



# AGENDA

## Council Meeting

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**6:00 PM Tuesday 25 February 2025**

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

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING  
6:00 PM Tuesday 25 March 2025

Copies of Golden Plains Shire Council's Agendas & Minutes  
Can be obtained online at [www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au](http://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.

## **Membership**

### **Councillors**

Cr Sarah Hayden, Mayor  
Cr Des Phelan  
Cr Brett Cunningham  
Cr Emma Robbins  
Cr Helena Kirby  
Cr Owen Sharkey  
Cr Gavin Gamble

### **Officers**

Shane Walden, Chief Executive Officer  
Phil Josipovic, Director Infrastructure and Environment  
Lynnere Gray, Director Corporate Services  
Jo Wilson, Director Community, Planning and Growth  
Governance Coordinator

## 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)
- The Well, Smythesdale (19 Heales Street, Smythesdale)

### EXPECTATIONS OF THE GALLERY

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

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

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

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

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

### RECORDING OF MEETINGS

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

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

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**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 of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 17 December 2024 and the minutes of the Unscheduled Meeting held on Monday 23 December 2024.

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

## 7 BUSINESS REPORTS FOR DECISION

### 7.1 REVIEW OF INSTRUMENT OF APPOINTMENT AND AUTHORISATION - PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT ACT 1987

**File Number:****Author:** Lauren Richardson, Governance and Risk Specialist**Authoriser:** Lynnere Gray, Director Corporate Services**Attachments:** 1. S11A Instrument of Appointment (P&E Act) - 25 February 2025 (under separate cover)

#### RECOMMENDATION

In the exercise of the powers conferred by s147(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and other legislation referred to in the attached Instrument of Appointment (the 'instrument'), Council resolves that:

1. The members of Council staff referred to in the instrument as shown in Attachment 1 be appointed and authorised as set out in the instrument;
2. The Chief Executive Officer is authorised to sign the instrument; and
3. The previous instrument dated 26 November 2024 is revoked.

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#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The appointment of authorised officers under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (the Act) cannot be delegated and must be made through resolution of Council. The Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (the Instrument) under the Act was last reviewed and adopted by Council in November 2024. A review of the instrument is now completed and updated to include staff members who have joined Council.

#### BACKGROUND

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) appoints most authorised officers under Council's delegation to the CEO. However, under section 188(2)(c) of the Act, the appointment of authorised officers under the Act cannot be delegated and must be made through resolution of Council.

By authorising the relevant officers to act under the Act, Council ensures it has the authorised roles required to carry out legislative requirements.

#### DISCUSSION

Council subscribes to the Maddocks Lawyers Delegations and Authorisations service. This service includes the provision of templates and regular updates as required to reflect new or amended legislation.

The instrument of appointment and authorisation under the Act was updated in November 2024. Authorised staff requirements have been recently reviewed and the instrument updated to remove staff members who have recently joined Council.

Officers authorised under the Act have authorisation to enter sites, gather evidence or serve legal notices, etc, as required.

The specific authorisations provided through this instrument include:

1. under section 147(4) of the Act – appointment as an authorised officer for the purposes of the Act and the regulations made under that Act; and



2. under section 313 of the *Local Government Act 2020* authorisation generally to institute proceedings for offences against the Act and/or any regulations.

The proposed changes to the instrument are detailed below:

Change	Reason
Add Joanne Wilson	Has began employment at Golden Plains Shire. Position: Director Community, Planning & Growth

## REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS

*Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)*

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

## GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

The overarching Governance Principles are considered when completing the update to the instruments of authorisation as attached to this report.

## POLICY/RELEVANT LAW

*Local Government Act 2020*; and

*Planning and Environment Act 1987.*

## **ENVIRONMENTAL/SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

Delegation of powers provided by the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* will allow Council officers to exercise these powers in protection of the environment.

## **PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY**

Council will make available for public inspection a register of authorisations, including the dates on which the last reviews took place.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

- Authorised officers are required to ensure Legislative Compliance; and
- Authorisations mitigate risks associated with inappropriate exercise of powers.

## **COMMUNICATION**

Council will make available for public inspection a register of authorisations, including the dates on which the last reviews took place.

Changes to the authorisations will be communicated internally.

## **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 adopt the reviewed Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (*Planning and Environment Act 1987*)

This option is recommended by officers as this will ensure compliance with legislation and ensure the members of Council staff exercising these powers are appropriately authorised.

Option 2 – That Council defer the report

This option is not recommended by officers as it will risk non-compliance with legislation and hinder Council staff who require these authorisations to perform their duties.

## **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

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

## **CONCLUSION**

The appointment of authorised officers under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* cannot be delegated and must be made by resolution of Council. The Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* was last adopted by Council in March 2024. A review of that instrument has now been completed and updated to add staff members who have recently joined or moved to higher capability within the Community, Planning and Growth directorate. It is recommended that Council consider and adopt the revised the Instrument, as shown at Attachment 1.

## 7.2 AMPLITEL PTY LTD LEASE AGREEMENT APPROVAL REQUEST

**File Number:****Author:** Peter Ridsdale, Coordinator Economic Development**Authoriser:** Shane Walden, Chief Executive Officer**Attachments:**

1. Meredith Amplitel Comms & Engagement Report FINAL (under separate cover)
2. Meredith GIA (under separate cover)

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Support the proposal by Amplitel Pty Ltd to lease a portion of land located within the boundary of the Golden Plains Shire Council Meredith Works Depot for a period of 30 years.
  2. Authorise the CEO to sign the lease
- 

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council officers developed a Heads of Agreement with Amplitel Pty Ltd, acting on behalf of Telstra, regarding the proposal to lease a portion of land located in the Meredith Council Works Depot. The proposed Lease will exceed 10 years, and per the Local Government Act 2020, the Council must undertake community consultation. The community consultation is complete, and this report discusses the results.

### BACKGROUND

Golden Plains Shire Council has active leases with various telecommunications providers, including Telstra, Optus, NBNCo, and private companies engaged on their behalf. Currently, 12 parcels of land under lease host telecommunications infrastructure, including mobile telecommunications towers and infrastructure fitted to existing assets.

There are two processes undertaken by telecommunications companies when expanding their communications infrastructure assets, as follows:

- A. When funding and a business case are confirmed, they seek to lease a suitable parcel of land, obtain permits and construct the asset within a determined time frame, or
- B. They identify a site for potential future use to construct a telecommunications facility and enter a long-term lease, usually 30 years, to secure the site until funding and a business case can be confirmed. This process is often referred to as 'land-banking'. Construction occurs when required.

Both options above are subject to relevant planning considerations that provide community consultation opportunities.

The proposed Lease between Golden Plains Shire Council and Amplitel Pty Ltd is in line with the second of these two processes.

### DISCUSSION

Council officers have recently engaged with a private company, Amplitel Pty Ltd, part of the Telstra Group. This company undertakes site analyses for potential mobile telecommunications facilities and enters into long-term (30 years) leases to secure sites for future installations when funding and a business case can be determined. In essence, it is a form of land banking.

Council officers have been provided with a draft Land Lease prepared by Amplitel's lawyers, with a summary of the key terms as follows:

**Land:** Approximately 100 m<sup>2</sup> in the North-West corner of the Meredith Works Depot based on a Provisional Plan (shown below).

**Term:** 30 years from the Commencement Date. (The Lessor has a Break Date each 5 years during the Term)

**Rent:** First-year rent is \$7,000 per annum



Land area (Provisional)

Under the *Local Government Act 2020*, if the Council seeks to enter a Lease for a term longer than 10 years, it must undertake community engagement, and the CEO requires a Council decision that supports the execution of the Lease in order to sign the lease.

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

## GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

In accordance with the principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, entering into a lease agreement with a telecommunications provider to deliver an important communications asset will specifically assist in achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.

## POLICY/RELEVANT LAW

The *Local Government Act 2020* and the 2021 – 2025 Council Plan are relevant to this decision.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

As per section 115 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, where Council proposes to lease land and the rent for any period of the lease is \$100,000 or more per year, the current market value of the land is \$100,000 or more per year, or the proposed lease is for 10 years or more, Council must include that proposal in the budget or undertake a community engagement process following the Council's Community Engagement Policy. Section 115 also restricts Council's power, limiting a lease to 50 years or less. This proposal meets all the s 115 requirements.

A Communications & Engagement plan was implemented from 27 November 2024 until 11 December 2024. (C & E Report attached). Council's website featured a Have Your Say link. A media release was sent to relevant media agencies. The proposal was featured in the November edition of Engage. During the consultation period, the Have Your Say page had 163 page views.

The consultation was also promoted on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter, reaching 5,257 people. While there were 18 comments, the majority of these were seeking more information.

Regarding the question asking if the proposal was supported, 2 respondents answered YES, 2 respondents answered UNSURE, and 3 respondents answered NO.

A summary of the responses is provided below:

*Struggle with phone signal in buildings and hope more data capacity will be available.*

*We have not been provided with details of height, purpose, environmental impact, etc. and impact on house value.*

*Whose responsibility if someone injured, what other sites were considered, Council must have a more suitable site.*

*Communications and accessible for all would be positive.*

*Negative impacts on property value, visual outlook, what will the company do to minimise the visual impact.*

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Meredith population in the last census year, 2021, was 821. The seven responses to the community engagement represent quite a small sample of the community. The infrastructure would also service the high level of traffic using the Midland Highway.

Any construction would be subject to relevant planning considerations that provide community consultation opportunities.

## PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

The Community & Engagement process has provided public transparency regarding the proposed Lease arrangement with Amplitel Pty. Ltd. A further public consultation will be undertaken when the

Applicant applies for a permit to build the infrastructure, including detailed plans and technical support papers.

### **RISK ASSESSMENT**

There are no identified risk implications associated with this report.

### **COMMUNICATION**

The private company and/or the ultimate telecommunications asset owner will be responsible for any future communications relating to any activity associated with the land.

### **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**

As this report relates to the development or review of a policy, program or service that has a direct and significant impact on the public, the *Gender Equality Act 2020* requires that a Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) be undertaken. A GIA has been conducted during the community consultation phase and is attached to this report to Council.

### **OPTIONS**

#### Option 1 – That Council authorise the CEO to execute a Lease with Amplitel Pty. Ltd.

Officers recommend this option as this step provides Amplitel Pty. Ltd. with security of tenure while they explore a business case and funding for the construction of infrastructure on site, subject to the necessary approvals – ultimately managing the provision of reliable communications to the local and broader community.

#### Option 2 – That Council does not authorise the CEO to execute a Lease with Amplitel Pty. Ltd.

Officers do not recommend this option, as reliable communications are noted as an important requirement for the community. The proposed lease opportunity progresses communications improvements in the immediate area on a parcel of suitable land.

#### Option 3 – That Council request further information.

Officers do not recommend this option as it is a first step in enabling Amplitel Pty. Ltd. to “land bank” this parcel of land, and this step is complete. More detailed information will be required to be presented to Council, and a subsequent community consultation process will be required when they apply for the appropriate approvals from Council.

### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

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

### **CONCLUSION**

Council recognises the importance the community places on having improved connectivity and telecommunications coverage in the Shire. This is an opportunity to arrange a Lease as part of preparation for the future delivery of a new mobile telecommunications asset to service the Meredith and District communities, businesses, and visitors to the area.

The 2021 – 2025 Council Plan includes the initiative 4.5 Partnerships, Advocacy and Opportunities for Investment with a directly related action to this initiative, ‘Advocate for improved digital connectivity for residents’.

Council officers acknowledge that the community engagement process drew a few residents’ concerns about visual amenity, property values, environmental impact, etc. However, Amplitel Pty. Ltd. will be required to present detailed designs and reports in a subsequent community consultation process, enabling residents to provide more informed opinions regarding the proposal.

On this basis, Council officers recommend that Councillors support Option 1, as detailed above.

### 7.3 COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM POLICY REVIEW

**File Number:****Author:** Akemi Kida, Community Development & Grants Officer**Authoriser:** Jo Wilson, Director Community, Planning and Growth**Attachments:** 1. Proposed Community Grants Program Policy (under separate cover)**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council adopt the proposed Community Grants Program Policy as attached.

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Council's Community Grants Policy has recently been reviewed pursuant to section 5.2 of the Policy and Procedures Framework. Some updates were proposed during the review process mainly to reflect Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO) recommendations on controlling fraud in local government grant programs as best practice.

**BACKGROUND**

Council adopted its current Community Grants Policy on 25 February 2020 which:

- Outlines Council's commitment to providing the community with funding opportunities.
- Provides the framework for a transparent, equitable and inclusive process that is understood by the community.
- Identifies Council's commitment to accountability through acquittal and evaluation processes.
- Aligns community grants with Council's strategic objectives and establishes clear expectations for both Council and the community.

The policy has a three-year review period to ensure that Council has effective control over its community grant programs, that they are transparent, fair and benefit the community and that they are based on best practice.

**DISCUSSION**

The review of the Community Grants Policy has included review of other councils' policies and VAGO's 'Fraud Control Over Local Government Grants May 2022' report, as well as consultation with relevant Council officers. In this review process it was identified that Council did not have the adequate controls in place to ensure that fraud relating to the programs does not occur.

Some changes to the Policy ensure that Council has control measures in place for organisational and public accountability and transparency.

1. The existing policy only incorporated the Community Strengthening Grants program. Council has multiple community grant programs (listed below). Implementing an overarching policy which applies to all of Council's community grant programs provides clear guidance, transparency and consistency across all community grant programs.

The policy will now include:

- a. Community Strengthening Grants;
- b. Berrybank Wind Farm Community Grants;
- c. Community Planning Program Seed Funding;
- d. Berrybank Wind Farm Senior Citizens Grants; and



- e. Any new / impromptu Council grants programs that become available to respond to emerging community priorities.
2. A new section of the policy has been created to outline the management of the entire life cycle of Council's community grant programs for consistency and transparency as per Best Practice recommendations in the VAGO report.
3. The previous policy did not outline in enough detail standards to prevent and manage fraud risks. This has now been updated in the review process been as per recommendations by VAGO report.

Councillors do not have a role in assessing Community Grant applications to ensure transparency of the assessment process. Councillors will receive a report for noting when grants assessments have been completed.

## REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS

*Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)*

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

## GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

The overarching Governance Principles are a key consideration in updating the Community Grants Program Policy including:

- Priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community.
- Innovation and continuous improvement are to be pursued.

**POLICY/RELEVANT LAW**

- *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic)
- Fraud Control Over Local Government Grants (Victorian Auditor-General's Office, 2022)

**PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY**

The updated Community Grants Program Policy will be publicly accessible and provide an overarching framework for Council's Community Grants Programs to ensure that they are transparent.

**RISK ASSESSMENT**

The updated Community Grants Program Policy seeks to mitigate a number of potential fraud risks in the management and operation of Council's community grants programs, ensuring that they are transparent, equitable and benefit the community.

**COMMUNICATION**

If adopted, the Policy will be published on the Council's public website.

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

**OPTIONS****Option 1 – That Council adopt the updated Community Grants Program Policy**

This option is recommended by officers as the updated Policy has been developed in line with VAGO's 'Fraud Control Over Local Government Grants May 2022' report, to manage fraud risks in relation to community grants programs and reflects all of Council's Community Grants programs.

