AGENDA

Wodonga Council

Meeting of the council for April 17, 2023.

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the council will be held in the Council Chamber – 104 Hovell St, Wodonga, or by electronic means if required, on April 17, 2023, commencing at 6:00 pm.

The meeting will be livestreamed through the council website.

Matthew Hyde
Chief Executive Officer



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Table of Contents

1 Welcome and acknowledgment of country 3
2 Apologies, leave of absence, and attendance by electronic means 3
3 Declaration of conflict of interest 3
4 Confirmation of minutes from previous meeting 4
5 Question time 27
6 Delegates reports 27
7 Reports for determination 28
7.1 Draft Budget 2023-2024 - Community feedback 28
7.2 Community Engagement Policy 87
7.3 Community Grants Program Review 112
7.4 Appointment of authorised officers 141
7.5 Valley Views Estate Proposed Development Plan – Status Update and Proposed Way Forward 148
7.6 Racecourse Grandstand 200
8 Reports for noting 205
8.1 Minutes of the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee 205
9 Reports for information 216
9.1 Decisions register 216
9.2 Record of councillor meetings 226
10 Notices of motion 231
11 Petitions 231
12 General business 231
13 Urgent business 232
14 Confidential business 233
15 Confidential urgent business 233
16 Close of meeting 233

1 Welcome and acknowledgment of country

Wodonga Council acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the first inhabitants of the Country and as traditional custodians of the land. We respect their Ancestors, Elders and young people and recognise their continuous connections to lands, waters, and communities across the Country.

2 Apologies, leave of absence, and attendance by electronic means

3 Declaration of conflict of interest

Councillors
Councillors must disclose any conflicts of interest they have in matters being considered at council meetings.

If you have a conflict of interest at a council meeting, you must:

- disclose the conflict of interest immediately before the matter is considered;
- notify the chairperson you are leaving the meeting; and
- leave the room and any area where you can see or hear the meeting until the matter has been concluded.

When making your disclosure, you must state the class of interest as well as describing the nature of the interest. However, if this would mean disclosing information that is confidential or private, particularly if it is about another person, you can make a full disclosure to the CEO in writing before the meeting and then just disclose the class of interest in the meeting.

Staff
Staff in attendance at the meeting, and who have not otherwise disclosed a conflict of interest through the written officer report, may also make a declaration at this point in the agenda, for the purposes of transparency.

4 Confirmation of minutes from previous meeting

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes for the Ordinary Council meeting held on March 20, 2023, as attached, be received and confirmed as an accurate record.

MINUTES

Wodonga Council minutes for the meeting of the council held in the Council Chamber at 104 Hovell St, Wodonga on March 20, 2023.

Present

Cr R Mildren, Mayor

Cr L Hall, Deputy Mayor

Cr D Chamberlain

Cr D Lowe

Cr K Poulton

Cr O Quilty

Cr G Simpfendorfer

In attendance

Mr M Hyde	Chief Executive Officer
Ms D Mudra	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Ms S Andres	Interim Director Corporate Services
Mr L Schultz	Director Planning, Development and Infrastructure

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Table of Contents

1 Welcome and acknowledgment of country 4
2 Apologies, requests for leave of absence, and attendance by electronic means ..4
3 Declaration of conflict of interest 4
4 Confirmation of minutes from previous meeting 5
5 Question time and approved presentations from public....6
6 Delegates reports....7
7 Reports for determination....8
7.1 Review of the Instruments of Delegation 8
7.2 Review of Governance Rules 10
7.3 Draft Councillor Briefing Terms of Reference....12
7.4 Rural Australians for Refugees - Afghan Sponsorship Proposal 13
7.5 La Trobe University student awards....14
7.6 Intention to enter into lease - Wodonga Hockey Club....15
7.7 2023-24 State Funding Programs - Country Football & Netball Program and Australian Cricket Infrastructure Fund 17
7.8 Review of Performance Reporting Policy....18
7.9 Planning Permit for Determination 44/2022, 2 Opal Court, West Wodonga19
7.10 Sustainability Strategy 2022 - 2026 20
7.11 Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan 2022 - 2027....21
8 Reports for noting 22
8.1 Works-in-Kind Agreements 22
8.2 Australia Day Advisory Committee Meeting 23
8.3 Place Names Advisory Committee Minutes - October 2022....24
9 Reports for information 25
9.1 Two Cities One Community 2022-2023 progress update....25
9.2 Council Plan progress report....27
9.3 Decisions register 28
9.4 Record of councillor meetings....36
10 Notices of motion 36
10.1 Delegated Committee - key projects and advocacy....36
11 Petitions....37
12 General business....38
13 Urgent business 39
14 Confidential business 40

