

AGENDA

Council Meeting

6.00pm Tuesday 27 August 2024

VENUE:
Golden Plains Civic Centre
Council Chambers
2 Pope Street, Bannockburn

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING
6.00pm Tuesday 10 September 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.

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 Environment
Lynnere Gray, Director Corporate Services
Emma Wheatland, Acting Director Community, Planning and Growth

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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 July 2024.

5 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**6 CITIZEN RECOGNITION AWARDS****7 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

8 BUSINESS REPORTS FOR DECISION

8.1 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 - 6 August 2024**
- 2. Informal Meeting of Councillors Record - Briefing - 20 August 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

- Photo Opportunity - Woody Yaloak Football Netball Club Funding
- Launch of the Batesford Community Plan
- Senior Citizen Presentation (Hesse Health)
- Golden Plains Farmers Market
- Country House Hunters Filming
- Meeting with Meredith Recreation Reserve Committee and Michaela Settle MP
- Launch of the Meredith Community Plan
- Bannockburn Football Netball Club Sponsors Day
- FReeZA Battle of the Bands
- Victorian Local Government Mayors, CEOs and MAV Delegates Networking Event

Cr Gamble

- Inverleigh Zine Festival
- Rural Councils Victoria Forum, Trawool
- Victorian Local Government Mayors, CEOs and MAV Delegates Networking Event
- Bannockburn Farmers Market
- Bannockburn Community Plan Launch
- MAV State Council Meeting, Melbourne
- FReeZA Battle of the Bands, Inverleigh
- Batesford Fyansford Stonehaven Landcare Annual General Meeting, Stonehaven CFA

Cr Getsom

- Timber Towns Annual General Meeting Forum

Cr Kirby

- Nil

Cr Rowe

- Nil

Cr Sharkey

- GRLC Rem Committee Meeting

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.

The Chief Executive Officer must ensure that a summary of the matters discussed at the meeting are:

- 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) 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.

8.2 PROPERTY AT 66 BROOKE STREET, SMYTHESDALE

File Number:**Author:** Peter Ridsdale, Coordinator Economic Development**Authoriser:** Michael Tudball, Interim CEO**Attachments:**

1. **Building Condition Assessment - 66 Brooke Street Smythesdale**
2. **Heritage Assessment - 66 Brooke Street Smythesdale**
3. **Information Session Comms Report**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Endorse the disposal (Sale) of the building located on 66 Brooke Street Smythesdale through an Expression of Interest process; and
2. In the event the Expression of Interest process is not successful, support the demolition and removal of the building.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In July 2022 Council acquired the property at 66 Brooke Street, Smythesdale, acknowledging the strategic location of the land in proximity to the current Council facility in Heales Street, Smythesdale.

Council officers arranged for a Building Condition Assessment and a Heritage Assessment to determine the potential future use for the building, extent of refurbishment if possible or whether the building was not suitable for future use.

The Building Condition Assessment identified the structure as having a condition rating of 7 – an asset of poor overall condition. Deterioration would be quite severe and would be starting to limit the serviceability of the asset. Maintenance costs would be high. The amount required to re-purpose the building would be almost \$600,000, which far exceeds the current value of the structure.

The Heritage Assessment identified that the building was relocated to this site from Haddon in the early 1970s. There are no redeeming heritage features that meet the threshold warranting protection.

In addition to the consultants' reports, Council officers have undertaken a community consultation process, as well as an evaluation of existing community facilities and the utilisation of same.

There is substantial weight of evidence that the retention of the building on site will result in a substantial adverse financial impact on Council; therefore the officer recommendation is for the sale and disposal of the building.

BACKGROUND

The property at 66 Brooke Street, Smythesdale was previously owned by the Roman Catholic Trust. The site is 1,400 square metres in area and contains a timber clad building (Church). The land is zoned Commercial Zone Schedule 1 and is covered by Design Development Overlay Schedule 1 and Heritage Overlay Schedule 104 (Smythesdale Heritage Precinct). The land is located immediately adjacent to the Council owned The Well building and adjacent to publicly accessible space.

Given its proximity to The Well, the purchase of the church was considered by Council officers to be an opportunity for Council to purchase it as a strategic acquisition in order to provide land for any potential future expansion of The Well and/or related stand-alone facilities. Current activities on the Council owned adjoining land to the East and South include the Golden Plains Customer Hub, Pharmacy, Medical Clinic, Digital Hub, community meeting rooms, the Woody Yaloak

Historical Society, the historic Smythesdale Court House, open space for markets and events, historic stables and a 3-cell bluestone lockup.

While understanding that the strategic intent prior to auction was to secure ownership of the subject land, Council officers have undertaken a process of determining the physical status of the building.

DISCUSSION

To ensure Council officers were able to undertake informed community consultation, and to develop a recommendation based on qualified and experienced opinions by consultants, a Building Condition Report and Heritage Assessment (attached) were commissioned and are summarised below.

Building Condition Assessment

A Building Condition Assessment was conducted by CT Management Group in January 2023 that investigated the requirement for Major Maintenance (Capital Renewal), Cyclic (Preventative) Maintenance and Operational Maintenance (Reactive). The report provided a building condition rating of 6.8 referring to the condition rating of 7 – “An asset in poor overall condition deterioration would be quite severe and would be starting to limit the serviceability of the asset. Maintenance cost would be high.”

It should be noted that although there is electricity supply to the building, there are no facilities such as water supply, conveniences, heating or cooling. The report concludes that the asset’s life expectancy has diminished and excess maintenance costing to meet required services is expected to exceed the value of the property, therefore removal and rebuild of asset should be considered.

The report details all items required to reactivate the building, arriving at a total estimated cost of \$598,480.

Heritage Report

As the precinct is covered by a Heritage Overlay, officers commissioned a Heritage Report as to any significance of the building itself, as it was already known that the building was not original to the site and was relocated from Haddon in the early 1970s. The Heritage Report (attached) reveals that the building itself is not of heritage significance. The recommendations of the heritage consultant are:

- Retain the allotment within HO104 Smythesdale Heritage Precinct.
- Commission detailed Measured Drawings of the building, to the satisfaction of the Shire’s Heritage Advisor, and make them publicly available in digital format before the building is removed.
- Encourage the documentation of the history and stories associated with the place.

Asbestos/Hazardous Building Materials Survey

This survey is a standard requirement and will include all necessary recommendations regarding the treatment / removal of the identified hazardous building materials prior to Refurbishment / Demolition works commencing. The cost of this survey is \$990 plus GST and it will be completed by the end of December 2024.

Demolition

A preliminary assessment and quotation have been received from a registered demolition firm, providing an initial insight to the cost of demolition subject to the outcomes of the hazardous materials survey. The initial quote provided is \$16,000 plus GST – however, this will be requoted in the event hazardous materials are found.

Removal From Site

Council officers have had one approach from a local resident regarding the potential to remove the building from the site and relocate it on another site in Smythesdale. This project would be facilitated through an EoI process.

Existing Community Facilities

Council currently owns a number of spaces that are available for community use, comprising:

Woody Yaloak Recreation Reserve

55 Heales Street, Smythesdale Victoria 3351

3 Spaces for Public Hire

- Multipurpose Room – Meeting Room for 40 Persons with Kitchen
- Stadium – Basketball Court with Stager Area

The Well Community Hub

19 Heales St, Smythesdale

3 Spaces for Public Hire

- Digital Hub – Meeting Room for 20 Persons and Computer Desks
- Multipurpose Room – Meeting Room for 30 Persons with Kitchenette
- Nimmons Bridge Room – Medical and/or Business Consulting Room

Council officers have undertaken an assessment of the Multipurpose Room at The Well with the following findings:

The area of the church itself is an area of 75.15m². The Multipurpose Room is approximately 60 square metres. The Multipurpose Room generally has bookings for approximately 12 hours during business hours per week. This equates to a usage rate of approximately 31.6%. The Multipurpose Room is well appointed, complies with current building standards, and provides public conveniences and tea/coffee making facilities. The current cost of hiring the Multipurpose Room is \$11.85 per hour.

There are additional spaces available for community use in The Well and the Woody Yaloak Recreation Reserve.

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)	No
Policy/Relevant Law (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	No
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	No

(Consideration of Service Performance Principles under s.106 of LGA 2020)	
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 sale process will be undertaken in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

During April 2024 Council officers promoted a public information session to be held on 30 April 2024 at The Well in Smythesdale. The event was promoted on the Council website, In The Loop and on social media, which generated a total of 15,694 impressions and 59 engagements (Communications Report attached)

A total of 14 residents attended the presentation, during which Council officers presented a summary of the findings of the Building Condition Assessment and the Heritage Assessment. Residents were invited to submit their views in relation to the information presented. Full copies of both reports were provided to attendees who requested them.

A total of 5 submissions were submitted, generally proposing that Council should retain the building as a community facility. A submission was received from the Woody Yaloak Historical Society confirming their satisfaction with the reports (submission attached)

A late submission has been received from a prominent local community member actively involved in organising events in the creative arts sector, proposing that the building should be removed from site (submission attached)

A discussion was undertaken with the Manager of the Haddon Learning Centre, providing a summary of the history of the building and the conclusions of the Building Condition Assessment and the Heritage Assessment. She advised there would be very few residents of the era when the building was located in Haddon and it was her view the building would be of little interest to the current community. She also advised they would not have the financial means to relocate the building to Haddon, let alone bring it back to a useable asset.

PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

Public Transparency has been met through the provision in full of the specialist consultants reports commissioned into the building condition and heritage status.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

There are important financial considerations relating to this process. To retain the building as is will not enable any use due to the poor condition and non-compliance with current building standards. To refurbish the building as detailed in the Building Condition Assessment would cost Council almost \$600,000. It is not considered good economic sense to spend this amount of money on an asset that is in such poor condition. A successful EOI process will potentially provide Council with a level of income; however, it is not possible to realistically forecast an indicative amount. In the event the EOI process is not successful the indicative cost for demolition is approximately \$16,000 - \$20,000.

RISK ASSESSMENT

There are no identified risk implications associated with this report.

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)*.

GENDER EQUALITY

A GIA has been conducted and there are no identified gender inequality implications.

OPTIONS

Option 1 – That Council supports the sale of the building through an Expression of Interest process with no reserve price. In the event this is not successful, that suitably qualified contractors are engaged to demolish the building.

This option is recommended by officers as the building has been assessed as being “at end of life” and would require substantial annual maintenance costs, and works to reactivate the building for a useful use complying with current Building Standards would be almost \$600,000. Council officers will have high regard to any submission proposed by a local community group seeking to relocate the building to another site.

Option 2 – That Council does not support the sale of the building.

This option is not recommended by officers as there are no forward budget allocations to undertake works on the building and it would continue to deteriorate and present an increasingly unsafe environment.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

CONCLUSION

Based on the information obtained and assessed through the Building Condition Assessment, the Heritage Assessment, community engagement and assessment of existing community facilities, Council officers accept that there is some local sentiment to retain the building as a community facility; however, the adverse economic impact that would be imposed on Council and all ratepayers substantially outweighs the ability to retain and maintain the building.

As detailed in the Building Condition Assessment, in its present state the building will continue to deteriorate rapidly, creating an increasing safety issue. Council officers foresee that the next stage will include a Precinct Masterplan; however, the funding and delivery of this piece of work is anticipated to take a reasonably lengthy period of time that would not accommodate the ability to retain the building onsite during this time.

Based on the outcome of the consultants' reports there is no logic to retaining the building for consideration in a Precinct Masterplan.

8.3 COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025 IMPLEMENTATION - QUARTER FOUR UPDATE AND 2023-24 PROGRESS REPORT

File Number:**Author:** Emma Whitelaw, Business Partner Performance and Change**Authoriser:** Lynnere Gray, Director Corporate Services**Attachments:**

1. Council Plan 2021-25: Implementation Report - Quarter 4
2. Council Plan 2021-25: Y3 | 2023-24 Progress Report

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the implementation of the Year 3, Quarter 4 actions of the Council Plan 2021-2025 and corresponding 2023-24 progress report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To provide Council with an update on the progress of Year 3, Quarter 4 actions from the Council Plan 2021-2025, as well as a comprehensive overview of the 2023-24 reporting period.

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 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.

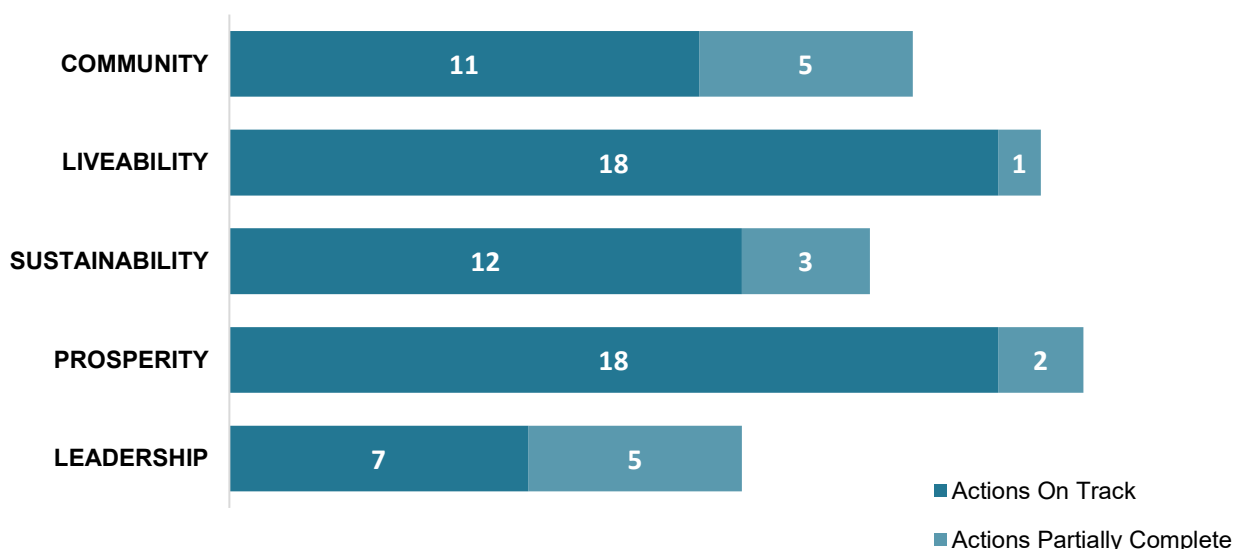
The Plan plays a key role in setting the strategic direction of Council for the Council term and ensuring an integrated approach is taken to planning, monitoring and performance reporting. The Council Plan has been informed by extensive community engagement and expands on the four Themes of the Community 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

The implementation of the Year 3 Council Plan Actions has seen substantial progress throughout Quarter 4. By the end of the 2023-24 reporting period, 66 out of 82 actions have successfully reached a 100% on-track status, demonstrating the successful delivery of identified action focus areas.

16 actions are categorised as partially complete, indicating that there have been delays in achieving the identified actions across Year 3. These delays have been acknowledged and are being monitored internally. Council Officers are actively working with the Senior Management Team to understand and mitigate the factors contributing to these delays. As Council transitions to Year 4 of the 2021-2025 Council Plan, Council Officers remain committed to advancing all key actions. The focus will be navigating any existing challenges and maintaining the momentum necessary to achieve the Plan's objectives as Council embarks on the final year of the Plan.



A comprehensive progress report detailing the status of all 82 actions across the 2023-24 reporting period is included in Attachment 1. Additionally, Attachment 2 offers a detailed overview of the progress made on each strategic direction, with a comparative analysis against Years 1 and 2. This supplementary report is designed to ensure transparency and provide a clear benchmark for assessing overall progress.

Additionally, Council's 2023-24 Annual Report will provide a comprehensive overview of the Strategic Indicators specified in the Council Plan 2021-2025. This report will be presented to Council in October 2024.

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 the actions contained in the Council Plan 2021-2025 for Year 3, Quarter 4.

This option is recommended by officers as the report is to provide an overview of the implementation of the actions contained in the Council Plan 2021-2025.

Option 2 – that Council require further information.

This option is not recommended by officers as the full content of the implementation of the actions throughout Year 3, Quarter 4 is accessible to Councillors.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

CONCLUSION

As outlined in the attached reports, substantial progress has been made in Year 3, Quarter 4 of the Council Plan 2021-2025. The actions implemented during this period have advanced the Plan's objectives effectively, demonstrating notable achievements. Preparations for Year 4 action focus areas have commenced to ensure a seamless and successful progression into the final year of the Council Plan.

8.4 PROCUREMENT POLICY UPDATE

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

1. Procurement Policy August 2024
2. Exemption Procedure

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the amended Procurement Policy and Exemption Procedure as attached (August 2024).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council is committed to ensuring continuous improvement and strong compliance processes are in place for its procurement activities in order to achieve value for money and generate benefits for Council and its community. This policy has been reviewed and updated to be in line with Victorian Local Government Best Practice Procurement guidelines and Social Procurement: A guide for Victorian Local Government.

BACKGROUND

The *Local Government Act 2020* requires that Council prepare and approve a Procurement Policy and review the Procurement Policy at least once during its four-year term and amend it as necessary.

