



Southern Grampians
SHIRE COUNCIL

Council Meeting Agenda

Council Meeting
8 September 2021

To be held virtually via Zoom
at 5:30pm.

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1. Membership

Councillors

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

Officers

Mr Tony Doyle, Interim Chief Executive Officer
Ms Evelyn Arnold, Director Community and Corporate Services
Ms Marg Scanlon, Director Infrastructure
Mr Andrew Goodsell, Director Planning and Development

2. Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

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 McAdam will lead the meeting in a prayer.

4. Apologies

5. Confirmation of Minutes

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11 August 2021 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

6. Declaration of Interest

7. 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 tonight's agenda.

8. 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 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 Chambers. All members of the public must also comply with Council's Council Meetings policy in relation to meeting procedures and public participation at meetings.

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

9. 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:

- Briefing Session – 11 August 2021
- Briefing Session – 25 August 2021

This agenda was prepared on 1 September 2021. Any Informal Meeting of Councillors between that date and the date of tonight's Meeting will appear in the agenda for the next Ordinary Meeting of Council.

RECOMMENDATION

That the record of the Informal Meeting of Councillors be noted and incorporated in the Minutes of this Meeting.

Southern Grampians Shire Council
 Informal Meeting of Councillors

ASSEMBLY DETAILS	
Title:	Briefing Session
Date:	11 August 2021
Location:	Virtual via Zoom
Councillors in Attendance:	Cr Bruach Colliton, Mayor Cr David Robertson, Deputy Mayor Cr Mary-Ann Brown Cr Albert Calvano Cr Helen Henry Cr Greg McAdam Cr Katrina Rainsford
Council Staff in Attendance:	Michael Tudball, Chief Executive Officer Evelyn Arnold, Director Community and Corporate Services Marg Scanlon, Director Infrastructure Andrew Goodsell, Director Planning and Development Hugh Koch, Manager Economic Development and Tourism Susannah Milne, Manager Community and Leisure Services Roger Rook, Coordinator Leisure Facilities Rohit Srivastava, Manager Assets
External Presenters:	Marc Sleeman, Chief Executive Officer Grampians Tourism

The Informal Meeting commenced at 1:00pm.

MATTERS CONSIDERED		CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED
1	Councillor and CEO Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEO Recruitment Process • Councillor Coaching Proposal • Hamilton Gallery Matters 	Nil

	Council Meeting Items <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delegated Committees	
2	Grampians Tourism Update	Nil
3	Rural Councils Victoria	Nil
4	Tender 17-21 Lease of Gymnasium Equipment - HILAC	Nil
5	Small Towns Strategy	Nil
6	CVF 2041	Nil
7	Cox Street Utility Relocation – Telstra Works	Nil
8	Hear Submissions – Proposed Sale Moodie Avenue	Nil

The Informal Meeting concluded at 5:00pm.

Southern Grampians Shire Council
 Informal Meeting of Councillors

ASSEMBLY DETAILS	
Title:	Briefing Session
Date:	25 August 2021
Location:	Virtual via Zoom
Councillors in Attendance:	Cr Bruach Colliton, Mayor Cr David Robertson, Deputy Mayor Cr Mary-Ann Brown Cr Albert Calvano Cr Helen Henry Cr Greg McAdam Cr Katrina Rainsford
Council Staff in Attendance:	Tony Doyle, Interim Chief Executive Officer Evelyn Arnold, Director Community and Corporate Services Marg Scanlon, Director Infrastructure Andrew Goodsell, Director Planning and Development Hugh Koch, Manager Economic Development and Tourism Kylie McIntyre, Acting Team Leader Aerodrome Waste and Sustainability Amy Knight, Manager Cultural Arts Lachy Patterson, Manager Community Relations Stacey Barnes, Events Marketing and Development Officer Daryl Adamson, Manager Shire Strategy and Regulation Parvesh Siroha, Senior Strategic Planner Belinda Johnson, Manager Finance
External Presenters:	Kylie Gaston, Chair Great South Coast Integrated Water Management Forum Jackie Bowe, Integrated Water Management Coordinator Wannon Water

The Informal Meeting commenced at 11:30am.

MATTERS CONSIDERED		CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED
1	Councillor and CEO Meeting	Nil
2	Matters Raised by Council	Nil
3	Hamilton IWM Plan	Nil
4	Option 3 – Redevelopment Hamilton Gallery	Nil
5	Greater Grants Round 1	Nil
6	Events Assistance Policy	Nil
7	Volcanic Assets Masterplan	Nil
8	Rural Land Use Strategy	Nil
9	Hardship Fund	Nil

The Informal Meeting concluded at 5:00pm.

10. Management Reports

10.1 Draft 2020 - 2021 Financial & Performance Statements

Directorate:	Evelyn Arnold, Director Community and Corporate Services
Author:	Belinda Johnson, Manager Finance
Attachments:	1. Annual Financial Report 2020/2021 2. Performance Statement 2020/2021 3. Governance and Management Checklist 2020/2021

Executive Summary

The *Local Government Act 1989* (LGA) requires that Council must pass resolutions giving approval in principle to the annual financial and performance statements and the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework Governance and Management Checklist, and authorise two Councillors to certify the statements in their final form after any changes recommended or agreed to by the Auditor General have been made.

It is recommended that the Cr Robertson and Cr Brown as the councillor members of the Audit & Risk Committee, be authorised to certify the statements.

Discussion

The financial statements form part of Council's Annual Report. The Financial Statements, Performance Statement and Governance & Management Checklist are each prepared in accordance with the requirements of the LGA and the applicable accounting standards.

They are audited by McLaren Hunt on behalf of the Victorian Auditor General's Office and presented to Council's Audit and Risk Committee. When finalised they are formerly certified by the Auditor General. The statements are also signed by the Chief Executive Officer and the Principal Accounting Officer (Manager Finance).

Draft statements have been audited by McLaren Hunt and presented to the Audit & Risk Committee on 2 September 2021. However, at the time of completing this report the Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) had not finalised their review.

The Management Letter and Closing report are also only in Draft format.

Financial and Resource Implications

There are no financial implications in this process. The statements outline financial performance for the year but costs in their production are part of normal operating expenditure.

Legislation, Council Plan and Policy Impacts

Council Plan – Provide Governance & Leadership – 5.1.2 Ensure responsible, effective and efficient use of Council resources.

Sections 131 and 132 of the LGA and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014 outline the process required to be followed in the certification of the annual statements.

Risk Management

The draft statements have been presented to Council's Audit and Risk Committee on Thursday 2 September 2021.

Environmental and Sustainability Considerations

This report has no environmental or sustainability considerations.

Community Consultation and Communication

There is no requirement for community engagement however the documents form part of Council's Annual Report which is a publicly available document. When prepared, the availability of the Annual Report is advertised.

Disclosure of Interests

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

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Approve in principle the draft 2020/2021 Financial Statements, Performance Statement and Governance & Management Checklist.
2. Appoint Cr Robertson and Cr Brown, as the councillor members of the Audit & Risk Committee, certify the statements in their final form after any changes recommended or agreed to by the Victorian Auditor General's Office have been made.

10.2 S65 Community Asset Committee – Minutes

Directorate: Evelyn Arnold, Director Community and Corporate Services
Author: Karly Saunders, Governance Coordinator
Attachments: 4. 1 July 2020 – 30 June 2021 Cavendish Memorial Hall Minutes;
5. Coleraine Sporting Grounds Committee, 20 April 2021, 18 May 2021 and 15 June 2021 Minutes

Executive Summary

A number of Committees that were formerly a Section 86 Committee under the Local Government Act 1986 have transitioned to a Section 65 Committee under the Local Government Act 2020 in September 2020.

In accordance with Council's Governance Rules and section 47(4)(b) of the Act, approved minutes of the Committee 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 Community Asset Committee meetings are attached to this report:

- Coleraine Sporting Grounds Committee 20 April 2021, 18 May 2021 and 15 June 2021
- Cavendish Memorial Hall 1 July 2020 – 30 June 2021 Minutes

The minutes have been confirmed at each preceding meeting and forwarded through to Council's Governance Coordinator for reporting to the next available Council Meeting.

Financial and Resource Implications

Not applicable.

Legislation, Council Plan and Policy Impacts

Community Asset Committees are established under Section 65 of the Local Government 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.

Risk Management

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

Environmental and Sustainability Considerations

There are no environmental or sustainability considerations in relation to this report.

Community Engagement and Communication

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.

RECOMMENDATION

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

1. Coleraine Sporting Grounds Committee; and
2. Cavendish Memorial Hall Committee.

10.3 Community Asset Committees Re-establishment

Directorate:	Evelyn Arnold, Director Community and Corporate Services
Author:	Karly Saunders, Governance Coordinator
Attachments:	6. Terms of Reference – Carapook Hall Committee 7. Terms of Reference – Cavendish Soldiers Memorial Hall Committee 8. Terms of Reference – Coleraine Mechanics Institute Hall Committee 9. Terms of Reference – Coleraine Sporting Grounds Committee 10. Terms of Reference – Konongwootong Hall Committee 11. Terms of Reference – Nareen Hall Committee

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to re-establish the following Community Asset Committees:

- Carapook Hall Committee
- Cavendish Soldiers Memorial Hall Committee
- Coleraine Mechanics Institute Hall Committee
- Coleraine Sporting Grounds Committee
- Konongwootong Hall Committee
- Nareen Hall Committee

The report is also to appoint the members and adopt the Terms of Reference for each Committee.

Discussion

Under Section 65 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council may establish a Community Asset Committee and appoint as many members to the Community Asset Committee as the Council considers necessary to enable the Community Asset Committee to achieve the purpose of managing a community asset in the municipal district.

The Committees were first established on 9 September 2020 after Special Committees were repealed from the *Local Government Act 1989* on 1 September 2020.

Section 47 of the Act empowers the Chief Executive Officer, by instrument of delegation, to delegate any power, duty or function of the Council that has been delegated to the Chief Executive Officer by the Council to a Community Asset Committee.

Section 47 of the Act also stipulates that a delegation to the members of a Community Asset Committee is to be exercised subject to the terms and conditions specified by the Chief Executive Officer, which must include the following –

- a) The specified limit on any financial delegation and the specified purposes for which the financial delegation may be used;
- b) Compliance with specified governance requirements to ensure appropriate standards of probity are met;
- c) Specified monitoring and reporting of the activities and performance of the Community Asset Committee.

5) A member of a Community Asset Committee to whom a delegation is given under this section can only exercise the delegation while acting as a member of the Community Asset Committee at a meeting of the Community Asset Committee.

The financial delegation would consist of the historical practice of the Committee receiving funds for hall and venue hire and the expenditure associated with utilities, maintenance etc. Any capital expenditure required would require an application to Council.

The Chief Executive Officer must submit an annual report to the Council in relation to the activities and performance of a Community Asset Committee.

The establishment of these Community Asset Committees will enable the Committees to continue to operate the Community Assets for a benefit of local communities.

Legislation, Council Plan and Policy Impacts

Under Section 65 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Community Asset Committees can be established to manage assets within a municipal district on behalf of Council.

Consultation

Council's Governance Coordinator and Manager Organisation Development liaised with the Committees in relation to the transition to Community Asset Committees in 2020.

Correspondence has been posted and emailed to all Committees explaining the re-establishment. Updated Instruments of Delegation and Terms of Reference will be provided to all Committees to ensure they are aware of their purpose and objectives.

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.

