

# AGENDA

Greater Shepparton City Council

## COUNCIL MEETING

**6:00PM, Thursday 27 October 2022**

Function Room, Riverlinks Eastbank

### COUNCILLORS

Cr Shane Sali  
Cr Anthony Brophy  
Cr Seema Abdullah  
Cr Dinny Adem  
Cr Geoffrey Dobson  
Cr Greg James  
Cr Sam Spinks  
Cr Fern Summer

### VISION

**GREATER SHEPPARTON, GREATER FUTURE**

A thriving economy in the foodbowl of Victoria with excellent lifestyles, innovative agriculture a diverse community and abundant opportunities

# Values

Values reflect what we feel is important. Organisations may have core values that reflect what is important in the organisation. These values may be guiding principles of behaviour for all members in the organisation.

## **Respect first, always**

We are attentive, listen to others and consider all points of view in our decision making.

## **Take ownership**

We take pride in honouring our promises and exceeding expectations, and are transparent with and accountable for our actions.

## **Courageously lead**

We lead with integrity, and stand up and stand by what is in the best interests of the Greater Shepparton community.

## **Working together**

We work collaboratively to create higher quality outcomes that are more efficient, thoughtful, effective and responsive. We cannot accomplish all that we need to do without working together.

## **Continually innovate**

We are open to new ideas and creatively seek solutions that encourage us to do our best for our community.

## **Start the celebration**

As ambassadors for our people and place, we proudly celebrate the strengths and achievements of Council and the Greater Shepparton community.

**A G E N D A  
FOR THE  
COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON  
THURSDAY 27 OCTOBER 2022 AT 6:00PM**

**CHAIR  
MAYOR**

**INDEX**

- 1 WELCOME TO COUNTRY.....6**
- 2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT .....6**
- 3 PRIVACY NOTICE.....6**
- 4 GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES.....6**
- 5 APOLOGIES.....7**
- 6 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST.....7**
- 7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS.....7**
- 8 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME .....7**
- 9 DEPUTATIONS AND PETITIONS.....7**
- 10 COMMUNITY DIRECTORATE .....8**
  - 10.1 Mooroopna Community Plan 2022-2026.....8
  - 10.2 Council's Role in Marking 26 January in 2023 and Beyond .....15
  - 10.3 Seniors Festival Grants 2022 Round 2 .....20
- 11 CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE .....27**
  - 11.1 2023 Council Meeting Schedule.....27
  - 11.2 2022/2023 Christmas Closure.....30
  - 11.3 Annual Report 2021-2022 .....33
  - 11.4 Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy.....36
  - 11.5 Governance Rules 2022.....38
  - 11.6 Quarter 1 Forecast Review 2022/2023 .....42
  - 11.7 Contracts Awarded Under Delegation - September .....47
  - 11.8 ICT Desktop Hardware Renewal.....50
  - 11.9 September 2022 Monthly Financial Report .....56
  - 11.10 Public Interest Disclosure Policy .....59
- 12 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE .....62**
  - 12.1 Adoption of the Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue Advisory Committee Terms of Reference and appointment of Community Representatives.....62
  - 12.2 Adoption of the Greater Shepparton Cultural Heritage Awards Guidelines 2022 .68

- 12.3 Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022-2025 .....73
- 12.4 Shepparton CBD Complimentary Parking Initiative 2022.....81
- 12.5 GV Link - Detailed Design .....93
- 13 INFRASTRUCTURE DIRECTORATE .....98**
- 13.1 Our Sporting Future Funding - Round One 2022/2023 .....98
- 14 CONFIDENTIAL MANAGEMENT REPORTS .....107**
- 14.1 Designation of Confidentiality of Information - Attachments.....107
- 15 COUNCILLOR REPORTS .....108**
- 15.1 Councillor Activities .....108
- 15.1.1 Councillor Activities - September 2022 .....108
- 15.1.2 Report on Murray Darling Conference 2022 .....110
- 15.2 Council Committee Reports .....113
- 15.3 Notice of Motion, Amendment or Rescission .....113
- 16 DOCUMENTS FOR SIGNING AND SEALING .....113**
- 17 URGENT BUSINESS NOT INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA .....113**
- 18 CLOSE OF MEETING .....113**

## Risk Level Matrix Legend

**Note: A number of reports in this agenda include a section on “risk management implications”. The following table shows the legend to the codes used in the reports.**

Likelihood	Consequences				
	Negligible (1)	Minor (2)	Moderate (3)	Major (4)	Extreme (5)
<b>Almost Certain (5)</b> Would be expected to occur in most circumstances (daily/weekly)	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	EXTREME	EXTREME
<b>Likely (4)</b> Could probably occur in most circumstances (i.e. Monthly)	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	HIGH	EXTREME
<b>Possible (3)</b> Reasonable probability that it could occur (i.e. over 12 months)	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	HIGH
<b>Unlikely (2)</b> It is not expected to occur (i.e. 2-5 years)	LOW	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
<b>Rare (1)</b> May occur only in exceptional circumstances (i.e. within 10 years)	LOW	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH

**Extreme** Intolerable – Immediate action is required to mitigate this risk to an acceptable level. Event/Project/Activity is not to proceed without authorisation

**High** Intolerable – Attention is needed to treat risk.

**Medium** Variable – May be willing to accept the risk in conjunction with monitoring and controls

**Low** Tolerable – Managed by routine procedures

## 1 Welcome to Country

To be presented by Cr James on behalf of the Yorta Yorta Elders Council and the 16 family groups.

## 2 Acknowledgement

We, Greater Shepparton City Council, acknowledge the Yorta Yorta Peoples of the land which now comprises Greater Shepparton, we pay our respect to their tribal elders, we celebrate their continuing culture and we acknowledge the memory of their ancestors.

## 3 Privacy Notice

This public meeting is being streamed live via our Facebook page and made available for public access on our website along with the official Minutes of this meeting.

All care is taken to maintain your privacy; however as a visitor in the public gallery, it is assumed that your consent is given in the event that your image is broadcast to the public. It is also assumed that your consent is given to the use and disclosure of any information that you share at the meeting (including personal or sensitive information) to any person who accesses those recordings or Minutes.

## 4 Governance Principles

Council considers that the recommendations contained in this Agenda gives effect to the overarching governance principles stated in Section 9(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020*. These principles are as follows:

1. Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law;
2. priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations;
3. the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted;
4. the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making;
5. innovation and continuous improvement is to be pursued;
6. collaboration with other Councils and Governments and statutory bodies is to be sought;
7. the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured;
8. regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision making;
9. the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

## 5 Apologies

Nil Received.

## 6 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

In accordance with section 130 (1)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020 Councillors are required to disclose any “conflict of interest” in respect of a matter to be considered at a Council Meeting.

**Disclosure must occur immediately before the matter is considered or discussed.**

## 7 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meetings

### RECOMMENDATION

**That the minutes of the 20 September 2022 Council Meeting and 4 October 2022 Additional Council Meeting as circulated, be confirmed.**

## 8 Public Question Time

Nil Received.

## 9 Deputations and Petitions

Nil Received.

## 10 Community Directorate

### 10.1 Mooroopna Community Plan 2022-2026

Author Team Leader Community Strengthening  
 Approved by Director Community  
 Purpose For Decision at a Council Meeting

#### Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

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

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

#### RECOMMENDATION

**That the Council note the Mooroopna Community Plan 2022-2026, as attached.**

#### Executive Summary

The Mooroopna Community Plan (the Plan) was first developed in 2010. Now in its third iteration, the Plan continues to play an important role in community driving priorities which are important to them.

Through community consultation, the Mooroopna Community Plan 2022-2026 has identified and prioritised almost 50 actions under 18 focus areas. The key stakeholders involved in achieving each of the Plan's actions include community, business, Council and other external agencies.

#### Report Detail

*'Our vision is for a community where people feel connected, the natural environment is celebrated, history is valued and opportunities for growth are embraced.'*

Since 2010, the Mooroopna Community Plan Steering Group (CPG) has planned, advocated, sought funds and delivered on community priorities identified in their Community Plan. Some of their achievements include:

- successful recipient of Council's Community Arts Grant to paint bollards at Stevens Crescent Reserve
- tourism town entry signage through Council's Economic Development Department
- new toilets and dining pod in Ferrari Park
- successful festive decoration expressions of interest and support to Mooroopna Men's Shed with successful Festive Decorations Grant application
- advocacy to Council for repairs to shared paths
- a lighting audit of McLennan Street near the Recreation Reserve entry up to Elsie Jones Drive



- advocating to Council’s Active Living team for additional Activities in the Park; particularly at Stevens Crescent Reserve
- advocacy to Council and external agencies to ensure community feedback is considered as part of the:
  - Mooroopna Train Station re-development
  - Mooroopna Secondary College site planning
  - Mooroopna Hospital site Master Plan
  - McLennan Street Master Plan
  - Mooroopna Recreation Reserve Master Plan
  - Council Plan and Community Vision.

At present, the CPG has 14 active members who meet monthly and a growing ‘Friends of the Plan’ distribution network of 90+ businesses, community groups and individuals.

Through community consultation, information gathering and identification of community groups, organisations and facilities the CPG has been supported by Council Officers to undertake a community engagement process to review and update their Community Plan.

Below is a summary of the engagement feedback which subsequently informed the development of the revised Community Plan:

- the highest proportion of respondents work in Mooroopna (40%); 33% live in Mooroopna
- most respondents ‘love’ the people and the small-town feel
- the biggest challenges identified were roads, footpaths and parking. Respondents also were concerned about the high school and hospital sites and would like to see additional economic investment in the town
- murals, artworks and lighting installations were seen as a key opportunity for the town along with acknowledging and celebrating history and culture.

**Attachment 4.1.1** provides a full copy of the engagement feedback.

Following the consultation, the CPG developed 50 actions for implementation over the next 5 years. These are listed in priority order under the following focus areas:

High	Mooroopna Railway Station
	Shared Paths
	Mooroopna High School Site
	Old Mooroopna Hospital Site
	Community Plan Promotion
Medium	Recreation Spaces
	Community Art Projects
	Aboriginal Art and History
	Environment
	Community Groups
	Youth Engagement
	Infrastructure

Low	Tourism
	Signage
Ongoing	Goulburn River Trails
	McLennan Street
	Economic Development
	Festive Decorations

In line with Council’s Community Planning Policy, the CPG have now developed a draft Mooroopna Community Plan 2022 – 2026 (**attachment 4.1.2**), which is reflective of the priorities of the wider community and are now seek Council’s endorsement at the next convenient Ordinary Council Meeting.

### Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

#### COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

We will prioritise leadership in the community to celebrate our cultures, people and places that makes Greater Shepparton a unique, vibrant, diverse and liveable region.

- 1.4 Communities have resources and abilities to self-advocate.
- 1.9 Provide a high profile collaborative advocacy role.

#### SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY and WELLBEING

We will support the mental and physical health and wellbeing of all in our community, ensuring universal access to information, services, housing, healthcare and learning opportunities.

- 2.5 Recognise First Nations history and advance reconciliation.
- 2.9 Community members are supported to achieve and sustain physical, emotional and creative wellbeing.

#### INFRASTRUCTURE and TECHNOLOGY

We will focus on the planning of our region’s requirements to enable delivery of technology and infrastructure to meet the current and future needs of the community.

- 4.9 Reliable, efficient, affordable and accessible transport.
- 4.11 Develop and improve Community and recreation facilities.

#### ENVIRONMENT and CLIMATE EMERGENCY

We will prioritise our environment and take urgent action to reduce emissions and waste in order to protect public health and create a region that mitigates and adapts to climate change.

- 5.1 Council endeavours to make the natural environment accessible to all, regardless of age and abilities.
- 5.2 Council will focus on emission reductions committing to a Zero Emissions 2030 Target.
- 5.4 Council commits to improving biodiversity and the natural environment within Greater Shepparton.
- 5.5 Council commits to working with our community to deliver climate safe future.
- 5.6 Reduce carbon emissions in our community.
- 5.7 Conserve and improve biodiversity and our natural environment, and protect and improve river health.
- 5.9 Drive climate change mitigation and adaptation.

### Risk Management

There are no risks associated with this strategic document that are considered to be medium to extreme.

## Policy Considerations

Community Planning Policy

*In establishing and operating a Community Plan Group, the community will:*

- *Develop a Community Plan, which is reflective of the priorities of the wider community, and will be endorsed by Council.*

*In supporting Community Plan Groups, Council will:*

- *Endorse, rather than adopt, Community Plans (and significant reviews) at an Ordinary Council Meeting to acknowledge that the community plans are 'owned' and driven by the community rather than Council.*

## Financial Implications

The actions identified within Community Plans are priorities of that particular community. Delivery of these actions is a combined responsibility of community, business, Council and other government bodies and, with inclusion alone, does not guarantee delivery.

Subject to budgetary processes, Council provides an annual budget towards the Community Plan Implementation Fund. In 2022/23, the operational budget is \$55,988.00 which is used to support Greater Shepparton's 12 CPG to achieve their priorities.

This financial year, Council is supporting Community Plan priorities through capital expenditure which includes:

- Sevens Creek Shade Sails - \$50,000.00
- Midland Highway Recreational Path - \$55,000.00
- Dookie Rail Trail Feasibility - \$50,000.00.

Community Development Officers (CDO) actively work with CPGs to identify suitable alternate internal and external funding opportunities to achieve their priorities; including submissions to Council's draft budget process. CDO also advocate internally and externally for inclusion of priorities into existing works programs.

## Legal/Statutory Implications

There are no legal/statutory implications on this report.

## Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

The CPG have identified a number of priorities within their Community Plan that consider the environment and sustainability impacts. These include:

- advocate for increased public transport options
- support the development of a walking track between Gemmills Swamp and Kidstown
- advocate for general improvements and shade in parks, gardens, playgrounds and recreational spaces and support the implementation of the Greater Shepparton Playspace Strategy
- advocate for additional shade at Charles St playground
- advocate for improved safety at Craigmuir Lake Park and explore fencing and additional shade options
- support the appropriate use of the 'Sandhills' and other culturally significant areas
- explore improvements to Kaieltheban Park in collaboration with local Aboriginal Community
- support actions of the RiverConnect Strategy
- support the One Tree Per Child Program and other environmental and sustainability initiatives
- consider climate change impacts and opportunities to improve the resilience of our environment
- support environmental clean-up activities, including along Watts Road

- support the upskilling of community groups to improve their energy use and adapt their facilities
- support young people on matters important to them; including climate and environmental concerns
- support the upskilling of businesses to reduce energy usage and costs, reduce waste and increase resilience in a changing climate.

The CPG sought advice from Council's Environment Department in developing this Community Plan.

### Social Implications

Community Planning is planning for the future of an area that is led by the community. The purpose of Community Planning is to give local people greater ownership over their small town or neighbourhood by empowering individuals and groups to take a proactive role in shaping the future of the areas in which they live.

In developing the revised Community Plan, the 2021 Census data was reviewed to consider the social needs of the community. The Mooroopna community has a higher proportion of residents who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (7.3%) as compared to regional Victoria (2%) and a higher than average population of people who speak a language other than English (8.5%) compared to regional Victoria (7.3%). Analysis of household income levels in Mooroopna in 2021 compared to regional Victoria shows that there was a smaller proportion of high-income households (those earning \$3,000 per week or more) and a higher proportion of low-income households (those earning less than \$800 per week). 1,142 people in Mooroopna live alone and 1,016 houses are rented with 211 of those being social housing (2.8% higher than regional Victoria).

The CPG have identified a number of priorities within their Community Plan that consider social impacts. These include:

- advocate for increased public transport options
- advocate to improve and develop footpaths and accessibility
- advocate for general improvements and shade in parks, gardens, playgrounds and recreational spaces and support the implementation of the Greater Shepparton Playspace Strategy
- advocate for activations and events to improve usage, wellbeing and community connection within local recreational spaces
- liaise with local Aboriginal community to discuss priorities and projects and support the implementation
- advocate and support all community groups, public halls, recreation reserves and open spaces and support their priorities
- collaborate on events and activities that engage and empower young people.

### Economic Impacts

The CPG have identified a number of priorities within their Community Plan that consider economic impacts. These include:

- support the establishment of an RV Site
- participate in consultation and provide feedback to Council on the McLennan St redevelopment
- identify and advocate with business on issues
- support events that activate and promote local industry
- support existing and attract new events (incl. New Year's Eve Festival & Markets).

## Consultation

The CPG actively consulted with the community in the development of the Community Plan. This included:

- survey – hard copy and Shaping Greater Shepparton
- individual visits to each business in the McLennan St precinct
- emails to 'Friends of the Plan', Children's Services, Sporting Clubs and other networks
- attendance at Activities in the Park events and Twilight Stroll to Kidstown
- conversations with young people
- Councillor bus tour
- promotion via social media
- invitation to Council departments to provide input including:
  - Community Wellbeing
  - Environment
  - Parks, Sport and Recreation
  - Projects
  - Early Years
  - Active Living
  - Building, Planning and Compliance
  - Economic Development
  - Communications and Engagement.

Over 40 surveys were completed, over 17 community, sporting, religious, cultural and education groups were represented and 21 people expressed interest in further participating in the Community Planning process.

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

## Strategic Links

### a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

- 4.3.4 The Municipality is more attractive
- 4.3.9 The Municipality is culturally active
- 4.3.10 The Municipality is healthier
- 4.3.13 The Municipality is more active

### b) Other strategic links

- Council Plan and Community Vision
- Community Planning Policy
- McLennan St Master Plan
- Ferrari Park Master Plan
- Mooroopna Recreation Reserve Master Plan
- RiverConnect Strategy
- Public Toilet Strategy
- Playspace Strategy
- Reconciliation Action Plan
- Multicultural Development Strategy
- Universal Access and Inclusion Plan
- Youth Strategy.

## Conclusion

The Mooroopna Community Plan Steering Group is pleased to be able to provide the draft Mooroopna Community Plan 2022-2026 to Council for endorsement.

## Attachments

1. Moorroona Community Plan Consultation Summary 2022 [**10.1.1** - 1 page]
2. Moorroopna Community Plan 2022 - 2026 [**10.1.2** - 16 pages]

## 10.2 Council's Role in Marking 26 January in 2023 and Beyond

Author                      Team Leader - Diversity  
 Approved by              Director Community  
 Purpose                     For Decision by Council

### Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

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

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

### RECOMMENDATION

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

1. That Council write to the Prime Minister, the Minister for Home Affairs, and relevant Australian Government Ministers and MPs to:
  - a) change the date of Australia Day
  - b) remove the *Australian Citizenship Ceremonies Code* requirement for local government councils to conduct citizenship ceremonies on 26 January.
2. The lowering of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island flag to half-mast on 26 January at all Council-owned facilities to acknowledge this date as a day of mourning for Aboriginal people.
3. A review of Council's Australia Day grant guidelines to encourage and support grant recipients to reflect on Australia's full history at events held on 26 January 2023.
4. Providing financial and in kind support for the 'Survival Day Dawn Ceremony' and recognition of this event in Council communications.
5. Continued community engagement to inform a Council decision about:
  - a) whether to mark Australia Day on 26 January from 2024, in the absence of a relevant decision by the Australian Government
  - b) a proposal for a day of community celebration for 2024 that is not held on 26 January, and that is inclusive, reflects the full history of Australia, and is culturally respectful.

## Executive Summary

Following a December 2021 Councillor Briefing, Councillors supported the establishment of a Community Stakeholder Group (CSG) to explore the way in which Council should approach Australia Day activities in 2023 and beyond and provide initial advice on this matter.

The CSG, a small focus group, was established via targeted invitation to Australia Day Committees, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal organisations, and Councillors. The CSG gathered on three occasions between July and August 2022 and was chaired by a Councillor.

In response to feedback from the CSG, Officers have prepared a number of recommendations which are now ready for Council consideration and endorsement.

## Report Detail

### Background to January 26 (Australia Day)

January 26 holds diverse and complex meanings for Australians. While it remains a public holiday and a date upon which awards and citizenships are conferred, it is not a day of celebration for all, particularly for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People. The date itself is the anniversary of the 1788 landing of the First Fleet at Sydney Cove and raising of the Union Flag by Arthur Phillip following exploration of Port Jackson in New South Wales.

### Council's current role in Australia Day Activities

Greater Shepparton City Council's current role is to conduct citizenship ceremonies, coordinate Australia Day Awards, and provide financial grants and in-kind support to help communities mark the day.

In 2022 Australia Day events were held in Shepparton, Mooroopna, Tatura, Dookie, Arcadia, Murchison, and Toolamba. Council Officers support all groups to ensure Australia Day Ambassadors speak at their events, organise Councillor attendance, and provide event support in both the lead up to, and on Australia Day.

In 2022 Council provided financial support for the 'Survival Day Dawn Ceremony' held on January 26 at Kaieltheban Park, Mooroopna by the Shepparton Region Reconciliation Group and Wulumbarra.

### Citizenship Ceremony

The Australian Government requirements for citizenship ceremonies are set out in the *Australian Citizenship Ceremonies Code*. Following a 2019 review the Code requires local councils to hold citizenship ceremonies on Australia Day, stating "Local government councils must hold a citizenship ceremony on 26 January as part of their Australia Day celebrations." Exemptions to holding citizenship ceremonies on 26 January must be made to the Department of Home Affairs in writing for Ministerial consideration.

### Shepparton Australia Day Awards Program

Each year the Greater Shepparton Australia Day Committee calls on individuals, groups and organisations to nominate a resident of Greater Shepparton who has made a noteworthy contribution during the current year, given outstanding service to the local community and/or impacted on the local community over a number of years. The awards are conferred at Australia Day events.



