Environmentally sustainable design and construction is included for all projects.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A formal consultation process was not required.

STRATEGIES/PLANS

Financial reports are prepared ensuring consistency with Council's long term financial plan.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The Quarterly Finance Report is focused on the financial management and results for the reporting quarter. Council's financial management processes are in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020, Australian Accounting Standards, and other mandatory professional reporting requirements. Financial sustainability is monitored by considering the financial result for the period and reporting key financial indicators on the financial dashboard.

RISK ASSESSMENT

There are identified risk implications associated with this report, detailed below:

In accordance Section 138 of the *Local Government Act 2020* a Quarterly Finance Report comparing the budgeted revenue and expenditure for the financial year with the actual revenue and expenditure to date is required to be presented to Council at least every three months.

COMMUNICATION

The Quarter 3 report will be presented to Council at its May 2024 meeting.

HUMAN RIGHTS CHARTER

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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officer involved in preparing this report has any conflicts of interest in regard to this matter.

CONCLUSION

The content included in this report and the attached documents are consistent with the adopted Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan after taking in to account the movements described above.

7.4 COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025 IMPLEMENTATION - QUARTER 3

File Number:**Author:** Emma Whitelaw, Business Partner Performance and Change**Authoriser:** Lynnere Gray, Director Corporate Services**Attachments:** 1. Council Plan Implementation Report – Quarter 3**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council note the implementation of the Year 3, Quarter 3 actions (1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024) of the Council Plan 2021-2025.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To update Council on the progress made in implementing Year 3, Quarter 3 actions (1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024) of the Council Plan 2021-2025.

BACKGROUND

The Council Plan 2021-2025 is Council's commitment to delivering on the aspirations outlined in the Golden Plains Shire Community Vision 2040. The Plan plays a key role in setting the strategic direction of Council for the Council term and ensuring an integrated approach is taken to planning, monitoring and performance reporting.

The Local Government Act 2020 requires that a Council Plan be prepared and adopted by 31 October in the year following a general election and that Council must address the strategic planning principles outlined in the Act in the preparation of its Council Plan and other strategic plans.

The Council Plan has been informed by extensive community engagement and expands on the four Themes of the Community Vision - Community, Liveability, Sustainability and Prosperity with the inclusion of an additional theme in Leadership. The Themes and Community Priorities provide the framework for Golden Plains Shire to align its strategic objectives and actions to for the next four years.

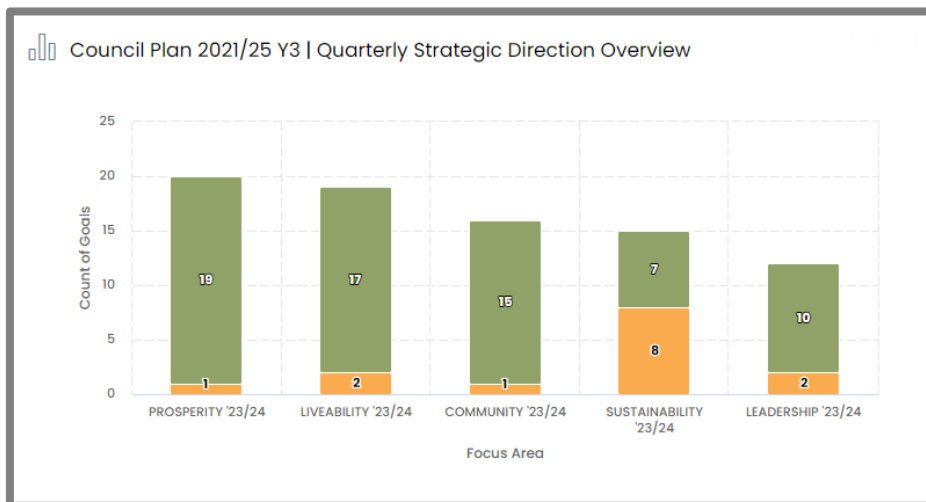
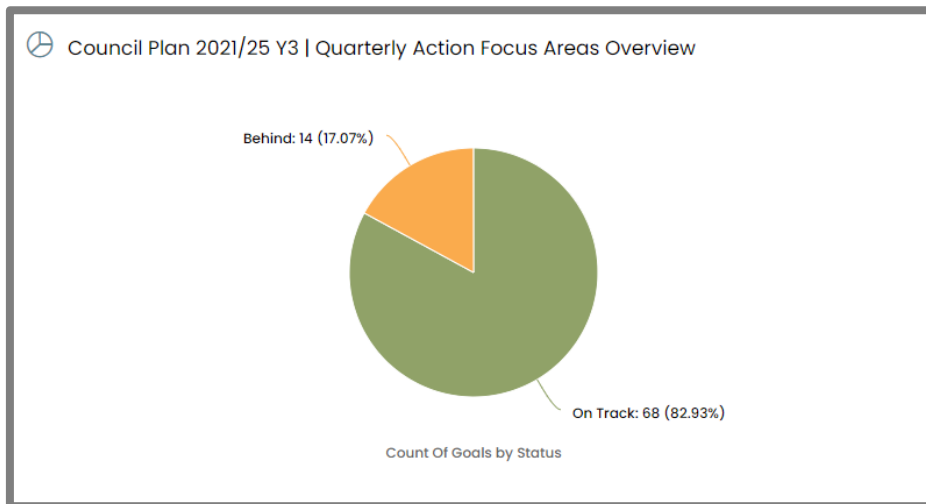
In addition, the Council Plan 2021- 2025 incorporates the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) as required under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008. This ensures the priorities for supporting, protecting, and improving the health and wellbeing of the Golden Plains Shire community are at the forefront of Council's strategic planning and are integrated across all Council services and initiatives.