RECOMMENDATION

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 65 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council resolves that:

1. From the date of this resolution, the following Community Asset Committees be established:
 - a) Carapook Hall Committee
 - b) Cavendish Soldiers Memorial Hall Committee
 - c) Coleraine Mechanics Institute Hall Committee
 - d) Coleraine Sporting Grounds Committee
 - e) Konongwootong Hall Committee
 - f) Nareen Hall Committee
2. The members of the listed Community Asset Committees be appointed as follows:
 - a) Carapook Hall Committee

Ian Murphy	Graeme Jenkins	Andrew Harrison	Maree Harrison
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Clayton McDonald	Alison Jenkins	Irene Wooster	Ian Wooster
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b) Cavendish Soldiers Memorial Hall Committee

Kay Dixon	Pat Dixon	Don McNaughton	Graeme Haeusler	Kay Edwards
Lyndal Delahov	Fred Mailes	Les Wangler	Alan Cordy	

c) Coleraine Mechanics Institute Hall Committee

Barry Troeth	Heather Brown	Neville Barnes	Marlene Steers
Ian Brown	Enid Mills	Genevieve MacDonald	

d) Coleraine Sporting Grounds Committee

Bobbie McLean	Bonnie Farrugia Gleeson	Margaret Ferguson	Leigh Peterson	Ashley Lambert	Owen McClure
Steve Cooper	Barbara Waldron-Hunter	Louis Grinham	Lyn Brown	Kate Dorahy	

e) Konongwootong Hall Committee

Andrea Munro	Rohan Gunning	Jessica Sutherland
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f) Nareen Hall Committee

Michelle Edgar	Katrina Lodge	Leonie Neylon
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3. Approve in principle, the Terms of Reference, noting small amendments may occur over the next 12 months to enable development of the content to continue and this information will be provided to Councillors accordingly.

4. Note that under Section 47 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Instruments of Delegation from the Chief Executive Officer to the Community Asset Committees will apply from the date of signing for a period of 12 months.

10.4 Barwon South West Climate Alliance Membership

Directorate: Marg Scanlon, Director Infrastructure
Author: Kylie McIntyre – Acting Team Leader Environmental Management, Waste & Aerodrome
Attachments: None

Executive Summary

Council has been invited to join the Barwon South West Climate Alliance (BSWCA), a new partnership being formed between nine regional Councils, two water authorities and two Catchment Management Authorities Councils. The BSWCA will collaborate on mutually beneficial climate adaptation and mitigation projects across the region, increase effective climate adaptation across the region, reduce the risks and impacts of climate change, provide a unified voice on climate change in region and share knowledge and experience across councils, sectors and the region.

Climate Alliance organisations already exist in all other parts of Victoria and have a sound track record of projects that provide emissions reductions and cost savings to member Councils.

The Alliance is expected to attract external funding for projects through collective initiatives and advocacy, increase efficiency and decrease costs through shared projects, centralised project management.

The annual membership cost for 2022-23 will be \$15,000.

It is recommended that:

- Council joins the Barwon South West Climate Alliance formally on 1 July 2022 after the governance model for the Alliance is established and
- A decision regarding ongoing membership is made after the first twelve months of the Alliance's operation.

Discussion

The Barwon South West Climate Alliance (BSWCA) is an organisation currently being formed between the nine Councils, the two water authorities and the two Catchment Management Authorities (CMA) in the Barwon South West region of Victoria.

The partnership between these agencies is promoted by the Victorian Government and is being formed to:

- co-ordinate a range of mutually beneficial climate adaptation and mitigation projects across the region
- increase effective climate adaptation across the region
- reduce the risks and impacts of climate change
- provide a unified voice on climate change in region
- share knowledge and experience across councils, sectors and the region.

The formation of this Alliance will assist with attracting external funding for projects, increase efficiency and decrease costs through shared projects and centralised project management. Council is familiar with are the Charging the Regions project (electric vehicle charging

infrastructure study) and the Lighting the Regions (street light replacement), both conducted by the Central Victoria Greenhouse Alliance.

Apart from the direct benefits to Council expected to ensue from participation in the Alliance, further indirect benefits are anticipated through collaboration with other local governments, water authorities and CMAs.

The BSWCA will be a not for profit Incorporated Association that will be eligible for grants and funding. At present the BSWCA has a Founding Members Committee which will establish the Alliance purpose and governance then register the organisation with Consumer Affairs Victoria. It is expected that the BSWCA will be established by 1 January 2022.

It is not recommended that Council join the Founding Members Committee, however Council will continue to have opportunities for input into the Alliance establishment process.

It is proposed that the effectiveness of the BSWCA is reviewed after the first 12 months of operation to assess whether Council's ongoing membership is recommended.

Financial and Resource Implications

The proposed annual membership cost is \$15,000. It is proposed that Southern Grampians Shire Council joins the BSWCA on 1 July 2022 and includes the membership fee within the Council's operational budget.

Staff resources would be allocated to participate in the BSWCA forums and any relevant projects or initiatives.

Legislation, Council Plan and Policy Impacts

The Local Government Act 2020 includes considerations of climate change risk in Council decision-making processes.

- Under s8(1) of the Local Government Act 2020, the role of a Council is to provide good governance in its municipal district for the benefit and wellbeing of the municipal community.
- Section 8(2)(a) states that a Council is considered to provide 'good governance' where it performs its role in accordance with the overarching governance principles and supporting principles.
- These principles are defined in s9(1) stating that a council must in the performance of its role give effect to the overarching governance principles.

Several of these overarching governance principles create obligations for Councils in the context of climate change, including:

- Under 9(2)(c) Councils are required to promote the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks.
- Under 9(2)(b) Councils are required to give priority to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.
- Under 9(2)(h) regional, state, and national plans and policies are to be taken into account during Council's strategic planning (*The State of Victoria Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning 2020*).

Council Plan 2021-25 (Draft) – Strategies:

4.4 Mitigate against and adapt to climate change

4.4.1 Investigate opportunities to reduce emissions and waste with a focus on supporting community initiatives

4.4.2 Increase capability for emergency preparedness, responsiveness and capacity to recover

4.4.3 Plan for climate resilience in Council and community infrastructure

Risk Management

The community will benefit indirectly by reduced costs associated with Council operations via reduced energy and fuel use derived from emissions reduction activities. Projects that reduce community emissions may result from the regional alliance such as bulk solar purchases, community energy developments and electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

No risks have been identified if Council were take an Alliance membership and this would be further reviewed following the formal establishment of the Alliances purpose and governance arrangements.

Environmental and Sustainability Considerations

The Alliance enables the opportunity for Council and the region to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and undertake adaptation works. These are likely to be long term benefits that will accrue over a number of years. It will assist Council to achieve its climate change mitigation and adaptation ambitions which will benefit the environment in the long term.

Community Consultation and Communication

There has been no community engagement on this matter to date.

The decision of Council will be communicated to the Founding Members' Committee of the BSWCA in writing and to the general community through Council minutes which are publically available and via Council's standard communications channels.

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.

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. Council joins the Barwon South West Climate Alliance formally on 1 July 2022 after the governance model for the Alliance is established; and
2. A decision regarding ongoing membership is made after the first twelve months of the Alliance's operation.

10.5 Greater Grants

Directorate: Evelyn Arnold, Director Community and Corporate Services
Author: Lachy Patterson, Manager Community Relations
Attachments: None

Executive Summary

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

Discussion

The Greater 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 2017-2021 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.

Greater 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 for each grant category taking into consideration strategic objectives within the Council Plan, other Council Strategies and Community Plans.

The current round of grants includes seven grants above delegation totalling \$57,243.00 and 20 grants under delegation across the following categories (Tourism and Events, Sustainability, Community Strengthening, Community Infrastructure and Arts and Culture) totalling \$38,545.60

Below is the summary of grant applications received in round two, which requested funds above \$2,500. The application's total is \$57,243.00.

Category	Applicant	Project	Ask Amount	Funding Amount	Total Project Cost
Tourism and Events	Cricket Victoria	U/16 Male Premier League	\$15,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$130,964.00
Community Infrastructure	Cavendish Recreation Reserve	Multi-purpose Events Space and Storage	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$65,164.00
Community Infrastructure	Tarrington Cricket Club	Cricket Net Upgrade	\$8,643.00	\$8,643.00	\$26,143.00
Community Infrastructure	Byaduk Cricket Club	Mower	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$10,900.00
Community Infrastructure	Hamilton Rams 3X3	Portable Stadium Seating	\$2,600.00	\$2,600.00	\$5,200.00
Community Infrastructure	Balmoral Golf Club	Clubhouse Wall Restoration	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$20,298.22
Community Infrastructure	Cavendish Townscape	Town Entrance Signage	\$11,500.00	\$11,500.00	\$23,627.00
Total			\$62,243.00	\$57,243.00	\$282,296.22

Below is the summary of grant applications received in round two, which requested funds under \$2,500. The application's total is \$38,545.60

Category	Applicant	Project	Ask amount	Funding amount	Total Project Cost
Community Strengthening	Dunkeld Progress Association	Community Website Development	\$2,464.00	\$2,464.00	\$2,464.00
Community Strengthening	South West Hive	Promotional Material (signage)	\$913.50	\$913.50	\$913.50
Tourism and Events	WDHS	Fun Run Event	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$6,500.00
Tourism and Events	Byaduk Spring Show Inc.	Byaduk Spring Show	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,700.00
Tourism and Events	WDHS	Party in the Park Event	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$32,500.00
Sustainability	Byaduk Recreation Reserve	Noxious Weed Removal	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Sustainability	Hamilton Lions Club	Fridge Replacement	\$2,398.00	\$2,088.00	\$2,398.00
Heritage	Ms Sally Lodge	Improve Coleraine Streetscape - guttering works	\$2,543.21	\$2,500.00	\$2,543.21
Community Infrastructure	Wannon Nigretta Community Group	History Storage Cabinet	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$800.00
Community Infrastructure	Standing Tall	Signage	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,450.00
Community Infrastructure	Hamilton Kangaroos FNC	Manual Scoreboard - Pedrina Park	\$1,135.20	\$1,135.20	\$1,135.20
Community Infrastructure	Cavendish Mens Shed	Trailer and Signage	\$2,420.90	\$2,420.90	\$2,420.90
Community Infrastructure	Hamilton Rams 3X3	Lighting	\$1,525.00	\$1,525.00	\$1,525.00
Community Infrastructure	Hamilton Golf Club	Line Marking (Car Park)	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00
Community Infrastructure	Hamilton Croquet Club	Storage Shed	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$5,000.00
Community Infrastructure	Hamilton Croquet Club	Asbestos Removal	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$5,000.00
Arts and Culture	Hamilton Singers	Music Recording	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$2,500.00
Community Infrastructure	Sterling Place - Dunkeld Community Centre	Printer	\$1,599.00	\$1,599.00	\$1,599.00
Community Infrastructure	Hamilton Scouts	Signage Upgrade	\$2,588.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,588.00
Community Infrastructure	Tarrington Progress Association	Playground Fencing	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$3,093.00
Total			\$38,986.81	\$38,545.60	\$80,229.81

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 or in-kind 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.

Legislation, Council Plan and Policy Impacts

The Greater Grants Policy was adopted in July, 2018.

Each Grant category requests that applicants ensure that their project or idea demonstrates a link to the Council Plan outcomes, or endorsed Strategic Plans of Council. Such plans include but are not limited to:

- Economic Development Strategy
- Tourism Strategic Plan
- Disability Action Plan
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Sustainability Strategy
- Arts and Culture Strategy

The Greater Grants program assists Council to deliver on key outcomes of the Council Plan 2017-2021.

Outcome 1.1 Soundly Based Decisions:

Strategy 1.1.2 Develop and enact policies, plans and strategies to ensure consistency in decision making

Strategy 1.1.3 Demonstrate leadership through ethically, socially and environmentally responsible conduct

Strategy 1.1.4 Work together to develop a highly responsive Council organisation

Outcome 1.3 Financial Responsibility and Security:

Strategy 1.3.3 Maintain a continuous improvement approach to all Council operations

Outcome 2.3 A strong, innovative and distinctive tourism sector:

Strategy 2.3.1 Attract conferences and events to the Shire and facilitate and enrich the local events program

Strategy 2.3.2 Enhance, facilitate and promote existing and new experiences

Outcome 3.2 Community appreciation of and participation in Arts and Cultural activities:

Strategy 3.2.4 Encourage and support innovation in the arts

Outcome 4.2 A Dynamic Community:

Strategy 4.2.1 Provide support and services to enable communities to flourish

Strategy 4.2.2 Support the growth, development and provision of training to volunteers and community organisations

Strategy 4.2.3 Providing the information and assistance that supports community empowerment

Strategy 4.2.4 Assisting all communities to realize their individual community identity, strengths and opportunities through the development and implementation of Community Plans

Outcome 4.3 An inclusive and diverse community:

Strategy 4.3.2 Provide opportunities for youth participation and development

Outcome 5.1 Waste Management and Minimisation

Strategy 5.1.1 Reduce the volume of waste going to landfill

Strategy 5.1.4 Increase the volume of recycled materials through continued community education programs

Outcome 5.2 Adaptation to climate change and reduced emissions:

Strategy 5.2.2 Reduce carbon emissions from Council facilities, equipment and plant

Risk Management

Each grant category has predetermined assessment criteria and a set weighting for each criteria 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 the 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 Greater Grants funding. This includes (where relevant) appropriate insurances, food handling permits, liquor licences etc.