### **Australia Day Grants**

Greater Shepparton City Council marks Australia Day on 26 January by holding ceremonies, events and entertainment throughout Greater Shepparton. These events have been funded via a Greater Shepparton City Council Australia Day Grant.

The objectives of the Australia Day grant, as currently stated in the guidelines are; “to bring the community together to celebrate Australia Day and give recognition to hard working community members who have been awarded with an Australia Day Award. This grant aims to support and strengthen the community by providing funding for an event that has the capacity to attract the whole community to come together, celebrate what’s great about our community and recognise our national day of celebration.”

### **Greater Shepparton Council’s approach to considering future January 26 activities**

A series of briefings to Council from September 2021 have begun to explore the concept of change to the way January 26 is marked in Greater Shepparton, recognising that for many Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community members ‘celebrating’ Australia Day on this date is complex and contested, and that for some community members the date is also associated with distress and sorrow.

In December 2021 a commitment was made to establish a Community Stakeholder Group (CSG), a small focus group who would gather over several sessions to provide initial local advice on the topic.

The CSG was established via targeted invitation to Australia Day Committees, Aboriginal organisations, non-Aboriginal organisations, and was convened between July and August 2022. The CSG was chaired by Councillor Brophy. Councillor James, Councillor Spinks and Councillor Summer also participated in the conversation along with several Council staff.

The CSG gathered on three occasions. The below snapshot provides a summary of key feedback received from the CSG members over the course of the conversations held amongst the participants:

- the Australia Day Awards are considered very important, as are Citizenship Ceremonies, but it is the underlying meaning of these that are important rather than the fact they are held on January 26, and there is limited attachment to having these on the day
- January 26 evokes a range of feelings for different people – it is a day of community recognition for some people and for many Aboriginal people, it is a day of mourning and conflict
- there is an opportunity to work towards what is best for the community of Greater Shepparton that allows all to come together, acknowledge and celebrate in ways that are unique to this community
- ‘don’t rush this’ – broaden the consultation to include more community stakeholders including established and recently arrived migrant groups
- change is important but ‘the way you do change is crucial’.

**Attachment 11.2.1** provides the full CSG conversations summary report. It is this feedback that has informed the development of the recommendations outlined in this report that are now ready for Council endorsement.

## Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

### COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

We will prioritise leadership in the community to celebrate our cultures, people and places that makes Greater Shepparton a unique, vibrant, diverse and liveable region.

- 1.1 Council to take an active leadership role for access and inclusion in our community.
- 1.2 Council to work with stakeholders to support leadership within our multicultural communities.
- 1.4 Communities have resources and abilities to self-advocate.
- 1.5 Call for substantive First Nations constitutional change and structural reform.
- 1.9 Provide a high-profile collaborative advocacy role.

### SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY and WELLBEING

We will support the mental and physical health and wellbeing of all in our community, ensuring universal access to information, services, housing, healthcare and learning opportunities.

- 2.4 Leave no one behind.
- 2.5 Recognise First Nations history and advance reconciliation.
- 2.6 Welcome and embrace multicultural communities and their cultures.

## Risk Management

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

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Engaging the community about Australia Day and its current date of January 26 is complex and contested, and causes community division.	Almost Certain	Moderate	High	<p>Base initial decisions for 2023 on themes arising from CSG.</p> <p>Continue further community conversations.</p> <p>Communication, transparency, and information is key to mitigation.</p>

## Policy Considerations

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

## Financial Implications

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

## Legal/Statutory Implications

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

## Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

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

### Social Implications

The decision to be made by Council is one that is layered with socially and historically complex considerations. It is important the sensitivity and emotion of the questions raised be considered, and care for community and stakeholders during the process of exploring the issue taken.

### Economic Impacts

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

### Consultation

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Examples of techniques to use
Consult	Obtain feedback from Community Stakeholder Group on how to progress the January 26 discussion.	Establishment of a Community Stakeholder Group which met on three occasions.

Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred during this phase of conversations and the matter is now ready for Council endorsement.

All CSG participants will be personally updated with the outcomes of the proposal, prior to the October 2022 Council Meeting.

### Strategic Links

#### a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

- Community Life

#### b) Other strategic links

- 2021-2025 Council Plan
- Reconciliation Action Plan

### Conclusion

The recommendations of this report demonstrates Council's commitment to Reconciliation and the sentiments of the most recent Council Plan.

Greater Shepparton City Council has an opportunity to demonstrate leadership by advocating for change in relation to marking Australia Day on January 26, and by changing its own arrangements on this day in acknowledgement of the distress caused to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community under the current arrangements.

Committing to further conversations on this topic in 2023 provides an opportunity to obtain feedback more broadly across community and to consider further change from 2024.

### Attachments

1. January 26 Community Stakeholder Group meetings - What we heard [10.2.1 - 8 pages]

## 10.3 Seniors Festival Grants 2022 Round 2

Authors                      Team Leader Diversity  
 Approved by                Director Community  
 Purpose                      Information Only

### Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

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

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

### RECOMMENDATION

**That the Council note the successful applicants awarded funding under delegated authority for Round Two of the 2022 Seniors Festival Grant Program as follows:**

Organisation	Grant Amount Awarded (GST Free)
Goulburn Valley University of the Third Age (GV U3A)	\$500.00
Shepparton Senior Citizens Club, in partnership with Kerry Miller and Jenny Carter	\$500.00
Mooroopna Education and Activity Centre	\$500.00
Mooroopna Education and Activity Centre, in partnership with Kaiela Arts	\$500.00
Shepparton Athletics Club Inc.	\$500.00
Shepparton Senior Citizens	\$500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,000.00</b>

## Executive Summary

Held annually in October, the Victorian Seniors Festival (the Festival) is now in its 40th year and is an opportunity to celebrate the contribution made by seniors to our community. Through State Government and Council funding, grants have been made available to support participation of seniors in a range of locally led and delivered activities throughout the Festival.

The second round of the Greater Shepparton Seniors Festival Grants opened on 18 July 2022 and closed on 29 August 2022. The Grant Assessment Panel received a total of eight (8) applications for this round and the results of the assessments are contained in the report detail below. Six (6) applications detailed in this report have been deemed successful under the Program Guidelines and awarded funding under delegated authority in accordance with the Grant Distribution Policy. Two (2) applications were deemed unsuitable under the Program guidelines.

## Report Detail

The Victorian Seniors Festival (the Festival) commenced in 1982 and was known as Senior Citizens Week. In 2002, the week was rebranded Victorian Seniors Festival. Each year Council provides a single round of Seniors Festival Grants as part of the Victorian Seniors Festival held annually over the month of October.

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

Through the Greater Shepparton Seniors Festival Grants Program (the Program) funding is provided to support community organisations, services and clubs to develop a program that will give the senior members of our community the opportunity to participate in a range of activities to enhance their social interaction, connection and current relationships.

Greater Shepparton City Council received eight (8) applications during the second 2022 Seniors Festival Grant round. All applications were considered by the internal grants assessment panel against the eligibility requirements detailed in the Greater Shepparton Seniors Festival Grant Guidelines.

The panel recommended that six (6) applicants receive the full amount of funding requested. The remaining two (2) applications did not successfully address the grant guidelines and were not recommended for funding.

These successful applications are in addition to the two (2) applications to receive grant funding under the first round of Seniors Festival Grants conducted in February 2022.

The following organisations will receive funding through the Program to assist them in delivering a Seniors Festival event in Greater Shepparton during October 2022.

Organisation	Project overview	Grant Amount Awarded (GST Free)
Goulburn Valley University of the Third Age (GV U3A)	<p>The Goulburn Valley U3A Art, Craft and Photography Exhibition will showcase the creative talent of our members in art, craft and photography.</p> <p>Additional entertainment will be provided by U3A's Ukulele group and Singing for Pleasure group. Morning and Afternoon teas will be offered for a small fee. A BBQ will be held as a social event.</p>	<b>\$500.00</b>
Shepparton Senior Citizens Club, in partnership with members Kerry Miller and Jenny Carter	<p>The Shepparton Senior Citizens Club, in partnership with members Kerry Miller and Jenny Carter will provide an afternoon of trivia.</p> <p>Afternoon tea will be provided as well as lucky door prizes Put all that knowledge you have gained in life to the test and have fun. Individuals welcome as you can join a team and make new friends.</p>	<b>\$500.00</b>
Mooroopna Education and Activity Centre, in partnership with Kaiela Arts	Mooroopna Education and Activity Centre is partnering with Kaiela Arts to bring the Turtle Muster to Mooroopna. The event will include afternoon tea, where seniors can get their hands beautifully dirty and immerse themselves in a tactile fun activity. This activity will also provide an opportunity to learn about the Aboriginal Culture and the importance of the Turtle totem in Greater Shepparton.	<b>\$500.00</b>
Mooroopna Education and Activity Centre	<p>Mooroopna Education and Activity Centre (MEAC) is hosting a number of events including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fashion Parade &amp; High Tea. This will be a senior's social event that will include volunteers modelling the clothing and participants viewing this and enjoying afternoon tea.</li> <li>• Each Tuesday of the Month of October a Classic Movie with afternoon tea will be provided</li> <li>• MEAC's Mooroopna Men's Shed will extend an invitation to another Men's Shed club to come and enjoy lunch</li> </ul>	<b>\$500.00</b>

	with them and see what they do. This will happen twice during October.	
Shepparton Athletics Club Inc.	The Shepparton Athletics Club are hosting an Athletics Come and Try Day. The event will allow Senior participants to experience all the athletics events on offer at Shepparton Athletics Club. The aim of the day is to create awareness and interest in the community for members to join the fun experience of Masters Athletics.  A barbeque dinner will be provided to end the day's activities to create social connections.	<b>\$500.00</b>
Senior Citizens Shepparton	Senior Citizens Shepparton is running a bus trip to Healesville Sanctuary to spend the day outside exploring the sanctuary whilst re-establishing social relationships within the community.  The bus tour will provide a fun experience for individuals to become confident again to explore and engage with other community members whilst enjoying some activities, morning tea and a group lunch before returning via bus to Shepparton.	<b>\$500.00</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$3,000.00</b>

A marketing campaign has been developed to promote all activities occurring within Greater Shepparton over of the Victorian Senior Festival.

### Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

#### COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

We will prioritise leadership in the community to celebrate our cultures, people and places that makes Greater Shepparton a unique, vibrant, diverse and liveable region.

- 1.1 Council to take an active leadership role for access and inclusion in our community.
- 1.2 Council to work with stakeholders to support leadership within our multicultural communities.
- 1.8 Good governance and sustainable financial management.

#### SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY and WELLBEING

We will support the mental and physical health and wellbeing of all in our community, ensuring universal access to information, services, housing, healthcare and learning opportunities.

- 2.4 Leave no one behind.

## Risk Management

Insignificant to low risks have been identified and will be addressed at the operational level. All grantees will be required to consult fully with Council representatives prior to, and during, their projects to identify any potential adverse consequences, and to devise a strategy to minimize any risks.

Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Event cancelled/postponed due to Covid19	Possible	Minor	Low	Funds to be either returned to Council or the event to be held on a mutually agreed alternative.
Negative feedback form applicants who were not successful or did not receive the funds requested	Possible	Minor	Low	Ensure all Program Guidelines are equitable and assessments are consistent. If requested, provide unsuccessful applicants with constructive feedback

## Policy Considerations

Applications under the Seniors Festival Grant Program have been awarded funding under delegated authority in accordance with Council's Grant Distribution Policy adopted on 16 March 2021.

## Financial Implications

Greater Shepparton City Council has a budget allocation of \$5,000 for the 2022 Seniors Festival Grants, partially funded through the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing.

Round 1 Seniors Festival Grants (February 2022) totalled \$1,000 and Round 2 Seniors Festival Grants (September 2022) totalled \$3,000.

The remaining funding allocation will be used to provide additional programs and events throughout the month of October, and in most cases offers a subsidised rate for participants.

## Legal/Statutory Implications

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

## Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

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



## Social Implications

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

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

## Economic Impacts

A number of the planned activities will support economic stimulus throughout the municipality through the purchasing of materials and supplies.

## Consultation

Council Officers have promoted this grant program online through social media, Council's website, the local print media and radio advertising. Council Officers hosted two information sessions online for potential applications to seek advice and support in relation to the grant application and were able to offer support to applicants during their application process.

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Examples of techniques to use
Inform	Deliver information about the application process to relevant groups/clubs.	Mailing list compiled with past and prospective participants targeted. Advertising in the local Seniors paper and GSCC website.
Consult	Speak with relevant groups and clubs about this year's event.	Speak with relevant groups and clubs about this year's event.
Involve	Provide assistance to groups and clubs.	Consult on a one-on-one basis.
Collaborate	Successful groups and clubs will be responsible for the implementation of their projects.	Successful applicants will drive their own community initiatives.
Empower	Whilst the decision-making process regarding successful grant applications is made by the Council, Community groups will be responsible for the delivery of the projects.	Community groups will drive the delivery of their projects.

## Strategic Links

Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

2.3.2 Community Life

2.4.4 The Need to Grow

### Council Plan 2021-2024

- 1.1 Council to take an active leadership role for access and inclusion in our community.
- 1.2 Council to work with stakeholders to support leadership within our multicultural communities.
- 1.8 Good governance and sustainable financial management.

### **Conclusion**

In February 2022, the first round of Seniors Festival Grants resulted in two (2) successful applications. A second round of funding in September 2022 received eight (8) further applications which have been reviewed by an internal assessment panel, with six (6) applications being deemed eligible for funding.

The successful six (6) projects meet eligibility requirements and aim to build or strengthen senior person's participation and contribution in the Greater Shepparton community. All applications have been awarded funding under delegated authority in accordance with the Grant Distribution Policy.

### **Attachments**

Nil

## 11 Corporate Services Directorate

### 11.1 2023 Council Meeting Schedule

Author                      Manager Corporate Governance  
 Approved by              Director Corporate Services  
 Purpose                    For Decision by Council

#### Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

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

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

#### RECOMMENDATION

The Council resolves that:

1. **scheduled Council meetings for 2023 continue to be held at 3.00pm on the third Tuesday of each month, at 70-90 Welsford Street, Shepparton;**
2. **no Scheduled Council Meeting be held in January 2023; and**
3. **the Scheduled Council Meeting cycle be resumed on 21 February 2023.**

#### Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to set the commencement date for the 2023 Council Meeting cycle. Scheduled Council Meetings are held once per month, currently on the third Tuesday commencing at 3.00pm.

As has been practice in previous years, it is proposed that no Council meeting be held in January 2023, with the meeting cycle to resume on Tuesday 21 February 2023.

#### Report Detail

Council Meetings are held once per month, currently on the third Tuesday of the month at 3.00pm.

The last Council meeting for 2022 will be held on Tuesday 20 December. As in previous years, it is proposed that no Council meeting be held in January 2023, with the meeting cycle to resume on the third Tuesday of February 2023.

This period is generally a quieter time for the organisation with many suppliers shutting down over Christmas and remaining closed well into the month of January. Many staff take this quiet period as an opportunity to catch up on other work, or to take additional leave.

During the interim period, Council operations will continue to be delivered and Additional Council Meetings can be called if required, to consider any urgent business.

It is considered that Councillors will not be required during the holiday period and resume Councillor commitments from Tuesday 24th January 2023 when the first Councillor Briefing session for the year will take place.

### Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

#### COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

We will prioritise leadership in the community to celebrate our cultures, people and places that makes Greater Shepparton a unique, vibrant, diverse and liveable region.

1.1 Council to take an active leadership role for access and inclusion in our community.

1.3 Council services will be realistic and delivered in an efficient and effective manner with the aim of continuously looking for delivery that matches our ever changing environment.

1.6 Council provides customer service that meets the needs of the community.

1.8 Good governance and sustainable financial management.

### Risk Management

There is no risk associated with the proposed meeting cycle. Additional Council Meetings can be called at any time to address items of business requiring Council resolution during the December / January period.

### Policy Considerations

There are no conflicts with Council policies.

### Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this proposal.

### Legal/Statutory Implications

There are no legal or statutory implications arising from this proposal.

### Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

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

### Social Implications

There are no social impacts associated with this report.

### Economic Impacts

There are no economic impacts associated with this report.

### Consultation

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Examples of techniques to use
Inform	Staff and public will be informed of the change of meeting dates for the 2023 calendar year.	Public Notice on the Council website and social media.

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

### **Strategic Links**

#### Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

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

### **Conclusion**

It is recommended that there be no Scheduled Council Meeting held in January 2023. If required, an Additional Council Meeting may be called to consider any urgent business arising during this interim period. It is proposed that that the Scheduled Council Meeting cycle resume on Tuesday 21 February 2023.

### **Attachments**

Nil

## 11.2 2022/2023 Christmas Closure

Author	Manager Corporate Governance
Approved by	Director Corporate Services
Purpose	For Decision by Council

### Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

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

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

### RECOMMENDATION

**That the Council resolve to close the Council Offices to members of the public at 3.00pm on Friday 23 December 2022, and reopen at 9.00am, Tuesday 3 January 2023.**

### Executive Summary

The Council Office in Welsford Street and the Doyles Road Complex close over the Christmas and New Year period each year, with the length of closure varying slightly, depending on when each public holiday falls.

Christmas Day this year will fall on a Sunday, with the public holidays occurring on Monday 26 and Tuesday 27 December 2022. It is therefore proposed that the office closes at 3.00pm Friday 23 December 2022 and re-opens at 8.15am, Tuesday 3 January 2023. This length of closure is consistent with previous years and has been widely accepted by staff and the community.

It is important to note that this closure relates mainly to Council administration, and many of Council's services will still be available during this time. Directors will make appropriate staffing arrangements to ensure that Council services and programs required to operate during this period continue to do so without interruption.

### Report Detail

The period between Christmas and New Year is a quieter time for the organisation with many businesses and traders in the area closing prior to Christmas and remaining closed well into January.

Although Christmas Day will fall on a Sunday this year, the official public holiday will be held on Tuesday 27 December 2022. It is therefore proposed that the office closures commence at 3.00pm Friday 23 December 2022 and reopen at 8.15am, Tuesday 3 January 2023. This would require the majority of staff to take three days of leave, with staff involved in delivering essential services and programs continuing to operate throughout this period as required.

### Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

There are no direct links to the Council Plan.

### Risk Management

There are no significant risks associated with closing the Council Offices over the Christmas and New Year period. Arrangements will be put in place to ensure programs and services continue to operate during this period.

### Policy Considerations

There are no conflicts with existing Council Policies.

### Financial Implications

There are no specific financial implications arising from this proposal.

### Legal/Statutory Implications

There are no specific legal or statutory implications arising from this proposal.

### Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental or sustainable impacts that will arise from this proposal.

### Social Implications

There are no social implications associated with this proposal.

### Economic Impacts

There are no economic impacts arising from this proposal.

### Consultation

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Examples of techniques to use
Inform	Staff and public will be informed of the closure period once resolved by Council.	<u>External Communication:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flyer at Welsford Street main entrance</li> <li>GSCC Website / Social Media</li> </ul> <u>Internal Communication:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Insite</li> <li>Email to all staff</li> <li>Internal newsletters</li> </ul>

Officers have received feedback from People and Development and believe that appropriate consultation has occurred and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

### Strategic Links

Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

There are no strategic links to the *Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy*

### Conclusion

The proposed closure of the Council offices will provide staff with an adequate break over the festive season, while ensuring minimal disruption to daily business and services to the public.



## Attachments

Nil



## 11.3 Annual Report 2021-2022

Author	Team Leader Marketing and Communications
Approved by	Director Corporate Services
Purpose	For Decision by Council

### Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

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

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

### RECOMMENDATION

**That the Council adopt the 2021-2022 Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2022 including the Financial Statements and Performance Statement, as certified by the Auditor-General.**

### Executive Summary

The Annual Report is a requirement under the Local Government Act 2020 and requires Council to prepare an Annual Report for the financial year just completed. A copy of this report must be provided to the Minister for Local Government within three months of the end of the financial year and the Council must then consider the report at a meeting of the Council within one month of its provision to the Minister. Council's Annual Report for the Financial Year 2020-2021 will be forwarded to the Minister on Friday 30 September 2022.

### Report Detail

The Victorian Local Government Act (1989) requires all Councils to present an Annual Report to the Minister by 30 September each year.

Importantly, the Annual Report provides an account of Council's performance to our community. It details Council achievements against the goals of the Council Plan and our performance against stipulated measures. This Annual Report is the first report against the Year One of the Council Plan 2021-2025 which can be found on Council's website.

Furthermore, it provides an account of Council's financial management during the previous financial year.

The Annual Report is also an opportunity to acknowledge all the highlights and great activities that have happened across the municipality. This is the second Annual Report in which the COVID-19 challenges have been detailed.

The Annual Report 2020-2021 contains:

- A report on the operations of the Council including highlights throughout the year

- Audited Financial Statements and Performance Statement
- Other general information required by the Local Government (Finance and Reporting) Regulations 2004 and the Local Government Act.

### Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

#### COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

We will prioritise leadership in the community to celebrate our cultures, people and places that makes Greater Shepparton a unique, vibrant, diverse and liveable region.

1.8 Good governance and sustainable financial management.

### Risk Management

Any risks associated with this report relate to compliance with relevant Council policies including accounting policies and communications guidelines.

### Policy Considerations

The Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with relevant Council policies including accounting policies and communication guidelines.

### Financial Implications

Report is an in-house cost as Council has a graphic designer on staff. This has saved council a considerable amount of money by having the design done internally rather than outsourcing.