DISCUSSION

Progress for the third quarter of Year 3 of the 2021-2025 Council Plan has commenced across all pillars in the implementation of the plan. A detailed explanation of all actions completed are included in Attachment: 1. Council Plan Implementation Report – Quarter 3.

Delivery of Year 3 Council Plan Actions have progressed well throughout the quarter, with progress commencing across all 82 actions, with some actions well underway.

At the conclusion of the Quarter 3 reporting period, actions which are progressing with an on-track status will reflect progress of 75% or greater. 14 of the 82 actions are experiencing delays and report progress less than 75%.



Key updates from the strategic direction of Community for the Quarter 3 reporting period surround the themes of recovery, safety, health and wellbeing, and continuous improvement to Council owned assets. Empowering local communities with the skills and knowledge to prepare for future emergency events was a key focus for the quarter, with free Recovery to Resilience programs in Teesdale, Shelford, and Inverleigh planned and scheduled for May and June. Additionally, an agreement with the Country Fire Authority to initiate planning for a new fire station in Dereel, strengthens our leadership and advocacy practices in building strong, safe, and resilient communities. Security measures were implemented at key facilities and duress alarms were installed in customer hubs, demonstrating a commitment to safety. A comprehensive review identified improvements to Council's Community Grants Programs and the successful launch of a new and innovative Online Community Directory in February fosters stronger connections among residents. 227 young people participated in youth programs across the quarter and Council officers continue a presence at the Bannockburn Farmer's Market promoting overall health and wellbeing initiatives including the Edible Gardens Program, Reusable Products Rebate Program, and the Choose Water Everyday campaign, alongside the delivery of dedicated preventative screening programs. Proactive maintenance programs delivered successful outcomes, with facility upgrades, drainage solutions, and significant advancements in open space development. Highlights include the completion of Stage 2 of the Bannockburn Recreation Precinct, new viewing platforms and accessibility improvements at Edinburgh Reserve, and the finalised fabrication of the Lethbridge Lake public toilet structure, scheduled for installation in the next quarter.

Key updates from the strategic direction of Liveability for the Quarter 3 reporting period include the completion of the Slate Quarry Road widening project, and the preparation of a draft Footpath Strategy, with public engagement on the final plan scheduled for Quarter 4. Across the quarter Council continues to progress Play Space and Sport and Active Recreation Strategies with construction commencing on the Inverleigh Active Youth Space. Planning for future development of both a play space and youth recreation areas at Turtle Bend Reserve commenced with an

extensive consultation reaching over 12,000 people and the receipt of 111 valuable submissions. Council continues to identify facilities that may be appropriate for funding opportunities with three external applications to help deliver key recreation infrastructure priorities submitted across the quarter. The adoption of a Tracks and Trails Strategy occurred in February in alignment with Council's priority to implement path and trail improvement to promote safe and active transport. Support of programs, initiatives and partnership that promotes and advocates for healthy eating and social connection was a focus for Council officers with a food survey conducted in January followed by an in-person food forum in March, attracting 45 attendees.

Key updates from the strategic direction of Sustainability for the Quarter 3 reporting period includes Council's commitment to improving and enhancing waste practices demonstrated through a Have Your Say Glass Bin Rollout Education Campaign which commenced in February. Building of community awareness surrounding sustainable practices was a focus for the quarter, through the delivery of sustainability and climate change presentations at Community Vision Refresh workshops. Council continues to value, promote, and preserve our cultural and natural heritage. Installation of two benches designed by Wadawurrung artist Bonnie Chew in collaboration with the Linton Men's Shed and Primary School reflects this. Positioned around the Vera Scantlebury sculpture in Linton installation of the project is scheduled for April. Undertaking activities that reduce the risk of wildfire and flood events continue. Council's roadside slashing program to reduce fire hazards, commenced in December, and was completed in the reporting period alongside the completion of fire hazard inspections across the municipality. The Inverleigh Flood Levee Project, Common Road Catchment and Bannockburn Flood Study Drainage and Flood Mitigation projects continue to progress, and demolition works for the Linton-Piggoreet Bridge flood recovery project was completed, with construction planned for the forthcoming reporting period.

Key updates from the strategic direction of Prosperity for the Quarter 3 reporting period are shown through early years infrastructure enhancements, enabling access to skill development and advocacy and opportunities for economic investment. The successful completion of kindergarten projects in Haddon, Bannockburn (Phase 1), and Napoleons Primary School, lay a strong foundation for early education within the municipality. Demonstrating a commitment to healthy families, Council successfully secured funding through the "More Support for Mums, Dads and Babies" program. This initiative equips Council's Maternal Child Health Nurses with up-to-date breastfeeding education and resources, ensuring optional support to new parents. The planning and coordination of the Golden Plains Careers Expo scheduled for May was established across the quarter. The Expo aims to connect residents with valuable educational and career opportunities and is made possible through funding from the Victorian Government's Crime Prevention Strategy. Council continues to identify and advocate for investment opportunities, partnership and projects with a comprehensive investment prospectus finalised across the reporting period. The focus on tourism promotion continued with the development of new brochures and a captivating trails video, positioning Golden Plains Shire in a position to attract visitors and stimulate local economic activity.