Environmental and Sustainability Considerations

No Environmental and Sustainability Considerations identified.

Community Consultation and Communication

Various Council staff engage with the community in relation to the Greater Grants program at a range of meetings (including Councillor Engagement, Progress Association, club and user groups, committee of management and, event organiser meetings, etc). Staff also engage with applicants on a 1:1 basis, to provide support through the Greater Grant 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 Annual Tourism and Events Forum, held in June each year (not under COVID restrictions), provides an opportunity for Greater Grants applicants to hear the latest updates about the program, provide feedback to grant owners, and learn how to get the best outcome from their application.

The decision will be communicated through a media release to the general public, via letters to the Grant recipients and through Council's Community 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 direct or indirect interests need to be declared in relation to any matters in this Report.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the \$38,545.60 for Greater Grants approved under delegation.
2. Resolves to allocate \$57,243.00 as per the projects outlined in the summary table below.

Category	Applicant	Project	Ask Amount	Funding Amount	Total Project Cost
Tourism and Events	Cricket Victoria	U/16 Male Premier League	\$15,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$130,964.00
Community Infrastructure	Cavendish Recreation Reserve	Multi-purpose Events Space and Storage	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$65,164.00
Community Infrastructure	Tarrington Cricket Club	Cricket Net Upgrade	\$8,643.00	\$8,643.00	\$26,143.00
Community Infrastructure	Byaduk Cricket Club	Mower	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$10,900.00
Community Infrastructure	Hamilton Rams 3X3	Portable Stadium Seating	\$2,600.00	\$2,600.00	\$5,200.00
Community Infrastructure	Balmoral Golf Club	Clubhouse Wall Restoration	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$20,298.22
Community Infrastructure	Cavendish Townscape	Town Entrance Signage	\$11,500.00	\$11,500.00	\$23,627.00
Total			\$62,243.00	\$57,243.00	\$282,296.22

10.6 COVID-19 Hardship Fund/Business Recovery Assistance Package

Directorate: Evelyn Arnold, Director Community and Corporate Services
Author: Belinda Johnson, Manager Finance
Attachments: None.

Executive Summary

Council adopted a Policy – Hardship Assistance COVID-19 Support Policy - on 8 July 2020 with an expiration date of 30 June 2021.

This one-off policy was funded through the 2020/21 Budget process and allocated the full amount of the rate increase to the fund - \$328,000.

There is currently \$185,236 of this amount unspent.

It is recommended that these funds be placed in a specific trust account and used for specific Council approved COVID recovery activities and the remainder for future hardship claims.

The report also recommends a specific 2021/22 Business Recovery Assistance package.

Discussion

Council adopted a Policy – Hardship Assistance COVID-19 Support Policy - on 8 July 2020 with an expiration date of 30 June 2021.

The purpose of the policy was to:

“Provide specific support to ratepayers, debtors and several groups of Council customers with hardship assistance and/or support during and post the 2019-2021 COVID-19 Pandemic”.

This support was in addition to general hardship support which is delegated to the CEO and administered through an operational Hardship Policy.

This one-off policy was funded through the 2020/21 Budget process and allocated the full amount of the rate increase to the fund - \$328,000.

The Status of the funding package as at 30 June 2021 is as below:

Balance of Fund	\$
Initial Amount of Fund	328,000
Amounts refunded or written off as per Policy	142,764
Current remaining funds for allocation	185,236

It is recommended that the remaining funds be placed in a designated trust named “Hardship Fund” and available for specific programs to address matters related to either:

1. Council approved COVID recovery activities, or

2. Hardship applications administered through Council's Hardship Policy, thereby reducing pressure on Council's operations.

It is also recommended that a COVID Business Recovery Assistance Package for 2021/22 financial year be funded from the trust and include the following activities:

1. The 2022 Calendar Year Environmental Health fees in relation to the Food Act Registrations and Public Health and Wellbeing Act (PHWA) registrations be paid from the fund for all businesses, subject to them meeting compliance matters.

This would include Food Act registrations for businesses such as cafes, community groups, supermarkets, health services and the PHWA registrations would include accommodation premises, health/beauty/skin penetration registrations and aquatic facilities.

2. Local Laws permits for the 2021/22 fees (September/August Year) be paid from the fund for all businesses, subject to them meeting all compliance matters.

These would include A-Frame Goods displays and Outdoor dining permits.

Financial and Resource Implications

The estimated cost of the Environmental Health Fee write offs would be approximately \$90,000 and \$16,000 for the Local Laws permits outlined.

Officers will continue to provide quarterly reporting of the fund for the 2021/22 financial year.

Legislation, Council Plan and Policy Impacts

Council staff will continue to ensure that compliance with relevant legislation is carried out for each permit.

Permit fees will still be raised and recorded on each customer's file to demonstrate their meeting of legislative requirements, however these amounts will be written off to the Hardship Fund upon meeting the compliance criteria.

Customers will not need to apply for the write off, the process will be automatic – subject to compliance.

Those businesses not complying, will have the amount left outstanding on their account for payment and further legal action, including but not limited, to warnings, fines, infringements and legal pursuit of the compliance fees.

Risk Management

There is residual risk that businesses will see the write off of the fee as an excuse not to comply with the relevant legislation. Normal enforcement processes will occur for those businesses not in compliance with no write off of fee available.

Environmental and Sustainability Considerations

Not applicable

Community Consultation and Communication

Following Council decision, the relevant staff will embark on a media campaign to make businesses and customers aware of the arrangements for the 2021/22 processes.

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.

RECOMMENDATION

That:

Council place the remaining funds of \$185,236 from the COVID-19 Hardship Assistance Policy into a trust fund to deliver specific COVID recovery activities as designated by Council and to fund future hardship applications, and

A COVID Business Recovery Assistance Package for 2021/22 financial year be funded from the trust to include the following activities:

1. The 2022 Calendar Year Environmental Health fees in relation to the Food Act Registrations and Public Health and Wellbeing Act (PHWA) registrations, subject to meeting compliance matters.
2. The 2021/22 (September/August Year) Local Laws permits for A-Frame, Goods displays and Outdoor dining permits, subject to them meeting all compliance matters.

10.7 Hamilton Integrated Water Management Plan

Directorate: Marg Scanlon, Director Infrastructure
Author: Kylie McIntyre – Acting Team Leader – Environmental Management, Waste & Aerodrome
Attachments: 12. Hamilton Integrated Water Management Plan one page graphic summary FINAL
13. Hamilton IWM Plan – Final Report.

Executive Summary

The Hamilton Integrated Water Management (IWM) Plan was developed in 2019-2020 through collaboration between Council, DELWP, Wannon Water, Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority and Southern Rural Water. With community and agency input the plan identified a number of key water-related actions for Council and other stakeholders to implement in the Hamilton urban area. The plan provides benefits for the environment, the local economy and community wellbeing. Funding will be required to implement the actions.

It is recommended that Council endorses the Hamilton Integrated Water Management Plan noting that;

- a) the principles will be applied across Council's operational works and capital projects where relevant and
- b) the feasible actions detailed within the Plan will be implemented as a part of respective capital projects subject to secured funding.

Discussion

Council was invited in 2018 by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) to participate in a regional Integrated Water Management (IWM) planning and development process that aims to identify, prioritise and oversee the implementation of collaborative water opportunities. It is part of a state-wide program that recognises the importance of water to the community and the environment, and that responsibility for water management falls across a number of organisations. The Great South Coast IWM Forum was formed in June 2018 in the Wannon Water supply area and it expanded on established collaboration between DELWP, Wannon Water, the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority (GHCMA), Southern Rural Water and local government to set priorities and deliver IWM in the region, to improve resilience of the region's environment, culture and economy. For background, the Strategic Directions Statement for the region can be viewed at https://www.water.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0026/445841/10696_DEL_IWMF_GSC_SDS_WEB_LR.pdf.

The expected future impacts of climate change are an important driver for the IWM program as we anticipate more heat waves, less overall rainfall but increased heavy rain events and more evaporation hence less runoff, which will impact water storages.

Council's 2017 Climate Change Adaptation Plan identified the need for IWM planning and many of the key issues are in the Hamilton area (Lake Hamilton, Grange Burn, Old Reservoir, botanical gardens) so it was decided as a first step in Council's IWM efforts to develop an IWM plan for Hamilton.

There was a strong emphasis on stakeholder involvement to develop the IWMP, particularly from the general community because of the important public nature of the topic. The traditional owners, Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, were invited to join the PCG and to the stakeholder engagement workshops but were unable to devote any time to the project because of the many other requests they receive for consultation. The following steps were undertaken to develop the IWMP;

1. A stakeholder engagement plan was developed and implemented
2. Two workshops were conducted for each group of stakeholders – agency staff, Councillors and general community
3. Regular Project Control Group meetings with the consultant were held to refine details, with representatives from Councils, Wannon Water, GHCMA and Southern Rural Water.
4. Twelve initial opportunities were identified through the workshop process and refined down to eight.
5. Priorities were identified and assessed with multi criteria analysis – economic benefit, community values, healthy waterways, water supply, waste water, flooding and healthy landscapes
6. The final report and four concept designs were developed (see attachments).

The plan identified current water cycle issues faced by Hamilton, and also the advantages Hamilton may have in addressing them. In summary:

- Hamilton has access to a high-quality potable water supply network that has traditionally been highly reliable.
- Hamilton also has access to alternative, non-potable water supplies from both a Class C recycled water network and a raw water supply. Both of these networks supply irrigation water for pastures, parks, schools, sportsgrounds and high value community assets including the Hamilton Botanic Gardens.
- Due to the availability of non-potable sources, Council's use of potable water for open space irrigation is relatively low when compared with other local government areas.
- Wannon Water modelling suggests that under high climate change and demand scenarios, additional water to meet potable supply needs may be required by 2036. Options to achieve this include utilising the existing entitlement out of Rocklands Reservoir, or increasing that entitlement. This would be subject to availability, noting a risk should that supply decrease e.g. during drought.
- Population drives potable water demand, with about $\frac{3}{4}$ of total potable demand in Hamilton being residential.
- Wannon Water's Urban Water Strategy notes approximately 58% of households within the Grampians system have a rainwater tank.+
- The largest mains water consumption in the township are the pools/aquatic centres and the Hamilton Regional Livestock Exchange that is home to a significant rainwater harvesting scheme.
- Urban development in Hamilton and the associated increase in imperviousness will increase stormwater runoff and pollutant loads to receiving waterways including Grange Burn and Lake Hamilton, putting pressure on values within those systems, diminishing their condition over time.

- The impact of climate change will reduce rainfall and increase evaporation, reducing total annual runoff. However, heavy storm events will be more frequent, potentially compounding existing flash flooding issues.
- With climate change expected to increase potential evapotranspiration by up to 5.7%, decrease rainfall by up to 12.7%, and decrease runoff by up to 37% by 2040 (90th percentile), there is potential for the long-term water security of Hamilton to be impacted.
- Wannon Water has investigated contingencies in this event; however, it does underscore the importance of optimising the use of Hamilton's various non-potable water supplies, across recycled water, raw water, rainwater and stormwater.

Taking these key findings into account, the eight key IWM opportunities identified for Hamilton were:

1. Harvesting rain water from the Showgrounds roofs for use at HILAC to offset potable water use
2. Lake Hamilton water quality improvement - Installation of water treatment infrastructure to treat urban stormwater before it enters the lake
3. Recycled water for horticulture – trial various horticultural crops irrigated with recycled water
4. 'Old Res' system investigation – replacement of sections of pipeline if required and investigate expanding the use of Old Res water in and around the CBD
5. Irrigation efficiency investigation – to improve efficiency of water use in public parks and gardens
6. Grange Burn urban water quality improvement program – to reduce pollutants in the water entering the environment from the urban area
7. Environmental and cultural wayfinding – signage project to educate and involve the community in Hamilton's water based assets
8. Residential rainwater disconnection.

