



**Swan Hill Rural
City Council**

SCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Tuesday 21 May 2024
at 2:00 PM
Council Chambers
Swan Hill Town Hall
53 – 57 McCallum Street, Swan Hill.
VIC 3585

MINUTES

PUBLIC ACCESS

Open to the public and
Live streaming from Council's
website: www.swanhill.vic.gov.au

Confirmed 18 June 2024

Chairperson.....

Vision Statement

Built on strong foundations that embrace our rich History and natural environment, our region will be a place of progressions and possibility. We are a community that is happy, healthy and harmonious - we are empowered, we are respectful and we are proud.

Our Mission

We will lead, advocate, partner and provide efficient services and opportunities for growth and the wellbeing of our community, environment and economy.

Our Values

Council values our residents and community and will be responsive to their needs. In pursuing our objectives, we believe in, and are committed to, the following values:

Community engagement - We will ensure that our communities are consulted, listened to and informed.

Leadership - We will be at the centre of our community and by actively engaging our community we will form the collective view on strategic issues and will then express our views through strong advocacy and action.

Fairness - We will value and embrace the diversity of our community and ensure that all people are treated equally.

Accountability- We will be transparent and efficient in our activities and we will always value feedback.

Trust - We will act with integrity and earn the community's trust by being a reliable partner in delivering services, projects and providing facilities.

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1 Procedural Matters

1.1 Welcome

Mayor, Councillor Cr King assumed the chair and declared the Scheduled Council Meeting - 21 May 2024 open at 2:00 pm

1.2 Acknowledgement Of Country

Mayor, Councillor Cr King read the Acknowledgement of Country.

"Swan Hill Rural City Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, and pays its respects to their elders, past and present."

1.3 Prayer / Opening Declaration

Cr Kelly read the opening declaration.

We, the Councillors of Swan Hill Rural City Council, declare that we will undertake the duties of the office of Councillor, in the best interests of our community, and faithfully, and impartially, carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in us, to the best of our skill and judgement.

1.4 Apologies / Leaves of Absence

CM 2024/51 Motion

MOVED Cr Kelly

That Council accept Cr Chris Jeffery and the Chief Executive Officer, Scott Barber apologies.

SECONDED Cr McKay

The Motion was put and CARRIED 6 / 0

1.5 Directors / Officers Present

Leah Johnston, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Michelle Grainger, Director Development and Planning
Bruce Myers, Director of Community and Cultural Services
Bhan Pratap, Director of Corporate Services
Laura O'Dwyer, Acting Director of Infrastructure
Helen Morris, Organisational Development Manager
Sharon Lindsay, Executive Assistant

1.6 Confirmation of Minutes

1.6.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Recommendation/s

That the minutes of the Scheduled Council Meeting held on the 9 April 2024 be confirmed.

CM 2024/52 Motion

MOVED Cr Young

That the minutes of the Scheduled Council Meeting held on the 9 April 2024 be confirmed.

SECONDED Cr Kelly

The Motion was put and CARRIED 6 / 0

1.7 Disclosures of Conflict of Interest

Nil.

1.8 Joint Letters and Reading of Petitions

Nil.

1.9 Public Questions Time

CM 2024/54 MOTION

MOVED Cr Moar

That standing orders be suspended at 2:02pm.

SECONDED Cr Kelly

The Motion was put and CARRIED 6 / 0

Name: Paula Rodger

Question:

Are all your council members aware and will to support our SES in the campaign to bring the Fire levy that the Victorian state government currently has in place, To be changed to an Emergency service levy. Victoria is the only state government that does not support all emergency services in a levy. Our Vic state levy is for Fire levy only. SES is the controlling agent for 74% of the state disasters and have no levy to fund it. Would love to talk more on this. SES is running a state campaign in conjunction with national volunteer week.

Response: Acting CEO, Leah Johnston

Thank you Paula for your question.

Firstly, Council is extremely grateful to the SES and all emergency responders for their work and volunteerism.

On behalf of all the community, the work that is done to protect us all when we are most in need, is extremely appreciated.

Personally, I am not aware of any campaign to bring the fire levy that the Victorian state government currently has in place, to be changed to an emergency service levy. I am not sure if the elected members are aware of this campaign.

Thank you for bringing this to our attention. It is suggested that further discussions are held with Councillors at an Assembly, so that this issue is appropriately considered and your concerns are understood.

CM 2024/55 MOTION

MOVED Cr Moar

That standing orders be resumed at 2:05pm.

SECONDED Cr Kelly

The Motion was put and CARRIED 6 / 0

1.10 Open Forum

Nil.

2 Officer Reports for Decision

2.1 CPOL/INFRA Private Assets In Road Reserves Policy

Directorate: Infrastructure
File Number: S29-03-13
Purpose: For Discussion

Council Plan Strategy Addressed

4. Leadership - We will ensure accountable leadership, advocacy and transparent decision making.

4.1 Excellent management and administration

4.1.1 Well managed resources for a sustainable future

4.1.2 Provide robust governance and effective leadership

Current Strategic Documents

Council Plan

Declarations of Interest

Council Officers affirm that no general or material conflicts need to be declared in relation to the subject of this report.

Summary

This report seeks approval to renew the new Private Assets in Road Reserves Policy without change.

Discussion

Council is responsible for the provision and maintenance of local roads infrastructure.

This policy provides a framework designed to protect the purpose of the road and the road user. In doing so, it outlines the criteria and requirements under which private assets are allowed in the road reserve.

A review of the policy indicated that no changes are required to the document.

Consultation

This policy has been reviewed and discussed with relevant Council staff.

Financial Implications

Nil.

Social Implications

To ensure an appropriate road network is provided.

Economic Implications

To ensure an appropriate road network is provided.

Environmental Implications

Nil implications for the policy, however, native vegetation issues may arise during the asset installation and will need to be addressed appropriately.

Risk Management Implications

This policy mitigates the risk of legal implications by using current legislation.

Attachments: 1. Private- Assets-in- Road- Reserves CPOLPROINFR A 517 V 1.2 202405 [2.1.1 - 6 pages]

Options

1. Council to adopts the Private Assets in Roads Reserves Policy
2. Council does not adopt the Private Assets in Roads Reserves Policy
3. Council amends the Private Assets in Roads Reserves Policy

Recommendation/s

**That Council adopts the Private Assets in Roads Reserves Policy.
CM 2024/56 Motion**

MOVED Cr Young

That Council adopts the Private Assets in Roads Reserves Policy.

SECONDED Cr McKay

The Motion was put and CARRIED 6 / 0

Date adopted	June 2019
Last review	May 2024
Next review	May 2027
Responsible Officer	Technical Officer Engineering

Fully compliant with Victorian
Charter of Human Rights and
Responsibilities Act 2006



POLICY TITLE PRIVATE ASSETS IN ROAD RESERVES

POLICY NUMBER CPOL/INFRA517

1. PURPOSE

To define the criteria and requirements under which private assets are allowed in the road reserve.

2. SCOPE

Council seeks to provide a consistent and efficient process for the way in which private assets are allowed to be placed in Council’s road reserves.

3. POLICY

Council is responsible for the provision and maintenance of local roads infrastructure.

Infrastructure within road reserves includes, but is not limited to, the road itself (including formation and sub grade), pavement, seal, shoulders, guideposts, table drains or side cuts, culverts and regulatory or discretionary road signage installed by the road authority.

Maintenance obligations are imposed on all owners of infrastructure in a road reserve through the *Road Management Act 2004* and other Acts include such things as inspection requirements, documentation, processes for undertaking works and safety regulations. The vast majority of owners of infrastructure within road reserves are statutory service providers, however some are private landowners.

Prior to the installation of private infrastructure in Council’s road reserve, an executed Section 173 agreement under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 is to be entered into. This document is a legally binding agreement between Council and the landowner (tied to title).

The agreement sets out the arrangements for:

- ongoing ownership and use of an asset;
- works, maintenance; and
- risk allocation in respect of the asset because it is located in, on or under the road.

4. RELATED POLICIES/PROCEDURES/DOCUMENTS

PRO/INFRA517 Private Assets In Road Reserves Procedure
Section 173 Agreement
Works Within Road Reserve Permit

Private Assets in Road Reserves Policy CPOL/INFRA517		
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5. RELATED LEGISLATION

Road Management Act 2004
Local Government Act 1989
Planning and Environment Act 1987

6. DOCUMENT HISTORY

Version Number	Issue Date	Description of Change
1.0	June 2019	Initial release
1.1	December 2020	Review
1.2	April 2024	Review

Signed: _____ Mayor Date: _____

Date adopted	June 2019
Last review	May 2024
Next review	May 2027
Responsible Officer	Technical Officer Engineering

Fully compliant with Victorian
Charter of Human Rights and
Responsibilities Act 2006



PROCEDURE TITLE PRIVATE ASSETS IN ROAD RESERVES

PROCEDURE NUMBER PRO/INFRA517

ENABLING POLICY

CPOL/INFRA517 Private Assets in Road Reserves

ENABLING LEGISLATION

Road Management Act 2004
Local Government Act 1989
Planning and Environment Act 1987

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this procedure is to ensure the criteria and requirements under which private assets are allowed in the road reserve.

2. SCOPE

Swan Hill Rural City Council (Council) is responsible for the provision and maintenance of local roads infrastructure.

All roads have a defined road reserve which is owned or managed by Council and the legislative framework for such is established under the *Local Government Act 1989* and the *Road Management Act 2004*. Such legislation provides a rigorous framework designed to protect the purpose of the road and the road user.

It is acknowledged that the use of the road must be considered alongside other factors such as economic benefit and social need, which may require the installation of non-road infrastructure in the form of privately owned assets. Notwithstanding this, the Policy intends to provide a framework to enable such needs to be balanced with the protection of the primary purpose of the road.

Some statutory service providers have rights and obligations outlined in various Acts to install infrastructure in road reserves without permission of the road authority. Private individuals do not have this right. This policy does not cover or deal with assets that are installed and/or maintained by a statutory service provider.

Under section 34 of the *Road Management Act 2004* a responsible road authority is compelled to manage the use of roads having regard to the principle that the primary purpose of a road is to be used by members of the public, and that other uses are to be managed in a manner which minimises any adverse effect on the safe and efficient operation of the road.

Private Assets in Road Reserves Procedure PRO/INFRA517		
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It further requires the authority to coordinate the installation of infrastructure on roads and the conduct of other works in such a way as to minimise, as far as is reasonably practicable, adverse impacts on the provision of utility services.

Infrastructure within road reserves includes, but is not limited to, the road itself (including formation and sub grade), pavement, seal, shoulders, guideposts, table drains or side cuts, culverts and regulatory or discretionary road signage installed by the road authority.

Maintenance obligations are imposed on all owners of infrastructure in a road reserve through the *Road Management Act 2004* and other Acts include such things as inspection requirements, documentation, processes for undertaking works and safety regulations. The vast majority of owners of infrastructure within road reserves are statutory service providers. Such bodies have a legislative framework within which they operate, and access to appropriate levels of insurance coverage should legal proceedings be undertaken against them.

Prior to the installation of private infrastructure in Council’s road reserve, an executed Section 173 agreement under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 is required.

3. DEFINITIONS

Asset:	a physical component of a facility which has value, enables services to be provided.
Exceptional circumstances:	the existence of a physical obstacle (buildings, natural structures including waterways, rock formations, culturally sensitive land, land with significant native vegetation) that prevents access and an alternative route is not available; or where all reasonable attempts have been unsuccessful in obtaining the necessary consent of a non-beneficiary landowner, and a reasonable alternate route within private land is not available.
	The determination of exceptional circumstance will be at the sole discretion of Council's Director Infrastructure. This assessment is required to be balanced with the requirement of Council to protect the road reserve as outlined in s4(d) of the <i>Road Management Act 2004</i> .
Non-road infrastructure:	means infrastructure in, on, under or over a road which is not road infrastructure.
Responsible road authority:	means the road authority which has operational functions as determined in accordance with s37 of the <i>Road Management Act 2004</i> . For the purposes of this policy the responsible road authority is Council.
Road infrastructure:	means the infrastructure which forms part of a roadway, pathway or shoulder, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • structures forming part of the roadway, pathway or shoulder; and • materials from which a roadway, pathway or shoulder is made.
Road reserves:	means all of the area of land that is within the boundaries of a road.

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Section 173 Agreement:	is a legal contract allowed under s121 of the <i>Road Management Act 2004</i> and/or s173 of the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> that outlines rights and obligations and is attached to title of private land.
Statutory service providers:	authorities empowered under an Act with providing utility services such as power, gas, water, and telecommunication infrastructure.
User Pays Principle:	when users pay the full costs of the goods or services they consume. It is premised on a principle that those who do not use a service should not be obligated to pay for it. Such a principle is most effective when the beneficiary aligns exactly with the user.
Works Within Road Reserve permit:	evidences the final approvals for work that, once received, allows works within the road reserve to commence.

4. PROCEDURE

4.1. Legal Framework

A Section 173 Agreement may be required to be entered into with the beneficiary landowner prior to approval of works in road reserves. The provision of assets is usually for the benefit of the current owner of the land and it is appropriate that obligations should be transferred with the land to ensure integrity of the management framework.

4.2. Requirements of a Section 173 Agreement

Inspection requirement: For assets installed within road reserves, inspections will be required upon completion of the works.

Maintenance requirements: includes the execution of all works of any description which are required to keep the road or infrastructure in the state of utility determined in accordance with the *Road Management Act 2004* or any other Act deemed applicable.

Public liability insurance of \$20,000,000 (or such increased amount as may be periodically advised in writing by Council) to be held and kept current.

4.3. Design Considerations

Council will require any assets within road reserves to be installed fence to fence, by the shortest possible route or running perpendicular across roads. Required technical specifications regarding design, annual maintenance, depth, materials and location requirements will be outlined to the applicant by Council's Infrastructure Directorate.

Applications to install assets running longitudinally within road reserves will only be approved in exceptional circumstances. Should such a circumstance exist, and an application is received to install a privately owned asset longitudinally in a road reserve, permission would only be granted after the acceptance of the following conditions, including but not limited to:

- a) The availability of the corridor within the road reserve between the road reserve fence line and the commencement of Council's road drainage infrastructure. This is the only location where Council will consent to such privately owned assets being installed.

Private Assets in Road Reserves Procedure PRO/INFRA517		
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- b) Only the portion of the pipeline or other asset affected by the exceptional circumstance will be considered for inclusion in the road reserve.
- c) Applicant enters into an agreement with Council for use of the part of the road reserve required for installation of the infrastructure.
- d) Council will, at its discretion, retain the right to terminate the agreement with a minimum of one months notice, and recover costs for non-compliance should the landholder fail to maintain the asset in good condition.
- e) Should Council provide notice under clause d, the landholder will be required to remove the infrastructure and reinstate the reserve to Council’s satisfaction, at their own cost.

4.4. Construction Considerations

Council’s preferred construction approach for installation of privately owned assets is to bore under roads. However, it is acknowledged this is sometimes not possible and in such cases, trenches may be the only reasonable alternative.

Requirements for construction will be outlined in detail during the application process and will be controlled through the issuing of a Works Within Road Reserve Permit.

4.5. Payment of Fees

The costs associated with the generation and application of the Section 173 Agreement onto a beneficiaries land title will be borne by the applicant.

4.6. Ongoing Obligations

Council requires landowners to:

- Inspect the asset annually; and
- Maintain public liability insurance to Council’s satisfaction.

Appropriate management frameworks are crucial within road reserves given the risk associated to communities and Council should incidents/accidents occur.

5. RELATED POLICIES/PROCEDURES/DOCUMENTS

Section 173 Agreement
Works Within Road Reserve Permit

6. DOCUMENT HISTORY

Version Number	Issue Date	Description of Change
1.0	June 2019	Initial release
1.1	December 2020	Review
1.2	May 2024	Draft 1

Signed: _____ **CEO** **Date:** _____

Private Assets in Road Reserves Procedure PRO/INFRA517		
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2.2 Swan Hill Region Housing Action Plan 2024-2025

Directorate: Development and Planning
File Number: S12-24-07
Purpose: For Decision

Council Plan Strategy Addressed

1. Liveability - We will be a healthy, connected and growing community supported by a range of infrastructure and services.

1.1 A modern municipality: Vibrant, connected and resilient

1.1.1 Attractive urban areas and regional townships

1.1.2 Ensure adequate provision of a variety of safe and secure housing

2. Prosperity - We will continue to build and strengthen a prosperous local economy, through sustainable growth and education. We will focus on creating jobs and wealth through adding value to existing strengths in all areas of our economy.

2.1 Effective partnerships for prosperity

2.1.2 Support our key industries

Current Strategic Documents

Council Plan

Robinvale Housing Strategy 2019

Loddon Mallee Housing Action Plan

Declarations of Interest Council Officers affirm that no general or material conflicts need to be declared in relation to the subject of this report.

Summary

This report seeks support for the Swan Hill Region Housing Action Plan 2024-2025

Discussion

Background

Swan Hill Rural City Council (Council) is developing an Economic Development Strategy to help shape the future of this vibrant and liveable region.

Council has a vision to support businesses to grow jobs and strengthen the community and economy, however, one of the major hurdles is the lack of housing in the municipality. For the past few years, people have not accepted jobs because they can't find housing, whilst other people have been forced into cramped shared housing or caravans and even tents.