Key updates from the strategic direction of Leadership for the Quarter 3 reporting period include preparation of the 2024 Local Government election, formulation of the 2024-25 budget scheduled for Council endorsement in April followed by public consultation and adoption in June. Long-Term Financial Plan modelling continues during the development of the 2024-25 budget and key assumptions updated to reflect the rate cap of 2.75% as announced by the Minister in December. A focus on improving resources and customer facing processes continues, alongside the development of a new Customer Request Management System. In alignment with Council's commitment of managing Council and community assets, a draft Asset Management Strategy and Policy was endorsed for public exhibition and community consultation in March, alongside the completion of an annual road hazard inspection program and the commencement of footpath inspections, ensuring comprehensive infrastructure assessments. Council continues to support a productive and skilled workforce, with the delivery of an Employee Value Proposition (EVP). Council's career page has been updated to reflect core statements and showcase the benefits of working for our organisation, and the implementation of a Learning Management System (LMS) has significantly enhanced learning initiatives and employee development.

9 of these 14 actions experiencing a delay represent a delay against the original plan and indicate a behind status less than 75%, however greater than 60%. The delays in these actions are identified and detailed in the attached report and includes the following actions:

- Y3| 1.4.1 Value and provide inclusive opportunities for residents of all ages, genders and abilities to meaningfully participate in community life.

Action: Demonstrate leadership on gender equity and promote respectful relationships (65% progress for the Y3 Reporting Period)

- Y3| 3.2.1 Provide sustainable and efficient waste management services.

Action: Continue to work with regional partners and stakeholders to develop waste minimisation, management and education strategies and to advocate for Regional or State waste improvements and initiatives, such as the Container Deposit Scheme. (60% progress for the Y3 Reporting Period)

- Y3| 3.2.2 Investigate options for the disposal of hard waste and prevention of illegal dumping.

Action: Respond to incidences of illegal dumping and respond with different approaches to prevention and enforcement. (60% progress for the Y3 Reporting Period)

- Y3| 3.2.3 Education and promotion of responsible behaviours to reduce waste to landfill.

Action: Continue engaging with community and businesses on waste reduction strategies and responsible waste disposal options. (60% progress for the Y3 Reporting Period)

- Y3| 3.3.1 Conduct land management practices and behaviours that enable a safe and thriving natural environment.

Action: Protect the health of waterways and facilitate sustainable water use through implementation of water security initiatives in the Environmental Strategy 2019-2027. (60% progress for the Y3 Reporting Period)

- Y3| 3.4.1 Implement approaches to address and mitigate climate change.

Action: Undertake a review of the Climate Emergency Plan and address risk based priority adaptation and mitigation actions. (60% progress for the Y3 Reporting Period)

- Y3| 3.4.2 Promote and encourage the use of sustainable and clean energy and technology.

Action: Scope, encourage and further develop projects and initiatives that explore the use of renewable energy and carbon neutral practices. (60% progress for the Y3 Reporting Period)

- Y3| 5.2.2 Ensure responsible and sustainable financial, asset and risk management.

Action: Implement and review Council's Risk Management Framework and ensure all key risks have been measured and adequately controlled. (60% progress for the Y3 Reporting Period)

- Y3| 5.3.1 Council service delivery is efficient and responsive to the needs of the community.

Action: Continue to streamline and improve Council's Information and Communications technologies systems and processes. (60% progress for the Y3 Reporting Period)

5 of the 14 actions experiencing a delay indicate progress less than 60%. Across the Quarter 4 reporting period Council officers will continue to work with the Senior Management Team and Department Managers to understand and address factors which are causing a delay in the achievement of these actions. Details on these actions are identified below:

- Y3| 2.4.1 Provide high quality public spaces and infrastructure.

Action: Provide and advocate for safe and attractive design to preserve and improve rural and urban character of the townships across the municipality. (50% progress for the Y3 Reporting Period)

An expression of interest submitted in Quarter 1, through the Federal Government's Growing Regions Fund for the Northern Streetscape projects seeking \$1.3 Million was unsuccessful. The Northern Streetscapes project has been delayed, however progressed to a Request for Quote stage during the reporting period, inviting consultants to develop the concept plans to detailed design documentation. Stage 2 of Bannockburn Recreation Precinct Open Stage Development is complete.

- Y3| 2.4.2 Maintain the amenity and cleanliness of townships, roadsides, and public spaces.

Action: Service, maintain and renew assets to provide usable and attractive public spaces that support a variety of social and community uses and safety. (50% progress for the Y3 Reporting Period)

Council continues its commitment to providing high-quality open spaces for our community, with upgrades to the Haddon Roundabout, Bannockburn Streetscapes Beautification, Inverleigh Picnic Areas Additions, Lethbridge Lakes Public Amenity, and ongoing maintenance occurring across the reporting period. Future upgrades to the open space between Ferrars Street and Gibb Street Rokewood have been completed, however this action reflects a delayed status due to the development of an Open Space Strategy not proceeding at this time. This has resulted in a direct impact on the effective and holistic delivery of a maintenance strategy.

- Y3| 3.2.2 Investigate options for the disposal of hard waste and prevention of illegal dumping.

Action: Review of the Waste Strategy to review hard waste initiatives and opportunities. (25% progress for the Y3 Reporting Period)

A detailed hard waste collection cost and benefit analysis with options was presented to Council Senior Management Team and Council at a briefing in August 2023. Further cost analysis has been provided for consideration; however no further progress has been recorded. Review of the Waste Strategy has additionally been deferred until 2025.

- Y3| 3.3.1 Conduct land management practices and behaviours that enable a safe and thriving natural environment.

Action: Continue to collaborate with private landowners and businesses to educate and partner in appropriate and sustainable land management, agriculture, and natural resource practices. (10% progress for the Y3 Reporting Period)

Council officers regularly respond to enquiries from residents about sustainable land management, agricultural and natural resource practices, however additional deliverables relating to advising, educating, and empowering local farming industries, businesses and communities have not commenced across the reporting period. Actions surrounding a review of environmental compliance in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act have not progressed.