**Option 2 – That Council do not adopt the updated Community Grants Program Policy**

This option is not recommended by officers as there are opportunities to improve Council's existing policy and ensure a consistent approach across all community grants programs administered by Council. This would also mean that the policy would not meet the recommendations of VAGO's 'Fraud Control Over Local Government Grants May 2022' report.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

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

**CONCLUSION**

A review of Council's Community Grants Program has been undertaken with some changes proposed, mainly to reflect VAGO's recommendations on controlling fraud in local government grant programs as Best Practice.

Following adoption, the updated Policy will come into effect and be provided on Council's website.

## 7.4 COUNCILLOR EXPENSES AND MEETING ATTENDANCE REPORT - QUARTER 1 AND QUARTER 2

**File Number:**

**Author:** Lauren Richardson, Governance and Risk Specialist

**Authoriser:** Lynnere Gray, Director Corporate Services

**Attachments:**

1. Councillors Expenditure Year to Date 2024/25 (under separate cover)
2. Councillor Expenses - Q1 2024/25 (under separate cover)
3. Councillor Expenses - Q2 2024/25 (under separate cover)

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the contents of the Councillor Expenses and Attendance Report for Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 of 2024/25.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report provides a record of expenditure made on behalf of Councillors in the performance of their duties for Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 of 2024/25. This report also includes quarterly updates on Councillor attendance at both scheduled and unscheduled meetings of Council, to provide transparency on Council decision making.

### BACKGROUND

In accordance with legislation and policy, Councillors can be reimbursed for eligible out of pocket expenditure in relation to resources and training required to undertake their role as Councillors.

Furthermore, Councillors have responsibility to provide leadership to the community, including decision-making on behalf of the community. The formal decision-making process is conducted through council meetings. The meetings provide an opportunity for community members to attend and, if required, address the Council in support of their submissions. This report provides a regular update on Councillor attendance at scheduled meetings and unscheduled meetings of Council during the year. A summary of Councillor attendance at meetings is included in the Annual Report.

### DISCUSSION

Summarised in the attached document are the figures for expenses for the Mayor and Councillors for Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 of 2024/25.

The actual expenditure in comparison to the annual budget is as follows:

Category	Annual Budget \$	Actual \$ YTD	Percentage spent as of Q1	Percentage spent as of Q2
Conferences & Training Expenses	\$25,320	\$5,480.85	11.62%	21.65%
Travel Expenses	\$6,600	\$1,401.59	7.82%	21.24%
Car Expenses	\$14,998	\$2,245.13	5.43%	14.97%
IT & Communications	\$5,803	\$1,280.04	11.20%	22.06%
Childcare Expenses	\$0	\$0.00	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Total Councillor Expenses</b>	<b>\$52,721.00</b>	<b>\$10,407.61</b>	<b>9.34%</b>	<b>19.75%</b>

**Councillor attendance at scheduled and unscheduled meetings of Council**

The table below outlines the Councillor attendance at both scheduled and unscheduled meetings of Council for Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 of 2024/25.

Council held the following meetings:

- 6 scheduled Council meetings held on 23 July, 27 August, 10 September, 22 October, 26 November, and 17 December; and 3 unscheduled meetings held on 16 July, 19 November and 23 December.
- \* Denotes term ended 25 October 2024, \*\* Denotes previous term ended 25 October 2024 and new term commenced 19 November 2024, \*\*\* Denotes term commenced 19 November 2024, ^ Denotes previous term ended 25 October 2024 and new term commenced 17 January 2025 and ^^ Denotes term commenced 19 November 2024 and ended 8 December 2024.

Councillor	Scheduled meetings (6 meetings)	Unscheduled meetings (3 meetings)	Total meetings (Q1 Jul-Sept 2024)	Total meetings (Q2 Oct-Dec 2024)	Total meetings (YTD 2024-25)
Brett Cunningham**	6	3	4	5	9
Gavin Gamble^	4	0	3	1	4
Ian Getsom*	4	1	4	1	5
Helena Kirby**	6	3	4	5	9
Les Rowe*	4	1	4	1	5
Owen Sharkey**	6	3	4	5	9
Clayton Whitfield*	4	1	4	1	5
Sarah Hayden***	2	2	0	4	4
Des Phelan***	2	1	0	3	3
Emma Robbins***	2	2	0	4	4
Lachlan Glen^^	1	1	0	2	2

**REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS**

*Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)*

Implications	Applicable to this Report
<b>Governance Principles</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	No
<b>Policy/Relevant Law</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Environmental/Sustainability Implications</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	No
<b>Community Engagement</b>	No

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

### **POLICY/RELEVANT LAW**

In accordance with section 41B of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council must adopt and maintain an expenses policy in relation to the reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses for Councillors and members of delegated committees.

The expenses outlined in this report comply with Golden Plains Shire Council's Councillor Support and Expenses policy.

### **PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY**

In accordance with section 58 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, information contained within this report complies with the public transparency principles.

### **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

Councillor expenses and reimbursements are monitored against the annual financial budget to ensure expenses remain within the budget provision adopted.

### **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 contents of this report.

This option is recommended by officers as it ensures compliance with legislated requirements.

Option 2 – That Council defer the report.

This option is not recommended by officers as the report provides an update on Councillor expenses and attendance for Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 2024/25 which has now finished.

### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

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

**CONCLUSION**

That Council note the contents of the Councillor Expenses and Attendance Report for Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 of 2024/25, being the quarters ending 30 September 2024 and 31 December 2024.

## **7.5 UPDATE OF THE WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RESOURCE RECOVERY SERVICES POLICY**

**Author:** Luke Purcell, Coordinator Environment and Sustainability

**Authoriser:** Vicki Shelton, Manager Asset Services

**Attachments:**

1. Updated Waste Management and Resource Recovery Services Policy (track changes) (under separate cover)
2. Updated Waste Management and Resource Recovery Services Policy (clean) (under separate cover)
3. Gender Impact Assessment (under separate cover)

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council adopt the updated Waste Management and Resource Recovery Services Policy.

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report provides advice to Council regarding adopting the updated Waste Management and Resource Recovery Services Policy (“the Policy”). The following key policy updates have been made in accordance with Council’s previously endorsed glass transition plan service specifications:

- A standard three [3] bin service to all residential properties as well as commercial properties that elect to use Council waste collection service.
- The third bin service is the new 140 L glass bin collected every four weeks.
- The reduction of frequency of the recycling bin service to fortnightly.

When a FOGO service is introduced (anticipated to be 2026), it is possible that changes to the general waste service will be required. As such, a more extensive review and update of the Policy will be required at that time and will necessitate public consultation and Council endorsement.

The current proposed changes reflect Council’s already approved specifications and formal Council decisions on preferred model of service delivery to implement the glass service.

This report seeks Council support to adopt the updated Waste Management and Resource Recovery Services Policy.

### **BACKGROUND**

Initially adopted in 1998, and last updated in 2022, the Policy provides strategic direction for the management and delivery of waste services. It establishes a framework to ensure best practice, that services are sustainable, well delivered and cost-effective across the Shire.

The Policy outlines mandatory waste service for all residential properties, criteria for service exemption, resident responsibilities, bin ownership, collection schedules, and the application of the waste management charge.

On 21 November 2023, Council endorsed the recommended option to introduce the new glass bin to all residents before end of 2024. With the introduction of the glass bin service, the recycling collection frequency will be adjusted to every fortnight. In summary, the new waste and recycling collection service will comprise of:

- General waste collected every fortnight from 27 January 2025,
- Recycling collected every fortnight from 3 February 2025,
- Glass collected every four [4] weeks from 17 February 2025.

During November and December 2024, all residents will have received a new purple lidded 140L glass bin, along with an education pack explaining how the service is changing and how to use the new glass bin.

A review and update of the Policy has been undertaken to ensure that it remains accurate and applicable to Council's current kerbside collection service delivery.

## DISCUSSION

Summary of amendments – Waste and Resource Recovery Services Policy

PAGE	SECTION	CHANGE
Page 5 of 12	(a) Kerbside Services	Glass added in services provided
Page 5 of 12	(b) Standard Services	Date updated from 27 January 2025. Recyclables collection updated from weekly to fortnightly. Glass collection added
Page 5 of 12	(c) Current Provision and ownership of bins	Glass bin added.
Page 5 of 12	(e) Additional Services / Collections	Additional Glass bin added.
Page 6 of 12	(f) Access to Services / Collections  (iii) Commercial, Industrials and Farm Properties	Glass added.  Clarification added on condition to access non-compulsory commercial service and request for additional bins
Page 6 of 12	(g) Access and inclusion	Paragraph added to include access and inclusion for the kerbside collection service.
Page 7 of 12	(k) Bin repair	Glass added.
Page 7 of 12	(l) Replacement bins	Rephrased the section to make clearer.
Page 9 of 12	(q) Waste Management Charge and Fees  (iv) Additional Glass Service Fees	Added new paragraph on additional charges for glass service fees.  Moved paragraph on responsibility of property owner to check waste charge and additional waste charge on rates notices.
Page 9 of 12	(r) Waste generated at special events	Added a sentence to clarify the term Special Events.

## REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS

*Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)*

Implications	Applicable to this Report
<b>Governance Principles</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Policy/Relevant Law</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Environmental/Sustainability Implications</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Community Engagement</b> (Consideration of Community Engagement Principles under s.56 LGA 2020)	Yes



<b>Public Transparency</b> (Consideration of Public Transparency Principles under s.58 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Strategies and Plans</b> (Consideration of Strategic Planning Principles under s.89 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Financial Management</b> (Consideration of Financial Management Principles under s.101 of LGA 2020)	No
<b>Service Performance</b> (Consideration of Service Performance Principles under s.106 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	No
<b>Communication</b>	Yes
<b>Human Rights Charter</b>	No
<b>Gender Equality</b> (Gender Impact Assessment required by s.9 of the <i>Gender Equality Act 2020</i> )	Yes

## GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

By updating the Waste and Resource Recovery Policy, Council considers:

- Innovation and continuous improvement by introducing a new recycling service that will improve the way the community recycles.
- Compliance with the *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021*, which introduced the new four bins system to all Victoria Local Councils.

## POLICY/RELEVANT LAW

- *Local Government Act 2020*
- Recycling Victoria Policy 2020
- *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021*
- Golden Plains Shire Council Local Law No 1

## ENVIRONMENTAL/SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The environmental benefits of the separate glass service are:

- Higher quantity and quality of recovered glass for recycling;
- Reduced contamination of kerbside paper and cardboard in the recycling bin;
- Reduction of material going to landfill;
- Higher value of recovered recyclable materials; and
- Council improved contribution to the Circular Economy.

The reduction of the recycling collection to fortnightly will also contribute to an improvement of the contamination in the recycling stream. Council currently experiences a high level of contamination in the recycling bins due to the weekly collection, as some residents dispose of general waste in their recycling as they have added capacity not used for recyclable materials.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

As per IAP2 (International Association of Public Participation) framework for engagement, Council's engagement has been to inform the community.

To best inform the community on the new changes Council has developed a multi-phase communication and engagement campaign as well as a monitoring plan. The five phases are:

- Preparation

- Bin rollout
- Start of Service
- Monitoring
- On-going

The campaign informs the residents why the service is changing, when the new bins will be rolled out, and explains how to use the new bin and changes to the collection schedule.

Furthermore, early in 2024 Council published an online survey to the community to better understand how to improve waste education. The outcome of this survey informed decision making to introduce an improved waste searching tool on Council's website.

### **PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY**

This Council Policy is publicly available via Council's website and complies with Council's Public Transparency Policy.

### **STRATEGIES/PLANS**

This updated Policy meets the target of the Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2020-2030 of establishing access to glass collection for all residents by 2027 and reducing waste going to landfill.

### **SERVICE PERFORMANCE**

Council will continue to provide general waste, recycling and glass collection services to all residential properties throughout the municipality. The only residential properties that are exempt from the waste service are properties where the kerbside collection vehicles are not able to gain access to the roadway adjacent to the property driveway.

Council will assess requests to assist residential properties that present special needs for the collection of their bins.

### **RISK ASSESSMENT**

The identified risk implication associated with this report is detailed below:

If the Policy isn't endorsed there is no framework in which to deliver the updated waste management services. This may have implications for service equity, delivery and costs. By adopting the updated Policy, Council will reduce this identified risk.

### **COMMUNICATION**

The updated Policy will be available to the public on Council's website.

### **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**

As this report relates to the development or review of a policy, program or service that has a direct and significant impact on the public, the *Gender Equality Act 2020* requires that a Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) be undertaken. A GIA has been conducted and there are no identified gender inequality implications.

### **OPTIONS**

Option 1 – Council approves the updated Waste Management and Resource Recovery Services Policy

This option is recommended by officers as it will provide a policy that is aligned with the current services delivered to the community. A further (more detailed) Policy update will go to public consultation and Council for adoption upon the introduction of FOGO.

Option 2 – Council does not approve the updated Waste Management and Resource Recovery Services Policy

This option is not recommended by officers as the current Policy doesn't provide the correct framework for the delivery of waste services. The updates are minor and have already been endorsed by Council. A significant review of the policy is required in the next 12-18 months with the planned introduction of FOGO, and will require public consultation and Council endorsement

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

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

**CONCLUSION**

This report seeks Council approval of the updated Waste Management and Resource Recovery Services Policy, to commence in line with commencement date of Council's new waste collection schedule.

**7.6 PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C105GPLA  
ORMOND STREET BANNOCKBURN REZONING - POST EXHIBITION**

**File Number:**

**Author:** Daniel Murrphy, Senior Strategic Planner

**Authoriser:** Jo Wilson, Director Community, Planning and Growth

**Attachments:** 1. Proposed DPO19 changes (under separate cover)  
2. Clause 74.02 - Further Strategic Work (under separate cover)

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Authorise officers to make changes to Amendment C105gpla in accordance with this report.
2. Refer all submissions to an independent Planning Panel pursuant to section 23(1)(b) of the Planning and Environment Act.
3. Authorise officers/suitable persons to represent Council at the Planning Panel hearing generally in accordance with the response to submissions outlined in this report.

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to summarise the outcome following exhibition of Planning Scheme Amendment C105gpla Ormond Street Rezoning. The amendment was exhibited between 21 November 2024, and 23 December 2024.

Minor changes to Amendment C105pla are recommended in response to submissions. It is important to note however that officers do not recommend the inclusion of 54 Ormond Street into the rezoning which was requested by one of the submissions. It is therefore necessary for Council to request the Minister for Planning to appoint an independent planning panel to impartially consider the position of all parties and consider the outstanding objections.

Councillors have previously been provided with a full copy of the submissions for consideration.

**BACKGROUND**

In September 2024 Council authorised the preparation and exhibition of the Planning Scheme Amendment to rezone 5, 20, 25 & 30 Ormond Street, Bannockburn from Farming Zone to General Residential Zone 1, and apply the Development Plan Overlay Schedule 19 (DPO19).

Exhibition of the Amendment included letters provided to relevant agencies and prescribed ministers, letters to 212 owners and occupiers of the surrounding properties, public notice in the Golden Plains Times on 15 November and publication in the Government Gazette on 21 November. Ten submissions were received: two from agencies, four from community organisations, two from neighbouring residents, one from a proponent of a nearby development and one from a community member.

The submissions from the agencies and the proponent of the nearby development have been resolved through suggested changes to DPO19 and clarification of the proposed amendment. The submission from the four community groups and community member centres on protection of environmental and cultural heritage of Bruce Creek, and these submissions remain unresolved. The two submissions from neighbours are based on process concerns and impact to amenity which have not been resolved.