Quotes on the printing of the Annual Report will be obtained once final sign off has been obtained from the state government. This cost forms part of the marketing and communications annual budget.

	Approved Budget Estimate for this proposal <sup>1</sup> \$	This Proposal GST Exclusive \$	Variance to Approved Budget Estimate \$	This Proposal GST Inclusive <sup>2</sup> \$
Revenue	0	0	0	0
Expense	1500	0	0	0
Net Total	1500	0	0	1500

<sup>1</sup> Budgets are GST exclusive

<sup>2</sup> For Contract Award reports the GST inclusive expense shall match the amount reported in the recommendation

### Legal/Statutory Implications

Section 131 of the Local Government Act 2020 requires Council to prepare an Annual Report for the financial year just completed. A copy of this report must be provided to the Minister for Local Government within three months of the end of the financial year and the Council must then consider the report at a meeting of the Council within one month of its provision to the Minister.

### Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental/sustainability impacts associated with this report. Only 50 copies are printed as the Annual Report is available online. Paper used is recyclable and inks are environmentally friendly vegetable dyes.

### Social Implications

There are no social implications with this report.

## Economic Impacts

There are no economic impacts from this report.

## Consultation

The Councillors, Executive Leadership Team, Senior Leadership Group and Council officers were all consulted in the preparation of the 2021-2022 Annual Report. No external consultation is required. Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

## Strategic Links

### a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

- The Annual Report is consistent with the Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy and provides a mechanism for reporting against the achievement of strategic goals.

### b) Other strategic links

- 2021-2025 Council Plan

## Conclusion

That Council receives and considers the Greater Shepparton City Council Annual Report 2021-2022 for the year ended 30 June 2022, including the Financial Statements and Performance Statement, as certified by the Auditor-General.

## Attachments

1. Council Annual Report 2021-2022 Final [11.3.1 - 204 pages]

## 11.4 Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy

Author	Manager - People and Development
Approved by	Director Corporate Services
Purpose	For Decision by Council

### Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

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

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

### RECOMMENDATION

**That the Council adopt the Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy, as attached.**

### Executive Summary

Council has in place a Child Safe Policy adopted by Council on 18 September 2018. This policy was implemented in response to recommendations made by the Victorian Government under the Child Wellbeing and Safety Amendment (Child Safe Standards) Act 2015 to introduce Child Safe Standards. Originally the Act recommended seven Child Safe Standards, however a recent review has increased these to eleven standards which provide more clarity to organisations and set out the minimum requirements that organisations must take to keep children and young people safe. These requirements have been re-written into a new updated Policy.

### Report Detail

This policy replaces the previous version as a major rewrite was required to be compliant with the new Standards. The main changes are:

- Update to the new Policy format.
- Additional definition of the word 'Harm'
- Description of each of the Eleven Standards and the actions Council will take to comply with each one.

### Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

#### COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

We will prioritise leadership in the community to celebrate our cultures, people and places that makes Greater Shepparton a unique, vibrant, diverse and liveable region.

1.1 Council to take an active leadership role for access and inclusion in our community.

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

1.7 Youth leadership is fostered, encouraged and embraced.

#### SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY and WELLBEING

We will support the mental and physical health and wellbeing of all in our community, ensuring universal access to information, services, housing, healthcare and learning

opportunities.

2.8 Support for families and children at all stages of their learning and development.

### **Risk Management**

No risks have been identified with the review of this Policy

### **Policy Considerations**

There are no conflicts with any other Policy but this Policy may be read in conjunction with the Reportable Conduct Corporate Procedure

### **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

### **Legal/Statutory Implications**

Failure to approve this Policy may mean non-compliance with the Child Wellbeing and Safety Amendment (Child Safe Standards) Act 2015

### **Environmental/Sustainability Impacts**

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

### **Social Implications**

There are no social implications associated with this report.

### **Economic Impacts**

There are no economic impacts associated with this report.

### **Consultation**

The following departments have been consulted with and invited to provide feedback on the new Child Safe Standards and how it may impact on service delivery:

Early Years  
Active Living  
Environmental Health  
Events and Tourism  
River Connect  
Riverlinks  
Diversity (Youth)  
Corporate Governance

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

### **Strategic Links**

a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

N/A

### **Conclusion**

It is requested that the Council endorse this Policy.

### **Attachments**

1. Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy [11.4.1 - 11 pages]

## 11.5 Governance Rules 2022

Author	Team Leader Governance
Approved by	Director Corporate Services
Purpose	For Decision by Council

### Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

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

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

### RECOMMENDATION

**That the Council:**

- 1. adopt the Governance Rules and the Election Period Policy, as attached; and**
- 2. resolve that the Governance Rules take effect from 28 October 2022**

### Executive Summary

Council's Governance Rules were first adopted in August 2020.

The first scheduled review of the Governance Rules has recently been undertaken, which has included a public exhibition process, internal consultation with Officers and Councillors, and external review by Maddocks Lawyers.

The review has also incorporated suggested inclusions from Local Government Victoria's Good Practice Guideline on Virtual Meetings

Following consideration of the guidelines and feedback received, the Governance Rules have been amended and are now presented for consideration.

The Governance Rules also include the Election Period Policy which is a requirement under the Local Government Act 2020.

### Report Detail

Governance Rules are a requirement of Council as per Section 60 of the Local Government Act 2020 (Act). Council's Governance Rules were first adopted in August 2020.

Council's reviewed and proposed Governance Rules were placed on public exhibition through 'Shaping Greater Shepp', in January 2022 and submissions were invited from the community.

### Community Submissions

A total of four submission were received from the community. Key topics raised through these submissions included:

1. Improved clarity on the voting process
2. Timeframes for publishing of the agenda to the public
3. Submission Timeframe for Public Question Time
4. The principles of natural justice in decision making.

### Additional Considerations

Local Government Victoria released guidelines on Virtual Meetings in June 2022. Council's Governance rules have been amended to reflect these guidelines, making permanent provision for virtual and hybrid attendance at Council Meetings.

### Summary of Proposed Changes

- Amended process for Election of the Mayor (elimination by lot)
- Inclusion of Rules Governing Virtual Attendance at Council Meetings.
- Removal of gender pronouns following Gender Impact Assessment review.
- Requirement for meeting Chair to sign Minutes once confirmed has been removed.
- Removal of 'Alterations to Motions' however the principles have been incorporated into 'Amendments to Motions' process.
- Extending speaking times to motions from three to six minutes, with the removal of extensions.
- Notice of Motion procedure amended pertaining to the possible methods of submission of Notice of Motion.
- Simplified process for Dissent from Chairs Ruling to provide further clarity.
- Clarified voting process, in particular – the use of casting votes.
- Petitions – petitions will not be attached to the meeting agenda or minutes.
- Public Question Time procedure updated to allow a response to a question regardless of whether the person who raised the question is in the gallery.
- Informal Meetings of Councillors requirement amended to take effect when three or more Councillors are present.
- Notice of Amendment or Rescission of Resolution has been finetuned to improve meeting procedure and governance.

In addition to the above summary, some minor formatting, corrections and amendments have been made to improve clarity and aid the interpretation of the Governance Rules.

It should also be noted that minor changes have been made to the Election Period Policy to ensure it aligns with the Governance Rules. No material change has been made to the Policy. It is a requirement under the Act that a Council includes its Election Period Policy in the Governance Rules.

## Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

### COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

We will prioritise leadership in the community to celebrate our cultures, people and places that makes Greater Shepparton a unique, vibrant, diverse and liveable region.

- 1.1 Council to take an active leadership role for access and inclusion in our community.
- 1.3 Council services will be realistic and delivered in an efficient and effective manner with the aim of continuously looking for delivery that matches our ever changing environment.
- 1.6 Council provides customer service that meets the needs of the community.
- 1.8 Good governance and sustainable financial management.

## Risk Management

The process of consultation has been undertaken in accordance with Council's legislative requirements and feedback received has been carefully considered. A low risk rating has therefore been applied.

## Policy Considerations

Whilst the adoption of the Governance Rules will only directly affect the Election Period Policy, the following Council policies have also been considered:

- Conflict of Interest Policy
- Public Transparency Policy
- Community Engagement Policy
- Councillor Expenses Policy

## Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from the adoption of the Governance Rules.

## Legal/Statutory Implications

Council has met its statutory obligations with regards to the adoption of the Governance Rules.

## Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no direct environmental implications to the adoption of the Governance Rules.

## Social Implications

There are no social implications relating to the adoption of the Governance Rules.

## Economic Impacts

There are no direct economic implications arising from the adoption of the Governance Rules.

## Consultation

As required by the Local Government Act 2020, consultation was undertaken in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy.

Since the last round of consultation that occurred in January 2022, guidelines were released pertaining to virtual meetings. Council's Governance Rules have been amended to reflect these guidelines, making permanent provision for virtual and hybrid attendance at Council Meetings.

## Strategic Links

a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

- Nil.

## Conclusion

Council's Governance Rules have been thoroughly reviewed and all feedback received through the consultation process has been carefully considered.

Officers have made the applicable changes to ensure the Governance Rules meet current community and operational requirements, and they are now presented for consideration.





## Attachments

1. Governance Rules - Version 2 [11.5.1 - 55 pages]

## 11.6 Quarter 1 Forecast Review 2022/2023

Author                      Team Leader - Financial Reporting  
 Approved by              Director Corporate Services  
 Purpose                     For Decision by Council

### Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

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

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

### RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:

- 1) Receive and note the revised forecasts identified by the 2022/2023 Quarter 1 Forecast Review; and
- 2) Adopt the following amendments to the 2022/2023 User Fees and Charges:
  - a. Release Fee – Unregistered Animal – Dog or Cat. Current amount \$45.00 inc GST. Amend to \$110.00 incl GST;
  - b. New Fee – Asbestos – Domestic (Minium Charge) \$40.00 inc GST
  - c. New Fee – Asbestos – Domestic 180kgs \$52.20 inc GST
  - d. New Fee – Asbestos – Domestic 200kgs \$58.00 inc GST
  - e. New Fee – Asbestos – Domestic 500kgs \$145.00 inc GST
  - f. New Fee – Commercial/Industrial/Building/Demolition \$91.00 inc GST
  - g. Indexation of various statutory fees and charges for 2022/2023 as gazetted by the State Government

## Executive Summary

This report presents the draft forecast financial performance for the 2022/2023 financial year compared to the 2022/2023 Adopted Budget.

## Report Detail

Under section 97 of the *Local Government Act 2020* the Chief Executive Officer must ensure that a quarterly budget report is prepared and presented to the Council at a Council meeting.

Council's actual financial performance compared to the budget is presented to Council on a monthly basis.

The budget review process involved Managers reviewing the adopted budget for their departmental areas compared to actual income and expenditure. Managers are to update forecasts to reflect the expected year end result. The Executive then undertake a detailed review to understand and confirm forecast variations. The review is then submitted to Council for consideration.

The 2022/2023 Budget was adopted at the Council meeting held 21 June 2022. The 2022/2023 Budget provided for an accounting surplus of \$29.50 million, with revenue of \$178.83 million, expenditure of \$149.33 million and an underlying operating deficit of \$21.16 million. The 2022/2023 Budget also allocated \$71.58 million for capital works.

The 2022/2023 Quarter 1 Forecast Review projects an accounting surplus of \$32.31 million, with a projected underlying operating deficit of \$19.46 million. The 2022/2023 Quarter 1 Forecast also provides for capital works of \$67.76 million, an increase of \$5.16 million on the adopted budget largely due to capital works re-budgeted from the 2022/2023 financial year.

## Income Statement

### Revenue

The 2022/2023 Quarter 1 Forecast Review projects total revenue of \$181.91 million, an increase of \$3.08 million on the 2022/2023 Budget. This variance is mostly impacted by an increase in parking infringement income, and additional operating and capital grants.

### Expenditure

The 2022/2023 Quarter 1 Forecast Review notes total operating expenditure of \$149.60 million, an increase of \$266,000 on the 2022/2023 Budget. This variance is mostly impacted by an increase in fuel costs reflecting an increase in projected fuel prices, obligations arising from increases to grant funding forecasts and is partially offset by forecast reductions to employee costs due to short term vacancies.

### Underlying Operating Result

Council adopted the use of the underlying operating position as a measure of financial sustainability in the 2021-2031 Financial Plan, with the aim of achieving a small underlying operating surplus. The underlying operating result is calculated by deducting asset related expenditure, including non-recurrent capital grants of \$40.86 million, \$567,000 of non-recurrent capital contributions and \$11.30 million of non-recurrent capital contributions from the accounting result, to get a true operating position. The Quarter 1 Forecast Review projected underlying operating position is a deficit of \$19.46 million. This is an improvement on Council's Adopted Budgeted underlying operating deficit of \$21.61 million and is impacted by early receipt of the 2022/2023 Federal Financial Assistance grants (\$11.16 million) in April 2022.

To achieve the strategic action of realising an underlying operating surplus within six years as set out in the 2021-2031 Financial Plan and to ensure long-term financial sustainability, continued focus on reducing recurrent expenditure, maintaining revenues in line with inflation and reviewing service delivery is required.

### **Capital Works**

The 2022/2023 Quarter 1 Forecast Review allocates \$67.76 million in capital works. This is an increase of \$5.16 million on the 2022/2023 Budget. This variance is mostly impacted by an increase in the Maude Street Mall Redevelopment caused by the timing of contract payments. The overall cost of this multi-year project is not changed.

Renewal and Upgrade expenditure as a percentage of Depreciation Expense for the 2022/2023 Quarter 1 Forecast Review is 153%, exceeding the target of 100%. This indicator shows Council is maintaining its assets as they deteriorate.

### **Balance Sheet**

The 2022/2023 Quarter 1 Forecast Review ending Working Capital (Current Assets as a percentage of Current Liabilities) is projected to be 160% compared to 125% in the 2022/2023 Budget. This indicates that Council is able to pay its current liabilities when they fall due.

The 2022/2023 Quarter 1 Forecast Review ending Loans and Borrowings (Loans and Borrowings as a percentage of Rate Revenue) is projected to be 21.2%. This remains steady with the 2022/2023 Budget. This indicates low risk and shows Council's level of debt is within the appropriate range in consideration of the size of Council's activities. No additional borrowings for the 2022/2023 financial year have been adopted.

### **Changes to 2022/2023 User Fees and Charges**

One minor change to the User Fees and Charges to the adopted fees and charges are proposed for Release Fee – Unregistered Animal – Cat and Dog (adjusted fee).

Four new fees for asbestos disposal at Cosgrove Landfill, and one new fee for the disposal of Commercial/Industrial/Building/Demolition waste for the Resource Recovery Centres are proposed.

Since the budget adoption the State Government has gazetted the indexation of penalty units which informs a number of Council's statutory fees and charges in Building, Planning and Compliance. This covers non-discretionary fees and charges in areas such as Local Laws - Permits, Building, Planning and Parking Enforcement. The updated fees will be reported on Council's website.

### **Environmental Upgrade Agreements – Quarterly Statement**

No new environmental upgrade agreements have been entered into to date this quarter. There are currently seven upgrade charges in operation with a total value of \$3,779,197.23. Charges due this year total \$471,434.35, plus arrears \$47,753.92 and interest \$1,797.00. Total payments of \$118,753.20 fell due this quarter, with \$115,581.60 being paid.

## Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

### COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

We will prioritise leadership in the community to celebrate our cultures, people and places that makes Greater Shepparton a unique, vibrant, diverse and liveable region.

1.8 Good governance and sustainable financial management.

## Risk Management

Monitoring of performance against the 2022/2023 Adopted Budget as well as the forecast year end position provides for prudent financial management and ensures that Council is made aware of any known or potential financial risks.

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Inability to achieve current budget due to income not reaching budgeted levels or costs exceeding budget exposing Council to a cash deficit.	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Review detailed monthly financial reports and take necessary corrective action where forecast varies against budget.
Deterioration of Council's financial position against the adopted Financial Plan, resulting in diminished ability to achieve and maintain financial sustainability, as measured by the adjusted underlying operating result, liquidity and renewal and	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Linkage of budget setting and performance to the adopted Financial Plan.

## Policy Considerations

There are no conflicts with existing Council policies.

## Financial Implications

Forecast variances to the 2022/2023 Adopted Budget are detailed throughout the attached report.

<sup>1</sup> Budgets are GST exclusive

<sup>2</sup> For Contract Award reports the GST inclusive expense shall match the amount reported in the recommendation

## Legal/Statutory Implications

Section 97 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires that at least every 3 months the Chief Executive Officer ensures a statement comparing the budgeted revenue and expenditure for the financial year with the actual revenue and expenditure to date are presented to the Council. A detailed financial report is presented to the Council each month.

## Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

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

## Social Implications

There are no social implications associated with this report.

### **Economic Impacts**

There are no economic implications associated with this report.

### **Consultation**

External consultation has not occurred regarding the contents of this report. Consultation, however, has and will take place on certain specific items within the budget as and when appropriate.

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

### **Strategic Links**

No strategic links applicable.

### **Conclusion**

The 2022/2023 Quarter 1 Forecast Review presents the draft forecast financial performance for the 2022/2023 financial year compared to the 2022/2023 Adopted Budget.

### **Attachments**

1. 2022 2023 Q 1 Forecast Review pack [11.6.1 - 17 pages]

## 11.7 Contracts Awarded Under Delegation - September

Author                    Team Leader – Contracts and Procurement  
 Approved by          Director Corporate Services  
 Purpose                 For Noting

### Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

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

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

### RECOMMENDATION

**That the Council note:**

- 1. that no contracts were awarded under delegation pursuant to a formal tender or quotation process for the reporting period; and**
- 2. the requests for tenders advertised but not yet awarded.**

### Report

To inform the Council of the status of request for tenders that have been awarded under delegation during the period 1 September 2022 to 30 September 2022, and those that have been publicly advertised but are yet to be awarded as at 3 September 2022. The report does not include all purchasing activities, only procurement which requires a formal quotation or tender process.

#### Contracts Awarded under Delegated Authority

Contract No.	Project Name	Details	Value inclusive of GST	Awarded to
Nil				

### Requests for Tenders advertised but not yet awarded

Contract No.	Contract Name	Contract detail, including terms and provisions for extensions	Status
2271	Construction of Karibok Park, Shepparton – Stage 2	Lump Sum Contract for the Construction of Karibok Park, Shepparton – Stage 2	Tender currently under evaluation
2280	Construction of Stage 3 Echuca Road, Mooroopna – Shared Path	Lump Sum Contract for the Construction of Stage 3 Echuca Road, Mooroopna – Shared Path	Tender currently under evaluation
2261	Construction of Andrew Fairley Avenue / Lockwood Road / Old Dookie Road, Shepparton - Intersection upgrade	Lump Sum Contract for the Construction of Andrew Fairley Avenue / Lockwood Road / Old Dookie Road, Shepparton - Intersection upgrade	Tender scheduled to close on 26 October 2022
2239	Construction of Florence Street Slip Lane, Shepparton	Lump Sum Contract for the Construction of Florence Street Slip Lane, Shepparton	Tender scheduled to close on 19 October 2022
2272	Detailed Design for Shepparton and Ardmona Resource Recovery Centres Upgrades	Lump Detailed Design for Shepparton and Ardmona Resource Recovery Centres Upgrades - Lump Sum Contract	Tender scheduled to close on 12 October 2022
2240	Tallygaroopna Children's Centre Upgrade - Lump Sum Contract (Readvertised)	Lump Sum Contract for Tallygaroopna Children's Centre Upgrade - Lump Sum Contract	Tender scheduled to close on 5 October 2022

- No conforming tenders were received in relation Contract 2251 – SAM Precinct Works, Nature Playground & BBQ Shelter. As a result, the project has been re-scoped and will be delivered utilising a range of different resources.

Through the *Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer* the Council has delegated authority to the Chief Executive Officer to award a contract up to the value of \$500,000.

The financial delegation to Directors to approve contracts up to a value of \$200,000 for goods and services and works are included in the S7 – Instrument of Sub-Delegation by Chief Executive Officer.

### Legal/Statutory Implications



Previously, Section 186 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act) established the requirements for tendering and entering into contracts.

In accordance with Section 108 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council has adopted its new Procurement Policy establishing the value at which Council must invite a tender or seek an expression of interest.

### **Conclusion**

It is important that decisions and actions taken under delegation be properly documented and transparent in nature. The report details the contracts awarded under delegated authority of the Council during the period 1 September 2022 to 30 September 2022.

### **Attachments**

Nil

## 11.8 ICT Desktop Hardware Renewal

Author	Acting Director Corporate Services
Approved by	Director Corporate Services
Purpose	Information Only

### Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

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

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

### RECOMMENDATION

**That the Council award contract number 2275 – ICT Desktop Hardware Renewal to Dell Technologies at approximately \$787,000 inc. GST.**

### Executive Summary

A tender process has been completed via the Victorian State Government End User Computing Equipment contract DPC-SPC-01-2018. Three vendors were part of the panel: Acer, Dell and Hewlett Packard Australia. Two responses were received and assessed against the criteria, Dell Technologies met all requirements adequately and scored the highest according to the evaluation criteria.

Dell Technologies is able to fulfil all of the quality requirements in relation to the specifications required to meet GSCC needs. While Hewlett Packard Australia's overall cost was \$50,061.33 lower in price, this vendor was not able to comply with requirements on two of the devices which would have increased costs and resourcing for GSSC to apply post procurement. Based on a comprehensive assessment using the evaluation criteria below, Dell Technologies scored higher than Hewlett Packard despite the price difference.