- Y3| 4.3.1 Support initiatives for local shopping and hospitality businesses.

Action: Advocate for and implement Streetscape and town centre improvements. (20% progress for the Y3 Reporting Period)

Progress on the Northern Streetscape Framework Plan to enhance town character and amenity of the three town centres that form the northern corridor of the municipality including Smythesdale, Scarsdale and Linton has been delayed, following the unsuccessful application through the Federal Government's Growing Regions Fund in Quarter 1. The project continues to progress despite these delays, with the request for quote stage commencing during the Quarter 3 reporting period.

REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS

Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)

Implications	Applicable to this Report
Governance Principles (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
Policy/Relevant Law (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
Environmental/Sustainability Implications (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	No
Community Engagement (Consideration of Community Engagement Principles under s.56 LGA 2020)	No
Public Transparency (Consideration of Public Transparency Principles under s.58 of LGA 2020)	Yes
Strategies and Plans (Consideration of Strategic Planning Principles under s.89 of LGA 2020)	Yes
Financial Management (Consideration of Financial Management Principles under s.101 of LGA 2020)	No
Service Performance (Consideration of Service Performance Principles under s.106 of LGA 2020)	Yes
Risk Assessment	No
Communication	Yes
Human Rights Charter	No
Gender Equality (Gender Impact Assessment required by S.9 of Gender Equality Act 2020.)	No

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

In accordance with the principles in Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020, the quarterly reporting of the Council Plan will specifically:

- Contribute to innovation and continuous improvement.
- Ensure transparency of Council decisions, actions and information.

POLICY/RELEVANT LAW

The quarterly progress report is provided in relation to the Council Plan 2021-2025. Ongoing monitoring of progress is a requirement under section 89 of the LGA 2020.

PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

The Council Plan quarterly progress report is available for the public to view as part of the Council Meeting agenda or on request.

STRATEGIES/PLANS

The quarterly Council Plan reports provide for ongoing monitoring of progress and regular reviews under section 89 of the LGA 2020.

SERVICE PERFORMANCE

The quarterly progress report focuses on Council's performance in relation to the actions of the Council Plan 2021-2025. Each quarterly report is a valuable tool in demonstrating service gains and improvements.

RISK ASSESSMENT

There are no identified risk implications associated with this report.

COMMUNICATION

The Council Plan quarterly progress report will be available for the public to view as part of the Council Meeting agenda or on request.

HUMAN RIGHTS CHARTER

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

OPTIONS

Option 1 – that Council note the implementation of Year 3, Quarter 3 (1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024) actions of the Council Plan 2021-2025.

This option is recommended by officers as the report provides an overview of the implementation of the actions as outlined in the Plan.

Option 2 – that Council do not note the implementation of Year 3, Quarter 3 (1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024) actions of the Council Plan 2021-2025.

This option is not recommended by officers as the actions have already taken place.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officer involved in preparing this report has any conflicts of interest regarding this matter.

CONCLUSION

As outlined in the attached report, actions for Year 3, Quarter 3 actions (1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024) of the Council Plan 2021-2025 have commenced, with some well underway. Continued action and future planning will continue to see the successful progression and completion of the Council Plan 2021-2025.

7.5 SPECIAL RATES AND CHARGES DRAFT POLICY

File Number:**Author:** Phil Josipovic, Director Infrastructure and Environment**Authoriser:** Phil Josipovic, Director Infrastructure and Environment**Attachments:**

1. Special Rate and Charge Policy (Draft)
2. Special Rates and Special Charges: Calculating Maximum Total Levy - Ministerial Guideline (2004)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Endorse the draft Special Rates and Charges Policy for public exhibition for a four-week period.
2. Note that a further report will be presented in July 2024 following the community exhibition process.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Special Rates and Charges (SRC) is a funding model available to Councils for the recovery of costs, or part costs, from property owners who derive a benefit from Council works or services. Section 163 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act) provides the legislative framework required to be undertaken for implementation of any SRC projects. A draft SRC policy has been developed and is recommended for Council endorsement for the purpose of public exhibition.

BACKGROUND

Golden Plains Shire currently does not have a SRC Policy in place. Current staff are not aware of any past use of the SRCs to fund works or projects. Having an SRC Policy in place provides an option for funding of projects / programs where it can be demonstrated that there is a clear and direct benefit to a group of property owners. An SRC Policy will provide an additional option for funding of projects that will directly benefit property owners who contribute to the projects.

DISCUSSION

In order to utilise the provisions of SRCs, it is recommended that Council first establish an SRC Policy. Section 163 of the Act provides the legislative framework and formula for apportioning costs to direct beneficiaries (property owners) and the general community. Where there is a broader community benefit of a project funded by SRC, Councils pay the cost of this benefit. The proportion of direct benefit from a project to property owners is funded by the property owners.

Costs that can be included for recovery include:

- Preliminary and detailed design
- Community consultation
- Construction
- Project management
- Administrative costs

The draft SRC Policy outlines the process for identifying potential projects and declaring an SRC scheme, a key component being consultation with affected property owners. The draft policy also indicates that any abandoned schemes should not be considered again for a minimum of 5 years.

The draft policy identifies 7 steps in progressing an SRC project, namely:

Step 1 – Project Assessment: Potential SRC projects are determined by whether the project fits with Policy requirements (usually linked to Council Plan). Projects can be identified by Councillors, staff or community members.

Step 2 – Scheme initiation: Initial support for an SRC scheme is determined through a survey of benefitting property owners, outlining proposed works or services, an indication of the cost to benefitting property owners, and the options available for payment.

Step 3 – Intention to Declare / Abandon Scheme: A Council report is prepared based on the outcome of the survey findings with a recommendation to either abandon the scheme or for Council to give notice of its intention to declare an SRC scheme.