**DISCUSSION**

**Amendment C105gpla**

Planning for urban growth around Bannockburn has been formalised since the 1977 Bannockburn Structure Plan. This plan included a designation of area around Ormond Street as ‘Future Urban’ (Figure 1).

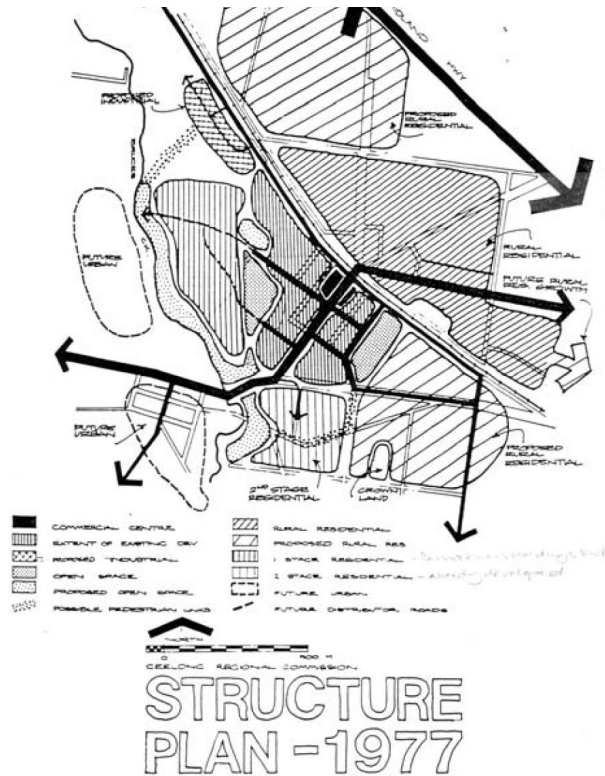


Figure 1 - 1977 Structure Plan

Figure 1 Bannockburn Structure Plan (1977)

Preliminary planning work to support this rezoning application (C105gpla) commenced prior to the adoption of the Bannockburn Growth Plan (2021), with the formal application for the rezoning being received by Council on 3 September 2020. At the time of the initial application, the Bannockburn Urban Design Framework (2013) was the governing plan for growth around Bannockburn. This plan (Figure 2) shows the area considered for rezoning in C105gpla as Consolidated Residential.

The Bannockburn Growth Plan (2021) was developed with the knowledge that the landowners of 5-30 Ormond Street had commenced the background work to support a rezoning application. As a result of this, the area that is being considered for rezoning in C105gpla was identified as urban growth but not included in the future residential – medium term priority (Bannockburn South West) in the Bannockburn Framework Plan (Figure 3).

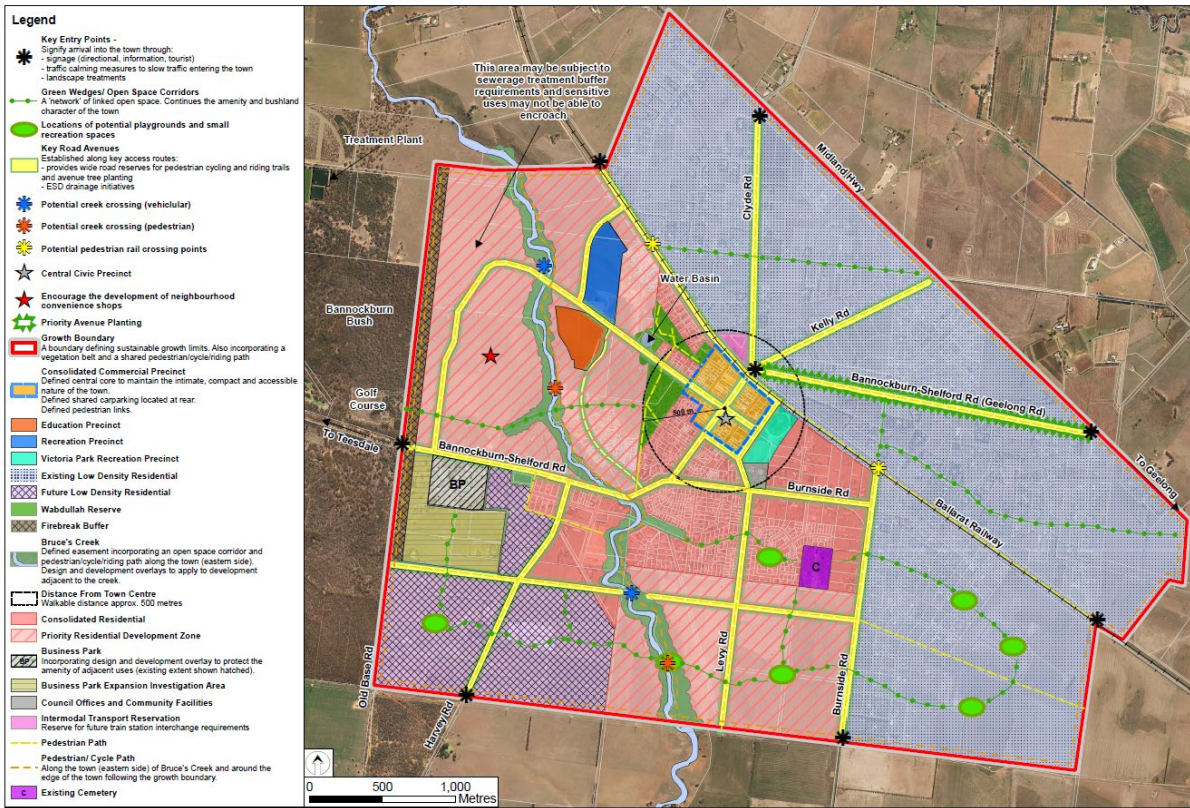
Bannockburn has an undersupply of residentially zoned land available. It is the only town in the south of the Shire serviced by reticulated sewerage, delivers the majority of the Shires growth and is relied upon by the smaller neighbouring towns to provide services and amenities including schools, retail and community infrastructure and facilities.

The Residential Land Supply Monitoring Project for Golden Plains Shire by Spatial Economics 2015 had the following findings regarding land supply in Bannockburn:

*‘It is considered that there is an immediate need for additional zoned broad hectare residential land supply stocks within Bannockburn as there are only 4 years of zoned supply. There is ample land identified for future residential development purposes within Bannockburn.’*

Since this report, Planning Scheme Amendments C059gpla, C072gpla, and C103gpla have rezoned land to residential in Bannockburn. These developments have only provided an additional

183 lots. The rate of growth in Bannockburn in that time has been an average of 41.5 lots per year, which translates to only a 4.4 year's supply. The initial 4 years with the additional 4.4 years of supply since 2015 indicate that the current zoned supply is exhausted. This rezoning is expected to add approximately 170 additional lots, which will provide an extra 4 year's supply to assist with the under supply until the Bannockburn South East and North West Precincts are realised.



Bannockburn Urban Design Framework  
Figure 2: Overall Principles

Figure 2 Bannockburn Urban Design Framework (2013)

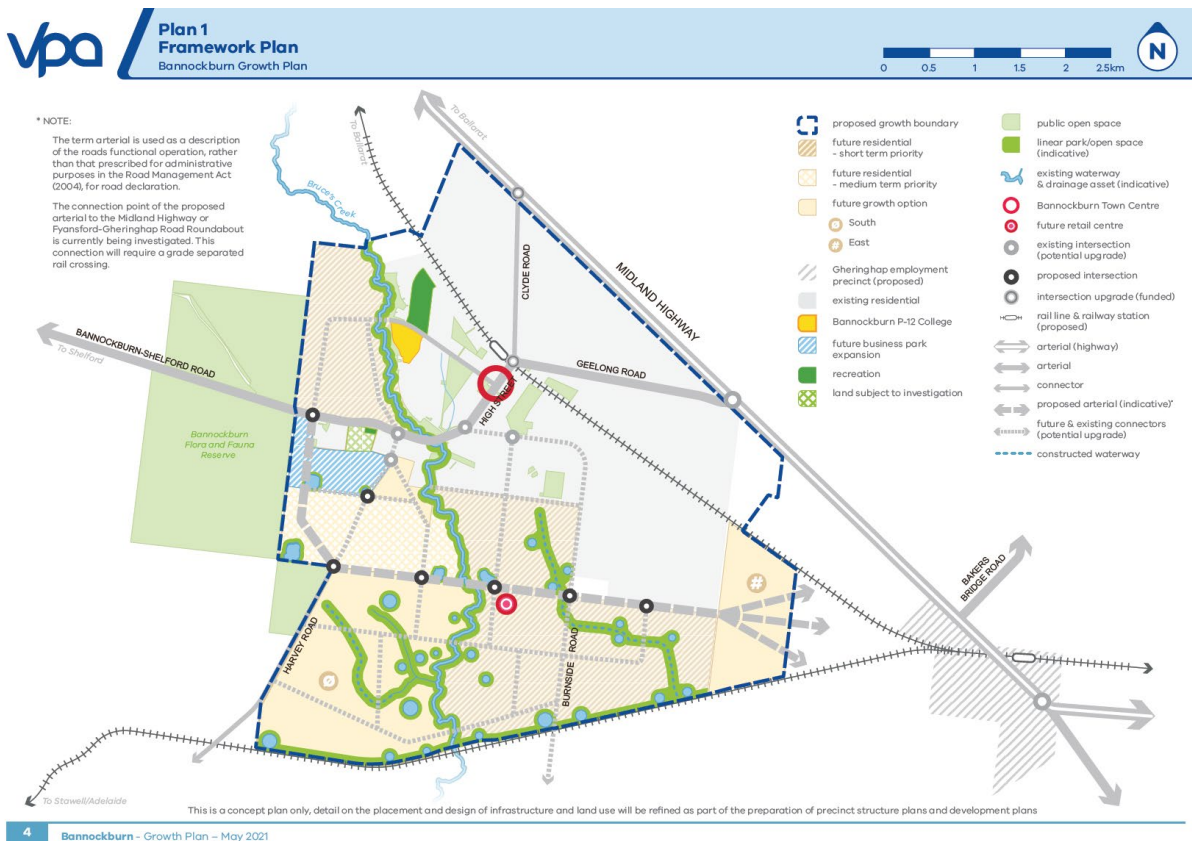


Figure 3 Bannockburn Framework Plan (2021)

The requirements of DPO19 were established through discussions with internal Council teams and external agencies. Following the rezoning of the land a Development Plan is required to be approved by Council before a planning permit application for subdivision can be considered.

**Exhibition**

Exhibition of C105gpla took place between November 21 and December 23 2024.

The exhibition process comprised of:

- Letters to all land owners and occupiers in the area surrounding the proposal.
- Letters to relevant agencies and prescribed ministers.
- Newspaper notice in the Golden Plains Times.
- Government Gazette Notice.
- Information about the amendment on the Strategic Planning Projects page of the Golden Plains Shire website and the Department of Transport and Planning website.

As detailed above a total of 10 submissions were received.

Three of the submissions were generally supportive of the amendment but asked for minor changes or clarification. Five of the submissions requested changes be made to the amendment before it proceeded, and two submissions objected to the amendment.

Key issues that were raised in the submissions included:

- Buffer distance from Bruce Creek to development
- Stormwater volume discharge and stormwater peak discharge rates during more frequent flood events
- Reference to the General Environmental Duty
- Consistency with the Bannockburn Growth Plan

- Traffic and noise impacts
- Loss of rural landscapes
- Clarification of the design and upgrade of arterial and local road network
- References to public and active transport
- Protection and enhancement of the environmental values of Bruce Creek
- Concern about the zoning of and adjacent to the future Bruce Creek open space
- Protection of Cultural Heritage values
- Weed and pest eradication within the Bruce Creek environs
- Conformance with Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO2)

Copies of the submissions and the responses from Council Officers have previously been provided to Councillors.

The CCMA and DTP have provided confirmation that the suggested changes to DPO19 satisfies their submission. The proponent of a nearby development has also confirmed that the clarification around the future upgrade of the intersection of Harvey Road and Bannockburn Shelford Road satisfies their submission.

The four community groups and one community member, while generally supportive with the suggested changes are of the view that additional protection of the Bruce Creek corridor is required. Council Officers believe that the recommended changes detailed in Table 1 will ensure the environmental and cultural values of the creek are protected from future development, and that additional changes to DPO19 are not required.

The objections from the neighbours around the merits of the proposal and conformity with the Golden Plains Planning Scheme are not supported by Council Officers. There is significant strategic justification for the amendment, it is consistent with the Bannockburn Growth Plan and will support the constrained supply of residential land in Bannockburn. Development within the Area does have the potential for short term impacts as a result of additional building and construction. This is true of all locations that bound identified future growth areas. The Amendment has been considered under the principles of net community benefit and sustainable development as set out in Clause 71.02-3 of the Planning Scheme.

The recommended changes to the amendment have been summarised in Table 1, with a track changed version of the DPO19 included in Attachment 1.

**Table 1: Recommended changes to the Amendment Documents based on submissions**

Recommended Change	Reason
<b>DPO19:</b> Add a requirement that the Geotechnical Assessment determines the extent of the developable area, which must ensure a minimum buffer of 30 meters from the bank of Bruce Creek.	A 30 meter buffer from the creek is a requirement of section 12.03 of the Golden Plains Planning Scheme.
<b>DPO19:</b> Add a requirement that the Storm Water Management Plan includes Stormwater Volume Management.	The Catchment Management Authority have suggested this as better practice of stormwater management.
<b>DPO19:</b> Add a requirement that the Storm Water Management Plan includes reference to the Environmental Protection Act, including the general environmental duty to protect downstream effects of stormwater runoff.	The consideration of general environmental duty is a requirement of the Environmental Protection Act. Bruce Creek flows into the Barwon River which ends at the RAMSAR listed Lake Connewarre.
<b>DPO19:</b> Add a requirement that the Storm Water Management Plan ensures peak	The Catchment Management Authority have suggested this as better practice of stormwater



discharge rates of all stormwater leaving the site post development are no greater than pre-development and that ensures no adverse impacts to any surrounding area, upstream or downstream for 10% AEP, 5% AEP and 1% AEP rain events.	management.
<b>DPO19:</b> Add a requirement that the Road Network and Traffic Management Plan includes an internal road network with a high level of access for all vehicular and non-vehicular traffic. This includes direct north-south and east-west bus capable roads, including supporting bus turning movements, to safeguard the ability to provide bus public transport in the future, if required.	To support future public transport planning through the growth areas.
<b>DPO19:</b> Add a requirement that the Road Network and Traffic Management Plan includes any recommended road infrastructure upgrades including the sealing of Ormond Street and provision of active transport infrastructure.	To ensure that Ormond Street is upgraded to a standard that will support the future growth areas.
<b>DPO19:</b> Add a requirement that the Road Network and Traffic Management Plan includes an active transport link along the length of Harvey Road that fronts the development that supports the Strategic Cycling Corridor (SCC) and will allow connection to the future active transport network.	To provide better connections of active transport through Bannockburn.
<b>DPO19:</b> Add a requirement that the Road Network and Traffic Management Plan ensures active transport networks and connections that do not impede development construction are delivered promptly to support early uptake.	To ensure that construction does not inhibit active transport links and are delivered early to encourage use.
<b>DPO19:</b> Removes the duplicated requirement for a footpath along the length of Harvey Road that fronts the development that will allow connection to the future footpath network.	This requirement was already included in the road network and traffic management plan.
<b>Instruction Sheet:</b> add a change to clause 74.02 (further Strategic Work).	To ensure that the future rezoning of the public open space around Bruce Creek to PPRZ is prioritised.
<b>Explanatory Report:</b> add explanation to change clause 74.02 (Further Strategic Work).	To ensure that the future rezoning of the public open space around Bruce Creek to PPRZ is prioritised.
<b>Explanatory Report:</b> remove full stop below paragraph five and capitalise the first letter in paragraph six under the heading "Does the amendment make proper use of the Victoria Planning Provisions?"	To correct formatting errors.
<b>Explanatory Report:</b> remove the reference to developer contributions to future upgrades of Harvey Road/Ormond Street, Harvey Road/Future East-west connector road.	Those upgrades are a requirement of permit, and do not require development contributions as they will be delivered in full during development.