In November 2023, Council conducted a Housing Summit that highlighted the need to explore and develop new innovative approaches to support housing outcomes. This included bringing people together in a coordinated community approach that

ensures the best use of land, investment dollars, government funding and local know-how.

Action Plan – see attachment

To support findings from the Housing Summit, the Swan Hill Region Housing Action Plan for 2024-2025 has been prepared. This Action Plan aims to consolidate key actions from previous studies and strategies including the Loddon Mallee Housing Action Plan and Robinvale Housing Strategy, and the report from the Housing Summit - Worker Housing to Strengthen the Local Economy and Drive Job Stability. In addition, key proposals from Councils – Swan Hill 2050 project have been included.

It also provides a framework for the allocation of Council's resources towards supporting housing and accommodation outcomes over the next two years.

The Action Plan has three themes –

- Plan and Develop;
- Partner and Support; and
- Advocacy and Policy.

Some of the key initiatives within this Action Plan include unlocking Council owned sites for housing, accelerate development of suitable land for housing, establishing the Housing Action - Greater Swan Hill group and establishing a Council Development Support Program. The Action Plan will be facilitated and supported through Council's Economic and Community Development and Development Departments. As actions are completed the plan may be amended and added to.

Consultation

Between 25-27 October 2023, Regional Housing Victoria and Council's Economic Development staff conducted 25 interviews with representatives from a sample of community organisations, businesses, and stakeholders.

On 20 November 2023 around 120 people from industry, the community sector, government, and neighbouring Councils met at the Swan Hill Town Hall to explore local solutions to the local housing needs.

Both the Robinvale Housing strategy and the Loddon Mallee Housing action plan incorporated significant engagement with the community and key stakeholders.

Financial Implications

Funding to support potential recommendations can be considered as part of the Council's Economic Development Initiatives 2023-2024. There are also funds allocated in the Development budget to carry out planning projects

Social Implications

Supporting new housing and accommodation outcomes will empower community pride and social inclusion and increase liveability factors.

Economic Implications

Increase housing and accommodation services will provide real long term economic benefits for the region including supporting business growth and development, attracting new investment opportunities, and maintaining the region's population base.

Environmental Implications

Nil.

Risk Management Implications

Failure to build on the success of the summit could cause reputational damage.

Attachments: 1. Swan Hill Rural City Housing Action Plan 2024-25 [2.2.1 - 4 pages]

Options

1. Adopt the draft Swan Hill Region Housing Action Plan 2024-25
2. Seek further information on the draft Swan Hill Region Housing Action Plan 2024-25
3. Do not proceed with the draft Swan Hill Region Housing Action Plan 2024-25

Recommendation/s

That Council adopt the Swan Hill Region Housing Action Plan 2024-25

CM 2024/57 Motion

MOVED Cr Young

That Council adopt the Swan Hill Region Housing Action Plan 2024-25

SECONDED Cr Moar

The Motion was put and CARRIED 6 / 0

**SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL
HOUSING ACTION PLAN
2024 - 2025**

Swan Hill Rural City Council is wanting to address the crippling effects of the current housing crisis gripping regional Victoria. The development of a comprehensive Economic Development Strategy has been underpinned by the clear understanding that the shortage of available and affordable housing is a direct handbrake on realising social and economic aspirations for the municipality.

A consultation process and a major summit November 2023 have highlighted the problems for employers, employees, people looking to move to the region and governments in urgently increasing supply of housing, particularly rental housing for workers. Key outcomes from this process included need for greater coordination, need for both private and public investment and the importance of working together through a partnership led approach.

To support this process, Council has tabled the Swan Hill Region Housing Action Plan with the aim to articulate Council's role and intent to increase housing outcomes for the region over the next two years, as we strive for 500 new dwellings by 2030.

Featuring key initiatives from the Robinvale Housing Strategy and Loddon Mallee Housing Action Plan, the Swan Hill Region Housing Action Plan will be a flexible working document, reported back to Council twice a year.



HOUSING ACTION PLAN 2024 - 2025

Plan & Develop



	ACTION	ACTIVITY	TIME	LINK	FUNDING		CURRENT STATUS
					ECO DEV	HOUSING SUPPORT FUND (TBC)	
Plan - Unlocking Council Owned Site	Review Council's future development options Tower Hill	1 Prepare Tower Hill Future Development Options Report eg "Super block" 2 Review Master Plan	Yr 1	Eco Dev Strategy		\$25,000	Previous work being reviewed
	Review Council's residential sites and other sites at Tower Hill	Renew Master Plan to make housing choice simple	Yr 2	Council Plan			Previous work being reviewed
	Prepare 42 Monash Drive for sale	Rezoning commercial Prepare an EOI for sale	Yr 1	Eco Dev Strategy			EOI Drafted
	Determine preferred development option Feldtmann Lane - Swan Hill	Prepare Future Development Options Report	Yr 2				
	Investigate Council's Beveridge street carpark for accommodation purposes	Undertake Business case and methodology to rezone/future sale of site – seek partnership	Yr 1			\$40,000	Grant submitted - Regional Precinct Partnership
	Develop McCartney Court (old preschool site) - Robinvale	Seek partners and potential workers accommodation developments (10 units) - including RDHS and College	Yr 1	Robinvale Housing Strategy	Application \$5m Grant \$500,000 General Reserve		EOI submitted - Workers Accom Fund
	Review Robinvale Resource Centre site for alternate options for housing	Review Accommodation Development Prospectus	Yr 1	Robinvale Housing Strategy		\$15,000	New plans and costing provided by consultant
	Review Council's Bromley Rd site Robinvale for suitability for housing	1 Review planning scheme, prepare amendment (if necessary)-if appropriate 2 Develop a prospectus for sale	Yr 2			\$10,000	
	Review land positively impacted by the new Robinvale levee	Investigate suitability of land for housing	Yr 2+				Initial review in the Rural Living / Low Density Res study
Accelerate development suitable land for housing	Investigate sites in Swan Hill that support accommodation outcomes	Undertake a Future Development Plan Swan Hill	Yr 2	Eco Dev Strategy	\$700k grant		Grant submitted - Regional Precinct Partnership
	Activate un-used private vacant residential land within Swan Hill	Undertake audit vacant site in Swan Hill, contact owner understand current matters that may be restricting development	Yr1	Eco Dev Strategy			Vacant audit report drafted
	Support small town and population growth	Create small town brochures ready for investors	Yr1	Small Town Audit			

HOUSING ACTION PLAN 2024 - 2025

Partner & Support



	ACTION	ACTIVITY	TIME	LINK	Eco Dev	Housing Support Fund	Current Status
Partner	Establish Housing Action: Greater Swan Hill	Develop process and aims of the committee	Yr 1	Eco Dev Strategy	\$5,000	\$15,000	Engage consultant draft framework /model options
	Establish Council Development Support Program	Develop a framework and implementation model to support planning applications	Yr 1	Housing summit	\$5,000	\$50,000	Engage consultant draft framework /model options
	Investigate accessing NHFC funding for infrastructure – develop priority areas and types of infrastructure required	Develop EOI with key partners eg LMW	Yr 2	Loddon Mallee Action Plan			Exploring options to pursue including loan/grant for priority area - eg drainage
Support	Increase shared knowledge	Develop housing/industry service contact database and provide Council and development updates	Yr 1	Housing summit			Database contact drafted

Advocacy & Policy



	ACTION	ACTIVITY	TIME	LINK	Eco Dev	Housing Support Fund	Current Status
Advocacy	Investigate future land availability for housing – prioritise Crown/government land sites	Lobby key partners support increase housing supply opportunities	Yr 2	Loddon Mallee Action Plan			Identified priority areas including Swan Hill Racecourse/ Vic Police Sites identified
	Re-activate Robinvale Education Residential Sites	Lobby Department Education for new housing development outcomes	Yr 2	Eco Dev Strategy			
	Increase social and affordable accommodation	Advocate Big Build funding for social housing outcomes	Yr 2	Loddon Mallee Action Plan			Working with Haven support accommodation outcomes
	Enabling Critical Infrastructure	Advocate connections to sewerage, water etc for small rural townships including Woorinen South & Piangil – NHFC	Yr 2	Loddon Mallee Action Plan			
Policy	Review Council's Investment Attraction Policy	Support private investment housing/accommodation	Yr 2	Eco Dev Strategy			Drafting Investment Attraction Policy
Planning	Plan for low density housing development	Develop low density residential and rural living Development Strategy	Yr 2				Draft Completed

2.3 2024 New South Wales State Golf Championship - Murray Downs Golf Club Sponsorship Request

Directorate: Development and Planning

File Number: S01-15-02

Purpose: For Decision

Council Plan Strategy Addressed

1. Liveability - We will be a healthy, connected, and growing community supported by a range of infrastructure and services.

1.3 Building Healthy Communities

1.3.1 Encourage active healthy lifestyles for people of all ages, abilities, and interests

1.3.2 Spaces where people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds can flourish

2. Prosperity - We will continue to build and strengthen a prosperous local economy, through sustainable growth and education. We will focus on creating jobs and wealth through adding value to existing strengths in all areas of our economy.

2.2 A thriving diverse economy

2.2.1 Encourage the growth and development of our economy

Current Strategic Documents

Council Plan

Economic Development Strategy 2017 - 2022

Declarations of Interest

Council Officers affirm that no general or material conflicts need to be declared in relation to the subject of this report.

Summary

The purpose of this report is to consider a sponsorship request from the Murray Downs Golf Club who will be hosting the New South Wales State Open Golf Championship at the course in November 2024.

Discussion

Murray Downs Golf Club will host the 2024 New South Wales State Open Golf Championship in November over a week long period with the dates yet to be finalised.

The event will see on and off course activities with an expected 130 golfers (some with caddies and partners) to take part in the event. It is anticipated that up to 3000 people will attend the event as spectators with the numbers steadily increasing

throughout the course of the week culminating in the final round of the tournament on the Sunday.

In addition to the actual tournament there will be practice days, a Pro Am and a Championship dinner.

The tournament's final two rounds will be televised on both Foxtel, and 7 Plus which will provide added exposure for Murray Downs and the surrounding region.

Golf Officials, sponsors, television crews and VIPs are expected to utilise all the accommodation at the Murray Downs Resort for the week, meaning that the golfers, caddies, and partners will need to access accommodation in Swan Hill with most needing week long accommodation in what will be an economic boost for accommodation providers.

Spectators are expected to be from the region, Melbourne, other parts of Regional Victoria, New South Wales, and South Australia. It is anticipated that spectator accommodation needs will vary but again this would be of positive benefit to accommodation providers.

Dining and local shopping could expect to also receive a positive increase because of the additional visitors over the week.

Murray Downs Golf Club are seeking a sponsorship amount of \$25,000 from Council and the basis of this request is as follows:

- If Council agreed to this amount, it would be one of only two major sponsors
- The Tournament is being staged between the Australian PGA and Australian Open which will maximise the exposure to the event and potentially have higher profile players participate
- The final two days of the Tournament will be televised on Foxtel, and 7 Plus which will increase the capacity to promote Murray Downs Golf Course and the surrounding region
- The sponsorship package allows for the Council to have a tourism video shown during the broadcast, oncourse signage, VIP opportunities, participation in the Pro-Am event, attendance at the Champions Dinner, hospitality during the Tournament and the ability to provide tourism information to all attending the event.

Murray Downs has provided details of a sponsorship package at a lesser amount (\$10,000) with a reduction in the sponsorship benefits notably around the television exposure and attendance at the various events.

A number of questions were raised with the Chief Executive Officer of the Murray Downs Golf Club to assist in providing advice to the Council to further understand the request for sponsorship.

Information sought is as follows:

- How many golfers and officials will be a part of the event – *130 players some with caddies and partners.*

- Other people required to conduct the event – *There will be officials from Golf NSW, media representatives, television crews and technical support people, sponsors, and VIPs*
- Will the accommodation at Murray Downs Resort be fully occupied for the week – Yes
- Where will the people who are looking for accommodation outside of Murray Downs Resort head to – *It is anticipated that the golfers, caddies, partners, and those spectators travelling to the event will seek accommodation in Swan Hill for the week*
- What is the level of commitment from the Murray Downs Golf Club in hosting the event – *Murray Downs Golf Club estimates they will need to budget for around \$150,000.00 to stage the event*
- How many sponsors do Murray Downs anticipate having – *There will be two major sponsors at \$25,000.00 each and in addition there will be other minor sponsors. In total it is anticipated that there will a total of 20 sponsors. Murray Downs Golf Club has approached the Murray River Council for sponsorship and will also reach out to Swan Hill Inc*
- Where are the spectators likely to come from to witness the event – *In addition to local people, it is anticipated that people will travel from the region, Melbourne, other parts of New South Wales and South Australia. It is likely that the event will attract up to 3000 spectators over the course of the week.*
- Will the event be televised – *The final two rounds will be televised on both Foxtel and Seven Plus*

Council needs to give consideration as to whether it will provide sponsorship for the event and if so, to become a sponsor, and at what level.

Murray Downs Golf Club Chief Executive Officer has advised that the Murray River Council has agreed to and paid a sponsorship amount of \$10,000.00 for the event.

Discussions have been held with the Executive Officer of Swan Hill Inc about the approach that has been made to the Board about the prospect of sponsorship as well for the event.

There is concern that both Council and Swan Hill Inc would be promoting the same opportunities and products. Consideration should be given to a joint sponsorship of the event so that Council and Swan Hill Inc can in effect market the same products.

The Swan Hill Inc. Executive Officer indicated that the Board is likely to consider a sponsorship amount and echoed the concerns that we could be double marketing Swan Hill.

A suggestion has been made that Council and Swan Hill Inc offer an amount of \$10,000.00 each towards the event and negotiate with Murray Downs Golf Club as to what parts of the original proposal would be included in the sponsorship.

There is no doubt that Swan Hill will benefit from the staging of the event at Murray Downs in terms of economic benefit and increased profile of the region.

Council will be afforded the opportunity to promote Swan Hill and the municipality which may lead to return visitors because of the distribution of information.

Swan Hill's importance as a cross border regional centre is highlighted in this request from Murray Downs Golf Club and is in part a reason why Council should consider a favourable response to the request.

Visitors to the region are not impeded by State borders and would naturally travel into Swan Hill to take advantage of accommodation, shopping, dining, and access to services such as fuel.

The staging of events of State significance be it in Victoria or New South Wales also highlights the emergence of the Swan Hill Rural City Council's capacity to attract or be a part of a variety of events with obvious economic and social benefits.

The request from Murray Downs Golf Club for sponsorship comes soon after Council has commenced discussions with organisations such as Tennis Australia and Tennis Victoria for the staging of key tournaments.

The request for sponsorship from the Murray Downs Golf Club has also highlighted the fact that Council does not have a formal policy when it comes to these types of requests.

Council does have in place a process for grants associated with events but continue to consider sponsorship requests on a case-by-case basis.

The development of a formal sponsorship policy will be undertaken and presented to Council for consideration regardless of the outcome of this request.

Consultation

Council Officers have discussed the sponsorship proposal with the Chief Executive Officer of the Murray Downs Golf Club.

Swan Hill Inc's Executive Officer has been approached as to what the position of the Board might be with respect to sponsorship of the event.

Financial Implications

In the event of Council agreeing to provide sponsorship for the New South Wales State Open Championship in November 2024 the nominated amount would be sourced from the Community and Events Grant Contributions Reserve.

The Murray Downs Golf Club have sought a contribution of \$25,000.00 which Council can agree to or nominate an alternative amount.

The amount being sought is comparable to the amount recently approved by the Council with respect to tennis activities at Ken Harrison Reserve where Council resolved to provide a direct allocation of \$30,000.00 per annum for the next five years directly to the Swan Hill Tennis Club.

The economic benefit to the community arising from the ability for the Swan Hill Tennis Club to host additional major events was seen as a catalyst for the contribution and it is considered that the economic benefit from the Golf Tournament is comparable to an event such as Country Tennis Week.

Social Implications

The local community would benefit from being able to witness an event of State significance without having to travel significant distances. It would be an opportunity to showcase Swan Hill Rural City Council and region.

Council may receive some negative feedback to sponsoring an event in New South Wales. It is considered that this is a rare opportunity that should not have a negative impact on Council's reputation.

Economic Implications

Economic modelling on very conservative figures would suggest that over the course of the weeklong event that the local economy would benefit from a positive impact of approximately \$1 million dollars.

Council, if it provides this sponsorship amount, should seek a report after the event providing statistics on attendance, viewer numbers from the television coverage and details of the local spend during the event.

Environmental Implications

Nil. Council is not the event organiser and the Murray Downs Golf Club have the responsibility of negating any environmental impacts because of hosting the event.

Risk Management Implications

Nil.

Attachments: Nil

Options

1. Council can resolve to agree to the sponsorship request from the Murray Downs Golf Club for \$25,000.00 to be used for the hosting of the New South Wales State Open Golf Championship.
2. Council can resolve to nominate a lesser sponsorship amount to be used for the hosting of the New South Wales State Open Golf Championship.
3. Council can resolve in conjunction with Swan Hill Inc offer to Murray Downs a joint sponsorship proposal e.g. Council \$10,000.00 Swan Hill Inc \$10,000.00
4. Council can resolve to not make a sponsorship contribution and advise the Murray Downs Golf Club.