15 Confidential urgent business 40
16 Close of meeting 41

1 Welcome and acknowledgment of country

The meeting was called to order at 6pm by the Mayor, Cr Mildren.

The Mayor read the acknowledgment of country.

2 Apologies, requests for leave of absence, and attendance by electronic means

There were no apologies or requests for leave of absence.

All attendees were in the Council Chamber.

3 Declaration of conflict of interest

Cr Kev Poulton disclosed a conflict of interest, being a material conflict of interest for item 7.6 Intention to enter into Lease - Wodonga Hockey Club. The nature of the interest was that Cr Poulton's wife is employed by Hockey ACT.

4 Confirmation of minutes from previous meeting

MOTION

Cr Libby Hall / Cr Danny Chamberlain

That the minutes for the Ordinary Council meeting held on Monday, February 20, 2023, as attached, be received and confirmed as an accurate record.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

For:	Cr Danny Chamberlain, Cr Libby Hall, Cr Danny Lowe, Cr Ron Mildren, Cr Kev Poulton, Cr Olga Quilty and Cr Graeme Simpfendorfer
Against:	Nil

5 Question time and approved presentations from public

Question time

This is conducted in accordance with Rule 62 of the Meeting Procedure Chapter of the *Governance Rules.*

Public addressing the meeting

Sub-rule 75.1 of the Meeting Procedure Rules permits a member of the public to address Council "with the consent of the Chair or by prior arrangement".

Presentation
Dr Phillip Steele, representing the Border Medical Association and Border Better Health, addressed Council on health services for Albury Wodonga. He said the current proposal to upgrade the Albury Hospital would not be adequate for the growth of the region.

Question time
One question was submitted about transgender people accessing women's toilets and spaces in Wodonga. As the question was received on the day of the meeting it will be responded to in seven days. A copy of the question and response will be published on the council's web site.

6 Delegates reports

Cr Hall gave a verbal report on the MAV Councillor Leadership Conference held on Friday, 10 February 2023 and attended by Cr Mildren and herself. The conference considered key themes such as leadership, building relationships, culture and governance.

7 Reports for determination

7.1 Review of the Instruments of Delegation

MOTION

Cr Kev Poulton / Cr Graeme Simpfendorfer

1. In the exercise of the power conferred by s 11(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), council resolves:
   - 1.1 There be delegated to the person holding the position, or acting in or performing the duties, of Chief Executive Officer the powers, duties and functions set out in the attached *S5 Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer*, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument.
   - 1.2 The instrument comes into force immediately upon this resolution being made and is signed by the council's Chief Executive Officer and the Mayor.
   - 1.3 On the coming into force of the instrument all previous delegations to the Chief Executive Officer are revoked.
   - 1.4 The duties and functions set out in the instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instruments must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of council that it may from time to time adopt.
2. In the exercise of the powers conferred by the legislation referred to in the attached *S6 Instrument of Delegation by the Council to members of Council staff (other than the CEO)*, council resolves that:
   - 2.1 There be delegated to the members of council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the offices or positions referred to in the *S6 Instrument of Delegation by the Council to members of Council staff*, the powers, duties and functions set out in that instrument, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument.
   - 2.2 The instrument comes into force immediately upon this resolution being made and is signed by the council's Chief Executive Officer and the Mayor.
   - 2.3 On the coming into force of the instrument all previous delegations to members of council staff (other than the Chief Executive Officer) are revoked.
   - 2.4 The duties and functions set out in the instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instruments must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of council that it may from time to time adopt.
3. In the exercise of the power conferred by s 437(2) of the Environment Protection Act 2017 and the Instrument of Delegation of the Environment Protection Authority under the Act dated 4 June 2021, Council resolves that:
   - 3.1 There be delegated to the members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the offices or positions referred to in the attached *S18 Instrument of Sub-Delegation to members of Council*