The projects were assessed according to the benefits they provide, their urgency, importance, cost advantages and disadvantages and their associated risks.

The four top scoring projects, based on the multi-criteria analysis undertaken by stakeholders, were selected for further investigations and high-level costings:

1. Showgrounds roof water harvesting for HILAC
2. Lake Hamilton: Blue green algae action plan
3. Recycled water for horticulture and
4. 'Old Res' system investigation.

There are numerous potential benefits to Council, the community and the environment from implementing the IWM plan including reduced use and cost of potable water, improved water quality in the Grange Burn system and Lake Hamilton, enhanced economic development through the use of recycled water for horticulture and improved appearance and liveability in the Hamilton CBD.

The project has highlighted integrated water management principles such as rainwater collection and re-use, Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD), stormwater quality improvement and opportunities to replace potable water use with untreated or alternative

supplies where feasible, within the context of the Hamilton urban area. These principles should also be considered and implemented across the Shire when capital works or redevelopments are taking place.

The Hamilton IWM Plan and associated documents are presented for Council's consideration and endorsement.

Financial and Resource Implications

Funding for the plan was provided by DELWP (\$50,000), Council (\$25,000) and Wannon Water and the GHCMA (\$5,000 each). Water specialist consultant Alluvium was the successful tenderer.

For some of the key actions there will be capital costs associated with implementation (eg. HILAC roof water harvesting, construction of water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) infrastructure around Lake Hamilton). External funding will be considered and sourced where relevant.

DELWP has a grant program in its budget until mid-2023 with applications expected to open in September 2021. Some Council contribution (funding and in-kind) will be necessary.

Legislation, Council Plan and Policy Impacts

The IWM Plan assists Council to implement elements of its Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2017 as follows:

Develop overarching Integrated Water Plan (IWP). This will include:

- Consideration of environmental impacts of stormwater capture
- Reference to Lake Hamilton Management Plan
- Consider importance and future of Old Reservoir
- Include considerations of the water needs of recreation spaces
- Efficiently utilise existing water resources for the most appropriate use
- Further investigate recycled water opportunities

The Plan also contributes to strategies in the Draft 2021-2025 Council Plan:

1.1.2 Support the community and other agencies to build resilience and preparedness in planning for emergencies and climate change impacts and mitigation

2.1.3 Support opportunities for intensification, diversification and value adding within the agricultural and primary industries sector

4.1.1 Advocate for, promote and support natural resource management with stakeholders

4.1.2 Partner with key agencies to deliver integrated water management solutions

4.4.3 Plan for climate resilience in Council and community infrastructure

Risk Management

There are many social, economic and wellbeing benefits to the community from adopting and implementing the plan, such as improved greening of the CBD, saved resources from the HILAC water harvesting project and enhanced economic development from the recycled water for horticulture project.

An important risk to be noted is that community expectations may be elevated particularly in relation to blue-green algae control in Lake Hamilton. It is important to recognise that the bulk of pollutants that flow into the lake causing blue-green algae outbreaks are from upstream in the catchment and are therefore out of Council's control. Dredging of the lake to remove nutrient-rich sediments is considered in the plan, as are construction of an in-line wetland and recirculation of lake water. These are all expensive actions and likely to be out of Council's range under current economic conditions. Construction of treatment systems to treat urban stormwater that flows into the lake as proposed in the IWM Plan are also going to be expensive and unlikely to reduce significantly the incidence of blue-green algae.

The agencies that worked together in developing the plan (DELWP, Council, Wannon Water, GHCMA and Southern Rural Water) have benefited from the close collaboration and continue to do so through the Great South Coast IWM Forum. These close relationships are of benefit to other projects such as the small towns wastewater project that will see improved domestic wastewater management in unsewered townships such as Peshurst.

The usual project management risks will apply to the implementation phase following endorsement of the plan but it is worth bearing in mind that actions taken now while we are not suffering drought conditions will pay dividends when the next drought arrives through water savings, new opportunities for recycled water and improved environmental management of stormwater.

Environmental and Sustainability Considerations

Implementation of the IWM plan will address a number of environmental and sustainability issues as well as social and liveability issues. One of the actions for example, is the HILAC water harvesting project which will save up to 5.8 million litres per year of potable water, reducing Council's long-term running costs and importantly reducing the energy and resources involved in treating the potable water currently used at HILAC. The "Old Res" project will allow Council to maintain and potentially expand its green space area in the town CBD which is a climate change adaptation that will have cooling and wellbeing benefits to the community. The Grange Burn urban water quality improvement program will benefit the natural environment in the town and downstream in the catchment.

Community Consultation and Communication

Community consultation was undertaken throughout the development of the plan. All known interest groups (sporting clubs, environmental and community groups) plus Councillors, representatives from Wannon Water, Southern Rural Water and GHCMA were invited to participate in the process and attend the workshops.

Following Council's endorsement of the plan, an update will be communicated to the community via Council's website and social media.

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.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorses the Hamilton Integrated Water Management Plan noting that:

- a) the principles will be applied across Council's operational works and capital projects where relevant; and
- b) the feasible actions detailed within the Plan will be implemented as a part of respective capital projects subject to secured funding.

10.8 Events Funding Assistance Policy

Directorate: Andrew Goodsell, Director Planning and Development
Author: Hugh Koch, Manager Economic Development and Tourism
Stacey Barnes, Events Marketing and Development Officer
Attachments: 14. Events Funding Assistance Policy

Executive Summary

Council's Events Funding Assistance Policy requires review every four years. The last update was done in 2014 to the two separate policies relating to financial events assistance through Council's grant program.

The attached policy, Events Funding Assistance Policy has been updated.

The recommendation is that Council adopt the Events Funding Assistance Policy.

Discussion

As outlined in Council Plans and Economic Development and Tourism Unit strategies, including our last Tourism Strategic Plan, Council plays a significant role in supporting events in our region.

Supporting events not only contributes towards community capacity-building but elevates the quality of experiences for visitors and residents, increases visitation and visitor yield. Events also may influence population attraction, with visiting event attendees more likely to return to live, work, invest or be educated in the region.

Providing funding support to events assists event organisers, (predominately volunteer committees) to host, promote, develop and professionalise their events. Council's Events Funding Assistance Policy has been merged from two previous Council policies (Major Events and Conferences Assistance Policy and Minor Events and Conferences Assistance Policy), both last updated 2014.

Adopting the Events Funding Assistance policy enables Council to continue to provide financial support to events through the Greater Grants Program, to contribute to a vibrant, healthy and inclusive community.

Minor improvements made to merged policy to ensure it:

- Aligns with Greater Grants Policy and Guidelines; "This Policy should be read in conjunction with the Council's Greater Grants Policy, and reference should also be made to the Greater Grants Guidelines when applying this policy."
- Succinctly articulates the intention of the funding: "to attract, develop, promote and sponsor new or growing events that have the potential to generate economic, community and promotional benefits for the Southern Grampians Shire."
- Clearly defines Minor and Major events: "Minor events have the potential to generate community and promotional benefits, but may not directly bring economic benefit into the Southern Grampians Shire through an increase in visitor numbers"
- Clarified that the application and scope applies to events in our LGA funded through Greater Grants program.
- Does not contain specific details covered by operational Greater Grant Guidelines e.g. dates of funding rounds, what will/will not be funded etc.
- Complies with the *Gender Equality Act 2020*.

Financial and Resource Implications

There are no financial or resource implications resulting from this Report.

Funding for events will be determined as part of the annual budgeting process, and there are no resourcing implications additional to the support offered by Council officers for grant applicants.

Legislation, Council Plan and Policy Impacts

This Policy is not inconsistent with the *Local Government Act 2020* and furthers the objectives set out in the Council Plan 2017-21, specifically with respect to objective 1.1 Supporting our community, and objective 2.4 Support, encourage and promote a strong, innovative and distinctive tourism sector that grows the visitor economy.

Risk Management

The policy reduces risk by increasing transparency and clarity for events funded through Council's Greater Grants program.

Environmental and Sustainability Considerations

The adoption of the recommendations in this report do not have any environmental or sustainability impacts.

Community Consultation and Communication

No external community consultation has been done in relation to this Policy due to the nature of the minor changes to bring it in line with the Greater Grants process.

Once adopted, the Policy will be made available on Council's website.

Grant recipients are required to complete a grant acquittal, in which Council seeks feedback from the recipient on opportunities for improvement.

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.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the updated Events Funding Assistance Policy.

10.9 Barwon South West Climate Alliance Membership

Directorate: Marg Scanlon, Director Infrastructure
Author: Kylie McIntyre – Acting Team Leader Environmental Management, Waste & Aerodrome
Attachments: None

Executive Summary

Council has been invited to join the Barwon South West Climate Alliance (BSWCA), a new partnership being formed between nine regional Councils, two water authorities and two Catchment Management Authorities Councils. The BSWCA will collaborate on mutually beneficial climate adaptation and mitigation projects across the region, increase effective climate adaptation across the region, reduce the risks and impacts of climate change, provide a unified voice on climate change in region and share knowledge and experience across councils, sectors and the region.

Climate Alliance organisations already exist in all other parts of Victoria and have a sound track record of projects that provide emissions reductions and cost savings to member Councils.

The Alliance is expected to attract external funding for projects through collective initiatives and advocacy, increase efficiency and decrease costs through shared projects, centralised project management.

The annual membership cost for 2022-23 will be \$15,000.

It is recommended that:

- Council joins the Barwon South West Climate Alliance formally on 1 July 2022 after the governance model for the Alliance is established and
- A decision regarding ongoing membership is made after the first twelve months of the Alliance's operation.

Discussion

The Barwon South West Climate Alliance (BSWCA) is an organisation currently being formed between the nine Councils, the two water authorities and the two Catchment Management Authorities (CMA) in the Barwon South West region of Victoria.

The partnership between these agencies is promoted by the Victorian Government and is being formed to:

- co-ordinate a range of mutually beneficial climate adaptation and mitigation projects across the region
- increase effective climate adaptation across the region
- reduce the risks and impacts of climate change
- provide a unified voice on climate change in region
- share knowledge and experience across councils, sectors and the region.

The formation of this Alliance will assist with attracting external funding for projects, increase efficiency and decrease costs through shared projects and centralised project management. Council is familiar with are the Charging the Regions project (electric vehicle charging

infrastructure study) and the Lighting the Regions (street light replacement), both conducted by the Central Victoria Greenhouse Alliance.

Apart from the direct benefits to Council expected to ensue from participation in the Alliance, further indirect benefits are anticipated through collaboration with other local governments, water authorities and CMAs.

The BSWCA will be a not for profit Incorporated Association that will be eligible for grants and funding. At present the BSWCA has a Founding Members Committee which will establish the Alliance purpose and governance then register the organisation with Consumer Affairs Victoria. It is expected that the BSWCA will be established by 1 January 2022.

It is not recommended that Council join the Founding Members Committee, however Council will continue to have opportunities for input into the Alliance establishment process.

It is proposed that the effectiveness of the BSWCA is reviewed after the first 12 months of operation to assess whether Council's ongoing membership is recommended.

Financial and Resource Implications

The proposed annual membership cost is \$15,000. It is proposed that Southern Grampians Shire Council joins the BSWCA on 1 July 2022 and includes the membership fee within the Council's operational budget.

Staff resources would be allocated to participate in the BSWCA forums and any relevant projects or initiatives.

Legislation, Council Plan and Policy Impacts

The Local Government Act 2020 includes considerations of climate change risk in Council decision-making processes.

- Under s8(1) of the Local Government Act 2020, the role of a Council is to provide good governance in its municipal district for the benefit and wellbeing of the municipal community.
- Section 8(2)(a) states that a Council is considered to provide 'good governance' where it performs its role in accordance with the overarching governance principles and supporting principles.
- These principles are defined in s9(1) stating that a council must in the performance of its role give effect to the overarching governance principles.