Recommendation/s

That Council:

1. **Provide a \$10,000 sponsorship commitment to the New South Wales Golf Open at the Murray Downs Golf Club from the Community and Events Grants Contribution Reserve**

2. **Request Murray Downs Golf Club provide a detailed evaluation report of the event to Council of the benefits obtained from the 2024 New South Wales State Open Golf Championship for Swan Hill and the region.**

CM 2024/58 Motion

MOVED Cr McPhee

That Council:

1. **Provide a \$15,000 sponsorship commitment to the New South Wales Golf Open at the Murray Downs Golf Club from the Community and Events Grants Contribution Reserve.**
2. **Negotiate with Swan Hill Inc to have their \$10,000 sponsorship aligned with Swan Hill Rural City Council to make us a major sponsor of the event.**
3. **Request Murray Downs Golf Club provide a detailed evaluation report of the event to Council of the benefits obtained from the 2024 New South Wales State Open Golf Championship for Swan Hill and the region.**

SECONDED Cr McKay

The Motion was put and **CARRIED 6 / 0**

2.4 KSI 3rd qtr Council Plan Progress Report

Directorate: Corporate Services
File No: S16-28-03
Purpose: For Decision

Council Plan Strategy Addressed

4. Leadership - We will ensure accountable leadership, advocacy and transparent decision making.

4.2 Transparent communication and engagement

4.2.1 Effective and authentic engagement with our community

4.2.2 Visible presence in our community

Current Strategic Documents

Council Plan

Declarations of Interest

Council Officers affirm that no general or material conflicts need to be declared in relation to the subject of this report.

Summary:

The purpose of this report is to discuss and review the third quarter progress update of Council's performance against the Council Plan 2021-2025. The period reported is from 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024.

Discussion:

The quarterly progress report, provided as an attachment, offers a summary of the progress against the four Council Plan areas; Liveability, Prosperity, Harmony and Leadership.






The intent of this report is to give Councillors and the community the confidence that Council is on track to meet its published commitments.

In accordance with Section 90 of the Local Government Act 2020, Council developed and adopted a four-year Council Plan on 26 October 2021.

The plan is a strategic document outlining what Swan Hill Rural City Council will do to help achieve Council's and the community's vision for the municipality.

The plan describes Council's priorities and outcomes for its four-year term and how these will be resourced.

The plan has been divided into four strategic pillars which represent the strategic direction to achieve the Community's Vision. The plan consists of strategic objectives and initiatives from which actions are formed and progress is reported according to the following table:

	Complete - the action has been completed.
	Complete/ongoing - actions that span over a number of years that cannot be marked as completed until later years.
	In progress - these actions are past the planning phase, and are in progress towards completion.
	In planning - actions that are not complete or in progress but actions have been taken are marked as in planning stage.
	Not started - actions that have not been commenced at the time of reporting.

Council has made progress on the following:

- 1.1.1.1. Finalise and implement rural living / rural residential strategy** - Draft report has been received and is under review prior to presenting to Council
- 1.1.2.3. Continue to implement the Robinvale housing strategy** – Council is preparing a housing action plan to ensure housing supply and infrastructure development are considered in a systematic way.
- 1.2.2.1. Improve the presentation of the Lake Boga foreshore and its environments in collaboration with the community** – For this project the mains have been installed and the Project Management Office are currently working through building applications with Powercor and Goulburn Murray Water. Shed design has been completed.
- 1.3.2.2. Incorporate child and family-friendly principles into development of outdoor spaces** - Council service areas are committed and taking meaningful action to progress compliance with Child Safe Standards and is ongoing.
- 2.2.1.1. Develop a new planning scheme that is clear in its intention, supports growth and builds confidence and certainty in land use** - Work is progressing on planning scheme amendments in Monash Drive Swan Hill (old GrainCorp site) and River Road Swan Hill (Lower Murray Water proposed water treatment plant).
- 2.3.2.4. Continue to plan and seek funding to implement the development of community infrastructure** - Projects completed this quarter: Nyah West Footpath, Robinvale Splash Park, Robinvale Skate Park, Robinvale Leisure Centre, Monash Drive Boardwalk/Viewing Platform
- 3.1.2.1 Improve Youth Support Services outreach to young people in Manangatang and Robinvale-** The Robinvale Youth worker is based out of the Robinvale College. Another outreach worker currently spending a day and half in Robinvale and looking to re-establish in Manangatang in 2024.
- 3.1.4.2. Determine Council's role in aged care services** - Council has completed the "Transition of Our Plan process" for the Department of Social Services as approved at Council Meeting by resolution on 17 October 2023. Council was notified of the 3 approved providers in January 2024 with the further transition process underway.
- 4.1.1.2. Promote a culture of continuous improvement with a focus on efficiency and customer service** – Internal reviews have been completed of the budget, and Council Asset valuations received with information to be included in the budget's public release. Currently in the final stages of User Acceptance Testing of the Authority program. The new website design and migration is progressing and is approximately 60% complete. We are taking the opportunity to improve the content as it is migrated. Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) is being rolled out to ensure we meet our obligations under the Victorian Protective Data Security Framework. Approximately 30 staff and the Councillors are yet to adopt MFA. The final decision on the

Council's Online Ticketing Solution in process out for tender. The PMO office has actively collaborated with internal and external providers to refine project briefs, help facilitate approvals at the Project Approval Committee level and offering guidance and assistance with project reporting processes.

The following objectives were marked from Not Started to In Progress during the third quarter:

- 3.2.1.3. Improve engagement with community based special interest groups -** Council's Aboriginal Development Officer has been appointed to the First Nations Advisory Committee, working together with recommendations for the Reconciliation Action Plan.
- 4.1.3.3. Review two service delivery areas in years 2 (Parks and Gardens / Library) and 4 (Economic and Community development / Circular economy) of this Council Plan to improve and ensure accessibility and consistency of our customer experience -** Initial discussion with the internal auditors have taken place and the Auditors are in the process of drafting the scope of work. The review of services will commence once the scope of work is approved.

The following objectives were marked from In Progress to Complete & Ongoing in the third quarter:

- 3.1.1.2. Support co-designed development of multicultural events and activities -** Council continues to support co designed events and activities. Harmony Day was held successfully in March 2024.
- 3.1.1.3. All-abilities events and activities are well-planned and promoted -** These events were well attended and accessible to all: Australia Day event "Shared Connections" Swan Hill and Robinvale Citizenship ceremonies, Helena Dokic book launch held at the Library, Swan Hill Food and Wine Festival.
- 3.1.1.4. Continue to develop the annual Harmony Day and Lantern Festival events -** The Harmony Day event was successfully held in March 2024 with an agreement made to change the event date so it did not clash with Ramadan. Lots of inclusive, diversity and cultural events and food on the day.
- 3.1.4.4. Actively engage with local support networks to assist with accessibility and inclusion initiatives -** Ongoing - Youth Program working with schools, headspace, and other agencies such as health services to ensure inclusion in all events and programs. Planning for Mental Health Week events underway, Youth Ball and Youth Arts Festival held during October 2022. Accessibility support agencies now involved in major events such as Harmony Day, such as headspace, Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council, and Mallee Family Care.

4.2.2.1. Maximising the opportunities for Councillors and senior staff to represent Council at relevant community meetings, functions and events - As reported and recorded in the minutes of the February and March 2024 Monthly Ordinary Council Meetings. These are available to the public on the Council website

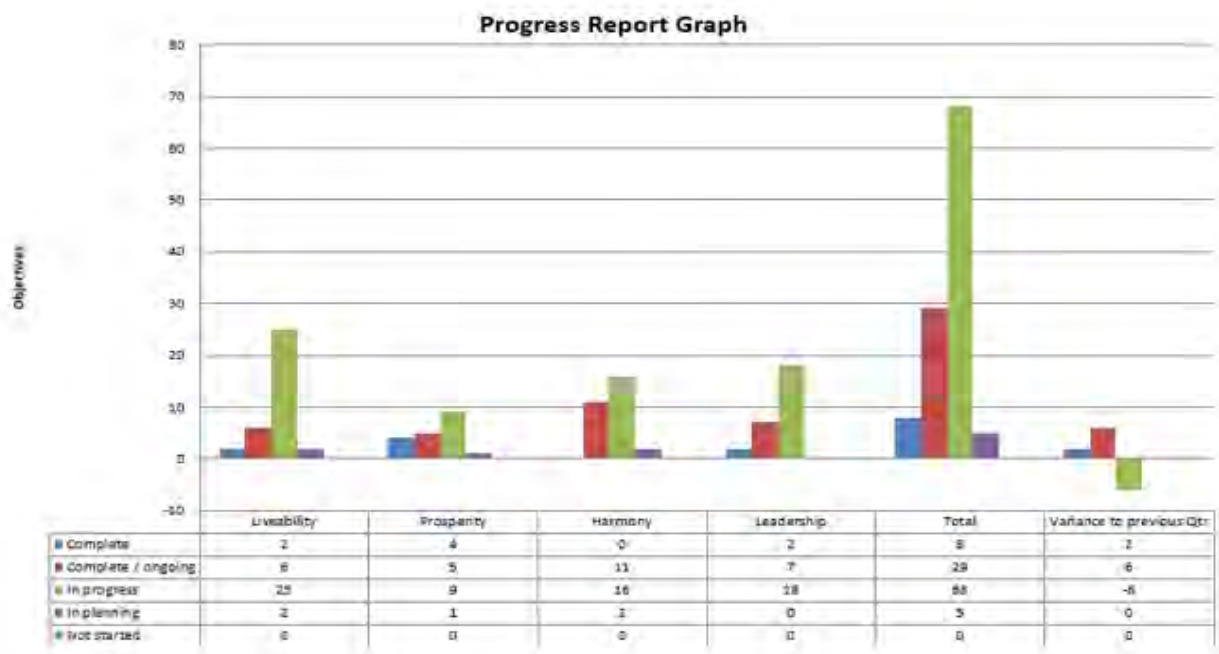
<https://www.swanhill.vic.gov.au/about/council/meetings/2024-council-meetings>

4.3.1.3. Support the health and wellbeing partnerships that address preventable illnesses - Council has been included at officer-level in planning meetings of both the Murray and Mallee Primary Health Units during this quarter and planning for key priorities in 2024 is in place.

The following objectives were marked from In Progress to Complete in the third quarter:

2.1.1.2. Advocate for the establishment of an education hub in Swan Hill - Country University Centre Mallee capital works have been completed and the centre is now run by a community board of management. The centre has commenced taking students and has 50 students enrolled.

4.1.2.1 Implement a Project management Framework and System - Collaboration to refine project briefs and facilitate approvals at the Project Approval Committee (PAC) level. PMO is working with project managers (PMs), offering guidance and assistance with project reporting processes. Framework and process fully implemented.



Consultation

Council consulted the community during the development of the Council Plan 2021-2025

Financial Implications

This report contains no financial implications, however many of the initiatives contained within the Council Plan requires Council to allocate funds in its 2024/25 budget to implement the Council Plan.

Social Implications

The report is provided and made available to the community to increase awareness of the activities of Council, provide a mechanism for transparency and could increase community involvement in decision making at Council level.

Economic Implications

Implementation of the actions will improve a number of economic outcomes for our community.

Environmental Implications

Implementation of the actions will improve a number of environmental outcomes for our community.

Risk Management Implications

Council is required to be compliant with the Local Government Act 2020 regarding the Council Plan and annual reporting. This quarterly report supports that compliance

Attachments: 1. Council- Plan- Progress- Report March 2024 CM [2.4.1 - 28 pages]

Options

1. That Council adopt the third quarter Council plan progress Report 2023/2024 as presented.
2. That Council adopt the third quarter Council plan progress Report 2023/24 as presented with amendments.

Recommendation/s

That Council adopt the third quarter Council plan progress Report 2023/2024 as presented.

CM 2024/59 Motion

MOVED Cr Young

That Council adopt the third quarter Council plan progress Report 2023/2024 as presented.

SECONDED Cr McKay

The Motion was put and CARRIED 6 / 0

COUNCIL PLAN

PROGRESS REPORT – March 2024



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Harmony	19
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INTRODUCTION

What is the Council Plan?

The Council Plan is a strategic document outlining what the Swan Hill Rural City Council (Council) will do to achieve Council's and the community's vision for the municipality. The 2021-2025 plan describes Council's Strategic Initiatives for its four-year term.

The Council Plan is an important document that drives everything the Swan Hill Rural City Council does over a four- year period. It sets the vision, priorities and outcomes for Council's term and lists how progress will be measured. The plan guides Council's annual budget, which determines the projects, services, events and other initiatives that will be funded and delivered in the next financial year.

Council is held accountable for its progress on the Council Plan's outcomes through quarterly progress reports, and annually in the Swan Hill Rural City Council's Annual Report.

How we will track and measure our progress

Each of the Council Plan Initiatives has a number of actions that will track Council's progress. Council will report on its progress in completing the four-year priorities quarterly with updated progress commentary.

All actions will be marked with the following symbols to represent their current status:



Complete - the action has been completed.



Complete/ongoing - actions that span over a number of years that cannot be marked as completed until later years.



In progress - these actions are past the planning phase, and are in progress towards completion.



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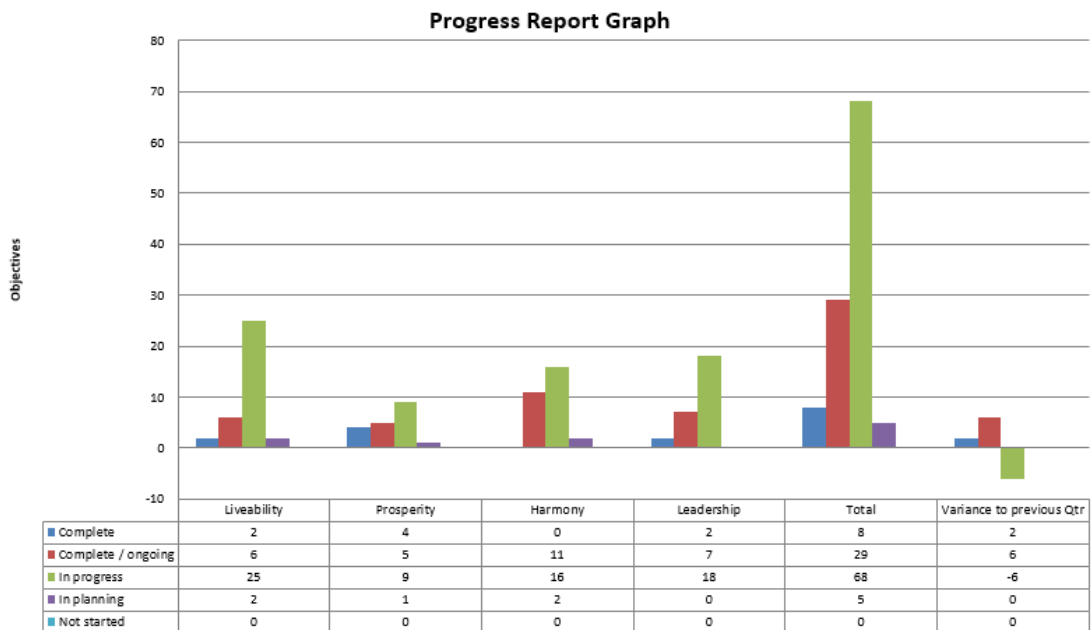


Not started - actions that have not been commenced at the time of reporting.

OVERALL RESULTS SNAPSHOT

The Council Plan 2021-25 includes 29 initiatives and 110 actions through which the achievement of the Council Plan may be measured over its four-year term.

Each action has a nominated responsible officer who is a member of the Leadership Team, reflecting the importance placed on achieving targets. As some objectives/actions span over a number of years they cannot be marked as completed until later years.



Council has made progress on the following:

- 1.1.1.1. Finalise and implement rural living / rural residential strategy** - Draft report has been received and is under review prior to presenting to Council
- 1.1.2.3. Continue to implement the Robinvale housing strategy** – Council is preparing a housing action plan to ensure housing supply and infrastructure development are considered in a systematic way.
- 1.2.2.1. Improve the presentation of the Lake Boga foreshore and its environments in collaboration with the community** – For this project the mains have been installed and the Project Management Officer are currently working through building applications with Powercor and Goulburn Murray Water. Shed design has been completed.
- 1.3.2.2. Incorporate child and family-friendly principles into development of outdoor spaces** - Council service areas are committed and taking meaningful action to progress compliance with Child Safe Standards and is ongoing.
- 2.2.1.1. Develop a new planning scheme that is clear in its intention, supports growth and builds confidence and certainty in land use** - Work is progressing on planning scheme amendments in Monash Drive Swan Hill (old Graincorp site) and River Road Swan Hill (Lower Murray Water proposed water treatment plant).
- 2.3.2.4. Continue to plan and seek funding to implement the development of community infrastructure** - Projects completed this quarter were: Nyah West Footpath, Robinvale Splash Park, Robinvale Skate Park, Robinvale Leisure Centre, Monash Drive Boardwalk/Viewing Platform
- 3.1.2.1 Improve Youth Support Services outreach to young people in Manangatang and Robinvale**- A Robinvale Youth worker is based out of the Robinvale College. Another outreach worker currently spending a day and half in Robinvale and looking to re-establish in Manangatang in 2024.
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The following objectives were marked from Not Started to In Progress during the third quarter:

- 3.2.1.3. Improve engagement with community based special interest groups -**
Council's Aboriginal Development Officer has been appointed to the First Nations Advisory Committee, working together with recommendations for the Reconciliation Action Plan.
- 4.1.3.3. Review two service delivery areas in years 2 (Parks and Gardens / Library) and 4 (Economic and Community development / Circular economy) of this Council Plan to improve and ensure accessibility and consistency of our customer experience -** Initial discussion with the internal auditors have taken place and the Auditors are in the process of drafting the scope of work. The review of services will commence once the scope of work is approved.