A review of the Procurement Policy was completed and adopted at the 28 March 2023 Council meeting. This annual review of the policy has been focussed on streamlining the policy, alignment with procurement best practice and including input from the planning and environment teams regarding the Indigenous and environment content in the policy.

DISCUSSION

Council conducts a review of the Procurement Policy on an annual basis as this policy is central to day-to-day operations and it is important to ensure it reflects current processes and meets legislative requirements. The exemption procedure is reviewed in parallel with the Procurement Policy. These reviews were completed in July 2024.

The review has streamlined the policy and includes changes to align it with procurement best practice guidelines.

It has included changing the order of information in the policy, combining principles into single sections, and including additional information in regards to sustainable and social procurement.

Proposed updates are outlined at a high level in the table below:

Policy	Section	Proposed Changes
Procurement Policy	1.2	Sec 1.2.1 – 1.2.8 have been restated to align with best practice principles and procurement processes.
	1.3	Included to reference best practice guidelines.
	2.1	Removal of reference to compliance with legislation and the policy – this is referenced elsewhere in the document
	2.3	Removed as referenced elsewhere in the policy
	3	Rewritten to outline the best practice principles for procurement.
	4	Changed to include discussion around procurement principles referred to in Sec 3
	5	Changed to provide guidance on Sustainable Procurement and obligations under Local Government Act 2020 and Climate Change Act 2011. Previously in Sec 11
	6	Due to changes to previous sections this is now Procurement Methodology and combines Sec 4 – 9. Includes procurement thresholds, public, expressions of interest, other procurement methods, exemption from procurement process, performance management and process alternate arrangements
	10	Included in Sec 1.2
	11	Included in Sec 5
	12	Included in Sec 4.5
	13	Included in Sec 4.4
	14	Included across Sec 4
	15	Included in Sec 6.9
	16	Included in Sec 4.6
	17 & 18	Included in Sec 6.4
	19	Included in Sec 6.2
	20	Included in Sec 10
	21, 22 ,23, 24 and 25	Included in Sec 7
	26	Included in Sec 8
27	Included in Sec 9	
29	Updated for relevant legislation and documents	
	Appendix added for Procurement Thresholds	

Exemption Procedure	Document	Approval date to be updated to refer to date of Procurement policy approval
	5.1	Includes supplier with highly specialised skills or expertise and provides more guidance on transparency of engaging sole supplier or specialised skills
	5.2	Included in Sec 5.1
	5.3	Deleted and included in Sec 5.1
		Sec 5.17 Clause added re extension of contracts while Council is at market

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)	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)	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 Gender Equality Act 2020)	No

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

The Procurement Policy has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

POLICY/RELEVANT LAW

Local Government Act 2020

ENVIRONMENTAL/SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental sustainability considerations are included within the Procurement principles section of the policy.

PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

Probity requirements include applying a consistent and transparent process. The policy outlines procurement principles, probity requirements and the tender evaluation process. Details of tenders received are confidential, however feedback can be provided to tenderers on their tender to enable any issues to be addressed in future submissions.

STRATEGIES/PLANS

The Procurement Policy is consistent with Council's financial plans.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The Procurement Policy is consistent with Council's financial management processes, with confirmation of budget allocation prior to a tender being prepared.

RISK ASSESSMENT

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

The Procurement Policy has been updated in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and also aligned with other regional council policies. Council officers completed this review.

COMMUNICATION

When approved, the Procurement Policy will be published on Council's web site.

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).

OPTIONSOption 1 – Council approves the updated Procurement Policy

This option is recommended by officers as the updates will provide a policy aligned with Procurement Best Practice Guidelines

Option 2 – Council notes the updated Procurement Policy

This option is not recommended by officers as any updates to the Procurement Policy require adoption by Council to be included in the updated policy.

Option 3 – Council request changes to the Procurement Policy

This option is not recommended by officers as the proposed changes are ensuring a policy aligned with Procurement Best Practice Guidelines

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

CONCLUSION

The updated Procurement Policy will come into force following adoption and will be updated on Council's website.

8.5 FRAUD AND CORRUPTION POLICY REVIEW**File Number:****Author:** Kathryn Fulton, Acting Manager Finance**Authoriser:** Lynnere Gray, Director Corporate Services**Attachments:** 1. Fraud and Corruption Control Policy**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council adopt the revised Fraud and Corruption Control Policy as attached (July 2024).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Fraud and Corruption Control Policy has been reviewed with updates made to the related legislation and documents and references.

BACKGROUND

Policies are required to be reviewed regularly and should be updated when compliance or reporting requirements change.

The Fraud and Corruption Control Policy outlines responsibilities of the Chief Executive Officer, Corporate Services Director, Directors, Managers, employees and volunteers. Fraud prevention strategies are outlines together with responsibilities for compliance, monitoring and review.

IBAC are required to be notified of any matter which there is suspicion that corrupt conduct has occurred or is occurring.

DISCUSSION

A key strategy in managing the risk and fraud and corruption is the maintenance of a sound ethical culture. Golden Plains Shire aims to ensure that it has a healthy and sustainable ethical culture.

The Fraud and Corruption Control Policy applies strategies to prevent, detect and deal fairly with matters pertaining to fraud which integrate the activity of management, staff and volunteers across all activities at Golden Plains Shire.

The only changes made to the policy were references to other documents and legislation.

Proposed updates are outlined in the table below;

Section	Proposed changes
Related legislation and documents	Update Local Government Act to 2020 Include Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commissions Act 2011
References	Remove IP 625 – line to read Code of Conduct Remove SOP 6046 – Code of Conduct Remove SOP 6006 – Pre Employment Police Checks Remove Council Policy – Public Interest Disclosures Update wording for Public Interest Disclosures Policy

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)	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	Yes
Communication	Yes
Human Rights Charter	Yes
Gender Equality (Gender Impact Assessment required by s.9 of Gender Equality Act 2020)	No

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

The Fraud and Corruption Control policy has been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and other relevant legislation.

POLICY/RELEVANT LAW

Local Government Act 2020

Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012

Australian Standard 8001-2008, Fraud and Corruption Control

Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2011

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Upon adoption, this Policy will replace the current version of this Policy on Council's website.

PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

This Policy ensures public transparency in relation to Council's commitment to Public Transparency Principles outlined in section 58 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

STRATEGIES/PLANS**FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

The Fraud and Corruption Control Policy supports the financial management principles under s101 of the Local Government Act 2020.

RISK ASSESSMENT

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

The Fraud and Corruption Control Policy has been updated to refer to current legislation and internal policies.

COMMUNICATION

If adopted, the policy will be published on the Council's public webpage.

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).

OPTIONSOption 1 – That Council adopts the revised Fraud and Corruption Control Policy

This option is recommended by officers as the changes reflect the current legislation.

Option 2 – That Council does not adopt the revised Fraud and Corruption Control Policy

This option is not recommended by officers as the policy contains out of date information.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

CONCLUSION

The Fraud and Corruption Control Policy is presented to Council for adoption.

8.6 PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY POLICY

File Number:

Author: Jodie Cowland, Coordinator Governance and Risk

Authoriser: Lynnere Gray, Director Corporate Services

Attachments: 1. Public Transparency Policy 2024

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the updated Public Transparency Policy as attached.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Public Transparency Policy was adopted by Council in August 2020 and is due for review. The review and refresh of this Policy is presented to Council for adoption. The changes proposed to this policy are primarily in relation to format and expression and the order and flow of items to improve readability.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this policy is to outline Council's commitment to transparency and lists the types of documents/information available from Council via the website and on request. It provides guidance for the public on how to make requests and how to seek redress if not satisfied with Council's response.

Table of changes made to this Policy:

Original Clause	New Clause	Change Made	Reason
1	1	Updated.	To be more succinct/aid reading.
2	2	Refined	To be more succinct/aid reading.
3	3	Re-named from 'Policy Statement' to 'Public Transparency Principles'	To aid reading and reflect current policy standards.
4	4	Re-named from 'Procedures' to 'How Will Council Apply the Principles?'	To aid reading and reflect current policy standards.
3.1/3.2	4.1	Consolidated and Re-named from 'Council Information' to 'Decision Making at Council Meetings'	To aid reading and reflect current policy standards.
	4.2	Added 'Closed Council Meetings and Confidential Attachments.'	To aid reading and reflect current policy standards.
	4.3	Added 'Privacy.'	To aid reading and reflect current policy standards.
3.3	4.4	Re-formatted	To aid reading
3.4		Removed the word 'Test' and re-ordered to point 5	To aid reading
3.5		Not required as incorporated under 'Non-Compliance'	To aid reading

4	5	'Responsibilities' retained but moved further down in document. Dot point 5 now 'Public Interest'	To aid reading
5	6	'Definitions' now re-ordered to 'Human Rights Charter.'	To aid reading
6	7	'Related Legislation and Documents' moved to end of document and separated into two tables to improve readability. Dot point 7 now 'Non-Compliance with this Policy.'	To aid reading
7	8	'Human Rights Statement of Compatibility' renamed 'Human Rights Charter; and moved up in document. Dot point 8 now 'Responsibilities'	To aid reading
8	9	'Policy Owner' removed as incorporated in 'Document Information.' Dot point 9 now 'Definitions' table in landscape layout.	To aid reading
9	10	'Feedback and Non-Compliance with this Policy' re-named 'Non-Compliance with this Policy' and moved up to dot point 7. Dot point 10 now 'Related Legislation and Documents'	To aid reading
10	11	'Document Information'	Updated to reflect current responsible owner, version number, adopted and review date. Removed file path information.

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)	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	Yes
Gender Equality (Gender Impact Assessment required by s.9 of the <i>Gender Equality Act 2020</i>)	No

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

The policy was due for review and in accordance with the overarching governance principles of the *Local Government Act 2020* innovation and continuous improvement is to be pursued.

POLICY/RELEVANT LAW*Freedom of Information Act 1982**Health Records Act 2001**Local Government Act 1989**Local Government Act 2020**Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014***COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Upon adoption, this Policy will replace the current version of this Policy on Council's website.

PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

This Policy ensures public transparency in relation to Council's commitment to Public Transparency Principles outlined in section 58 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

COMMUNICATION

If adopted, the policy will be published on the Council's public webpage.

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)*.

OPTIONSOption 1 – That Council adopts the revised Public Transparency Policy

This option is recommended by officers as it provides guidance on transparency principles and clearly defines community expectations.

Option 2 – That Council does not adopt the revised Public Transparency Policy

This option is not recommended by officers as it does not align with sector best practice.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

CONCLUSION

The Public Transparency Policy is presented to Council for adoption. The modification to the Policy will serve the best interests of the community by providing current and updated information.

8.7 COMMUNITY VISION 2040 REFRESH

File Number:

Author: Melanie Linguey, Access and Inclusion Officer

Authoriser: Renee Williams, Coordinator Community Development

Attachments:

1. Community Vision 2024 Refresh
2. Copy of Briefing Report 21 May 2024 - Community Vision refresh 2040 - What we heard post consultation update

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Note the Community Engagement Summary report was uploaded to the Have Your Say Community Vision page on Councils Website for community viewing July 2024; and
2. Council to endorse the revised Community Vision 2040 informed by community consultation and Councillors adoption of recommendations in 21 May 2024.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

From January to March 2024 community members were invited to provide feedback on the 2040 Community Vision. Through the engagement, only minor changes were recommended with majority of respondents believing the vision still reflects the needs and vision for Golden Plains Shire residents. Councillors adopted the recommended changes at Council Briefing on 21 May 2024 (attached) and Officers has since incorporated these changes presented in this report.

BACKGROUND

The key findings of the final community engagement process concluded with minor changes to the Vision, with most respondents highlighting feedback that related to the themes and priorities already identified in the existing Vision.

47.1% of respondents did not believe anything was missing from our priority areas and/or themes in the Vision, however 52.9% of respondents identified the following key areas they believed were missing (upon review, all but three key areas suggested by community were already included in the Community Vision 2024):

*highlighted in blue are the key areas that are already represented in the Community Vision 2040

Access (21.7%) Footpaths, Transport, Roads	Environment (15.9%) Windfarms, Green Spaces, Waste, Sustainability, Flood Management	Business (14.4%) Education, Shops, Fresh food/Farmgate
Facilities (12.3%) Pool and parks	Community/Country Feel (10.8%)	Events (5.8%) Increase of events
Communication (3.6%)	Housing and Affordability (2.9%)	Diversity and Inclusion (3.6%)
Target Groups (2.9%) Aged, Young people	Services (2.1%)	Safety (2.1%) Increasing policing and management of crime
History and Culture (0.7%)	Healthcare (0.7%)	

95.6% of respondents believed that there were no themes and priority areas of the current Vision that were no longer applicable, however 4.4% of respondents believed that the Vision required;

- Less strategic wording, highlighting the Vision is hard to interpret.
- More focus on key groups, specifically in relation to young people.
- Specific priority groups listed when referencing inclusion.

The document layout for the Community Vision 2040 has been altered to condense the size and ensure it is clear to read. This was supported by Councillors the May 2024 as per Council Officers recommendation.

The 'Developing the Vision' page has been updated and includes a brief summary on the refresh conducted in 2024. We also reduced the current information with less strategic wording as per feedback from the consultation. Amendments have been made to the Themes and Vision priorities page to include the word Events as a Liveability priority. We split the current priority 'Services, Facilities and Activities' into two priorities: 'Services and Facilities' and 'Activities and Events'

The Vision statement under the Community theme changed to "We want to be inclusive and value all people, including women, LGBTIQ+ people, young people, and culturally and linguistically diverse people". Council received a formal submission on 29 March 2024 from the Victorian Pride Lobby with a recommendation that Council amend the statement. This request was supported by a total of 2.9% of respondents to the engagement who believed that 'target groups particularly older adults and young people to be specified'. One of the identified changes was to reduce the size of the document and therefore, individual statements have been removed.

DISCUSSION

At the close of the community engagement, Councillors are aware that a Thematic Analysis process was followed to review data captured in this engagement. Thematic analysis includes: 1) familiarization; 2) coding; 3) generating themes; 4) reviewing themes; 5) defining and naming themes; and 6) reporting (Braun & Clarke 2008).

Based on this prior analysis, community consultation and Councillors feedback, officers have incorporated reflections and feedback into the refresh document for the Community Vision 2040.

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)	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)	Yes

Service Performance (Consideration of Service Performance Principles under s.106 of LGA 2020)	Yes
Risk Assessment	Yes
Communication	Yes
Human Rights Charter	Yes
Gender Equality (Gender Impact Assessment required by s.9 of Gender Equality Act 2020)	Yes

POLICY/RELEVANT LAW

Section 88 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires that Council must 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 update and refresh the existing Community Vision 2040.

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 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

Once the refresh is adopted, the Community Vision 2040 refresh document will be available on Council's website and featured on Council's social media pages.

GENDER EQUALITY

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

OPTIONS

Option 1 – Adopt the refreshed Community Vision 2040 document

This option is recommended by Council Officers to reflect the feedback provided through the community engagement that was presented to Council in May 2024.

Option 2 – Do not adopt the refreshed 2040 Community Vision document

This is not recommended by Council Officers as Council is legislated to review the Council Vision every four years and reflect and incorporate community feedback into Council Planning processes.

CONCLUSION

If adopted, the refreshed Community Vision 2040 will guide the development of the Council Plan 2025-2029 and annual planning processes for Council Officers.

8.8 DISABILITY ACTION PLAN STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2025-2029

File Number:

Author: Melanie Linguey, Access and Inclusion Officer

Authoriser: Emma Wheatland, Acting Director Community, Planning and Growth

Attachments: 1. Disability Action Plan Strategic Framework

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Note the public exhibition and community feedback on the Draft Disability Action Plan Strategic Framework 2025-2029 has closed; and
2. Adopt the New Disability Action Plan Strategic Framework 2025-2029.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following community consultation of the Draft Disability Action Plan March-May 2024, the Disability Action Plan Strategic Framework was produced and presented to Councillors, including a community engagement summary report.

On the 18 June 2024, Councillors endorsed the Draft Disability Action Plan Strategic Framework 2025-2029, for public exhibition and feedback. The Strategic Framework was released to the public and open for feedback for four weeks and closed Friday 26 July 2024.

The Disability Action Plan Strategic Framework 2025-2029 provides the framework for Council to address current and future needs of people with disabilities in accordance with The Disability Act 2006 (Section 38) which requires all Government organisations to have a Disability Action Plan (or similar) and ensuring alignment to Councils current strategies and plans; Council Plan, Community Vision 2040, Reconciliation Action Plan and Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.

BACKGROUND

The information in the Disability Action Plan Strategic Framework 2025-2029 builds on the work undertaken in the current Active Ageing & Inclusion Plan 2020-2024, including retaining relevant ongoing actions and responsibilities, as well as new actions that enhance work previously undertaken in an integrated and strategic manner. The Disability Action Plan Strategic Framework 2025-2029 has been created in conjunction with the State Disability Action Plan to ensure the desired impact for community aligned with state priorities and maximise potential funding opportunities and enhance outcomes that are responsive to community needs Golden Plains Shire residents.

Over the four weeks of public exhibition in June 2024, Council Officers did not receive any feedback on Disability Action Plan Strategic Framework 2025-2029, there have been no further amendments to the framework.