If Council resolves to give notice of its intention to declare an SRC scheme, it must publish a Public Notice. In addition, it must send a letter advising of this decision, including a copy of the Public Notice, to all benefitting property owners within three [3] days of publishing the Public Notice. The letter includes the information contained in the Public Notice, as well as advice that submissions may be lodged by any benefitting property owner.

In accordance with the Act, the Public Notice must as a minimum:

- Contain an outline of the proposed declaration; and
- Set out the date on which it is proposed to make the declaration; and
- Advise that copies of the proposed declaration are available for inspection at the Council office for at least 28 days after the publication of the notice.

If Council resolves to abandon (or not publish intent to declare) an SRC scheme, the affected property owners will be informed of this decision.

Step 4 – Written submissions received within the nominated time frame (28 days minimum) to be considered by Council. A person may address Council to provide a verbal submission in support of a written submission.

Section 163B(6) of the *Local Government Act (1989)* relates to Special Rates and Charges schemes intended to recover an amount that exceeds two thirds of the total cost of a project and states:

“A Council can not make a declaration if the Council receives objections from persons who will be required to pay the special rate or special charge in respect of a majority of the rateable properties in respect of which the special rate or special charge would be imposed.”

It should be noted that the draft attached policy sets the minimum level of support from contributing properties for any Special Rate and Charge project at 60%.

Step 5 – Declare or Abandon Scheme: A Council report is prepared based on the outcome of the consideration of any submissions from benefitting property owners with a recommendation for Council to either give Notice of Declaration or abandon the scheme.

If Council resolves to declare a Special Rate or Charge, a notice advising of this decision is sent to all benefitting property owners. The notice includes the information contained in the Declaration, incorporating details of the charge for each property and the date on which the contribution is payable, in accordance with section 163 of the Act, and shall contain prescribed information detailed in Regulation 96 of the Local Government Reporting and Accounting Regulations 1992. The notice will also advise that appeals may be lodged with VCAT by any interested party.

If Council resolves to abandon the scheme, the same scheme should not be considered by Council for a minimum of five [5] years from the date of the Council resolution.

Step 6 – Appeal to VCAT: Under section 185 of the Act, benefitting property owners may lodge an application for review with the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) within one month of issue of the levy notice. An appeal is listed, heard, and determined by the Tribunal. Decisions made by VCAT are binding on all parties.

Step 7 – Procurement and Construction: Should no appeals be received by VCAT, or VCAT confirms the scheme, it will be cleared to progress to procurement and subsequent construction.

Should VCAT rule to abandon a scheme, the same scheme shall not be considered by Council for a minimum of five [5] years from the date of the VCAT decision.

It should be noted Council has a certain amount of discretion in how to set special rates and charges with due regard to the *Local Government Act 1989*, which sets the minimum requirements. A background paper is attached that details what some other Councils have done with their policy that goes above and beyond the legislative requirements.

It is recommended that the draft SRC Council Policy be subject to community review and submissions. Any submissions will be considered in the final drafting of the policy before being presented to Council for adoption.

REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS

Implications	Applicable to this Report
Governance Principles (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
Policy/Relevant Law (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
Environmental/Sustainability Implications (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	No
Community Engagement (Consideration of Community Engagement Principles under s.56 LGA 2020)	Yes
Public Transparency (Consideration of Public Transparency Principles under s.58 of LGA 2020)	Yes
Strategies and Plans (Consideration of Strategic Planning Principles under s.89 of LGA 2020)	No
Financial Management (Consideration of Financial Management Principles under s.101 of LGA 2020)	Yes
Service Performance (Consideration of Service Performance Principles under s.106 of LGA 2020)	No
Risk Assessment	No
Communication	No
Human Rights Charter	No
Gender Equality (Gender Impact Assessment required by s.9 of the <i>Gender Equality Act 2020</i>)	No

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

The overarching governance principles in s.9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* applicable to this draft policy include:

- Priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community;
- Innovation and continuous improvement are to be pursued; and
- The ongoing financial viability is to be ensured.

POLICY/RELEVANT LAW

The Draft SRC Council Policy complies with sections 163 and 185 of the *Local Government Act (1989)*.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A key feature of the draft policy is the community consultation process for any proposed SRC scheme. The policy outlines the consultation steps and review points as part of any consideration for an SRC project. In addition, the draft SRC Council Policy is recommended to be exhibited publicly, in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy, for a 4 week period.

PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

The draft SRC Council Policy will be made publicly accessible providing transparency.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

If adopted, the draft SRC Council Policy provides an opportunity to deliver improvement works that directly benefit property owners, noting that a contribution from owners would be required. The impact would be a reduction of cost to Council and the potential to deliver more works.

OPTIONSOption 1 – Endorse the draft Special Rates and Charges Policy for Public Exhibition

This option is recommended by officers. The policy aligns with current industry standards, follows good practice and satisfies the requirements of the *Local Government Act (1989)*. The draft policy has the potential to deliver projects that directly benefit property owners at a reduced cost due to the Special Rates and Charges that can be applied.

Option 2 – Delay the endorsement of the Special Rates and Charges Policy for public exhibition

This option is not recommended by officers as it will result in delays to implementing the policy, including the identification of potential projects.

Option 3 – Do not adopt the Special Rates and Charges Policy

This option is not recommended by officers as it reduces potential funding sources for projects.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officer involved in preparing this report has any conflict of interest in regard to this matter.