### Contract Details

A stocktake has been completed of all ICT hardware in December 2021. Managers have validated the stocktake accuracy and indicated if staff roles are adequately serviced by their current device or if transition to a laptop in the future would be feasible/preferred. This information has been consolidated with the asset age to determine the type (laptop or desktop) and number of assets that will require upgrade in the first year or subsequent years, based on a conservative four-year renewal program.

Vendors were requested to provide quotes based on outright price, a lease option and with varying levels of support from none to comprehensive deployment direct to employees in a "ready to use" state. It is estimated that GSCC will require a total of 506 devices, including 275 laptops and 231 desktops, to be renewed over a four-year period. Which extends the life of the product by 12 months beyond the recommend vendor timeframe, providing better value and optimisation. There is a small group within the organisation that require a laptop

with higher processing power or touch screen capabilities. These varying needs have been accounted for in the tender specifications. All other peripherals such as keyboards, mouse or screens are already in stock and will be replaced on an ad-hoc basis as required. The specifications indicated that the vendor's laptops and desktops need to be compatible with existing peripherals.

Tender performance measures included, that the preferred supplier can;

- meet the device quality specification requirements
- offer a competitive price relative to device quality and support
- can supply devices in a timeframe according to an agreed schedule
- offers support options for ongoing maintenance and deployment of devices each year
- support is available during AEST business operating hours 8:15-5:30 Monday to Friday and technicians are Australian based
- offers deployment options from: basic installation to extended installation direct to the user and the device is ready for the user to login
- offers lease or buying terms over a 4-year renewal period
- ethical and environmentally friendly disposal of existing device services

## Tenders

Tenders were received from:

Tenderers
Hewlett Packard Australia
Dell Technologies

## Tender Evaluation

Tenders were evaluated by:

Title	Branch
Nicole Pretty	ICT
Sam Hempenstall	ICT
David Staitman	ICT
Andrew Dowell	ICT
Marcus Daniel	Moderator Procurement
Anna Jenkins	Moderator Procurement

## Evaluation Criteria

Tenders were evaluated on the following criteria:

Evaluation Criteria	Weighting
Price	40%
Quality of Product	25%
Quality of Support	10%
Contract Period and Delivery	5%
Environmental Sustainability	10%
Benefit to Local Region	10%

## Council Plan / Key Strategic Activity

### **COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP**

We will prioritise leadership in the community to celebrate our cultures, people and places that makes Greater Shepparton a unique, vibrant, diverse and liveable region.

1.8 Good governance and sustainable financial management.

### **VIBRANT and DIVERSE ECONOMY**

We will drive the visitor economy by growing visitor experiences and major events that provide employment and other opportunities to the community. Our economic development will focus on establishing a strong, adaptive, sustainable and thriving region supported by agriculture and a diverse range of industries.

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

### **INFRASTRUCTURE and TECHNOLOGY**

We will focus on the planning of our region's requirements to enable delivery of technology and infrastructure to meet the current and future needs of the community.

4.1 Council will implement the Universal Design Principles as a key tool in all our infrastructure and technology projects.

### **ENVIRONMENT and CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

We will prioritise our environment and take urgent action to reduce emissions and waste in order to protect public health and create a region that mitigates and adapts to climate change.

5.2 Council will focus on emission reductions committing to a Zero Emissions 2030 Target.

## Risk Management

GSCC currently does not have a contract or agreement in place for the renewal of desktop devices, namely laptops and desktops. The current procurement is based on ad-hoc requests from departments to update existing devices or procure new devices when new positions are approved.

The current arrangements have resulted in the following issues:

- Pricing is not competitive and new devices are procured at a higher rate than what could be paid under a contracted agreement or lease
- Procurement is ad-hoc and delivery is not guaranteed within reasonable timeframes, GSCC has experienced wait times of up to 5 months for docks and laptops due to worldwide shortages
- Vendors in this space recommend a three-year renewal program. Some of the current fleet are 5+ years old, resulting in device batteries and components being unrepairable and not able to be replaced in some instances due to a lack of parts being available.
- Large inconsistency across the fleet – creates deeper complexity for the ICT team to support, reducing their ability to respond and provide support as expected

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
No contract for renewal of desktop & laptop fleet	Almost certain	moderate	High	Tender and award new contract
Devices not meeting user needs	Almost certain	Moderate	High	Procure suitable devices to suit user role
Aged Devices not performing to expectation	Almost certain	moderate	High	Maintain consistent renewal of devices over 4 year period

### Policy Consideration

No current policy considerations are required for this change, upgrade to existing fleet

### Financial Implications

To fairly assess each vendor a base level price was utilised to make like for like comparisons. This did not include optional components of the quote for deployment and disposal services that have varying levels of service and attributed costs.

The base cost comparison included provision of 506 devices that met the specification criteria, base level deployment to one location with standard vendor image and 4-year warranty and support. Total costs for this service from each vendor at an outright purchase cost are;

Hewlett Packard Australia \$737,831.27 inc GST

Dell Technologies \$787,892.60 inc GST

The Dell Technologies disposal service, includes: collection of devices, deletion of existing image and files, recycle or repurpose of device at a rate of \$77.00 (ex GST) per device. GSCC is not resourced to perform this vital step in ensuring these devices are secure and risk of data loss is minimised while ensuring the hardware is diverted from landfill. Total cost of this service is \$42,858 inc GST and has been incorporated into the total contract expenses below.

The Dell Technologies "Option 3" deployment service, includes: delivery of devices to a user's desk, applying GSCC Standard Operation Environment (domain image), asset tagging, deinstall current device, install new device direct to user and remove packaging at a rate of \$88.77 (ex GST) per device is very reasonable. This service will enable efficient deployment of devices in a much shorter time frame than what our internal staff could deliver. Total cost of this service is \$49,409 inc GST and has been incorporated to the total contract expense in the table below.

The expense below incorporates outright purchase for provision of devices, warranty and support, deployment option 3, disposal service via a four-year contract term with Dell Technologies.

	Approved Budget Estimate for this proposal <sup>1</sup> \$	This Proposal GST Exclusive \$	Variance to Approved Budget Estimate \$	This Proposal GST Inclusive <sup>2</sup> \$
Revenue	0	0	0	0
Expense	0	800,145.62	800,145.62	880,160.18
Net Total	0	800,145.62	800,145.62	880,160.18

<sup>1</sup> Budgets are GST exclusive

<sup>2</sup> For Contract Award reports the GST inclusive expense shall match the amount reported in the recommendation

### Legal / Statutory Implications

The tender process has been carried out according to the requirements of Council's Procurement Policy.

This hardware is procured solely for the purpose of staff and councillors use. The State contract used to undertake this tender has already secured best price and value for government entities in Victoria. This process is an added assurance that the vendor is capable of delivering services and goods to meet GSCC requirements at best value. GSCC fleet quantity is an attractive sized contract for vendors compared with other councils in regional areas. We believe there would not be further financial advantage gained through a collaborative project on this occasion.

### Environmental / Sustainability Impacts

Reasonable environmental requirements were required for this tender including specifications for recycled and recyclable components, packaging and disposal options.

### Social Implications

Many staff across the organisation will have increased mobility to meet with community members in person while being able to access relevant data and record notes, reducing manual input at a later time or responding at another time for customer enquiries.

### Economic Impacts

This contract will enable devices to be procured at a competitive rate than what is currently occurring.

### Consultation

Whole of organisation stock take and validation has occurred to ensure accuracy of current fleet assets and renewal services the needs of staff and the role they need to perform.

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

### Strategic Links

a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

- Innovation

## Conclusion

The majority of GSCC staff are utilising laptops and desktops as their main tool of operation. Ensuring they have access to a device that performs well and is fit for purpose enabling them to complete their tasks as effectively and efficiently as possible is an objective that aligns with Councils values.

A 4-year renewal contract for laptops and desktops will better meet the needs of the organisation and can be achieved in a cost-effective manner while also ensuring minimal environmental impact.

Recommend that Council approve the award of Contract 2275 to Dell Technologies.

## Attachments

Nil

## 11.9 September 2022 Monthly Financial Report

Author	Acting Team Leader – Financial Reporting
Approved by	Director Corporate Services
Purpose	For Information

### Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

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

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

### RECOMMENDATION

**That the Council receive and note the September 2022 Monthly Financial Report.**

### Executive Summary

The report presents the Council's actual financial performance compared to the budget for the three months ended 30 September 2022.

### Report Detail

The September 2022 Monthly Financial Report incorporates the following sections which are presented for Council's consideration:

- Operating Performance
- Capital Works Performance
- Income Statement
- Balance Sheet
- Cash Flow Statement
- Capital Works Statement

The 2022/2023 Budget was adopted at the Ordinary Council Meeting held 21 June 2022.

### Operating Position

The 2022/2023 Budget provided for an accounting surplus of \$29.50 million, with revenue of \$178.83 million and expenditure of \$149.33 million. The revenue includes \$40.74 million of non-recurrent capital grants, \$20,000 of capital monetary contributions and \$11.30 million of non-monetary capital contributions. Excluding these capital items from the accounting surplus, the true projected underlying operating result is a \$22.57 million deficit.

A number of non-recurrent items, including \$4.39 million of expenditure on non-Council assets and the early receipt of 75 per cent of the 2022/2023 Federal Financial Assistance Grants in 2021/2022 of \$11.16 million, impact this unfavourable projected result. However, in alignment with the measures of financial sustainability within Council's adopted Financial Plan and the strategic actions identified to support the achievement of the aspirations of the



Council Plan, Council must ensure continued focus on improving its operating position, through reduction of recurrent expenditure, review of services or increases in revenue.

### Capital Works

The 2022/2023 Budget provided for capital works of \$62.60 million, of which \$41.37 million is funded by government grants. Renewal and upgrade expenditure as a percentage of depreciation is forecast to be 143 per cent, which is a measure of investment in maintaining Council's existing asset base.

### Balance Sheet

Council's cash position is strong following the early receipt of 75% of the 2022/2023 Federal Financial Assistance Grants, in combination with \$19.37 million rebudgeted capital works. The current liquidity ratio (current assets as a percentage of current liabilities) is impacted by the high rates receivable balance, which will reduce over the year as Council receipts payments and expends funds on services and infrastructure. 2022/2023 ending liquidity is projected to be 125 per cent.

## Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

### COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

We will prioritise leadership in the community to celebrate our cultures, people and places that makes Greater Shepparton a unique, vibrant, diverse and liveable region.

1.8 Good governance and sustainable financial management.

## Risk Management

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Poor performance against budget	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Regular monitoring and reporting of performance against budget and forecast variances.
Deterioration of Council's financial position against the adopted Financial Plan, resulting in diminished ability to achieve and maintain financial sustainability, as measured by the adjusted underlying operating result, liquidity and renewal and upgrade of assets.	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Linkage of budget setting and performance to the adopted Financial Plan.

### **Policy Considerations**

The monthly financial report has been prepared in accordance with accounting policies.

### **Financial Implications**

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

### **Legal/Statutory Implications**

Section 101 of the Local Government Act 2020 provides that Council maintains a budgeting and reporting framework that is consistent with the principles of sound financial management. In addition, Section 97 requires that at least every 3 months a statement comparing the budgeted revenue and expenditure for the financial year with the actual revenue and expenditure to date is presented to Council at a Council meeting which is open to the public.

### **Environmental/Sustainability Impacts**

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

### **Social Implications**

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

### **Economic Impacts**

No economic impacts have been identified in relation to this resolution.

### **Consultation**

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

### **Strategic Links**

No strategic links have been identified.

### **Conclusion**

The report presents Council's actual financial performance compared to the budget for the month ending 30 September 2022.

### **Attachments**

1. September 2022 - GSCC Council Report - Monthly Financial Statements [11.9.1 - 10 pages]

## 11.10 Public Interest Disclosure Policy

Author	Manager Corporate Governance
Approved by	Director Corporate Services
Purpose	For Decision by Council

Report is not confidential.

### Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

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

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

### RECOMMENDATION

**That the Council adopt the Public Interest Disclosure Policy, as attached.**

### Executive Summary

The Protected Disclosure Act 2012, forming part of the statutory regime for Victoria's integrity reforms, commenced operation on 10 February 2013 and replaced the former Whistleblowers Protection Act 2001.

Effective from 1 January 2020, the Protected Disclosure Act 2012 was amended and retitled the Public Interest Disclosure Act 2012 to make the State of Victoria consistent with other States and Territories of Australia.

Councils Public Interest Disclosure Policy was last reviewed in December 2019 to reflect this amendment to legislation. The Policy has now undergone a scheduled review with only minor amendments proposed.

### Report Detail

Councils Public Interest Disclosure has recently been reviewed and amended as part of a scheduled review cycle.

The key changes resulting from the review include:

- The transfer of the Policy into Councils current template.
- Rewording section 5.4.1 to provide greater clarity on the correct avenue to direct a disclosure, dependant on who the disclosure relates to.
- The introduction of gender-neutral terminology in accordance with Councils requirements under the Gender Equity Act 2020
- Minor administrative changes to improve formatting and sentence construction.

This review has now been completed and the revised Policy is presented to Council for consideration.

## **Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity**

### **COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP**

We will prioritise leadership in the community to celebrate our cultures, people and places that makes Greater Shepparton a unique, vibrant, diverse and liveable region.

1.8 Good governance and sustainable financial management.

## **Risk Management**

No risks have been identified with respect to the adoption of this Policy. It has been developed to ensure all officers and members of the community are aware of their rights and responsibilities in relation to Public Interest Disclosures.

## **Policy Considerations**

Any disclosures deemed not to be a Public Interest Disclosure will be addressed through Councils Complaints Policy.

## **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications associated with the adoption of the Public Interest Disclosure Policy.

## **Legal/Statutory Implications**

In accordance with Section 58 (1) of the Act, Council must establish procedures to facilitate the making of disclosures, and for the handling of disclosures. Officers believe that these processes would be best documented and communicated in the format of Council Policy, which is consistent practice across other Victorian Councils.

## **Environmental/Sustainability Impacts**

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

## **Social Implications**

There are no social implications associated with this report.

## **Economic Impacts**

There are no economic impacts associated with this report.

## **Gender Impact Assessment**

Officers have considered Councils obligations outlined in the Gender Equality Act 2020 as part of the review of this Policy and have proposed minor changes to the document as a result.

## **Consultation**

This Policy has been developed in accordance with the Act and the IBAC Guidelines.

Consultation and training has also been conducted with Councils Public Interest Disclosure Coordinator, Officers and Welfare Officer.

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

## **Strategic Links**

Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

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

## Conclusion

The Public Interest Disclosure Policy has been reviewed in accordance with all current legislation and best practice guidelines, and will provide clear guidance to members of the public and staff. It is therefore recommended that it be adopted by Council.

## Attachments

1. Public Interest Disclosure Policy DOCX [11.10.1 - 14 pages]

## 12 Sustainable Development Directorate

### 12.1 Adoption of the Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue Advisory Committee Terms of Reference and appointment of Community Representatives

Author                      Team Leader – Strategic Planning  
 Approved by              Director Sustainable Development  
 Purpose                     For Decision at a Council Meeting

#### Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

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

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

#### RECOMMENDATION

**That the Council:**

- 1. adopt revised Terms of Reference for the Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue Advisory Committee, as attached; and**
- 2. appoint the following community representatives to the Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue Advisory Committee for a three-year term commencing on 28 October 2022 and concluding on 27 September 2025:**
  - **Jan Sinclair;**
  - **John Head;**
  - **Julie Jackson;**
  - **Mark Reynolds; and**
  - **Terri Cowley.**

#### Executive Summary

The Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue (Memorial Avenue) is of historic, aesthetic and social cultural heritage significance to the State of Victoria. Council authorised the formation of the Greater Shepparton Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue Advisory Committee (the Advisory Committee) at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 20 June 2017. The primary purpose of the Advisory Committee is to act as an advocate for the future conservation of the Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue.

The Advisory Committee last met in August 2018. Since then, Council and The Department of Transport have attempted to engage multiple consultants to undertake a condition assessment of the Memorial Avenue to better understand the works required for restoration. However, consultants declined to participate owing to the complexity of the

project and the lack of capacity to undertake the work. Owing to the need to complete this work and the expiry of the term of the community representative positions, the Advisory Committee had been effectively on hiatus.

Council officers engaged Treelogic Pty Ltd in June 2021 to undertake a condition assessment for the three northern-most of the seven management zones of the Memorial Avenue from the Seven Creeks to Union Road. This assessment was necessary to understand the condition of the trees along the Memorial Avenue, to assess the understorey, and to understand what techniques should be employed to restore the avenue of trees and what the costs involved are. The condition assessment was completed in early June 2022 and Council officers now intend to restart the Advisory Committee.

Advertisements calling for community representative nominations for membership of the Advisory Committee were placed in the Shepparton News on Wednesday, 4 August 2022, with nominations closing at 5pm on Monday, 29 August 2022. Five nominations were received.

During this time, Heritage Victoria declined an invitation to appoint a representative to the committee and advised Council that it would prefer not to be considered to be an organisation appointed to the Committee. Council officers have revised the Terms of Reference to remove Heritage Victoria from the list of participating organisations on the Advisory Committee.

It is also recommended to increase the number of community representatives from four to five members, to extend the membership duration from a term of two years to a term of three years.

Additional changes have been made to the Terms of Reference to update the Local Government Act to the correct year of 2020, etc.

Due to the Executive Leadership's resolution to remove Greater Shepparton City Councillors as voting members in Committee Groups, an amendment to the Terms of Reference to will reposition Greater Shepparton's Councillor representative to a non-voting member role.

It is recommended that Council adopt the revised Terms of Reference and to appoint the following nominees to the Advisory Committee for a three-year term ending in October 2025: Jan Sinclair, John Head, Julie Jackson, Mark Reynolds and Terri Cowley.

## Report Detail

The Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue (Memorial Avenue) is Australia's longest eucalypt memorial avenue comprising over 2,400 native trees, and is included on the Victorian Heritage Register for its historic, aesthetic and social significance. The original planting was undertaken between 1945 and 1949 by one man – James Louis Fenton (Fen) Woodburn; to honour his son and all other local servicemen from the Goulburn Valley who lost their lives in World War 2.

The Memorial Avenue consists of four rows of mature native eucalypt trees running for nearly 20km along the road reserve of the Goulburn Valley Highway (GVH) between Murchison-Violet Town Road, Moorilim to just south of Seven Creeks Bridge, Kialla West. It is the grandest and largest of the Second World War commemorative plantings in Victoria, and is important for its use of only Australian native trees.

In recent years, factors such as the Millennial Drought, decreasing maintenance budgets, roadside activity and *ad hoc* regrowth have caused the integrity of the Memorial Avenue to

suffer. There are a significant number of trees and other forms of vegetation that were not planted by Fen Woodburn, which detract from the significance of the Memorial Avenue. Some of this vegetation includes weeds, and regeneration of the original plantings and indigenous species. The Memorial Avenue is also an environmentally significant corridor linking several riparian corridors in Greater Shepparton.

Recognising the need to restore the Memorial Avenue, Council authorised the formation of the Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue Advisory Committee (the Advisory Committee) at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 20 June 2017. As part of the resolution, Council adopted Terms of Reference (TOR) to guide the future operation of the Advisory Committee. The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to advocate for funding to restore the Memorial Avenue, and to enhance, and conserve the heritage and environmental significance of the Memorial Avenue. Specifically, this includes to:

- make recommendations to Council, The Department of Transport, and other agencies regarding the ongoing conservation of the Memorial Avenue and, if requested, give advice on specific issues;
- in making any recommendations, act consistently with the objectives of the Committee;
- assist Council in sourcing funding opportunities to maintain, enhance and conserve the Memorial Avenue;
- liaise with all relevant agencies to ensure appropriate ongoing conservation of the Memorial Avenue;
- seek to enhance and conserve the cultural heritage and environmental attributes of the Memorial Avenue; and
- disseminate the significance of the Memorial Avenue.

The Advisory Committee last met on 3 August 2018. Over the Committee's three meetings, it considered a scope of works required to restore the Memorial Avenue including: understanding which trees are of significance and associated with the original planting scheme, the quantum of regrowth since the drought broke, how many trees are missing, the condition of nameplates, etc. Following this, Council and The Department of Transport undertook several procurement processes attempting to engage a suitably qualified consultant to undertake a condition assessment of the Memorial Avenue to address these issues. However, no fee proposals were received for this work owing to the complexity of the project, the niche nature of the work and the lack of capacity to undertake the work. Owing to the need to complete this work and the expiry of the term of the community representative positions, the Advisory Committee had been effectively on hiatus.

Council officers and The Department of Transport engaged Treelogic Pty Ltd in June 2021 to undertake a condition assessment for the northern section (three of the seven management zones) of the Memorial Avenue extending from Seven Creeks to Union Road. This assessment was necessary to understand the condition of the original trees planted by Fen Woodburn and commemorative plaques along the Memorial Avenue, to understand what techniques should be employed to restore or replant any significant trees, and what these the costs would be. The condition assessment will assist Council with applying for external funding such as grant programs to undertake restoration works along the Memorial Avenue.

The condition assessment was completed in early June 2022, and Council officers now intend to restart the Advisory Committee.

The public nomination period for the community representatives for the Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue Advisory Committee took place between 1 August 2022 and 29 August 2022. Advertisements calling for community representative nominations were placed in the Shepparton News on 4 August 2022. A media release was distributed on 3 August 2022,



and social media posts were advertised on Council’s social media page. Five nominations were received.