Council officers have identified in developing the framework that our community will continue to change as the population grows, community aspirations evolve, and the prevalence of chronic health conditions increase. These changes will have a range of impacts on the services and facilities provided for people with disabilities. Monitoring, implementation and reporting of the Disability Action Plan Strategic Framework 2025-2029 will be captured through Council Plan reporting processes and ensure the ability to adapt to the needs of the community under the framework, particularly in Council annual planning and budget process.

DISCUSSION

The goal of the Framework, is to improve the overall quality of life for people living, working, and visiting the Shire, by removing barriers which directly or indirectly discriminate against people living with disabilities.

The Disability Action Plan Strategic Framework 2025-2029 will continue support Council's commitment to:

- Building a stronger, more vibrant community through increased participation in community life for people with disabilities;
- Demonstrating Council's leadership in the areas of access, inclusion and equality;
- Ensuring facilities and services provided by Council are accessible, equitable and inclusive;
- Demonstrating Council's commitment to diversity and culture;
- Improving outcomes across Council's various portfolios of construction, planning, regulation and service delivery and programming.
- Supporting independence, well-being and quality of life for all people living in the Shire.

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)	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)	Yes
Service Performance (Consideration of Service Performance Principles under s.106 of LGA 2020)	Yes
Risk Assessment	Yes
Communication	Yes
Human Rights Charter	Yes
Gender Equality (Gender Impact Assessment required by s.9 of Gender Equality Act 2020)	Yes

POLICY/RELEVANT LAW

In accordance with the principles in Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020, the development of the Disability Action Plan will specifically:

- Ensure priority is given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations;
- Engage the municipal community in strategic planning and strategic decision making;
- Pursue innovation and continuous improvement.

The Plan ensures Council's compliance with following legislative requirements:

- The Disability Discrimination Act 1992 determines it is a legal requirement for Local Government to provide equal access to employment, public buildings, goods, services and facilities.
- Section 38 of the Disability Act 2006 makes it mandatory for all Government organisations to have a Disability Action Plan (or similar).

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The community engagement principles listed under s.56 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, were followed in the consultation of the Disability Action Plan Strategic Framework 2025-2029.

STRATEGIES/PLANS

Section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is to ensure 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 Disability Action Plan, Council Plan, and other strategic plans.

COMMUNICATION

The Disability Action Plan Strategic Framework 2025-2029 and Community Engagement Summary/What We Heard, has been published on Council's website for community viewing in June- July 2024.

GENDER EQUALITY

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

OPTIONS

Option 1 – Adopt the New Disability Action Plan Strategic Framework 2025-2029

This option is recommended by officers as the Disability Action Plan Strategic Framework 2025-2029 is due for renewal in December 2024 and will assist in a streamlined, strategic approach for Golden Plains Shire Council to be accountable to fostering an accessible and inclusive municipality.

Option 2 – Do not adopt the Disability Action Plan Strategic Framework 2025-2029

This is not recommended by Council Officers as Council is legislated to review the Council implement a new Disability Action Plan Strategic Framework 2025-2029 every four years in consultation with community.

CONCLUSION

Community feedback gathered during this engagement has been used to form recommendations in the new Disability Action Plan Strategic Framework 2025-2029. If adopted by Councillors, this Strategic Framework will be utilised to inform the development of the Council Plan in 2025-2029.

8.9 DRAFT GROWING PLACES STRATEGY

File Number:**Author:** Alicia Te Wierik, Principal Strategic Planner**Authoriser:** Emma Wheatland, Acting Director Community, Planning and Growth**Attachments:** 1. Draft Growing Place Strategy (Text)**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council endorse the Draft Growing Place Strategy, text as attached (Attachment 1) for community and stakeholder engagement.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Draft Growing Places Strategy is an evidence-based depiction of the preconditions for future growth and an inventory of what is required to support growth in the Shire. It is guided by principles from the Community Vision 2040. The draft Strategy presents the results of the background studies and work undertaken since 2021 to determine suitable locations for housing growth in the Shire.

This draft Strategy is completed and the next phase of the project is to engage with the community before final approval of the Strategy.

Community engagement and final approval will be deferred to after the council election caretaker period.

Approval of the draft Strategy is sought to finalise the work of this Council and to ensure the work may continue to progress following caretaker period.

BACKGROUND

In 2021, Council will recall that the Department of Planning would not advance further town structure plans in the absence of a Shire wide Settlement Strategy and Council was successful in obtaining \$300,000 through the Streamlining for Growth (SfG) Fund to undertake a comprehensive Settlement/ Housing Strategy.

Before the SfG funding was announced, Council had engaged a consultant and commenced the preparation of the Strategic Bushfire Risk Assessment for the Shire. This was based on advice from the CFA during preparation of the Smythesdale Structure Plan.

This was a foundational and fundamental piece of work given State Planning policy now requires human life to be prioritised over all other planning considerations, based on the findings of the Royal Commission into the 2009 Black Saturday Fires. Any new strategic plans must give effect to this policy and it must be demonstrated that the Shire can grow in ways that emphasise the protection of human life.

The SfG funding was used to engage experts, undertake research, analyse, and prepare maps to determine:

- The natural hazards, including flooding, environmental qualities, unique landscapes and characteristics, cultural heritage and limits of land capability across the municipality;
- The service limitations and the costs of providing infrastructure and servicing various forms of residential land supply;
- The valued characteristics and comparative significance of towns and areas across the shire; and
- The towns or areas that are close to jobs, services, facilities and (public) transport and identify areas suitable for housing.

As each layer of information was researched and mapped, the information was presented to Council, building the knowledge and understanding of the issues as they came to light. All of the layers were collated and mapped and summarised in the Growing Places Informing Document.

Guiding principles for setting directions and determining appropriate growth were seeded from the Community Vision 2040 and checked for alignment through the engagement process.

Mid last year Council released a draft 'future growth scenario' as part of the Informing Document to discuss with the community'. This outlined where new housing and population growth to 2050 would be directed, to capture the benefits of growth, while preserving Golden Plains' unique character. Extensive engagement with stakeholders and the community included information sessions held on-line and around the Shire, fact sheets, a webpage and information video.

We received valuable feedback from the community and stakeholders, highlighting three key concerns; traffic and transport; the timely supply of supporting infrastructure and services; and protecting the Shire's country feel. The stakeholder and engagement findings were reported to Council and back to the community and have informed the next stage of the project, being the preparation of the Strategy.

Since then, the final research and technical studies around post-contact heritage, an assessment of essential services and infrastructure availability, and a community wealth and wellbeing assessment have also been completed.

Together with the significant research already undertaken, these additional insights have shaped the full draft Growing Places Strategy.

DISCUSSION

Based on the stakeholder and engagement findings and the further research undertaken, the new growth scenario:

- Continues to focus growth in areas where supporting infrastructure already exists. This includes:
 - Growth in Bannockburn (already identified in the Bannockburn Growth Plan).
 - Incremental growth in Lethbridge, Teesdale, Smythesdale and Inverleigh.
 - Minimal growth in all other towns.
 - No longer prioritises growth to undeveloped areas of Cambrian Hill and Stonehaven where there is no existing infrastructure. These locations are still considered suitable options for future growth, but only when significant infrastructure is available and the timing is right.
 - Continues to identify Meredith as a future stand-alone service-based hub, by making it a focus for residential and economic growth if and when reticulated sewerage becomes available.

The Growing Places Strategy, including this growth scenario, is a high level plan that sets the overall direction for where housing and population could be supported up to 2050 and beyond. It also provides the action plan outlining the work that needs to be done to support additional growth. This includes things like:

- Changes to the planning scheme, including new structure plans for towns.
- Developing plans for community facilities, services, infrastructure, transport networks and public and open spaces.
- Cultural Heritage assessments.
- Economic development assessment.
- Environmental and sustainability plans.
- Advocacy and funding requirements.

It will provide clear direction to Council, other levels of government, service providers, developers and the community so that everyone involved in delivering the housing, facilities, infrastructure and services to support that growth, can start planning now in a coordinated and sustainable way.

By getting on the front foot to carefully plan for this growth now, Council can make sure that it goes where it is best suited, delivers the most benefits to the community and protects the places and lifestyle valued by the community.

The timing of this project aligns with Plan Victoria's work and has ensured Council is in a position of informed decision making when responding to the State Government's housing targets.

The process to develop the GPS has six key stages, and it is currently at Stage 3:

- Stage 1: Background research
- Stage 2: Development and testing of a future growth scenario
- Stage 3: Preparation and consultation on the draft GPS and action plan
- Stage 4: Adoption of the final GPS
- Stage 5: Preparation and consultation on a Planning Scheme Amendment to incorporate the GPS into the Golden Plains Planning Scheme
- Stage 6: Submission of the Planning Scheme Amendment to the Minister for Planning for final approval.

This is a draft Strategy, no final decisions have been made and the next stage is to seek feedback from the community, following the Council elections. Engagement is not seeking to revisit the growth locations that have previously been identified in the growth scenario as consultation for those locations has already occurred. Engagement will however provide an opportunity to inform the community and stakeholders what the preconditions for growth include, how growth and development will be achieved and what the Planning Scheme changes will generally include.

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)	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)	No

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 preparation of the Growing Places Strategy, the following overarching governance principles in s.9 of the Local Government Act 2020 are applicable:

- Priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations;
- The economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted;
- The municipal community, is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making;
- Innovation and continuous improvement is to be pursued;
- Collaboration with other Councils and Governments and statutory bodies is to be sought;
- The ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured; and
- Regional state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision making.

POLICY/RELEVANT LAW

Victorian Government policy requires all municipalities to provide at least 15 years future land supply based on its Victoria in Future projections. Through existing planning provisions, Golden Plains already satisfies this requirement.

ENVIRONMENTAL/SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Victorian Government policy requires all municipalities to provide at least 15 years future land supply based on its Victoria in Future projections. Through existing planning provisions, Golden Plains already satisfies this requirement.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement on the Draft Strategy is planned following the election period. The engagement will use similar resources as used for the Informing Document in mid-2023 and include: a project webpage with an updated information video, Frequently Asked Questions and answers available on the webpage, project fact sheets, updated Informing Document with summary of findings from latest research; maps of the growth scenario and Strategic framework plan for inclusion in the planning scheme.

A Powerpoint Presentation will be used for stakeholder and community briefings and information sessions that covers growth (and projections), opportunities for the Shire, info about the GPS (including processes), growth scenarios, actions and how feedback can be provided. The presentation would be recorded and made available to view via the webpage or through a link via an email.

Findings from the community engagement will be presented back to Council for consideration together with the adoption of the final GPS.

PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

The Draft Strategy and forthcoming community and stakeholder engagement supports the overarching governance principle to ensure the transparency of decision making, actions and information. In 2023 the development of the Strategy was communicated to stakeholders and the community through engagement centred around the Informing Document which was designed to be easily understood and accessible to members of the community. The Informing Document continues to provide the necessary background information.

STRATEGIES/PLANS

The Draft Strategy has been influenced by the Golden Plains Shire Community Vision 2040 which was heavily informed by community consultation in 2020, led by a Community Reference Group.

Other Council Strategies including the Climate Emergency Plan 2022-2032, Economic Development, Tourism and Investment Attraction Strategy 2022-2032, Environment Strategy, Golden Plains Shire Social Housing Plan 2021-2024, and Reconciliation Action Plan have been referenced and used in the development of the Draft Strategy.

The Growing Places Strategy will guide strategic land use decision making to 2050 and beyond.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The Draft Strategy will not have implications for Council's financial management principles under s.101 of the *LGA 2020*.

SERVICE PERFORMANCE

Preparation of the Growing Places Strategy will give consideration to service performance principles under s.106 of the *LGA 2020*.

RISK ASSESSMENT

There are no identified risk implications associated with this report.

COMMUNICATION

Communication on the draft Growing Places Strategy will commence after the Council election using Council's website, Gazette and social media channels. Direct engagement will continue with those persons who have attended Information Sessions and provided submissions and feedback to date.

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).

GENDER EQUALITY

The report has considered the gender equity principles as set out in the Gender Equality Act 2020. No Gender Equity issues were identified.

OPTIONS

Option 1 – That Council endorses the Draft Growing Places Strategy (text as attached) for community engagement.

This option is recommended by officers as it will enable the community and stakeholders to see how feedback has been incorporated into the draft strategy and provide additional input into the final strategy.

Option 2 – That Council endorses the Draft Growing Places Strategy (text as attached) but does not endorse community engagement.

This option is not recommended by officers as it will not provide the opportunity for the community to provide further input into the final Strategy.

Option 3 – That Council Does not endorse the Draft Growing Places Strategy (text as attached).

This option is not recommended by officers as it will delay the development of the Strategy.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

CONCLUSION

The draft Growing Places Strategy has been completed and is the culmination of three years of evidence based research, principles from the Community Vision 2040, as well as stakeholder and community engagement. The GPS proposes a plan for where housing and population growth could be supported to 2050 and beyond.

The draft Strategy puts Council on the front foot to carefully plan for growth, making sure it goes where it is best suited, delivers the most benefits to the Golden Plains community and protects the valued places, lifestyle and assets of the Shire.

It's a draft Strategy and there is still a way to go before it can be finalised. Community engagement is the next phase and final approval is required by the Minister for Planning. The process takes time, however it is important to continue making progress and keep in step with Plan Victoria and anticipated growth. During the election caretaker period, and if approved by Council, the draft will be desktop published with maps and pictures inserted in readiness for community engagement. The Council appointed following the election will consider the submissions to the draft, the adoption of the final Growing Places Strategy and endorse the preparation and exhibition of the planning scheme amendment.

8.10 PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C102GPLA - POLICY NEUTRAL AMENDMENT

File Number:

Author: Susan Ryan, Senior Strategic Planner

Authoriser: Emma Wheatland, Acting Director Community, Planning and Growth

Attachments:

1. Golden Plains C102gpla - Combined Ordinance (Exhibited)
2. Golden Plains C102gpla - Combined Maps (Exhibited)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Adopts Amendment C102gpla which applies policy neutral changes to the ordinances and planning scheme maps as recommended by the review of the *Golden Plains Planning Scheme 2022*; and
2. Requests the Minister for Planning to approve Amendment C102gpla in accordance with section 31 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Amendment C102gpla implements the policy neutral recommendations of the *Golden Plains Planning Scheme Review 2022* and has been through a public exhibition process and two submissions were received. This report recommends the adoption of the amendment before submitting the amendment to the Minister for Planning for approval.

BACKGROUND

At an ordinary meeting on 21 November 2023, Council resolved to authorise the preparation and exhibition of an amendment, subsequently titled C102gpla, to correct anomalies, errors, and inefficiencies in the Golden Plain Planning Scheme. The amendment was exhibited between 27 June and 28 July 2024.

The exhibition of C102gpla was delayed due to authorisation conditions, which required the gazettal of GC239 before its exhibition. Amendment GC239 extended the expiry date in Clause 11.01-1L (Settlement in Golden Plains South East), Clause 11.03-6L-02 (Gheringhap) and Clause 11.03-6L-04 (Smythesdale) by 12 months. The amendment was necessary to ensure that Clauses 11.01-1L, 11.03-6L-02 and 11.03-6L-04 of the Golden Plains Planning Scheme could continue to operate while the council finalises strategic planning work and reviews this clause.

DISCUSSION

The Amendment has proceeded through the exhibition process.

Whilst approximately 4 emails were received about the amendment from the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), primarily seeking to clarify Ministerial Directions (MD)19 related C91gpla to the Environment Audit Overlay (EAO) at Railway Place, Inverleigh. The EPA has now advised, as Council is only seeking to include the ordinance in the Planning Scheme omitted from the previous Planning Scheme Amendment C91gpla, this does not require comment from EPA as MD19 is not triggered.

At the conclusion of the public exhibition process, there were two submissions received for C102gpla, from the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), Transport Division and VicTrack.

Both these submissions acknowledge they understand that the Amendment implements the policy neutral findings of the *Golden Plains Planning Scheme Review 2022* to meet the requirements of

Section 12B of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and do not object to any of the proposed changes.

REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS

Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)

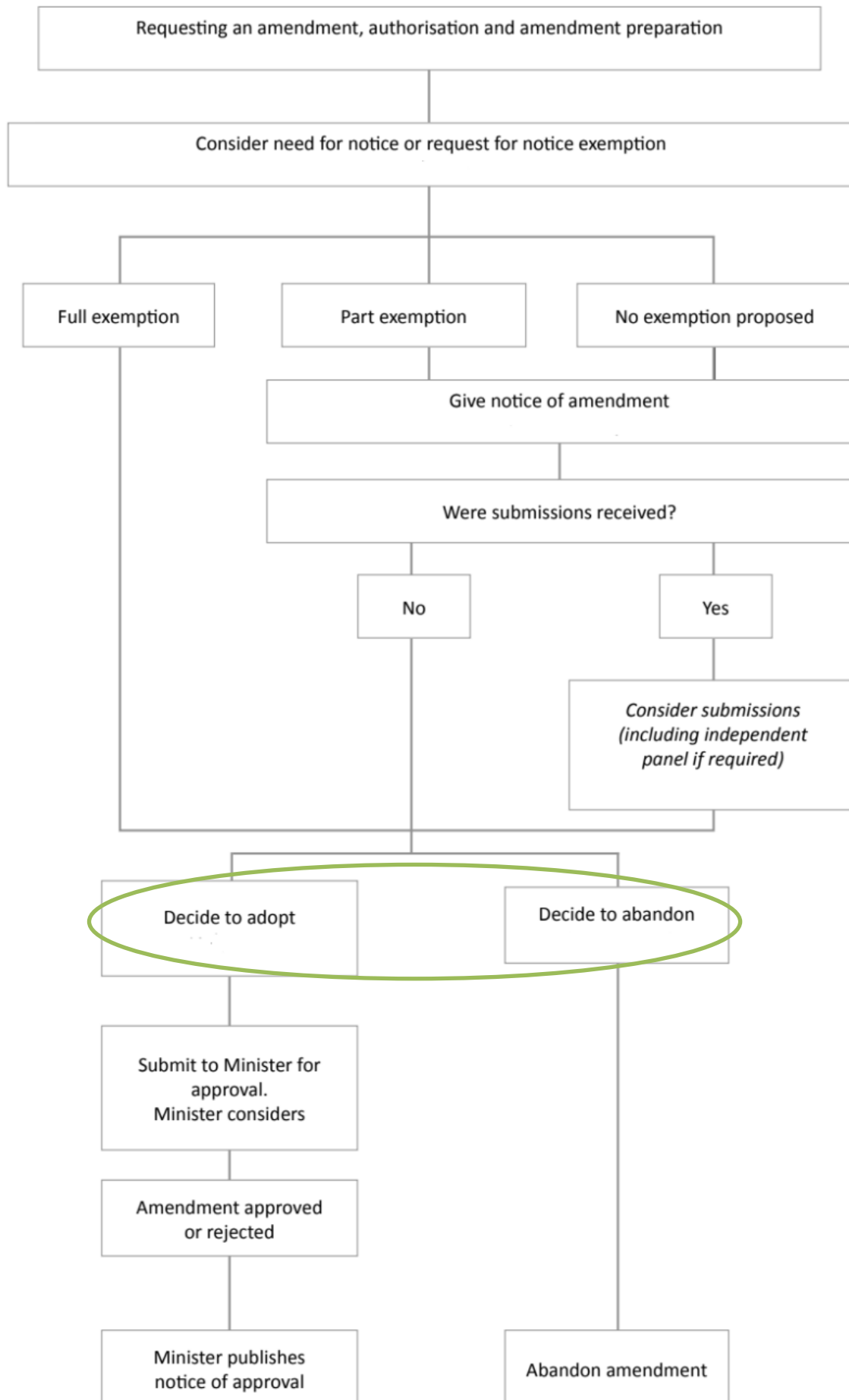
Implications	Applicable to this Report
Governance Principles (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
Policy/Relevant Law (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
Environmental/Sustainability Implications (Consideration of the Governance Principles 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)	No
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)	Yes
Risk Assessment	No
Communication	Yes
Human Rights Charter	Yes
Gender Equality (Gender Impact Assessment required by s.9 of Gender Equality Act 2020)	No

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

It is considered that the amendment upholds the governance principles in *s.9 of the Local Government Act 2020*, as it ensures the optimal performance and improved function of the Golden Plains Planning Scheme. The changes through Amendment C102gpla will ensure that planning provisions are consistently and correctly applied throughout Golden Plains Shire, resulting in improved outcomes for the community.

POLICY/RELEVANT LAW

Amendment C102gpla has been prepared and exhibited in accordance with the provisions of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. The pathway for the amendment process under a 20(2) Ministers exemption is shown below. The Amendment's current stage in the process is indicated by a **green** oval.



SERVICE PERFORMANCE

After consideration to the service performance principles under s. 106 of the LGA 202, the *Golden Plains Planning Scheme Review 2022* and Amendment C102gpla will correct anomalies and inaccuracies while providing greater clarity to officers and residents as to planning provision applied to properties in Golden Plains Shire.

COMMUNICATION

Communication of the Amendment C102gpla will be in accordance with the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, and Ministerial direction.

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 – Adopt Amendment C102gpla in the form recommended in this report and then apply to the Minister for Planning for approval of the Amendment.

This option is recommended by Council officers to improve the efficiency use and interpretation of the Golden Plains Planning Scheme.

Option 2 – Abandon the Amendment.

This option is not recommended by Council officers as there is no obvious reason to support abandoning the Amendment.

Option 3 – Adopt the Amendment in a different form to what is recommended by Council officers

This option is not recommended by Council officers and would require review to understand the nature of the change/reasons for change.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

CONCLUSION

Amendment C102gpla implements the policy neutral recommendations of the *Golden Plains Planning Scheme Review 2022* and updates the content in the Golden Plains Planning Scheme. These changes are aimed at increasing the efficiency and improving the interpretation of the Planning Scheme.

As there are no outstanding submissions, it is recommended that Council adopts the amendment and refers it to the Minister for Planning for approval.

8.11 BANNOCKBURN INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN (DRAFT)

File Number:

Author: Kate Milburn, Manager Environment and Open Spaces

Authoriser: Phil Josipovic, Director Infrastructure and Environment

Attachments: 1. Bannockburn Integrated Water Management Plan (Draft)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Endorse the Public DRAFT Bannockburn Integrated Water Management Plan (IWM) for community consultation; and
2. Endorse the public consultation process, to be conducted by online survey, to commence on Wednesday 28 August and close on Monday 16 September.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Integrated Water Management (IWM) Plan has been developed to support Golden Plains Shire Council (GPSC), and the wider Barwon IWM Forum network, in managing the impacts and demands of urbanisation and population growth in Bannockburn. Urbanisation and population growth cause significant changes to the water cycle, and without planning and collaboration across the water cycle service providers and stakeholders, these changes can degrade waterways and landscapes, and impact water security.

In response to the projected growth of Bannockburn, the Barwon IWM Forum has identified the development of this Bannockburn IWM Plan as a priority project. The plan is critical in securing the sustainability of water resources in the region and the resilience of waterways and landscapes. GPSC engaged Spiire Australia Pty Ltd to conduct the investigations, analysis and stakeholder engagements and preparation of final reports required to develop the IWM Plan.

A Bannockburn IWM key stakeholder working group was formed, which was responsible for guiding delivery of the project. This group collaboratively agreed on the vision, objectives and targets to be established, which were informed by: the *Golden Plains Shire Council Plan*; the Strategic Outcomes established by the Barwon Water IWM Forum; and policies and visions reviewed from across the IWM network. The IWM vision and objectives established in this IWM plan are:

Vision: Bannockburn will grow as a water sensitive township, with water supporting liveability and resilience within the community, and a thriving environment.

Objective 1: Community values are reflected in the way water is used and managed

Objective 2: Water enables a green and liveable Bannockburn

Objective 3: The sustainability of waterways and landscapes is supported by water

Objective 4: Water creates opportunity and economic prosperity of Bannockburn

An IWM Options Portfolio was subsequently presented and agreed upon by the working group. An Action Plan has been developed to guide stakeholder collaboration and realisation of opportunities that comprise both portfolios. While Targets are set over a 10 year period, the Action Plan outlines the actions for Council to undertake over the initial 2-3 years of the IWM Plan.

The detailed technical IWM Plan has subsequently been summarised into a user friendly 'public facing' report that will assist our community in understanding the complexities of the technical proposals. This 'public facing' report is now ready to present to the Golden Plains Shire Council community for information and comment via an online consultation process..

BACKGROUND

Water plays a critical role in creating liveable and resilient cities and towns. As our urban centres grow, and as a changing climate impacts rainfall patterns, consideration of how water is sourced, used and managed is crucial to a sustainable future for Bannockburn and the region.

This IWM Plan seeks to improve water cycle management in Bannockburn, delivering a greener and more liveable township. In doing so this plan also seeks to reduce potable water consumption, utilise alternative water resources, enhance landscapes, and improve waterway health.

IWM is a framework for water management authorities and stakeholders to understand the importance of water systems and water cycle processes, and collaboratively develop ways to manage the water cycle to deliver enhanced outcomes that align with community values.

This IWM Plan outlines a series of opportunities to improve management practices across Bannockburn over the coming 30 years. Critical water service requirements include water supply, sewage management, flood and stormwater management, and public open space irrigation and maintenance. Through delivering critical water services, and managing the water cycle holistically, a growing Bannockburn will become increasingly liveable and resilient.

DISCUSSION

Issues and Strategic Drivers

The Bannockburn township is located within an area subject to water security and wastewater management challenges. The impending growth in Bannockburn will add to these challenges. Additionally, the increase in urban stormwater runoff has the potential to degrade the values of Bruce Creek.

Water for Bannockburn is supplied from several sources. Outside the urban area, farm dams capture rural runoff to provide water for stock watering. Recycled water is also available and is used by the golf course and for agriculture adjacent to the water reclamation plant. Drinking water is sourced from the Moorabool River, which has historically serviced townships across the Golden Plains region. As these townships have grown, and as climate change has reduced the reliability of rainfall in the Moorabool River catchment, supply from Geelong to service Bannockburn has become important. This additional water is sourced from local and Melbourne supplies. As Bannockburn grows, it is possible that desalinated water will become part of the supply mix options.

Strategic Drivers	Context
Drinking Water Supplies	The region is becoming increasingly dependent on imported drinking water to meet a growing demand
Recycled Water Management	Increasing recycled water generation needs to be sustainably managed.
Flooding	Nuisance flooding is experienced in parts of Bannockburn. New development areas will require flood retardation infrastructure.
Healthy Waterways	Bruce Creek contains ecological values and is highly valued by the community. Very high value water bodies are downstream.
Healthy Landscapes	Existing and future open spaces will require water to maintain vegetation.
Community Values	The community is active in environmental outcomes across Bannockburn.
Innovation and Economic Outcomes	Water can be used to supply agriculture and industry, supporting employment.

Bannockburn IWM Plan Development

Spiire Australia Pty Ltd was engaged by Golden Plains Shire Council (GPSC) to prepare an Integrated Water Management (IWM) Plan for the expanding township of Bannockburn. The recommendations outlined in this IWM Plan address existing water management issues and support the significant development planned for Bannockburn across 30 plus years. The development and implementation of this IWM Plan is critical in securing the sustainability of water resources and the resilience of waterways affected by the growth and development of Bannockburn.

This IWM Plan details the existing state of the water cycle in Bannockburn and outlines the impacts and opportunities related to water cycle management in the urban and peri-urban contexts of Bannockburn. The analysis presented in this plan outlines GPSC's role in managing the water cycle, and recommends a series of IWM Opportunities to improve management practices and advance the strategic outcomes established by the Barwon IWM Forum. In developing the recommended IWM Opportunities, a key consideration was supporting and retaining the existing character and values of Bannockburn.

This IWM Plan has been developed through the process outlined in Figure 1 to ensure that GPSC, and other authorities and stakeholders, are able to deliver IWM outcomes while providing the water services required in a growing Bannockburn. Critical water service requirements as identified by stakeholders include water supply, sewage management, flood and stormwater management, and public open space irrigation and maintenance. In delivering wide-ranging IWM outcomes, and critical water services, Bannockburn will become increasingly liveable and resilient as the township grows and welcomes new residents and industries.

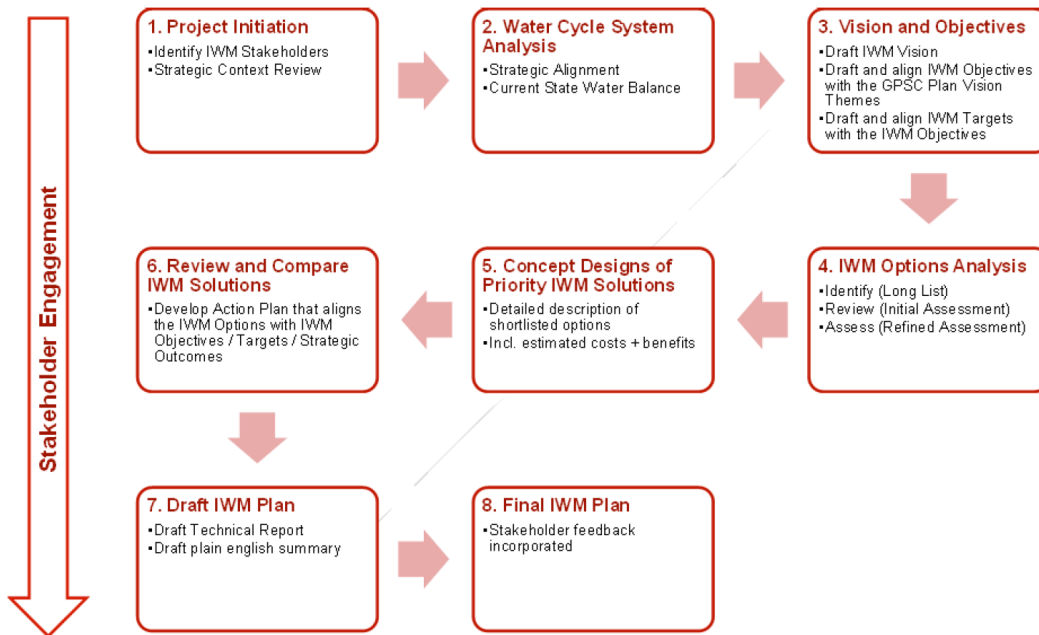


Figure 1: Bannockburn IWM Plan Development Process

The IWM plan underwent extensive review by the IWM Project Group and key stakeholders comprising of Environment, Asset Services and Strategic Planning teams at Golden Plains, and Barwon Water. Drafts were also submitted to DEECA and Wadawurrung Traditional Owner’s Corporation for their review and input.

Additionally, each action within the ‘Action Plan’ section of the technical report was reviewed and discussed extensively by the key stakeholder project group prior to collaborative agreement that an action should be carried forward. Some actions involve collaboration with other stakeholders and require Council to partner with water cycle management or planning organisations to work through investigations and designs. This initial 2-3 years of actions are intended to provide a foundation for the ongoing implementation of the IWM Plan which will require further actions to be identified, committed to and implemented. This will include consideration for how the plan (assets, budget and staff) will be carried forward.

Progress on the IWM plan development was presented at a Strategic Councillor Briefing in November 2023.

The IWM draft technical report was presented to the Barwon IWM Forum in July 2024 for review.

Upon finalising the detailed technical IWM report, the plan was further summarised into a concise IWM ‘public facing’ Plan to present to Council and the Golden Plains Shire Council community.

Wadawurrung’s IWM Statement

The Wadawurrung people recognise the rivers and waterways on Wadawurrung Country as living entities and Traditional Owners are the voices that speak for their health and well-being. Cultural water and Cultural Flows are the water that exists on country - because water is life. Without water, life suffers and ultimately cannot exist.

In recognition of this, Council has worked closely with Wadawurrung Traditional Owner’s Corporation throughout the development of the IWM Plan. Wadawurrung also provided Council with a copy of their IWM Statement during the project development. This has been integrated into the plan and clearly referenced at the start of the document.

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)	No
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)	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)	Yes
Service Performance (Consideration of Service Performance Principles under s.106 of LGA 2020)	Yes
Risk Assessment	Yes
Communication	Yes
Human Rights Charter	Yes
Gender Equality (Gender Impact Assessment required by s.9 of Gender Equality Act 2020)	Yes

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

The overarching governance principles in s.9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* have been considered in the preparation of this report including:

- Collaboration with other Councils and Governments and statutory bodies is to be sought
- The ongoing financial viability of Council is to be ensured
- Regional, State and National plans and policies are to be considered in strategic planning and decision making.

ENVIRONMENTAL/SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Environment and sustainability is implicit in the objectives and targets of the IWM Plan. The biodiversity linked to Bannockburn is supported by environmental assets such as Bruce Creek, the Bannockburn Flora and Fauna Reserve and local streetscapes. It is important that the values and conditions of these areas are preserved and enhanced through the delivery of IWM practices during the growth and development of Bannockburn. This can be achieved through the implementation of WSUD infrastructure, habitat links and strategically developed and managed public open spaces and reserves.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A formal public exhibition period for the draft 'Bannockburn IWM Plan' will be undertaken to provide opportunities for wider engagement/feedback from Golden Plains residents, key stakeholders, special interest and community groups.

PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

Public transparency principles have been considered in the process to develop the 'IWM Plan', and recommendation to adopt the final document including:

- Council decision making processes must be transparent;
- Council information must be understandable and accessible to members of the community, and;
- Public awareness of the availability of Council information must be facilitated.

STRATEGIES/PLANS

Strategies and plans considered in the development of the IWM Plan include:

- Council Plan 2021-2025
- Integrated Water Management Framework for Victoria
- Barwon Region Strategic Directions Statement (2022) – This plan identifies the Bannockburn IWM Plan as a priority project.
- Paleert Tjaara Dja, Wadawurrung's Healthy Country Plan
- GPSC Environment Strategy 2019-2027
- GPSC Climate Emergency Plan 2022-2032

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Spiire were engaged by Council to undertake this process, following a formal request for quote. The preparation of the strategy was primarily funded through a grant from DEECA of \$70,000, with a final cash co-contribution from Council of approximately \$10,000.