CONCLUSION

The draft policy has been developed using other Councils' policies as a reference, including metro, rural and regional Councils' policies. The use of Special Rates and Charges is a common practice in the Local Government sector where a project's benefits can be clearly linked to property owners. Wider community benefits are factored into the calculation of apportioning costs, and the costs of the wider community benefit portion of a SRC project are met by Council. It is considered that having a SRC Council Policy in place provides an option to look at funding some projects and the potential to deliver them earlier than might otherwise be the case.

7.6 COMMUNITY VISION 2040 REFRESH - WHAT WE HEARD POST-CONSULTATION UPDATE

File Number:**Author:** Tamara Thorsen, Coordinator Active Ageing and Inclusion**Authoriser:** Lynnere Gray, Director Corporate Services**Attachments:** 1. **Community Engagement Summary Report - Community Vision 2040 Refresh****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Note that the community engagement for the Community Vision 2040 Refresh project has now concluded.
2. Review the attached What We Heard Engagement Summary Report and adopt recommended changes to update the Community Vision 2040 document.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Local Government Act 2020* requires that Council must develop or review the Community Vision in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices.

Council passed a Notice of Motion at the June 2023 Council Meeting to review the existing Community Vision 2040 prior to the new council being elected in 2024.

From January to March 2024, community members were invited to provide feedback on the Community Vision 2040.

Officers have captured the outcomes of the engagement in a Community Engagement Summary report (Attachment 1).

Through the engagement, only minor changes were recommended, with most respondents believing the Community Vision 2040 still reflects the needs and aspirations of the Golden Plains Shire community.

BACKGROUND

Between January and March 2024, Council invited community to provide feedback on the existing Community Vision 2040 document. Council sought to understand if the Community Vision 2040 continues to resonate with the community following its endorsement in 2020.

Through the engagement, Council heard from more than 400 residents via survey responses, outreach at pop-up events, targeted engagement with community groups, and community workshops held in Smythesdale, Bannockburn and Dereel. Most respondents (85%) did not contribute to the development of the Community Vision in 2019/2020. This highlights the positive new reach of this engagement project.

The key findings concluded that only minor changes to the Vision are recommended, with most respondents highlighting ideas that related to the themes and priorities that are already identified in the Community Vision 2040.

A range of valuable feedback was received that focused on issues and ideas not aligned to the Community Vision 2040 document. This feedback has been captured and, where appropriate, it has been responded to and shared with relevant stakeholders.

DISCUSSION

A Thematic Analysis process was followed to review data captured in this engagement. Thematic analysis includes: 1) familiarisation; 2) coding; 3) generating themes; 4) reviewing themes; 5) defining and naming themes; and 6) reporting (Braun & Clarke, 2008).

Based on analysis, 4 recommendations (with options) are presented on page 3 of this report, for Councillors to consider as amendments to the Community Vision 2040 document.

Officers recommend that Councillors endorse updates to the current Vision to reflect the feedback provided by community.

REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS

Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)

Implications	Applicable to this Report
Governance Principles (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes/No
Policy/Relevant Law (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes/No
Environmental/Sustainability Implications (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes/No
Community Engagement (Consideration of Community Engagement Principles under s.56 LGA 2020)	Yes/No
Public Transparency (Consideration of Public Transparency Principles under s.58 of LGA 2020)	Yes/No
Strategies and Plans (Consideration of Strategic Planning Principles under s.89 of LGA 2020)	Yes/No
Financial Management (Consideration of Financial Management Principles under s.101 of LGA 2020)	Yes/No
Service Performance (Consideration of Service Performance Principles under s.106 of LGA 2020)	Yes/No
Risk Assessment	Yes/No
Communication	Yes/No
Human Rights Charter	Yes/No
Gender Equality (Gender Impact Assessment required by s.9 of the <i>Gender Equality Act 2020</i>)	Yes/No

POLICY/RELEVANT LAW

Section 88 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires that Council must develop or review the Community Vision in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices and adopt the Community Vision by 31 October in the year following a general election. Council passed a Notice of Motion at the 27 June 2023 Council Meeting to review the existing Community Vision 2040 prior to the new council being elected in 2024.

As per the *Local Government Act*, the adoption to update the Community Vision will enable the embedding of the community's future aspirations for addressing in the development of the Council Plan and other strategic documents, which are also requirements of the Act.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The community engagement principles listed under s.56 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, were followed in the refresh consultation of the Community Vision.

STRATEGIES/PLANS

Section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is to ensure that the municipal community is engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making. This is further defined by the Strategic Planning principles under section 89 of the Act, which are required to be applied in developing the Community Vision, Council Plan, and other strategic plans.

COMMUNICATION

The Community Engagement Summary/What We Heard will be published on Council's website for community viewing in May 2024. Adopted recommendations to the Vision document will be communicated to community once endorsed at Council in September 2024.

GENDER EQUALITY

A Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) has been conducted and there are no identified gender inequality implications.

OPTIONS

Option 1 - Update the 'Developing the Vision' page in the existing document to include a brief summary on the refresh conducted in 2024.

Option A: Make no changes to this section

Option B: (preferred) Reduce the current information and add a summary on the 2024 refresh

Option 2 - Update the Themes and Vision priorities page to include the word Events as a Liveability priority.

Option A: Make no changes to this section

Option B: Add Events to the fifth priority to read 'Services, Facilities, Activities and Events'

Option C: (preferred) Split the current priority 'Services, Facilities and Activities' to be two priorities - 'Services and Facilities' and 'Activities and Events'

Option 3 - Update the Vision Statement pages to condense the pages and incorporate one vision statement that workshop participants voted to be used in the document.

Option A: Make no changes to this section

Option B: Reduce to two pages with one Vision Statement under each and remove individual statements as they are shown in the Community Engagement Summary

Option C: (preferred) Remove quotes throughout and put existing vision statements across two pages

Option 4 - Update the Vision Statement under the Community theme that currently states, "We want to be inclusive and value all people and opinions" to "We want to be inclusive and value all people, including women, LGBTIQ+ people, young people, and culturally and linguistically diverse people".

