

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE COUNCIL

**Council Meeting Agenda
10 April 2024**

To be held in MJ Hynes Auditorium
5 Market Place, Hamilton at 5:30pm



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1 Membership

Councillors

Cr David Robertson, Mayor
Cr Helen Henry, Deputy Mayor
Cr Mary-Ann Brown
Cr Albert Calvano
Cr Bruach Colliton
Cr Fran Malone
Cr Katrina Rainsford

Officers

Mr Tony Doyle, Chief Executive Officer
Mr Darren Barber, Director People and Performance
Mr Rory Neeson, Director Wellbeing, Planning and Regulation
Ms Marg Scanlon, Director Infrastructure and Sustainability
Governance Coordinator

2 Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

The Mayor, Cr Robertson will read the acknowledgement of country:

“Our meeting is being held on the traditional lands of the Gunditjmara, Djab Wurrung, Jardwadjali and Buandig people.

I would like to pay my respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging, and the Elders from other communities who may be here today.”

Please note: All Council meetings will be audio recorded, and may be livestreamed to Council’s social media platform, with the exception of matters identified as confidential items in the Agenda.

By participating in open Council meetings, individuals consent to the use and disclosure of the information they share at the meeting (including any personal and/or sensitive information).

Other than an official Council recording, no video or audio recording of proceedings of Council Meetings will be allowed without the permission of Council.

3 Prayer

Cr Brown will lead the meeting in a prayer.

“Almighty God grant to this Council, wisdom, understanding and sincerity of purpose for the good governance of this Shire.”

4 Apologies

5 Confirmation of Minutes

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 13 March 2024 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

6 Declaration of Interest

7 Leave of Absence

There are no requests for a leave of absence of tonight’s agenda.

8 Questions on Notice

Questions from the public must be submitted prior to the commencement of Council Meetings.

All questions must be submitted through completion of the Public Question Time form and be forwarded to the Chief Executive Officer at 111 Brown Street, Hamilton. All questions must be received by no later than 5pm on the Monday before the Council Meeting.

Questions must:

1. Not pre-empt debate on any matter listed on the agenda of the Council Meeting at which the question is asked.
2. Not refer to matters designated as confidential under the *Local Government Act 2020*.
3. Be clear and unambiguous and not contain argument on the subject.
4. Not be derogatory, defamatory or embarrassing to any Councillor, member of staff, ratepayer or member of the public, nor relate to a matter beyond the power of Council.

If the member of the public is in attendance at the Council Meeting the Mayor will read the question aloud and provide a response. If a question cannot be answered at the meeting, a written response will be prepared and forwarded to the person raising the question.

Residents do not need to attend the meeting for a question to be answered. If they do not attend the meeting a written response will be provided.

There are no Questions on Notice listed on the agenda.

9 Public Deputations

Requests to make a Public Deputation to Council must be submitted prior to the commencement of the Council Meeting.

Anyone wishing to make a deputation to Council must complete the Request to Make a Deputation form and forward it to the Chief Executive Officer at 111 Brown Street, Hamilton by no later than 5pm on the Monday before the Council Meeting.

Speaking time is limited to 3 minutes per person. Organisations may be represented at the deputation to Council by not more than 4 representatives. The names of the representatives to attend must be advised in writing to the Chief Executive Officer and 1 of the representatives to attend must be nominated as the principal spokesperson for the deputation.

Deputations wishing to make a written submission to the Council must provide a copy either electronically or hard copy of the submission to the Chief Executive Officer prior to the Council Meeting. One copy will be made available to the local media representative, if requested.

All members of the public addressing the Council must extend due courtesy and respect to the Council and the processes under which it operates. If a member of the public fails to do this the Chairperson can remove them from the Meeting. All members of the public must also comply with Council's Governance Rules in relation to meeting procedures and public participation at meetings.

There are no Public Deputations listed on tonight's agenda.

10 Petitions

There are no Petitions listed on tonight's agenda.

11 Informal Meetings of Councillors

The Southern Grampians Shire Council Governance Rules require that records of Informal Meetings of Councillors that meet the following criteria:

If there is a meeting of Councillors that:

- a. took place for the purpose of discussing the business of Council or briefing Councillors;
- b. is attended by at least one member of Council staff; and
- c. is not a Council meeting, Delegated Committee meeting or Community Asset Committee meeting;

be tabled at the next convenient Council meeting and recorded in the minutes of that Council meeting.

An Informal Meeting of Councillors record was kept for:

- Industry Site Visit Rail Trail – 20th March 2024
- Council Briefing Session – 27th March 2024
- HRLX Committee meeting – 28th March 2024

This agenda was prepared on 03 April 2024. Any Informal Meeting of Councillors between that date and the date of tonight's Meeting will appear in the agenda for the next Council Meeting.

Informal Meeting of Councillors

ASSEMBLY DETAILS	
Title:	Councillor Briefing 27 March 2024
Date:	27 March 2024
Location:	MJ Hynes
Councillors in Attendance:	Cr Brown Cr Calvano Cr Colliton Cr Henry Cr Malone Cr Rainsford Cr Robertson
Council Staff in Attendance:	Tony Doyle, Chief Executive Officer Darren Barber, Director People and Performance Marg Scanlon, Director Infrastructure and Sustainability Rory Neeson, Director Wellbeing, Planning and Regulation

The Informal Meeting commenced at 11:30AM

MATTERS CONSIDERED		CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED
1	Councillor Budget Workshop	
2	Community Asset Committee - Coleraine Sporting Grounds Committee Minutes December 2023	
3	Community Partnership Grants	
4		
5		
6		
7		

The Informal Meeting concluded at 5:00PM

Informal Meeting of Councillors

ASSEMBLY DETAILS	
Title:	Site Visit- Coleraine Rail Trail 20th March 2024
Date:	20th March 2024
Location:	Coleraine- Hamilton Rail Trail
Councillors in Attendance:	Cr Brown Cr Colliton Cr Malone Cr Rainsford Cr Robertson
Council Staff in Attendance:	Tony Doyle, Chief Executive Officer Darren Barber, Director People and Performance Rory Neeson, Director Wellbeing, Planning and Regulation

The Informal Meeting commenced at 2:00PM

MATTERS CONSIDERED		CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED
1	Hamilton Coleraine Rail Reserve Committee Site Visit	
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		

The Informal Meeting concluded at 5:00PM

Informal Meeting of Councillors

ASSEMBLY DETAILS	
Title:	HRLX Committee Meeting - 28th March 2024
Date:	28 th March 2024
Location:	Ted Kenna Room- Hamilton PAC
Councillors in Attendance:	Cr Brown Cr Rainsford
Council Staff in Attendance:	Marg Scanlon, Director Infrastructure and Sustainability

The Informal Meeting commenced at 9.30am.