The successful implementation of the Action Plan will require support and engagement with IWM Forum partners as there is no dedicated water or IWM resource within Council. Additionally, how implementation of actions are to be funded will form part of the next phase of the IWM planning delivery process.

SERVICE PERFORMANCE

The IWM Plan will enable delivery of the wide-ranging IWM outcomes, and critical water services, to ensure Bannockburn becomes increasingly liveable and resilient as the township grows and welcomes new residents and industries.

RISK ASSESSMENT

There are no identified risk implications associated with this report.

COMMUNICATION

Public exhibition of the IWM Plan will allow the community to provide feedback. Submissions will be reviewed and where practicable the plan will be amended to reflect the sentiments of the community.

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).

GENDER EQUALITY

The implementation of any significant projects in the IWM Plan would be subject to future Gender Impact Assessments (GIA) being undertaken.

OPTIONS

Option 1 – That Council endorse the Bannockburn IWM Plan for public consultation

This option is recommended by officers as a comprehensive process has been undertaken, including thorough analysis and stakeholder engagement, to develop and provide a 'Bannockburn IWM Plan' for the next ten years. Following public consultation, the final Bannockburn IWM plan will be presented to Council for adoption.

Option 2 – That Council do not endorse the Bannockburn IWM Plan for public consultation

This option is not recommended by officers as a comprehensive process has been undertaken. It should be noted that endorsing the draft for public exhibition does not commit Council to any individual decisions in relation to funding or implementation of future projects.

Option 3 – That Council delay the Bannockburn IWM Plan for public consultation

This option is not recommended by officers as this project is anticipated by IWM Forum members. There are upcoming PSP's for the Shire which require guidance on IWM, which this plan aims to support.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

CONCLUSION

That Council endorse the Bannockburn IWM Plan for public consultation.

8.12 INVERLEIGH DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT - PROPOSED SOLUTION

File Number:**Author:** Vicki Shelton, Manager Asset Services**Authoriser:** Phil Josipovic, Director Infrastructure and Environment**Attachments:**

1. Inverleigh Flood Mitigation Assessment
2. Resident Meeting Presentation - May 2024

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Approve the detailed design and construction of intersection lowering at Argyle Park, Faulkner and King Roads and associated works (Option 1 as described in this report);
2. Note Council previously approved a budget for this project of \$1,354,000, of which \$1,254,000 remains and that concept estimate for Option 1 exceed available budget by an estimated \$77,000;
3. Note that as part of the proposed works, rectification to the Common Road outfall is also required as part of the general drainage outcome associated with the proposed works which has not been included in the cost estimates for the options considered to date; and
4. Note final budget requirements will be reported to Council as part of the construction Request for Tender process.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council resolutions from the 16 May 2023 Council Meeting have progressed with the options identified reviewed. The options were then presented to the residents at which time officers advised the options presented were with the available budget in mind. With the support of the Mayor and Councillor Whitfield, the consultant was asked to consider and prepare new options to investigate the greater protection of properties in King Road and Faulkner Road. Modelling of the final options was presented to residents who generally supported the overall improvements to their properties. The next stage is to proceed with the detailed design and construction of the selected option.

BACKGROUND

In May 2023 the following recommendations were adopted by Council.

That Council:

1. *Receive and note the Inverleigh Drainage Investigation Report – Noted.*
2. *Proceed with the functional design and feasibility assessments of Options 1, 2 and/or 2a – completed.*
3. *Note that each of the respective options relies on additional downstream works and broader drain maintenance to ensure that the works can achieve the most beneficial outcome without adversely impacting downstream properties – maintenance completed.*
4. *Receive a further report outlining the detailed design, costs and staged implementation program for improvement works prior to progressing to tender – this report.*
5. *Redirect the \$545k Emergency Drainage and \$809k LRCI Drainage – as shown in the 2023/24 Capital Works Program – towards the delivery of the preferred options identified in Recommendation 1 – noted.*
6. *Note that a further flood study will be undertaken in the coming months for the Bannockburn North and Bannockburn South areas, which will result in recommended drainage improvement works incurring further costs – noted.*

DISCUSSION

Actions completed to date include:

Assessments of Options 1, 2 and 2a with the outcome that Option 1 – lowering of the intersection of Argyle Park, King and Faulkner Roads - was generally supported, although additional complementary work was required to realise the full benefits. Options 2 and 2a – upsizing and modifying basins in Gregory Drive - provided minimal benefits to downstream properties. Subsequently an additional Option 3a – piped outfall along Faulkner Road towards Common Road and discharging into the designated watercourse - was proposed and included in the assessment.

Option 1 – Lower Intersection Argyle Park, Faulkner and King Roads

Option 1 was found to provide a viable strategy to alleviate flood impacts, particularly to the most severely affected properties in the King Road Estate however, based on the flood modelling undertaken to date, Option 1 needs to be undertaken in conjunction with ‘other’ works to achieve the desired mitigation for the majority of affected properties. The other works generally speaking are minor in nature and are described in the attached consultant’s report.

A key element of Option 1 is that no acquisition of easements or reserves is required to facilitate the works and has minimal impact on native vegetation. There will likely be a significant impact on access for residents during construction. The configuration of the intersection along with the need for continual access for residents adds considerable complexity, time and costs to the construction.

The design prevents flows from overtopping Faulkner Road, however it still requires additional local swale drain works in the vicinity of 14, 16 and 22 King Road to alleviate localised residual flooding around these dwellings. Option 1 when modelled also resulted in some minor increased flood levels during rare and extreme rainfall events within private properties downstream. These impacts need to be considered during detailed design and addressed if possible.

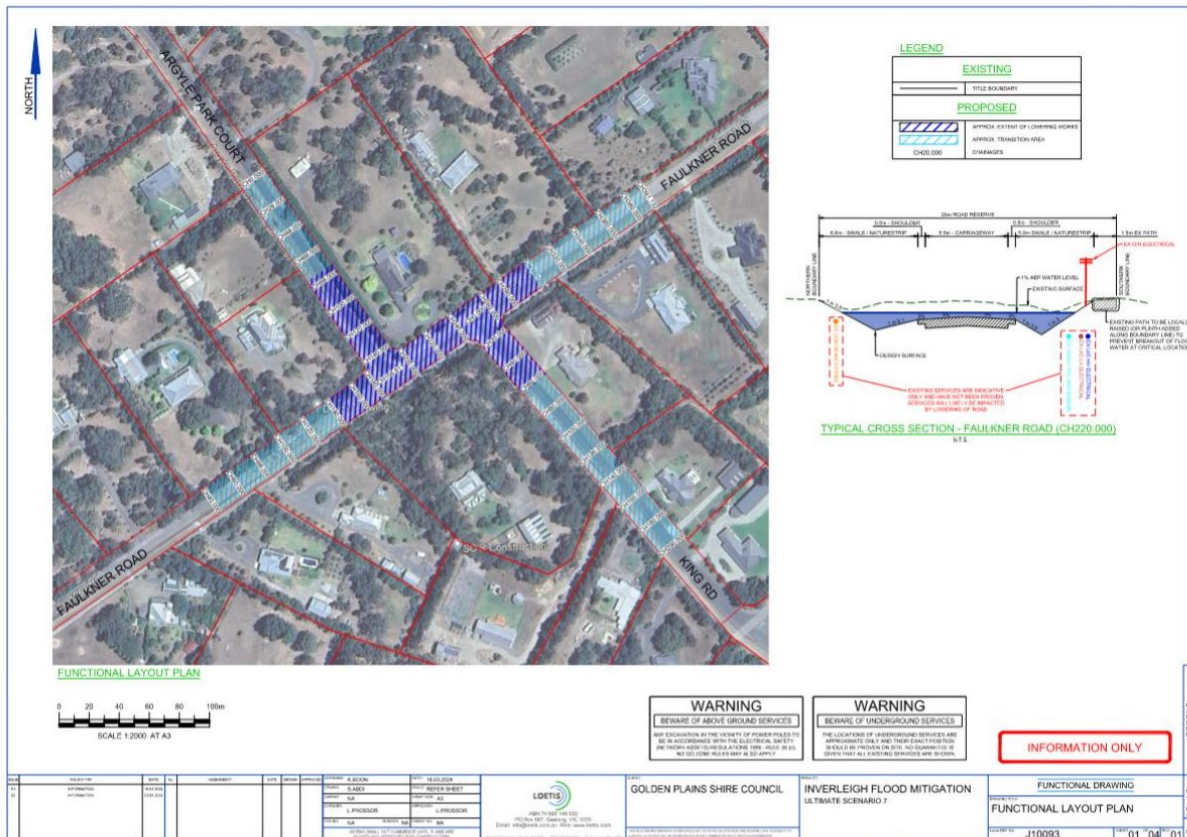


Figure 24 – Image of (part) Functional Design Option 1



Figure 25 – Image of Flood Depths – Option 1 design

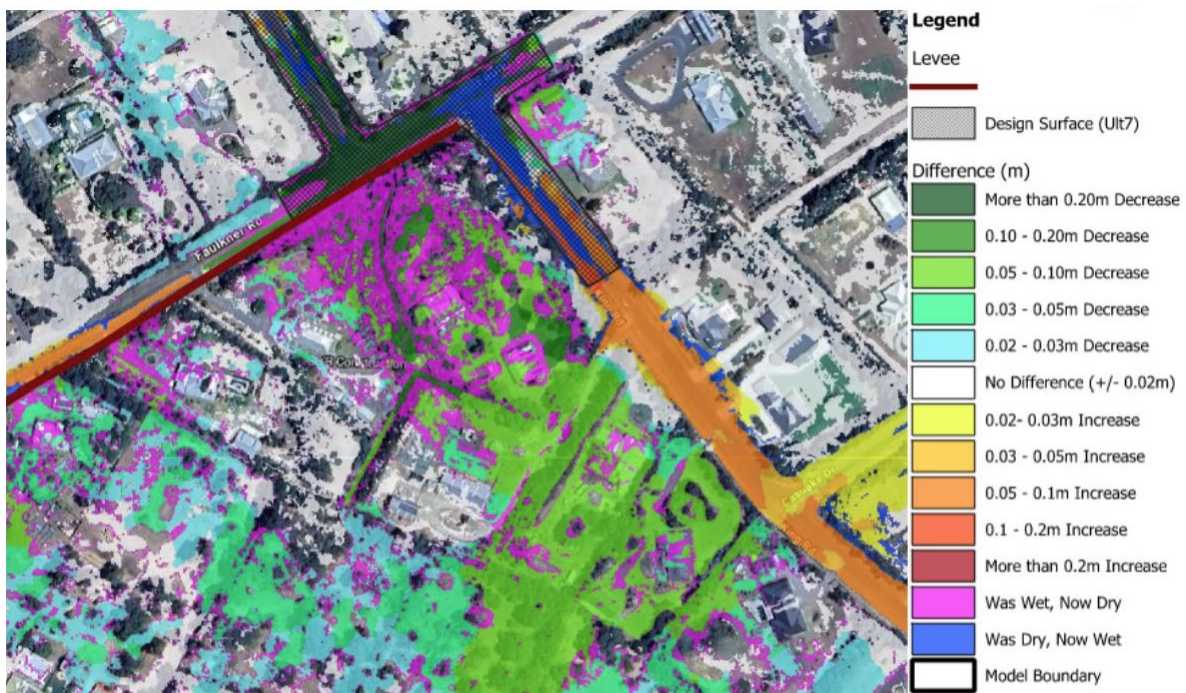


Figure 26 – Image of Flood Afflux – Option 1 design

Option 2 – modify basins on Gregory Drive to increase capacity

The Option 2 investigation found that there is some limited ability to make minor ‘tweaks’ to the existing basin outlet structures to make their operation more efficient.

Without undertaking acquisition of significant additional easement or reserve area, it is not considered feasible to provide a significant increase in the volume of the existing basins. Additionally, the earlier Water Technology report has shown that this work has minimal positive impact on downstream properties unless taken in combination with other works options. Further analysis of this option is included in the attached report and reference can be made to the previous briefing, and associated report.

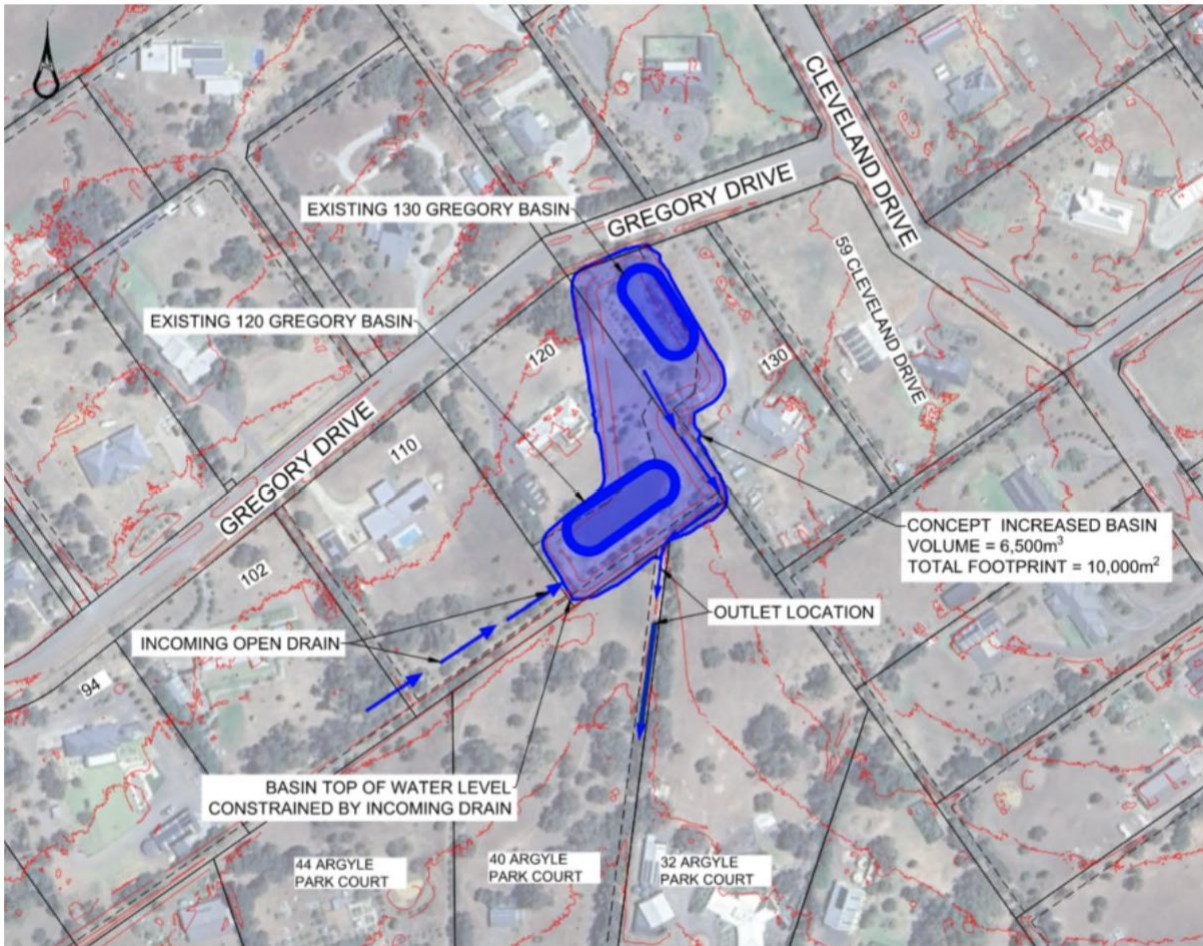


Figure 13 - Site Location and Existing Context

c

This Option was not taken forward based on the assessment matrix and recommendation from the previous briefing.

Option 2a - Modify basins on Gregory Drive to increase capacity and provide alternate outlet to Common Road

The investigation into Option 2a found that the delivery of the proposed western outfall (big basin) would result in significant impacts on existing vegetation and would require the acquisition of significant additional easements. Therefore, it is not considered feasible to provide a significant outfall along the proposed Option 2a alignment.

During the Option 2a investigation, an alternate Option 2b alignment was identified with the outfall being piped along Argyle Park Court and Savage Drive which was identified as having significant merits on the basis that no easement/reserve acquisition is required and the impacts on native vegetation are assessed to be comparatively low. Because this alternative alignment discharges directly into a waterway the impacts of increased flow depths and extents are anticipated to be comparatively relatively minor and restricted to already encumbered areas and well clear of any dwellings and public access locations (roads and paths).