The following objectives were marked from In Progress to Complete & Ongoing in the third quarter:

- 3.1.1.2. Support co-designed development of multicultural events and activities -**
Council continues to support co designed events and activities. Harmony Day was held successfully in March 2024.
- 3.1.1.3. All-abilities events and activities are well-planned and promoted -** These events were well attended and accessible to all: Australia Day event "Shared Connections" Swan Hill and Robinvale Citizenship ceremonies, Helena Dokic book launch held at the Library, Swan Hill Food and Wine Festival.
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The Harmony Day event was successfully held in March 2024 with an agreement made to change the event date so it didn't clash with Ramadan. Lots of inclusive, diversity and cultural events and food on the day.
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- 4.2.2.1. Maximising the opportunities for Councillors and senior staff to represent Council at relevant community meetings, functions and events -** As reported and recorded in the minutes of the February and March 2024 Monthly Ordinary Council Meetings. These are available to the public on the Council website <https://www.swanhill.vic.gov.au/about/council/meetings/2024-council-meetings>
- 4.3.1.3. Support the health and wellbeing partnerships that address preventable illnesses -** Council has been included at officer-level in planning meetings of both the Murray and Mallee Primary Health Units during this quarter and planning for key priorities in 2024 is in place.

The following objectives were marked from In Progress to Complete in the third quarter:

2.1.1.2. Advocate for the establishment of an education hub in Swan Hill - Country University Centre Mallee capital works have been completed and the centre is now run by a community board of management. The centre has commenced taking students and has 50 students enrolled.

4.1.2.1 Implement a Project management Framework and System - Collaboration to refine project briefs and facilitate approvals at the Project Approval Committee (PAC) level. PMO is working with project managers (PMs), offering guidance and assistance with project reporting processes. Framework and process fully implemented.

STRATEGIC PILLARS

The Community Vision is supported by four themed pillars – which form the key directions and focus of this Council Plan.

Our vision for the municipality anchors and connects these pillars to deliver real outcomes for the community.



Liveability

We will be a healthy, connected and growing community supported by a range of infrastructure and services.



Prosperity

We will continue to build and strengthen a prosperous local economy, through sustainable growth and education. We will focus on creating jobs and wealth through adding value to existing strengths in all areas of our economy.



Harmony

We will be a welcoming community for all, recognised for our maturity and respect for each other.



Leadership











We will ensure accountable leadership, advocacy and transparent decision making.










Liveability



1. We will be a healthy, connected and growing community supported by a range of infrastructure and services








1.1. A modern municipality: Vibrant, connected and resilient				
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	ACTION	DUE DATE	PROGRESS	COMMENTARY
1.1.1. Attractive urban areas and regional townships	1.1.1.1. Finalise and implement rural living / rural residential strategy	2022/23	In Progress 	Draft Report has been received and is under review prior to presenting to Council
	1.1.1.2. Complete stage 1 of Vibrant Villages project	2021/22	Complete 	Vibrant Villages stage 1 project completed (re:\$500,000 RDV funding) Nyah, Nyah West, Lake Boga and Woorinen.
	1.1.1.3. Continue to implement relevant actions of the Swan Hill Riverfront Masterplan.	2021-2025	In Progress 	Ongoing discussions with the Department of Transport, Vic Track and V Line regarding preferred crossing point with a meeting to be held in Melbourne to advance project. Awaiting funding applications for the Pentel Island Bridge. Developing final concept plans for the Ten Steps and surrounding environments.
	1.1.1.4. Complete and implement the Robinvale Riverfront Masterplan	2021-2025	In Progress 	Council has adopted the Robinvale Riverfront Masterplan at its March 2024 Meeting. Awaiting funding applications outcomes for playground.
	1.1.1.5. Develop Nyah Riverfront Masterplan	2021/22	In Progress 	Works commenced and in progress at Nyah West in accordance with plan. Consultation has continued with community members from the Nyah District Action group (NDAG) around the Nyah west CBD beautification project and the Nyah repurposing of the WJ Rose The Masterplan has been supported by the Lions Club, Nyah FNC, Nyah Cricket Club, and the Nyah Christmas Carnival Committee and has been Adopted.
	1.1.1.6. Develop Boundary Bend Riverfront Masterplan (Pending funding)	2022-2025	In Planning 	Scope of works to be developed for consideration in the 25/26 budget. Further investigation into the Boundary Bend (BB) Community Plan items has led to the realisation around areas of responsibility and asset ownership. Council will advocate on behalf of the BB Community to the relevant authorities for improvements to the riverfront. More information is being compiled to better record the detail and subsequent feasibility of the project.



	1.1.1.7. Develop a Small Town Strategy	2022/23	In progress 	Reviewing Strategy having regard to Housing Summit outcomes
1.1.2. Ensure adequate provision of a variety of safe and secure housing	1.1.2.1. Explore the development or sale of Council and other government land in urban areas	2022/23	In Progress 	Council continues to review land ownership with a view for development or sale. For example Feldtmann Lane, Swan Hill, Herbert St, Robinvale and development of land in Ronald Street, Robinvale for housing.
	1.1.2.2. Develop and build houses on Council owned property	2021-2025	In Progress 	Ronald St Project stage 2 construction commenced mid-March 2024.
	1.1.2.3. Continue to Implement the Robinvale housing strategy	2021-2025	In Progress 	Council is preparing a housing action plan to ensure housing supply and infrastructure development are considered in a systematic way.
	1.1.2.4. Continue development of Tower Hill stages	2021-2025	In Progress 	10 lots remain available for sale in stage 14. It is expected that stage 15 construction works will be completed by May/June. The public open space will be completed when seasonal conditions are more suitable in Aug/Sept. Statement of Compliance will follow.
	1.1.2.5. Assist South West Development Precinct developers	2021-2025	In Progress 	Council assists all developers as required, in order to deliver the best outcomes for our community. This is ongoing.
1.1.3. Excellent transport links to allow ease of movement	1.1.3.1. Advocate for a review of the Swan Hill Town Bus route	2022/23	In Progress 	Council will continue to advocate for a review of the Swan Hill bus route. More specifically, this will be considered as part of the Integrated Transport & Land Use Strategy.
	1.1.3.2. Advocate for the completion of the Murray Basin Rail Project	2021-2025	In Progress 	Council has renewed its membership of the Rail Freight Alliance (RFA). It is preparing a new strategic plan that will address advocacy and will reset its priorities regarding the Murray Basin Rail Project to ensure it still remains a key advocacy project.
	1.1.3.3. Advocate for the continual improvement of the Murray Valley Highway and upgrade of the Robinvale Sea Lake Road	2021-2025	In Progress 	Council continues to advocate for improvements to the arterial road network, particularly the Robinvale Sea Lake Road and the Murray Valley Highway on behalf of our community. The Department of Transport has recently completed some renewal works on the Robinvale Sea Lake Road between Manangatang and Cocamba, and Robinvale to Manangatang in the last couple of months, as well as the Swan Hill- Sea Lake Road. Rehabilitation works are currently being undertaken on the Murray Valley Highway between Swan Hill and Lake Boga and these works are ongoing.
	1.1.3.4. Actively participate in the Central Murray Regional Transport Forum	2021-2025	Complete and Ongoing 	Meeting on 29 February 2024 was cancelled due to unavailability of presenters. Review of the strategic plan has been advertised to engage a consultant to undertake the review. Once awarded, the next meeting will be reconvened with the forum.

	1.1.3.5. Implement relevant actions from the CMRT strategy	2021-2025	Complete and Ongoing 	Review of the strategic plan has been advertised twice with no submissions. Consultant was approached directly and a submission is pending for review and will then be taken to the next forum.
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1.2. Careful and responsible management of our Environment for a sustainable future				
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	ACTION	DUE DATE	PROGRESS	COMMENTARY
1.2.1. Engage, empower and mobilise communities to prepare for, adapt to and mitigate the effects of a changing climate	1.2.1.1. Support initiatives that align with policy such as the Circular Economy and provide tangible outcomes for the community, for example: ↑ cleaner air for all, quality and smell ↓ litter, roadside dumping, co-mingling waste	2021-2025	In Progress 	Grant fund Regional Vic (RV) Household Education and Behaviour Change Fund - Round 2 was successful (\$60,918 Ex GST). The main focus and goal of the project is to educate and help residents to quickly adapt to and correctly use new household recycling and waste services. Council has been advised of success in two more grant fund applications: Stage 2 of Compost Facility Infrastructure \$961,400 and Transfer Station Upgrade Fund Rd 2 \$296,350. Grant application is being prepared for the purchase of a high compression mobile plastic baler through Councils Funding program. Following great success with the Ag Plastic recovery trial at Swan Hill landfill late last year, a huge opportunity exists within the Loddon/Mallee region for such a facility. Grant fund is based on a 5 to 1 co-contribution arrangement. Further grant applications will be submitted when opportunities arise. No advice received as yet on funding application.
	1.2.1.2. Prepare an advocacy document for renewable energy resources in the municipality	2022/23	In Progress 	Work continues on the Advocacy Document.
	1.2.1.3. Develop drainage strategies for key urban areas in the municipality	2023/24	In Progress 	Consultants have finalised the base drainage model for both Swan Hill and Robinvale. This has been presented to Council for information. The next stage involves community consultation. Following this, projects and prioritisation of drainage solutions will be undertaken. This will then be presented to Council for adoption. Final report is expected to be completed in May 2024.
	1.2.1.4. Implement effective diversion and reuse of waste resources	2022/23	In Progress 	The shed for Mattress Recycling Facility has been ordered and will be constructed at the Swan Hill Waste Facility. Quotes have been received for solar power installation and earthworks will be undertaken within the next couple of months for the concrete slab.
	1.2.1.5. Develop irrigation strategies for key urban areas in the municipality	2022/23	In Progress 	6 months remain on defects liability period for Riverside Park Irrigation upgrade. 2 major breaks have been repaired during this period. Nyah Rec Reserve Irrigation Project to go back to market to ensure best value for Council
1.2.2. Accessible open spaces and healthy rivers and lakes	1.2.2.1. Improve the presentation of the Lake Boga foreshore and its environs in collaboration with the community	2021-2025	In Progress 	For this project the mains have been installed and Project Management Office are currently working through building applications with Powercor and Goulburn Murray Water. Shed design has been completed.

	1.2.2.2. Prepare a Murray River and lakes access strategy for the municipality incorporating - camping / walking and bike tracks	2024/25	In Progress 	Ongoing project with Council represented on steering committee. Completed by Murray Regional Tourism have awarded the contract and the project design and consultation is now being carried out.
	1.2.2.3 Plan and construct open space development of the decommissioned Number 9 Channel	2024/25	Complete and ongoing 	The McCallum street section for the decommissioned Number 9 Channel has been completed; future projects are being considered for other locations within the balance of the decommissioned channel; an investigation is underway to determine land ownership and access rights to various titles forming the decommissioned Number 9 channel.

1.3. Building Healthy Communities				
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	ACTION	DUE DATE	PROGRESS	COMMENTARY
1.3.1. Encourage active and healthy lifestyles for people of all ages, abilities and interests	1.3.1.1. Continue to implement master plans for all recreation facilities	2021-2025	In Progress 	The Swan Hill showground sports and recreation precinct project scope changed and currently is in detailed design stage for delivery before June 2025. Awaiting outcome of grant funding application. The Master planning is half way through process. Ken Harrison advisory committee has been adopted for formation by Council at the April Council Meeting.
	1.3.1.2. Develop detailed plans for the Lake Boga - Swan Hill trail	2022/23	In Planning 	New path alignment to be presented and discussed with Lake Boga Inc. Update awaited from Department of Transport
	1.3.1.3. Support initiatives leading to better outcomes for children and families	2021-2025	In Progress 	The Swan Hill Pregnancy and Early Years Expo is in the planning stages and set for later this year.
	1.3.1.4. Partner with agencies to address preventable illnesses and active lifestyles	2021-2025	In Progress 	Robinvale Early Years Workforce Development Partnership Team, with secretarial support from Council, was established and is working to develop and implement a workforce development model to support local participants to undertake early childhood studies and endeavour to build the early year's workforce locally.
1.3.2. Spaces where people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds can flourish	1.3.2.1. Reinvigorate performance spaces across the area, including Robinvale Community Art Centre	2022/23	Complete and ongoing 	Usage of the Robinvale Community Arts Centre continues Monthly movies are being presented with the focus on movies suitable for children. The Robinvale Ballet Guild has commenced classes with over 100 new dance students. Quotes for the floor have been sourced for foyer renovations.
	1.3.2.2. Incorporate child and family-friendly principles into development of outdoor spaces	2022/23	In Progress 	Council service areas are committed and taking meaningful action to progress compliance with Child Safe Standards and is ongoing.
	1.3.2.3. Review and implement the public art policy	2021/22	Complete 	Public Art Policy formally adopted by Council 15 March 2022.





1.4. Foster Creative and Cultural opportunities				
TRATEGIC INITIATIVES	ACTION	DUE DATE	PROGRESS	COMMENTARY
1.4.1. Promote and celebrate the creative and cultural pursuits within the region	1.4.1.1 Deliver creative industries projects across the region	2022/23	In Progress 	Artist in Residency projects, The ACRE Project, delivered in Nyah/Nyah West, Lake Boga, Moulamein and Bunaloo. Planning for Manangatang and Balranald Shire Council events.
	1.4.1.2. Support local creatives in developing their businesses (Arts Action)	2022/23	Complete and Ongoing 	Exhibitions of three local creatives was delivered in February 2024 to see out the gallery program before redevelopment.
	1.4.1.3. Enhance artistic outreach programs in smaller towns and communities, including Fairfax Youth Initiative and ACRE programs	2022/23	Complete and Ongoing 	The decision for The Fairfax Youth Initiative to become its own entity has been confirmed. This process has begun by the designated leads outside of Council with a presentation scheduled for late 2024 or early 2025. Go North Arts Festival has been confirmed for at the Town Hall on Sat 12 Oct 2024. One of our Town Hall staff members will be curating The Winter Twilight Arts Festival.












Prosperity

2. We will continue to build and strengthen a prosperous local economy, through sustainable growth and education. We will focus on creating jobs and wealth through adding value to existing strengths in all areas of our economy

2.1. Effective partnerships for prosperity				
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	ACTION	DUE DATE	PROGRESS	COMMENTARY
2.1.1. Support diverse educational opportunities that fosters life-long learning	2.1.1.1. Establish an effective relationship with the education sector through regular engagement	2022/23	In Progress 	Council CEO met with SuniTAFE CEO in early February 2024 to discuss collaboration and regional housing options. Council was visited by the Secretary of Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (DJSIR) to discuss education housing in Robinvale.
	2.1.1.2. Advocate for the establishment of an education hub in Swan Hill	2023/24	Complete 	Country University Centre Mallee capital works have been completed and the centre is now run by a community board of management. The centre has commenced taking students and has 50 students enrolled.
	2.1.1.3. Support effective and responsive early years education opportunities in Manangatang, Woorinen South and Swan Hill	2023/24	In Progress 	Negotiations with the Department of Education have taken place. Council is awaiting further discussions relating to the discrepancy in data and mapping concerns related to the methodology used by the Department of Education to calculate demand for kindergarten and infrastructure.
	2.1.1.4. Assist youth with diverse employment pathways through the Empower a Engage! Programs	2022/23	Complete and ongoing 	Youth Support Officer established connection with Manangatang Student Representative Council and working with them fortnightly. Empower supporting Robinvale with industry tours and also work placement support.
2.1.2. Support our key industries	2.1.2.1. Establish a Terms of Reference and develop an Annual Plan with the AgriBusiness Advisory Committee	2022/23	Complete 	Terms of Reference developed and reviewed and updated to include bimonthly meetings. Committee's intent is to meet every second month outside of Harvest. Focusing on key issues relating to agriculture. Invitations sent to guest speakers to address issues around housing, infrastructure, roads and employment. Committee making recommendations to Council via meeting minutes.
	2.1.2.2. Consider the establishment of an Industry Support Committee (Manufacturing and other)	2022/23	In Progress 	Will be considered as a part of the outcomes of the Economic Development Strategy once adopted by Council

	2.1.2.3. Review the Economic Development Strategy to ensure a targeted focus on key outcomes	2022/23	In Progress 	Development of the Committee for Greater Swan Hill has commenced. Funding applications submitted to construct homes in partnership with key stakeholders.
	2.1.2.4. Develop a strategic plan for future success of the Pioneer Settlement	2023/24	In Planning 	Approval for the new building has been granted by Heritage Victoria and the plans are set to go to tender. Once confirmed price and build is finalised work on strategic plan will commence.
	2.1.2.5. Develop an Economic recovery plan in response to Covid-19	2021/22	Complete 	A response plan was developed in late 2020 and is complete
	2.1.2.6. Establish a Livestock Exchange Stakeholder committee to improve stakeholder engagement and to better meet the needs of Livestock Exchange users	2022/23	Complete 	Committee met on 12 March 2024. Again not a lot of committee members attended, so a day and time change for meetings is being considered to ensure better stakeholder engagement.