<p><b>Clause 74.02 (Further Strategic Work):</b> add</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare an amendment to rezone the land surrounding Bruce Creek that was rezoned as part of Planning Scheme Amendment C105gpla to Public Park and Recreation Zone in accordance with the requirements of Schedule 19 of the Development Plan Overlay.</li> </ul>	<p>To ensure that the future rezoning of the public open space around Bruce Creek to PPRZ is prioritised.</p>
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## REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS

*Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)*

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

## GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

In assessing and formulating a recommendation for this planning application, the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and Golden Plains Shire Planning Scheme have been considered in the officers' assessment.

The amendment makes proper use of the Victorian Planning Provisions by supporting residential growth in accordance with the strategic growth direction of Bannockburn in the planning scheme.

**POLICY/RELEVANT LAW**

The Amendment is proposed to proceed in accordance with the provisions of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. The steps in the Amendment process are shown below. The green box outlines the current stage of the process.

Under Section 22 (1) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* Council is required to consider all submissions to an amendment that were lodged before the date set out in the notice.

Under Section 23 (1b) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* the Planning Authority can refer submissions to an independent panel, as recommended under this report

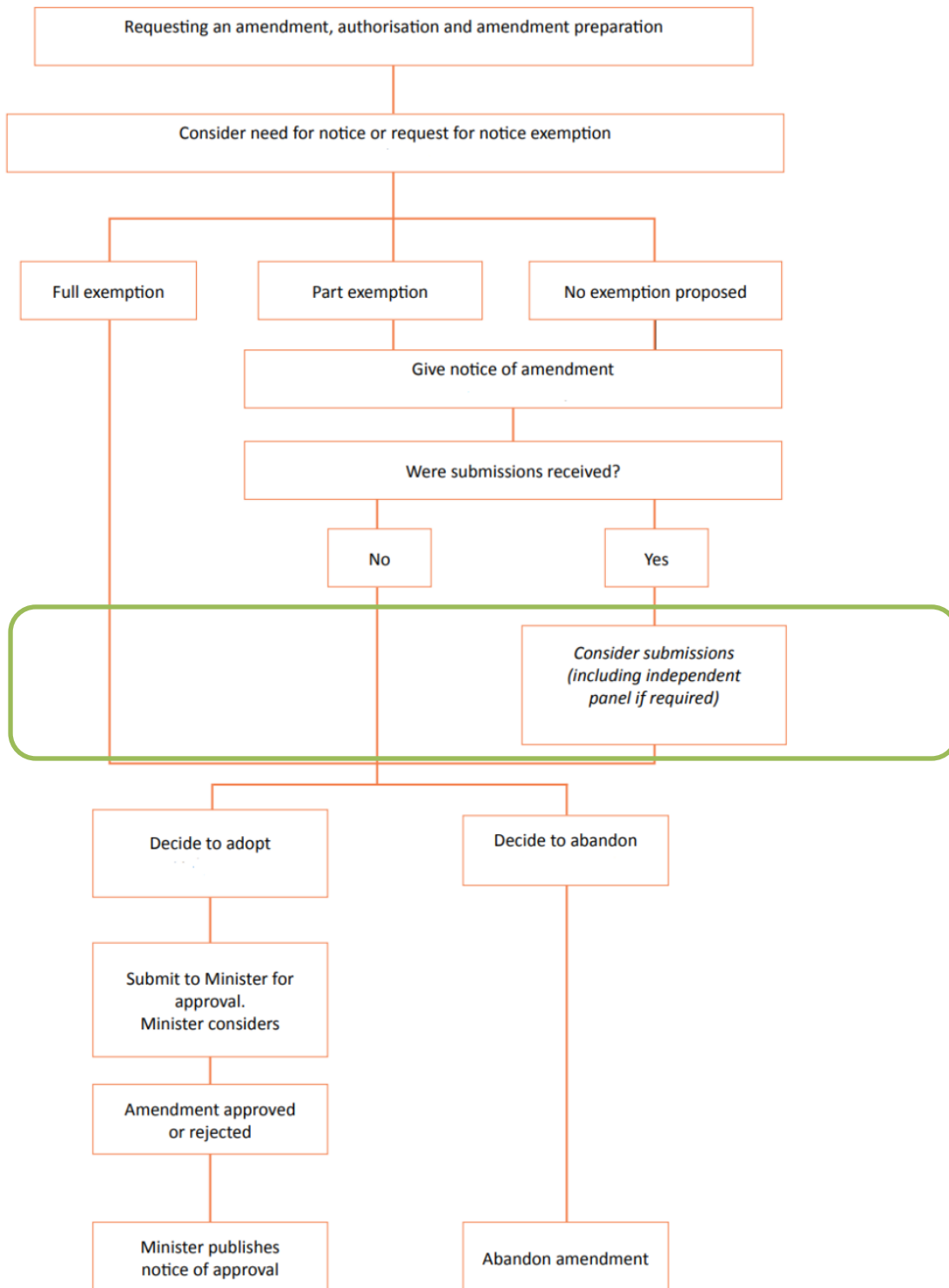


Figure 4 Planning Scheme Amendment flow chart.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL/SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

### Environmental Effects

The amendment is supported by environmental assessments including a Site Stormwater Management Plan that demonstrates that the land can be drained, and stormwater quality can be managed to meet contemporary stormwater targets. An Environmental Assessment has been conducted by ESA Consulting who has concluded that the land has a low likelihood of contamination and is suitable for conventional residential development.

The amendment is also supported by a Native Vegetation Assessment Report by Mark Trengove Ecological Services which indicates that the land is severely degraded and contains only a small area of native vegetation. The removal of this vegetation will not have any significant environmental implications and can be off-set to ensure no net loss of native vegetation. DPO19 requires a flora and fauna assessment as part of the Development Plan to confirm there is no impacts to threatened species. The Streetscape design will also have regard to the Regional Sustainable Subdivision Framework, street tree planting and canopy cover.

The recommended changes to DPO19 will further protect the health of Bruce Creek and the native flora and fauna within the creek corridor.

### Social Effects

The amendment will provide social benefits through the establishment of residential development located in an attractive semi-rural landscape adjoining Bruce Creek within close distance to all the amenities of Bannockburn. The amendment will result in the integration of residential land with developed land located to the north and improvements to the Bruce Creek surrounds. The amendment will also assist in meeting the growing housing needs of the Bannockburn Community, and the provision of social and affordable housing a short distance to the Bannockburn Central Business District which provides retail as well as community services.

### Economic Effects

The amendment will result in the continued growth of Bannockburn and increase the residential population which will have significant economic benefits for local commercial, industrial and retail business. The amendment will also result in development contributions to improve transport and community infrastructure, having a positive economic effect for the growth of Bannockburn, and will not result in an additional financial burden for Council.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Public notice of the proposed rezoning has been undertaken in accordance with the requirements set out in the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. Notification of the Planning Panel will also be published in accordance with the Planning Panel process.

## **PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY**

Submissions made through the rezoning process will be considered by Council, a Planning Panel and the Minister for Planning, thereby making the determination transparent.

## **STRATEGIES/PLANS**

In assessing and formulating a recommendation for this planning scheme amendment, the Golden Plains Shire Planning Scheme and Bannockburn Growth Plan have been considered.

The requirements of the DPO19 have consideration of the values in the Community Vision.

## **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

The Proponents of the amendment have agreed to enter a Section 173 Agreement to contribute to a future road intersection upgrade, provision of community facilities, and social and affordable housing. The proposed amendment, development plan and subdivision permit are not expected to significantly impact the Shire's Planning and Administration resources. Also, under the General Residential 1 Zone the use and development of a dwelling that meets the relevant Zone

requirements will not require a permit unless covered by a separate Overlay, and therefore will not impact Council's resources.

### **RISK ASSESSMENT**

- The Planning Panel may recommend that the amendment be approved, with or without changes.
- The Planning Panel may recommend that the amendment be abandoned.

### **COMMUNICATION**

If the recommendation is implemented all submitters will be invited to attend a Planning Panel by Planning Panels Victoria.

### **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 – Accept recommended changes to amendment C105gpla as shown in the attachment and refer the amendment to an independent Planning Panel.

This option is recommended by officers as Council Officers cannot resolve all of the submissions. A Planning Panel will impartially consider arguments from all parties and make a fair recommendation on how to proceed.

Option 2 – Do not accept recommended changes to amendment C105gpla as shown in the attachment and refer the amendment as exhibited to an independent Planning Panel.

This option is not recommended by officers as the recommended changes to the amendment resolve some of the issues raised during exhibition.

Option 3 – Abandon Amendment C105gpla

This option is not recommended by officers as the rezoning of the land will help to address the undersupply of zoned residential in Bannockburn.

Option 4 – Modify Amendment C105gpla in a different way to recommended in the attachment

This option is not recommended; however it would depend on the extent of the modifications and reasons for them.

### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

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

### **CONCLUSION**

The Ormond Street Development area has been considered for future residential development since the Bannockburn Structure Plan (1977), and is identified for residential development in the Golden Plains Planning Scheme and Bannockburn Growth Plan (2021). Bannockburn has an undersupply of residentially zoned land and growth in the town has been severely constrained. This development will provide additional supply until the Bannockburn South East and Bannockburn North West precincts are realised. The schedule to the Development Plan Overlay has included requirements to provide public and active transport connections and protect the environmental and cultural values of the area.

During the exhibition of the amendment ten submissions were received. The submissions have been considered by Council officers who have recommended some changes as specified in table 1 of this report. The changes recommended do not greatly change the substance of Amendment C105gpla, and officers do not recommend any further changes in response to the outstanding submissions until they are considered by a Planning Panel.

**7.7 COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025 IMPLEMENTATION - QUARTER 2 (2024-25)****File Number:****Author:** Emma Whitelaw, Business Partner Performance and Change**Authoriser:** Lynnere Gray, Director Corporate Services**Attachments:** 1. Council Plan Implementation Report - Quarter 2 (under separate cover)**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council note the implementation of the Year 4, Quarter 2 actions (1 October 2024 to 31 December 2024) of the Council Plan 2021-2025.

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

To update Council on the progress made in implementing Year 4, Quarter 2 actions of the Council Plan 2021-2025.

**BACKGROUND**

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

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

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

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

**DISCUSSION**

Progress for the second quarter of Year 4 of the 2021-2025 Council Plan has commenced across all pillars in the implementation of the plan. A detailed explanation of all actions has been prepared and is detailed in Attachment: 1 – Council Plan Implementation Report – Quarter 2.

Delivery of Year 4 Council Plan Actions have progressed well throughout the second quarter. With some actions well underway, four (4) of the 82 actions reflect a not started or delayed status. Delays in these actions are identified and detailed in the attached report. Council officers will continue to work with the Senior Management Team to address factors which are causing a delay in the achievement of these actions.

Key updates from the strategic direction of Community for the Quarter 2 reporting period include a focus on community development through the awarding of the Community Strengthening Grants, with 12 community projects receiving a total of \$75,000 in grant funding to deliver projects across four streams. The community connection theme was highlighted with the successful delivery of the

Twilight Market Event in December, featuring over 120 stall holders and approximately 4,500 attendees. Safety and preparedness remain a priority, with officers collaborating with the CFA to assist in the planned burning season and issuing of Fire Prevention Notices. Development of a four-year municipal Early Years and Children's Plan progressed across the reporting period and in December Council successfully secured funding as part of the FReeZA 2025-27 grant program.

Key updates from the strategic direction of Liveability for the Quarter 2 reporting period surround infrastructure progress and include the completion of works at the Bannockburn Skate Bowl, Woody Yaloak Recreation Reserve Lighting project, and the Don Wallace Recreation Reserve Oval Upgrade, with the oval to be open to community in early 2025. Community engagement commenced in December for the Growing Places Strategy and the Teesdale Flood Study Planning Scheme Amendment is scheduled for exhibition in February 2025. The Northern Streetscapes Framework Plan continues to progress following round one community consultation, and a second round of community consultation is underway, seeking feedback on the design development plans prepared by the consultant landscape architects.

Key updates from the strategic direction of Sustainability for the Quarter 2 reporting period include the delivery of the introduction of the new glass bin service, with services scheduled to commence in February 2025. Further highlights include preliminary planning of the FOGO bin introduction and continued collaboration with the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to action, follow up and investigate illegal dumping. The implementation of Council Environmental Strategy 2019-2027 continues, with a draft Management Plan for the Ross Creek Reserve developed and partnerships with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners continue surrounding the development a joint management plan to help to progress the Moorabool River Reserve Master Plan 2023-2033.

Key updates from the strategic direction of Prosperity for Quarter 2 emphasise community engagement and economic development. The 2024 Seniors Festival, held in October, was a notable success, attracting over 50 participants. Additionally, two (2) Wiser Driver sessions were conducted, with 49 attendees. Enrolment in Council-run Kindergarten programs remain consistent for 2025, with 285 children enrolled. Maternal and Child Health services continue to provide comprehensive support, including sleep and settling assistance, enhanced home visits, and first-time parent support. Business support initiatives were highlighted, with an average of 48 monthly contact hours of business mentoring provided and the Buy Local This Festive Season Christmas Campaign was actively promoted throughout the quarter. The Digital Hub remains an important resource, with approximately 188 hours of bookings recorded during the reporting period.

Key updates from the strategic direction of Leadership for the Quarter 2 reporting period include development of the 2025-29 Council Plan, including the delivery of Community Thinktank Sessions in both Smythesdale and Bannockburn across December. Preliminary formulation of the 2025-26 budget and Long-Term Financial Plan commenced across the quarter and Council Election preparation, processes and documentation were finalised in line with Election timelines. Councils digital transformation journey to streamline and enhance technology systems continue to be a key focus, with system configuration completed for a new Local Laws and Geographic Information System (GIS).

## REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS

*Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)*

<b>Implications</b>	<b>Applicable to this Report</b>
<b>Governance Principles</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Policy/Relevant Law</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Environmental/Sustainability Implications</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	No
<b>Community Engagement</b>	No

(Consideration of Community Engagement Principles under s.56 LGA 2020)	
<b>Public Transparency</b> (Consideration of Public Transparency Principles under s.58 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Strategies and Plans</b> (Consideration of Strategic Planning Principles under s.89 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Financial Management</b> (Consideration of Financial Management Principles under s.101 of LGA 2020)	No
<b>Service Performance</b> (Consideration of Service Performance Principles under s.106 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	No
<b>Communication</b>	Yes
<b>Human Rights Charter</b>	No
<b>Gender Equality</b> (Gender Impact Assessment required by S.9 of Gender Equality Act 2020.)	No

## GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

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

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

## POLICY/RELEVANT LAW

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

## PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

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

## STRATEGIES/PLANS

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

## SERVICE PERFORMANCE

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

## RISK ASSESSMENT

There are no identified risk implications associated with this report.