Several of these overarching governance principles create obligations for Councils in the context of climate change, including:

- Under 9(2)(c) Councils are required to promote the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks.
- Under 9(2)(b) Councils are required to give priority to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.
- Under 9(2)(h) regional, state, and national plans and policies are to be taken into account during Council's strategic planning (*The State of Victoria Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning 2020*).

Council Plan 2021-25 (Draft) – Strategies:

4.4 Mitigate against and adapt to climate change

4.4.1 Investigate opportunities to reduce emissions and waste with a focus on supporting community initiatives

4.4.2 Increase capability for emergency preparedness, responsiveness and capacity to recover

4.4.3 Plan for climate resilience in Council and community infrastructure

Risk Management

The community will benefit indirectly by reduced costs associated with Council operations via reduced energy and fuel use derived from emissions reduction activities. Projects that reduce community emissions may result from the regional alliance such as bulk solar purchases, community energy developments and electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

No risks have been identified if Council were take an Alliance membership and this would be further reviewed following the formal establishment of the Alliances purpose and governance arrangements.

Environmental and Sustainability Considerations

The Alliance enables the opportunity for Council and the region to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and undertake adaptation works. These are likely to be long term benefits that will accrue over a number of years. It will assist Council to achieve its climate change mitigation and adaptation ambitions which will benefit the environment in the long term.

Community Consultation and Communication

There has been no community engagement on this matter to date.

The decision of Council will be communicated to the Founding Members' Committee of the BSWCA in writing and to the general community through Council minutes which are publically available and via Council's standard communications channels.

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.

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. Council joins the Barwon South West Climate Alliance formally on 1 July 2022 after the governance model for the Alliance is established; and
2. A decision regarding ongoing membership is made after the first twelve months of the Alliance's operation.

10.10 Rural Land Use Strategy

Directorate: Andrew Goodsell, Director Planning and Development
Author: Andrew Goodsell, Director Planning and Development
Attachments: 15. Attachment A – Draft Rural Land Use Strategy, June 2020
16. Attachment B – Rural Land Use Strategy Background Report (July, 2020)

Executive Summary

Council commenced the Rural Land Use Strategy in 2017 and appointed RM Consulting Group (RMCG) to undertake the project. A background report and strategy have now been prepared. It is the first such strategy Council has ever undertaken.

The draft Rural Land Use Strategy (RLUS or the Strategy) updates the rural framework plan and suggests various updates to the policy directions for rural land having regard to the changing nature of rural land use, the strategic and wider state planning policy contexts. The Strategy establishes a planning vision and proposes strategies that seek to support established rural industries such as agriculture and forestry, promote emerging opportunities in rural tourism while and recognising and protecting important environmental and landscape values.

From informal exhibition already conducted where six (6) submissions have now been received, it is evident that further engagement with local communities will be needed on the impact of a range of strategies on agriculture (RLUS), vegetation protection (Natural Assets Strategy) and rural living/small town development (Small Towns Strategy or STS). Such an engagement exercise will be highly beneficial for both Council and the community as a whole.

This report is seeking Council's endorsement to commence the next phase of community consultation on the draft Rural Land Use Strategy. Noting the range of opinions on various aspects of RLUS, the recommendation is to **receive RLUS** with a resolution to exhibit. In short, the decision to exhibit RLUS is not to indicate a view either in support or against any specific aspect of RLUS.

Discussion

Aims of RLUS:

Southern Grampians Shire Council through the RLUS aims to:

- Retain sustainable food and fibre production and value add industries as the priority rural land use.
- Encourage diversification of rural land use, including tourism, renewable energy and sustainable development of natural resources.
- Retain residential growth within established townships to create a network of integrated and prosperous settlements.
- Direct rural residential development to appropriate locations adjoining established townships.
- Protect and enhance the environmental and landscape qualities of the land.

How does RLUS achieve these aims?

The key components of the Strategy are:

1. A **Strategic Framework** comprising a vision, principles, framework plan and strategic objectives for rural land.
2. An **Implementation plan** including recommendations for changes to the Southern Grampians Planning Scheme and further strategic work.

Study area/scope of RLUS

The study area incorporates all private rural land within the Farming Zone, Rural Conservation Zone and Rural Activity Zone within Southern Grampians Shire. Land use on public, urban and rural living zoned land is considered where it impacts use and development of land within the scope of this study. As indicated in RLUS however, the vast majority of land in the Shire is within the Farming Zone and therefore this is the primary focus.

Exclusions - While the Rural Living Zone is a 'rural zone' in terms of description, its purpose is to facilitate residential use on acreage. To come to any strategic view on Rural Living (ist location, indicative lot yield etc) a supply and demand review and policy recommendations for rural living would be required, which is outside the scope of RLUS. The Strategy does however include principles and considerations to inform preparation of a Rural Residential Strategy (which is part of STS – in preparation).

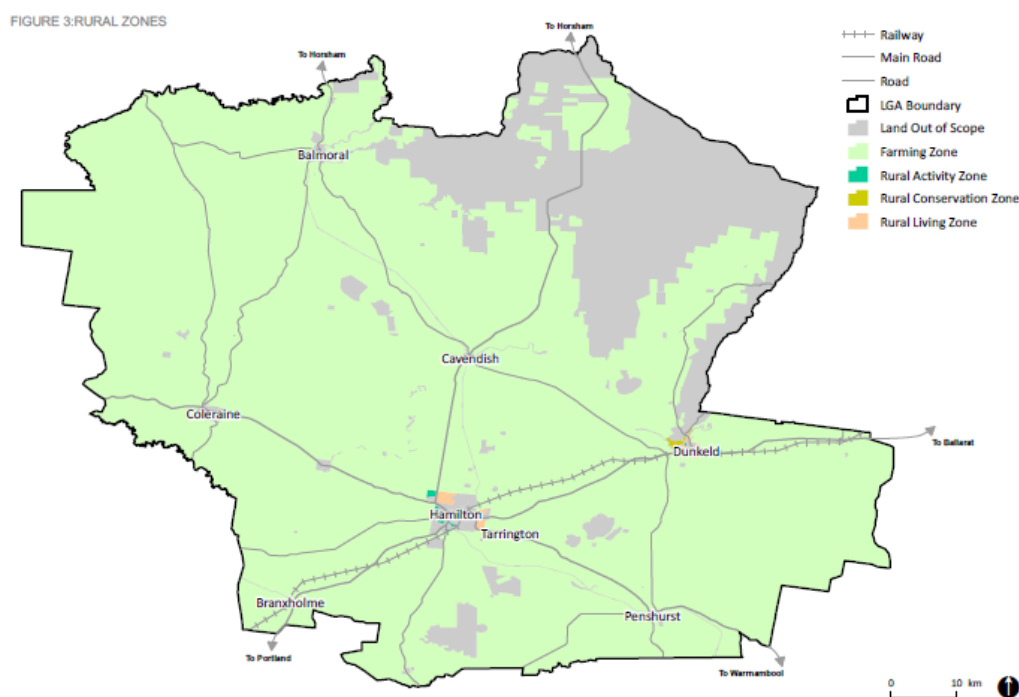


Figure 1 - The Farming Zone spatially dominates the Shire and is the primary focus of RLUS (source: RMCG, draft RLUS, Sept 2020).

Phases of RLUS:

There is a four (4) phase process for RLUS, as set out in Figure 2.

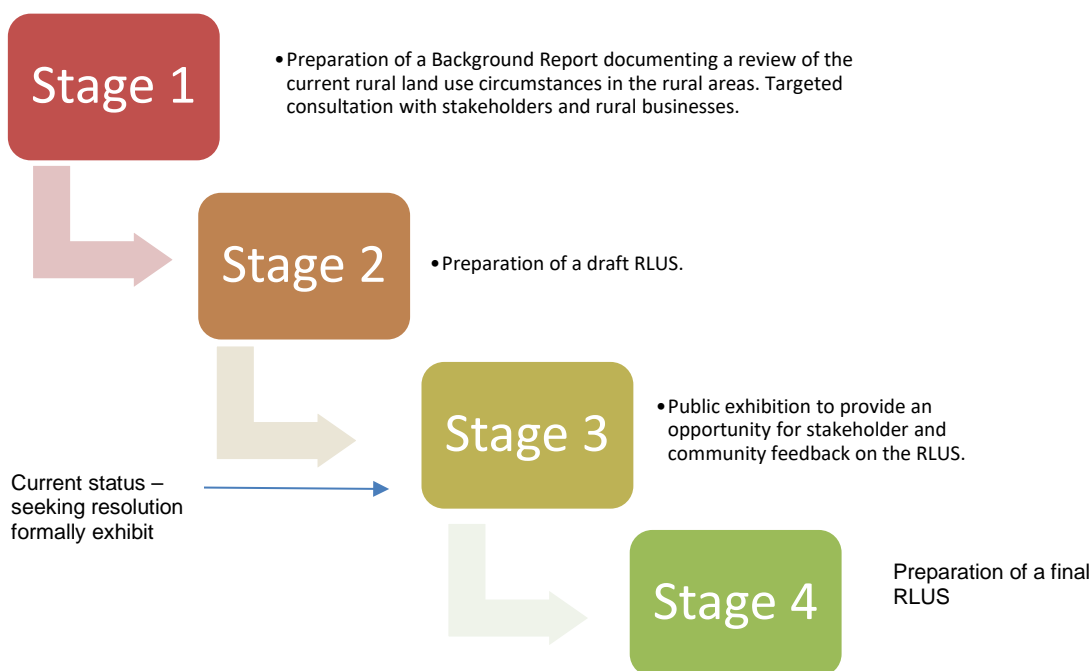


Figure 2 - Four stages of RLUS delivery

Where RLUS fits into the strategy hierarchy:

The RLUS is a key strategic platform for Council. But it is not the only one.

- SG2041 (previously referred to as CVF2041). **Status** – currently in exhibition phase. SG2041 represents the 20 year vision for the Shire, identifying advocacy and partnership opportunities and an overarching vision and set of principles for project and service delivery.
- NRM or Natural Assets Strategy. **Status** – Finalising background report prior to completion of Strategy. This will focus on environmental assets and how we manage them. It will ultimately drive a renewed focus on roadside reserves, wetlands, river redgums, volcanic plains and how Council works with its community to protect and manage these values.
- Small Towns Strategy. **Status** – finalising tender documentation. This project will review vision statements on all small towns, examine infrastructure needs and deliver a rural living component focus adjoining towns, where justified by the evidence collected (which in turn supports proponent led amendments).

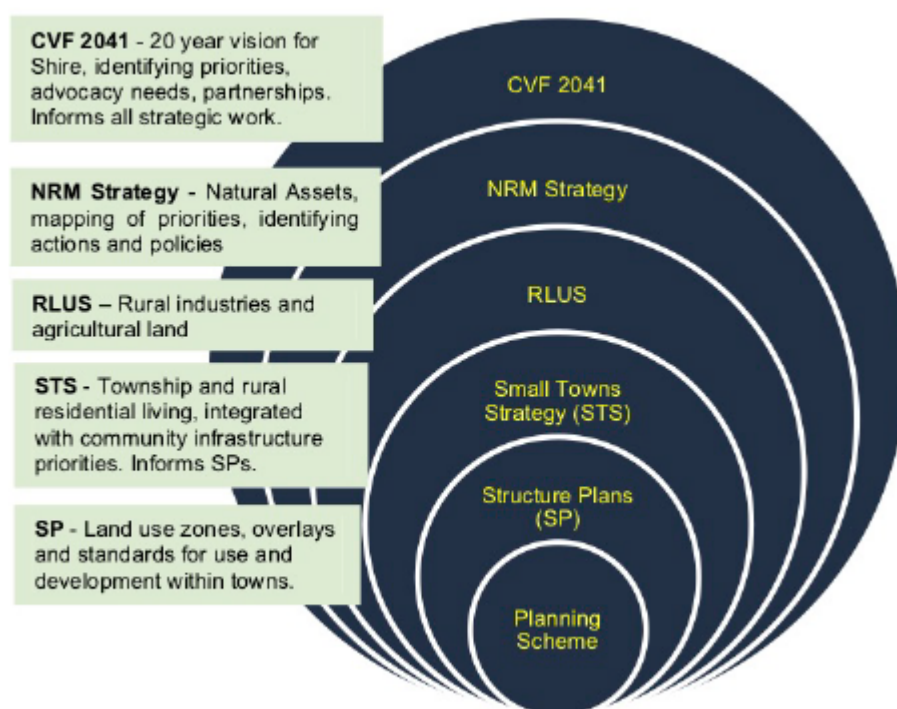


Figure 3 - Strategic Framework Hierarchy as set out in RLUS, STS and SG2041

Key Timelines:

- In 2012 a business case was prepared to support funding a rural land use strategy (RLUS).
- In 2017 via tender 50-17 a tender was issued and RMCG was appointed to prepare the RLUS.
- May 2018 Background Report prepared.
- Draft RLUS was prepared in Oct 2019.
- Peer review completed late Oct 2019 by Planning Connection (Lucinda Peterson)
- A revised and updated RLUS was issued in June 2020.
- Workshops conducted with Councillors in March 2021.
- Informal exhibition conducted 27 April to 11 June 2021.
- Report on findings in August 2021 via Council workshop. Six (6) submissions received.