2.2. A thriving diverse economy				
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	ACTION	DUE DATE	PROGRESS	COMMENTARY
2.2.1. Encourage the growth and development of our economy	2.2.1.1. Develop a new planning scheme that is clear in its intention, supports growth and builds confidence and certainty in land use	2024/25	In Progress 	Work is progressing on planning scheme amendments in Monash Drive Swan Hill (old Graincorp site) and River Road Swan Hill (Lower Murray Water proposed water treatment plant).
	2.2.1.2. Continue to support existing businesses to grow through the implementation of the Better Approvals process	2021-2025	Complete and ongoing 	Business Support team is established and guides have been finalised.
	2.2.1.3. Actively pursue the establishment of a designated area migration agreement (DAMA)	2021-2023	In Progress 	Council will make contact with Shepparton to find out how the DAMA is working and whether there might be interest now in Swan Hill Joint the Dama after 18 month of operation.









2.3. Infrastructure that enables prosperity				
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	ACTION	DUE DATE	PROGRESS	COMMENTARY
2.3.1. Digital connectivity that allows people to live, work and play across our region	2.3.1.1. Advocate for high speed broadband access to all businesses and residents	2022/23	In Progress 	Works have commenced on updating infrastructure for high speed broadband in our areas with further infrastructure including a new tower at saleyards and Piangil
	2.3.1.2. Seek innovative solutions for broadband and mobile connectivity	2022/23	Complete and ongoing 	Ongoing advocacy for improved services.
2.3.2. Assets for our current and future needs	2.3.2.1. Complete road network services review, identify and pursue funding opportunities, focusing on the agricultural sector and industry	2022/23	Complete and ongoing 	The freight study report is complete and used as an essential tool for road prioritisation. Council continues to advocate for additional funding and submission for grants on an ongoing basis, to support infrastructure upgrades.
	2.3.2.2. Deliver and review Councils capital works program and Major Projects Plan each year	2021-2025	Complete and ongoing 	Project Management Office (PMO) oversees the management of a total of 11 significant projects, with one of these projects being exclusively focused on design. The successful completion of five major projects that had been in the delivery phase for a considerable duration.
	2.3.2.3. Review current assets and identify future needs - create a program to bridge the gap and identify funding requirements.	2021-2025	In Progress 	Asset Management Plan's for all asset classes being progressed.
	2.3.2.4. Continue to plan and seek funding to implement the development of community infrastructure	2021-2025	In Progress 	Projects completed this qtr were: Nyah West Footpath, Robinvale Splash Park, Robinvale Skate Park, Robinvale Leisure Centre, Monash Drive Boardwalk/Viewing Platform












Harmony

3. We will be a welcoming community for all, recognised by our maturity and respect for each other.

3.1. Communities that are safe, welcoming and inclusive				
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	ACTION	DUE DATE	PROGRESS	COMMENTARY
3.1.1. The diversity of our communities is celebrated	3.1.1.1. Engage with LGBTIQ+ community members to improve inclusion and community awareness through leadership of the Inclusion Network.	2022/23	Complete and Ongoing 	Continuing to seek funding currently working with Gender Equality group to upskill Council staff.
	3.1.1.2. Support co-designed development of multicultural events and activities	2022/23	Complete and Ongoing 	Council continues to support co designed events and activities. Harmony Day was held successfully in March 2024.
	3.1.1.3. All-abilities events and activities are well-planned and promoted	2022/23	Complete and Ongoing 	These events were well attended and accessible to all: Australia Day event "Shared Connections", Swan Hill and Robinvale Citizenship ceremonies, Helena Dokic book launch held at the Library, Swan Hill Food and Wine Festival.
	3.1.1.4. Continue to develop the annual Harmony Day and Lantern Festival events.	2022/23	Complete and Ongoing 	The Harmony Day event was successfully held in March 2024 with an agreement made to change the event date so it didn't clash with Ramadan. Lots of inclusive, diversity and cultural events and food on the day.
3.1.2. Encourage the growth and positive development of our youth	3.1.2.1. Improve Youth Support Services outreach to young people in Manangatang and Robinvale	2022/23	Complete and ongoing 	A Robinvale based Youth worker is based out of the Robinvale College. Another outreach worker currently spending a day and half in Robinvale and looking to re-establish in Manangatang in 2024.
	3.1.2.2. Ensure young people are involved in co-design of annual events	2023/24	Complete and ongoing 	Robinvale Youth Group is active with 18 current members- weekly meetings. NOVO Youth Council Active with 8 members - weekly meetings. Manangatang SRC group of 12 young people with weekly meetings
	3.1.2.3. Support and redevelop the Fairfax Youth Initiative to enhance leadership outcomes for rural and remote youth involved in creative pursuits	2022/23	In Progress 	A Review and evaluation of the Fairfax Youth Initiative was presented in early 2024 with Council notifying key stakeholders in March 2024 that it will require an external governing body to be established as soon as possible.
	3.1.2.4. Undertake the youth wellbeing actions from the Youth Strategy, specifically mental and sexual health.	2023/24	Complete and ongoing 	Engage focusing on sexual health, working in partnership with Swan Hill College to deliver sexual health workshops as well as consent. Groups organised to be delivered to in Term 2. Mental Health was a focus for NOVOs youth

				ball with a mental health pledge signed by 60 young people. Focus on body image workshops in the 2nd half of the year.
3.1.3. Flourishing community organisations	3.1.3.1. Actively promote the benefits of Volunteering in all our communities, streamline the process to facilitate volunteering in Council activities and programs	2022 - 2024	In Progress 	Council departments work with Media to coordinate an annual advertising campaign aligned with Volunteers Week. Individual services such as the Library and Pioneer Settlement conduct volunteer appreciation events.
	3.1.3.2. Provide support and training (Governance, Leadership and Strategic Planning) for our small town progress/improvement groups	2022/23	In Progress 	Review of Community Plans taking place and support provided to communities to submit funding applications. Development of a community link within our updated website. Worked with website developers to create an easily navigate community group pathway for our available resources.
	3.1.3.3. Improve engagement with community based special interest groups	2022/23	In Progress 	Communications team to seek more opportunities to consult with special interest groups each quarter.
3.1.4. Our elderly and vulnerable are cared for	3.1.4.1. Support the development of Residential Aged Care services	2023/24	In Progress 	Ongoing work continues as Council moves towards transitioning from service delivery.
	3.1.4.2. Determine Council's role in aged care services	2022/23	In Progress 	Council has completed the "Transition of Our Plan process" for the Department of Social Services as approved at Council Meeting by resolution on 17 October 2023. Council was notified of the 3 approved providers in January 2024 with the further transition process underway.
	3.1.4.3. Undertake actions in the Municipal Early to Middle Years Plan associated with improving services to greater assist vulnerable families	2022/23	In Progress 	SHRCC MCH and MDAS have developed a new partnership under a Memorandum of Understanding to deliver a MCH service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families at MDAS. Due to ongoing challenges in recruiting a suitably qualified MCH Nurse this new partnership has been formed and MCH Nurses employed by SHRCC are contracted by MDAS to deliver MCH Services.
	3.1.4.4. Actively engage with local support networks to assist with accessibility and inclusion initiatives	2022/23	Complete and ongoing 	Ongoing - Youth Program working with schools, headspace, and other agencies such as health services to ensure inclusion in all events and programs. Planning for Mental Health Week events underway, Youth Ball and Youth Arts Festival held during October 2022. Accessibility support agencies now involved in major events such as Harmony Day, some of these are headspace, Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council, and Mallee Family Care.
	3.1.4.5. Review Community Access and Inclusion Strategy (CAIS).	2021/22	In Progress 	Community Access and Inclusion Strategy currently has no funding has been identified to assist with this, staff will look at alternatives to review the strategy in 2023-2024. An allocation to undertake this work has been included in the draft 2023-24 Budget.

3.1.5. All members of our Communities are supported	3.1.5.1. Work in partnership with local agencies to prevent all forms of Family Violence.	2021 - 2025	In Progress 	Local Care Connect Group were invited to attend a gathering in Boort on 27 th March 2024, held by the Women's Health Loddon Mallee. This was attended by our Director Community & Cultural Services
	3.1.5.2. Develop and implement a Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP)	2021/22	Complete and ongoing 	There are 32 Actions 26 have been completed (81.25%), 5 are in progress (15.62%) and 1 has not commenced (3.12%)
	3.1.5.3. Ensure that we consider people of all abilities in the development of infrastructure and events	2021-2025	In Progress 	Swan Hill Riverfront all abilities equipment installed and are considered when Gender Impact Assessments are completed on all project management projects for example all abilities access to the Robinvale Splash Park was incorporated in the project.
	3.1.5.4. Develop a Building Safer Communities program	2022/23	In Planning 	A list of potential community safety projects is being compiled for potential funding submissions, including CCTV in public parks. Potential for Riverside Swan Hill CCTV and safety fencing project in Caix Square Robinvale. Awaiting suitable funding rounds to open.







3.2. An engaged and respected Aboriginal community				
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	ACTION	DUE DATE	PROGRESS	COMMENTARY
3.2.1. Strengthening our trust, relationships and partnerships with Traditional Owners and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community	3.2.1.1. Develop a Reconciliation Action Plan	2022/23	In Planning 	Registration paid Council provided with a Registered Aboriginal Plan ID. Funding available in the 2023/2024 budget. Commenced scoping an outline to prepare the Reconciliation Action Plan.
	3.2.1.2. Adequately resource Aboriginal Engagement	2022/23	In Progress 	New Council webpage dedicated to engaging with local Aboriginals on key elements including welcome to country ceremonies, public art program and project developments. First Nations Advisory Committee established with meeting dates to be monthly and to begin in 2024.
	3.2.1.3. Support our Aboriginal community to work towards a treaty or treaties	2021-2025	In Progress 	Council's Aboriginal Development Officer has been appointed to the First Nations Advisory Committee, working together with recommendations for the Reconciliation Action Plan.
3.2.2. Encourage and support community leadership	3.2.2.1. Continue to offer Aboriginal scholarships and leadership opportunities	2021-2025	In Progress 	Scholarships advertised.
	3.2.2.2. Continue to assist to develop Our Place identifying an Aboriginal language name and business model	2021/22	In Progress 	Continue to seek funding to improve access to Pentland Island (bridge funding) to facilitate cultural tourism initiatives.
	3.2.2.3. Proactively support leadership within our Aboriginal community	2021-2025	In Progress 	First Nations Committee meeting on a regular basis. Briefing of Councillors on the treaty process to be scheduled. Changes introduced to Australia Day activities to be more inclusive of the First Nations Community.
3.2.3. Celebration and recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait history and culture	3.2.3.1. Investigate and seek funding for Aboriginal tourism opportunities	2022-2025	In Progress 	Awaiting further advice and outcomes of grant Application submissions.
	3.2.3.2. Formal inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander input in Art Gallery programming and cultural activities	2021-2025	Complete and Ongoing 	Inaugural solo exhibition of local First Nation artist opened in February 2024. This exhibition will support the artist with a number of professional development opportunities now and into the future.
	3.2.3.3. Support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander days of significance	2021-2025	Complete and Ongoing 	Review of the changes to Australia Day activities to encourage greater First Nation Peoples involvement being undertaken.



















Leadership

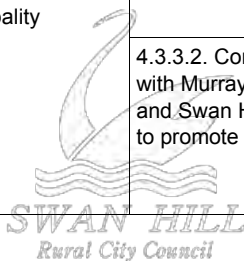
4. We will ensure accountable leadership, advocacy and transparent decision making.

4.1. Excellent management and administration				
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	ACTION	DUE DATE	PROGRESS	COMMENTARY
4.1.1. Well managed resources for a sustainable future	4.1.1.1. Invest in the development of employees to enable a highly skilled and engaged workforce	2021-2025	In Progress 	2023/24 staff reviews have been developed in the new HR system. Training due to be rolled out in April 24. Reviews will commence in May/June.
	4.1.1.2. Promote a culture of continuous improvement with a focus on efficiency and customer service	2021-2025	In Progress 	Internal reviews have been completed of the budget, and Council Asset valuations received with information to be included in the budget's public release. Currently in the final stages of User Acceptance Testing of the Authority program. The new website design and migration is progressing and is approximately 60% complete. We are taking the opportunity to improve the content as it is migrated. Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) is being rolled out to ensure we meet our obligations under the Victorian Protective Data security Framework. Approximately 30 staff and the Councillors are yet to adopt MFA. The final decision on the Council's Online Ticketing Solution in process out for tender. The PMO office has actively collaborated with internal and external providers to refine project briefs, help facilitate approvals at the Project Approval Committee level and offering guidance and assistance with project reporting processes.
	4.1.1.3. Embed rigor in our planning process to ensure long-term sustainability and continuity of Council's services	2021-2025	In Progress 	The 10 Year Project has been approved by Council. The 24/25 budget is currently in process and will go for public comment and consultation in the next reporting qtr.
	4.1.1.4. Develop and implement a Workforce Development Plan	2021/22	Complete and ongoing 	Workforce Development Plan completed and approved in December 2021. Actions from the Workforce Development Plan are being implemented.
4.1.2. Provide robust governance and effective leadership	4.1.2.1. Implement a Project Management Framework and system	2021/22	Complete 	Collaboration to refine project briefs and facilitate approvals at the Project Approval Committee (PAC) level. PMO is working with project managers (PMs), offering guidance and assistance with project reporting processes. Framework and process fully implemented.

	4.1.2.2. Develop and implement a Strategic Asset Management plan and supporting Asset Management plans	2021/22	Complete and ongoing 	Transport last updated 2022/23, new condition inspections due next financial year.
	4.1.2.3. Provide Councillors with professional development and support to ensure effective governance	2021-2025	In Progress 	This is ongoing as opportunities arise.
	4.1.2.4. Work with Town Representative groups to better plan and deliver projects	2021-2025	In Progress 	New Executive of the Piangil Memorial Park Community Group. Manangatang community group started the process of reviewing their community plan in February 2024. Lake Boga has reviewed and accepted the update of their new community plan format. Woorinen South Progress Association have reformed and elected a new executive.
4.1.3. Sound, sustainable: o Financial management o Excellence in service delivery o Strategic planning	4.1.3.1 Deliver projects on time, on budget and within scope	2021-2025	Complete and Ongoing 	Projects completed this quarter were: Nyah West Footpath, Robinvale Splash Park, Robinvale Skate Park, Robinvale Leisure Centre, Monash Drive Boardwalk/Viewing Platform. Some small impacts on time delivery were flood impact, contractor availability and scope increase.
	4.1.3.2. Working to budget and ensure future planning to meet financial needs	2021-2025	Complete and Ongoing 	Preparation of the 2024/25 Annual Budget was completed in January and February, with Councillor review undertaken on 27 February. We are now updating Long Term Financial Plans using the 2024/25 budget as the base year for forecasts and then begin preparation of the public budget document. This is scheduled to be complete by the first week of April and advertised 19 April. We are currently undergoing an internal audit on our budget preparation and monitoring processes. This audit aims to ensure we are following best practise and ensuring any risks in this areas are mitigated.
	4.1.3.3. Review two service delivery areas in years 2 (Parks and Gardens / Library) and 4 (Economic and Community development / Circular economy) of this Council Plan to improve and ensure accessibility and consistency of our customer experience	2022/23 & 2024/25	In Progress 	Initial discussion with the internal auditors have taken place and the Auditors are in the process of drafting the scope of work and the review of services will commence once the scope of work is approved.