Please note that this request was supported by only 2.9% of respondents to the engagement who believed that 'target groups particularly older adults and young people should be specified'.

Option A: If option B from recommendation 3 is adopted, this recommendation is no longer relevant.

Option B: (preferred) If the current Vision Statements remain as presented in the original document, the recommendation is updated from “We want to be inclusive and value all people and opinions” to “We want to be inclusive and value all people, including women, LGBTIQA+ people, young people, and culturally and linguistically diverse people”. Officers recommend the addition of ‘older adults’ to this statement to reflect other engagement respondents’ feedback.

CONCLUSION

Community feedback gathered during this engagement has been used to form recommendations on the existing Golden Plains Shire Community Vision 2040.

Officers will present the refreshed Community Vision 2040 document, with any endorsed changes, by September 2024.

Officers will communicate outcomes with all people who participated in the Community Vision 2040 Refresh and publish updates on the Golden Plains Shire Council Website Have Your Say page.

8 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

9 PETITIONS

9.1 PETITION - LOCAL PUMP TRACKS AND BIKE PATHS IN HADDON

File Number:

Author: Lauren Richardson, Governance and Risk Specialist

Authoriser: Lynnere Gray, Director Corporate Services

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receive the petition in relation to local pump tracks and bike paths in Haddon; and
2. Refer the petition to the Chief Executive Officer for consideration and response.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A petition was submitted to Council on 3 May 2024. The petition seeks Council's support in the creation of local pump tracks in the Haddon area.

This petition has been received and is submitted to the Council in accordance with rule 37 of the Governance Rules.

BACKGROUND

The Governance Rules provide the process for petitions to be received by Council. Specifically, a petition must:

- a. Be lodged with the Chief Executive Officer at least seven days prior to the Council meeting at which it is to be considered to allow inclusion in the agenda;
- b. Be written, typed or printed;
- c. Contain at least five signatures;
- d. Have the full name, address and signature of all individual signatories;
- e. Not be defamatory, indecent, abusive or objectionable in language or content;
- f. Not relate to matters beyond the powers of the Council;
- g. Not be aimed at embarrassing a Councillor or member of Council staff;
- h. Not relate to a matter which will be or is likely to be considered in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with sub-rule 29.1(a); and
- i. Include the whole of the request of the petitioners or signatories on each page.

This petition does not comply with sub-rule 37.2 of the Governance Rules as it does not include the full addresses of all signatories and does not include the whole of the request of the petitioners on each page. Part 37.12 states that if a petition does not comply with these rules, it can be tabled as a joint letter and the Chief Executive Officer can determine that it can be submitted to a Council meeting for consideration.

Governance Rule sub-rule 37.7 provides that the only motions that may be considered for any petitions are:

- a. That the petition be received; and
- b. That the petition be referred to the Chief Executive Officer for consideration and response; or

- c. That the petition be referred to the Chief Executive Officer for a report to a future Council meeting.

DISCUSSION

The petition request is provided at Attachment 1. At the time of receipt, the petition had 250 signatures. A breakdown of location of signatories is provided below.

Location	Number of signatories
Haddon	83
Smythes Creek	23
Ballarat	9
Alfredton	7
Smythesdale	7
Ross Creek	5
Nintingbool	4
Cardigan	3
Winter Valley	3
Buninyong	2
Newington	2
Wendouree	2
Snake Valley	2
Sebastopol	2
Miners Rest	2
Soldiers Hill	2
Bunkers Hill	1
Burrumbeet	1
Heathcote	1
Melton	1
Brown Hill	1
Cardigan Village	1
Scarsdale	1
Windemere	1
Mount Egerton	1
Black Hill	1
Learmonth	1
Mount Clear	1
Delacombe	1
Mount Helen	1
Unable to determine	78
Grand total	250

REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS

Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)

Implications	Applicable to this Report
Governance Principles (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
Policy/Relevant Law (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
Environmental/Sustainability Implications (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	No
Community Engagement (Consideration of Community Engagement Principles under s.56 LGA 2020)	Yes
Public Transparency (Consideration of Public Transparency Principles under s.58 of LGA 2020)	Yes
Strategies and Plans (Consideration of Strategic Planning Principles under s.89 of LGA 2020)	No
Financial Management (Consideration of Financial Management Principles under s.101 of LGA 2020)	No
Service Performance (Consideration of Service Performance Principles under s.106 of LGA 2020)	No
Risk Assessment	No
Communication	Yes
Human Rights Charter	No
Gender Equality (Gender Impact Assessment required by s.9 of the <i>Gender Equality Act 2020</i>)	No

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

The submission and presentation of petitions to Council supports the overarching governance principles, specifically that the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

POLICY/RELEVANT LAW

- *Local Government Act 2020*
- Governance Rules

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Petitions are a form of community engagement and allow community members to demonstrate community support for a request or views on a matter and for that request or view to be presented directly to Council.

PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

Petitions allow community members to demonstrate community support for a request or views on a matter and for that request or view to be presented directly to Council. The processes in the Governance Rules provide transparency on the way that petitions are presented to Council and how Council decisions relating to petitions will be made.

RISK ASSESSMENT

There are no identified risk implications associated with this report.

COMMUNICATION

If Council determines to refer the petition to the Chief Executive Officer for consideration and response, a response will be provided to the lead petitioner, as the obvious intended contact person for the petition.

HUMAN RIGHTS CHARTER

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

OPTIONS

Option 1 – Receive the petition and refer it to the Chief Executive Officer for consideration and response.