staff (EPA 2017), the powers, duties and functions set out in that instrument, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument.

3.2 The instrument comes into force immediately upon this resolution being made and is signed by the council's Chief Executive Officer and the Mayor.

3.3 The duties and functions set out in the instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instruments must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.

4. That the Instruments of Delegation Policy, as attached, be adopted.
5. That the *S7 Instrument of Sub-Delegation by the CEO to other staff*, as attached, be received and noted.

CARRIED 6 / 1

For: Cr Danny Chamberlain, Cr Libby Hall, Cr Danny Lowe, Cr Ron Mildren, Cr Kev Poulton and Cr Graeme Simpfendorfer

Against: Cr Olga Quilty

7.2 Review of Governance Rules

MOTION

Cr Libby Hall / Cr Danny Chamberlain

That:

1. The Governance Rules, included with the attachments, be placed on public exhibition for a 28 day period of community consultation, with the following changes:

   - chapter three, sub-rule 1.1 is to read: "except where and unless the delegated committee by resolution establishes its own meeting procedure, all of the provisions of Chapter Two apply to meetings of the delegated committee" and delete rule 2; and
   - the period for notices of motion be retained at 7 days;

2. A report on any feedback from the community consultation be submitted to a future council meeting; and

3. Should no community feedback be received the Governance Rules be adopted without further resolution of Council, with the commencement date to be the day after the public exhibition period ends.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

Cr Danny Lowe

That the matter be deferred until the scheduled April council meeting.

LOST 2 / 5

For:	Cr Danny Lowe and Cr Graeme Simpfendorfer
Against:	Cr Danny Chamberlain, Cr Libby Hall, Cr Ron Mildren, Cr Kev Poulton and Cr Olga Quilty

MOTION

Cr Libby Hall / Cr Danny Chamberlain

That:

1. The Governance Rules, included with the attachments, be placed on public exhibition for a 28 day period of community consultation, with the following changes:

   - chapter three, sub-rule 1.1 is to read: "except where and unless the delegated committee by resolution establishes its own meeting procedure, all of the provisions of Chapter Two apply to meetings of the delegated committee" and delete rule 2; and
   - the period for notices of motion be retained at 7 days;

2. A report on any feedback from the community consultation be submitted to a future council meeting; and

3. Should no community feedback be received the Governance Rules be adopted without further resolution of Council, with the commencement date to be the day after the public exhibition period ends.

CARRIED 4 / 3

For:	Cr Danny Chamberlain, Cr Libby Hall, Cr Ron Mildren and Cr Olga Quilty
Against:	Cr Danny Lowe, Cr Kev Poulton and Cr Graeme Simpfendorfer

7.3 Draft Councillor Briefing Terms of Reference

MOTION

Cr Kev Poulton / Cr Danny Chamberlain

That:

1. The draft Councillor Briefing terms of reference, as attached, be adopted; and
2. The amended Councillor Briefing policy, as attached, be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

For:	Cr Danny Chamberlain, Cr Libby Hall, Cr Danny Lowe, Cr Ron Mildren, Cr Kev Poulton, Cr Olga Quilty and Cr Graeme Simpfendorfer
Against:	Nil

7.4 Rural Australians for Refugees - Afghan Sponsorship Proposal

MOTION

Cr Olga Quilty / Cr Danny Chamberlain

That a letter of support be provided to Rural Australian for Refugees for their Community Sponsorship Program for Afghan Refugees.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