## COMMUNICATION

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



**HUMAN RIGHTS CHARTER**

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

**OPTIONS**

Option 1 – that Council note the implementation of Year 4, Quarter 2 (1 October 2024 to 31 December 2024) actions of the Council Plan 2021-2025.

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

Option 2 – that Council do not note the implementation of Year 4, Quarter 2 (1 October 2024 to 31 December 2024) actions of the Council Plan 2021-2025.

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

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

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

**CONCLUSION**

As outlined in the attached report, actions for Year 4, Quarter 2 (1 October 2024 to 31 December 2024) of the Council Plan 2021-2025 have progressed well throughout the second quarter, with some actions well underway. Continued action and future planning will continue to see the successful progression and completion of the Council Plan 2021-2025.

**7.8 OATH OR AFFIRMATION OF OFFICE****File Number:****Author:** Lauren Richardson, Governance and Risk Specialist**Authoriser:** Shane Walden, Chief Executive Officer**Attachments:** 1. Cr Gamble - Signed Affirmation of Office (under separate cover)**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receive the signed oath/affirmation taken by Councillor Gavin Gamble on Friday, 17 January 2025

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report seeks Council receive the signed oath/affirmation taken by the Councillor elected to the Golden Plains Shire Council following the countback undertaken by the VEC on 13 January 2025 that resulted in the election of Cr Gavin Gamble.

**BACKGROUND**

Section 30 of the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) provides the requirements for the oath or affirmation of office. Section 30(2)(c) requires the oath or affirmation of office to be recorded in the minutes of the Council, whether or not the oath or affirmation was taken at a Council meeting.

**DISCUSSION**

Following the Victorian Electoral Commissions (VEC's) Election result announcement, successful candidates, the newly elected Councillor, took the oath/affirmation of office at a ceremony on Friday, 17 January 2025. As per the Act, the minutes of the next Council meeting must include each signed oath/affirmation.

**REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS**

*Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)*

<b>Implications</b>	<b>Applicable to this Report</b>
<b>Governance Principles</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Policy/Relevant Law</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Environmental/Sustainability Implications</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	No
<b>Community Engagement</b> (Consideration of Community Engagement Principles under s.56 LGA 2020)	No
<b>Public Transparency</b> (Consideration of Public Transparency Principles under s.58 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Strategies and Plans</b> (Consideration of Strategic Planning Principles under s.89 of LGA 2020)	No

<b>Financial Management</b> (Consideration of Financial Management Principles under s.101 of LGA 2020)	No
<b>Service Performance</b> (Consideration of Service Performance Principles under s.106 of LGA 2020)	No
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	No
<b>Communication</b>	Yes
<b>Human Rights Charter</b>	Yes
<b>Gender Equality</b> (Gender Impact Assessment required by s.9 of the <i>Gender Equality Act 2020</i> )	No

## GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, the Oaths/Affirmations of Office must be included as a report to a Council meeting post the ceremony.

## PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, the Oaths/Affirmations are included in the papers for this Council meeting.

## COMMUNICATION

As per the requirements of section 30(2)(c) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the oath or affirmation of office will be recorded in the minutes of the Council meeting. This will be reflected in the minutes of this Council meeting.

## HUMAN RIGHTS CHARTER

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

## OPTIONS

Option 1 – That Council adopt the recommendation included in this report.

This option is recommended by officers in order to meet the requirements of section 30(2)(c) of the *Local Government Act 2020* in a timely manner.

Option 2 – That Council does not adopt the recommendation included in this report.

This option is not recommended by officers as this would not meet the requirements of section 30(2)(c) of the *Local Government Act 2020* in a timely manner and the report would need to be reconsidered at a future meeting.

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

## CONCLUSION

Council is required to receive and record the oath or affirmation of office taken by all elected Councillors.

## 7.9 LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE REPORTING FRAMEWORK (LGPRF) MID-YEAR REPORT

**File Number:****Author:** Emma Whitelaw, Business Partner Performance and Change**Authoriser:** Lynnere Gray, Director Corporate Services**Attachments:** 1. Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF) Mid-Year Report (under separate cover)

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the mid-year report on the Local Government Performance Report for the period 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024.

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council is required under the *Local Government Act 2020* and *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* to report on its performance in accordance with the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF).

Council's performance against the LGPRF measures is reported to management, the Audit and Risk Committee (the Committee) and Council on a six-monthly basis. Additionally, the Performance Statement (which is a sub-set of these indicators) are included in the Golden Plains Shire Council Annual Report.

### BACKGROUND

The LGPRF is a mandatory system of performance reporting that became a requirement for all Victorian Councils from the 2014-15 annual budgeting and reporting cycle onwards. It ensures that Councils are measuring and reporting on their performance in a consistent way to promote transparency and accountability in the Local Government sector.

The framework is made up of 59 measures from a range of service areas, including animal management, food safety, library services, maternal and child health, roads, planning and waste management. It is complemented by a Governance and Management checklist of 24 items, which shows the policies, plans and procedures in place at each Council, and together they build a comprehensive picture of Council performance.

Council's performance against LGPRF measures are reported to the Audit and Risk Committee and Council on a six-monthly basis and also included in the Annual Report.

### DISCUSSION

A detailed progress report for the period 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024 is included at Attachment 1: Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF) Mid-Year Report.

The data captured in the report shows Council's performance for the first six months of the 2024-25 year against the LGPRF indicators.

Data is measured against Quarter 2 performance from 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 and the 2023-24 end-of-year result with the aim of maintaining all areas that were indicating well and improving those that weren't.

Council reports on 56 of the 59 indicators, as the remaining 3 relate to aquatic facilities which are not applicable to the organisation. It should be noted that several of these indicator results are cumulative results and will increase across each quarter, possibly changing the positive/negative status by the 2024-25 end-of-year result.

A final report for the 2024-25 year will be provided to Council pending finalisation of the end of year audit results.

## REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS

*Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)*

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

### GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

In accordance with the principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the half-yearly reporting of the LGPRF Indicators to Council will specifically:

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

### POLICY/RELEVANT LAW

Reporting on the LGPRF indicators ensures compliance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.

### PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

Council's performance against the LGPRF measures will be presented to a public Council meeting six-monthly and at year end, and reported in the Golden Plains Shire Council Annual Report.

### SERVICE PERFORMANCE

Reporting on the LGPRF Indicators provides valuable insights on the delivery of service performance principles under s.106 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

### RISK ASSESSMENT

There are no identified risk implications associated with this report.

**COMMUNICATION**

Council's performance against the LGPRF measures will be presented to a public Council meeting six-monthly and at year end and reported in the Golden Plains Shire Council Annual 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**

Option 1 – That Council receive and note the mid-year LGPRF report as presented.

This option is recommended by officers as all available indicator results for the first half of the 2024-25 period appear in the report.

Option 2 – That Council request further information.

This option is not recommended by officers as all available LGPRF indicators have been reported on. Further requests for additional information or changes may be implemented in future reports.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

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

**CONCLUSION**

Council is required under the *Local Government Act 2020* and Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 to report on its performance in accordance with the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF). The LGPRF is a mandatory system of performance reporting that ensures Councils are measuring and reporting on their performance in a consistent way to promote transparency and accountability in the Local Government sector.

## 7.10 BANNOCKBURN INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

**Author:** Luke Purcell, Coordinator Environment and Sustainability

**Authoriser:** Vicki Shelton, Manager Asset Services

**Attachments:**

1. **Bannockburn IWM Plan - Final Report (under separate cover)**
2. **Bannockburn IWM Plan - Full technical report (under separate cover)**

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the Bannockburn Integrated Water Management Plan.

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Bannockburn 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 GPSC to undertake over the initial 2-3 years of the IWM Plan.

The detailed technical IWM Plan was 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 was presented to Golden Plains Shire Council community for information and comment via an online consultation process. Feedback from this process was primarily received from key groups such as People for a Living Moorabool, and Friends of the Barwon.

The feedback was incorporated into the final published and designed version, presented here for adoption.

## **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**

### **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.



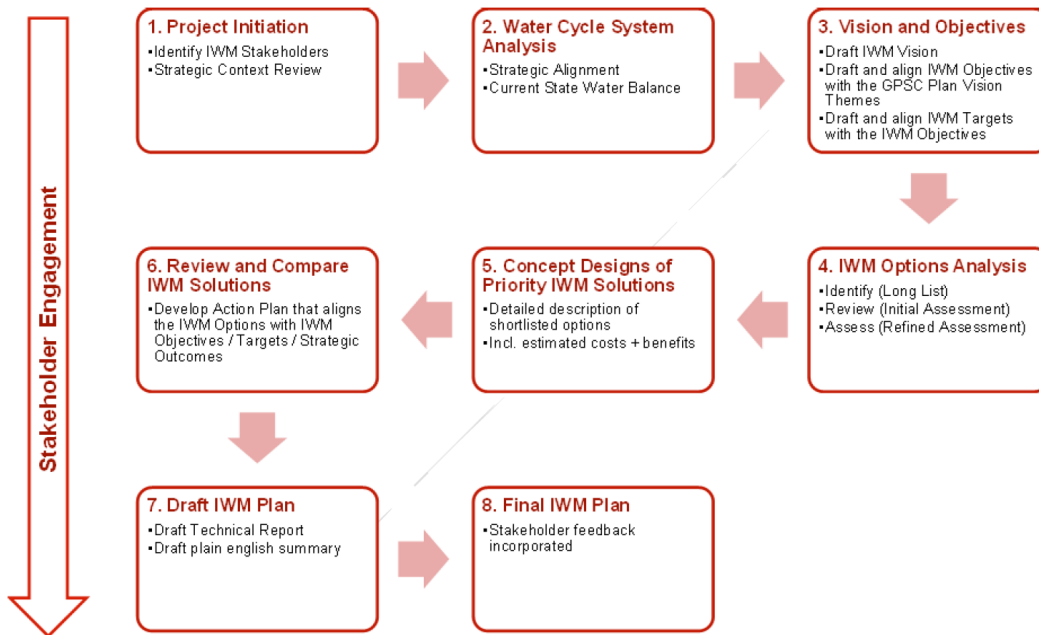


Figure 1: Bannockburn IWM Plan Development Process

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.

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. A copy of the technical IWM report will be made available on request.

The final public draft was presented to Council to endorse for public consultation on 20 August 2024.

**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.

### Public Consultation Outcomes

A summary of critical feedback received following the public exhibition process and action take from Council is provided below. Feedback was primarily received by key community groups, Friends of the Barwon, and People of the Living Moorabool.

- Ensure protection/supporting of water health is explicit in Bannockburn IWM objectives – This is reflected in the final objectives.
- Potential to include environmental monitoring indicators in the monitoring framework specific to waterway health – The final monitoring framework ensures IWM success measures are directly linked to the health of Bruce Creek.
- How do we develop assurance of future WSUD asset failures? - The action plan now includes the exploration of independently assessing WSUD engineering solutions submitted to Council.
- Can the plan be more explicit about what developers must do in regard to IWM? – The plan includes stronger wording that specific IWM measures are a requirement for future developments.
- Passively irrigated street trees – how likely are they to succeed or face issues due to nature of our soils around Bannockburn? – The plan was amended to ensure solutions are designed for local conditions and low soil permeability.
- Class C to passively irrigate open space, Safety concerns around Class C – The plan includes education/awareness around class C water usage.
- Can we include PALM and Friends of the Moorabool to demonstrate working in partnership for some of the actions of the IWM plan? – Both groups are specifically mentioned as partners in the Action Plan.

### REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS

*Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)*

<b>Implications</b>	<b>Applicable to this Report</b>
<b>Governance Principles</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Policy/Relevant Law</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	No
<b>Environmental/Sustainability Implications</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Community Engagement</b> (Consideration of Community Engagement Principles under s.56 LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Public Transparency</b> (Consideration of Public Transparency Principles under s.58 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Strategies and Plans</b> (Consideration of Strategic Planning Principles under s.89 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Financial Management</b> (Consideration of Financial Management Principles under s.101 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Service Performance</b> (Consideration of Service Performance Principles under s.106 of LGA 2020)	Yes

<b>Risk Assessment</b>	Yes
<b>Communication</b>	Yes
<b>Human Rights Charter</b>	Yes
<b>Gender Equality</b> (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' was undertaken to provide opportunities for wider engagement/feedback from Golden Plains residents, key stakeholders, special interest and community groups. This feedback has been incorporated to the final version of the plan.

## 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 and only possible through a grant from DEECA of \$70,000, with a final cash co-contribution from Council of approximately \$10,000. Due to limited budget detailed costings of targets and actions over 10 years was out of scope.

While the IWM Plan Targets are aspirational, they are specific to Bannockburn and only at a township scale. The targets are also set for time periods across 10-20 years. For example, the Target for 100% active public open space irrigated with alternative water, acknowledges only a handful of existing sites in Bannockburn are suitable for alternative water use (e.g the splash pad is not suitable). For new growth areas, the IWM requirements should be integrated into new growth area PSP's, to ensure infrastructure costs for alternative water are met in-cooperation through the development process.

The successful implementation of the Action Plan will require support and engagement with IWM Forum partners as there is no dedicated water or IWM staff resource or budget within Council. Additionally, a significant number of actions are already in progress, and will continue through existing resource, as many involve working internally to embed requirements into the PSP process which is currently underway for Bannockburn South-East.

Council is also actively progressing regional stormwater management and harvesting through participation in the Northern and Western Geelong Bannockburn Growth Areas Adaptive Stormwater Volume Management Project.

Finally, further refinement of how actions are to be funded will form part of the next phase of the IWM planning delivery process. The current IWM Plan does not tie Council to future funding commitments.

Including the IWM plan in the SE Bannockburn PSP enables us the opportunity to seek Development Contributions from developers towards new IWM infrastructure.

## **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**

IWM requires the adoption of a risk-based hierarchy approach, which promotes water conservation, followed by choosing the most appropriate alternative water supply for non-potable applications. The options analysis used risk based criteria to determine the most appropriate options for Bannockburn. The IWM also addresses risks associated with climate change, limited water resources and environmental impacts of untreated runoff entering receiving waters.

## **COMMUNICATION**

Regular briefings and progress reports have been provided at key development stages of the plan including with the project group, Wadawurrung, presentation to the Barwon IWM Forum, and briefings to SMT, and Council.

## **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 adoption

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. With public consultation now complete, the final Bannockburn IWM plan is presented to Council for adoption.

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

This option is not recommended by officers given the comprehensive process that has been undertaken. It should be noted that endorsing the plan does not commit Council to any individual decisions in relation to funding or implementation of future significant infrastructure projects. The IWM Plan 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 regard to this matter.

**CONCLUSION**

That Council endorse the Bannockburn Integrated Water Management Plan for adoption.