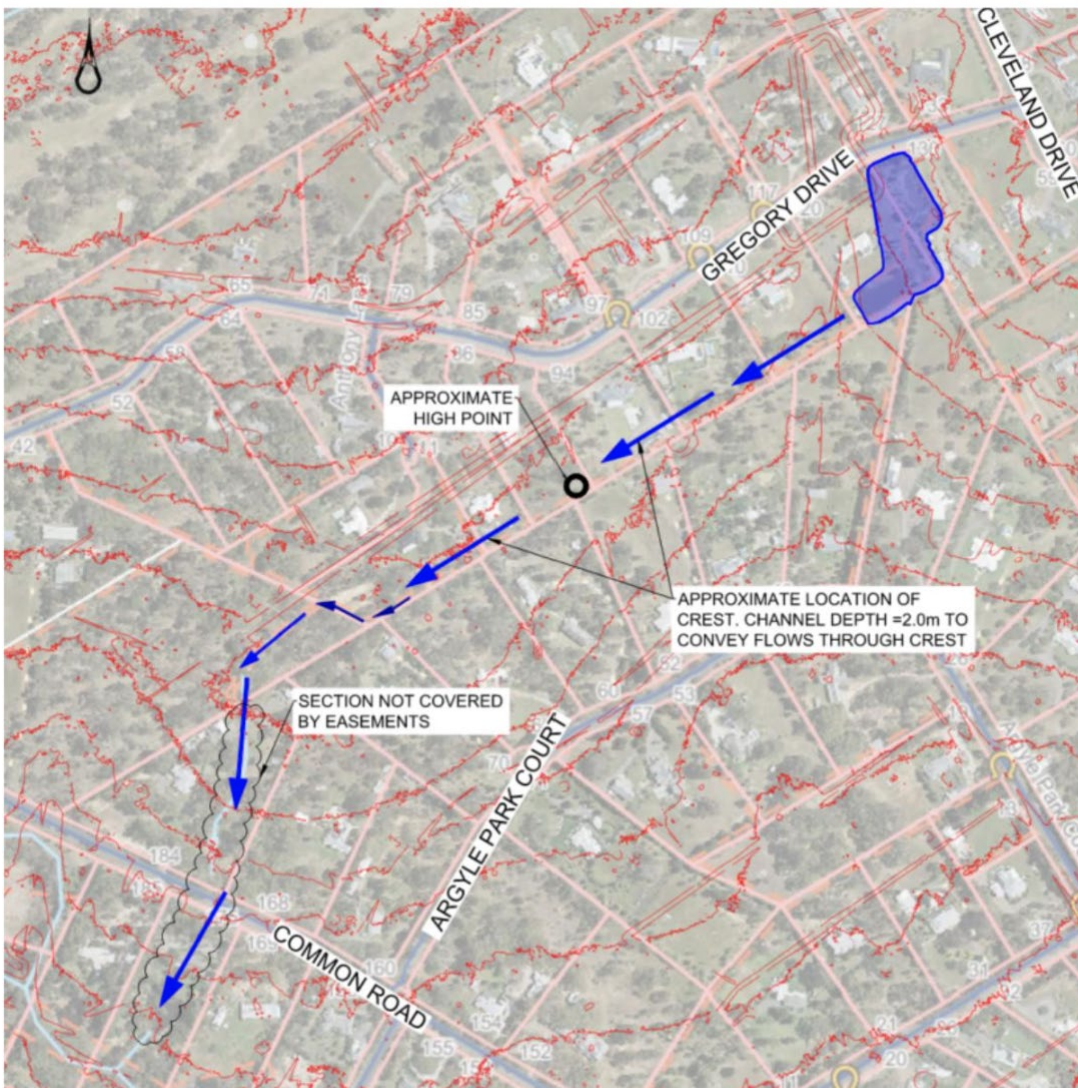


Figure 14 – Alignment of Option 2a Proposed Western Outfall (Big Basin)

This Option was not taken forward based on the assessment matrix and recommendation from the previous briefing, ultimately falling short due to the limited effectiveness, particularly to the most severely impacted residents, and the associated costs.

Option 3a – Piped outfall from Argyle Park Court down Faulkner Road to waterway

The investigation found that Option 3a does have a significant advantage compared to Option 1, as rather than re-directing flows down King Road where downstream impacts on private properties are expected, it directly diverts the water to the location of the receiving waterway, where the impacts are anticipated to be comparatively relatively minor and restricted to already encumbered areas and well clear of any dwellings and public access locations (roads and paths). The extent of impacts is generally already encompassed within the existing watercourse with only a minor impact on flow depth.. It is considered that this outcome has significant value to Council, the community and all landholders and should be given strong weight when assessing options.

Option 3a is also considered to have a less disruptive impact on residents during construction, with road access being able to be maintained during construction with only short-duration closures during driveway crossing works.

Option 3a was found to be more expensive than Option 1, and despite the design preventing flows overtopping Faulkner Road, it still requires additional local swale drain works in the vicinity of 14, 16 and 22 King Road to alleviate localised residual flooding around these dwellings.

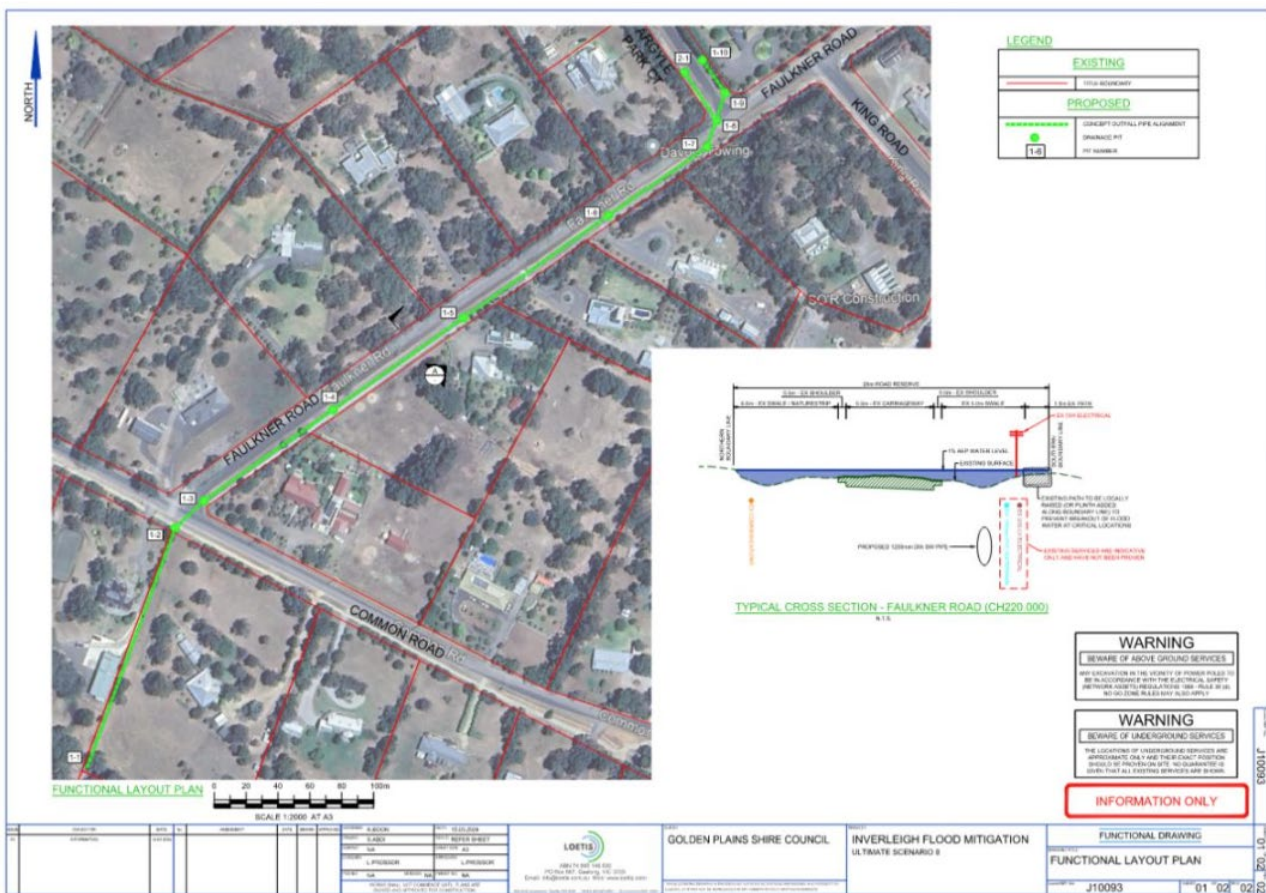


Figure 29 – Image of Functional Design Option 3a



Figure 30 – Image of Flood Depths – Option 3a design

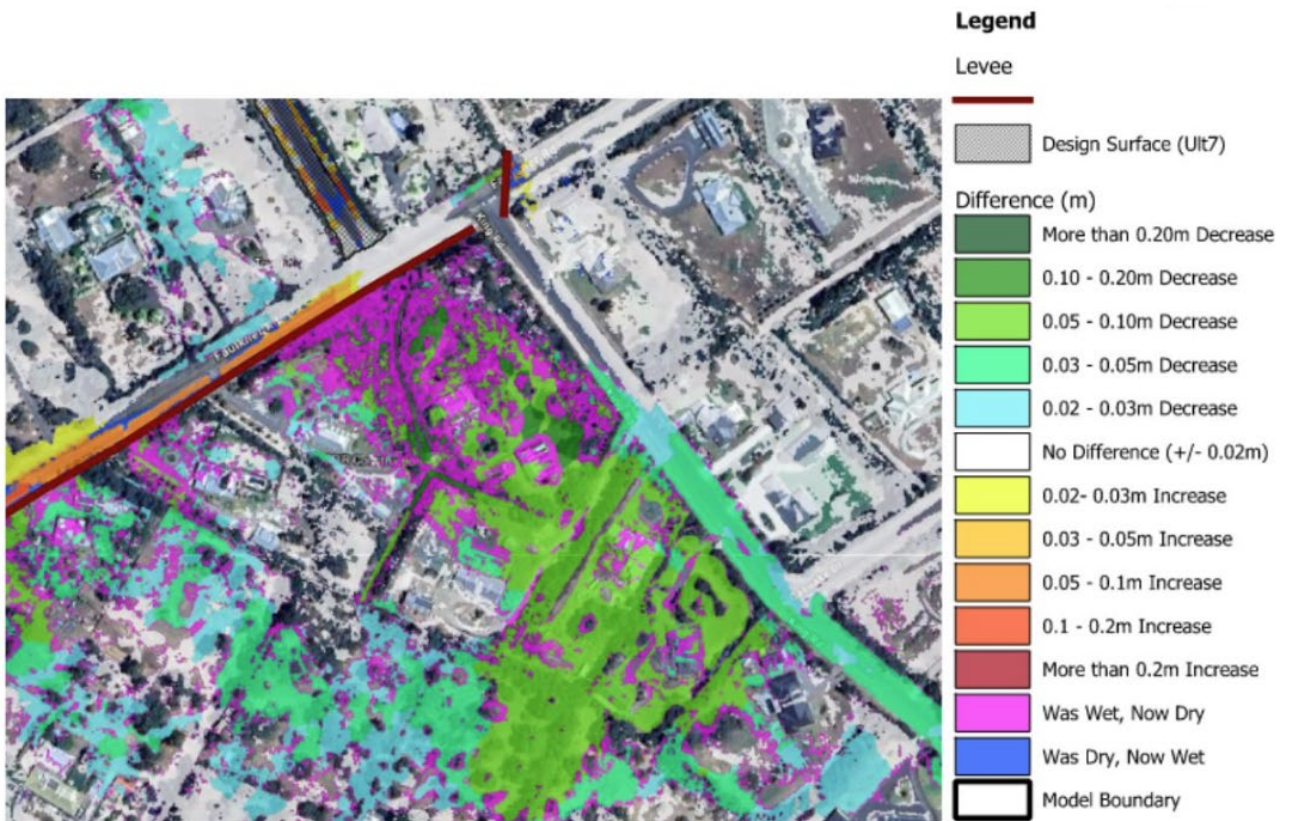


Figure 31– Image of Flood Afflux – Option 3a design

Assessment of Recommended Options:

Following the initial functional design report previously presented to council, as well as the community consultation and further extended scope of the study, Options 1 and 3a have been assessed in detail comparing the positives and negatives associated with each option. Table 38 and the matrix in Table 39 from the Loetis report summarise this. Extract from Table 38 is included below.

Assessment Criteria	Option 1 "Argyle Park Court & Faulkner Road Lowering & Redirection of Flows to King Road"	Option 3a "Argyle Park Court to Common Road Outfall Pipe"
Cost (excl. GST & easement acquisition)	\$1,330,950	\$1,728,780
Easement / Reserve Acquisition	No	Yes (single property)
Level of Vegetation Removal Requirement	None to Minimal	None to Minimal
Increased Flood Extents / Depth on Private Property	Yes – largely confined to King Road and downstream	Confined to Existing Waterway
Extent of Resolution of Issues	Rectifies majority of 'King Estate' Properties, however, requires additional works to fully rectify the dwellings of 14, 16 & 22 King Road.	Rectifies majority of 'King Estate' Properties, however, requires additional works to fully rectify the dwellings of 14, 16 & 22 King Road.
Is there risk of blockage and reducing effectiveness in larger than design events	No	Yes
Delivery Timeliness	< 12 months	6-18 months pending easement acquisition process

Table 38 – Options Comparison Assessment

The flood modelling undertaken for both options prevents all 'external' catchment water entering the properties from Faulkner Road, however, local drainage flows still result in residual flooding around the dwellings at 14, 16 and 22 King Road. With the addition of local drainage swale works in the vicinity of 14, 16 and 22 King Road, within the constraints of the modelling, all dwellings with the exception of 16 King Road appear to be flood-free for the design event however, additional survey with floor levels will be required to confirm this during the detailed design process.

It is expected that within the constraints of what works council could practically undertake it would not be possible to relieve flooding to this property up to the 1%AEP however, both recommended options will result in a significant benefit and may reduce the flood risk in more frequent storm events.

- Option 1 provides a lower cost solution comparative to Option 3a however Option 1 results in downstream increases in flood depths and extents on private land.
- Option 3a has some downstream increases in flood depths and extents, however these are limited to the within existing easements.
- Option 3a requires acquisition of an easement or reserve within private property.

Accordingly, Option 1 is considered to provide a superior outcome on all assessed elements except for the impacts on the downstream landholdings.

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)	No
Policy/Relevant Law (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	No
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)	No
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	Yes
Communication	Yes
Human Rights Charter	Yes
Gender Equality (Gender Impact Assessment required by s.9 of Gender Equality Act 2020)	No

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Affected community members were consulted during the feasibility of options phase of the consultancy and have been informed of the progress of this project and will receive a copy of the functional design plans and the outcome of Council's decision. Council officers and councillors met with residents on the 18 March 2024 and again on the 16 of May 2024.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

\$545,000 has been allocated in the 2023-2024 budget for emergency drainage works as well as \$809,000 has been set aside from the LRCI phase 4 program for drainage works in Common Road catchment. The options proposed will be designed and costed, along with further advice on the capacity of Council to undertake works within available budgets.

BUDGET	\$1,354,000
Modelling, Feasibility and Design Consultancy	\$100,000
Remaining available for mitigation works	\$1,254,000
Option 1 – Lowering intersection	\$1,330,950
Option 3a – Outfall	\$1,728,780

Taking into account costs to date and works yet to be completed, it is likely there will be insufficient funds to deliver either Option 1 or 3a to the full design intent without either additional funds allocated, or value management undertaken. The above costing also does not take into account the common road drainage outfall rectification works which will be required to be completed as part of the works for either Options 1 or 3a.

The budgeted capital drainage improvements funds of \$400,000 for 2024/25 could be used to cover the shortfall for Option 1, but if used, would result in reduced capital improvements being undertaken for that financial year across the municipality. With several shovel-ready projects in the pipeline pending funding this would further delay critical improvements to limit drainage and flood impacts to residents throughout the shire. Consideration should also be made for the Bannockburn flood study and mitigation works currently being investigated and the considerable cost associated with undertaking much of this mitigation as well as a future flood study and mitigation options for Smythesdale.

Should additional funds be required following a Request for Tender (construction) process, the matter will be addressed as part of the report to award the contract to preferred tenderer.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Potential negative impacts on downstream private properties will be further investigated and mitigated if possible during detailed design.

COMMUNICATION

Considerable consultation with the most severely impacted community members has been undertaken and residents will be updated on the progress of works identified in the report.

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

Accept the consultant's report recommendations and proceed with the design and construction of Option 1

This option (intersection lowering) is recommended by officers as the most appropriate way forward to manage flooding in this catchment, within the constraints of the committed funding. Where the current concept scope exceeds the available budget, works will be required to be either value-managed based on cost-benefit, ultimately reducing the mitigation effectiveness to affected residents, or additional funding allocated. Confidence in final costs will be refined during the design and tender process. Rectification of the Common Road drainage outfall is also required to take place as part of the works which has not been costed in the options.

Proceed with the design and construction of Option 3a.

This option is considered viable by officers however it should be noted the current concept scope estimated cost significantly exceeds the available budget and works will unlikely be able to be value-managed within available budget without allocation of additional funds. This option also requires easement acquisition within private property with unknown time frames and costs at this stage. It should be noted that Option 3a provides similar mitigation outcomes as Option 1 above, however it reduces the risk of negative impacts to downstream properties. Rectification of the Common Road drainage outfall is also required to take place as part of the works. If this option was pursued it is estimated a construction budget of \$1.9M excluding GST would be required with an additional \$200,000 allocated for easement acquisitions and associated costs.