MATTERS CONSIDERED		CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED
1	Business & Marketing Plan	
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		

The Informal Meeting concluded at 1.00PM

12 Management Reports

12.1 Glenthompson Outdoor Swimming Pool

Directorate:	Wellbeing, Planning and Regulation
Report Approver:	Rory Neeson (Director Wellbeing, Planning and Regulation)
Report Author:	Susannah Milne (Manager Community Wellbeing)
Attachment(s):	1. Glenthompson Outdoor Pool Technical Report [12.1.1 - 41 pages]

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to recommend to Council to close and decommission the Glenthompson Swimming Pool.

The Glenthompson community population is approximately 256 residents (*ABS Census 2021. It should be noted this location boundary draws resident numbers from outside the town boundary*) and sits on the eastern border of Southern Grampians Shire. The current asset utilisation (based on people swimming within the pool) is the lowest of Council's six outdoor pools, costing the ratepayer the highest amount per usage, reflective of the population catchment, quality of the facility and that two other outdoor pools are within 15 minute drive at Dunkeld and Willaura.

Southern Grampians Shire like many Councils is faced with challenges surrounding ageing infrastructure, decreasing population and financial pressures associated with limited income streams to maintain and renew community assets. Consequently, how decisions are made to prioritise investment and renewal in infrastructure must be supported by fact, evidence, and strategic planning.

Strategic planning for the consideration of investment in community infrastructure must take into consideration, population catchment, current asset utilisation, accessibility to like services within a reasonable travel time, health, and social benefits, as well as sustainability.

Furthermore, the age and infrastructure quality of the pool is impacting the ability of Council to meet legislative water quality performance requirements. The minimum adopted service level of safe, open, and reliable cannot be guaranteed to be met and it is therefore recommended that the pool be closed and decommissioned.

It is acknowledged that the decision to recommend the closure of the pool is a difficult one and is not taken lightly by Council staff. Council acknowledges the petition presented and noted to Council at its Ordinary Meeting on 13 December 2023 by representatives of the Glenthompson community containing 137 signatures (57 of which were Glenthompson residents) to save the pool and understands the decision will impact those within the community that utilise the pool.

Investment in the construction of a new pool within Glenthompson is not a financially sustainable one for the Southern Grampians community with an estimated cost of in excess

of \$10 million (*Royal Life Saving Australia – The State of Aquatic Facility Infrastructure in Australia 2022*).

This report also recommends that Council works with the community to identify where the Council can sustainably commit to future investment in community facilities at Glenthompson that provides for a greater social and health benefit for all residents in the community.

Discussion

The Glenthompson Swimming Pool was built in 1975 and includes a 25-metre pool and a toddlers pool, that ranges in depth from 1 metre to 1.6 metres. The filtration system is a high-pressured sand filter system, relying on calcium hypo chlorination to treat pool water. The pool's ageing infrastructure, expansion joints and filtration system are at a condition and standard that due to their age, make it difficult to meet legislative water quality standards and provide a safe and reliable service, with respect to water circulation, chemical standards, microbiological levels and Occupational Health and Safety risks. Further information on the condition of the pool infrastructure is included as an attachment to this report.

Current yearly operating expenditure at the pool sits at approximately \$66,000 plus CPI. This together with proposed capital expenditure indicates that over the next three years, Council would be investing over \$435,000 in a seasonally operated facility that is under-utilised by the community.

This investment would only continue the basic level of service for a limited period and the likelihood is high that once works are commenced, further works not planned or budgeted would be required, due to the age and condition of some parts of the facility.

This expenditure also doesn't include any works to the semi-enclosed amenities that were constructed at the same time as the pool, which are in a poor condition, require significant investment and do not meet current accessible requirements and standards under the Building Code of Australia which would be required to be met if any future works are completed at a significant cost.

Royal Life Saving Victoria have identified in The State of Aquatic Facility Infrastructure in Australia Report (2022) that the basic cost to replace an outdoor swimming pool is in excess of \$10 million. It notes that over 500 Australian public swimming pools will require replacement in the next 10 years. With a majority of public pools owned and operated by Local Government, the report notes that 64% of all renewal and new aquatic facility construction is funded by Local Government.

Newly created funding streams at a State Government level for aquatic and stadium facilities, which will be highly competitive, requires a successful application to demonstrate high community use, all year-round use, sustainability both financially and environmentally and strategically planned.

The current asset utilisation (based on people swimming within the pool) is the lowest of Council's six outdoor pools, and is reflective of the population catchment and quality of the facility.

The population demographic and catchment for Glenthompson and proximity of other pools within a 15-minute travel time in Southern Grampians Shire and a neighboring Shire, impacts usage and cost per visit of the Glenthompson Swimming Pool, which highlights the affordability and sustainability of service.

The cost per swim has decreased during the 2023-24 pool season to \$65.25 per swim due to the increase in use by the community as a result of discussions around the viability of the pool in late 2023. This figure was previously \$109.95 for the 2022-2023 season. While this reduction in costs per swim was encouraging to see, we also saw significant reductions in costs to all of the outdoor pools in the Shire reflecting the warmer season and the increase in lifeguard numbers following extensive recruitment campaigns by staff.

A recent Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) report examined the cost of swimming pools to the community and found, by example, the City of Greater Bendigo's Raywood Swimming Pool was named by the VAGO report as being unsustainable at \$78 per visit (Raywood is of similar demographic and profile to Glenthompson). In addition, Local Government Victoria's performance reporting framework found that the average costs per visit to pools in Victoria's large rural shires, was \$17.59.

The tables below show cost and utilisation data for all Southern Grampians outdoor pools for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 season. In comparison of usage and cost, Glenthompson presents a high cost per visit and low attendance data. The suggested reintroduction of fees for entry would not reduce the cost per visit by introducing an income stream as it would increase operational expenses around money collection, banking and acquittal.

Table 1 – 2022-23 Outdoor Pool Season

	Hamilton OP	Coleraine	Balmoral	Dunkeld	Penshurst	Glenthompson
Estimated population within a 10 minute drive of each pool (Census 2016)	10896	1228	650	851	875	316
2023-24 season						
Operating days	85	69	76	67	55	48
Total visits	7636	2135	1996	2777	1061	602
Daily visits	89.8	30.9	26.3	41.4	19.3	12.5
Visits per residents	0.7	1.7	3.1	3.3	1.3	2.1
Total operating costs	\$177,868	\$114,035	\$78,387	\$77,970	\$65,333	\$66,192
Cost per operational day	\$2,093	\$1,653	\$1,031	\$1,164	\$1,188	\$1,379
Cost per visit	\$23.29	\$53.41	\$39.27	\$28.08	\$61.58	\$109.95

Table 2 – 2023–24 Outdoor Pool Season

	Hamilton OP	Coleraine	Balmoral	Dunkeld	Penshurst	Glenthompson
Estimated population within a 10 minute drive of each pool (Census 2021)	10896	1228	650	851	875	316
2023-24 season						
Operating days	104	87	92	84	66	66
Total visits	11289	3281	2433	3457	1294	949
Daily visits	106.25	38.25	32.5	51.75	25.75	18.25
Visits per residents	1.03	2.7	3.74	4.1	1.48	3
Total operating costs	\$169,005	\$110,616	\$73,550	\$77,158	\$71,760	\$61,899
Cost per operational day	\$1,625.04	\$1271.45	\$799	\$1,087.30	\$1,087.3	\$937.85
Cost per visit	\$14.97	\$33.70	\$33.23	\$22.32	\$55.45	\$65.25

The difference in total operating days with Penshurst and Glenthompson relate to the temperature threshold under the adopted pool policy and the fact that these two pools are unheated.