The membership of the Advisory Committee consists of the following voting members:

- up to two (2) Councillors, being one (1) representative from Greater Shepparton City Council and one (1) representative from Strathbogie Shire Council;
- one (1) representative from the Goulburn Valley Environment Group;
- one (1) representative from the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority;
- one (1) representative from Heritage Victoria;
- one (1) representative from Shepparton RSL;
- up to two (2) representatives from VicRoads;
- one (1) representative from the Greater Shepparton Heritage Advisory Committee; and
- up to four (4) community representatives.

In August 2022, Heritage Victoria declined an invitation to appoint a representative to the committee and advised Council that it would prefer not to be considered to be an organisation appointed to the Committee. Council officers have revised the Terms of Reference to remove Heritage Victoria from the list of participating organisations on the Advisory Committee.

Further changes are also proposed to the Terms of Reference to update the reference to the Local Government Act to the correct year of 2020 and to update the term used for VicRoads, which is now The Department of Transport. Changes also include formatting and other minor changes.

In September 2022, Council officers assessed the nominations received against the selection criteria included in the Terms of Reference. The selection criteria are:

- demonstrated interest in conservation of environmental or heritage assets,
- experience and success in applying for grants or funding streams; and
- the ability to access historical or conservation networks and stakeholder groups.

It is also recommended to increase the number of community representatives from four to five members, to extend the membership duration from a term of two years to a term of three years.

Due to the Executive Leadership’s resolution to remove Greater Shepparton City Councillors as voting members in Committee Groups, an amendment to the Terms of Reference to will reposition Greater Shepparton’s Councillor representative to a non-voting member role.

It is recommended that Council adopt the revised Terms of Reference and to appoint the following nominees to the Advisory Committee for a three-year term ending in October 2025: Jan Sinclair, John Head, Julie Jackson, Mark Reynolds and Terri Cowley.

**Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity**

**VIBRANT and DIVERSE ECONOMY**

We will drive the visitor economy by growing visitor experiences and major events that provide employment and other opportunities to the community. Our economic development will focus on establishing a strong, adaptive, sustainable and thriving region supported by agriculture and a diverse range of industries.

3.1 Council will promote the use of the Universal Design Principles across the regions to make Greater Shepparton an accessible tourism hub.

**ENVIRONMENT and CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

We will prioritise our environment and take urgent action to reduce emissions and waste in order to protect public health and create a region that mitigates and adapts to climate change.

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

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

### **Risk Management**

Council considerably reduces the governance risks associated with the operation of the Advisory Committee by ensuring that members are appointed in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Failure to appoint community representatives to the Advisory Committee would fail to meet Council's obligations under the *Local Government Act 2020*.

### **Policy Considerations**

Appointing new community representatives to the Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue Advisory Committee does not conflict with existing Council policies. The Advisory Committee will assist Council in achieving the outcomes included in the *Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue Conservation Management Plan 2001*.

### **Financial Implications**

There are no costs associated with the appointment of new community representatives to the Advisory Committee.

Council may choose to allocate a budget to assist in the maintenance or conservation of the Memorial Avenue in the future.

### **Legal/Statutory Implications**

There are no legal or statutory implications associated with resolving to appoint new community representatives to the Advisory Committee.

### **Environmental/Sustainability Impacts**

There are no environmental or sustainability impacts associated with the appointment of community representatives to the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee will seek to maintain, enhance and protect an important place of Victorian cultural heritage significance, which will have positive environmental and sustainability impacts.

### **Social Implications**

There are no social impacts associated with the appointment of community representatives to the Advisory Committee.

### **Economic Impacts**

There are no economic impacts associated with the appointment of community representatives to the Advisory Committee.

### **Consultation**

The public nomination period for the community representatives for the Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue Advisory Committee took place between 1 August 2022 and 29 August 2022. Advertisements calling for community representative nominations were placed in the Shepparton News on 4 August 2022. A media release was distributed on 3 August 2022 and social media posts were advertised on Council's social media page.

Council officers believe that the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

## Strategic Links

### a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

- Topic: Community Life
  - Objective 2: To protect and enhance the network of public open space that contributes to the amenity of the municipality and advances the image of the community.
- Topic: Environment
  - Objective 1: To identify, protect and enhance sites and areas of recognised historic significance.

### b) Other strategic links

- Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue - Conservation Management Plan.

## Conclusion

The Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue is of historic, aesthetic and social cultural heritage significance to the State of Victoria. In recent years, the integrity of the Memorial Avenue has suffered. Council authorised the formation of the Greater Shepparton Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue Advisory Committee to advocate for funding to restore the Memorial Avenue, and to enhance and conserve the heritage and environmental significance of the Memorial Avenue.

The public nomination period for the community representatives for the Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue Advisory Committee took place between 1 August 2022 and 29 August 2022. Five nominations were received. In September 2022, Council officers assessed the nominations received against the selection criteria included in the Terms of Reference.

It is recommended that Council adopt revised Terms of Reference for the Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue Advisory Committee to remove Heritage Victoria as a participating organisation on the Advisory Committee, to update reference to VicRoads to The Department of Transport and to extend the membership of Community Representatives from a term of two years to a three year term.

It is also recommended that Council appoint the following nominees to the Advisory Committee for a three-year term ending in October 2025: Jan Sinclair, John Head, Julie Jackson, Mark Reynolds and Terri Cowley.

## Attachments

1. Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue - Terms of Reference October 2022 [12.1.1 - 5 pages]

## 12.2 Adoption of the Greater Shepparton Cultural Heritage Awards Guidelines 2022

Author	Senior Strategic Planner
Approved by	Director Sustainable Development
Purpose	For Decision at a Council Meeting

### Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

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

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

### RECOMMENDATION

**That the Council adopt the *Cultural Heritage Awards Guidelines 2022*, as attached.**

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

At the Committee's February 2012 meeting, the Committee agreed that an annual or biennial Cultural Heritage Awards program would be a cost-effective way of raising awareness of cultural heritage issues within the municipality, as well as recognising good conservation practice and promoting community participation in cultural heritage issues.

The Committee agreed to request that Council resolve to host a Cultural Heritage Awards ceremony in April 2013 and prepared the *Cultural Heritage Awards Guidelines 2012* to provide an overarching framework for all future award ceremonies. At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 18 September 2012, Council adopted the Guidelines and resolved to host the Cultural Heritage Awards. The Awards have been very successful and generated significant interest in conserving Greater Shepparton's cultural heritage.

The Committee has recently evaluated the Awards process and is proposing to revise the Guidelines to amend the categories. The Committee now requests that Council adopt the revised *Cultural Heritage Awards Guidelines 2022* and resolve to host a Cultural Heritage Awards ceremony in the 2022/23 financial year (see Attachment 1 – *Greater Shepparton Cultural Heritage Awards Guidelines 2022*).

The cost of hosting a Cultural Heritage Awards ceremony is included in Council's adopted 2022/2023 financial year budget.

### Report Detail

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 17 January 2012, Council authorised the formation of the Greater Shepparton Heritage Advisory Committee. The primary purpose of the

Committee is to provide the best possible advice to Council on how to conserve and promote the unique cultural heritage of Greater Shepparton, and to act as an advocate for all cultural heritage matters within the municipality.

At the Committee's February 2012 meeting, the Committee agreed that an annual or biennial Cultural Heritage Awards program would raise awareness of cultural heritage issues within the municipality, as well as recognising good conservation practice.

The Awards program is seen as a critical way of promoting community participation in cultural heritage issues within the municipality. It satisfies two of the primary purposes of the Committee as outlined in the Committee's Terms of Reference, to provide:

- an advocacy role in cultural heritage matters within the Municipality and to Council, and
- advice on best practice in the management and conservation of all cultural heritage and its applicability to the Municipality.

The Committee prepared the *Cultural Heritage Awards Guidelines 2012* to act as an overarching framework for all future award ceremonies. Award ceremonies are guided by the recommendations of the Committee. At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 18 September 2012, Council adopted the Guidelines and resolved to host the Inaugural Cultural Heritage Awards ceremony on 20 April 2013. The Cultural Heritage Awards have now been held in 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2021. The Awards ceremonies are considered to have been very successful and generated significant interest in Greater Shepparton's cultural heritage.

The Committee has proposed minor changes to the *Cultural Heritage Awards Guidelines 2022* to amend category 8 from the existing 'Community, Multicultural and Indigenous Events and Tourism' category to form two different award categories:

- Category 8 - 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage', and
- Category 9 - 'Community and Multicultural Events and Tourism'.

The terminology was revised to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander following consultation with Council's Aboriginal Engagement Officer. The splitting of category 8 has also resulted in renumbering of previous category 9 'Other contribution' to category 10.

The Committee intends to hold the next Cultural Heritage Awards ceremony in April 2023. The cost of hosting a Cultural Heritage Awards ceremony is included in Council's adopted 2022/2023 financial year budget.

## Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

### **SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY and WELLBEING**

We will support the mental and physical health and wellbeing of all in our community, ensuring universal access to information, services, housing, healthcare and learning opportunities.

2.5 Recognise First Nations history and advance reconciliation.

2.6 Welcome and embrace multicultural communities and their cultures.

### **VIBRANT and DIVERSE ECONOMY**

We will drive the visitor economy by growing visitor experiences and major events that provide employment and other opportunities to the community. Our economic development will focus on establishing a strong, adaptive, sustainable and thriving region supported by agriculture and a diverse range of industries.

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

### Risk Management

By not adopting the revised *Cultural Heritage Awards Guidelines 2022*, Council would fail to make the changes outlined within the revised Guidelines that would simplify and streamline the hosting of future awards ceremonies.

By not resolving to host a Cultural Heritage Awards ceremony in the 2022/23 financial year, Council would not avail of a cost effective way of raising awareness of cultural heritage issues within the municipality, promoting good conservation practice and promoting community participation in cultural heritage issues.

### Policy Considerations

Adopting the revised *Cultural Heritage Awards Guidelines 2022* and/or resolving to host a Cultural Heritage Awards ceremony in the 2022/23 financial year do not conflict with existing Council policies.

### Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with the adoption of the revised *Cultural Heritage Awards Guidelines 2022*.

Resolving to host a Cultural Heritage Awards ceremony in the 2022/23 financial year required a budget allocation. A budget allocation of \$10,000 has been included in the 2022/23 Budget to meet the costs of hosting a Cultural Heritage Awards ceremony in this financial year. This budget is required to meet hosting, advertising and award prize costs associated with this Cultural Heritage Awards ceremony. The previous Cultural Heritage Awards ceremonies required similar financial commitments.

### Legal/Statutory Implications

There are no legal or statutory implications associated with the adoption of the revised *Cultural Heritage Awards Guidelines 2022* and/or the hosting of a Cultural Heritage Awards ceremony in the 2022/23 financial year.

The Greater Shepparton Heritage Advisory Committee is not a Section 86 Committee under the *Local Government Act 2020*. The Awards ceremony will be hosted by Council.

The hosting of an Awards ceremony accords with the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act, 2006* and *Local Government Act, 2020*. No human rights were negatively impacted upon through the preparation of the *Cultural Heritage Awards Guidelines 2022*. The hosting of an awards ceremony is not foreseen to impact upon the rights of all individuals and groups with regard to freedom of expression, right to be heard, entitlement to participate in public life and property rights.

### Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental or sustainability impacts associated with the adoption of the revised *Cultural Heritage Awards Guidelines 2022* and/or the hosting of a Cultural Heritage Awards ceremony in the 2022/23 financial year.

### Social Implications

There are positive social impacts associated with the adoption of the revised *Cultural Heritage Awards Guidelines 2022* and/or the hosting of a Cultural Heritage Awards ceremony in the 2022/23 financial year.

The Committee has determined that a Cultural Heritage Awards program would help raise awareness of cultural heritage issues within the municipality and promote good

conservation practices – skills that are in decline. The Awards program is also seen as a critical way of promoting community participation in cultural heritage issues generally.

### Economic Impacts

There are positive economic impacts associated with the adoption of the revised *Cultural Heritage Awards Guidelines 2022* and/or the hosting of a Cultural Heritage Awards ceremony in the 2022/23 financial year. The Committee has determined that the Cultural Heritage Awards will further encourage and support the potential for heritage tourism.

### Consultation

As part of the preparation of *Cultural Heritage Awards Guidelines 2012*, the *Cultural Heritage Awards Guidelines 2014*, the *Cultural Heritage Awards Guidelines 2016*, the *Cultural Heritage Awards Guidelines 2018* and the proposed *Cultural Heritage Awards Guidelines 2022*, extensive consultation took place with all Committee members. Some of these Committee members have reported the contents of the Guidelines to their respective societies, groups and organisations that they represent on the Heritage Advisory Committee.

Should Council resolve to host an Awards ceremony in the 2022/23 financial year, a media campaign plan will be prepared by the Media and Communications, and Building Planning and Compliance Departments to promote and engage with the community. It would allow for extensive co-publicising of the event by Council and the Heritage Advisory Committee to promote the Awards program, and call for public nominations. It is envisaged that media releases would result in a number of articles appearing in local newspapers. The Awards ceremony would also be promoted on Council's radio station program and other social media.

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

### Strategic Links

#### a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

- The adoption of the revised *Cultural Heritage Awards Guidelines 2022* and/or the hosting of a Cultural Heritage Awards ceremony in the 2022/23 financial year are consistent with the objectives, strategies and actions outlined in the Environment Section of the *Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy 2006*, specifically:
  - Direction 3: Environment: Conservation and enhancement of significant natural environments and cultural heritage.

#### b) Other strategic links

- The adoption of the revised *Cultural Heritage Awards Guidelines 2022* and/or the hosting of a Cultural Heritage Awards ceremony in the 2022/23 financial year will also develop and implement the initiatives outlined in the *Greater Shepparton Heritage Study Stage II 2020*.

### Conclusion

It is recommended that Council adopt the revised *Cultural Heritage Awards Guidelines 2022* and resolve to host a Cultural Heritage Awards ceremony in the 2022/23 financial year. The Awards ceremony will be guided by the recommendations of the Greater Shepparton Heritage Advisory Committee.

The Committee has determined that an Awards program is a critical way of raising awareness of cultural heritage issues within the municipality, as well as recognising good conservation practices. The Awards program is also seen as a critical way of promoting community participation in cultural heritage issues.

## Attachments

1. Greater Shepparton Cultural Heritage Awards Guidelines 2022 [12.2.1 - 11 pages]



## 12.3 Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022-2025

Author	Team Leader Animal Management
Approved by	Director Sustainable Development
Purpose	For Decision by Council

### Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

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

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

### RECOMMENDATION

**That Council adopt the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022-2025, as attached.**

### Executive Summary

Council plays an important leadership role in supporting and promoting responsible pet ownership, community safety and healthy living through a well-informed community.

In accordance with the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, Council has previously adopted Domestic Animal Management Plans (DAMP) in 2008, 2013 and 2018 with each plan providing a formal approach to service delivery and animal management initiatives over 4 years. The DAMP outlines Council's strategic direction and objectives towards animal management and provides a structured framework for Council's animal management service to address responsible pet ownership and animal welfare.

Following public consultation in 2021, the draft DAMP 2022-2025 was developed.

Council officers undertook public consultation on the draft DAMP to seek feedback on any gaps or further opportunities prior to finalising for Council consideration in August 2022.

Following public consultation and stakeholder meetings, the results of the survey were included and eight amendments were made to the draft Action Plan. Officers now believe the Plan is finalised and ready for Council adoption. Should Council adopt the DAMP, it will be submitted to the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions.

## Report Detail

### Background

In accordance with the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, Council is required to review and develop the 4 yearly Domestic Animal Management Plan. Once adopted by Council, the DAMP is required to be submitted to Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions.

To commence this process, officers conducted community consultation in November and December 2021, with the overall results of the engagement incorporated into the draft DAMP.

The draft DAMP was released for public consultation at the June OCM, with a targeted media campaign occurring between 20 July 2022 and 19 August 2022.

The public consultation consisted of;

- Media release
- Webpage with summary of plan
- Have your say Survey
- Postcards
- Emails
- Stakeholder and staff consultation.

Council received 28 responses to the public survey. The animal management team were also consulted about any issues that may have been overlooked in the plan. As a result of the public consultation and staff engagement, the following amendments were made to the plan.

Topic	Feedback summary	Response to Feedback
1. <b>Cat management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feral / semi-owned and wandering cats</li> <li>• Cats killing native wildlife and damage to environment</li> <li>• Proactive cat trapping on Council land</li> </ul>	✓ Addressed in 3.4
2. <b>Animal Shelter</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New animal shelter</li> <li>• Open animal shelter on weekends</li> <li>• Increase Adoption Services</li> <li>• Review of Adoption Fees</li> <li>• Explore Volunteer opportunities</li> <li>• Review Surrendered animal process</li> <li>• Adoption education programs</li> <li>• Review of animal adoption questionnaire</li> </ul>	✓ Addressed in Action Plan 2
3. <b>Dogs on/off Leash</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of Council Order in relation to dogs at the Australian Botanic Gardens Kialla and consider if a specific Council Order prohibiting dogs and cats is required for the entire site</li> <li>• Review dog off leash areas and consider a third off leash dog park area outside of Shepparton</li> <li>• Consider an off leash dog area suitable for Greyhounds and amend Order as required</li> </ul>	✓ New Action in 1.4. Review the current Domestic Animals Act 1994 Orders regarding; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o dogs at the Botanic Gardens</li> <li>o off leash Greyhound area</li> <li>o a third off leash dog area</li> </ul>
4. <b>Dog Faeces</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Owners picking up after their dogs</li> </ul>	✓ Addressed in 3.2
5. <b>Council Staff</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Animal Management staff training</li> <li>• Service Review</li> <li>• Consider how Council employees can conduct community education in parks and gardens</li> <li>• Vaccination Programs</li> </ul>	✓ Addressed in 1.1  ✓ New Action in 1.3 Review Vaccination program for staff

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Occupational Health and Safety requirements</li> <li>Traffic Management when working on roads</li> </ul>	✓ New Action in 1.3 Develop Traffic management plans for officers
<b>6. Education initiatives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education – new owner kits educate community on what Animal Management team does</li> <li>Fridge magnets</li> <li>Education in schools</li> </ul>	✓ Addressed in 1.5
<b>7. Desexing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider Desexing program / initiatives</li> </ul>	✓ Addressed in 3.9
<b>8. Enforcement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enforcement of Local law – animal numbers</li> <li>Increased enforcement and infringements for non-compliance</li> <li>Return animal to its owner if escapes as a once off</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Addressed in 3.8</li> <li>✓ Addressed in 1.2</li> </ul>
<b>9. Registration process</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review how to notify of an animal passing away</li> </ul>	✓ New Action in 3.1 Review Animal Registration process regarding notifying Council of deceased animal
<b>10. Barking dogs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review Barking dog process</li> </ul>	✓ Addressed in 3.2

Staff Consultation Topics	Feedback summary	Response to Feedback
Equipment and Fleet	Fleet meets all OHS and Legislative requirements in relation to Traffic management	✓ New Action in 1.3 Audit all fleet, consider OHS and legislative requirements and submit budget bids for modifications as required
Vaccination Program	Ensure all animal management staff have access to an appropriate vaccination program	✓ New Action in 1.3 Review current Vaccination requirements for staff and ensure staff are provided access to recommended vaccinations
Traffic Management	Ensure appropriate Traffic Management Plans are in place for Officers working on Council Roads	✓ New Action in 1.3 Develop Traffic Management Plans for Community Rangers / Officers working on Council roads
Emergency management – Livestock Disease	Develop Livestock Disease Plan for animal shelter and Rangers	✓ New Action in 1.6 Develop Livestock Disease Plan for animal shelter and Rangers to Reduce the risk of disease incursion and spread – including new and emerging disease risks
Emergency Management – Animal Shelter	Emergency management team required for animal shelter site	✓ New Action in 2 Establish emergency management team for animal shelter site
Animal Registration tags	Tags made of plastic and disposed of each year	✓ New Action in 3.1 Investigate the feasibility of environmentally friendlier animal registration tag options

Over the next four years, Council officers will focus on a number of issues including the large semi-owned stray cat population and will investigate construction of a new animal shelter facility, to allow for community engagement and education activities on responsible pet ownership.

The final DAMP is now ready for Council consideration.

## Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

### COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

We will prioritise leadership in the community to celebrate our cultures, people and places that makes Greater Shepparton a unique, vibrant, diverse and liveable region.

1.3 Council services will be realistic and delivered in an efficient and effective manner with the aim of continuously looking for delivery that matches our ever-changing environment.

## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY and WELLBEING

We will support the mental and physical health and wellbeing of all in our community, ensuring universal access to information, services, housing, healthcare and learning opportunities.

2.6 Welcome and embrace multicultural communities and their cultures.

## ENVIRONMENT and CLIMATE EMERGENCY

We will prioritise our environment and take urgent action to reduce emissions and waste in order to protect public health and create a region that mitigates and adapts to climate change.

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

### Risk Management

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Council does not comply with legislative requirement by not endorsing and implementing a plan that addresses the minimum requirements	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Council adopts the DAMP
The DAMP does not address the minimum requirements of the Act	Possible	Moderate	Medium	The DAMP has been created with sub headings specifically relating to the requirements of the Act
Contracts within plan do not meet community expectations or procurement policies	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Contracts reviewed in accordance with procurement policy and statutory requirements
Animal management staff are not suitably trained or experienced	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Position Descriptions and training schedule reviewed to ensure meet requirements
Staff levels do not allow for Action Plan to be completed	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Service Plan process conducted annually
Animal Shelter does not comply with legislative requirements	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Action plan includes the investigation of a new animal shelter facility

### Policy Considerations

Council is required to provide a safe workplace for all employees in accordance with Councils Occupational Safety Policy statement, including;

- To provide a safe work environment; and
- To identify and provide appropriate training, work instructions and safe work practice.