[Summary provided of informal feedback later in this report]

Findings of RLUS:

The findings can be divided into distinct sections, namely:

1. Those relating to food and fibre
2. Rural Tourism
3. Rural Industries
4. Environment and Landscape

With respect to food and fibre, RLUS examines **minimum lot sizes** (what is the appropriate standard as opposed to the default 40 ha); how should dwellings be regulated in the Farming Zone; what planning approach should be taken with old Crown township subdivisions and related matters.

Agriculture as is widely acknowledged, is the engine room of the Southern Grampians economy. More than half the gross regional product of the district derives from farming related activities. Fragmentation of rural land, especially for homes not related to farming is also widely discouraged by the State planning system. The data obtained was that average farms are getting larger, often via leasing but also consolidation.

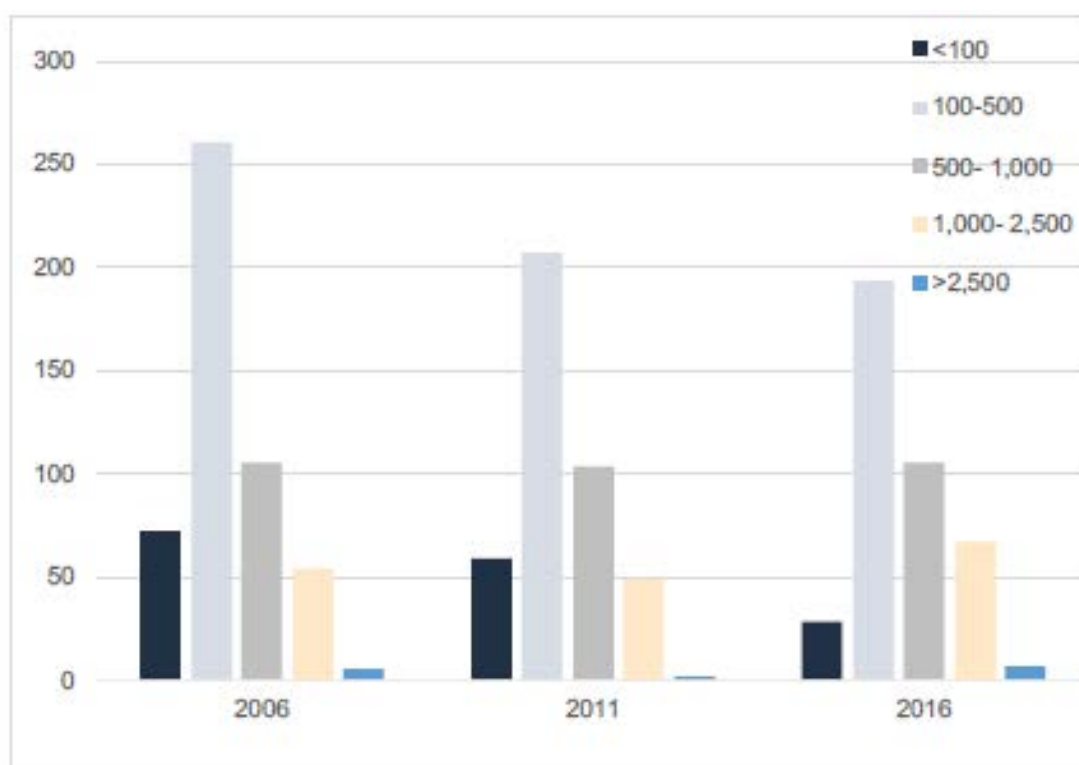


Figure 4 - Farm size analysis – sheep property size trend (ha) (source: RMCG, 2020 – background report)

RLUS indicates that on average a viable farm needs to be able to generate at least \$500,000 gross sales to enable the farm to grow and undertake necessary succession. Different farming systems require different land areas to generate \$500,000 gross sales. For example, a grazing business, the main agricultural industry in Southern Grampians, producing \$800/effective hectare* will require around 600 ha of land to generate \$500,000.

(*Source Dept. of Agriculture, Vic). Section 6 of the background report supports these findings, noting specifically 6.2 livestock; 6.3 grain and hay.

Zone	<4	4 to 40ha	40 to 100ha	>100ha	Total
FZ	3,415	6,265	2,807	1,337	13,824
RCZ	1	4	0	1	6
RAZ	177	16	0	0	193
RAZ2	1	2	0	0	3
Total	3,804	6,366	2,807	1,338	14,315

Table 1 - Rural Zones Lot Sizes (source: RMCG, 2020 – background report)

Ownership area (ha)	Number of properties	Total area (ha) in ownership range
<4	249	440
4 to 40	523	9,193
40 to 100	370	23,874
100 to 500	764	188,095
500 – to 1,000	186	126,808
1,000 to 2,000	66	90,014
>2,000	23	199,558

Table 2 - Land ownership in the Farming Zone (source: RMCG, 2020 – background report)

The Victoria Planning Provisions requires Councils to set a minimum lot size for subdivision and a minimum lot size for dwellings below which a planning permit is required in the Farming Zone. If Councils choose not to specify a minimum lot size then **a default setting of 40ha applies to both subdivision and dwellings**. This is the case in Southern Grampians. The minimum lot size schedule has not been strategically justified and was most likely carried over from the previous rural zones and old format schemes as a “default” subdivision size.

RLUS proposes retaining the 40-ha standard for subdivision but separate this from the question of the size of lots for dwellings, whereby a higher standard could apply e.g. 200 ha. There is an opportunity through the RLUS to test the effectiveness of the lot size schedules, whether they are achieving the desired use and development outcomes and whether they reflect the scale and nature of rural land uses in Southern Grampians. Until formal exhibition occurs this will be difficult to gauge. It should also be stressed that any change to standards for subdivision don't occur through RLUS itself – this will be a separate amendment. Therefore, undertaking engagement on RLUS with the community **does not commit Council to any action on changes to the 40-ha standard** for either subdivision or dwellings.

Beyond the policy question of subdivision and the creation of new lots, there is also the matter of existing **small lot land supply** (that is, lots <40 ha in size). RLUS found that there is a substantial supply of small lots in the Farming Zone (FZ). 70% of lots in the FZ are <40 ha and 53% of lots <40 ha are vacant. In view of the substantial supply of small lots in the FZ and the trend in multi-lot tenements, RLUS found there to be little argument for creating further smaller lots in this zone.

For those who may contend that new entrants to the farm sector need acreage to establish their enterprise, there are some 3,045 vacant lots that can achieve this end.

Lot size (ha)	Number of lots	% of total lots	Vacant lots	% of vacant lot in lot size range
<4	3,415	25%	2,108	62%
4-40	6,265	45%	3,045	49%
40-100	2,807	20%	1,412	50%
100-200	1,019	7%	471	46%
200-300	225	2%	87	39%
>300	91	1%	27	30%

Table 3 - Recent lot supply analysis (source: SGSC, 2021)

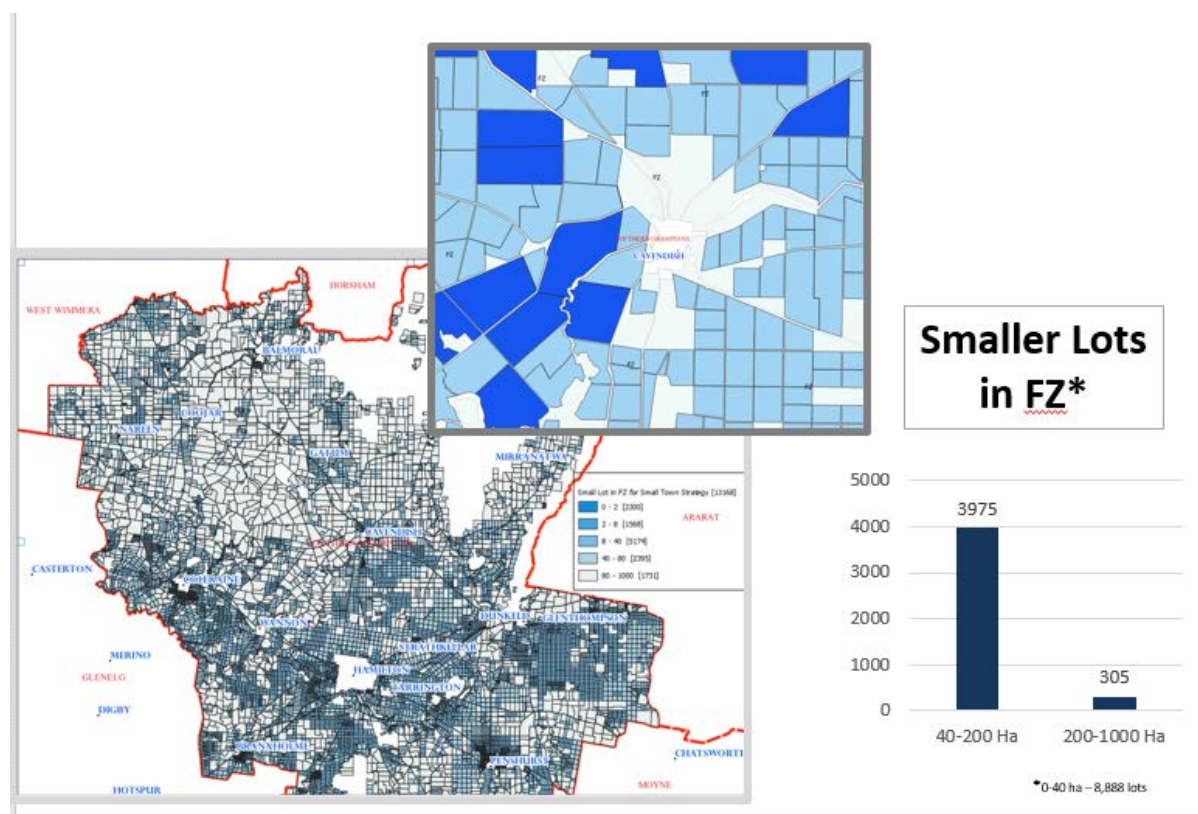


Figure 5 - Lot distribution across Shire by area (ha). (source: SGSC, 2021)

Dwellings can be assessed on merit in the Farming Zone on lots <40 ha, subject to identification of a legitimate purpose of a dwelling supporting farming operations. Of 518 permits lodged between 2003 and 2018, 482 were approved and only 12 refused (the balance were withdrawn or lapsed). But the issues for staff were:

- The need for additional guidance on the circumstances when a two-lot subdivision/dwelling excision will be supported or refused and what considerations will be applied to determining the size of the excised lot.
- Additional guidance on assessment of new dwelling in the Farming Zone, particularly the types and scale of agriculture suited to the area on lots below the minimum lot size and whether a dwelling is genuinely required.
- The standard of farm plans prepared to support planning permit applications needs to be improved to ensure Council has appropriate information for decision making.
- Planning permit applications for dwellings in old Crown subdivisions and townships e.g. Byaduk North, Carapook Road, Purdeet, Strathmore etc. It is proposed that this be addressed via an overlay to facilitate consolidation and controlled development based on constraints being managed (fire, drainage, access).