It should be noted that in the 2022 – 2023 season, lifeguard shortages were the main impact on operating days with pools such as Glenthompson, Penshurst, Dunkeld, and Coleraine all being affected. With the Royal Lifesaving requirement to provide more than one lifeguard at any outdoor pool expected in to be announced in the near future, it is expected the challenges around lifeguard availability and increase in operational spend / cost per visit will be more challenging to maintain the service across six outdoor pools in future seasons.

The impact of COVID is often argued as a reason for low numbers in recent years however attendance data shows that COVID had a greater impact on lifeguard availability rather than attendance at pools across the Shire.

During the community engagement process there had been some discussion around the pool being handed back to the community to operate. This model has been successful in some communities, however the facts would remain the same in that:

1. The pool as an asset is reaching end-of-life and the community have no capacity to raise the required funds to replace the pool.
2. The pool in its current condition requires investment for basic maintenance, which the community have no capacity to provide.
3. The operating costs around power, chemicals, water, staffing and compliance with legislation is approximately \$66,000 annually.
4. There is significant risk to Council who would knowingly give ownership to community without understanding and capacity to safely operate a pool.

Community ownership was raised again at the third community engagement session where the community advised that this not a feasible option due to their limited capacity both on a volunteer and financial basis.

This leads to consider the element of value that the pool brings to the Glenthompson community. Increased social cohesion and improved health and wellbeing are the two main social benefits of the Australian aquatic industry, (*Royal Life Saving Australia – The State of Aquatic Facility Infrastructure in Australia 2022*).

The pool is far from being a place to learn to swim, public pools for many communities are a central hub where people come together.

Benefits include:

- Increased health and wellbeing impacts.
- Increased social connection.
- Safe environments for swimming and education.
- Facilitating social cohesion in communities.
- Providing employment benefits.

However, the utilisation data and demographics suggest for Glenthompson and surrounds that social and health return from the provision of the pool is minimal. Learn to swim programs and school swimming are provided locally at the Dunkeld swimming pool and at the Hamilton Indoor Aquatic Leisure Centre.

This has led Council to ask the community what would be a better and more sustainable investment that could be made within Glenthompson that would increase better health and wellbeing impacts, increase, and facilitate social connection, be utilised for a greater period than three months a year and provide economic benefits to the community?

The following ideas have been identified at the third community engagement meetings by the community:

1. Purchase of the former Primary School site for community use.
2. Improvement of the Lions Park including improved amenities such as toilets, undercover all-weather table and chairs, accessible splash/play equipment, exercise equipment.
3. Develop a community garden.
4. Create a caravan park, allowing people to stop and stay.
5. New Christmas decorations and lights around town.
6. Repair of the bridge at end of Station Street.
7. Guided walking track, around town.
8. Mural on hall.
9. Footpaths and gutters.
10. A pump bike track.
11. Climbing jungle gym.
12. Interactive path for walking and bike riding around town; or
13. Riding path between Glenthompson and Dunkeld.

It is recommended that following the decision on this report, further work will be undertaken with the Glenthompson community to refine and prioritise potential investment opportunities, which will allow officers to come back to Council with a recommendation for decision regarding priority and funding contribution.

In summary, the continued operation of the Glenthompson Swimming Pool is unsustainable on a usage and financial basis and the level of investment required to maintain the pool that would be open on a seasonal basis (December to March) with more than \$435,000 of investment required over the next three years. This doesn't include any other works to the existing changerooms or swimming pool surrounds.

There is no guarantee that pool itself, either during maintenance works or within the short term, would not fail or require significant further investment. Full replacement with like for like pool and amenities that comply with current legislative requirements would be estimated to be in excess of \$10 million which is not a financially viable or sustainable investment in the long term for Council (*Royal Life Saving Victoria have identified in The State of Aquatic Facility Infrastructure in Australia Report 2022*).

In conclusion, officers recommend that the Glenthompson Swimming Pool be closed and decommissioned.

Financial and Resource Implications

Closure and decommissioning of the pool is expected to cost between \$50,000 and \$60,000. This cost would be a one-off cost.

Works would also be undertaken regarding repurposing the pool site and incorporating it into the Lions Park, which would be subject to scoping and budget process for the 2024-2025 year.

Investment in identified community projects would also require scoping and budget allocation, which would be presented to Council for formal decision through the budget process with further discussions with the community to occur.

These costs would be offset by the expected cost of planned maintenance works and operational costs of \$435,000 over the next three years.

Council Plan, Community Vision, Strategies and Policies

Support Our Community

- 1.1 An empowered and connected community
 - 1.1.1 Facilitate opportunities for people to participate in community life, through volunteering, civic leadership, social programs, to enable inclusion, social connection, and wellbeing.
 - 1.1.2 Support the community and other agencies to build resilience and preparedness in planning for emergencies and climate change impacts and mitigation.

Support Our Community

- 1.2 Support and promote a healthy community
- 1.2.2 Support and encourage participation in arts and culture, education, leisure, recreation, and sporting opportunities.

Maintain and Renew Our Infrastructure

- 3.1 Plan and maintain sustainable assets and infrastructure
- 3.1.1 Review and adopt asset management plans to align with future service levels, environmental and financial sustainability.

Maintain and Renew Our Infrastructure

- 3.3 Attractive Council-owned and managed community and open spaces
- 3.3.3 Improve and provide opportunities for shared community spaces.

Provide Strong Governance and Leadership

- 5.1 Transparent and accountable governance
- 5.1.2 Ensure flexible and transparent decision making through open and accountable governance.

Legislation

The *Local Government Act 2020 Section 9 Overarching governance principles and supporting principles* outlines several principles that Council's must follow with respect to making decisions and providing services to the community to ensure good and transparent governance. The following principles have been taken into consideration when conducting community engagement and decision making with respect to the future of the Glenthompson pool.

Local Government Act 2020:

- s9(2)(b) priority is to be given to achieving best outcomes for the municipal community including future generations;
- s9(2)(g) the ongoing financial viability of the Council is ensured;
- s9(2)(i) the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

Gender Equality Act 2020

This decision does not have a negative bias towards gender impact, so there has been no gender impact assessment conducted in relation to this report.

Risk Management

The decision to close the Glenthompson Swimming Pool will result in lobbying within some sections of the Glenthompson community. It is highly likely that Council will receive negative community responses and associated media coverage with this decision.

The importance of communicating with the community the reason for the closure and those factors considered will be of utmost importance, to demonstrate a transparent decision-making process.