4.2. Transparent communication and engagement				
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	ACTION	DUE DATE	PROGRESS	COMMENTARY
4.2.1. Effective and authentic engagement with our community	4.2.1.1. Review our Community Engagement Strategy to ensure our engagement is meeting the needs of the community	2022/23	In Progress 	Community Engagement Strategy training completed this quarter. Customer Service Strategy continues to be under review and will determine priorities for the Community Engagement Strategy updates.
	4.2.1.2. Embed the Community Engagement principles and practices across the organisation	2023/24	In Progress 	Community Engagement Strategy training completed by 10 staff members in March 2024. Further modules will be completed in the coming months.
	4.2.1.3. Build constructive relationships with special interest groups in our community	2021-2025	In Progress 	Discussion held with First Nations advisory group for shared connections of Australia Day. Reached out to various community groups in February and March. Local sporting groups and schools were contacted in regards to the Community engagement on the roads Intersection consultations. Engaged with the community on the Cat containment program, with translation of this document into 3 languages other than English. The regular Library user groups were targeted for the website redevelopment survey.
	4.2.1.4. Review our use of social media platforms across Council with a view of increasing Councils exposure and ensuring consistent moderation	2021/22	Complete 	Complete - media monitoring will continue to be ongoing.
4.2.2. Visible presence in our community	4.2.2.1. Maximising the opportunities for Councillors and senior staff to represent Council at relevant community meetings, functions and events	2021-2025	Complete & ongoing 	As reported and recorded in the minutes of the February and March 2024 Monthly Ordinary Council Meeting. These are available to the public on the Council website https://www.swanhill.vic.gov.au/about/council/meetings/2024-council-meetings
	4.2.2.2. Continue quarterly Coffee with a Councillor around the municipality	2021-2025	In Progress 	Coffee with a Councillor sessions held in this quarter were in Piangil/Wood Wood, Swan Hill and Manangatang. These are growing in popularity and are proving to be a great opportunity to engage with our community.
	4.2.2.3. Arrange structured tours of the municipality where Councillors and senior staff meet with key community groups	2022/23	In Progress 	Tours were completed on 11 Jul 2023 of Nyah West, Nyah, Swan Hill and 9 Aug 2023 to Lake Boga, Kangaroo Lake, Kerang, Goschen, Ultima with staff from the Goschen Mining Project VHM Ltd.
	4.2.2.4. Create a culture where staff are ambassadors for the Council	2021-2025	In Progress 	Review and continue to improve internal communication tools. Acknowledge and reward staff appropriately

4.3. Bold leadership, strong partnerships and effective advocacy				
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	ACTION	DUE DATE	PROGRESS	COMMENTARY
4.3.1. Create meaningful partnerships across our communities	4.3.1.1. Continue involvement in community groups	2021-2025	In Progress 	Council report on this monthly at Ordinary Council meeting and this is recorded in the minutes which are available to the public https://www.swanhill.vic.gov.au/about/council/meetings/2024-council-meetings
	4.3.1.2. Support Robinvale with its Committee for Robinvale Euston (C4RE)	2022/23	Complete and Ongoing 	The Robinvale Euston Workforce Network (REWN) work is continuing after the presentation of reports in late 2023. Meetings have continued in Feb and March 2024, with presentation to Councillors to occur in April 2024.
	4.3.1.3. Support the health and wellbeing partnerships that address preventable illnesses.	2023/24	Complete and Ongoing 	Council has been included at officer-level in planning meetings of both the Murray and Mallee Primary Health Units during this quarter and planning for key priorities in 2024 is in place.
	4.3.1.4. Continue to support and work with Swan Hill Incorporated	2021-2025	In Progress 	Council provided support for the Swan Hill Inc. Food and Wine Festival at Meetings and for the event in February and March 2024. The Xmas Committee met for discussion on decorations and getting ready for 2024 Christmas period. Housing discussions with Swan Hill Inc. continued.
4.3.2. Strong relationship with State and Federal governments to influence advocacy and funding opportunities	4.3.2.1. Continue to advocate on the following issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved Healthcare for our people, including a new hospital for Swan Hill A new Murray River Bridge at Swan Hill Complete the Murray Basin Rail Project Housing and enabling infrastructure Better use of environmental water and the development of a plan specific to the Murray River between Swan Hill and Robinvale. 	2021-2025	In Progress 	Council is pursuing a range of actions from the Housing Summit including applying for funding under the Regional Housing Program and supporting private applications as well.
	4.3.2.2. Review Council's advocacy strategy on an annual basis	2021-2025	In Progress 	Requested Meetings with Ministers through the Member for Murray Plains The Hon. Peter Walsh (Topics: Swan Hill Bridge; Swan Hill Pedestrian Rail Overpass; Vic Track land) Meeting set to take place in April 2024
4.3.3. Working together in promotion of the municipality	4.3.3.1. Positively promote our region as a great place	2021-2025	In Progress 	Tourism benefits of region is outlined in advertised positions. Additionally, look at all tourism marketing opportunities available to Council.
	4.3.3.2. Continue to work with Murray River Tourism and Swan Hill Incorporated to promote the municipality	2021-2025	In Progress 	Murray Valley Tourism Trails project has been tendered out and Council will continue to work with agency to consult and review on this project.





3 Officer Report for Noting

3.1 Quarterly Major Projects Program Update - March 2024

Directorate: Corporate Services
File Number: .
Purpose: For Discussion
Information Only

Council Plan Strategy Addressed

4. Leadership - We will ensure accountable leadership, advocacy and transparent decision making.

4.1 Excellent management and administration

4.1.1 Well managed resources for a sustainable future

4.1.2 Provide robust governance and effective leadership

4.1.3 Sound, sustainable:

- Financial management • Excellence in service delivery • Strategic planning

Current Strategic Documents

10 Year Major Project Plan

Declarations of Interest

Council Officers affirm that no general or material conflicts need to be declared in relation to the subject of this report.

Summary

This report provides an update on status of major projects managed by different teams across the Swan Hill Rural City Council. It focuses on projects that are large, specialized, or challenging. The report covers completed projects from the last three months (ending 31 March 2024) and provides an overview of ongoing projects.

Discussion

In the past three months, the Project Management Office (PMO) has seen significant progress, with two out of eleven active projects successfully reaching completion. PMO is committed to maintaining a rigorous approach to planning, promoting transparency, and enforcing governance across all projects.

For specific details on completed and ongoing projects, please refer to Appendix 1.

Project Exceptions:

- **Lake Boga Southern Entrance Irrigation Project:** The contractual completion date for this project was Feb'24, However, due to delays in building

permit, Powercor support, the works are now planned to be completed in May 2024, with plantings to be done in spring season.

- **Butterworth St-Drainage & Road upgrade works:** The works has started after a long wait, however, with new regulations in place, contractor is working to install Major traffic control devices which require approval from VicRoads. Council has submitted MOA application to VicRoads, to support the contractor. Works expected to resume once MOA is approved. Works delayed by six weeks as at 31 Mar 2024.
- **Plan Swan Hills Outdoor Swimming Pool:** The project is subject to completion of masterplan for Swan Hill Showgrounds, Sport and Recreation Precinct and is currently on-hold.
- **Swan Hill Regional Community Sporting Hub Design:** There is an active funding application with SRV for a contribution to the project design. It is anticipated that an outcome for the grant will be heard shortly. There is also a Masterplan for the reserve being developed that will feed into this building design.
- **Revitalising Nyah West shopping precinct:** This project is currently behind schedule due to difficulties in getting a contractor onboard to complete the works. Approval has been received from Funding body in relation to extension of time.

Projects Completed in the Last Quarter

Robinvale Leisure Centre Expansion.

The project brief was to construct an additional highball court and gym space that supports current and future users of the facility, including basketball, for the region. The soft opening of the gym and highball court was achieved prior to Christmas, with the remaining refurbishment work and virtual fitness offering completed in March.

The increase in visitation and club memberships on the back this work has been significant, currently sitting in the order of 100% increase.

The works were contracted to be complete by 30 June 2023, however, due to multiple reasons such as floods impact, material delivery, availability of tradesman and scope changes during the delivery phase, the project was finally completed in March 2024. Furthermore, the project went over original budget by 3% to accommodate multiple variations which ensured better outcomes for user groups.



Monash Drive Viewing Platform

The brief was to construct a viewing platform as part a plan to enhance the Riverfront precinct, attracting foot traffic and visitation to the area. Since the platform's completion and opening in March 2024, the community feedback has been very positive.

The project has been in the pipeline for a long time due to sourcing a suitable contractor and overcoming material supply issues along with flooding impacts. The build quality and finishes will see this project remain as a great attraction for visitors and locals alike, for decades to come.

A safety issue was identified close to completion of the project. A small section of balustrade and handrail will now be added to each end of the walkway. The works are additional scope and there are sufficient funds available in the budget to complete this work.



Consultation

Varies with each project.

Financial Implications

Varies with each project.

Social Implications

Varies with each project.

Economic Implications

Varies with each project.

Environmental Implications

Varies with each project.

Risk Management Implications

Varies with each project.

Attachments: 1. MPP Quarterly Report Q1 2024 [3.1.1 - 2 pages]

Options

1. That Council notes the progress made on projects reported.

Recommendation/s

That Council notes the progress made on projects reported

CM 2024/60 Motion

MOVED Cr Young

That Council notes the progress made on projects reported.

SECONDED Cr McKay

The Motion was put and CARRIED 6 / 0

Major Projects Progress Update – Mar 2024

Major Projects Plan (MPP) - Monthly Report - Ending 31st March 2024					
Location	Project Title	Overall Project Status	Work completed %	Project status as at 31st March 2024	Forecasted completion date*
Robinvale	Robinvale Leisure Centre Expansion	Closed	100%	The last of the defect items has been completed and the certificate of practical completion issued. The installation of the virtual fitness has been completed, this variation element was the last task to be completed by contractor.	Complete
Robinvale	Robinvale Centenary Park Playground	On budget, On schedule, Agreed scope	Design - 70% Construction - 0%	Stage 1 Design Complete. Tender documents preparation is in process, planning to release the tender by mid-late April 2024. Stage 2 of the project includes; Flying fox, snake swing or similar, Associated rubber soft fall to fall zone areas, more expansive path network as per the design layout, more expansive landscaping including irrigation and shade trees, shade sails, remaining of the park furniture where applicable. The design is in progress. Construction will be subject to securing of additional funds.	Jan-25
Swan Hill	Boardwalk and Viewing Platform-Monash Drive - Main Works	Closed	100%	The project has been completed in the reporting month. On the 8 th of March, just in time for the March long weekend and the local food and wine festival, the platform was opened to the public.	Complete
Swan Hill	Boardwalk and Viewing Platform-Monash Drive - Fall Protection Works	On budget, On schedule, Agreed scope	0%	Additional scope of work identified close to completion of main works which was not apparent from the plans. Funds available within the budget which will support completion of the fall protection works.	May-24
Lake Boga	LRCIP3 - Lake Boga Southern Entrance Beautification Project	On budget, behind schedule, Agreed scope	40%	The design for the pump has been reviewed and approved, application for building permit has been submitted. Powercor have been scoping out the works and have provided a revised pole location.	May-24
Swan Hill	Butterworth St-Drainage & Road upgrade works	On budget, behind schedule, Agreed scope	30%	Works started on 12th Feb, drainage pipe laid for approx. 30m length. Works on hold due to issues with traffic management. With new regulations in place, contractor is working to install Major traffic control devices which require approval from VicRoads.	Jun-24
Swan Hill	SH Art Gallery Redevelopment - Design & Construction	On budget, On schedule, Agreed scope	Design - 90% Construction - 0%	The architects completed their quality assurance process early in the month, then following a review of all documents by SHRCC, both from a probity and project brief alliance perspective. On the 14th of March the Art Gallery tender was released to market. In the following week, the interested parties attended a supplier briefing the was prepared and presented by the SHRCC procurement team.	TBC
Swan Hill	SH Tourism and Cultural Hub @ P/S - Design & Construction	On Budget, On Schedule, Agreed Scope	Design - 40% Construction - 0%	This month has seen significant progress with: a) Draft for realignment of 600mm storm water pipe which lies in the footprint of proposed building b) Preliminary detailed drawings of the building The plans have been shared with QS for a cost plan and will be presented to stakeholders late April'24.	TBC
Swan Hill	Milloo Street Boat Mooring Platform - Design only	On Budget, On Schedule, Agreed Scope	11%	Tender evaluation under progress.	TBC
Lake Boga	Lake Boga Floating Pontoon	On Budget, On Schedule, Agreed Scope	42%	This project is funded by Better Boating Victoria(BBV) and is aimed to remove the existing pontoon at lake near the Catalina Museum, followed by supply and installation of new pontoon and an all ability access. Contractor has started and completed the piling works on site, two piles were driven, and the existing three piles were removed and the pontoon was chained to the new piles.	Jun-24
Robinvale	Ronald Street Housing, Lots 5 to 8	On Budget, On Schedule, Agreed Scope	12%	At the start of the month the site was established, and vegetation cleared from the block. Over the course of the month inground works, plumbing and services were completed. By late in the month the boxing, steelworks were underway, in readiness for slabs on lots 5 & 6 to be poured in early April	Dec-24
Swan Hill, Robinvale	Solar Panel for Leisure Centres - Swan Hill, Robinvale	On Budget, On Schedule, Agreed Scope	5%	The project is funded by LRCI#4. The objective is to reduce operational expenditure for utility by installing solar panels at Leisure centres in Swan Hill & Robinvale. Tender advertised late Mar'24.	TBC

Major Projects Progress Update – Mar 2024

Major Projects Plan (MPP) - Monthly Report - Ending 31st March 2024					
Location	Project Title	Overall Project Status	Work completed %	Project status as at 31st March 2024	Forecasted completion date*
Nyah West	Revitalising Nyah West Shopping Precinct	On Budget, On Schedule, Agreed Scope	13%	The project to date has committed orders for a feature survey and pedestrian ramp design, playground equipment, junior playground area fence realignment, supply of Dual Plate BBQ, supply of Drinking Fountain, and construction of two Outdoor Loop Pods (semi-shaded seating). Additional commitments to be made for the remaining items that include, Electrical work that includes 15 Amp upgrade to BBQ shelter, Post Office beautification works, Pedestrian path to BBQ and installation of BBQ and drinking fountain and other remaining items.	Jun-24
--	New Council Website	On Budget, On Schedule, Agreed Scope	80%	Design Implementation: The new design has been successfully integrated into the development site so we can see the new site is coming together well.. However, some homepage design tweaks still need to be addressed. Content Migration: We have migrating content into the new website. Migration is about 70% completed. We are taking the opportunity to improve the content as it is migrated.	Jun-24
Swan Hill	Plan Swan Hill Showgrounds, Sport and Recreation Precinct Master Plan	On Budget, On Schedule, Agreed Scope	30%	The project involves development and presentation of a Masterplan, complete with deliverable, holistic and community focused recommendations and a prioritised list of projects that guides the future direction of the Swan Hill Showgrounds and Sports Reserve Precinct. The Masterplanning process for the Swan Hill Showgrounds Sport and Recreation Precinct is well underway. The location of the Swan Hill Outdoor Swimming Pool is being considered as part of this project	Jun-24
Swan Hill	Plan Swan Hills Outdoor Swimming Pool	Subject to Completion of Master plan	0%	The project objective is to understand the location of the pool, further development of the Swan Hill Outdoor Swimming Pool renewal planning. The location of the Swan Hill Outdoor Swimming Pool is being considered as part of the Swan Hill Showgrounds Sport & Recreation Precinct Master Plan. This project is subject to the completion of the Masterplan	TBC
Swan Hill	Swan Hill Regional Community Sporting Hub Design	Waiting for grant to start the project.	0%	The project objective is to obtain a detailed design of a new two storey pavilion at the Swan Hill Showgrounds Reserve with a gross floor area (GFA) of approximately 1000m2 which provide a new, more adequately equipped, modern facility that is well placed to meet the collective needs of the Reserves' user groups and the broader community including fair and equitable access, meeting spaces and social facilities, sports excellence, public toilets, storage and community use zones. There is an active funding application with SRV for a contribution to the project design. It is anticipated that an outcome for the grant will be heard shortly. There is also a Masterplan for the reserve being developed that will feed into this building design.	TBC
--	Online Ticketing Solution	On Budget, On Schedule, Agreed Scope	0%	The project is on budget and is on schedule, The selection Committee is currently undertaking a review of the submitted tender responses, with the final demonstration being done on April 10th.	Jun-24

*Subject to contract agreement, weather conditions and any other unforeseen delays

3.2 Quarterly Review of Financial Performance and Financial Position to 31 March 2024

Directorate: Corporate Services
File Number: S15-28-04
Purpose: Information Only

Council Plan Strategy Addressed

4. Leadership - We will ensure accountable leadership, advocacy and transparent decision making.

4.1 Excellent management and administration

4.1.3 Sound, sustainable:

- Financial management • Excellence in service delivery • Strategic planning

Current Strategic Documents

Budget

Declarations of Interest

Council Officers affirm that no general or material conflicts need to be declared in relation to the subject of this report.

Summary

A review of Council's Financial Performance (Income and Expenditure) and Financial Position (Balance Sheet) to the adopted Budget for the nine months to 31 March 2024 has been conducted. The results are summarised in this report.

Discussion

A summarised Statement of Income and Expenditure and a summarised Balance Sheet for the nine months ended 31 March 2024 are included with this report.

Major variations to budget as at 31 March 2024 are also explained by way of notes on the attached reports.

The forecast result is expected to be better than budget at this stage of the financial year. The predicted surplus assumes that Major Projects and Capital Works for the remainder of the financial year will be within budget.

Significant forecast variations to the annual budget include:

	Current Forecast Variances	
Grants Commission – Financial Assistance Grants (including Transfer from Reserve) <i>The approved Financial Assistance Grant was \$679,136 higher than the budgeted grant.</i>	\$679,136	Favourable
Grants Commission – 2023 Underpayment <i>Final calculation of the 2022/23 Financial Assistance Grant undertaken by the Victorian Local Government Grants Commission resulted in an additional allocation to Council.</i>	\$356,878	Favourable
Interest Income <i>Increased interest income due to the Grants Commission 2023/24 upfront payment, increasing interest rates and cash held for capital works projects still to be completed.</i>	\$1,130,000	Favourable
Mayoral Allowance <i>Cr McPhee had elected to receive an allowance \$25,000 less than the annual payment approved for the Mayor. The reported variance is favourable from the start of the financial year to the election anniversary date in November.</i>	\$9,375	Favourable
Statutory fees and fines <i>Building and planning permits are below forecast and expected to remain as such for the remainder of the year.</i>	(\$210,000)	Unfavourable
Livestock Exchange user fees <i>Reduced number of stock passing through the exchange this financial year.</i>	(\$389,000)	Unfavourable
Employee Costs (net) <i>Difficulty recruiting suitably qualified staff in a number of positions has resulted in savings of salaries and wages. In some cases the vacant positions are temporarily filled by agency staff which had not been forecast. This variance is the net effect of the current issues faced in recruiting staff.</i>	\$402,000	Favourable
Contract Payments Materials and Services Regional MBS Hub - funding allocated towards the development of a regional hub for Municipal Building Surveyor services. Additional costs associated with the Fairfax Festival Due to invoicing delays additional cleaning costs were paid in the current financial year, with the expenditure incurred in the 2022/23 financial year.	(\$100,000) (\$63,000) (\$123,000)	Unfavourable Unfavourable Unfavourable
Software Licences <i>Microsoft Annual Licence subscription exceeded forecast by 9 per cent.</i>	(\$19,500)	Unfavourable
WorkCover Premiums <i>Premiums for the 2023/24 year are above forecast due to a MAV Annual Contribution payment.</i>	(\$21,515)	Unfavourable
Bad Debt Write Off	(\$48,037)	Unfavourable

Write off of debt owed by the Swan Hill Drag Racing Club.		
Safety ISO 45001:2018 Audit – OHS Depot <i>Assess the effectiveness of Council’s OHS monitoring system, including the structure, policies, planning activities, resourcing, operating procedures and work practices.</i>	(\$10,600)	Unfavourable
Murray River Group of Councils <i>Councillor resolved to support additional works regarding the Murray Darling Basin advocacy plan.</i>	(\$10,000)	Unfavourable
Capital Works		
– <i>Notting Road Drainage. Project was to be undertaken next financial year with a budget of \$430,000. An alternative solution was provided, brought forward and will be completed at a significant saving.</i>	(\$65,000)	Unfavourable
– <i>Robinvale Leisure Centre - Fire Services upgrade</i>	(\$31,000)	Unfavourable
– <i>Pental Island Bridge – Concept costs/structural report to obtain \$369k grant.</i>	(\$90,000)	Unfavourable
– <i>Swan Hill Swimming Pool starting block upgrade</i>	(\$35,000)	Unfavourable
Net Variation to 2023/24 Budget	\$1,361,737	Favourable

Consultation

Consultation occurred as part of the Budget preparation process.