In summary, the food and fibre aspect of RLUS, the likely most debated aspect for some residents (min lot size, subdivision and dwelling policy) has significant operational benefits in facilitating clearer guidelines on dwellings in the Farming Zone, farm management plans and addressing controls in Crown townships. The lack of direction on Crown townships currently sterilises use and development opportunities. The proposed overlay would address this concern with greater clarity on future use, including potentially some limited housing in certain circumstances.

Rural tourism is the second focus area of RLUS. Whilst agriculture is the key economic driver of the economy, tourism plays a growing role. Much of this is self-drive tourist journeys from Melbourne, Limestone Coast and Great Ocean Road. A comparison of the table of accommodation uses in the Farming Zone and the Rural Activity Zone (Table 3) shows that the range of uses and the permit requirements are identical apart from hotel, which is prohibited in the Farming Zone and requires a permit in the Rural Activity Zone. As discussed in Strategic Direction 1 (i.e. food and fibre), the Farming Zone will be applied to areas where food and fibre production will be the primary land use. Policy guidance will assist in assessing permit applications for discretionary tourism uses that are ancillary or in conjunction with an agricultural use such as bed and breakfast, host farms and group accommodation.

However, there is potential for larger developments such as residential hotel, camping and caravan park and restaurant, that would be inconsistent with the provisions of the Farming Zone. These uses will be provided for through the rezoning of land to Rural Activity Zone. The Planning Practice Note: Applying the rural zones (2013) states that in the Rural Activity Zone:

“if a planning authority is keen to facilitate the establishment of larger scale tourism uses or a more diverse mix of tourism and recreation uses, the Rural Activity Zone may be a more appropriate zone to apply”

There are two approaches to rezoning land to Rural Activity Zone. Firstly, identification and rezoning land to Rural Activity Zone through a Council-led planning scheme amendment. The main advantages of this approach are that the cost of rezoning is borne by Council, not the proponent and Council clearly identifies where large-scale tourism development will be entertained. The main disadvantage of this approach is that the rezoned land may not meet the needs of the industry, which can change over time. Widespread application of the Rural Activity Zone as an aspirational measure to attract tourism, is also unlikely to receive State Government support. The second, and preferred, option is for a proponent-led planning scheme amendment, subject to meeting local policy requirements. While the cost of the

rezoning will be borne by the proponent, they are able to choose a site that is most suited to the proposed development and the tourism market they are seeking to attract.

RLUS will therefore recommend policy guidance and requirements for assessment of large scale “one-off” tourism developments within the rural areas as part of a strategic rezoning proposal. For places such as Dunkeld, Penshurst, Cavendish, Balmoral with a high prospect of attracting a wide range of tourism opportunities, clearer policy support in the Scheme for such projects has merit. More explicit policy support for tourism uses that don’t require the Rural Activity Zone would also provide greater certainty to investors.

Rural Industries are the third focus area of RLUS. Mining, quarrying and extractive industry deliver road base and materials required by the wider community. These uses can and do however generate impacts in local areas. So too does forestry and renewables. Notwithstanding there is a balance between economic opportunity and protecting landscapes, whether these be those identified in the recent Volcanic Assets project (in preparation) or the SW landscape assessment study (DELWP).

Given the earlier comments on the importance of tourism, prioritising key landscapes for protection, balanced against the need for rural industries to have access to raw materials warrants further discussion with the community.

In summary, RLUS will clarify policy guidance on rural land, agriculture, forestry, mining and extractive industry.

Environment and landscape are the final focus area. RLUS notes that there are significant waterways and wetlands in Southern Grampians, yet there has been very limited application of planning controls to ensure their protection and enhancement.

The 2018 Planning Scheme Review noted with regard native vegetation that a Biodiversity Mapping project was undertaken for the South West by the former Department of Sustainability and Environment in early 2000’s. However, it was at a scale that is difficult to justify the application of controls and given the time that has lapsed, the data needs to be reviewed.

More detailed vegetation assessment may also have benefits for agriculture and other rural industries. Changes to the Native Vegetation Framework in 2017 now require applicants seeking to remove vegetation of high ecological value, including for agricultural development, to provide “*compelling justification if avoidance and/or minimisation cannot be demonstrated.*” Mapping of vegetation of high ecological significance will assist landholders to identify areas of the farm with high ecological values where intensive agricultural development such as cropping may be less suitable. The mapping may also identify areas suitable as native vegetation offsets.

In summary, RLUS supports the recommendation to undertake further strategic work to map and document the environmental values of Southern Grampians with a view to introducing planning controls to the Southern Grampians Planning Scheme. The optimal mechanism for this work is through a proposed NRM Strategy. Note – these are key elements of the Environmental Assets Strategy, currently in preparation ie RLUS is consistent and integrated in recommendations with other work now underway.

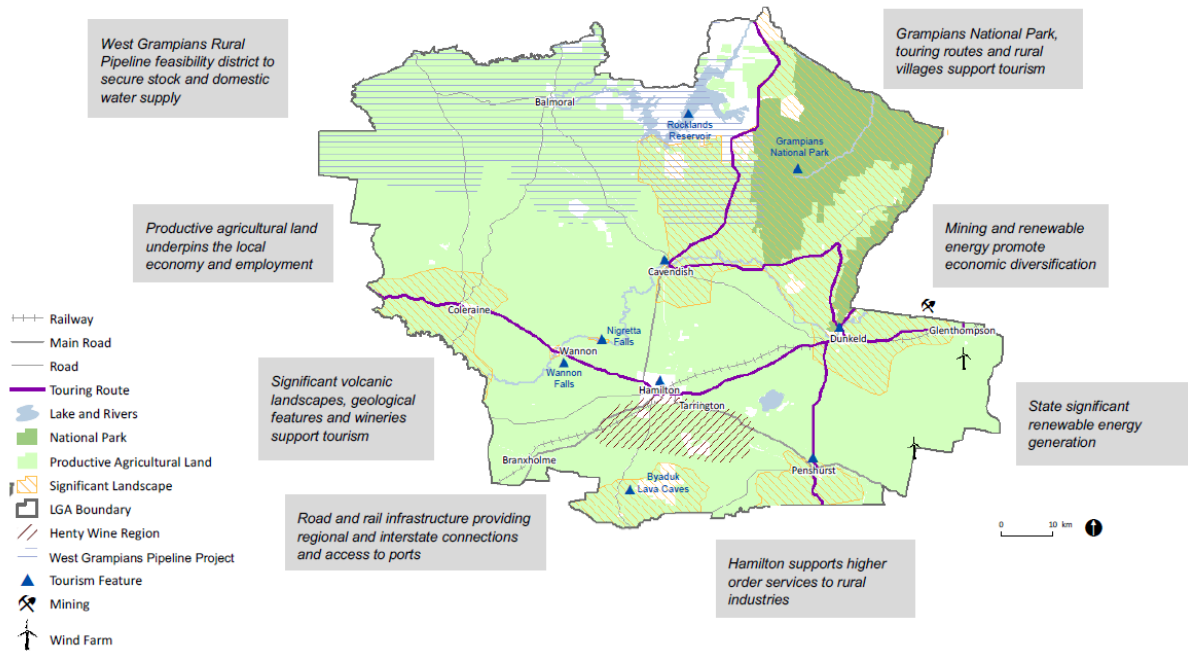


Figure 6 - RLUS Rural Framework Plan (source: RMCG, draft RLUS, Sept 2020)

Specific Actions proposed by RLUS and their implications:

Council staff have worked through the implementation schedule of RLUS to classify/prioritise actions that are likely warranted as per Figure 6 below.

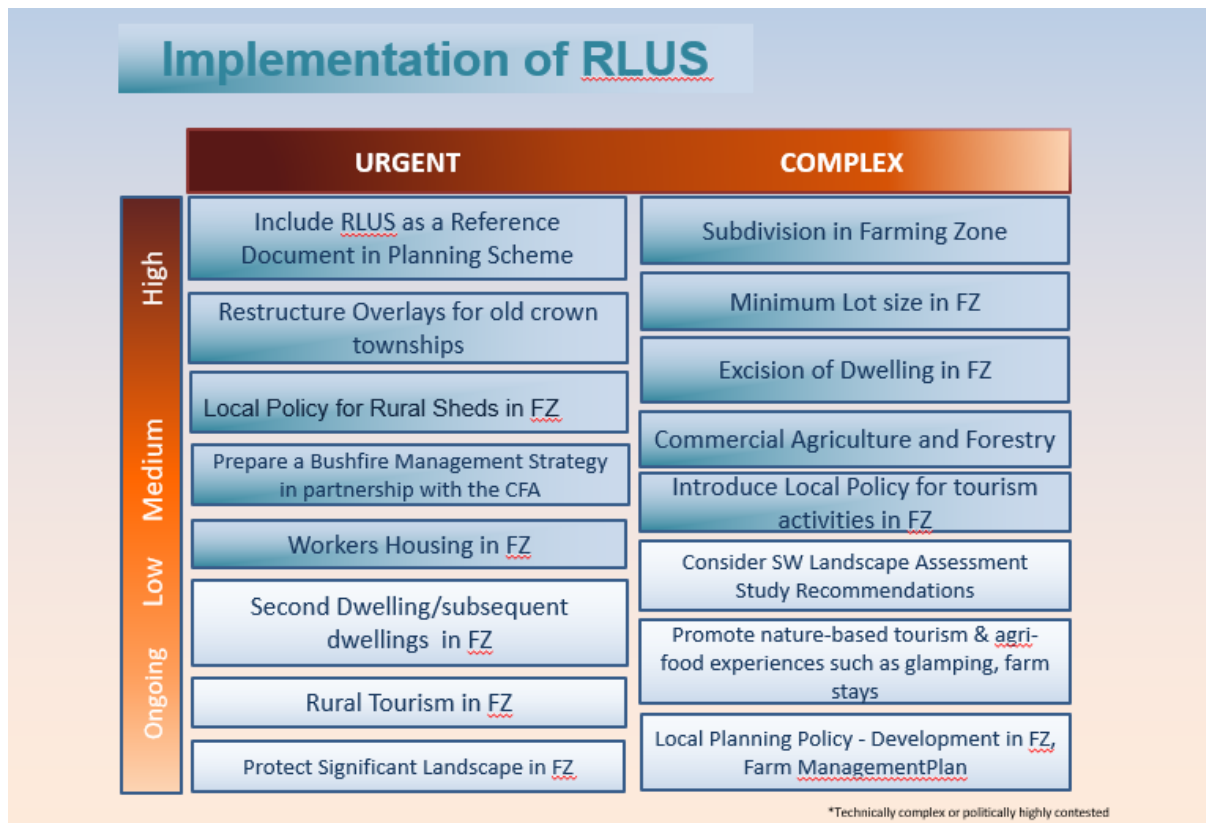


Figure 7 - A possible implementation focus if (a) RLUS is exhibited; (b) RLUS is endorsed and (c) resources are provided to initiate work identified.

It should be noted however that (a) receiving RLUS and resolving to exhibit RLUS does not imply agreement or endorsement of any aspect of the document i.e. only that Council wants community feedback; (b) even if or when RLUS is exhibited and further considered no rules or actions of note arise without separate work being undertaken i.e. new controls need their own amendment; and (c) Council can prioritise actions and agree with some actions and not others.

Issues raised during informal exhibition process:

A brief summary table is provided below.