The community may believe that increasing usage of the pool will result in the pool remaining open, however this would not negate the need to invest in the renewal pool, which when considering the principles outlined in the Southern Grampians Shire Council Community Infrastructure Framework, is not viable.

Climate Change, Environmental and Sustainability Considerations

Whilst there is no direct implication in this category associated with this report, it should be noted that Council is committed to producing documentation and data through systems that have the least impact on the environment.

It is noted that the asset's age and condition make it difficult to implement climate change and sustainable considerations to reduce the environmental footprint of the pool.

Community Engagement, Communication and Consultation

Council and Council staff have conducted three separate community meetings in Glenthompson in relation to the future of the Glenthompson Swimming Pool and future community investment priorities. Further engagement on refining community priorities will be completed if Councillors resolve to close the swimming pool.

Disclosure of Interests

All Council Officers involved in the development and advice provided in this Report affirm that no general or material interests need to be declared in relation to any matters in this Report.

Tony Doyle, Chief Executive Officer
Rory Neeson, Director Wellbeing, Planning and Regulation
Susannah Milne, Manager Community Wellbeing.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Close and decommission the Glenthompson Swimming Pool;
2. Continue discussions with the community on its future priorities for the town; and
3. Present these priorities to Councillors as part of the 2024-2025 budget process.

12.2 Hamilton Transfer Station Shed Tender Award

Directorate: Infrastructure and Sustainability
Report Approver: Marg Scanlon (Director Infrastructure and Sustainability)
Report Author: Juan Donis (Sustainable Community Lead)
Attachment(s): Nil

Executive Summary

The second tender for the Hamilton Transfer Station Separation Shed design and construction closed on 8 February 2024 and a preliminary evaluation has been undertaken. Council received four submissions with an average price of \$1,700,000 to \$1,800,000 which is significantly less than the price received in the first tender in September 2023.

The budget for the project is \$1,100,000 comprising \$600,000 Council funds and \$500,000 from State Government. It is important to note that undercover space is required to ensure Hamilton Transfer Station complies with Environment Protection Authority (EPA) requirements. Current operations do not meet EPA legislation as we cannot contain the waste in a confined space within the property boundaries.

Two options are presented to Council for consideration that deliver on the project requirements in accordance with EPA requirements:

Option 1: Council allocates a further \$700,000 for the construction of the shed as proposed in the tender documentation.

Option 2: Council closes the current procurement process without a contract award and commences a new tender process to purchase and install modular bunkers.

Officers recommend Option 2 as this option delivers the same benefits as the original separation shed including weather protection, separated bunkers for waste management.

Discussion

The four submissions were received and evaluated by the tender panel.

The revised tender provided an option for tenderers to tender for all or parts of the project based on the modified design. Three out of the four companies provided a response to deliver all the stages of the project.

The table below shows a summary of the tender evaluation:

Companies	Qualitative Score (%)	Total Price	Quantitative Score (%)	Total Score
Tender A	29.83%	\$1,787,607.00	58.71%	88.54%
Tender B	29.25%	\$1,749,238.52	60.00%	89.25%
Tender C	24.42%	\$0.00	0%	24.42%

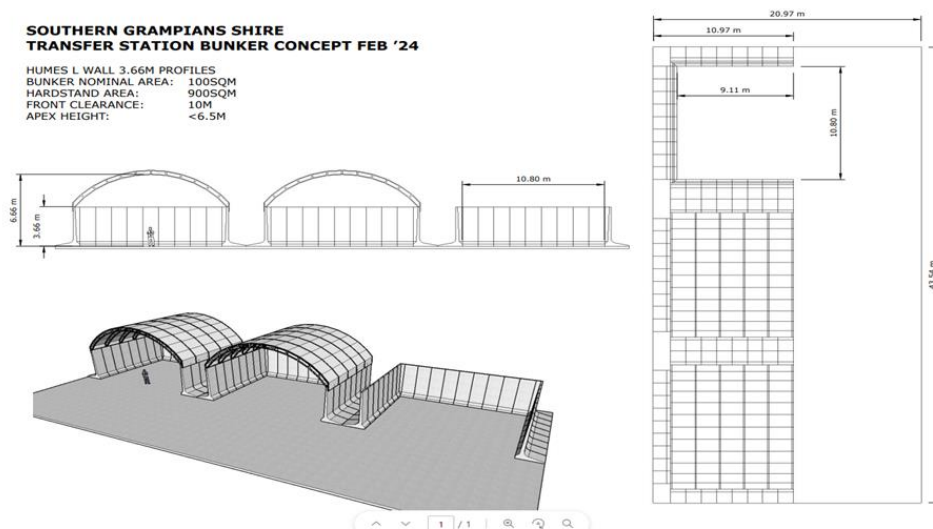
Tender D	28.02%	\$2,021,325.00	51.92%	79.94%
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In September 2023, Council received a Briefing with the officer recommendation to award Hamilton Transfer Station Separation Shed for \$2,200,000. Since then, the project's scope has been reduced without compromising the project objective. The outcome of the second procurement process undertaken in February 2024 relies on a further funding allocation from Council of \$700,000, should Council proceed with this option.

An alternative option, which will provide the same level of service as the previously proposed shed, that will provide an undercover space for waste and recyclable storage is modular bunkers. These bunkers are used for grain store and animal shelters and subsequently are readily available.

This option can be expanded over time as budget and/or demand are determined. Initial cost estimates indicate that the proposed layout (refer image 1) is \$550, 000. Officers have also confirmed supplies are readily available.

Image 1: Alternative Bunker Solution



Preliminary investigations indicate there are no planning permit requirements, however it is likely a building permit will be required due to the high-risk site, specifically fire risk management standards.

Financial and Resource Implications

The current budget for the project is \$1,100,000 of which \$500,000 has been secured through a State Government grant. Officers have maintained communication with State Government over the life of this project. During the most recent discussion State Government has indicated a notice of intention to sever the funding agreement. Council will have an opportunity for a right of reply to which Officers recommend a request to retain the State Government funding is submitted.

Council Plan, Community Vision, Strategies and Policies

Protect Our Natural Environment

4.3 Sustainable waste management services

4.3.2 Manage waste efficiently to limit costs, reduce waste and grow circular economy.

Protect Our Natural Environment

4.4 Mitigate against and adapt to climate change

4.4.1 Investigate opportunities to reduce emissions and waste.

Legislation

This procurement process was done in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

The proposed design will meet all the EPA requirements for waste management and temporary storage.

Gender Equality Act 2020

A gender equity assessment was not necessary for this tender process.

Risk Management

Specific risks to this infrastructure project have been considered, such as EPA compliance requirements. Further risk assessments will be undertaken through the design and construction phases.

There is a financial risk to Council if state government sever the funding agreement, however if a notice is served on Council, a formal request to retain the funding will be sent.

Climate Change, Environmental and Sustainability Considerations

Climate change, environmental and sustainability considerations have been closely considered in the development of the design brief but also in the evaluation of the tenders.

Community Engagement, Communication and Consultation

Community consultation and engagement will be undertaken as part of the project's construction phase.