Financial Implications

The report shows a predicted rates determination result of \$1,361,737 above the budgeted surplus for the 2023/24 financial year. This is an indicative figure, the final figures will not be known until the end of the financial year statements are audited.

Social Implications

Not relevant to this item.

Economic Implications

Not relevant to this item.

Environmental Implications

Not relevant to this item.

Risk Management Implications

Not relevant to this item.

Attachments: 1. Financial Statements as at 31-3-2024 [3.2.1 - 3 pages]

Options

Nil

Recommendation/s

That Council note that the anticipated end of financial year result is \$1,361,737 better than the adopted budget surplus of \$79,038 at this stage.

CM 2024/61 Motion

MOVED Cr Moar

That Council note that the anticipated end of financial year result is \$1,361,737 better than the adopted budget surplus of \$79,038 at this stage.

SECONDED Cr Young

The Motion was put and CARRIED 6 / 0

**SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE
FOR THE 9 MONTHS ENDING 31/03/2024**

	Actual Year To Date 31/03/2024 \$000	Budget Year To Date 31/03/2024 \$000	\$ Variance To Budget \$000	% Variance To Budget	Original Annual Budget 2023/24 \$000	Notes
OPERATING INCOME :-						
Rates, garbage charges and marketing levy	32,267	32,182	85	0.3%	32,182	
Statutory fees & fines	547	826	(279)	-33.8%	1,101	1
User fees	3,289	4,066	(777)	-19.1%	5,421	2
Grants - operating (recurrent)	2,968	8,217	(5,249)	-63.9%	10,956	3
Grants - operating (non-recurrent)	480	462	18	3.9%	616	
Grants - capital (recurrent)	1,032	1,076	(44)	-4.0%	1,434	4
Grants - capital (non-recurrent)	3,713	1,904	1,809	95.0%	2,539	5
Contributions - cash non recurrent	141	101	40	39.3%	135	6
Interest income	1,900	833	1,068	128.2%	1,110	7
Proceeds from disposal of assets	470	1,695	(1,225)	-72.3%	2,260	8
Other revenue	1,695	2,249	(554)	-24.6%	2,999	9
TOTAL INCOME	48,502	53,610	(5,108)	-9.5%	60,753	
OPERATING EXPENSES (Excluding Depreciation) :-						
Employee benefits	15,900	17,088	(1,188)	-7.0%	22,215	10
Contract payments materials & services	13,544	15,395	(1,851)	-12.0%	20,526	11
Bad & doubtful debts	49	17	33	197.0%	22	
Finance costs	42	48	(6)	-12.5%	64	
Other expenses	758	762	(4)	-0.5%	1,016	
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES (Excl. Depn.)	30,293	33,309	(3,016)	-9.1%	43,843	
OPERATING RESULT (Excl. Depn.)	18,209	20,301	(2,092)	-10.3%	16,910	
CAPITAL ITEMS :-						
Capital works/asset purchases	13,609	23,881	(10,272)	-43%	31,841	12
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) AFTER CAPITAL ITEMS	4,600	(3,580)	8,180	-229%	(14,931)	
ADD FINANCING TRANSACTIONS						
Loan principal redemption	(208)	(204)	(4)	2.0%	(272)	
Transfers to/from reserves	0	0	0	0.0%	15,282	
Proceeds from loans	0	0	0	0.0%	0	
TOTAL FINANCING TRANSACTIONS	(208)	(204)	(4)	2.0%	15,010	
BUDGET RESULT SURPLUS	4,392	(3,784)	8,176	-216.1%	79	

- The Statutory fees and fines unfavourable variance relates to income below budget for Building Permits (\$165k), Planning Permits (\$69k) and Regulatory Services (\$36k). The variance in Regulatory Services (Registration Renewal) is a timing issue with animal registrations renewed in April annually.
- The User fees unfavourable variance relates to the Livestock Exchange (\$334k), Performing Arts (\$90k), Parking Control (\$46k), Pioneer Settlement (\$31k) and Waste Management commercial/industrial waste (\$258k) being below forecast. The Waste Management commercial/industrial fees are a timing issue and will be charged quarterly.
- One hundred per cent of Council's 2023/24 Victoria Grants Commission allocation was received in advance in June 2023. This unfavourable variance will remain for the year and is offset by increased cash holdings on the Balance Sheet and in transfers from reserves.

The full year result for the Victoria Grants Commission allocation will be \$1,036,014 better than forecast due to an additional \$679,136 from the indexation of our allocation in the 2024 year, and \$356,878 being the underpayment from 2023.
- Timing issue. The Roads to Recovery grant funding will be received in full by the end of the financial year.
- Timing issue. The favourable variance is attributed to Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) round 4 funding (\$905k) received, along with Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF) Activating Swan Hill Riverfront Final Milestone (\$974k) received this financial year for prior year project milestones achieved.
- Timing issue. The favourable variance relates to contributions received from various user groups for capital projects including the Robinvale Leisure Centre Expansion (\$35k) and John James Oval Lighting (\$19k).
- Interest income is favourable in comparison to the budget due to higher interest rate returns on term deposits and interest received in the current year attributable to the prior year.
- The budget allowed for the sale of Council properties (lots in Ronald Street Robinvale and Feltmann Lane) over the financial year. Proceeds from disposal of assets consists of plant item sales only to date.

- 9 Other revenue received includes Tower Hill sales (\$795k), EPA levies (\$449k) and Flood Recovery reimbursements (\$146k). The unfavourable variance is due to Tower Hill sales being below forecast (timing issue) and Waste Program EPA levies not yet raised.
- 10 Employee costs are significantly below forecast due to the number of vacant positions within Council over the year and the issues faced with recruiting suitably qualified staff. Salary and wages costs are \$1.19 million below forecast. This includes an increase in agency staff costs incurred to fill the vacant roles, currently \$298k above forecast.
- 11 The contract payments, materials and services variance relates to unspent Emergency Management Flood Recovery funds (\$192k), Waste Management major projects yet to commence (\$1.37m), and delays in receiving and authorisation of landfill contractor payments. Additional cleaning costs (\$123k) incurred in last financial year, have been paid in the current financial year.
- 12 Significant capital works projects forecast for the 2023/24 year are the Art Gallery redevelopment, Pioneer Settlement Tourism & Cultural Hub, Ultima Compost Facility establishment, Robinvale Leisure Centre Splash Park, Ronald Street and Tower Hill developments. The majority of the variance relates to anticipated works on the Art Gallery redevelopment and Tourism & Cultural Hub having not yet commenced.

**SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL
SUMMARISED BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31/03/2024**

	Last Year Actual As At 30/06/2023 \$000	This Year Actual As At 31/03/2024 \$000	\$ Movement Y.T.D. \$000	Budget As At End 2023/24 \$000
CURRENT ASSETS:-				
Cash and Cash Equivalents	55,798	53,050	2,748	25,412
Trade & Other Receivables	4,805	12,229	(7,424)	4,312
Inventories	184	199	(15)	174
Other Assets	2,092	130	1,962	333
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	62,879	65,608	(2,729)	30,231
CURRENT LIABILITIES:-				
Trade & Other Payables	2,880	534	2,346	3,932
Trust Funds & Deposits	485	912	(427)	468
Unearned Income/Revenue	5,442	5,442	0	4,276
Provisions	6,858	5,196	1,662	5,445
Interest Bearing Loans & Borrowings	278	283	(5)	530
Lease Liabilities	132	132	0	60
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	16,075	12,499	3,576	14,711
NET CURRENT ASSETS	46,804	53,109	(6,305)	15,520
NON-CURRENT ASSETS:-				
Trade & Other Receivables	50	111	(61)	50
Property, Plant, Equipment & Infrastructure	617,264	618,455	(1,191)	612,600
Right-of-use Assets	236	236	0	108
Intangible Assets	3,840	3,840	0	3,995
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	621,390	622,642	(1,252)	616,753
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES:-				
Interest Bearing Loans & Borrowings	2,069	1,856	213	1,545
Lease Liabilities	120	120	0	61
Provisions	1,243	3,225	(1,982)	3,246
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	3,432	5,201	(1,769)	4,852
TOTAL NET ASSETS	664,762	670,550	(5,788)	627,421
EQUITY:-				
Accumulated Surplus & Reserves	337,961	343,749	(5,788)	322,018
Asset Revaluation Reserve	326,801	326,801	0	305,403
TOTAL EQUITY	664,762	670,550	(5,788)	627,421

3.3 Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Minutes 4 April 2024

Directorate: Corporate Services
File Number: S15-28-01
Purpose: Information Only

Council Plan Strategy Addressed

4. Leadership - We will ensure accountable leadership, advocacy and transparent decision making.

4.1 Excellent management and administration

4.1.2 Provide robust governance and effective leadership

Current Strategic documents

Council Plan

Declarations of Interest:

Council Officers affirm that no general or material conflicts need to be declared in relation to the subject of this report.

Summary

Council's Audit Committee met on 4 April 2024 and this report summarises the items that were discussed at this meeting.

Discussion

The Audit Committee met on 4 April 2024 and as well as the usual procedural items the agenda included:

1. Departmental Presentation – Delivering in-home aged care and community-based services from 31 May 2024
2. Internal Audit Updates – Payroll, Accounts Payable, Asset Management
3. Strategic Internal Audit Program Status Update and Industry Update Recent reports and publications of interest
4. Draft Audit Strategy Memorandum
5. Review of Risk Register
6. Quarterly Risk Report
7. Review Risk Management Framework
8. Quarterly Review of Financial Performance and Position to 31 December 2023
9. FY2025 Budget Update
10. Councillor Expenses October to December 2023
11. Drag Strip Quarterly Update

12. Swan Hill Art Gallery and Visitation Centre and Swan Hill Tourism and Cultural Hub Update
13. Audit and Risk Bi-Annual Report and update of Appendix A & B of Audit and Risk Committee Charter

General Business

1. Verbal Update on the progress of the Depot Audit
2. Audit and Risk Charter Item 14.1

Consultation

Not applicable.

Financial Implications

The sitting fees paid to independent members on the Audit Committee is adjusted annually by CPI. Sitting fees are included in Council's Budget.

Social Implications

Nil.

Economic Implications

Nil.

Environmental Implications

Nil.

Risk Management Implications

The Audit Committee helps to oversee Council's risk management practices. Internal and other audits are routinely done to reduce the risk to Council.

Attachments: 1. AC Placeholder [3.3.1 - 1 page]

Options

Not applicable.

Recommendation/s

That Council note the contents of this report.

CM 2024/62 Motion

MOVED Cr Kelly

That Council note the contents of this report.

SECONDED Cr McKay

The Motion was put and CARRIED 6 / 0

Confidential attachment

- Audit Committee Confidential unconfirmed Minutes 4 April 2024 (attachment will be included into the in-camera agenda)

4 Decisions Which Need Action / Ratification

4.1 Sign and Seal

Directorate: Chief Executive Officer
File Number: S16-05-01
Purpose: For Noting

Declarations of Interest:

Council officers affirm that no general or material conflicts need to be declared in relation to the subject of this report.

Summary

The following documents and agreements have been signed and sealed by the Councillors and the Chief Executive Officer on the respective dates. Those actions require the ratification of the Council.

Discussion

During any month Council is required to sign and seal a range of documents arising from decisions made on a previous occasion(s). Examples include sale of land, entering into funding arrangements for Council programs etc.

As the decision to enter into these agreements has already been made, these documents are signed and sealed when received, with Council ratifying the signing and sealing at the next Council meeting.

The following documents were signed and sealed since the last Council meeting:

No.	Document Type	Document Description	Date signed/ sealed
1161	Section 173 Agreement – 112 Coronation Avenue, Swan Hill – Condition 17 and 26 (PLN2022051)	Between Swan Hill Rural City Council and Coronation Developments Pty Ltd	07/05/24
1162	Section 173 Agreement – 139 Lake Baker Road, Lake Boga	Between Swan Hill Rural City Council and J.G.Pickering and A.M.Mercer	07/05/24

Note: A Section 173 Agreement is typically a contract between the Council and a landowner that places use or development restrictions on the land.

They are intended to ensure compliance with conditions contained in permits granted by the Council and are often used in subdivision matters. These agreements refer to Section 173 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.

Consultation

Council authorise the signing and sealing of the above documents.

Recommendation/s

That Council notes the actions of signing and sealing the documents under delegation as scheduled.

CM 2024/63 Motion

MOVED Cr Kelly

That Council notes the actions of signing and sealing the documents under delegation as scheduled.

SECONDED Cr McKay

The Motion was put and CARRIED 6 / 0

4.2 Councillor Assemblies - Record of Attendance and Agenda Items

Directorate: Chief Executive Officer
File Number: S15-05-06
Purpose: For Noting

Declarations of Interest:

Council officers affirm that no general or material conflicts need to be declared in relation to the matter of this report.

Summary

The following report provides attendance details of Councillor Assemblies on a monthly basis.

Discussion

Whilst Minutes have not been recorded, Agenda items and those in attendance are reported and presented to Council.

An assembly of Councillors is defined as a meeting that is planned or scheduled at which at least half of the Council and one Officer are in attendance, and where the matters being considered that are intended or likely to be the subject of a Council decision.

No formal decisions can be made at an assembly but rather direction can be given that is likely to lead to a formal decision of Council.

Details of the most recent assemblies of Council are attached.

Council Plan Strategy Addressed

4. Leadership - We will ensure accountable leadership, advocacy and transparent decision making.

4.1 Excellent management and administration

4.1.1 Well managed resources for a sustainable future

4.1.2 Provide robust governance and effective leadership

4.1.3 Sound, sustainable:

- Financial management • Excellence in service delivery • Strategic planning

Current Strategic documents

No strategic documents applicable.

Key Legislation

There is no key legislation applicable

Attachments: 1. COUNCILLOR ASSEMBLIES ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA
May [4.2.1 - 4 pages]

Options

Council Assemblies are reported to ensure good governance and transparency.

Recommendation

That Council note the contents of the report.

CM 2024/64 Motion

MOVED Cr McKay

That Council note the contents of the report.