**7.11 DELEGATES' REPORT & INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS RECORDS****File Number:****Author:** Melanie Duve, Executive Assistant to CEO**Authoriser:** Shane Walden, Chief Executive Officer**Attachments:** Nil**RECOMMENDATION**

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

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**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 Sarah Hayden**

- Shire Tour facilitated by Golden Plains Shire
- PUCV Councillor Induction and Board Meeting

**Cr Des Phelan**

- Shire Tour facilitated by Golden Plains Shire

**Cr Brett Cunningham**

- Golden Plains Farmers market.
- Shelford Australia Day Breakfast.
- TTG Board Meeting.
- G21 Transport & Planning Meeting.
- TGGB Industry Conference.
- TGGB Board Planning Workshop Day.
- Shelford Duck Race.
- Golden Plains Soccer Club – Launch of Masters Summer League.

- Shire Tour facilitated by Golden Plains Shire

**Cr Emma Robbins**

- Smythesdale Country Market
- Grampians 2025 and Beyond: A State of the Region Forum
- Berringa Fires 30th Anniversary Weekend
- Shire Tour facilitated by Golden Plains Shire

**Cr Helena Kirby**

- Shire Tour facilitated by Golden Plains Shire
- Opening of the Oval Upgrade at Don Wallace Reserve, Teesdale
- Victorian Goldfields World Heritage Bid - Community Info Session

**Cr Owen Sharkey**

- Shire Tour facilitated by Golden Plains Shire
- Victorian Goldfields World Heritage Bid - Community Info Session

**Cr Gavin Gamble**

- Shire Tour facilitated by Golden Plains Shire

**INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS**

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

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

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

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

Records of informal meetings of Councillors are reported to an open Council meeting 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 that meets the definition of an informal meeting of Councillors under Rule 1 of Chapter 5. The informal meetings of Councillors records attached include any declarations of conflicts of interest made at these meetings.

## 7.12 DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN TO BE SUBMITTED FOR MUNICIPAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN EXEMPTION

**Author:** Emma Wheatland, Manager Community Wellbeing

**Authoriser:** Emma Wheatland, Manager Community Wellbeing

**Attachments:** 1. Draft Council Plan - Municipal Health and Wellbeing Exemption (under separate cover)

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorses the draft Council Plan for submission to the Secretary, Department of Health, for approval of the integration of the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Councils are required by section 26 of the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 (the Act) to develop a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan every four years, within 12 months of a general election of the Council. Golden Plains Shire's next Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan is due on or before 26 October 2025. The Act recognises the significant role of councils in improving the health and wellbeing of their communities.

Section 27 of the Act provides councils the option to seek an exemption from producing a standalone Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan by including public health and wellbeing matters in a Council Plan or Strategic Plan. Officers have initiated the work required to seek approval from the Minister to have our health and wellbeing plan included in the 2025 – 2029 Golden Plains Shire Council Plan.

Councils wishing to have their plan integrated need to seek an exemption from the Secretary, Department of Health.

### BACKGROUND

Councils are required to provide the following documents to be considered for an exemption to include the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan in the Council Plan to demonstrate integration.

Documents to be developed	Requirements
<p><b>Council Plan with incorporated Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan</b></p> <p><b>Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Action Plan</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify goals and strategies based on available evidence for creating a local community in which people can achieve maximum health and wellbeing.</li> <li>• Specify measures to prevent family violence and respond to the needs of victims of family violence in the local community.</li> <li>• Having regard to the State Public Health and Wellbeing Plan in developing their Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.</li> <li>• The Climate Change Act 2017 requires Councils to have regard to climate change when preparing a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.</li> <li>• The <i>Gender Equality Act 2020</i> requires council to publicly report on their progress in relation to gender equality, and promote gender equality in policies, programs and</li> </ul>



	<p>services that impact the public</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision for the involvement of people in the local community in the development, implementation and evaluation of the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.</li> <li>• Council must review its Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan annually and, if appropriate, amend the plan.</li> </ul>
<b>Municipal Planning Strategy/Council Plan consistency comparison</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate consistency with the Council Plan and Municipal Planning Statement</li> </ul>
<b>Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing engagement summary report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision for the involvement of people in the local community in the development, implementation and evaluation of the public health and wellbeing plan.</li> </ul>
<b>Golden Plains Shire Community Profile report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An examination of data about health status and health determinants in the municipal district.</li> <li>• Having regard to the State Public Health and Wellbeing Plan in developing their municipal public health and wellbeing plan.</li> </ul>

## DISCUSSION

Officers have now completed the draft Plan and compiled the required supporting documents for consideration by Council. Should Council endorse the draft Plan, it will be sent to the Secretary, Department of Health to determine if they will grant or deny an exemption based on how adequately the Golden Plains Shire draft Council Plan addresses the matters specified in 26(2) of the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008. The Department may also consider responding with conditions that may need to be incorporated into the draft Plan. If so, these changes will need to be incorporated prior to the draft Council Plan being made available for public exhibition.

## REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS

*Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)*

<b>Implications</b>	<b>Applicable to this Report</b>
<b>Governance Principles</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Policy/Relevant Law</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Environmental/Sustainability Implications</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Community Engagement</b> (Consideration of Community Engagement Principles under s.56 LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Public Transparency</b> (Consideration of Public Transparency Principles under s.58 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Strategies and Plans</b> (Consideration of Strategic Planning Principles under s.89 of LGA 2020)	Yes

<b>Financial Management</b> (Consideration of Financial Management Principles under s.101 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Service Performance</b> (Consideration of Service Performance Principles under s.106 of LGA 2020)	No
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	Yes
<b>Communication</b>	Yes
<b>Human Rights Charter</b>	Yes
<b>Gender Equality</b> (Gender Impact Assessment required by s.9 of Gender Equality Act 2020)	Yes

## GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

In developing the Draft Council Plan, priority has been given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community in determining the strategic objectives and priority projects to be included.

Council has collaborated with and sought guidance from Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) and the Department of Health in developing this plan. Golden Plains Shire has received support from the Barwon South West Region Public Health Unit in development of the plan.

Development of the Council Plan and the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan has been guided by the Victorian Health and Wellbeing Plan 2023 – 2027.

## POLICY/RELEVANT LAW

The development, public exhibition and adoption of the Council Plan 2025-2029 (scheduled for June 2025) will ensure Council can deliver on a number of the legislative requirements in the *Local Government Act 2020* including Section 89 (Strategic Planning Principles) and Section 90 (Council Plan).

The Draft Council Plan 2025-2029 also addresses Section 27 of the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* through the inclusion of public health and wellbeing matters in the Council Plan.

## ENVIRONMENTAL/SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

It is a requirement of the Climate Change Act 2017, that Council has regard to climate change when preparing a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement has been undertaken in accordance with the community engagement principles in the *Local Government Act 2020*. The processes for the development of the Council Plan have included deliberative engagement practices as defined in Council's Community Engagement Policy.

Further engagement on the Draft Council Plan will be undertaken following endorsement of the document for public exhibition in May 2025.

The various "What we heard" reports outlining the findings of community engagement activities pertaining to the development of the Council Plan, Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan and Community Vision are available on Council's website.

## PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

The development of the Draft Council Plan and delivery of the Council Plan 2025-2029 provide public transparency in decision making through actions and information that are accessible and guided by members of the community.

## STRATEGIES/PLANS

In undertaking development of the Draft Council Plan 2025-2029, Council has given effect to the Strategic Planning principles under Section 89 of the Act which include:

- (a) an integrated approach to planning, monitoring and performance reporting is to be adopted;
- (b) strategic planning must address the Community Vision;
- (c) strategic planning must take into account the resources needed for effective implementation;
- (d) strategic planning must identify and address the risks to effective implementation;
- (e) strategic planning must provide for ongoing monitoring of progress and regular reviews to identify and address changing circumstances.

In addition, the Draft Council Plan has been developed to incorporate the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (in line with the requirements of the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*) which includes addressing priorities in alignment with the *Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2023–2027*.

## FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

In accordance with the Act, the Council Plan must take into account the resources needed for effective implementation and both the Budget and Financial Plan are required to give effect to the Council Plan and other strategic plans of the Council.

Development of the Draft Council Plan 2025-2029 has been undertaken in alignment with processes for the Budget to ensure that both the current and future resources required for the delivery of actions and initiatives in the Council Plan are considered and provided for.

## RISK ASSESSMENT

The extensive engagement process undertaken and endorsement of a Draft Council Plan for public viewing / submission enables community involvement in Council decision making and minimises the risk that the community does not substantively support the final document.

Community engagement processes and the preparation of a Draft Council Plan 2025-2029 have directly addressed the risk of not meeting the legislative requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*.

A comprehensive approach to incorporating the requirements of the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* into the Council Plan has been undertaken to minimise the risk of not being granted an exemption from producing a stand-alone Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.

## COMMUNICATION

The key stages and timelines determined for developing the Council Plan 2025-2029 have been communicated internally and externally.

In particular, the community engagement processes were extensively promoted to encourage participation in identifying Council Plan priorities for delivery from 2025-2029. Further communication will be undertaken to promote the Draft Council Plan and the public exhibition and submission process during April and May 2025.

## 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

As this report relates to the development or review of a policy, program or service that has a direct and significant impact on the public, the Gender Equality Act 2020 requires that a Gender Impact

Assessment (GIA) be undertaken. A GIA has been conducted and there are no identified gender inequality implication.

## **OPTIONS**

Option 1 – Council endorses the draft Plan to be progressed to the Department of Health for consideration of exemption.

This option is recommended by officers as it allows officers to progress the application to integrate the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan into the Council Plan.

Option 2 – Council does not endorse the draft Plan to be progressed to the Department of Health for consideration of exemption.

This option is not recommended by officers as this will impact the organisation's ability to integrate the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan into Council Plan in line with required Department of Health timelines. The applications are required by the Department of Health no later than 14 March, 2025.

## **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

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

## **CONCLUSION**

The Draft Council Plan 2025-2029 has been developed following extensive community engagement and provides the strategic direction of Council for the four-year period 2025 to 2029.

The Draft Council Plan addresses the themes and community priorities of the Golden Plains Community Vision 2040 and incorporates the requirements of the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.

The Draft Council Plan 2025-2029 is recommended for endorsement by Council for submission to the Department of Health as part of the Health and Wellbeing Plan exemption process. If endorsed, a written request for an exemption from the requirement to produce a standalone Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan will be provided to the Department of Health on 14 March 2025.

Following submission to the Department of Health, the draft plan will be presented back to Council with any adjustments highlighted for endorsement prior to public exhibition. Following the public exhibition period, submissions and further amendments will be reviewed by officers and recommendations presented for consideration by Council in the final Council Plan 2025-2029. The final plan is scheduled to be presented to Council for adoption prior to the required timeframe of October 2025.

### 7.13 COUNCILLOR INTERNAL RESOLUTION PROCEDURE

**Author:** Lynnere Gray, Director Corporate Services

**Authoriser:** Shane Walden, Chief Executive Officer

**Attachments:**

1. Councillor Internal Resolution Procedure (under separate cover)
2. Councillor Code of Conduct 2021 (under separate cover)
3. Councillor Dispute Resolution Policy 2021 (under separate cover)

#### RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Adopt the Councillor Internal Resolution Procedure as required by the *Local Government Act 2020* and in compliance with the requirements of Schedule 1A of the *Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020*;
  2. Revoke the Councillor Code of Conduct 2021; and
  3. Revoke the Councillor Dispute Resolution Policy 2021.
- 

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In October 2024 the *Local Government Act 2020* was amended to include a new Model Councillor Code of Conduct which became law for all Victorian councils on 26 October 2024. The *Local Government Act 2020* was also changed to require all councils to implement an Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure to provide an additional pathway for resolving conflicts between Councillors. The Internal Resolution Procedure must comply with the requirements of Schedule 1A of the *Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020* and must be adopted by 1 July 2025.

Previously, Councils were required to adopt their own Councillor Code of Conduct. With the Model Councillor Code of Conduct in place and, provided the Councillor Internal Resolution Procedure is adopted, the Councillor Code of Conduct 2021 and the Councillor Dispute Resolution Policy 2021 are redundant and should be revoked.

#### BACKGROUND

When first introduced in 2020, the *Local Government Act 2020* required all Victorian councils to develop their own Councillor Code of Conduct. In October 2024 the *Local Government Act 2020* was amended to include a new Model Councillor Code of Conduct, that is, a uniform code of conduct across the state. Internal resolution procedures were not included in the new Model Councillor Code of Conduct. However, the legislation was amended to require councils to each develop their own internal resolution procedures.

The Internal Resolution Procedure is designed to assist with disputes between Councillors and alleged breaches of the Model Councillor Code of Conduct. Once adopted, the Internal Resolution Procedure, along with the Model Councillor Code of Conduct, renders the existing Councillor Code of Conduct and the Councillor Dispute Resolution Policy 2021 redundant.

#### DISCUSSION

Maddocks Lawyers drafted an internal resolution procedure for the sector given every Victorian council had to comply with these new legislative requirements. The proposed policy is the procedure drafted by Maddocks Lawyers and, as to be expected, complies with the relevant legislative requirements. Elements such as providing for a process where the Mayor conducts the conciliation (when not a party to the dispute) are a specific requirement of the legislation (*Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020, Schedule 1A*).

The Internal Resolution Procedure provides both parties to a dispute with support and encouragement to resolve the dispute in a manner that enables the Councillors to move forward and maintain effective working relationships. The Internal Resolution Procedure is designed to

minimise cost and disruption of disputes to Council and individual Councillors and, where possible, avoid disputes escalating and becoming the subject of an internal arbitration.

The Councillor Dispute Resolution Policy 2021 is a direct representation of the formal dispute resolution procedures outlined in the Act and therefore is no longer required.

## REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS

*Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)*

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

## GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

This Councillor Internal Resolution Procedure provides good governance in meeting the needs of the Act, Regulation and Code of Conduct identified in the section below.

## POLICY/RELEVANT LAW

*Local Government Act 2020*

*Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020*

Model Councillor Code of Conduct

## PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

The purpose of this report is to inform the community regarding this policy and legal requirements.

**COMMUNICATION**

The adopted policy will be made available on Council's website once approved.

**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 adopt the report as presented.

This option is recommended by officers as it ensures compliance with legislated requirements.

Option 2 – That Council request further information or amendments to the draft policy before adopting the report.

This option is not recommended by officers as the report provides the draft procedure and associated policy revocations as have been adopted and/or are upcoming for adoption across the sector.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

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

**CONCLUSION**

The changes to the *Local Government Act 2020* and *Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020* require changes to policy.

## 7.14 QUARTER 2 FINANCE REPORT

**File Number:****Author:** Fiona Rae, Manager Finance**Authoriser:** Lynnere Gray, Director Corporate Services**Attachments:**

1. Quarter 2 Financial Dashboard (under separate cover)
2. Quarter 2 Finance Reports (under separate cover)
3. Quarter 2 Capital Report (under separate cover)

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the Quarter 2 Finance Report for the six month period from 1 October until 31 December 2024.

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Quarter 2 Finance Report outlines the financial results for the period ending 31 December 2024. It compares the Council's adopted budget and forecast which includes budget carry forwards from the 2023-24 financial year and additional funding received to complete projects.

This report includes a summary of Council's financial performance and position for the 2024-25 year up to 31 December 2024 and an update on capital projects as of 31 December 2024. The financial statements also include a high-level full-year forecast.

### BACKGROUND

This report provides transparency for Council regarding the financial management of Council's operations. The *Local Government Act 2020* requires a statement comparing the budgeted revenue and expenditure for the financial year, with the actual revenue and expenditure to be presented to Council at least every three months.