Disclosure of Interests

All Council Officers involved in the development and advice provided in this Report affirm that no general or material interests need to be declared in relation to any matters in this Report.

Marg Scanlon, Director Infrastructure and Sustainability

James Allen, Circular Economy Officer

Juan Donis, Sustainable Community Lead

Janelle Dahlenburg, Procurement Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Resolve to not award the Tender 2013107 for the design and construction of a shed at the Hamilton Transfer Station;
2. Authorise the Director of Infrastructure and Sustainability to write to the tenderers to thank them for their submissions, noting however this tender will not be awarded.

12.3 Contract No 2023125 - Coleraine - Silvester Oval - Sewerage Works

Directorate: Infrastructure and Sustainability
Report Approver: Marg Scanlon, Director Infrastructure and Sustainability
Report Author: Marg Scanlon, Director Infrastructure and Sustainability
Presenter(s): Rishabh Sharma, Project Manager

Attachment(s): Confidential Attachment 1 – Assessment report

Executive Summary

The objective of Silvester Oval Coleraine Sewage Project is to decommission the existing septic tank and establish a new septic system to address environmental health requirements and address functional needs to service the local community. The current septic system is outdated, inadequate to meet demands, and fails to comply with current environmental health standards.

Recognising the unsustainable management of the current sewer system from environmental, financial, and social standpoints, the Council has committed through the capital works program to install a pressure sewer main to replace the existing septic storage tank on site.

Following the issuing of Requests for Tenders (RFT) for Contract No 2023125, two responses have been received and the purpose of this report is to make a recommendation to Council to award Tender No 2023125 to Ted Finchett Pty Ltd. for the tendered lump sum price of \$194,477 (ex GST).

Discussion

The sewage works tender encompasses the replacement of the current septic tank with the installation of a new pressure sewage system. The new pressure sewer system offers efficient solutions with scalability, reduced environmental impact, enhanced reliability and space efficiency with improved aesthetics that can boost community participation at the Reserve.

This project is crucial for ensuring the well-being of the community, enhancing operational efficiency, and promoting sustainable development in Coleraine. By implementing this new septic system, the Council can address pressing issues while fostering a healthier, more vibrant environment for the members and the visitors alike.

The construction scope outlined in this tender includes three components:

1. Decommissioning of Existing Septic Tank:
Removal and disposal of the current septic tank to allowing installation of the new system.
2. Installation of the new Collection Tank:

Compliance with AS1546 and WSA-129 standards, including health accreditation. The collection tank will have a storage capacity of 7500L, equipped with a duplex unit for enhanced functionality.

3. Pipework Installation:

Utilisation of open trench excavation and horizontal directional drilling methods for the installation of the pipework as detailed in the attached specifications.

The specification of works was carefully structured to ensure the contractor is fully informed about the need to minimize disruptions for the football club and other facility users. Following discussions with the contractor, it has been confirmed that they possess the capability to collaborate effectively with the Football club and facility users. This collaborative approach will enable the contractor to prioritize the works while the football club's away games are scheduled. The contractor's demonstrated ability to coordinate their efforts and accommodate the needs of the football club and other stakeholders is a key factor to minimise any potential interruptions.

By adhering to these outlined tasks and specifications, the project aims to efficiently and effectively replace the existing septic infrastructure with a compliant and sustainable pressure sewage system at Silvester Oval.

Tender submissions:

Tenderer	Price	Conforming
Ted Finchett	\$ 194,477 (ex GST)	Yes
Tenderer 2	\$ 230,825 (ex GST)	Yes

These conforming tenders were evaluated against the following pre-set evaluation criteria:

- Price - 50 %
- Demonstrated performance in provision of similar services - 20%
- Methodology - 20%
- Sustainable Procurement - 10%
- Occupational Health & Safety - Pass/Fail

Tenderer	Qualitative score (%)	Price	Quantitative score (%)	TOTAL SCORE
Ted Finchett	29.33%	\$ 194,477	50.00%	79.33%
Tenderer 2	10.00%	\$ 230,825	42.13%	52.13%

A detailed confidential procurement report is attached to support this recommendation.

Financial and Resource Implications

The contractor will be responsible for carrying out the works under specified conditions in technical and general specification of the contract document and has priced the project accordingly.

The following table comprises budget, costs and variance based on the recommended contract award for the Silvester Oval Sewage Project.

	Budget (Excl GST)	Tender and other (ex GST)	Variance (ex GST)
Budget	\$350,000		
Design (Costs confirmed)		\$3,000	
Project Management (Anticipated Costs)		\$20,000	
Contract award		\$152,577	
Provisional items included in contract award		\$41,900	
GHCMA Permit		\$280	
Total	\$350,000	\$217,757	+\$132,243 (Savings)

Council Plan, Community Vision, Strategies and Policies

- 1.2 Support and promote a healthy community.
 - 1.2.2 Support and encourage participation in arts and culture, education, leisure, recreation and sporting opportunities

Maintain and Renew Our Infrastructure

- 3.1 Plan and maintain sustainable assets and infrastructure.
 - 3.1.1 Review and adopt asset management plans to align with future service levels, environmental and financial sustainability.

Legislation

This report assists the Council in meeting its obligations under the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Environmental Protection Act (2017)

Risk Management

The risks associated with this work have been assessed as medium to high. To mitigate the risks associated with these works, the licensed contractor to be engaged along with their approved contingency plan dealing with the Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD). Furthermore, upon appointment, respective plans will be finalised for approval by both Council and the Catchment Management Authority.

The completion of these works will ensure Council minimises future risks of EPA Notices for waste spills or compliance breaches and the potential issuing of notices from Council's internal Environment Health Officer.

Gender Equality Act 2020

While there are no implications for the *Gender Equality Act 2020* identified through this report. The provision of an improved sewer system ensures access to functional toilet facilities for all reserve users.

Community Engagement, Communication and Consultation:

The Silvester Oval Committee of Management and specifically the Coleraine Football Netball Club will be kept informed throughout the project. The works program submitted as a requirement of the tender consideration has been given, minimising the operational impact to the tenant clubs. While the actual works period is expected to be three weeks, there is a need to disconnect the existing services as the new system is changed over. Officers will continue to engage with the Reserve Committee and the Club as the project timelines are confirmed to ensure minimal disruption.

Climate Change, Environmental and Sustainability Considerations

The project will address past environmental issues of sewerage contaminating the environment leading to risk of illness. The awarded contractor is required to develop an environmental management plan which will be submitted to both Council and CMA for approval prior to the works commencing on site.

Disclosure of Interests

All Council Officers involved in the development and advice provided in this Report affirm that no general or material interests need to be declared in relation to any matters in this Report.

Marg Scanlon, Director Infrastructure and Sustainability.

Bill Scott, Manager Project Management Office.

Rishabh Sharma, Project Manager.

Susannah Milne, Manager Community Wellbeing

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Award Contract No 2023125 for Silvester Oval Sewage Works to Ted Finchett Pty Ltd for the tendered lump sum price of \$194,477 (ex GST).