Not proceed with flood mitigation works

From the assessments undertaken to date it has been shown that deficiencies with the existing infrastructure present significant challenges to bring to current day standards and provide protection to dwellings that have been subjected to over-floor flooding. Given the options available to make substantive improvements, council should consider the cost benefits of these works, particularly in the context of available budgets and the impact either of these options would provide for mitigating over floor flooding within the study area. Efforts from council in the past to improve the infrastructure in the area have provided benefits although are only effective for frequent storm events. From the analysis undertaken to date, further engineering assessments and flood modelling works would likely be abortive and further deplete the allocated funds to deliver the improvements.

If this option was adopted, the allocated funding would be used to rectify the common road outfall scour with the remaining reassigned to other projects.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

CONCLUSION

Based on the modelling findings and the subsequent review of amended options, it is considered that implementing options 1 or 3a will provide the best result, with option 1 being the most cost-effective solution of the two. Although this is the case, the limited effectiveness of mitigating over-floor flooding to dwellings in either option has demonstrated the difficulties and limitations of retrofitting the existing infrastructure. It is therefore recommended that Council proceed with the detailed design and construction of Option 1 as described in the discussion section of this report

8.13 FEDERATION BRIDGE - REPAIRS**File Number:****Author:** Vicki Shelton, Manager Asset Services**Authoriser:** Phil Josipovic, Director Infrastructure and Environment**Attachments:** Nil**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Rescind the decision to replace the Federation Pedestrian Bridge and support proceeding with repairs to the Federation Pedestrian Bridge; and
2. Request officers to inform the community of the change in direction.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the 18 July 2023 council supported full replacement of the Federation Pedestrian Bridge with a new suspension bridge pending design outcomes. The final design was approved and tendered with prices well above the available construction budget of \$350,000. A review of the Bridge Assessment Report determined that major repairs valued at \$325,000 can be undertaken within the available budget with an outcome that extends the life of the bridge by 25 years, provides access to the community and allows for future planning for its eventual replacement.

BACKGROUND

The October 2022 floods damaged many Council assets including the Federation Pedestrian Bridge in Inverleigh where the estimated cost of damage repair exceeded the bridge's current value. At the 18 July 2023 council supported full replacement of the Federation Pedestrian Bridge with a new suspension bridge pending design outcomes.

An agreed look alike suspension bridge design with metal piers, a wider bridge structure from 1.0 metres to 2.0 metres and a higher structure built above the 100 year ARI was supported to proceed to tender. The replacement bridge was estimated to cost \$350,000. A Budget of \$450,000 was allocated for the project to cover construction, design, project management and contingencies. Following a public tender process, nine (9) submissions were received varying in price range from \$629,000 to \$1,630,000, well over the available budget.

DISCUSSION

A review of the submissions determined that costs could not be reduced and that additional funding would be required to support full replacement. Funds would need to be accessed from the bridge replacement program which would mean we would not construct any other bridges unless grants were successful (noting that grants are not available for pedestrian bridges).

Options assessed were:

Option	Assessment	Recommendation
Replace Bridge	Increase life of bridge, provide flood proofing, eliminates risk to users; above available budgets; limits access to funds for road bridges.	Initial recommendation, based on budget not recommended
Demolish Bridge do not replace	No access over river for community; limited connection to township; longer route on road to access township	Not recommended
Retain bridge, keep closed until funding available to replace	No access over river for community; limited connection to township; longer route on road to access township; risk of users still accessing bridge which currently occurs; no certainty of additional funding	Not recommended
Repair bridge retain location	Will not be flood proof and clear of the significant trees whose limbs may fail and therefore at risk of damage; extends life for 25 years; time to plan for future funding for replacement; access provided for community.	Recommended

Repairs to the bridge have been estimated at \$325,000 which is within the available construction budget.

Works consist of dismantling the bridge to:

- Replace the timber crossbeams / floor beams and steel droppers.
- Modify the cable considering there is no tensioning systems that would allow easier adjustment in future.
- Address the corrosion at the anchor blocks – including excavation and assessment of structural stability.
- Install new fencing and side barriers.
- Install new fibre reinforced plastic decking.

The assessment of the bridge by Aussie Bridges provided an estimated design life associated with either repair or replacement of the bridge. The current valuation of the bridge in our asset system is \$169,800. An assessment of the best value for repairs against replacement is outlined in the table below.

Repair Option	Estimated Cost	Estimated Design Life (years)	Asset Renewal Value for Money (total cost / Revised Design Life)	Estimated Cost as Percentage of replacement value (\$169,800)
Renewal works to replace decking, structure, cables and ties – retain towers – same width and height above flood levels	\$325,000	25	13,000	191%
Full replacement – increase height above 100ARI, widened bridge – tender prices received	\$629,000 - \$1,630,000	75	8,390 – 21,730	370% - 960%

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)	No
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	No
Gender Equality (Gender Impact Assessment required by s.9 of Gender Equality Act 2020)	No

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

The overarching Governance Principles of the Act are a key consideration in the tendering processes for delivery of community infrastructure projects including:

- Priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community.
- Ongoing financial viability is to be ensured.

ENVIRONMENTAL/SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Replacing the bridge deck with fibre reinforced plastic decking makes use of a recycled product. Where practicable components of the bridge will be reused.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Council officers have engaged with the Inverleigh Progress Association and other members of the community on the proposed options. Subject to Council's decision, further consultation will be undertaken.

STRATEGIES/PLANS

The Federation Pedestrian Bridge is identified in GPSC Tracks and Trails strategy as a High priority to repair flood damage and re-open to allow access to the Leigh River trail and Savage Drive from Cambridge Street.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The available budget of \$450,000 for replacement of bridge was allocated across the following components. The design is complete. Project management of our flood recovery program has been outsourced to Milward Engineering.

Item	Cost
Design – including Geotechnical and Survey	\$58,500
Project Management	\$17,750
Construction / Repairs	\$325,000
Contingency 15%	\$48,750
Total	\$450,000

Tenders received were well in excess of available budget, therefore it is now considered more prudent to repair the bridge.

The estimated cost of repairs of \$325,000 is within the allocated budget. The works are funded from the Capital Bridge Renewal Program. The pedestrian bridge is not eligible for Disaster Recovery Funding Grants or the Federal Government Infrastructure Funding Program.

RISK ASSESSMENT

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

The repair works will extend the life of the existing structure by approximately 25 years. The replacement of the bridge would extend the life to 75 years.

Repairs to the bridge will leave the levels as they are, which is within the 10% ARI (1 in 100 year).

The works cannot be deferred if the bridge is to re-open to the public. The bridge is currently closed with signage and barriers in place however the public are still accessing the bridge and putting themselves at risk.

COMMUNICATION

Local stakeholders and the community have been provided with updates on the bridge's status and ensuing repairs via Council's website and through onsite signage.

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 – Proceed with repairs to the Federation Pedestrian Bridge

This option is recommended by officers as it opens the bridge for public use and the cost to repair is within the available budget.

Option 2 – Replace the Federation Pedestrian Bridge

This option is not recommended by officers as the planned replacement is greater than the available budget.

Option 3 – Close the Federation Pedestrian Bridge

This option is not recommended by officers as the community currently access the bridge exposing them to greater risk. Connections are limited to the Inverleigh township and the Leigh River trail with the alternate route a much longer detour.

Option 4 – Demolish and do not replace the Federation Pedestrian Bridge

This option is not recommended by officers as connections are limited to the Inverleigh township and the Leigh River trail with the alternate route a much longer detour.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

CONCLUSION

That council support officers to proceed with repairs to the Federation Pedestrian Bridge.

8.14 FOOTPATH STRATEGY - ADOPTION

File Number:

Author: Vicki Shelton, Manager Asset Services

Authoriser: Phil Josipovic, Director Infrastructure and Environment

Attachments: 1. Footpath Strategy (Draft)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the Footpath Strategy 2024- 2034 and apply the Level of Service Framework and Prioritisation Matrix to the assessment of existing and future paths across the Shire.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Footpath Strategy sets out a strategy for how GPSC will commence to deliver and upgrade its formal footpaths within the Shire over the next 10 years. The Strategy is prepared in response to changing population needs and our ability to plan for growth. The strategy sets out a 'level of service framework' and a 'prioritisation matrix' to support selection of projects for delivery.

The Draft Footpath Strategy was endorsed by Council at the 26 June Council meeting for public exhibition. Following the exhibition period a total of nine (9) submissions were received, mostly in support of the framework and matrix; suggesting other locations where the framework can be applied and how the strategy can inform subdivision development. There are no changes required to the strategy from the feedback received.

BACKGROUND

Footpaths and walkways play a significant role to connect communities and provide a means of access to community facilities, services, public transport and open spaces. The provision of pedestrian networks makes communities more liveable and connected.

Spiire Consulting was engaged to prepare a 'Footpaths Strategy', which will assist Council to manage its current footpath assets and develop pedestrian networks to every township. The strategy reflects our existing pedestrian networks and the gaps within the network.

The purpose of the strategy is to identify and recommend future upgrades and new footpath construction priorities and proactively plan for ongoing maintenance. The strategy will also outline how we will potentially monitor and evaluate the utilisation of footpaths across Golden Plains.

A priority matrix has been developed to identify and rank priorities. The matrix allows all potential new and upgraded footpaths to be scored against a list of criteria. The total score of each potential footpath installation or upgrade can then be ranked against other footpaths to determine a priority ranking. The matrix comprises 11 criteria which fall under five categories; **Safety** (Road Type, Sight distance, Terrain, History); **Connectivity** (proximity to services/facilities/infrastructure, alternate access, broader links); **Accessibility** (demand, population); **Works Impact** (e.g., environmental); **Strategic** (policy, resources). The full Matrix is included in the attached Draft Strategy.

The top priority new paths or upgrades to existing paths have been identified for each of the 10 largest townships in the Shire by population at the time of undertaking. The top priority for each town is listed below with further explanation and priorities captured in section 9 of the Draft Strategy. Additional towns can be added to the strategy post its adoption and a similar engagement process can be undertaken and managed by our internal Asset Services Team.

Town	Road/Street
Bannockburn	Geelong Road
Teesdale	Teesdale-Inverleigh Road
Inverleigh	Hamilton Highway
Haddon	Taylor's Road
Smythesdale	Glenelg Highway (North of Heales Street)
Lethbridge	Tall Tree Road
Batesford	Midland Highway
Meredith	Staughton Street East
Smythes Creek	Glenelg Highway and Bells Road
Linton	Glenelg Highway (South of Gillespie Street)

DISCUSSION

Community members were invited to provide feedback on the draft Strategy from Thursday 27 June to 9am, Thursday 25 July 2024. During this time, there were 9 submissions received.

The Draft Footpath Strategy was made available on the Council's website and promoted via a media release sent out on the 27 June 2024, an article published in the Golden Plains Time on 18 July; featured in the July edition of Engage and Golden Plains business news and on social media channels Facebook, LinkedIn and X.

The have your say page received 294 page views during the consultation period.

The table below summarises the submissions received and the response to each submission.

No.	Submission	Response
1	Locations of footpaths to be provided on maps to inform conditions on planning applications. Provide an option to pay upfront rather than construct at time of development.	The Strategy provides a general indication of where footpaths are required. Further review is required to confirm exact locations and which side of the street a path is proposed. Planning conditions can include construction of footpath upfront or a contribution towards future footpath construction. Each application is assessed on its merits.
2.	Include a path from Smythesdale to Scarsdale.	The strategy focuses on paths within townships. The rail trail provides an existing link between the two townships.
3.	Location of footpath in Knights Park Crescent, Bannockburn and reference to potential planning permit conditions for a footpath to be built by applicant. Low score of 12 if matrix is applied.	Planning conditions can include construction of footpath upfront or a contribution towards future footpath construction. Each application is assessed on its merits. Higher scoring paths are considered priority ahead of lower scoring paths, however opportunity to install a path in conjunction with other infrastructure is recommended.
4.	Standard footpath details – gravel paths are suitable for rural area and contribute to character. Would this be considered for Residential living zones rather than	Concrete footpath is the preferred construction material in townships and in high pedestrian zones.

	concrete or asphalt.	
5.	Timeline for L1 Lethbridge on Tall Tree Road over rail crossing and confirmed location.	Council has been awarded funding for a mixture of concrete and gravel footpaths to be constructed on the north and south side of Tall Tree Road from the new housing development to connect to the existing railway pedestrian gates and new concrete and gravel footpaths on both sides of Russell Street. All works to be completed by March 2025.
6.	Request for Shelford to be included in the strategy.	Funding was only available for 10 townships to be included in the strategy and assessed by consultants with input from the community. Once adopted, the framework and matrix will be applied to other townships in Golden Plains including Shelford by council officers in conjunction with the Shelford Community.
7.	Footpath on Bannockburn – Shelford Road from Bruce Creek to industrial Estate.	The Footpath strategy focuses on paths within townships. A shared path has been identified in the Golden Plains Shire Tracks & Trails Strategy from Bannockburn to Teesdale.
8.	Meredith Township - gravel footpaths in Meredith to be upgraded to concrete or finer gravel; supports new paths to the recreation reserve.	M5 – Wilson Street, M6 – Staughton Street and M7 – Staughton Street are all identified in Strategy. Missing gaps and links to off road paths have been considered as part of the strategy. Concrete footpath is the preferred construction material in townships in high pedestrian zones.
9.	Request for Shelford to be included in the strategy.	Funding was only available for 10 townships to be included in the strategy and assessed by consultants with input from the community. Once adopted, the framework and matrix will be applied to other townships in Golden Plains including Shelford by council officers in conjunction with the Shelford 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
Policy/Relevant Law (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	No
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)	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	No
Gender Equality (Gender Impact Assessment required by s.9 of Gender Equality Act 2020)	No

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

The overarching governance principles in s.9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* have been considered in the preparation of this report including:

- Collaboration with other Councils and Governments and statutory bodies is to be sought
- The ongoing financial viability of Council is to be ensured
- Regional, State and National plans and policies are to be considered in strategic planning and decision making.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

During development of the draft strategy, community forums were held both online and in person at the Bannockburn Cultural Centre, The Well in Smythesdale and Haddon Community Learning Centre and were attended by over 50 community members, Councillors and Council staff. An online survey was also open from 31 July to 28 August 2023 with no submissions received.

A formal public exhibition period for the draft 'Footpath Strategy' was also undertaken to provide opportunities for wider engagement/feedback from Golden Plains residents and community groups.

A Communications & Engagement report has been provided to Councillors.

PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

Public transparency principles have been considered in the process to develop the 'Footpath Strategy', and recommendation to adopt the final document including:

- Council decision making processes must be transparent
- Council information must be understandable and accessible to members of the community
- Public awareness of the availability of Council information must be facilitated

STRATEGIES/PLANS

Council Plan 2021-2025 refers to the provision of footpaths under the Theme of Liveability and Objective 2.1 Connected and Accessible Roads, Crossings, Paths and Transport. The preparation of the Footpath Strategy is an identified Action under this objective

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Spiire were engaged by Council to undertake this process, following a formal request for quote. The preparation of the strategy was funded from the footpath maintenance program at a cost \$45,000.

The existing budget for new footpath construction is \$150,000 per year with approximately 1500m of new footpath constructed each year under the program. The footpath maintenance budget is \$135,000 per year. The strategy will inform our new footpath construction program.

RISK ASSESSMENT

There are no identified risk implications associated with this report.

COMMUNICATION

Public exhibition of the Draft Footpath Strategy allowed the community to provide feedback on the levels of service and the priority matrix. submissions will be reviewed and where practicable the strategy will be amended to reflect the sentiments of the community. Submitters will be responded to.

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).

GENDER EQUALITY

The process for developing the draft Strategy has been considered in accordance with s.9 of Gender Equality Act 2020.

The implementation of any significant projects in the 'Footpath Strategy' would be subject to future Gender Impact Assessments (GIA) being undertaken.

OPTIONS

Option 1 – That Council adopt the 'Footpath Strategy'

This option is recommended by officers as a comprehensive process has been undertaken, including thorough research and community engagement, to develop and provide a 'Footpath Strategy' for the next ten years.

Option 2 – That Council does not adopt the 'Footpath Strategy'

This option is not recommended by officers as the 'Footpath Strategy' has been informed by a comprehensive process, including community engagement. It should be noted that adopting the Strategy does not commit Council to any individual decisions in relation to funding or implementation of specific infrastructure or future projects.

Option 3 – That Council delay adopting the ‘Footpath Strategy’

This option is not recommended by officers as a thorough planning and community engagement process has already been undertaken and adoption is the final stage of Strategy development.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that the Footpath Strategy be adopted and that the framework and matrix be applied to other townships within Golden Plains Shire.