Council is required to comply with the Procurement Corporate Procedure for all contracts as part of the DAMP. Council is required to comply with the Exercise of Delegations Policy in relation to the delegated powers to animal management staff.

### Financial Implications

The majority of actions in the draft DAMP will not have any significant impact on the operating budget. If Council chooses to pursue the new Animal Shelter, there will be a significant capital budget impact. This will be known and considered once the concept plan and costings are undertaken.

### Legal/Statutory Implications

Under Section 68A of the Domestic Animals Act 1994, every Council must prepare a Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) every four years. Council is required to set out a method for evaluating whether the animal control services provided by Council are adequate to give effect to the requirements of the Domestic Animals Act 1994 (The Act) and the regulations. Other domestic animals are exempt from this plan. Councils are responsible for developing a domestic animal management plan which:

- Promotes responsible pet ownership and the welfare of dogs and cats in the community;
- Protects the community and the environment from nuisance dogs and cats;
- Outlines the training programs for their Authorised Officers to ensure these Officers are capable in administering and enforcing the provisions of the Act; and
- Identifies a method to evaluate whether the animal management services provided by them are adequate.

Under the Act, a Domestic Animal Management Plan must:

- Set out a method for evaluating whether the animal control services provided by the Council in its municipal district are adequate to give effect to the requirements of this Act and the regulations;
- Outline programs for the training of authorised officers to ensure that they can properly administer and enforce the requirements of this Act in the Council's municipal district;
- Outline programs, services and strategies which the Council intends to pursue in its municipal district—
  - to promote and encourage the responsible ownership of dogs and cats;
  - to ensure that people comply with this Act, the regulations and any related legislation; o to minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals;
  - to address any over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats;
  - to encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats;
  - to minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance;
  - to effectively identify all dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs in that district and to ensure that those dogs are kept in compliance with this Act and the regulations;
- Provide for the review of existing orders made under this Act and local laws that relate to the Council's municipal district with a view to determining whether further orders or local laws dealing with the management of dogs and cats in the municipal district are desirable;
- Provide for the review of any other matters related to the management of dogs and cats in the Council's municipal district that it thinks necessary; and

- Provide for the periodic evaluation of any program, service, strategy or review outlined under the plan.

### Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

One of the objectives of the draft DAMP is that the negative impacts on the environment and wildlife by domestic animals are minimised. This outcome will be achieved through the implementation of various actions such as trapping feral and wandering cats, impounding wandering dogs and working with community groups to educate the public on the issues caused by the semi-owned stray cat population.

### Social Implications

Issues caused by domestic animals often have a negative impact on the community with many social implications, including:

- dog attacks causing physical and mental health issues and/or death;
- dangerous dogs causing fear to residents;
- destruction of wildlife and natural habitat by feral cats;
- dogs barking excessively disturbing local residents;
- wandering animals either causing car accidents or excessive breeding;
- animal hoarding and puppy farms;
- animal welfare and animal cruelty issues; and
- increasing Animal Registration compliance.

The DAMP aims to address these concerns through the implementation of the Action Plan.

### Economic Impacts

Overall, there are no economic impacts associated with the adoption of the DAMP. Officers expect an increase in income due to animal registration fees, user charges and infringements via an increase in education and enforcement actions.

However, this is likely to be offset with increased costs associated with a cat desexing program and increasing the adoption program.

### Consultation

Council endorsed the Draft DAMP for public consultation at the June 2022 OCM.

The DAMP has been developed through two public consultation phases;

- In late 2021, with a detailed public survey, stakeholder meetings and staff engagement workshops prior to the development of the draft; and
- In August 2022, with a public survey, stakeholder meetings and staff engagement workshops that asked two main questions;
  - What are your priorities?
  - Did we miss anything?

Feedback and survey results have been considered and the draft plan has been amended. The identified issues have been incorporated into the DAMP titled, 'We are listening!'

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

Level of public participation	Promises to the public / stakeholders	Examples of techniques used
Inform	Keep informed	Public awareness campaign, Advertising (media releases / social media) Website Postcards Targeted stakeholder meetings
Consult	Informed, listen, acknowledge	Survey Online Feedback letters Postcards Email invitations to stakeholders and community groups Stakeholder meetings
Involve	Work together – plan is a partnership	Internal workshops through plan development and consideration of survey feedback Public consultation Stakeholder meetings
Collaborate	Incorporate feedback into plan	Results from public consultation survey published for transparency within plan
Empower	Encourage community to proactively engage with actions	Rangers to liaise with specific community groups to encourage active participation in Action Plan

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

### Strategic Links

#### a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

Implementation of this plan would be consistent with the Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy directions including;

- Create and maintain safe public areas which enhance perceptions of safety, liveability and encourage community engagement and connectedness;
- Address community safety in the planning and management of the urban environment;
- Protect open space areas from pest plants and animals;
- Encourage and implement activities that will strengthen community spirit; and
- Enhance social connectedness, physical and mental health and wellbeing, education and participatory opportunities in order to improve liveability and a greater range of community services

#### b) Other strategic links

- Community Safety Strategy 2014-2017
  - Create and maintain safe public areas which enhance perceptions of safety, liveability and encourage community engagement and connectedness
- River Connect Strategic Plan

### Conclusion

Adoption and implementation of the final DAMP 2022-2025, will allow Council to meet its legislative obligations under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*. Following 2 separate consultation periods, officers believe the DAMP is now ready for adoption.

### Attachments

1. Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022-2025 [12.3.1 - 30 pages]



## 12.4 Shepparton CBD Complimentary Parking Initiative 2022

Author	Acting Manager - Building, Planning and Compliance
Approved by	Director Sustainable Development
Purpose	For Decision at a Council Meeting

### Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

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

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

### RECOMMENDATION

**That Council resolve to undertake a free complimentary on-street car parking initiative in the Shepparton CBD from 1 to 31 December 2022 in line with Recommendation 7.2 of the *Shepparton CBD Car Parking Strategy 2020*.**

### Executive Summary

The efficient management of car parking is essential to the functionality, liveability and sustainability of the Shepparton Central Business District (CBD). Council has a car parking policy that has balanced the competing needs for appropriate strategic planning to reflect the primacy of the Shepparton CBD, the need to continue to stimulate economic activity by ensuring the appropriate turnover of car parking spaces within the CBD, the extensive community feedback received on car parking in the CBD and the financial considerations of Council.

Council has trialled a number of complimentary parking initiatives within the CBD over the past couple of years aiming to increase economic activity and improve visitor experience. On 18 August 2022, Council received a letter from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (the Chamber) requesting an extension of the complimentary parking period from 1 November 2022 until 28 February 2023 (a period of four months). A response was provided to the Chamber on 31 August 2022 confirming the Council's adopted position of providing year-round complimentary off-street car parking and the provision of one-month complimentary parking in December each year. This report recommends that Council reaffirm that position in line with Council's adopted *Shepparton CBD Car Parking Strategy 2020*.

The provision of complimentary parking for December each year has a financial impact to Council of approximately \$72,000 from lost paid parking income and at least \$90,000 in lost income from failure to pay infringement revenue equating to a total cost of approximately \$160,000 per year. This is in addition to the existing financial impact of providing complimentary off-street parking. The existing complimentary off-street car parking is estimated to cost Council \$250,000 per year in lost income.

The request from the Chamber for an extension of that period of four months has a significant financial impact on Council. Based on the monthly figure of lost revenue for December each year, a period of four months of complimentary on-street car parking equates to approximately \$640,000 per year. This is an additional \$480,000 above and beyond Council's existing adopted complimentary parking initiatives.

Most recently, at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 19 October 2021, Council resolved to provide complimentary parking in the Shepparton CBD between 1 November 2021 and 28 February 2022. At the conclusion of this complimentary parking initiative, Council resolved at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 15 February 2022 to prepare a comprehensive report that assesses the merits of the initiative and analyses the financial cost to Council. This report was received and noted by Councillors at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 21 June 2022.

The economic analysis demonstrated that while some categories of business benefitted from the introduction of complimentary parking in the CBD, the overall change in spending in Shepparton was not statistically significant, and followed similar trajectories to comparable regional cities that had both paid and complimentary parking regimes.

Complimentary parking initiatives have significant financial impacts on Council while providing little economic benefit to the majority of traders or improving visitor experience in the CBD. This has an impact on other initiatives as surpluses from the car parking regime are utilised by Council to fund CBD improvement projects and a number of parking initiatives stemming from the Council's adopted Parking Strategy. Shortfalls in revenue from car parking would need to be accounted for through other Council expenditure.

Council officers recommend that Council reaffirm the adopted one-month period of complimentary parking in the Shepparton CBD to balance the financial interests of Council, to ensure minimal financial loss for Council, and to continue to support the existing paid and timed car parking regime in the CBD to ensure the efficient turnover of vehicles in the Shepparton CBD.

This recommendation aligns with Recommendation 7.2 of the *Shepparton CBD Car Parking Strategy 2020*, which recommends that Council continue with the one month complimentary on-street parking initiative in the Shepparton CBD in December each year.

### Report Detail

The efficient management of car parking is essential to the functionality, liveability and sustainability of the Shepparton CBD. One strategy that Council uses to manage car parking is the provision of a paid and time restricted parking enforcement regime in the CBD. This regime is designed to stimulate activity in the CBD by prioritise the needs of customers and businesses, and provide an element of choice in deciding where to park vehicles. This includes providing paid and timed parking in prime high demands areas of the CBD to ensure there is sufficient turnover of vehicles for customers and visitors, and allocating complimentary or all-day parking in off-street car parks or in lower demand areas to cater for staff members or long-stay visitors. The implementation of a paid parking regime also provides a steady stream of income for Council that is used to pay for other Council-operated programs and services.

The parking regime is reinforced by the *Shepparton CBD Car Parking Strategy 2020* (the Parking Strategy) that seeks to guide the long-term management of car parking in the Shepparton CBD through the use of best practice car parking management principles and tools. The Parking Strategy was received and noted by Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 21 April 2020.

The Parking Strategy recognises that parking is a finite resource that requires the specific allocation of valuable land to accommodate vehicles within our activity centres. The management of parking is a complex task that requires an integrated and holistic response to achieve economic prosperity and liveability objectives, and allocate spaces based on the different needs of users within an activity centre. A parking regime should provide the best access to parking spaces for higher priority users through a kerbside user group hierarchy (see Figure 1).



*Figure 1: Example of a kerbside user group hierarchy from the Parking Strategy.*

As demand for parking increases, more sophisticated tools are required to manage parking to balance the needs of all users with finite resource and to achieve the goals of the parking regime. This includes the use of parking restrictions, the allocation of spaces, the pricing of spaces to stimulate economic activity, encourage parking turnover and to allocate parking for the highest priority users (see Figure 2).



\*e.g. people with disabilities, loading/taxi zones

Figure 2: Car parking management tools.

Paid parking has been a contentious issue for Councillors and the community for a significant period of time, which has led to uncertainty in Council pursuing new parking initiatives that can improve the parking experience in the CBD. It has been debated by elected representatives over many terms of Council, with a large portion of the community and businesses providing significant feedback indicating that paid parking is a significant deterrent to shopping in the CBD precinct, which directly impacts upon the ability to grow their business.

Council has trialled and implemented a number of complimentary parking initiatives within the CBD over the past several years with the aim of increasing economic activity and improving the visitor experience in the CBD, while balancing the financial needs for Council. This began when Council resolved at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 15 October 2019 to initiate a trial for complimentary timed parking in the CBD between 2 December 2019 and 31 January 2020 as part of the holiday period.

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 21 April 2020, Council resolved to provide permanent complimentary timed off-street parking within the CBD at seven Council-owned off-street car parks. This resolution aimed to provide the community with an ongoing complimentary parking solution in close proximity to high demand areas, that would result in economic and social benefits for the Shepparton CBD while minimising the financial impact to Council and, ultimately, ratepayers.

The seven off-street car parks included:

1. Maude / Nixon Streets;
2. Edward Street;
3. Fryers Street;
4. Stewart Street;
5. High / Rowe Streets;
6. Welsford Street/Wyndham Mall Car Park; and

## 7. Welsford Street.

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 18 August 2020, Council resolved to consider the Fraser Street/West Walk Car Park as an off-street car park, and to be included in the complimentary timed off-street car parking initiative. Council has since received complaints about overstaying in these car parks and has had to ramp up enforcement in these areas. The location of Council's complimentary off-street car parks is shown on Figure 3.



Figure 3: Shepparton CBD off-street car parking map.

In late 2020, Council once again provided complimentary parking in the CBD between 1 December 2020 and 31 January 2021, under delegation from Council's Executive Leadership Team owing to the commencement of the 2020 Council election period.

On 30 September 2021, the Parking Reference Group requested that Council consider an extension to the complimentary timed parking arrangement in the eight Council-owned car parks over the festive period in recognition of the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 and to provide a much-needed boost to trade within the CBD. The Parking Reference Group recommended that the extended initiative commence on 1 November 2021 and conclude on 28 February 2022.

Given the severe economic impacts of the rolling COVID-19 lockdowns, particularly on the retail and hospitality sectors, Council resolved at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 19 October 2021 to provide complimentary timed parking in the CBD between 1 November 2021 and 28 February 2022. This was intended to support an increase in visitation and shopping, and, ultimately, assist in the economic recovery of the CBD following the end of formal COVID-19 lockdowns and the general reopening of Victoria's economy.

On 18 August 2022, Council received a letter from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (the Chamber) requesting an extension of the complimentary parking period from 1 November 2022 until 28 February 2023 (a period of four months). A response was provided to the Chamber on 31 August 2022 confirming the Council's adopted position of providing year-round complimentary off-street car parking and the provision of one-month complimentary parking in December each year.

### **Merits of the Complimentary Parking Initiative**

At the conclusion of this complimentary parking initiative, Council resolved at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 15 February 2022 to prepare a comprehensive report that assesses the merits of the initiative and analyses the financial cost to Council. This report was received and noted by Councillors at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 21 June 2022.

Council officers prepared a comprehensive report to analyse the merits of the complimentary parking initiative and the financial cost it had to Council, which was considered by Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 21 June 2022. The report cost \$32,019 (excl GST) and utilised multiple data inputs to make an informed determination of the complimentary parking initiative that is suitable for consideration at a future ordinary council meeting. This included a parking inventory and occupancy survey, and an economic transaction analysis.

To measure the economic impact of complimentary parking initiatives, Council officers commissioned an economic transaction analysis for Shepparton. This economic analysis was undertaken by Geografia Pty Ltd, which utilised a specialty tool called Spendmapp to measure electronic bank transaction data in the Shepparton area, see attachment. The data can be used to analyse the impacts of economic intervention and policy decisions.

Council officers commissioned Spendmapp data for the 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 holiday periods, and an overall trends analysis for 2019, 2020 and 2021. This is aimed to measure the economic impact that various changes to the parking regime in the CBD has had over the past four years. Council officers also commissioned a comparison with economic data to four other regional areas including: Bendigo and Horsham (paid parking); Traralgon and Benalla (no paid parking).

Overall, the spending trajectories in Shepparton were similar to the comparable regional cities and towns that had both paid and complementary parking regimes, regardless of whether or not complimentary parking had been introduced in the CBD.

The report also noted that any foregoing of parking revenue from the complimentary car parking initiative will incur an opportunity cost to Council that could have instead been used to implement more comprehensive local economic development initiatives that could support all merchant types, including those that did not benefit from complimentary car parking.

To understand how parking within the Shepparton CBD is being utilised on a daily basis, Council officers commissioned a parking inventory and occupancy survey. Undertaken by Real Time Traffic Pty Ltd, the survey provides Council with up-to-date information on the

type of parking spaces and associated restrictions in the CBD, and how they are being utilised on a daily basis.

The car parking inventory and occupancy survey was undertaken on 7 April 2022 between 9am and 5pm on an hourly basis, and included monitoring of all on-street car parking spaces, and all Council-owned off-street car parks within the CBD.

The results demonstrated that the parking regime is operating as intended at creating turnover in high-demand areas utilised by customers, and allocating all-day parking spaces on the periphery of the CBD in lower demand areas for staff members and long-stay visitors that are being well-utilised. It was also noted that while parking in some high demand areas is close to or at capacity, other areas are underutilised and that there are sufficient spaces to meet parking demand in the CBD as a whole, which is reflective of the results of earlier parking occupancy surveys conducted to inform the Parking Strategy.

Further, a recent presentation to the Chamber by Steve Burgess on *Great Streets Make Great Towns* also suggested the proposition that the lower the parking fee and greater parking availability, the less the customer spends. This reflects the premise of the Council's adopted strategy and supports the provision of free off street carparking within the CBD.

### **Financial Data**

The Council has adopted the *Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-25* that stipulates that Council, where it can easily identify the user, will apply user fees and charges for that service. Parking fees are one of those examples.

The removal of paid on-street paid parking will have major financial implications for Council through the loss of revenue from parking fines and the direct financial cost to Council of administering the parking regime. For example, Council officers estimate that the introduction of complimentary car parking in the CBD for the 2022/2023 financial year will cost Council between \$579,000 and \$838,000 in lost income from on-street parking revenue. Income from infringements is also likely to be significantly reduced as the majority of fines issued by parking officers are for failure to pay and only matters of parking non-compliance such as overstay can be enforced. It is estimated that this will result in an additional \$538,000 in lost income from failure to pay infringements in the 2022/2023 financial year.

Using the higher of the range of lost parking fee income, which includes pre-COVID-19 / Maude Street Mall Works, the estimated 2022/2023 impact of providing complimentary parking for the whole financial year on Council revenue from lost parking fees and infringements is \$1,376,000.

It is also estimated that Council has lost \$521,705 in income from the complimentary parking initiatives in the 2019/2020, 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 holiday periods. In addition, the information above must also be considered in light of the introduction of complimentary off-street car parking in the CBD from July 2020, which costs Council \$250,000 per year in lost revenue; however, this loss of income has been accounted for in Council's budget.

More recent data suggests that the provision of complimentary parking for December each year has a financial impact to Council of approximately \$72,000 from loss of paid parking income and at least \$90,000 in lost income from failure to pay infringement revenue, therefore a total of approximately \$160,000 for December each year. These figures are based on more recent monthly revenues and infringement data. This is in addition to the existing financial impact of providing complimentary off-street parking. The existing complimentary off-street car parking is estimated to cost Council \$250,000 per year in lost income.

It may be worth noting that these figures are greater than the cost that has previously been presented as there is no COVID-19 impact assumed (i.e. in the 2021/2022 financial year, the cost of four months was presented as \$213,000 in total - this was for parking meter income only based on an average of \$53,000 per month). As we are now returning to pre-COVID-19 income levels, the impact is greater. Council's Long Term Financial Plan relies on Council's revenues returning to pre-COVID-19 levels, so any increase should not be viewed as discretionary funds.

The request from the Chamber for an extension of that period of four months has a significant financial impact on Council. Based on the monthly figure of lost revenue for December each year, a period of four months of complimentary on-street carparking equates to approximately \$640,000.

Income and expenses generated from the parking regime are recorded in Council's Non-Discretionary Income (NDI) register, and any surplus generated is allocated toward relevant initiatives and capital works within the CBD. In recent years this has included the school crossing program, CBD holiday activities and live music, the accessible parking and pedestrian facilities program, streetscaping and the CBD place manager operations. Should on-street complimentary parking be introduced, the income allocated to the above-mentioned initiatives would be lost and the NDI balance will be depleted over time.

Sporadic complimentary parking initiatives risk undermining the purpose of Council's CBD parking regime to provide sufficient turnover of vehicles for customers in high-demand areas. Council officers have noted an increase in overstays during complimentary parking periods and Council has received complaints from some traders of overstays in certain areas. It is more difficult to enforce a complimentary parking regime as it takes longer to establish and enforce an infringement for overstay.

As there is no proof to establish the starting time for when a parking spot has been occupied, parking officers can only utilise a manual mark-up method (chalking tyres) to enforce for overstay. This method is highly inefficient, time consuming, and prone to sabotage as drivers can rub, or obstruct the marks on their vehicle. As a result, this enforcement method only captures 1-2% of all overstays leading to an increase in non-compliance for overstay and a further decrease in lost revenue from infringements.

For a complimentary parking regime to encourage turnover, a heavy enforcement program will be required with additional staff resources and potentially new technology. At a minimum, this will require an additional full-time parking officer and a vehicle. While this will result in improved compliance and turnover for customers, a heavy enforcement program will require Council to effectively subsidise the parking regime from general revenue, which will need to be accounted for through either an increase in rates or a reduction in service provision in another area.

Any changes to the parking regime to introduce complimentary parking will incur additional costs to change all parking signage to reflect the updated parking arrangements. Council will also need to renegotiate the contract with the parking enforcement provider as the loss of income associated with parking infringements would not cover the cost of providing the contract. This will also add ongoing cost to Council.

It should be noted that in addition to the cost of lost income, there is still ongoing expenditure associated with administering Council's parking regime regardless of paid or complimentary parking. This includes administration and maintenance staff, administration of the parking enforcement contract, ongoing maintenance (including signage and tree trimming to ensure signs are visible), costs in relation to the enforcement of over stay and



safety matters, and costs associated with the cycle function of outstanding infringements with fines Victoria. The cost of parking maintenance alone is estimated to be \$112,814 per year which includes staff, vehicles and parking metre maintenance.