2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to execute Contract No 2023125 for Silvester Oval Sewage Works and any other documents required by or to give effect to the terms of the contract on behalf of Council.

12.4 Taylor Street Dunkeld - Decision to Adopt - Amendment C60sgra

Directorate:	Wellbeing, Planning and Regulation
Report Approver:	Daryl Adamson (Manager Strategy and Regulation), Rory Neeson
Report Author:	(Director Wellbeing, Planning and Regulation) {author-name} ({position})
Attachment(s):	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Southern Grampians C 60 sgra 001 zn Map 36 Exhibition Gazetted [12.4.1 - 1 page]2. Southern Grampians C 60 sgra Draft Planning Permit TP 32 2023 Exhibition Gazetted [12.4.2 - 8 pages]3. Southern Grampians C 60 sgra Supporting Document Proposed Plan of Subdivision Exhibition Gazetted [12.4.3 - 1 page]4. Response - Combined Planning Scheme Amendment C 60 SGRA & Permit T P 0322023 - ~ Taylor Street Dunke [12.4.4 - 2 pages]5. APPROVED EPA Submission 2-20 Taylor St, Dunkeld_ C 60 RE Q 004227 21022024 [12.4.5 - 2 pages]6. Southern Grampians C 60 sgra Draft Planning Permit - Post Exhibition Changes Final [12.4.6 - 8 pages]

Executive Summary

This report seeks Council adoption of Amendment C60sgra to the Southern Grampians Planning Scheme.

This is a combined planning scheme amendment and planning permit application that proposes to rezone 4.047 hectares of land at 2-20 Taylor Street Dunkeld currently zoned Rural Living Zone – Schedule 2 (RLZ2) to Low-Density Residential Zone – Schedule 2 (LDRZ). The draft Planning Permit (TP/32/2023) seeks approval for the subdivision of the land to create four (4 lots).

Background to the Amendment

Amendment C60sgra and permit application TP/32/2023 is a combined planning permit application and planning scheme amendment under section 96A of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.

The land subject to the Amendment and the planning permit is 2-20 Taylor Street, Dunkeld.

The Amendment proposes to rezone the land at 2-20 Taylor Street, Dunkeld to facilitate the subdivision and development of the area in accordance with the Council adopted Dunkeld Structure Plan (2014).

Specifically, the Amendment will rezone the land from Rural Living Zone – Schedule 2 (RLZ2) to the Low-Density Residential Zone – Schedule 2 (LDRZ2).

The maps below show the existing zoning of the subject land and an aerial photo.



Existing Zone – Rural Living Zone



Aerial photo of subject land

The planning permit application proposes to allow, subject to conditions, a four (4) lot subdivision.

The combined proposal seeks to facilitate the residential subdivision of land on the north-eastern edge of Dunkeld. The Amendment and permit are consistent with the Dunkeld Structure Plan (2014), and existing pattern of development within the area.

Discussion

At the Ordinary Council meeting on 21 June 2023, Council resolved to prepare and exhibit a combined Planning Scheme Amendment and Planning Permit application for 2-20 Taylor Street, Dunkeld.

The request for Authorisation to prepare the Amendment was submitted to the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) which was authorised on 28 November 2023, subject to minor administrative corrections.

Copies of all the relevant documents on the Amendment and planning permit can be found at Attachments 1, 2, and 3 of this report.

The Amendment was publicly exhibited from 22 January 2024 to 1 March 2024.

Submissions were received from Wannon Water and EPA – Refer to Attachment 4 and 5 of this report. No objecting submissions were received.

Wannon Water made a submission requesting the planning permit be modified to include conditions around water and sewer servicing requirements. This change is reasonable, and the exhibited planning permit has been modified to include these changes – Refer to Attachment 6 of this report.

The EPA noted the Amendment documentation was consistent with preliminary advice provided to Council on 29 June 2023. No changes to the amendment requested.

Next Steps

Officers recommend the Council adopt Amendment C60sgra, in the form outlined in Attachments 1, 3 and 6 of this report and resolves to submit the Amendment to the Minister for Planning for final approval.

Financial and Resource Implications

The costs associated with the adoption of the Amendment can be met within the 2023-2024 Planning Budget and all statutory fees will be paid by the proponent.

Council Plan, Community Vision, Strategies and Policies

Support Our Community

- 1.1 An empowered and connected community
- 1.1.3 Provide opportunities for increased community engagement and participation in Council decision making and activities.

Grow Our Regional Economy

- 2.2 Increase our regional profile
- 2.2.1 Leverage the Shire's strategic advantages in health, education, leisure and cultural activities as a means to increase the region's profile and stimulate economic and

population growth.

Protect Our Natural Environment

- 4.2 Balance environmental protection with Council's support for growth
- 4.2.1 Ensure land use planning balances growth with appropriate levels of environmental stewardship.
- 4.2.3 Identify and manage via the Planning Scheme, significant landscapes, key biodiversity assets and contaminated land

Legislation

The amendment is consistent with the Southern Grampians Planning Scheme policy framework.

Gender Equality Act 2020

There are no direct implications to the *Gender Equality Act 2020* in adopting the Amendment.

Risk Management

Risk is managed through implementing the provisions of the Southern Grampians Planning Scheme and the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

Climate Change, Environmental and Sustainability Considerations

No adverse environmental effects are anticipated from the Amendment.

Community Engagement, Communication and Consultation

Amendment C60sgra was exhibited according to the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* requirements.

A letter was sent to relevant Ministers, public authorities and owners and occupiers of land that may be affected by the Amendment, to inform them of the Amendment.

Notices were also placed in the local newspaper and Government Gazette.

No objecting submissions were received.

Disclosure of Interests

All Council Officers involved in the development and advice provided in this Report affirm that no general or material interests need to be declared in relation to any matters in this Report.

Rory Neeson, Director Wellbeing, Planning and Regulation
Andrew Nield, Planning Coordinator

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives and considers all submissions made to Amendment C60sgra.
2. Adopt Amendment C60sgra to the Southern Grampians Planning Scheme, in the form outlined in Attachments 1, 3 and 6 of this report.
3. Submit the adopted Amendment C60sgra together with the prescribed information to the Minister for Planning requesting approval.
4. Recommend to the Minister for Planning that Planning Permit TP/32/2023 be approved in the form outlined in Attachment 3 and 6 of this report.

12.5 Community Asset Committee - Coleraine Sporting Grounds Committee - December 2023 Minutes

Directorate:	Chief Executive Office
Report Approver:	Tony Doyle (Chief Executive Officer)
Report Author:	Lisa Grayland (Acting Governance Coordinator)
Attachment(s):	1. Coleraine Sporting Grounds Committee Minutes - 12 December 2023 [12.5.1 - 5 pages]

Executive Summary

In accordance with Council's Governance Rules and section 47(4)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, approved minutes of Community Asset Committees are to be reported to Council Meetings to ensure governance requirements and appropriate standards of probity are being met.