8.15 OPTIONS TO REPLACE GOLDEN LAKE ROAD BRIDGE

File Number:

Author: Phil Josipovic, Director Infrastructure and Environment

Authoriser: Phil Josipovic, Director Infrastructure and Environment

Attachments: 1. Bridge Replacement Program

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note this report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the 23 July 2024 Council Meeting, a Notice of Motion was submitted and supported by Council requesting a report to a future council meeting be prepared regarding options for replacement of Golden Lake Road Bridge. The replacement of this bridge was considered by Council at its 27 August 2019 meeting where, following a tender process, it resolved in summary not to proceed with the replacement. The bridge continues to be used but is weight limited to 5 tonnes. Council officers have consulted with emergency service providers who have confirmed that the bridge is not critical to them providing a response, and in CFA's case, they have advised using the bridge as an escape route for properties to the north of Casey Road / Golden Lake Road is not advisable during a fire. In fact, more often than not it is too late to leave during a fire and CFA recommends strongly leaving properties in advance of fires.

Golden Lake Road is a low use road, with a traffic count conducted between 22 May 2024 and 6 June 2024 (15 days) indicating an average of 18 vehicles per day use the bridge. It is likely this number would reduce once the bridge on Linton – Piggoreet Road is replaced (which was severely damaged during the November 2022 flood and the replacement bridge is scheduled to be completed by end of August 2024). It is most likely that some users are using Golden Lake Road as a detour while the Linton – Piggoreet Road bridge is being replaced.

It is assumed replacement of the Golden Lake Road bridge would be similar to the design that was tendered in 2019, being a single lane 20m long by 5m wide (approx.) concrete bridge. The tenders received indicated the replacement cost was in the order of \$730,000. Current estimated cost to replace is \$850,000 (\$770,000 + 10% contingency). The options for Golden Lake Road Bridge (also known as Christies Bridge) include:

- Not replace the bridge in accordance with Council's 2019 resolution, maintain the 5 tonne limit and discontinue the road (bridge portion) when the bridge becomes unserviceable.
- Elevate its priority and use Council bridge renewal budget to replace the bridge. Council's bridge renewal 2024/25 budget is \$1.2 Million offset by \$720K income. The income is an estimate of what Council hope to receive in government funding subject to successful applications.
- Apply to the Federal Government for 80% funding of replacement cost in the next round (in about early 2025) from the Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program. Council officers have applied for funding to replace 3 bridges under the current round, Wilgul-Werneth Road (Howells Bridge), Wurrook Road Bridge and Pinchgut Road Bridge (damaged by flood event).
- Include as a new initiative in future Council budget deliberations.
- Implement a Special Rate and Charge Scheme so property owners who receive a direct benefit contribute to the replacement cost.

BACKGROUND

At the 23 July Council Meeting, Cr. Ian Getsom submitted the following Notice of Motion (NOM):

That Council receive a report at a future council meeting regarding options for replacement of Golden Lake Road Bridge. The rationale for the motion provided is shown below:

- *Fire Access (Escape)*
- *Rainbow Bird Trail*
- *Used by Local Farmers*
- *Tourist Buses.*

DISCUSSION

In early 2019, Council lodged an application under the Federal Government's Bridges Renewal Program – Round 4 for \$300,000 to replace the Golden Lakes Road Bridge (the Bridge). The funding program allowed for up to 50% of replacement cost, and at the time Council had committed \$300,000 to the project, providing a total budget of \$600,000. This Bridge was put forward despite not being the highest priority replacement, mainly due to the Round 4 guidelines stating *"In an effort to allow for a wider distribution of projects, the Australian Government will limit Round Four to local government entities seeking funding for the replacement of up to two timber bridges in their Shire. The Australian Government will contribute up to 50 per cent to the total project costs"*. Given the Bridge is constructed of timber, it qualified for Round 4 funding. Council was advised on 1 April 2019 that its application for funding was successful.

As a result of advertising a tender for the replacement works, six [6] tenders were received in July 2019. Tendered costs ranged between \$688K and \$878K. The cheapest option was \$88K above budget and following discussions with the relevant Federal Government department, a further \$44K was offered to cover 50% of the additional cost over budget. This would have required Council to allocate an additional \$44K on top of the \$300K already committed.

Council considered the tender report at its 27 August 2019 meeting and resolved as follows:

That Council:

1. *Not proceed with the Golden Lake Road bridge replacement project over the Woody Yaloak River, Piggoreet, on the grounds that the submitted tenders are significantly in excess of the available budget for the project.*
2. *Advise the Federal Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development of its decision not to proceed with this bridge replacement project.*
3. *Commence the formal process, pursuant to section 207A and Clause 9 of Schedule 11 of the Local Government Act 1989, giving public notice of Council's intention to permanently close Golden Lake Road to through traffic, such closure to take effect immediately Council determines that the bridge over Woody Yaloak River is no longer safe for any motorised vehicles.*
4. *Receive a further report on how the \$300k Council funding for this project can be best reallocated to other 2019/20 road and / or bridge renewal projects.*

Council officers have acted on the above resolution, however at this time formal notice on the closure of the Bridge has not occurred as it is still usable for motorised vehicles subject to a 5-tonne load limit. The timber deck was repaired / replaced in 2021 (approx.) at a cost of \$18,000 to allow continued use for vehicles and users of the rainbow rail trail.

It is estimated the current day replacement cost for the Bridget to be in the order of \$850,000, made up of \$770,000 replacement cost plus a 10% contingency. This estimate is based on the design completed in 2019 of a single lane concrete bridge measuring approximately 20m long and 5m wide.

With respect to the rationale provided in support of the NOM, the following comments are provided.

Fire Access (Escape)

The road and bridge are not identified as a fire access track or egress road in the Municipal Fire Management Plan, which is developed in consultation with the CFA.

In the event a fire emergency in the area was to occur if Golden Lake Bridge is closed, all residents still have routes into and out of the area via the primary road networks to the north and south.

Council officers contacted CFA following the NOM and their most recent response to whether they believe the bridge is crucial to their response in cases of fire, they responded with "CFA's position remains unchanged in relation to this matter since your meeting in 2020".

In a letter dated 1 May 2020, CFA inspected the area and provided the following conclusion:

In the event of a fire in the immediate area CFA would not recommend egress along Casey Rd to the south given the fuel loads are very high consisting of stringy bark forest. The area would most likely be impacted by spotting activity making the route impassable and high risk. This forested area extends for approximately 900 meters. from the first residence to the grass paddocks. If warnings provided adequate time, egress should be along Basin Rd to the Glenelg highway.

Under extreme fire weather CFA would recommend that residents in this area leave early, alternatively it may be necessary to shelter in place.

From the Golden Lake Rd and Casey Rd intersection either route to the Scarsdale Pitfield Rd is acceptable, with the Linton - Piggoreet Rd being the preference.

Having options for two exit routes is always desirable in case of closure of one or the other.

The closure of the bridge is neither supported, nor condemned by Country Fire Authority from a fire/emergency perspective.

The bridge closure is a matter between local government and its ratepayers, and CFA would advocate for further consultation with the local community.

There are approximately 78 properties between Glenelg Highway, Casey Road, Skipton – Ballarat Rail Trail and Pitfield – Scarsdale Road. As per the above CFA advice, the recommended egress would via the Glenelg Highway.

The preference for egress for residents along Golden Lake Road is Linton – Piggoreet Road.

Rainbow Bird Trail

The Rainbow Bird Trail consists of roads (within road reserves) and tracks through bushland. The whole of the trail is not accessible by vehicles. Trails in general are designed for walkers, bike riders and horse riders. With that in mind, a 5-tonne load limited bridge as part of the trail network is more than suitable. Refer below map for extent of Rainbow Bird Trail.



Used by Local Farmers

There are two individual property owners immediately adjacent to Golden Lake Road. One property owner owns the majority of the land either side of Golden Lake Road (approximately 833 Ha) with the second owning approximately 71 Ha. The closest collector road to the second property is Linton – Piggoreet Road. There are also a number of smaller parcels which appear to be Crown Land parcels. A confidential map showing land holdings along Golden Lake Road has been previously provided to Councillors.

In the event the Bridge is decommissioned (as per the Council resolution of 2019) all properties would still be accessible from Golden Lake Road by entering from either Linton – Piggoreet Road or Pitfield – Scarsdale Road. Moving farm machinery across the Bridge appears to benefit the single majority landowner, as this particular property is dissected by the Woody Yaloak River, and the land either side of the river at this location is owned by the same property owner.

With the load limit on the bridge, the farmer may need to look at suitable crossing points within their own property.

While it is acknowledged that a bridge on Linton – Piggoreet Road is currently closed due to works to replace it, it is anticipated the road and bridge will be fully opened by end of September. During this time Golden Lake Road is most likely used as a detour for some road users. However, once completed, Linton – Piggoreet Road provides access for any far machinery required to be moved.

Tourist Buses

As mentioned earlier, with the larger bridge on Linton – Piggoreet Road currently closed, there is the possibility some smaller buses may be using the Golden Lake Road bridge to access Devil's Kitchen, a local geological feature, noting signage has been installed indicating the load limit on the bridge. There doesn't appear to be any other likely destination along Golden Lake Road that would require buses to cross the Bridge once the larger bridge mentioned above is opened. The bird reserve and crown land along Golden Lake Road can be accessed from Linton – Piggoreet Road without the need to cross the Bridge.

Other matters to consider discussed below.

Bridge Replacement Program

Council inspects its over 150 bridges / culverts every four (4) years or so. Following the inspections each bridge is given a condition rating. Bridge replacements are then prioritised using a number of criteria, such as condition, average daily traffic and road category.

Golden Lake Road is classified as a Rural Access Road, the lowest categorisation under Council's Road Management Plan. Traffic counts undertaken in May 2024 indicate an average daily traffic count of 18 vehicles per day. It is considered this figure will reduce when the Linton – Piggoreet Road bridge is re-opened in August 2024 for reasons discussed previously.

At present, the Bridge is rated 12th for replacement. Refer to Attachment 1 for list of proposed bridge replacements in priority order.

Options to Replace

There are essentially two options that could be considered to replace the Bridge, namely a single lane concrete bridge (as per the design that was tendered in 2019) or a culvert installation. A low-level culvert installation is unlikely to provide a solution cheaper than the estimated bridge replacement (reported to Council at the August 2019 Council Briefing). The existing road geometry vertically produces grades of 12 to 13 per cent as you descend and ascend over the current timber bridge river crossing. Lowering the road level height to a low-level crossing would only increase these grades to an unsafe and undesirable outcome with significant amount of earthworks required to lower the road level and match the proposed low level crossing. Any proposed alternative that restricts the water flow along the Woody Yaloak River would be subject to the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority approving such an installation.

Alternatively, there is also the option of filling over a new large diameter culvert structure to match the existing road height, as Council did over Springdallah creek crossing on the Linton-Piggoreet Road in 2011. This culvert installation with significant amount of fill volumes over the structure was undertaken for a tendered sum of \$588,000 (Ex GST). Again, Council would be subject to the current market described above and would be unlikely to deliver this alternative at a lower cost than bridge replacement.

The following options are open to Council for consideration related to the Bridge replacement.

Option 1 - Not replace the bridge in accordance with Council's 2019 resolution. In addition, the 2019 decision also requires officer to commence the formal process, pursuant to section 207A and Clause 9 of Schedule 11 of the Local Government Act 1989, giving public notice of Council's intention to permanently close Golden Lake Road to through traffic, such closure to take effect immediately Council determines that the bridge over Woody Yaloak River is no longer safe for any motorised vehicles.

Option 2 – Elevate the priority of this bridge in the bridge replacement program. Council officers would pursue funding through the Federal Government's Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure program. It should be noted that over the years each Council was limited to applying for two [2] bridges per round. It should also be noted that given Council received an offer for funding and then declined it for this Bridge replacement previously, it may impact any future funding applications. Council's 2024/25 bridge renewal budget is \$1.2 Million offset by \$720K income. The income is an estimate of what Council hope to receive in government funding subject to successful applications. Council has already submitted applications for the current round of Federal Government funding, any application for this Bridge is likely to be over 12 months away.

Option 3 – Council could withdraw the current bridge replacement applications and dedicate existing budget to replacement of this Bridge. Given the \$850K estimated cost, additional budget could be re-allocated from Council's bridge renewal program. The 2024/25 adopted budget includes \$480K of Council funding for the bridge replacement program and \$400K for bridge renewal program. If this option was adopted it would leave an estimated \$30K for any urgent or planned works on other bridges.

Option 4 – Council could include a new initiative for consideration in the 2025/26 budget deliberations. This would, subject to Council adoption, provide a stand-alone budget item for the replacement of this Bridge. Council would need to consider other priorities in determining whether or not to allocate funding to replace the Bridge.

Option 5 – Under Section 163 of the Local Government Act 1989, Council may declare a special rate or charge to assist with the cost of replacing the Bridge on the basis it would provide a special benefit to Golden Lake Road residents / property owners. As mentioned, there are two property

owners, some 3-4 small Crown land parcels and a Bird Life Australia property on Golden Lake Road. Council would need to consider the community benefit (i.e. benefit to the broader community that do not have a special or direct benefit). In this case access to the Crown land sites, Bird Life Australia site and public access as part of the Rainbow Bird Trail would most likely be considered a community benefit. While officers have not undertaken any detailed assessments at this point in time, it is considered reasonable to assume community benefit would not exceed 20% of the overall cost. Therefore, it is considered that the special benefit to the two [2] property owners would be in the order of 80%. In other words under a special rate and charge scheme, it is estimated the two property owners would be required to contribute an estimated \$680,000, the bulk of that contribution coming from one property owner who owns most of the land on Golden Lake Road (in the order of 90%).

It should be noted the above is a very high-level assessment on the use of a special rate and charge for the Bridge replacement, and a thorough and detailed consultation process would need to take place before Council could declare such a charge. The Act in the circumstances described above, where more than 2/3 of the cost would be subject to a special rate or charge, requires the majority of property owners support the proposal. In this case where only 2 property owners are potentially impacted, it would require both to support the proposal.

An alternative is if the community benefit was considered to be more than one third of the estimated \$850K replacement cost (for example \$290K), then Council could declare a special rate or charge for the balance (for example \$560K) on the two property owners irrespective of level of support from property owners. Any special rate or charge is subject to appeal and review at VCAT.

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)	Yes
Service Performance (Consideration of Service Performance Principles under s.106 of LGA 2020)	Yes
Risk Assessment	No
Communication	No
Human Rights Charter	Yes
Gender Equality (Gender Impact Assessment required by s.9 of Gender Equality Act 2020)	No

GOVERNANCE PRINIPLES

This report has been prepared in response to a Councillor Notice of Motion and in accordance with Section 41 of Council's Governance rules.

POLICY/RELEVANT LAW

The requirements of the Local Government Act have been considered in the preparation of this report, specifically related to Council Budget process and implementation of Special Rate and Charge schemes.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Should Council consider declaring a special rate or charge, a formal consultation process would need to be undertaken with the directly impacted property owners.

PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

This report will be publicly available through the publication of Council's agenda and subsequent minutes capturing Council's decision.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Estimated cost to replace the bridge on Golden Lake Road is \$850,000 inclusive of 10% contingency. This project is currently not funded.

SERVICE PERFORMANCE

Replacement of the bridge would result in the current load limit being removed and unrestricted access provided.

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

Refer to discussion section of report for four identified options.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

CONCLUSION

This report has been prepared in response to NOM from the July 2024 Council Meeting. Officers consider that the use and circumstances related to the Golden Lake Road bridge have not changed since Council's original decision in 2019 not to proceed with its replacement.

9 NOTICES OF MOTION

9.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - AMALGAMATION OF COUNCILS - CR SHARKEY

File Number: 84

Attachments: 1. Cr Sharkey Notice of Motion #84

I, Councillor Owen Sharkey, give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on 27 August 2024, I intend to move the following motion:-

MOTION

That Council officers provide a briefing day report to council on the process, and legislative requirements involved in an amalgamation of councils.

RATIONALE

This motion seeks to get a better understanding of the process involved, and the role council can play if this process was one that council wanted to venture down. I would like to be able to better answer many residents' questions on this issue. This motion does not suggest in any manner that council holds a position on the issue, it is merely to obtain a detailed understanding of the process and any legislative requirements.

I commend this Notice of Motion to Council.

9.2 NOTICE OF MOTION - LOCAL GOVERNMENT SATISFACTION RESULTS - CR SHARKEY**File Number: 85****Attachments: 1. Cr Sharkey Notice of Motion #85**

I, Councillor Owen Sharkey, give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on 27 August 2024, I intend to move the following motion:-

MOTION

That Council requests that the results of the recent Local Government Satisfaction Survey results be presented at the next available Council meeting.

RATIONALE

In the interest of transparency and maintaining the trust of our community, it is essential that Council upholds its commitment to openly share the results of the Local Government Satisfaction Survey. This has been our standard practice in the past, and it is crucial that we continue this approach, regardless of whether the results reflect positively or negatively on the Council.

Transparency is a cornerstone of good governance. Avoiding the presentation of these results due to unfavourable outcomes would undermine our accountability to the public. By noting the receipt of these results and bringing them to a Council meeting, we reinforce our commitment to openness and provide an opportunity for informed discussion on how we can address any areas of concern.

I commend this Notice of Motion to Council.

10 PETITIONS

Nil

11 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:

11.1 Neighbour Agreement for extractive industry operation at Sago Hill Quarry

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 3(1) - a 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 Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.