### **Shepparton CBD Car Parking Strategy 2020**

The *Shepparton CBD Car Parking Strategy 2020* suggested a number of initiatives to improve the management of car parking within the CBD, which can improve the allocation and perception of parking availability. This can include the introduction of an 'all-in-one' parking phone-app that allows users to identify available spaces in a particular area and pay for parking. This can be developed in conjunction with parking sensors that monitor parking space occupancy in real time. This also has the benefit of improving parking enforcement to increase turnover of vehicles and informing any further changes to the parking regime in the Shepparton CBD with objective and relevant data.

Council obtained an estimated quote for the installation of 1,500 underground sensors to be installed in Council-owned CBD car parks. If Council chooses to lease these sensors, it would cost \$412,500 per annum. If Council buys the sensors outright it would cost \$795,000, plus \$135,000 for support, per annum. Should Council decide to introduce parking sensors as part of the implementation of the Parking Strategy, it will need to be accounted for in a future budgetary process.

There are also options to improve the parking experience utilising the existing PayStay app, which can include giving shoppers in the CBD discounted or complimentary car parking by redeeming receipts after having shopped in the CBD. Other initiatives include the introduction of credit card payment facilities on ticket meter machines, a review of variable pricing structures for parking in particular areas, and the introduction of new and dynamic wayfinding signage. The Parking Strategy also recommended specific changes to time zones in certain areas.

However, due to the uncertainty regarding the implementation of complimentary car parking, Council officers have not scoped or implemented many of the actions from the Parking Strategy. There is a significant risk that any major changes to the CBD car parking regime, including the introduction of complimentary car parking, may undermine the findings and recommendations of the Parking Strategy, and may require a new Parking Strategy to be prepared at significant cost and time to Council.

### **Overall**

It should be noted that the existing parking regime in the CBD continues to provide complimentary parking options in Council-owned off-street car parks, many of which are situated in high-demand areas in the CBD. The provision of complimentary off-street parking is already accounted for in Council's expenditure and will not result in any additional loss of income for Council. The Parking Strategy supports one month of complimentary car parking in the CBD over the holiday period, which is largely consistent with the complimentary car parking initiatives in the CBD over the past three financial years.

The provision of the paid parking regime in the CBD is also consistent with Council's adopted *Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-2025*, which states that Council will charge fees for the use of community infrastructure when Council can easily identify the user.

It is recommended that Council continue to support the existing paid and timed on street car parking regime in the CBD to ensure the efficient turnover of vehicles in the Shepparton CBD and balance the financial interests of Council.

Council officers recommend that Council confirm the response provided to the Chamber which is the provision of a one-month period of complimentary parking in the Shepparton

CBD to balance the financial interests of Council, to ensure minimal financial loss for Council, and to continue to support the existing paid and timed car parking regime in the CBD to ensure the efficient turnover of vehicles in the Shepparton CBD.

### Legal/Statutory Implications

There are no legal or statutory implications associated with this report. It should be noted that any resolution to further extend complimentary parking may trigger costs in renegotiating Council's contract with the parking enforcement provider.

### Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

#### INFRASTRUCTURE and TECHNOLOGY

We will focus on the planning of our region's requirements to enable delivery of technology and infrastructure to meet the current and future needs of the community.

4.9 Reliable, efficient, affordable and accessible transport.

### Risk Management

There are no specific risks associated with the recommendations for this report.

There is a risk that if Council was to adopt complimentary parking in the CBD for anything more than a one month period per year, it will strain Council's financial resources and could create unexpected issues regarding parking management that will need to be rectified at considerable expense. There is also a risk that the Parking Strategy will be considered obsolete and not fit-for-purpose, resulting in Council needing to undertake a new CBD parking strategy at considerable cost.

### Policy Considerations

Complimentary parking for a one-month period is consistent with the *Shepparton CBD Car Parking Strategy*. The recent complimentary parking initiative was an extension of this recommendation to recognise the impacts of COVID-19. However, any fundamental long-term change to the car parking regime may undermine the findings and recommendations of the *Shepparton CBD Car Parking Strategy*, and undermine the role and function of the CBD car parking regime.

### Financial Implications

Complimentary off-street car parking in the Shepparton CBD is estimated to cost Council \$250,000 per year in lost revenue; however, this loss of income has been accounted for in Council's budget.

The request from the Chamber for an extension of that period of four months has a significant financial impact on Council. Based on the monthly figure of lost revenue for December each year, a period of four months of complimentary on-street carparking equates to approximately \$640,000. This is an additional \$480,000 above and beyond the Council's existing adopted complimentary parking initiatives. The figures used in this report aligns with the most recent modelling, which uses March 2022 to August 2022 data to inform trends.

Any further loss of income in revenue from car parking will have an impact on Council's Non-Discretionary Income (NDI) register, which is used to fund the school crossing program, and Shepparton CBD related promotional initiatives and infrastructure works. This loss would need to be accounted for, which may require either a reduction in services elsewhere within Council or an increase in rates to cover the shortfall.

There will also be additional financial implications for increasing car parking enforcement to maintain parking turnover in the Shepparton CBD, changing parking signage in the Shepparton CBD, and renegotiating the parking enforcement contract.

### Legal/Statutory Implications

There are no legal or statutory implications associated with this report. It should be noted that any resolution to further extend complimentary parking may trigger costs in renegotiating Council's contract with the parking enforcement provider.

### Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

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

### Social Implications

There are no social implications associated with this report.

### Economic Impacts

Previous reports prepared for Council have indicated that the introduction of complimentary parking in the CBD has not resulted in any significant economic impact. Any initiatives greater than one-month would jeopardise existing local economic development initiatives that benefit all types of traders in the Shepparton CBD, including those who did not benefit from complimentary parking.

### Consultation

The development of the *Shepparton CBD Car Parking Strategy 2020* was informed through one-on-one meetings and workshops with representatives from key stakeholder organisations were conducted. This includes the Shepparton Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Department of Transport, La Trobe University, and the Shepparton Show Me Committee.

This recommendation aligns with Recommendation 7.2 of the Shepparton CBD Car Parking Strategy 2020 recommends that Council continue with the one month complimentary on-street parking initiative in the Shepparton CBD in December each year.

### Strategic Links

#### a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

*Theme: Retail/Commercial Centres*

Objective 2: To develop the Shepparton CBD as a regional centre for commerce and entertainment.

Objective 4: To have a hierarchy of viable commercial/retail centres by retaining local and visitor spending within the municipality.

#### Topic: Infrastructure

*Theme: Traffic and Transport Systems:*

Objective 6: To ensure the safety and efficient functioning of the roads for a variety of users.

#### b) Other strategic links

*Shepparton CBD Strategy 2008*

*Greater Shepparton Commercial Activity Centres Strategy 2015*

*Shepparton CBD Car Parking Strategy April 2020*

### Conclusion

The efficient management of car parking is essential to the functionality, liveability and sustainability of the Shepparton Central Business District (CBD). Council has a car parking policy that has balanced the competing needs for appropriate strategic planning to reflect the primacy of the Shepparton CBD, the need to continue to stimulate economic activity by

ensuring the appropriate turnover of car parking spaces within the CBD, the extensive community feedback received on car parking in the CBD and the financial considerations of Council.

Council has trialled a number of complimentary parking initiatives within the CBD over the years, with the aim of increasing economic activity and improving the visitor experience. Complimentary off-street car parking is estimated to cost Council \$250,000 per year in lost income.

Recent economic analysis demonstrated that while some categories of businesses benefitted from the introduction of complimentary parking in the CBD in the past, the overall change in spending in Shepparton was not statistically significant, and followed similar trajectories to comparable regional cities that had both paid and complimentary parking regimes.

Naturally, complimentary parking initiatives have significant financial impacts on Council while providing little economic benefit to the majority of traders or improving visitor experience in the CBD. This has an impact on other initiatives as surpluses from the car parking regime are utilised by Council to fund CBD improvement projects and the school crossing program. Shortfalls in revenue from car parking would need to be accounted for through other Council expenditure.

Council officers recommend that Council confirm the response provided to the Chamber, which is the provision of a one-month period of complimentary parking in the Shepparton CBD. This position seeks to balance the financial interests of Council, to ensure minimal financial loss for Council, and to continue to support the existing paid and timed car parking regime in the CBD to ensure the efficient turnover of vehicles in the Shepparton CBD.

This recommendation aligns with Recommendation 7.2 of the *Shepparton CBD Car Parking Strategy 2020* stating that Council should continue with the one month complimentary on-street parking initiative in the Shepparton CBD in December each year.

## Attachments

Nil

## 12.5 GV Link - Detailed Design

Author	Investment Facilitation Coordinator
Approved by	Director Sustainable Development
Purpose	For Decision by Council

### Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

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

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

### RECOMMENDATION

**That the Council allocate funding to complete a revised detailed design for GV Link, at 250 Toolamba Road, Mooroopna.**

### Executive Summary

The GV Link project offers sound potential for Council to establish an industrial precinct and freight hub within the municipality. To date, investment has not been secured however this project remains a priority for Council given the opportunity for significant job creation and countless flow on effects that would ripple throughout the local economy.

Officers are currently receiving investment enquiries due to GV Link's economic potential. Currently, officers are limited by non-current detailed design which limits avenues for securing investment. Officers aim to simplify the design, reducing the financial burden for investors and enhancing the marketability of the GV Link land. This design revision will confirm potential construction costs and scope and will enable the project to proceed with greater certainty.

### Report Detail

Greater Shepparton City Council commenced investigation of the feasibility of developing an intermodal terminal or inland port in the region in 1997. Initial feasibility studies indicated that some businesses had immediate needs for increased warehouse and transport services.

Between 2001 and 2003 several reports were commissioned to further assess the feasibility of this initiative with the support of both the State and Federal Governments of the time. This culminated in 2004 with the commencement of the planning process, Planning Scheme Amendment C34, which sought to re-zone the preferred site and begin the process of public acquisition of the required properties. In the same year, a delegation of local industry, Council and Government officials visited Canberra to seek Federal support for GV Link.

By 2005 Planning Scheme Amendment C34 had been finalised and was now part of the scheme. In that same year Council commenced an 'Expression of Interest' process aimed

at securing a preferred developer for the site. While two responses were received, none of the respondents wanted to develop the entire site. Council did not proceed with either proposal.

In 2007 an economic review of the feasibility of developing the site was undertaken. The review indicated that GV Link required input from all tiers of Government.

In 2008 the project received renewed interest as Council commissioned Coomes Planning to prepare a development plan and planning application in relation to the subdivision and development of the land. The development plan included landscape guidelines, a design framework, infrastructure provision plan and noise assessments. A planning permit was subsequently issued on 12 December 2008.

Also in 2008, Council undertook another 'Expression of Interest' for the detailed design of the infrastructure/subdivision plan of the site. This later translated into a tender being awarded to GHD for the design and engineering drawings for the site in 2009.

Since 2009 officers have broadly pursued three objectives. Firstly, work undertaken with GHD to finalise design work associated with the site. Secondly, officers have been attempting to secure an investor for the land now available for industrial use. Finally, Council secured the land acquisition component of the site in 2011.

In summary, Council has all land associated with the site secured. The land has been rezoned and all planning matters associated with the subdivision of the land are resolved.

In light of the investment required to develop the site at that time, in 2013, officers commissioned Essential Economics to undertake a review of the economic feasibility of the GV Link project.

There was an Essential Economics report undertaken in 2013 which outlined there is a positive economic benefit associated with the project.

On 15 April 2014, Council resolved at an Ordinary Council Meeting 'that Council instruct officers to':

- Continue advocacy for the Shepparton Bypass
- Postpone further investment in development of the site until investment on the bypass is announced or an investor is secured
- Report back to Council on next steps associated with the GV Link project if an investor is secured or bypass funding is announced
- Develop a Marketing Strategy for the site
- Make contact with Federal and State Governments and advise them that Council has been unable to meet the requirements of the funding agreements to secure an investor and commence discussions regarding reallocation of the remaining \$2.25M of Federal Government Funds and \$1.5M of State Government Funds previously allocated to GV Link. The funds would be reallocated to Greater Shepparton projects.

The previous government funding above was repurposed to the Shepparton Alternate Route (SAR) Enhancement Package. This included the intersection upgrade at New Dookie/Balaclava Road, Old Dookie Road upgrade and the roundabout upgrades at New Dookie and Old Dookie Roads on the SAR.

On 26 February 2019, Council resolved at a Special Council Meeting to authorise the CEO to sign and seal all documents necessary to facilitate the lease between GVCE Mooropna

Solar Pty Ltd and Council pertaining to the development of a solar farm on land adjacent to the GV Link land (east of Mooroopna Toolamba Road). GVCE Mooroopna Solar Pty Ltd now have a Planning Permit pertaining to their project. The lease agreement officially commences upon GVCE Mooroopna Solar securing finances and power purchase agreements.

Council officers have been approached on an infrequent basis for opportunities to invest at GV Link.

To better respond to the inquiries, and to further the Council's understanding of the likely development construction costs, and improve feasibility of the project, officers have commenced a review of the original design. This review noted that the development assumptions and standards were somewhat "over designed" for a project of this size and nature, particularly in relation to drainage, flood mitigation and land forming (and including road infrastructure). Further flood analysis was also undertaken previously in relation to the Ardmona Main drain. The review has also analysed the suitability of the existing utility design work for sewer, water and power connections.

Council also engaged Spiire to undertake a high level review of the potential development options (staging) to progress the development. This high level review explored options for an overarching development strategy for the site, whilst considering potential cost reduction of the site works. Three options were considered that explored a modified site layout. Option 1 examined the delivery of an initial lot 1 with minimal requirements and option 2 which was an expanded version of option 1 taking into consideration an expanded scope of work. Option 3 in particular explored the need to separate the arterial road going through the site and thus reduce future traffic conflicts. The layout also explored options for the development to proceed without the need for the Shepparton Bypass, but would provide for connections in the future.

Council officers have also been furthering discussions with both the Australian and Victorian Governments on the potential to repurpose other existing funding to GV Link, which would assist in the construction costs of some of the road infrastructure.

Following this design review, Council extended the work of Spiire to undertake a GV-Link Schematic Design and Services Review. With the conclusion of the options paper with regards to infrastructure and staging for GV Link it was identified to proceed with schematic design of the proposed option relating to Victorian and Australian Government road funding viability.

The purpose of this work was to schematically design the site geometry and grading then assess / update servicing strategies relating to the objectives outlined in the Options Paper. Upon completion of the assessment, Spiire have also updated the Opinion of Probable Construction Cost, which will provide increased certainty of the construction and associated fee costs.

This work enables Council to respond quickly to any investment inquiry, providing options to proceed to the sale of Council land and provide certainty on the delivery timeframe for the enabling works which also considers the investors early access to the site and their own construction timeframes.

Recent land valuations have also been undertaken further enhancing the feasibility of the project.

## Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity

### INFRASTRUCTURE and TECHNOLOGY

We will focus on the planning of our region's requirements to enable delivery of technology and infrastructure to meet the current and future needs of the community.

4.5 Support the development of GV Link.

## Risk Management

There are greater risks associated with this project by not pursuing an updated detailed design to attract investors to the GV Link land given the enquiries that are being received pertaining to the potential of the freight hub.

## Policy Considerations

This report and the recommendation aligns with Council policy. GV Link is a key future industrial area as identified in Shepparton Mooroopna 2050 Regional Growth Plan.

## Financial Implications

It is anticipated that the revised detailed design may cost in the order of \$500,000.

	Approved Budget Estimate for this proposal <sup>1</sup> \$	This Proposal GST Exclusive \$	Variance to Approved Budget Estimate \$	This Proposal GST Inclusive <sup>2</sup> \$
Revenue	0	0	0	0
Expense	0	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
Net Total	0	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000

<sup>1</sup> Budgets are GST exclusive

<sup>2</sup> For Contract Award reports the GST inclusive expense shall match the amount reported in the recommendation

## Legal/Statutory Implications

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

## Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

The GV Link project aims to enable environmentally friendly business/industry operations. A solar farm is also being progressed adjacent to the GV Link land, creating sound potential on all economic, social and environmental fronts.

## Social Implications

Given the economic potential of this project, significant social impacts can be experienced as a result of the development of the GV Link freight hub.

## Economic Impacts

The economic impacts in relation to this project are significant. The project creates the potential for large scale operators to function in close proximity and access rail to create efficiency benefits and access to the port and future GV Bypass.

## Consultation

Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred pertaining to this report and the recommendation.

## Strategic Links



a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

Topic: Economic Development

Theme – Industry

b) Shepparton Mooroopna 2050 Regional Growth Plan

### **Conclusion**

Officers put forward this report for Council consideration regarding the pursuing of an updated detailed design to enable the GV Link project to see its full economic potential and to provide investors with the detailed information they require to make informed decisions.

### **Attachments**

Nil

## 13 Infrastructure Directorate

### 13.1 Our Sporting Future Funding - Round One 2022/2023

Author Sporting Clubs Officer  
 Approved by Director Infrastructure  
 Purpose Information Only

#### Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

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

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

#### RECOMMENDATION

That the Council note the successful applicants awarded funding under delegated authority for Round One of the 2022/2023 Our Sporting Future Funding Program as follows:

##### Our Sporting Future – Minors

Club	Project	Grant Amount Awarded
Shepparton Golf Bowling Club	Lighting Upgrade	\$10,175.00
Shepparton Notre Junior Football Club	Electronic Scoreboard for Emmaus Oval	\$12,000.00
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$22,175.00</b>

##### Our Sporting Future – Junior and Youth Participation

Club	Project	Grant Amount Awarded
Shepparton United Soccer Club	Uniform, Registration Fees & Equipment	\$5,000.00
Shepparton Lawn Tennis Association Inc	Junior Playing Tops	\$3,920.00
Congupna Football Netball Club	Junior Netball Development Program	\$5,979.00
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$14,899.00</b>

### Our Sporting Future – Sports Aid

Club	Project	Grant Amount Awarded
Shepp Feathers Incorporated	Badminton Coaching Program	\$4,040.00
Greater Shepparton Lighthouse Project	Kids Inclusive Sport	\$3,934.00
Central Park St Brendan's Cricket Club	Strategic Plan	\$4,950.00
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$12,924.00</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$49,998.00</b>

**Note: All amounts awarded are GST Free.**

### Executive Summary

The Our Sporting Future Grant Program has been established to assist community organisations with the implementation of small to medium sized facility development projects and development programs for new and developing sporting organisations throughout the Greater Shepparton municipality.

The Our Sporting Future Grants opened for applications on 18 July 2022 and closed on 29 August 2022, with a total of eight applications received. Council allocated \$160,000 in the 2022/2023 financial year with \$49,998 allocated in Round One.

Greater Shepparton City Council received eight applications in total for the Our Sporting Future Funding, Round One 2022/2023;

- Majors Category (not exceeding \$30,000) - Nil Applications
- Minors Category (not exceeding \$15,000.00) - Two Applications
- Sports Aid Category – Three Applications
- Junior and Youth Participation – Two Applications
- Women and Girls – One Application

One application received under the Womens and Girls category has been deemed as better aligned with the Junior and Youth Aged Participation category and has therefore been moved to this category.

The applications were assessed in accordance with the Our Sporting Future Funding Program Guidelines and budget available. Applications recommended for funding are listed in the report detail below. No applications in this round were unsuccessful.

### Report Detail

The Our Sporting Future Funding Program has been established to assist community organisations with the implementation of small to medium sized facility development, women and girls sport development and junior and youth aged participation in sport projects.

The types of projects that may be funded include:

- Sports surface development
- OHS and public safety improvements
- Lighting upgrades

- Pavilion upgrades
- Shade for participants
- Disability access
- Participation projects
- Leadership, development or accreditation courses
- High level skills training courses
- Purchase of equipment and uniforms to aid participation

The program also assists with development programs for new and developing sporting organisations throughout Greater Shepparton. Projects such as a Strategic Plan for Shepparton Table Tennis Association and purchase of equipment for the Shepp Feathers Inc Badminton Club have benefited from the Our Sporting Future Funding, Sports Aid program.

The funding program provides five categories for funding:

- **Major facility development** – for projects on a \$1 for \$1 basis but not exceeding \$30,000.
- **Minor facility development** – for projects on a \$1 for \$1 basis but not exceeding \$15,000.
- **Sports Aid** - funding between \$500 and \$5,000 (without matching contributions) for special sports projects that provide support to new and developing sporting organisations, for special access and participation projects, or for planning initiatives that address the future sport and recreation needs of the club/organisation.
- **Women and Girls** - will provide funding towards programs that increase opportunities for women and girls in sports clubs for development programs or training between \$500 and \$10,000 (without matching contributions).
- **Junior and Youth Participation** - will provide funding towards initiatives to increase participation in sport for teams/sport between eight and eighteen years of age where significant decrease in participation has occurred over previous 1-3 years, for between \$500 and \$5,000 (without matching contributions).

A cross department assessment team was established to participate in the assessment of applications. Along with two members from ValleySport – Goulburn Valley Sports Assembly, ValleySport continues to be represented on the assessment panel ongoing.

The assessment panel consists of the following members:

- Healthy Communities Officer - Active Living
- Sports Fields Service Leader – Parks, Sport & Recreation
- ValleySport Project Officer - ValleySport
- ValleySport Project Officer – ValleySport

The Our Sporting Future Funding Program is available for all sporting/recreational groups within the municipality. The program was advertised this year through social media. In addition, Council held two online grants information sessions to promote Council's Community Grants Programs. The program is also promoted on Council's external website with testimonials from previous recipients of funding. ValleySport, the Goulburn Valley's regional sports assembly, actively advertise the funding program through their network of known local community sport and recreation groups.