Discussion

The following minutes of the Coleraine Sporting Grounds Community Asset Committee are attached to this report:

- 12 December 2023

The minutes have been confirmed by the Committee and forwarded through to Council's Governance Coordinator for reporting to the next available Council Meeting.

Financial and Resource Implications

There are no financial or resource implications which will result from the adoption of this recommendation. Section 65 Committees are bound to provide financials to Council for Auditing purposes in accordance with section 65 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Council Plan, Community Vision, Strategies and Policies

Support Our Community

- 1.1 An empowered and connected community
 - 1.1.1 Facilitate opportunities for people to participate in community life, through volunteering, civic leadership, social programs, to enable inclusion, social connection and wellbeing.

Provide Strong Governance and Leadership

- 5.1 Transparent and accountable governance
 - 5.1.1 Strengthen the governance role of Councillors by informing, resourcing, skilling and supporting the role.
 - 5.1.2 Ensure flexible and transparent decision making through open and accountable governance.

Legislation

Community Asset Committees are established under Section 65 of the Act and operate under a s47 Delegation issued by the Chief Executive Officer and are bound by Council's Governance Rules and the Committee Terms of Reference.

Gender Equality Act 2020

There are no gender equality implications.

Risk Management

Regular reporting of the Committee Meeting Minutes ensure governance requirements and appropriate standards of probity are being met.

Climate Change, Environmental and Sustainability Considerations

Not applicable.

Community Engagement, Communication and Consultation

Not applicable.

Disclosure of Interests

All Council Officers involved in the development and advice provided in this Report affirm that no general or material interests need to be declared in relation to any matters in this Report.

Karly Saunders – Governance Coordinator
Lisa Grayland – Acting Governance Coordinator

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the Minutes from the following Community Asset Committees:

1. Coleraine Sporting Grounds Committee.

12.6 Community Partnership Grants

Directorate: Chief Executive Office
Report Approver: Tony Doyle (Chief Executive Officer)
Report Author: Jane Coshutt (Community Engagement Coordinator)
Attachment(s): Nil

Executive Summary

This report provides Council with information regarding community grant applications (Tourism and Events, Sustainability, Community Strengthening, Community Infrastructure, Arts and Culture and Heritage categories) that have been recommended for Community Partnership Grants program funding.

Discussion

The Community Partnership Grants program was established to deliver Council grants that are responsive to the needs and opportunities of the community, inclusive and equitable to all, and one that facilitated the flexible delivery of key strategies identified within the Council Plan 2021 - 25 across the social, economic and environmental spectrum.

This program consolidates Council's extensive range of grant opportunities into one program to enable better integration and co-ordination of grant administration and improved marketing of those grant opportunities.

Community Partnership Grants assistance is considered for organisations, groups, committees and individuals with proposals that directly benefit the Southern Grampians Shire region. Applications are assessed using pre-determined evaluation criteria, taking into consideration strategic objectives within the Council Plan, Health and Wellbeing Plan, other Council Strategies and Community Plans.

The current round of grants includes 10 grants approved over \$2,500 totaling \$77,400.18 and 21 grants approved for \$2,500 and under, totaling \$42,727.30.

Below is the summary of the approved grant applications, which requested funds above \$2,500.

Category	Applicant	Project	Ask Amount	Funding Amount	Total Project Cost
Arts and Culture	Dunkeld Writers Festival	Dunkeld Writers Festival – promotion and marketing	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$35,000.00
Tourism and Events	Serra Terror Incorporated	Serra Terror 2024 – traffic management and first aid	\$15,000.00	\$7,500.00	\$83,057.70

Tourism and Events	Hamilton Table Tennis Association Inc.	Table Tennis Victoria State Tournament - Hamilton Junior Open and Hamilton Senior Open	\$15,000.00	\$8,697	\$15,000.00
Tourism and Events	Cavendish Redgum Festival 2024	Redgum Festival 2024 - entertainment	\$6,955.00	\$6,955.00	\$14,738.00
Sustainability	Sterling Place, Dunkeld Community Centre	Getting out of Gas – oven upgrade	\$3,742.18	\$3,742.18	\$7,484.36
Community Infrastructure	Byaduk Mechanics Institute	Interior Painting of Byaduk Hall	\$6,200.00	\$6,200	\$12,410
Community Infrastructure	Mooralla Tennis Club Inc.	Mooralla Tennis Court Repairs	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$38,031.82
Community Infrastructure	Hamilton Croquet Club	Replacement of lawn mower	\$6,022.50	\$6,022.50	\$12,045.00
Community Infrastructure	Glenthompson War Memorial Hall	Hall Kitchen Upgrade	\$7,283.50	\$7,283.50	\$16,967.00
Sustainability	Penshurst Football Netball Club	LED Lighting Upgrade	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$37,585.10
Total			\$91,203.18	\$77,400.18	\$272,318.98

Below is the summary of grant applications approved, which requested funds of \$2,500 and under.

Category	Applicant	Project	Ask amount	Funding amount	Total Project Cost
Community Strengthening	Hamilton Good Shepherd Lutheran Church	May Market Kids Zone	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$4,000.00
Arts and Culture	Coleraine District Development Assoc.	Coleraine Art & Photography Show	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$11,199.46
Tourism and Events	Peaks and Trails	Compliance with revised VicRoads Road Traffic Management	\$2,500.00	\$2,361.50	\$2,361.50
Tourism and Events	3 Peaks Festival	3 Peaks Festival – kids entertainment	\$6,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$18,450.00

Tourism and Events	Hamilton and Western Districts Pipe Band	Hamilton Highland Gathering 2024	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,799.37
Tourism and Events	Parklands Golf Club Incorporated	VVGA Sand greens Championship	\$1,883.00	\$1,883.00	\$1,883.00
Tourism and Events	PPA-Penhurst 3289 Business and Tourism	Penshurst community Markets	\$2,000.00	\$1,901.82	\$1,951.82
Community Infrastructure	Branxholme Progress Association	Town Heritage Interpretive Map Walk	\$1,043.00	\$1,043.00	\$1,043.00
Community Infrastructure	Yulecart Community Inc.	Yulecart Hall Centenary and Yulecart State School Memorial	\$1,713.97	\$1,713.97	\$2,913.97
Community Infrastructure	Balmoral Golf Club	Replaster Ceiling Function Room	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$5,705.82
Community Infrastructure	Hamilton Miniature Railway Group Inc.	Communication Upgrade (two-way radios)	\$1,769.99	\$1,769.99	\$1,769.99
Community Infrastructure	Glenthompson Park & Recreation Reserve	Security and Door Lock Upgrade	\$2,473.30	\$2,473.30	\$2,473.30
Community Infrastructure	Yulecart Community Inc.	Signage to promote usage	\$1,150.60	\$1,150.60	\$1,150.60
Community Infrastructure	Coleraine P&A Society	St Joseph's Hall Upgrade	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$4,357.00
Community Infrastructure	Branxholme Progress Association	Community Gathering Space Upgrade	\$1,786.40	\$1,786.40	\$1,786.40
Community Infrastructure	Dunkeld Arboretum Development Group Inc.	Dunkeld Arboretum WebMap Signage Project	\$552.72	\$552.72	\$552.72
Community Infrastructure	Grangeburn Bowling Club Inc.	Purchase of Lawn Bowls	\$2,291.00	\$2,291.00	\$2,291.00
Community Infrastructure	Balmoral And District Rec Reserve Committee	Hot Food Bar Purchase	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00
Community Infrastructure	Cavendish Community Men's Shed	Purchase of tools	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$5,007.54

Community Infrastructure	Coleraine Football Netball Club Inc.	TV Upgrade	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$4,500.00
Heritage	Mount Rouse & District Historical Society Inc.	Website Creation	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00
Total			\$48,881.07	\$42,727.30	\$55,325.02

Below is the budget summary for 2023 / 2024 Community Partnership Grants.