Issue	Response	State Policy says ...
40 ha rule should only apply outside Cavendish crown township boundary	RLUS applies to Farming Zone. Whether zones should change in/around Cavendish will be examined in Small Towns Strategy	40 ha is default standard in Farming Zone.
Need to be able to respond to needs for wineries, olive farms, vegetable growing etc.	All of these uses should be encouraged. With a supporting farm management plan Council would likely support such ventures on land < 40 ha or at any other standard specified.	This is what farm management plans are designed to address.
Conflicts between food and fibre and extractive industry. How can this be addressed.	Agree that clearer guidance in planning scheme is needed on these issues.	Both are priorities in the Farming Zone.
Restructure Overlay could impact small niche operations in Farming Zone.	The former soldier settlements and Crown townships need clear controls. RLUS provides this, including scope for more flexible uses including some housing development.	CI 45.05 of VPP addresses the scope of restructure overlays.
Proposed controls will reduce number of farmers on the land	Market forces are driving what has occurred for the last 50 years. As indicated, scope exists for houses on merit in the Farming Zone regardless of lot sizes.	Population growth is driven by zones specific to this use eg Township Zone, Rural Living Zone, Low Density Residential Zone (Rural Activity Zone is not a zone intended to prioritise housing)
Hobby farmers will not be able to manage their small acreage and adversely impacted by farming neighbours	Hobby farming is typically facilitated by the Rural Living Zone, not the Farming Zone. Can be examined in the Small Towns Strategy.	See Planning Practice Note 37. See also State Policy – clauses 11.02-1L; 14.01-1S and 16-01-3S. Attracting new residents will need to be driven via structure planning and STS. Ongoing suggestions that all Farming zone land should be further fragmented will not be

		supported at State level via DELWP, regardless of what RLUS is modified to say.
Proposed subdivision controls make it difficult for new farmers to enter the industry.	The 9000 existing lots <40 ha will not be impacted. What impacts entry farmers is the massive increase in land prices in the district that has already occurred.	VPP doesn't specifically address issue of entry farmers.

Table 4 – Summary of issues

Other issues raised

Does RLUS effectively cover issues concerning the Rural Activity Zone?

The Rural Activity Zone covers small areas of Hamilton and Dunkeld. See Figure 1 and also table 1. Pages 10 and 11 of the background reports examine the extent of these area and does not foreshadow any changes to controls. These controls are set out in cl. 35.08 of the Scheme. Given the lack of land subject to these controls it is logical that RLUS primarily focuses on the Farming Zone. Should issues be identified in the formal exhibition process this issue can be further visited.

RLUS might just create more 'red tape'.

There is a compelling argument that RLUS clarifies and gives guidance on a range of issues in the Farming Zone from the role of tourism and where Rural Activity zones may be warranted for particular tourism projects, through to the need for clearer policy and support for housing linked to genuine agricultural activities on smaller lots. If the 'red tape' argument concerns minimum lot sizes for a dwelling in the Farming Zone there should be informed debate on whether the standard stays at 40 ha for a dwelling or a different number. Council's typically uses schedules to clarify these rules. Post public exhibition of RLUS Council will be in a better position to have these discussions.

Where the confusion may exist is the notion that housing is 'as of right' in the Farming Zone for existing lots. This is not the case. A permit is required and where below 40 ha a farm management plan is needed to consider merit. If the lot size for dwellings changes, the farm management plan has wider application. But since the vast majority of lots in the Shire are below 40 ha the impacts are not considered significant beyond the signalling that lots above 40 have merit in not being further subdivided for non-agricultural purposes.

The proposed restructure overlays of Crown Townships within the Farming Zone is an example of reducing red tape by mapping a way for orderly consolidation and development to occur. So too will clarified controls on farm management plans.

Why is RLUS not able to deliver rural living opportunities now?

There is no supply and demand analysis component for rural living in RLUS. It was not a deliverable in the tender issued in 2017. However, RLUS does have on page 7 some guiding principles on rural living which will be addressed in the Small Towns Strategy, namely:

- Rural residential development will be discouraged on productive agricultural land.
- Existing townships and settlements including land within the residential zones, will remain the focus for new dwelling development to avoid further fragmentation of rural land and land use conflicts.

- Rural residential development will not impede the long-term urban growth of Southern Grampians' settlements.
- Rural residential development will be located in areas serviced by physical and social infrastructure, or in locations where infrastructure improvements can be undertaken without significant cost or environmental impacts.
- The location of rural residential development will seek to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the environment, native vegetation and biodiversity.
- Rural residential development will be discouraged in areas prone to environmental hazards, and where the risk or environmental cost of making people safe is too high.

In this sense, RLUS establishes the basis for the work to follow in Small Towns Strategy that more directly tackles this issue.

RLUS has no provision for Intensive/hobby farming on smaller lots

The RLUS provides an opportunity to consider additional policy guidance to foster agricultural diversification, capital-intensive farming techniques on smaller lots (such as olives, berries etc). As mentioned before, RLUS found that there is a substantial supply of small lots in the Farming Zone (FZ). 70% of lots in the FZ are <40 ha and 53% of lots <40 ha are vacant. RLUS carefully examines the abundant supply of smaller lots and developing these lots for sub-commercial agriculture or hobby farming activities requires additional policy guidance as these sub-commercial agriculture businesses variously called hobby farms, lifestyle farms, rural residential are farming operations that are maintained and operated without expectation of being a primary source of income. Whereas commercial agricultural businesses are business with the primary purpose of food and fibre production for secondary processing or sale to wholesale markets. In doing so, the business aims to generate profits through economies of scale, specialisation and adoption of new technology such as capital-intensive farming techniques and labour-saving technologies as well as responding to changing market demands. While sub-commercial farming is a legitimate land use it is important to distinguish it from commercial agriculture sectors when preparing rural land use and development policy. Sub-commercial producers generally are not committed to maintaining levels of production required to underpin the agricultural supply chain. Additionally, for many sub-commercial producers, it is a lifestyle choice to undertake agriculture and usually have other sources of income. It is therefore not uncommon during commodity price downturns, drought, or other stress, that production is temporarily or permanently abandoned. Secondary processors and wholesalers are reluctant to rely on supply from sub-commercial producers.

What does a reference document mean as to RLUS' status?

Strictly speaking the choices for a document such as RLUS are as to whether it is an incorporated document or a background document. DELWP practice note 13 deals with this issue. An incorporated document is something such as the Apiary Code of Practice. These documents must be considered by a planning authority when making a decision. They can only be amended by the Minister.

A background document explains how a standard or policy was created. These are then listed in clause 72.08 of the Scheme. Being in the Scheme, even as a background document provides authority for a range of additional actions Council may wish to progress at a later date – see Figure 7.

A Final Observation

Clause 74.02 of the Planning Scheme identifies a range of further work that should be undertaken by Council. These were generated by the Planning Scheme Review which Council adopted and was implemented via amendment C59. RLUS directly addresses some of these tasks namely:

- Complete the Rural Strategy and refine minimum lot sizes and policy on dwellings in the Farming Zone.
- RLUS is also an action set out in CAMMS reporting for delivery by Council.

Financial and Resource Implications

No costs are associated with exhibiting RLUS beyond staff time.

Legislation, Council Plan and Policy Impacts

Council Plan 2017-21

Southern Grampians Council Plan sets out the following vision:

- Southern Grampians will be recognised as a well-connected, dynamic Regional Centre, supporting a vibrant, healthy and inclusive community

Actions that Council will undertake to implement this vision relevant to this study include:

- Promote the Region's natural advantages of soil, water, topography and climate
 - Support opportunities for intensification, diversification and value adding within the agricultural and primary industries sector.
 - Attract, support and encourage social and economic development in all our settlements.
 - Leverage the Shire's strategic advantages in health, education, leisure and cultural activities as a means to stimulate economic and population growth.
 - Continue to develop and implement land use planning strategies to support new investments.
 - Promote and support natural resource management and community-based initiatives.
 - Ensure land use planning balances growth with appropriate levels of environmental stewardship.

Risk Management

There are no risks associated with publicly exhibiting RLUS.

Environmental and Sustainability Considerations

Sustainable management of the Shire's agricultural sector is one of the highest priorities as set out in the Shire's Economic Development Strategy and Council Plan.

Community Consultation and Communication

The purpose of this report is to enable comprehensive community engagement on RLUS to occur. The informal engagement process already undertaken has been discussed earlier.

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.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receive the Draft Rural Land Use Strategy for the purpose of exhibiting it for a minimum 45 days for community consultation; and
2. Provide a further report on feedback received and any modifications or alterations warranted to the Strategy.

10.11 Project Brief – Assessment of a Redevelopment Option for a New Hamilton Gallery

Directorate: Andrew Goodsell, Director Planning and Development
Author: Amy Knight, Manager Cultural Arts
Attachments: 17. Project Brief - Assessment of a redevelopment option for a NHG

Executive Summary

As part of the New Hamilton Gallery (NHG) project, Council is seeking to engage a lead architect to deliver a redevelopment option for a New Hamilton Gallery, located on the existing gallery site in Hamilton (Option 3).

This report presents the project brief for consideration by Council with the aim to commence the procurement process for an architect to undertake the project.

Discussion

In July 2021 Council received the body of work relating to a CBD option for a New Hamilton Gallery (Option 2) including detailed designs and preliminary business case. As part of this review, it was noted that appropriate investigation into the current site had not been undertaken. Council advised that in order to progress the project it must consider all options and appropriate consideration for a redevelopment option (Option 3) should be undertaken prior to progressing the project to community consultation.

As the current gallery is part of a precinct, this body of work includes consideration of other Council services as defined in the brief parameters, namely the performing arts centre, library, cinema and customer service functions of Council.

This investigation recognises the history of the project and the requirement that this body of work will be required to complement and enable comparison with the earlier studies undertaken in 2019 for a standalone iconic building at Lake Hamilton proposal (Option 1) and in 2021 for the above-mentioned CBD proposal (Option 2).

It further acknowledges two previously endorsed documents focused on urban renewal, namely, the Brown Street Arts and Cultural Precinct Concept Plan (2011) and the Hamilton CBD Activation Masterplan (adopted mid 2020).

Through the brief parameters it will investigate the option of a new cultural facility / precinct, specifically addressing the Hamilton Gallery's restraints in its current location. These parameters surrounding the exploration of the area have previously been workshopped and approved by Council. It will also provide a detailed cost plan from a licenced quantity surveyor.

The overall aim of this assessment is to provide Council with comparative data and documentation regarding the NHG project for the purpose of informed decision making and discussion. This work will be in the form of concept designs and relevant cost estimates. This work will significantly contribute to the planning and direction of the project.

An upper limit budget for the project is \$40,000 exc GST. A further \$10,000 exc GST will be required for appropriate community engagement and communications, however this is a separate scope of works.

Legislation, Council Plan and Policy Impacts

This project is not inconsistent with the Council Plan 2017-21 and furthers the objectives as set out in Council Plan 2021-25 (draft) and SG2041 (draft).

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.

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. The project brief for Option 3 be endorsed by Council with the aim to commence the procurement process for a suitably qualified architect to undertake the project.
2. A further report be provided to Council on findings from the Option 3 to then enable a determination on further community engagement on this project.

10.12 Planning Committee

Directorate: Andrew Goodsell, Director Planning and Development
Author: Andrew Goodsell, Director Planning and Development
Attachments: 18. Planning Committee Minutes – 5 August 2021.

Executive Summary

The Minutes from the Planning Committee meeting held on 5 August 2021 and endorsed by members of the Committee are presented to Council for information.

Discussion

This committee was established as a Delegated Committee of Council on 12 August 2020 in accordance with Section 64 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Matters for consideration at a Planning Committee:

- All planning permits valued between \$1million and \$5million (or less if the officer is recommending refusal).
- All planning permits that receive between three (3) and five (5) objections
- All applications where the officer is recommending refusal.
- Power to decide to grant an amendment to a planning permit if the value of the original development exceeds \$1 million or if 3 or more objections were received, or if the officer is recommending refusal.
- All planning permits made pursuant to Section 97C of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* to request the Minister to decide the application.
- All planning scheme amendment under section s.8A(7) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* to prepare the amendment specified in the application without the Minister's authorization if no response received after 10 days.
- All planning scheme amendments that clarify or correct mistakes in the Planning Scheme (applied for under Section 20(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*).
- Whether applications should be referred to the full Council for a decision.

Legislation, Council Plan and Policy Impacts

The *Planning and Environment Act 1987* provides that certain local government authority, responsibility and functions can be delegated to Committees of Council or Council Officers.

Disclosure of Interests

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

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 5 August 2021 be received.

11. Notices of Motion

There are no Notices of Motion listed on tonight's agenda.

12. Delegated Reports

Reports on external Committees and Representative Bodies for which Councillors have been appointed as a representative by Council.

13. Mayors and Councillors 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, advocacy on behalf of constituents and other topics of significance.

14. Confidential Matters

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

15. Close of Meeting

This concludes the business of the meeting.