The Our Sporting Future Funding Program has an acquittal process at the completion of the project. An electronic funding acquittal form is received including supporting documentation of invoices and photographs of installation. A Council Officer also undertakes a site visit where relevant.

## Details of each project

### Shepparton Golf Bowling Club

Funding Category		<b>Minors</b>	
Project		Lighting Upgrade	
Short description		The project will see a Lighting upgrade to the existing lighting to allow for greater use of the greens, and the new lights will have 1500 watt lux capacity and will be environmentally friendly LED lights.	
Who will benefit from the project?		The club already run a school based program through GV Grammar and Notre Dame College, as well as providing support for the local disability agencies. Club volunteers provide many hours of support per week to these groups. The club are looking to run a coordinated campaign to attract women in the north Shepparton area in October this year to be involved in a come and try series of fun bowls games where the club will provide support on the greens as well as looking after young children if required so mothers can participate.	
Total project cost	\$20,350.00	Organisation Cash	\$10,175.00
Requested Council contribution	\$10,175.00	Organisation In Kind	0

### Shepparton Notre Junior Football Club

Funding Category		<b>Minors</b>	
Project		Electronic Scoreboard for Emmaus Oval	
Short description		The SNJFC will install an Electronic Scoreboard and Siren at the Emmaus Oval. Currently there is no visible score displayed during the game. In the AFL Preferred Facility Guidelines (2019) a scoreboard is considered a preferred minimum standard for football facilities. Not only will this project provide a better spectator experience but the LED screen also has the capacity to display messaging to promote opportunities for our junior players and connect and inform our families and supporters. This project is seen as the first step in establishing a home ground and will strengthen our growing Club.	
Who will benefit from the project?		The project will benefit our junior players, club volunteers, spectators from our club and visiting teams and also the schools usage. The SNJFC have fielded two Under 15 teams and two Under 13 teams this season in the Goulburn Murray Junior League competition. There are 96 players registered. Players come from around the Greater Shepparton area drawn from various Primary and Secondary Schools. Coaches and Team Managers	

		volunteer many hours encouraging young people to enjoy playing football while developing skills and friendships in a safe environment. Families of the players are instrumental in supporting the junior players and fulfilling many roles at the Club including scoring. SNJFC are fortunate to have the partnership with Notre Dame and the opportunity to work with them at the Emmaus Oval. Consultation and an onsite meeting has already occurred at the site with the School Site Facility Manager and representatives of the Club. The Club has the support of the School for the project.	
Total project cost	\$24,826.00	Organisation Cash	\$12,826.00
Requested Council contribution	\$12,000.00	Organisation In Kind	0

### Shepparton Lawn Tennis Club

Funding Category		<b>Junior &amp; Youth Aged Participation</b>	
Project		Junior Playing Tops	
Short description		We would love to start the junior competition in October with excitement and energy by providing a playing top and cap for every junior who registers to play tennis. We are seeing a steady decline in junior numbers over the last few years and would like to seek help to provide the correct playing attire to help with costs for parents and ensure every child who registers is given the correct playing attire.	
Who will benefit from the project?		Junior tennis players will benefit, ages 8-16 years, girls and boys, in the Goulburn Valley Region. We have had consultation with parents who feel a playing top and cap would be a huge benefit to their kids in ensuring they have the correct tennis attire, which can be very costly on top of equipment such as a tennis racquet and tennis shoes.	
Total project cost	\$5,420.00	Organisation Cash	\$1,500.00
Requested Council contribution	\$3,920.00	Organisation In Kind	\$150.00

### Congupna Football Netball Club

Funding Category		<b>Junior &amp; Youth Aged Participation</b>	
Project		Junior Netball Development Program	
Short description		Congupna Football Netball Club are endeavouring to rebuild our junior netball program and reengage our local junior and youth community members to participate and experience the benefits of community sport. Our focus will be on creating an environment that promotes exercise, social engagement, inclusivity and the responsibilities of volunteering in the general running of a community led club. This project aims to encourage families to support our local young people to return to weekend sport by offering teams in the 11 and under, 13 and	

		under, 15 and under and 17 and under divisions. We will achieve this by conducting a junior development program targeting youth specifically girls aged 10 – 17 years.	
Who will benefit from the project?		Although our project is targeted at girls, our junior teams are gender inclusive. Our project will benefit a minimum 30 local youth aged 10 – 17 years and their families from the Goulburn Valley region. Further to this, we welcome people of all ability levels and strive to support them to reach their personal potential as a player and club member. We have been consulting with 10 local schools from our region promoting our club and what we offer. The Murray Netball League and Netball Victoria are extremely supportive of our project and will be assisting in the execution of it. As part of the Murray League, our Netball Operations Manager has been consulting with other clubs within our league to learn how they have achieved success with their participation numbers. We have been partnering with Tallygaroopna - Congupna junior football teams and coordinating 'skills and drills' sessions that coincide with their game times.	
Total project cost	\$8,829.00	Organisation Cash	\$1,050.00
Requested Council contribution	\$5,979.00	Organisation In Kind	\$1,800.00

**Shepparton United Soccer Club**

Funding Category	<b>Junior &amp; Youth Aged Participation</b>		
Project	Uniform, Registration Fees and Equipment		
Short description	The project involves purchasing uniform, waiving registration fees and purchasing equipment to assist in relieving any financial pressures currently hindering/preventing juniors in the community from participating in soccer.		
Who will benefit from the project?	Juniors who are currently not playing because their families cannot afford or are put off by the costs associated to them playing soccer. In particular this is targeted at juniors from low-socioeconomic households in the Goulburn Valley.		
Total project cost	\$9,880.00	Organisation Cash	\$4,880.00
Requested Council contribution	\$5,000.00	Organisation In Kind	0

**Greater Shepparton Lighthouse Project**

Funding Category	<b>Sports Aid</b>		
Project	Kids Inclusive Sport		
Short description	The project builds on a previous successful pilot in mainstream schools and will embed an on-going program by running an initial 10 week afterschool sports program for 8-12 year old children with a physical or intellectual disability. The program will provide sporting activities, team T-shirt and healthy		

		after school snacks. The activities will be held at the Verney Rd Specialist school, utilising and with support from sporting clubs, disability and inclusion services and volunteers. The project aims to provide an opportunity to be part of a team, further develop social skills and provide carers/parents the opportunity to connect in a positive setting.	
Who will benefit from the project?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Young people in Shepparton with disabilities between the age of 8-12 years old and their parents/carers.</li> <li>- Volunteers in sporting clubs and with an interest in sport.</li> <li>- Relationships with the key partners were established through the initial pilot programs.</li> <li>- Recent meetings have been held with Verney Rd School, FamilyCare, Valley Sport, Lighthouse volunteer coordinator and the Rights Information and Advocacy Centre.</li> </ul>	
Total project cost	\$12,004.00	Organisation Cash	\$8,070.00
Requested Council contribution	\$3,934.00	Organisation In Kind	\$5,600.00

#### Central Park St Brendan's Cricket Club

Funding Category		<b>Sports Aid</b>	
Project		Strategic Plan	
Short description		Club wishes to undertake a review of current structure and look at ways to attract new members to our club, in particular women & juniors. Areas of focus: Leadership & Engagement Growth - Striving to improve Inclusion - A place for all Community.	
Who will benefit from the project?		All involved with the club will be beneficiaries. The strategic plan will provide an excellent reference point for future club leaders. Increasing participation rates will help us reach a greater audience and drive our fund raising activities. It will remove reliance on the same supporters putting their hand in their pocket for each club function. There are obvious health benefits that flow from participation in sport. As a starting point, to attract female participation, we are reaching out to the football clubs at Deakin, to gauge interest from netballer's & their family members. If we can attract interest our club will have to bear the cost of their participation initially. We have an existing partnership arrangement with Notre Dame College and will look to elevate our influence in this area as well.	
Total project cost	\$4,950.00	Organisation Cash	0
Requested Council contribution	\$4,950.00	Organisation In Kind	0



**Shepp Feathers Inc.**

Funding Category		<b>Sports Aid</b>	
Project		Badminton Coaching Program	
Short description		GSCC's Sports Aid Project will help us to provide a badminton coaching program for juniors and youth by coaches from Badminton Victoria. Coaching will help to develop & advance badminton skills, mould future sporting talents, etc. It also helps to attract more community members to badminton and their active participation.	
Who will benefit from the project?		The juniors and youth from the Shepparton multicultural community members are the beneficiaries of this project. Shepp Feathers has more than 200 members. Currently we have 75 members between 9 to 18 years old. (40 numbers of Juniors aged 9-11 years and 35 numbers of youth above 12 years old). Moreover, the utilization of this grant money will benefit our local businesses also. Shepp Feathers is affiliated with Badminton Victoria and have been receiving guidance and consultation from Valley Sports for coaching and training opportunities.	
Total project cost	\$4,640.00	Organisation Cash	\$600.00
Requested Council contribution	\$4,040.00	Organisation In Kind	0

**Council Plan/Key Strategic Activity**

**COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP**

We will prioritise leadership in the community to celebrate our cultures, people and places that makes Greater Shepparton a unique, vibrant, diverse and liveable region.

1.1 Council to take an active leadership role for access and inclusion in our community.

**INFRASTRUCTURE and TECHNOLOGY**

We will focus on the planning of our region's requirements to enable delivery of technology and infrastructure to meet the current and future needs of the community.

4.11 Develop and improve Community and recreation facilities.

**Risk Management**

There are no moderate or major risks associated with this recommendation.

**Policy Considerations**

There are no conflicts with existing Council policy. Consideration has been given to the Grants Distribution Policy 43.POL1 version 1.3.

## Financial Implications

	2022/2023 Approved Budget	Funds previously committed in 2022/2023	Funds requested in this round	Balance remaining from budget allocation
Our Sporting Future Funding	\$160,000	\$0	\$49,998	\$110,002

<sup>1</sup> No budgets include GST for projects from this round. All funded projects are exclusive of GST.

## Legal/Statutory Implications

All project applicants must comply with planning, building and health legislative and statutory requirements prior to commencement of projects and/or release of the Council's funds.

## Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental/sustainability impacts from these projects.

## Social Implications

These projects will support ongoing community participation in sporting activity.

## Economic Impacts

There is expected to be minor regional economic stimulus arising from the construction works and purchase of equipment.

## Consultation

The grant program was promoted through social media and Council Officer email distribution lists. In addition, Council held two online grants information sessions to promote all Council grants. The program is also promoted on Council's external website with testimonials from previous recipients of funding.

Council Officers are available to support organisations applying for funding by discussing their projects to ensure they meet the objectives of the program and the guidelines prior to submission.

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

## Strategic Links

### a) Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy

- These proposals support the community and infrastructure objectives of the Greater Shepparton 2030 strategy. Direction 2 – Community Life

### b) Other strategic links

- Council Plan 2021-2025

## Conclusion

Round One of the 2022/2023 Our Sporting Future Program received a total of eight applications as detailed above. All applications for this round have been assessed and awarded funding under delegated authority in accordance with Council's Grants Distribution Policy.

## Attachments

Nil.

## 14 Confidential Management Reports

### 14.1 Designation of Confidentiality of Information - Attachments

The following report attachment has been designated confidential by the Chief Executive Officer under Governance Rule 107 and in accordance with the definition of *Confidential Information* in the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act).

- Item 11.9: Evaluation Report Contract Number 2275 – post modernisation report – purchase price updated

This document contains information which is consistent with the definition of ‘private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking disadvantage.’

## 15 Councillor Reports

### 15.1 Councillor Activities

#### 15.1.1 Councillor Activities - September 2022

Author	Team Leader Governance
Approved by	Director Corporate Services
Purpose	For Noting

#### Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

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

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

#### RECOMMENDATION

**That the Council receive and note the summary of the Councillor's Community Interactions and Informal Meetings of Councillors.**

#### Councillor's Community Interaction and Briefing Program

From 1 September 2022 to 30 September 2022, some or all of the Councillors have been involved in the following activities:

Aerodrome Advisory Committee Meeting  
 Parking Reference Group Meeting  
 MINDing the Gap | Green Passport  
 Shepparton Education Plan | Project Board Meeting  
 Community Celebration of improvements to the Stations | Murchison East & Mooroopna  
 MEA Connect Road Show - Middle East & Africa  
 Tatura Park Advisory committee meeting  
 Greater Shepparton LGBTIQA+ Advisory Meeting  
 Heritage Advisory Committee meeting  
 Murray Darling Association Board Meeting  
 ASHEFest 2022 | Morning Tea  
 Mooroopna Access All Abilities - Football Netball Carnival 2022  
 Audit and Risk Management Committee Meeting  
 Citizenship Ceremony - September 2022  
 Advancing Women's Leadership Summit  
 Berry Street Hume - Debutante Ball  
 Gender Equality Advisory Committee Meeting  
 Shepparton Malayalee Association | SHEMA - Happy Onam 2022  
 Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton - Advisory Committee meeting  
 Verney Road School Debutante Ball  
 Saleyards Advisory Committee meeting

Greater Shepparton City Council & Chamber of Commerce | A Breakfast with Steve Burgess - Good Streets make Great Towns!  
 Municipal Association of Victoria | Special State Council Meeting  
 Victorian Local Governance Association | State Election Series - Minister for Local Government  
 RiverConnect Draft Strategic Plan 2023-2028 Consultation  
 "The Apprenticeship Factory" Kyabram District League Football Netball | 2022 Grand Final – Luncheon  
 Excell Dance Centre | Spring Ball 2022  
 Murray Darling Association 2022 | National Conference & Annual General Meeting  
 Committee for Greater Shepparton | Building More than Houses - Imagining Shepparton's Potential  
 Launch | Activities in the Park Program  
 Australian Football League V/Line Cup | Breakfast Event  
 'Picnic 4 Peace' World Peace Day | Fly a Kite for Peace - Family Day  
 Gender Equality Advisory Committee Meeting - Special Meeting  
 Greater Shepparton Women's Charter Advisory Committee  
 Goulburn Valley Health - Future Redevelopment of Shepparton Campus | Presentation & Luncheon  
 Professional Councillor Coaching Session | Ruth McGowan  
 Ethnic Council - Annual General Meeting  
 Visit | Minister for Arts, Sport and Recreation – Kaiela Arts formal gifted shadows installations following White Night' event  
 Kiwanis Club of Mooroopna ChangeOver Dinner  
 Shepparton Police event - National Police Remembrance Day

In accordance with section 106 of Council's Governance Rules a summary of the matters discussed at the Informal Meetings of Councillors, are attached.

### Attachments

1. Record of Assembly of Councillors Shepparton East Overland Flow Urban Study Meeting [15.1.1.1 - 1 page]
2. Record of Assemblies of Councillors Shepparton Aerodrome Advisory Committee Meeting [15.1.1.2 - 2 pages]
3. CEO and Councillors Catch Up - 6 September 2022 [15.1.1.3 - 2 pages]
4. CEO and Councillors Catch Up - 13 September 2022 [15.1.1.4 - 2 pages]
5. CEO and Councillors Catch Up - 20 September 2022 [15.1.1.5 - 1 page]
6. CEO and Councillors Catch Up - 27 September 2022 [15.1.1.6 - 1 page]
7. January 26 Community Stakeholder Group Meeting - 18 July 2022 [15.1.1.7 - 1 page]
8. January 26 Community Stakeholder Group Meeting - 15 August 2022 [15.1.1.8 - 1 page]
9. January 26 Community Stakeholder Group Meeting - 29 August 2022 [15.1.1.9 - 1 page]

## 15.1.2 Report on Murray Darling Conference 2022

Author	Cr Geoff Dobson
Approved by	Chief Executive Officer
Purpose	For Noting

### Disclosures of Conflict of Interest in Relation to this Report

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

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

### RECOMMENDATION

**That the Council receive and note Cr Geoffrey Dobson's Report – Murray Darling Conference 2022**

### Councillor's Community Interaction and Briefing Program

#### DAY 1 - VISIT TO WATER STORAGES

Delegates were transported to the upper Murray storage of the Dartmouth Dam. This storage is considered the storage of last resort, providing emergency needs for irrigation, environmental and urban usage as well as providing hydroelectric supply for AGL Power. The dam volume was at near spill level and expected to rise higher with the possibility of increased rain. The Mitta River was running at full capacity. [Note, the dam is now spilling].

The whole of the Mitta River valley was at localised flood level with many of the lower dairy paddocks inundated, providing a spectacular view for delegates. The lasting impression was that there is still plenty of runoff that will be heading down the Murray River.

The second stop over was a tour of the Hume Reservoir, in particular the spillway which was spilling at 32,000 megalitres per day, whilst providing additional hydroelectric power for the NSW and Victorian grids.

#### DAYS 2 and 3 - NATIONAL CONFERENCE

National Chair, Cr David Thurley, outlined issues such as the environment, current water supply, storage management and changing weather patterns. Innovative ideas of infrastructure, recycled water, wastewater, ground water and covering open channels with solar panels were all canvassed.

Global megatrends was the topic from CSIRO research consultant, Claire McNaughton, including the changing climate, leaner, greener, cleaner and healthier outcomes, geopolitical shifts, digital economy, and increasing cost of natural disasters were mentioned.

Dr Alex Cook discussed reducing the impacts of drought with on farm innovation, water banking through natural aquifers, and using sensors from satellites as a ground to space integrated system of monitoring.

Naomi Boxall spoke on emerging waste streams, the circular economy and the need for recycling. The non-resilience of supply chains that are easily disrupted are additional challenges.

We can create a multimillion-dollar economic opportunity by increasing potential through the circular economy. In relation to the Murray Darling Basin, we must identify critical gaps in knowledge and the efficient delivery of investments. Circular economy outcomes will include new markets for delivering value from waste, improve resource sustainability, and drive waste minimisation, diversion and safe waste reuse.

An interesting discussion on algae bloom outbreaks which suggested that oxidizers were inappropriate as they kill everything and that Earthtec Aquatic Algaecide was a safe, self-dispersing and effective product for urban water systems. Leongatha is currently using this product and a post treatment time of 7 days allowed safe drinking water. The product has been in Australia since 2020, is now used internationally, and needs a lot less additional applications. Irrigation channels and static water bodies would also be applicable.

The conference heard that 2000 Gls of environmental water is now contained within the Basin with \$4Bil in value spread over 1million sq. kilometers, 2 million population and 25,000 kilometers of rivers. The MIL irrigation system is now delivering environmental water.

A report on seasonal conditions within the Basin was tabled. July 2022 was considered dry, August very wet and October and November will be forecast as very wet. Storages are just below maximum active storage, for example, Hume Weir is at 96-98% capacity and the Basin is planning for significant rain periods into summer.

Dartmouth Dam is now spilling, Menindee flood operations continue, Murrumbidgee storages are spilling and the Goulburn is spilling from Eildon Weir. Lake Victoria, below the Darling River is to be refilled at the end of unregulated flows as additional storage backup. Water availability will be high going into 23/24 years with the Goulburn Valley having access to 100% high reliability.

Outlook planning for 2022-2023 will include extremely dry to extremely wet scenarios. This planning was done in August 2022 and will be updated in October 2022.

My question is, why we cannot plan for primary production of nuts, grapes and citrus, which is currently operating below the Barmah Choke, for the Murray/Goulburn Valleys, as conditions are now similar. This could alleviate the need for increased water flows below the Choke.

Member for Nicholls Mr Sam Birrell MP addressed the conference and his excellent delivery around his past experience and advocacy was pleasing to hear.

Andrew McConville, CEO of the MDBA strongly acknowledged First Nations experience and knowledge of the Basin. He also highlighted the need for sustainable river levels, the

needs of the environment, sustainable diversion limits and salinity challenges. He also noted that a number of these SDL plans within New South Wales would not be delivered by 2024.

I was able to deliver an invitation to the Mr McConville to visit Shepparton, which he accepted and agreed to contact me with preferred dates. I further suggest that Council invite irrigation, business and environmental communities to attend that meeting.

The Hon Troy Grant, the Inspector General of Water Compliance also address the conference, wherein he highlighted distrust of governments and bureaucracies within the water industry, by irrigators and businesses. His job is to control the regulators, re compliances and to deliver independent reports to The Senate as to whether both the MDBA and the Commonwealth Holder of Environmental Waters are acting within their legislative requirements. I took the opportunity to invite the Inspector General to Shepparton and he indicated his willingness to accept that invitation.

I also report on the address by The Hon Tanya Plibersek, Minister for the Environment and Water, wherein she acknowledged that the additional 450 GLs of environmental water will be found, however; she acknowledged that the Government had not formed a firm view from where that water will be delivered. I was able to invite the Minister to visit Greater Shepparton to see for herself where the GMID had provided huge water savings through our Modernisation Plan. I emphasised the fact that our area had done our fair share of heavy lifting in providing additional environmental water.

Finally, the conference provided an opportunity for me to meet and discuss with Mayors and Councillors from Northern New South Wales and South Australia issues such as affordable housing, labour shortages and water issues that affected our communities.

I appreciate the support of fellow Councillors and our Executive Leadership Team to allow me to attend the conference. Next year's conference will be in Murray Bridge, South Australia and I recommend our attendance.

## Attachments

Nil



## **15.2 Council Committee Reports**

Nil Received.

## **15.3 Notice of Motion, Amendment or Rescission**

Nil Received.

## **16 Documents for Signing and Sealing**

Nil Received.

## **17 Urgent Business not Included on the Agenda**

Nil Received.

## **18 Close of Meeting**