SECONDED Cr Kelly

The Motion was put and CARRIED 6 / 0

COUNCILLOR ASSEMBLIES ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA
9 April 2024 at 11.30am, Swan Hill Town Hall – Council Chambers

AGENDA ITEMS

- Rating Options 2024-25 Budget
- Ken Harrison Reserve Advisory Committee
- Private Assets in Road Reserves policy/procedure
- Councillor Strategic Outcomes
- Future Assembly Chair Person

ADDITIONAL ITEMS DISCUSSED

- Nil

ATTENDANCE

Councillors

- Cr Jacquie Kelly
- Cr Stuart King
- Cr Chris Jeffery
- Cr Nicole McKay
- Cr Bill Moar
- Cr Ann Young

Apologies / Leave of Absence

- Cr Les McPhee

OFFICERS

- Scott Barber, Chief Executive Officer
- Bruce Myers, Director Community and Cultural Services
- Leah Johnston, Director Infrastructure
- Michelle Grainger, Director Development and Planning
- Bhan Pratap, Director Corporate Services
- Ash Free, Finance Manager
- Vicki Taylor, Customer Service and Revenue Coordinator
- Heather Green, Executive Manager Strategic Projects
- Nathan Keighran, Economic Development Coordinator
- Anthony Duffin, Information Coordinator

Other

- Nil

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- Nil

COUNCILLOR ASSEMBLIES ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA
16 April 2024 at 1.00pm, Swan Hill Town Hall – Council Chambers

AGENDA ITEMS

- REWN (Robinvale Euston Workforce Network)
- Presentation on Model Budget prior to Advertising
- Infrastructure/developer contributions
- Swan Hill Region Economic Development Strategy
- Murray Downs Golf
- Contract – Supply & Delivery of concrete, Quarry & Bituminous Products Panel
- Pray/reflection in future Council Agenda
- Councillor / Director only session

ADDITIONAL ITEMS DISCUSSED

- Nil

ATTENDANCE

Councillors

- Cr Jacquie Kelly
- Cr Nicole McKay
- Cr Chris Jeffery

Apologies / Leave of Absence

- Cr Les McPhee
- Cr Stuart King
- Cr Bill Moar
- Cr Ann Young

OFFICERS

- Scott Barber, Chief Executive Officer
- Bruce Myers, Director Community and Cultural Services
- Leah Johnston, Director Infrastructure
- Michelle Grainger, Director Development and Planning
- Bhan Pratap, Director Corporate Services
- Ash Free, Finance Manager
- Heather Green, Executive Manager Strategic Projects
- Nathan Keighran, Economic Development Coordinator
- Dennis Hovenden, Economic & Development Manager
- Jess Chislett, Procurement and Properties Coordinator

Other

- Glenn Stewart, REWN Branding
- Rob Anderson, Coordinator Strategic Infrastructure Planning

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- Nil

COUNCILLOR ASSEMBLIES ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA
30 April 2024 at 1.00pm, Swan Hill Town Hall – Council Chambers

AGENDA ITEMS

- MMP Update March
- Preliminary Detailed Design Stakeholders Presentation – Tourism and Cultural Hub
- Major Project Submissions
- New Plan for Victoria Submission
- Change prayer to reflection in future Council Agenda
- Councillors/Directors question time

ADDITIONAL ITEMS DISCUSSED

- Nil

ATTENDANCE

Councillors

- Cr Ann Young
- Cr Jacquie Kelly
- Cr Nicole McKay
- Cr Chris Jeffery
- Cr Bill Moar

Apologies / Leave of Absence

- Cr Les McPhee
- Cr Stuart King

OFFICERS

- Bruce Myers, Director Community and Cultural Services
- Michelle Grainger, Director Development and Planning
- Bhan Pratap, Director Corporate Services
- Trish Ficarra, Public Health and Regulatory Services
- Ash Free, Finance Manager
- Heather Green, Executive Manager Strategic Projects
- Nathan Keighran, Economic Development Coordinator
- Dennis Hovenden, Economic & Development Manager
- Jess Warburton, Pioneer Settlement Manager
- Dione Heppell, Liveability and Project Development Coordinator
- Azam Suleman, Acting PMO Manager

Other

Nil

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- Nil

**COUNCILLOR ASSEMBLIES ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA
7 May 2024 at 1.00pm, Swan Hill Town Hall – Council Chambers**

AGENDA ITEMS

- Proposed Cat Confinement Order
- 13 River Oaks Drive – amendment Section 173 Agreement
- Waste Strategy (introduction to consultants)
- KSI 3rd Quarter progress
- Swan Hill Showgrounds, Sport and Recreation Precinct Masterplan Update

ADDITIONAL ITEMS DISCUSSED

- Nil

ATTENDANCE

Councillors

- Cr Stuart King
- Cr Ann Young
- Cr Jacquie Kelly
- Cr Nicole McKay
- Cr Chris Jeffery

Apologies / Leave of Absence

- Cr Les McPhee
- Cr Bill Moar

OFFICERS

- Scott Barber, Chief Executive Officer
- Bruce Myers, Director Community and Cultural Services
- Leah Johnston, Director Infrastructure
- Michelle Grainger, Director Development and Planning
- Bhan Pratap, Director Corporate Services
- Trish Ficarra, Public Health and Regulatory Services
- Awais Sadiq, Development Manager
- Helen Morris, Organisation Development Manager
- Dione Heppell, Liveability and Project Development Coordinator
- Peter Ross, Engineering and Strategic Projects Manager
- Ron Gibbs, Strategic Waste Coordinator
- Alicia Tongpao, Waste Officer

Other

- Maarten de Beurs, Business Area Manager, Ricardo Energy Environment & Planning Pty Ltd
- Matt Drysdale, Ben Manning and Fiona Telford, Solucio

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- Nil

5 Notices of Motion

5.1 Addressing Climate Change Across Council

Having given due notice, **Councillor Jacquie Kelly MOVED**

That a report come to Council at the July Ordinary Meeting on an audit of current adequacy of Councils plans, policies and strategies to address climate change, particularly compliance with the Local Government Act, Climate Change Act and other relevant legislation.

Council Plan Strategy Addressed

1. Liveability 1.2 Careful and responsible management of our environment for a sustainable future.
2. Prosperity 2.3 Assets for our current and future needs
3. Leadership 4.1.1 Well managed resources for a sustainable future.

Priority Areas for Councils 2021-2025 Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan. 3. Reducing the impact of climate change on health and wellbeing.

Preamble

It is important that the community is protected from the negative impacts of climate change, including but not limited to heat, heatwaves, severe storms, non-riverine flooding, reduced annual rainfall and the economic loss. Council is looking at storms and non-riverine flooding through the drainage strategy which includes updated climatic data sets.

This report, looking through the lens of climate change, mitigation, resilience and adaptation, will allow Council to understand current state of preparedness and be able to future plan for change. Preserving the quality of life and livability of the region is vital for community wellbeing, preserving population and ensuring growth, including retention and recruitment of key workers.

Addressing risk is a requirement of Council, particularly economic risk and financial sustainability.

This report could be used to inform a proposed Planning Scheme Review and various policy development and reviews.

This action is in line with aspirations in the Current Council Plan but acknowledges that the current plan does not specifically or adequately address Climate Change and lacks informed actions. This report will identify gaps and will assist with development of the next Council Plan.

Councils and Water authorities are addressing climate change, assessing risk, reducing emissions and planning for adaptation. It is important that SHRCC continues to improve the way it does this.

Attachments: Nil

CM 2024/65 Motion

MOVED Cr Kelly

Having given due notice, **Councillor Jacquie Kelly MOVED**

That a report come to Council at the July Ordinary Meeting on an audit of current adequacy of Councils plans, policies and strategies to address climate change, particularly compliance with the Local Government Act, Climate Change Act and other relevant legislation.

SECONDED Cr McKay

The Motion was put and LOST 2 / 4

5.2 Improving Strategic Planning For Environment, Climate And Sustainability

Having given due notice, **Councillor Jacquie Kelly MOVED**

That officers investigate the establishment of a Council environment/sustainability/climate committee.

The investigation should

- **review similar committees in other rural Councils**
- **consider terms of reference and expected benefits**
- **outline resourcing requirements**

and report to an assembly in 3rd quarter 2024.

Council Plan Strategy Addressed.

1. Liveability 1.2 Careful and responsible management of our environment for a sustainable future.
2. Prosperity 2.3 Assets for our current and future needs
3. Harmony 3.2.1 An engaged and respected Aboriginal community
4. Leadership 4.1.1 Well managed resources for a sustainable future.

Priority Areas for Councils 2021-2025 Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.

3. Reducing the impact of climate change on health and wellbeing.

Preamble

Establishing an Environment Committee would improve Councils ability to deal with the plethora of current and emerging issues to do with environment, sustainability and climate. The strategy and actions coming from the Council Plan would inform the work of the committee. Some of the issues would include: climate adaptation and mitigation, plans to lower emissions, electrification, heat, tree canopy, waste, pests, building retrofitting, carbon storage, regenerative farming, extreme weather, resilient energy, renewables.

In addition, the upcoming work of:

- the need to review and update/replace the Sustainable Living Strategy 2017-27.
- developing strategies and policies needed in this space.
- dealing with other authorities (eg CMAs, Water authorities) on natural resource management, catchment, water quality and supply.
- developing submissions on upcoming renewable and mining EES's.
- Scoping and applying for funding and grants from Federal and State Governments for Environment projects.
- advising on advocacy needs and opportunities.
- supporting Caring for Country by Traditional Owners and indigenous citizens.

Attachments: Nil

CM 2024/66 Motion

MOVED Cr Kelly

Having given due notice, **Councillor Jacquie Kelly MOVED**

That officers investigate the establishment of a Council environment/sustainability/climate committee.

The investigation should

- **review similar committees in other rural Councils**
- **consider terms of reference and expected benefits**
- **outline resourcing requirements**

and report to an assembly in 3rd quarter 2024.

SECONDED Cr McKay

The motion being tied the Mayor Cr King exercise the casting vote.

The Motion was put and LOST 3 / 3

5.3 Information For Rural Residential Zone Residents

Having given due notice, **Councillor Jacquie Kelly MOVED**

That a report come to Council on what information exists and is available to prospective residents of houses in the farming zone.

Preamble

Both the excision of houses and new rural residential development bring amenity issues into play. These homes require special consideration to minimise land-use conflicts between agricultural activity and the amenity expectations of rural residential dwellers.

Authorities like Council and EPA deal with complaints from such residents and it is important that residents have up-front understanding of potential issues such as dust, noise, light and chemical drift.

As Council sees the creation of more houses excised from farmland, there is an acknowledged need to give prospective residents (renters or buyers) information that can assist them to make decisions. This can prevent people being surprised and having to complain when they move in and then find the conditions unsatisfactory.

Attachments: Nil

CM 2024/67 Motion

MOVED Cr McKay

Having given due notice, **Councillor Jacquie Kelly MOVED**

That a report come to Council on what information exists and is available to prospective residents of houses in the farming zone.

SECONDED Cr Kelly

The motion being tied the Mayor Cr King exercise the casting vote.

The Motion was put and LOST 3 / 3

6 Foreshadowed Items

Nil.

7 Urgent Items Not Included In Agenda

Nil

8 To Consider and Order on Councillor Reports

8.1 Cr Nicole McKay

List events / meetings attended

Date	Organisation / Group	Details (if relevant)
2/5/24	Governor of Victoria - Visit to SHRC	Official Reception at Swan Hill Art Gallery
5/5/24	Tyntynder Homestead Open Day	
7/5/24	Residents and Ratepayers Meeting	

8.2 Cr Bill Moar

List events / meetings attended

Date	Organisation / Group	Details (if relevant)
24/05/2024	Activating Swan Hill Riverfront	Opening
25/04/2024	ANZAC Day dawn service and march	
25/04/2024	Governor Visit events in Robinvale - Robinswood, Boundary Bend Estate CUC	
09/05/2024	CVGA Board Meeting	
15/05/2024	VicGrid presentation	

8.3 Cr Ann Young

List events / meetings attended

Date	Organisation / Group	Details (if relevant)
18/04/2024	Mallee CUC	Board Meeting
24/04/2024	Activating Swan Hill Riverfront	Opening
25/04/2024	Anzac Day	Ceremony
02/05/2024	Governor Visit events	

8.4 Cr Les McPhee

List events / meetings attended

Date	Organisation / Group	Details (if relevant)
15/5/24	VicGrid Presentation to Council	
17/5/24	MAV State Council	Melbourne

8.5 Cr Jacquie Kelly

List events / meetings attended

Date	Organisation / Group	Details (if relevant)
10/04/24	Goschen mine EES hearing	Grain shed Swan Hill
10/04/24	launch of Andrew Kelly's book Cry Hard Chucky	library
11/04/24	Wetland plant ID and ecology day	3rd Reedy Lake and Koorangie Wetlands
12/04/24	meeting of concerned citizens	
13/04/24	Friends of Tyntyndyer Homestead meeting	10am
15/04/24	Tyntyndyer CWA Health issues committee meeting	5.30pm Swan Hill Club
17/04/24	book launch of John Ward book, "Toby Henson and the Pyap"	11am
19/04/24	meet with Dir of Finance re: Audit and Risk induction	
20/05/24	meet with people interested in standing for Council	

Date	Organisation / Group	Details (if relevant)
21/05/24	attend senior mens soccer match at Ken Harrison reserve and tour new facilities.	with Sue Fox
23/04/24	Swan Hill Theatre Group performance of A Midsummer Nights Dream	
26 and 27/4/24	Australian Local Government Women's Association, ALGWA State Conference (report tabled)	Warragul, West Gippsland Shire
02/05/24	Murray Darling Association Forum	Mildura Rowing Club 9.30am-3.30pm
03/05/24	Victorian Governor visit events (Walk in Swan Hill and visit to Lake Boga)	
04/05/24	represent Council and speak at opening of Black Armada exhibition.	Library 1pm
05/05/24	Tyntyndyer Homestead Open Garden Day.	10am-2pm
06/05/24	visit YouthInc.	
07/05/24	Sustainability Victoria workshop- Understanding Human Behaviour	10am-1pm
08/05/24	Open the Pregnancy and Early Years Expo	10am, SH Town Hall
08/05/24	Oz Fish, Fish Talks workshop	128 Doors. 6-9pm
10/05/24	Uncle Sam Morgans funeral	
13/05/24	CWA Health issues committee	5.30pm
15/05/24	Vic Grid Renewable Energy forum briefing	Town Hall, 1pm for Council and 6pm for Community.
16/05/24	Coffee with a Councillor- Robinvale, with Cr Jeffery	Top End Cafe, 10am.
16/05/24	Neighbourhood House week, open day	
17/05/24	IDAHOBIT morning tea	11am library
17/05/24	Wendy Mathews & Grace Knight songs of Paul Simon	Town Hall

8.6 Cr Stuart King

List events / meetings attended

Date	Organisation / Group	Details (if relevant)
10/03/24	Country University Centre	Official Opening
15-18/04/24	Yamagata Sister City Visit	Yamagata, Japan
24-28/04/24	Villers-Bretonneux Sister City Visit	40th Anniversary of Twinning with Robinvale
02/05/2024	Victorian Governor Visit	Official Opening of Mully's Place
02/05/2024	Victorian Governor Visit	Civic Reception
02/05/2024	Victorian Governor Visit	Legends of the Mallee Show - Pioneer Settlement
03/05/2024	Victorian Governor Visit	Country University Centre Visit
03/05/2024	Victorian Governor Visit	Swan Hill Bridge Advocacy
03/05/2024	Victorian Governor Visit	Visit to "Arnold" the Murray Cod
03/05/2024	Victorian Governor Visit	Visit to Riverfront Boardwalk
03/05/2024	Victorian Governor Visit	Visit to Lake Boga Silos Artwork
03/05/2024	Victorian Governor Visit	Morning Tea at Lake Boga Grill House with Primary School students
03/05/2024	Victorian Governor Visit	Visit to Catalina Musuem
04/05/2024	Swan Hill Bowls Club	Official Opening of 58th Annual May Bowls Carnival
10/05/2024	Anne Webster MP	Swan Hill Bridge Advocacy
07/05/2024	Residents & Ratepayers	Attended Monthly Meeting
17/05/2024	SHRCC Staff	IDAHOBIT Morning Tea
17/05/2024	SHRCC Library / Youth Inc	IDAHOBIT Morning Tea
21/05/2024	Yamagata Deputy Mayor Mr. Inoue and delegation	Tourism promotion, with a particular focus on exchanging information and opinions on best practices.

8.7 Cr Chris Jeffery

Nil to report.

9 In-Camera Items

RECOMMENDATION

That, in accordance with sections 66(1) and 66(2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the meeting be closed to members of the public for the consideration of the following confidential items:

CM 2024/68 MOTION

MOVED Cr Moar

That Council, resolve to close the meeting at 2:05pm to members of the public to consider the following items.

SECONDED Cr McPhee

The Motion was put and CARRIED 6 / 0

9.1 House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport - Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM This item is to be considered at an In Camera meeting due to the Guidelines from the parliamentary committee which states that submissions must not have been published anywhere else.

CM 2024/69 Motion

MOVED Cr McPhee

That Council:

1. Approves the submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport's inquiry into local government sustainability with the following changes:

- Opportunities for municipality boundary reviews
- Update population statistics based on independent Council statistics
- Include section reference to the Grattan Institute Report
- Include section to improve disaster recovery funding where damaged infrastructure can be improved under funding guidelines to "build

back better"

2. Authorises the CEO write a submission in response to the terms of reference to State Government who is also conducting a Parliamentary inquiry into local government funding and services.

3. Authorises the Mayor and the CEO to attend the inquiry if invited.

SECONDED Cr McKay

The Motion was put and CARRIED 6 / 0

9.2 Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Report 4 April 2024

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM This item is to be considered at an In Camera meeting in accordance with Section 3(1) (a) of the Local Government Act 2020, this item is to be considered in an incamera meeting on the grounds that the item concerns Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.

CM 2024/70 Motion

MOVED Cr McPhee

That Council notes the report.

SECONDED Cr Moar

The Motion was put and CARRIED 6 / 0

9.3 Supplier Panel - Supply & Delivery of Concrete, Quarry & Bituminous Products

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM This item is to be considered at an In Camera meeting in accordance with Section 3(1) (g(i)) of the Local Government Act 2020, on the grounds that the item concerns private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that relates to trade secrets.

CM 2024/71 Motion

MOVED Cr McPhee

That Council:

Award contracts for the Supply and Delivery of Concrete, Quarry and Bituminous products to for a term of two years with an option to extend for further term of one year to:

- Coburns Earthmoving**

- **E.B Mawson & Sons Propriety Limited**
- **Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd**
- **Primal Surfacing Pty Ltd**
- **Rich River Asphalt Pty Ltd**
- **Road Solutions Australia Pty Ltd**
- **Downer EDI Works Pty Ltd**

SECONDED Cr Moar

The Motion was put and CARRIED 6 / 0

CM 2024/75 MOTION

MOVED Cr Moar

That the meeting move out of closed session at 4.18pm.

SECONDED Cr McPhee

The Motion was put and CARRIED 6 / 0

10 Close of Meeting

There been no further business the Mayor, Councillor Cr King closed the meeting at 4:19pm.