The attached budget report has been prepared on an operating basis. It includes a comparison of actual results for the period to 31 December 2024 compared to the annual budget adopted by Council for the following financial statements:

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

### DISCUSSION

The financial report and attachments provide a comprehensive overview of Council's financial performance and current financial state for the second quarter of the 2024-25 financial year up to 31 December 2024. They also provide an update on the status and progress of capital projects.

The Quarter 2 Finance Report was presented to the Audit and Risk Committee at the meeting held on 11 February 2025.

#### Operating Result

The operating result for the period is reporting a surplus of \$19.8m compared to a budget surplus of \$17.4m and a forecast surplus of \$20.8m. This \$940k unfavourable variance against the forecast is primarily due to:

- Rates and charges – Supplementary income is lower than budget noting the majority of the budget for this is weighted to the first half of the year, with only 25% weighted in the second half of the year. Two supplementary batch processes are scheduled with the valuer for



remainder of this year. Commencing this year there is a change to the land use codes for Windfarms used to calculate the Fire Service Property Levy.

- Timing of recognition of grant income
  - Operating grants – Annual forecast includes grants budgeted in 2023-24 that are expected to be received this year.
  - Capital grants – \$1.5m lower than forecast, noting the forecast includes grants budgeted in 2023-24 yet to be recognised. Actual includes funding received earlier than budgeted for Bridge Replacement Program, Linton Oval Reconstruction and unbudgeted income for Woody Yaloak Recreation Reserve.
- Other income – \$230k lower than forecast with public open space contributions, and user fees and charges tracking lower than forecast.
- Net Gain/(Loss) on Disposals – positive variance of \$187k (higher than forecast) with two Lomandra Drive lots sold and settled.
- Materials and services – positive variance of \$956k (lower than forecast), noting several projects have rolled forward and are commencing or yet to commence, with spending behind the YTD forecast, which is partly offset by flood related costs of the Linton-Piggoreet Road Bridge Replacement \$654k and road repairs.
- Employee costs – positive variance of \$143k (lower than forecast) primarily due to staff vacancies.

### Adjusted Underlying Result

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

At 31 December 2024 the 'Adjusted Underlying Result' is generating a surplus of \$16.0m, compared to a forecast surplus of \$16.3m (as shown on Row 2 of Table 1). This unfavourable variance of \$219k is primarily due to variances in the operating result as outlined above (lower rates and charges income, lower grant income, lower other income, lower materials and services costs, and lower employee costs compared to forecast).

### Financial Snapshot

	2024-25 Annual Budget \$'000	2024-25 Annual Forecast \$'000	YTD Forecast December 2024 \$'000	YTD Actual December 2024 \$'000
Operating Result	7,313	16,823	20,786	19,846
Adjusted Underlying Result	85	(1,932)	16,277	16,058
Capital Expenditure	13,374	31,360	16,233	10,276
Cash Balance	8,096	5,056	n/a	3,966
Total Borrowings	6,721	6,721	n/a	7,501

**Table 1 – Financial Snapshot**

## Key Issues / Risks

The key issues and risks to note at the end of the second quarter of the 2024-25 financial year up until 31 December 2024 are:

- Rates and charges are recognised as income when the annual rates notice is issued in July. Payments by ratepayers of annual rates are reported in the statement of cash flows.
- Two lots from the Lomandra Drive development are included in the 2024-25 budgeted income. Proceeds from the sale of two lots were received during the first two quarters, with two more lots in progress.
- The timing of grant recognition directly impacts the operating result for this reporting period. Requirements outlined in the grant agreement determine when grants are recognised. It should also be noted that several grants are treated as 'grants received in advance' and are recognised as a liability in the balance sheet (refer to the 'Grant Income Received In Advance report' in the Quarterly Finance Report attachment). The grant is recognised as income in the income statement when the grant agreement requirements are met.
- Projects carried forward from the 2023-24 year are included in the forecast, noting several projects are behind schedule.
- The timing of payments by ratepayers of annual rates has impacted the cash balance as the majority of payments are made in February when payment in full is due. Other payment options are available and are promoted.
- A number of capital projects are funded by government grants that are yet to be received. The timing of receipt of grants has a direct impact on the cash balance.
- The total borrowings line is comparing the December quarter to the annual forecast. At 31 December 2024 total borrowings are higher than the annual forecast due to scheduled principal repayments that will reduce borrowings by June 2025.

## Operating Expenditure

Key points to note on expenditure incurred year to date:

- Condition assessments have been completed for road assets which is important information to assist with road maintenance programs and a key input into the asset valuation process that will be completed in the second half of the year.
- Bridge maintenance currently under budget however condition assessment identified a program of required maintenance works.
- Rokewood landfill rehabilitation project was completed.
- Rokewood Community Hub & Pavillion Upgrade project in progress with \$1.7m of costs.
- Unbudgeted flood recovery projects with \$654k expenditure on Linton-Piggoreet Road Bridge Replacement and \$143k on road repairs to date, with reimbursement of the majority of expenditure anticipated however may not be received this financial year.
- Gravel and sealed roads maintenance variances to budget offset each other, noting the use of contractors to complete the grading program due to staff vacancies and external hire of rollers.
- Drainage maintenance currently under budget, noting a dedicated team have been focusing on the north zone drainage maintenance and will now move to the south zone.
- Roadside slashing – program on track and contractor engaged for seasonal roadside mowing.
- Building control – surveyor appointed.

Operating forecast points to note include expenditure yet to come:

- Asset revaluations will be completed for land, buildings, road and bridge assets which are all due for revaluation this year. Condition assessments are yet to be completed for building assets.
- A significant amount of drainage maintenance throughout the Shire is forecast to complete in the second half of the year.
- Rokewood Community Hub and Pavillion Upgrade project remaining works (> 50% remaining at \$2m).
- Rokewood landfill ongoing aftercare maintenance and monitoring plan needs to be established for the site.
- Establishment of a Developer Contributions Plan.
- Bannockburn Growth Plan majority of works budgeted yet to complete.
- Implementation of Moorabool River Reserve master plan actions.
- Majority of tree maintenance works, noting seasonal planting and works will increase during the next quarter.
- Smart Shires Network works.
- Majority of Sports Oval playing surface maintenance works.

## Capital Projects

### **Actual versus Budget**

The total expenditure in the Statement of Capital Works is \$10.3m, which is \$5.9m below the forecast of \$16.2m.

The forecast includes projects totalling \$16.0m rolled forward into 2024-25 for multi-year projects and projects that were delayed due to weather, the requirement to time works outside of sports seasons, and grant funding received later than budgeted.

### **Delivery of Projects**

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

<b>Project</b>
Sebastopol-Smythesdale & Tom Jones intersection (LRCI Phase 4)
Stage 1 of Road Reseal Program
Linton-Piggoreet Bridge Replacement
Gravel Resheeting in North Zone
Meredith-Shelford Stage 5 – Road to Recovery
Pedestrian crossing improvements in Rokewood
Woody Yaloak Sports Lighting project
Inverleigh Active Youth Space
Jetpatcher Truck delivered
Case Bobcat Skid Steer delivered

**Table 2 – Completed Projects**

The following projects were carried over from 2023-24 into the 2024-25 year with status updates and/or roll-forward details provided below:

- \$1.5m Teesdale Female Friendly Changerooms – No funding agreement was provided in 2023-24. Planning undertaken including schematic designs, costings and community consultation. Awaiting feedback from federal government funding application.
- \$1.483m Bannockburn Vic Park Netball Pavilion – The facility opened for use on 3 September 2024. Female friendly changerroom upgrade works progressing well with completion scheduled for February 2025.
- \$1.056m Local Roads Improvements – Dereel-Rokewood Junction Road Widening construction in progress with final seal in January 2025. The Haddon School Road/Racecourse Road intersection tender closed at end of December 2024 with works to commence in February 2025.
- \$1.067m Local Roads Resealing – All works were allocated to Roads to Recovery funding in 2023-24, with new roads added to the 2024-25 program of works. Officers have prepared a five-year program based on recent condition assessment data. Bulk of works commenced and will be completed in March/April 2025.
- \$943k Bannockburn Skate Park Upgrade – all works completed in December 2024.
- \$756k Common Road Inverleigh Drainage Works – Detailed design, Geotech and survey completed, tender scheduled to issue in February 2025.
- \$739k Bridge Replacement Program – Funding application submitted in 2023-24, with detailed design complete and contract awarded.
- \$711k Linton Oval Reconstruction – Completed works include demolition of existing oval infrastructure, installation of irrigation pipe networks and drainage, laying sand and synthetic pads and installation of coaches boxes, installation of solid turf and rectification of perimeter fence. Handover for public use planned for early February with an opening event scheduled for 14 March 2025.
- \$703k Landfill Rehabilitation Works – Rokewood landfill capping completed. Project now at aftercare stage which includes environmental monitoring.
- \$650k Northern Streetscape Implementation – Second round of three rounds of community consultation completed in December. Design development plans will be updated based on community feedback prior to final round of community consultation scheduled for February/March 2025.
- \$650k Bannockburn Family Services Centre Extension – The tender was awarded in September 2024. Prior to the Christmas period works were undertaken to ensure kinder and child care facilities could remain operational with minimal disruption throughout the construction period which included sourcing a temporary kitchen, establishment of a temporary car park and exit/entrance gates. Construction scheduled to complete in May.
- \$619k Teesdale Oval Upgrade – Construction works are complete which included sub-surface drainage, irrigation, boundary fencing, goal post, behind-goal safety netting, coaches boxes, bollards and turf reinstatement, with additional works completed to remediate significant pre-existing ground undulations around the centre cricket wicket.
- \$586k Inverleigh Active Youth Space – Construction of installation of acrylic surfacing of basketball courts completed in November with formal opening in December 2024.
- \$494k Emergency Drainage Works – Geotech, survey and detailed design complete with tender proposed for February.
- \$369k Woody Yaloak (Smythesdale) Lighting – Works completed in November for the installation of LED sports lighting to the AFL oval and netball/tennis courts.
- \$363k Bridge Renewal Program – allocated to Federation bridge with structural designer appointed to analyse potential repairs with works scheduled to complete by June 2025.
- \$337k Jetpatcher Truck – Ordered in 2023-24 and delivered in October 2024.

- \$330k Local Roads Resheeting – A component of the works is allocated to 'Roads to Recovery' funding with a five-year program based on recent condition assessment data.
- \$301k Sebastopol Smythesdale Road - Under construction with 50% completed in 2023-24.

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

As part of continuous improvement and reporting concerning procurement activities, contracts awarded between the values of \$200,000 and \$450,000 (ex-gst) are presented to the operational Contracts, Tenders and Grants Committee to review and recommend for approval to the CEO. There were no contracts approved in this category during the quarter.

Procurement activities were limited during the quarter due to the caretaker period prior to the Council election held in October 2024 which limits the types of decisions Council can make during the election period.

### Contracts approved via the Councillor Contracts Committee

The Councillor Contracts Committee authorises all contracts with expenditures greater than the Chief Executive Officer's financial delegation and within the approved budget allocation of the total project.

<b>Contracts Awarded above \$450,000</b>			
<b>Project</b>	<b>Approved By</b>	<b>Awarded To</b>	<b>Contract Value \$</b>
Panel of Suppliers – Minor Civil Works & Plant Hire	Councillor Contracts Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. C.J.L. Civil Pty Ltd</li> <li>2. Central Vic Civil Pty Ltd</li> <li>3. Drapers Civil Contracting</li> <li>4. Hiway Aus Pty Ltd</li> <li>5. Porter Plant Excavations Pty Ltd</li> <li>6. Proquip Rental &amp; Sales</li> <li>7. QEST Infrastructure Group Pty Ltd</li> <li>8. Total Drain Cleaning Services Pty Ltd</li> <li>9. Tutt Bryant Hire</li> </ol>	Schedule of Rates
Panel of Suppliers – Pest Animal & Pest Plant Control	Councillor Contracts Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Guppy Enterprises Pty Ltd trading as Aus Eco Solutions</li> <li>2. Ballarat Weed Control</li> <li>3. Barwon Asset Solutions</li> <li>4. Yurunga Trading Pty Ltd trading as EME Contracting</li> <li>5. Goldfields Weed Management Pty Ltd</li> <li>6. Network Environment Control Pty Ltd</li> <li>7. Storm Spatial</li> <li>8. Maxi-Tankers Pty Ltd</li> </ol>	Schedule of Rates
Supply & Delivery of Bulk	Councillor	Maxi-Tankers Pty Ltd	Schedule of

Fuel	Contracts Committee		Rates
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*Table 3 – Contracts Awarded via the Councillor Contracts Committee.*

**Variations approved via the Councillor Contracts Committee**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Awarded To</b>	<b>Original Contract Value (ex-GST) \$</b>	<b>Revised Contract Value (ex-GST) \$</b>
AFL Changerooms – Victoria Park, Bannockburn	Bowden Corporation Pty Ltd	417,947	595,591
Dereel-Rokewood Junction Road Widening	Ontrack Civil Earthworks Pty Ltd	840,816	1,053,049

*Table 4 – Variations Awarded via the Councillor Contracts Committee.***Variations approved under CEO delegation**

In addition, if there have been any contract variations to contracts valued over \$200,000 but remain within the overall CEO delegation they are reported below to provide transparency. There were no variations approved by the CEO during the quarter.

**REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS**

*Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)*

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

**GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES**

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

**POLICY/RELEVANT LAW**

The following Policy or Law is applicable to the subject of this report:

*Local Government Act 2020*

*Local Government Amendment (Fair Go Rates) Act 2015*

*Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*

Financial Plan

Annual Budget

## **ENVIRONMENTAL/SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

Environmentally sustainable design and construction is included for all projects.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

A formal consultation process was not required.

## **STRATEGIES/PLANS**

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

## **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

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

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

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

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

## **COMMUNICATION**

### **THE QUARTER 2 REPORT WAS PRESENTED TO THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE AT THE MEETING HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 2025.HUMAN RIGHTS CHARTER**

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

## **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

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

## **CONCLUSION**

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



**7.15 COUNCIL COMMITTEE DELEGATIONS****Author:** Shane Walden, Chief Executive Officer**Authoriser:** Shane Walden, Chief Executive Officer**Attachments:** Nil**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

- Adopts the Appointment of Councillors to various internal and external organisations and committees for the 2024-2025 period, as follows

Committee/Board or Membership Representative Position	Delegate(s)	Proxy
Audit and Risk Committee	Mayor Cr Hayden Cr Sharkey	Not Applicable
Councillor Contracts Committee (Chair)	Cr Kirby	Not Applicable
Councillor Contracts Committee (Delegates)	Cr Robbins Cr Gamble	Not Applicable
Golden Plains Disability Advisory Committee	Cr Hayden	Cr Gamble
CEO Employment & Remuneration Committee	All	Not Applicable
Geelong Regional Library Corporation	Cr Sharkey	Cr Robbins
G21 – Board of Directors	Mayor Cr Hayden	Not Applicable
Greater Ballarat Alliance of Councils	Mayor Cr Hayden	Cr Robbins
Peri Urban Group of Councils	Mayor Cr Hayden	Cr Sharkey
Municipal Association of Victoria	Cr Phelan	Cr Robbins
Tourism Greater Geelong and Bellarine Board	Cr Cunningham	Cr Gamble
Rural Councils Australia	Cr Kirby	Cr Robbins
Geelong Heritage Centre Collection Advisory Committee	Cr Cunningham	Cr Kirby
G21 – Health and Wellbeing Pillar	Mayor Cr Hayden	Cr Cunningham
G21 – Culture and Economic Development Pillar	Cr Robbins	Cr Gamble
G21 – Sustainability Pillar	Cr Gamble	Cr Robbins
G21 – Planning and Transport Pillar	Cr Cunningham	Cr Gamble

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Councillor Gamble was successfully returned as a Councillor following Councillor Glenn's resignation. This change necessitates updating the Council Committee Delegations.