Category	Budget 2023-24	Round One Spent	Remaining Balance After Rd 1	Round Two Spent	Remaining Balance Round 2
Arts and Culture	\$10,000.00	-	\$10,000.00	\$6,500.00	\$3,500.00
Tourism and Events	\$50,000.00	\$57,765.94	\$(7,765.94)	\$34,298.32	\$(42,064.26)
Infrastructure	\$60,000.00	\$77,861.29	\$(17,861.29)	\$54,643.61	\$(72,504.90)
Community Strengthening	\$10,000.00	\$7,667.50	\$2,332.50	\$6,543.37	\$(4,210.87)
Sustainability	\$10,000.00	\$17,500.00	\$(7,500.00)	\$15,742.18	\$(23,242.18)
Heritage	\$15,000.00	\$17,496.38	\$(2,496.38)	\$2,400.00	\$(4,896.38)
Demand Allocation	\$145,000.00	-	\$145,000.00	-	\$145,000.00
TOTAL	\$300,000.00	\$178,291.11	\$121,708.89	\$120,127.48	\$1,581.41

Below is a summary of the total amount Council has awarded over the past six years through the Community Partnership Grants Program.

Year	Total Amount Awarded	Total Project Cost
Financial Year 2023/24	\$298,418.59	\$988,357.58
Financial Year 2022/23	\$195,666.82	\$416,310.99
Financial Year 2021/22	\$194,365.03	\$318,404.21
Financial Year 2020/21	\$154,640.12	\$314,982.78
Financial Year 2019/20	\$186,223.01	\$570,460.46
Financial Year 2018/19	\$166,182.55	\$725,759.00
Totals:	\$1,195,496.12	\$3,334,275.02

Financial and Resource Implications

The collaborative approach across Council grant categories opens opportunities for Council to work with the community to broaden the scope of ideas identified within applications to position these projects and or events to leverage external funding.

Applications for \$2,500 or greater must demonstrate cash contributions and must provide evidence of cash held, or applicants must be able to demonstrate their financial capacity to complete the project.

The grant amount approved by Council cannot be increased post-funding approval. In the case of a funding shortfall, funding will not be made available by way of a Council loan.

Council Plan, Community Vision, Strategies and Policies

Support Our Community

- 1.1 An empowered and connected community
- 1.1.1 Facilitate opportunities for people to participate in community life, through volunteering, civic leadership, social programs, to enable inclusion, social connection and wellbeing.

Support Our Community

- 1.2 Support and promote a healthy community
- 1.2.2 Support and encourage participation in arts and culture, education, leisure, recreation and sporting opportunities.

Legislation

The Community Partnership Grants Program Policy was adopted in December 2022.

Each grant category requests that applicants ensure that their project or idea demonstrates a link to the Council Plan, Health and Wellbeing Plan or other endorsed Strategic Plans of Council.

The Community Partnership Grants program assists Council to deliver on key outcomes of the Council Plan 2021 - 25. The Council Plan establishes that we will:

- Support our Community
- Develop our Regional Economy
- Maintain and Renew our Infrastructure
- Protect our Natural Environment, and
- Provide Strong Governance and Leadership

Gender Equality Act 2020

There are no implications for the *Gender Equality Act 2020* identified through this report or the grants program.

Risk Management

There is a predetermined eligibility and assessment criteria with a set weighting, to identify and assess the risk exposure within each application. The assessment criteria ensure that projects and events have adequate control measures in place to ensure their successful and safe delivery.

Each grant applicant must also demonstrate that they comply with any legal or statutory regulations relevant to the project which they are seeking Community Partnership Grants funding. This includes (where relevant) appropriate insurances, food handling permits, liquor licences etc.

Climate Change, Environmental and Sustainability Considerations

No Environmental and Sustainability Considerations identified.

Community Engagement, Communication and Consultation

Various Council staff engage with the community in relation to the Community Partnership Grants program at a range of meetings and workshops (including Councillor Engagement, Progress Association, club and user groups and event organiser meetings, etc). Staff also engage with applicants on a 1:1 basis and in group workshops, to provide support through the Community Partnership Grants process.

Grant recipients across all categories are required to complete a grant acquittal report. As part of the acquittal, Council seeks feedback from the grant recipient on ways in which the delivery of grants to the community could be improved.

The decision will be communicated through a media release to the general public, social media posts, via letters to the Grant recipients and through Council's Community E-Newsletter and township newsletters. The successful applicants will be notified by phone call and mail, and successful projects will be promoted on Council's website.

Disclosure of Interests

All Council Officers involved in the development and advice provided in this Report affirm that no general or material interests need to be declared in relation to any matters in this Report.

Alison Quade, Manager Communications and Engagement
Melanie Russell, Community Engagement Coordinator

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes \$42,727.30 of Community Partnership Grants of \$2,500 and under approved under delegation.
2. Notes \$77,400.18 of Community Partnership Grants over \$2,500 approved under delegation.

13 Notices of Motion

13.1 Notice of Motion -#2/24 - Cr Rainsford

Councillor: Katrina Rainsford

Attachment(s): Nil

I hereby give notice of my intention to move the following motion at the Council Meeting to be held on 10 April 2024.

MOTION

That Southern Grampians Shire Council:

1. Provide equitable funding and support for our townships to have community asset committees as a management option.
2. Urgently investigate and support a Glenthompson Community Asset Committee (similar to the Coleraine Sporting Grounds Committee) who will be involved in decisions relating to existing and future community assets.

14 Urgent Business

There is no Urgent Business listed on tonight's agenda.

15 Mayor, Councillors and Delegate Reports

Address from the Mayor and Councillors in relation to matters of civic leadership and community representation, including acknowledgement of community groups and individuals, information arising from internal Committees and delegates committees, advocacy on behalf of constituents and other topics of significance.

16 Confidential Reports

There are no Confidential Matters listed on tonight's agenda.

RECOMMENDATION

That the following items be considered in Closed Council as specified in section 66(2)(a) and referenced in section 3(1), **XXXXXXINSERT TEXT HEREXXXXXXX**

17 Close of Meeting

This concludes the business of the meeting.