This option is recommended by officers as this petition relates to operational matters and in accordance with Governance Rule 37.8 must be referred to the Chief Executive Officer for consideration and response.

Option 2 – Receive the petition and refer it to the Chief Executive Officer for a report to a future Council meeting.

This option is not recommended by officers as this petition relates to operational matters and in accordance with Governance Rule 37.8 must be referred to the Chief Executive Officer for consideration and response. Referral to the Chief Executive Officer for a report to a future Council meeting would be non-compliant with the Governance Rules.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officer involved in preparing this report has any conflicts of interest with regard to this matter.

CONCLUSION

The petition has been submitted to the Chief Executive Officer and is now presented to Council in accordance with Rule 37 of the Governance Rules.

9.2 PETITION - IMPROVE SAFETY AT BROWNS-SCARSDALE ROAD AND VICKI COURT INTERSECTION

File Number:

Author: Lauren Richardson, Governance and Risk Specialist

Authoriser: Lynnere Gray, Director Corporate Services

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receive the petition in relation to the improvement of safety at Browns-Scarsdale Road and Vicki Court intersection; and
2. Refer the petition to the Chief Executive Officer for consideration and response.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A petition was submitted to Council on 2 May 2024. The petition seeks Council's support for removal of vegetation back to the fence line south-west of the relevant intersection and installation of guide posts.

This petition has been received and is submitted to the Council in accordance with Rule 37 of the Governance Rules.

BACKGROUND

The Governance Rules provide the process for petitions to be received by Council. Specifically, a petition must:

- a. Be lodged with the Chief Executive Officer at least seven days prior to the Council meeting at which it is to be considered to allow inclusion in the agenda;
- b. Be written, typed or printed;
- c. Contain at least five signatures;
- d. Have the full name, address and signature of all individual signatories;
- e. Not be defamatory, indecent, abusive or objectionable in language or content;
- f. Not relate to matters beyond the powers of the Council;
- g. Not be aimed at embarrassing a Councillor or member of Council staff;
- h. Not relate to a matter which will be or is likely to be considered in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with sub-rule 29.1(a); and
- i. Include the whole of the request of the petitioners or signatories on each page.

This petition does not comply with sub-rule 37.2 of the Governance Rules as it does not include the full addresses of all signatories and does not include the whole of the request of the petitioners on each page. Part 37.12 states that if a petition does not comply with these rules, it can be tabled as a joint letter and the Chief Executive Officer can determine that it can be submitted to a Council meeting for consideration.

Governance Rule sub-rule 37.7 provides that the only motions that may be considered for any petitions are:

- a. That the petition be received; and
- b. That the petition be referred to the Chief Executive Officer for consideration and response; or

- c. That the petition be referred to the Chief Executive Officer for a report to a future Council meeting.

DISCUSSION

The petition request is provided at Attachment 1. At the time of receipt, the petition had 32 signatures. A breakdown of location of signatories is provided below.

Location	Number of signatories
Scarsdale	28
Smythesdale	1
Winter Valley	1
Unable to determine	2
Grand total	32

REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS

Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)

Implications	Applicable to this Report
Governance Principles (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
Policy/Relevant Law (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
Environmental/Sustainability Implications (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	No
Community Engagement (Consideration of Community Engagement Principles under s.56 LGA 2020)	Yes
Public Transparency (Consideration of Public Transparency Principles under s.58 of LGA 2020)	Yes
Strategies and Plans (Consideration of Strategic Planning Principles under s.89 of LGA 2020)	No
Financial Management (Consideration of Financial Management Principles under s.101 of LGA 2020)	No
Service Performance (Consideration of Service Performance Principles under s.106 of LGA 2020)	No
Risk Assessment	No
Communication	Yes
Human Rights Charter	No
Gender Equality (Gender Impact Assessment required by s.9 of the <i>Gender Equality Act 2020</i>)	No

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

The submission and presentation of petitions to Council supports the overarching governance principles, specifically that the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

POLICY/RELEVANT LAW

- *Local Government Act 2020*
- Governance Rules

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Petitions are a form of community engagement and allow community members to demonstrate community support for a request or views on a matter and for that request or view to be presented directly to Council.

PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

Petitions allow community members to demonstrate community support for a request or views on a matter and for that request or view to be presented directly to Council. The processes in the Governance Rules provide transparency on the way that petitions are presented to Council and how Council decisions relating to petitions will be made.

RISK ASSESSMENT

There are no identified risk implications associated with this report.

COMMUNICATION

If Council determines to refer the petition to the Chief Executive Officer for consideration and response, a response will be provided to the lead petitioner, as the obvious intended contact person for the petition.

HUMAN RIGHTS CHARTER

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

OPTIONS

Option 1 – Receive the petition and refer it to the Chief Executive Officer for consideration and response.

This option is recommended by officers as this petition relates to operational matters and in accordance with Governance Rule 37.8 must be referred to the Chief Executive Officer for consideration and response.

Option 2 – Receive the petition and refer it to the Chief Executive Officer for a report to a future Council meeting.

This option is not recommended by officers as this petition relates to operational matters and in accordance with Governance Rule 37.8 must be referred to the Chief Executive Officer for consideration and response. Referral to the Chief Executive Officer for a report to a future Council meeting would be non-compliant with the Governance Rules.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officer involved in preparing this report has any conflicts of interest with regard to this matter.

CONCLUSION

The petition has been submitted to the Chief Executive Officer and is now presented to Council in accordance with Rule 37 of the Governance Rules.

10 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS FOR DECISION**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2020:

10.1 Acquisition of Easement for Drainage Purposes

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 3(1) - f of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs.