Three months into the term, the intention is not to implement major changes; rather, it is to appoint Councillor Gamble to committees.

## BACKGROUND

Councillor Glenn provided his resignation from Council on 8 December 2024. Councillor Gamble was successful in becoming a Councillor through a countback process on 13 January 2025.

Councillor Glenn's resignation resulted in several committee and proxy positions becoming vacant. As these positions were delegated via a Council resolution, a Council resolution is required to update the delegations. There is also a change with the Mayor Cr Hayden taking on the delegated position on the Golden Plains Disability Advisory Committee. These last two changes has resulted in minor changes to proxies as per the resolution.

## DISCUSSION

As the Council is already three months into its first year, the intent is not to make substantial changes to delegated committee representation. The positions recommended for delegation to Councillor Gamble are predominantly those previously held by Councillor Glenn, with the addition of the G21 Sustainability Pillar delegate.

There were also two changes relating to the G21 Sustainability Pillar and Golden Plains Disability Advisory Committee, with Councillor Gamble and Mayor Hayden being nominated for these delegations.

## REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS

*Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)*

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

(Gender Impact Assessment required by s.9 of Gender Equality Act 2020)	
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**GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES**

The recommendation provides a good governance outcome, balancing respect for Councillors already delegated positions and acknowledging a minor realignment with delegations for the G21 Sustainability Pillar and Golden Plains Disability Advisory Committee.

**POLICY/RELEVANT LAW**

The recommendations in this report comply with the Local Government Act and Council's policies.

**ENVIRONMENTAL/SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no environmental/sustainability implications resulting from this report.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

There are no community engagement implications resulting from this report.

**PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY**

The presentation of this report to a Scheduled Council Meeting provides public transparency on Council's decision making.

**STRATEGIES/PLANS**

There are no strategy or plan implications resulting from this report.

**FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

There are no financial management implications resulting from this report.

**SERVICE PERFORMANCE**

There are no service performance implications resulting from this report.

**RISK ASSESSMENT**

There are no identified risk implications associated with this report.

**COMMUNICATION**

The updates to the council delegations will be publicised via the Scheduled Council Meeting minute presented on the Council website.

**HUMAN RIGHTS CHARTER**

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 the officer recommendation.

Officers recommend this option as this ensures that the Council is represented appropriately on relevant committees.

Option 2 – Not adopting the officer recommendation.

Officers do not recommend this option as it will leave Council without representation on some committees.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

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

**CONCLUSION**

The officer recommendation is provided due to an extraordinary vacancy caused by Councillor Glenn's resignation and Councillor Gamble's becoming a Councillor on countback.

## 7.16 ESSENTIAL SERVICES VOLUNTEER FUND

**Author:** Shane Walden, Chief Executive Officer

**Authoriser:** Shane Walden, Chief Executive Officer

**Attachments:** 1. **Attachment 1 – Average ESVF Fee per GPSC Sector (under separate cover)**

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council write to the Treasurer (the Hon. Jaclyn Symes MP) and Victorian Government Local Members (the Hon. Michaela Settle MP (Eureka) and the Hon. Christine Couzens MP (Geelong) regarding:

1. concerns about the impact of the proposed Essential Services Volunteer Fund on the Golden Plains Shire community; and
2. seek that, if implemented, the Essential Services Volunteer Fund be managed directly by the Victorian Government, not via Local Government.

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On Friday, 13 December 2024, the Victorian Government announced that the Fire Services Property Levy (FSPL) will be replaced with the new Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) from 1 July 2025. The ESVF implementation will be a significant increase over the existing levy (FSPL), particularly in the primary production (farming) areas. On a sector-by-sector basis, the increase could be as high as 1.85 times the existing levy; this could be higher for individual properties.

All ratepayers will incur this tax, and in Golden Plains Shire, this could mean up to an additional \$2 million in property-based tax revenue due to the levy. This is a significant burden for ratepayers on top of their existing rates and the Vacant Residential Land Tax.

### BACKGROUND

The current Fire Services Property Levy (FSPL) is an annual levy councils collect on behalf of the Victorian Government via rates notices. The levy ensures that Victorian property owners contribute annually to the State's fire services. Revenue raised by the FSPL funds 87.5 per cent of Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) and 77.5 per cent of the Country Fire Authority's (CFA) annual budget.

The FSPL was instituted in 2013 following a recommendation of the Bushfire Royal Commission.

Last year there were significant increases in the FSPL, especially for primary producers.

Specific details on the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) are still being worked through; however, the Department of Treasury and Finance website ([Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund | dtf.vic.gov.au](https://www.dtf.vic.gov.au/emergency-services-and-volunteers-fund)) notes:

*From 1 July 2025, the Fire Services Property Levy (FSPL) will be replaced by the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF).*

*It will help support a broader range of emergency services and for the first time include VICSES, Triple Zero Victoria, the State Control Centre, Forest Fire Management Victoria and Emergency Recovery Victoria, as well as the Country Fire Authority (CFA) and Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV).*

*This will bring Victoria's funding arrangements for emergency services into line with other states.*

It further notes:

- From 1 July 2025, active volunteers and life members won't have to pay the ESVF on their primary place of residence (such as a house or farm).

- Pensioners, veterans and single farm enterprises will continue to receive concessions.
- ESVF will still be collected through local councils.
- Every dollar raised will go towards vital life-saving equipment, vehicles, staff, training for volunteers, community education, and recovery support for when Victorians need it most.

The changes with the ESVF will occur over two years as follows:

From 1 July 2025:

- The vacant land category will be abolished, with vacant land allocated to its corresponding land use classification (e.g. vacant industrial land will be reclassified as industrial land).
- Variable rates will increase to raise additional revenue to fund the services being covered by the ESVF (see Table 1).

From 1 July 2026:

- A new category for residential Principal Place of Residence (PPR) will be created.
- Non-PPR residential properties will incur the non-residential fixed charge.

As with the existing FSPL, the ESVF will be collected by councils and appear on rates notices. The Department of Treasury and Finance will work with councils to implement these changes.

The existing \$50 concession for pensioners and veterans and the concession for single farm enterprises will continue to apply.

The website also provides a comparison table as below:

**Table 1: Comparison of 2024-25 FSPL and 2025-26 ESVF variable rates (cents per \$1,000 CIV)**

Sector	Current rates (2024-25)			Proposed rates (2025-26)		
	Variable rate (cents per \$1,000 CIV)	Fixed charge (\$)	Median liability (\$)	Variable rate (cents per \$1,000 CIV)	Fixed charge (\$)	Median liability (\$)
Residential PPR	8.7	132	191	17.3	136	254
Residential non-PPR	8.7	132	191	17.3	136	254
Commercial	66.4	267	748	133	276	1,240
Industrial	81.1	267	859	133	276	1,247
Primary Production	28.7	267	621	83	276	1,299
Public Benefit	5.7	267	320	5.7	276	329
Vacant	29.0	267	503	N/A	N/A	N/A

The ESVF will expand upon the services funded by the existing FSPL, to include funding for more of Victoria's emergency and disaster response services.

The ESVF will fund up to 87.5 per cent of FRV's budget, and up to 95 per cent of CFA's budget.

In addition, the ESVF will fund up to 95 per cent of the following budgets:

- Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES)
- Triple Zero Victoria
- State Control Centre
- Emergency Recovery Victoria
- Emergency Management Victoria
- Emergency Alert Program (automatic emergency warning SMSs)
- Emergency Management Operational Communication Program
- Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) and its support functions within the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

These entities complement the activities of fire services agencies, including response to flood, storm, and other emergencies.

## **DISCUSSION**

The ESVF significantly increases in cost over the existing levy (FSPL), particularly in the primary production (farming) areas. Primary producer's costs may be as high as 1.85 times the existing levy; this could be higher for individual properties.

All ratepayers will incur this tax, and it is expected that approximately \$2m in total of additional property-based tax revenue will be raised for the Victorian Government in the Golden Plains Shire.

For the farming community, the ESVF is an extreme increase in cost, noting that many farmers provide their own firefighting equipment on their farms. Farmers in the Golden Plains Shire are also experiencing the impacts of drought, which is increasing operational costs and decreasing income. The magnitude of this impact needs to be understood as we need our farming community to thrive and provide food to the local area, metropolitan Melbourne and across the state. Any additional on-farm costs will extend to the consumer at point of sale.

For a medium CIV farming property, the ESVF equates to approximately \$2,300; for a large CVI farming property, the ESVF is approximately \$ 59,200. Attachment 1 is a table providing granular details for each sector.

For other sectors, there are marginal increases; however, noting the cost of living challenges passing on any decrease in Farm ESVF cost to the community will further challenge household budgets.

There are complexities for the administration of Golden Plains, too. As a relatively small council (noting we are designated Large Rural), there is an increased administrative burden; this includes:

- Changes to the rating IT system to incorporate the changes in and differentiate primary residences
- Management of customer enquiries, complaints and payment options
- Management of potential increase in bad debt

Currently, there is no transparency on how the Victorian Government will compensate for this additional work, noting that Golden Plain's ratepayers should not bear these additional administrative costs.

Several Council representative bodies and individual Council's have highlighted the challenges with the planned introduction of the ESVF. Our mayor has already cosigned a letter to the treasurer with other Greater Ballarat Alliance of Council members.

In dot point form the impacts of the ESVF include:

- Increased Financial and Administrative Burden on Council
- Increased impacts on our rural community already impacted by drought conditions and high operational costs without noticeable increases in revenue.
- There is a lack of transparency on how the funds will be distributed to emergency services, and the Victorian Government must clearly explain that this is a Victorian Government charge, not a Council one.

There is also a lack of transparency regarding the efficiency of managing this process as a de-centralised process through Councils rather than a centralised one. For example, each of the 79 councils must update their financial systems instead of having the Victorian Government do it once centrally. The three inputs into determining the ESVF are also collected by the Victorian Government and passed on to Local Governments – this includes the Capital Improved Value per Property through the Victorian Valuer General, Primary Place of Residence data already noted through the State Revenue Office and who the active volunteers are in the State-run emergency services.

## REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS

*Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)*

Implications	Applicable to this Report
<b>Governance Principles</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Policy/Relevant Law</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	No
<b>Environmental/Sustainability Implications</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	No
<b>Community Engagement</b> (Consideration of Community Engagement Principles under s.56 LGA 2020)	No
<b>Public Transparency</b> (Consideration of Public Transparency Principles under s.58 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Strategies and Plans</b> (Consideration of Strategic Planning Principles under s.89 of LGA 2020)	No



<b>Financial Management</b> (Consideration of Financial Management Principles under s.101 of LGA 2020)	Yes
<b>Service Performance</b> (Consideration of Service Performance Principles under s.106 of LGA 2020)	No
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	Yes
<b>Communication</b>	Yes
<b>Human Rights Charter</b>	No
<b>Gender Equality</b> (Gender Impact Assessment required by s.9 of Gender Equality Act 2020)	No

## GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

This report aims to ensure:

- Priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community;
- Collaboration with other Councils and Governments and statutory bodies is to be sought;
- The ongoing financial viability is to be ensured;
- Regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision making.

## PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

This report provides public transparency on the potential impacts of the ESVF on our community especially our farming communities.

## FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The rollout of the ESVF has organisational financial implications. Golden Plains is still waiting on further advice regarding what level of financial support will be provided to implement and administer the ESVF.

## RISK ASSESSMENT

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

- Potential for an increase in bad debtors and needed to manage recovery of funds, resulting in higher expenditure to recover funds
- Potential for increase in complaints or further information, resulting in additional staffing
- Requirement to update rating systems to accurately run the new fees and charges will require little lead time for implementation.

## COMMUNICATION

The Victorian Government's current advice is that they will create communication collateral for the Council to distribute. This material is not yet available. The intent is that the Council will be the first point of contact for concerned ratepayers regarding the ESVF.

## OPTIONS

### Option 1 – Support the Officer Recommendation

Officers recommend this option because it advocates on behalf of our community and ensures that the Victorian government is informed about the local impacts of implementing the ESVF.

**Option 2 – Not Support the Officer Recommendation**

Officers do not recommend this option as local government has a role in being the voice of our community. Whilst the community may not be well-informed about the changes currently, those who have heard about the proposed implantation of the ESVF have voiced their concern.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

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

**CONCLUSION**

The ESVF will impact the Golden Plains primary producers significantly on top of recent increases in the Fire Services Property Levy. With effects of the current drought conditions being experienced the increase included in the introduction of the ESVF will provide yet another challenge to profitability of farms.

For the Golden Plains Shire Council administration, the changes add another layer of complexity and rate of effort in administrating the collection of funds on behalf of the Victorian Government.

The impact on community sectors needs to be further understood before implementation. Equally, the efficiency of a centralised versus decentralised administration for the fee collection need further analysis.

## 8 NOTICES OF MOTION

### 8.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - INDEPENDENT ROADS SERVICE REVIEW AND REPORT

**File Number:** 88

**Attachments:** 1. **Notice of Motion - Independent Roads Service Review and Report (under separate cover)**

I, Councillor Owen Sharkey, give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on 25 February 2025, I intend to move the following motion:-

#### **MOTION**

That Council:

1. receive an Initial Report on any independent monitoring of the council-managed road and drainage network at the April Scheduled Council Meeting. The Initial Report shall include an assessment of the potential benefits and drawbacks of conducting a further review and costing for an Independent Roads Service Review and Report;
2. notes the scope of the potential Independent Roads Service Review and Report should consider key aspects such as the adopted Road Management Plan intervention levels, compliance to intervention levels, plant and equipment, staffing levels and maintenance schedules and practices; and
3. will consider the findings and costings for proceeding with the Independent Roads Service Review and Report as part of the budget deliberations for the Financial Year 2025-26.

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#### **RATIONALE**

The Initial Report will provide an insight into the compliance to the Road Management Plan and any issues identified. An Independent Roads Service Review and Report may provide an objective analysis of the efficiency and effectiveness of the management of council-managed roads within the shire.

By first assessing this approach's feasibility and cost implications, the Council can make an informed decision on whether to proceed with an Independent Roads Service Review and Report in alignment with budget priorities and community needs.

As stated in the motion, the Independent Roads Service Review and Report will assess the current service levels in the adopted Road Management Plan, council's performance in meeting this service level, and ensure that resourcing and practices are adequate to meet the Plan.

It should also be noted that the Road Management Plan will be reviewed this year as part of the requirements in the first year of a Council term – the Independent Roads Service Review and Report may complement this review – noting the work would run concurrently and the Independent Roads Service Review and Report may not be complete until after the Road Management Plan needs to be presented for consideration to Council.

I commend this Notice of Motion to Council.

**9 PETITIONS**

Nil

**10 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS FOR DECISION**

Nil