For:	Cr Danny Chamberlain, Cr Libby Hall, Cr Danny Lowe, Cr Ron Mildren, Cr Kev Poulton, Cr Olga Quilty and Cr Graeme Simpfendorfer
Against:	Nil

7.5 La Trobe University student awards

MOTION

Cr Kev Poulton / Cr Graeme Simpfendorfer

That the council provides funding of $9,000 over three years for the following:

1. Four La Trobe University student awards of $500 each, a total of $2,000 annually, for a period of three years, commencing March 2023; and
2. Contributes $1,000 annually to the Albury Wodonga Materials bursary for a total of three years, commencing March 2023.

CARRIED 6 / 1

For:	Cr Danny Chamberlain, Cr Libby Hall, Cr Danny Lowe, Cr Ron Mildren, Cr Kev Poulton and Cr Graeme Simpfendorfer
Against:	Cr Olga Quilty

7.6 Intention to enter into lease - Wodonga Hockey Club

MOTION

Cr Graeme Simpfendorfer / Cr Danny Chamberlain

That:

1. In accordance with Section 115 of the *Local Government Act 2020* ("the Act") public notice be given of the intention to grant a lease to Wodonga Hockey Club Incorporated for the premises contained in Certificate of Title Volume 10362 Folio 364 known as the 'Wodonga Hockey Pavilion' on the following terms:

    a. A 20-year lease, made up of an initial 10 years with 2 further options of 5 years each;

    b. A rent-free period for the initial 10-year term (equating to a total fee reduction of $1,680.51); and,

    c. A rental charge of $150 plus GST per annum in the first year of the first 5-year option, with a fixed increase of 2.5% per annum on each commencement date during the term and any further term.

2. The public notice shall stipulate that persons may make a submission on the proposed lease in accordance with Section 115 of the Act and councils Community Engagement Policy, and that all written submissions be received on a date that is at least 21 days after the publication of the notice;

3. The Chief Executive Officer is authorised to undertake the administrative procedures necessary to enable council to carry out its functions under Section 115 of the Act in relation to this matter; and,

4. A report on the Section 115 process, including any submissions received, be provided to a future meeting of Council for a final determination on this matter.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 6 / 0

For: Cr Danny Chamberlain, Cr Libby Hall, Cr Danny Lowe, Cr Ron Mildren, Cr Olga Quilty and Cr Graeme Simpfendorfer

Against: Nil

Conflict of interest disclosure

Prior to the commencement of item 7.6 Cr Poulton disclosed a conflict of interest in that item, the details of which are recorded in these minutes at item 3.

Cr Poulton left the meeting at 7.15pm. Cr Poulton returned to the meeting room at 7.20pm after the resolution for item 7.6 was carried.

7.7 2023-24 State Funding Programs - Country Football & Netball Program and Australian Cricket Infrastructure Fund

MOTION

Cr Danny Lowe / Cr Graeme Simpfendorfer

That council support the application of the grants through the Country Football & Netball Program and the Community Cricket Program as follows:

1. Country Football & Netball Program
   - Les Cheesley Oval LED lighting upgrade project, and approve an additional financial contribution of $78,120 in the 2023/24 financial year from council; and

2. Australian Cricket Infrastructure Fund
   - Kelly Park Cricket shared storage project and approve a financial contribution of $69,761 in the 2023/24 financial year from council.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

For: Cr Danny Chamberlain, Cr Libby Hall, Cr Danny Lowe, Cr Ron Mildren, Cr Kev Poulton, Cr Olga Quilty and Cr Graeme Simpfendorfer

Against: Nil

7.8 Review of Performance Reporting Policy

MOTION

Cr Kev Poulton / Cr Libby Hall

That the Performance Reporting Policy, as attached, be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

For:	Cr Danny Chamberlain, Cr Libby Hall, Cr Danny Lowe, Cr Ron Mildren, Cr Kev Poulton, Cr Olga Quilty and Cr Graeme Simpfendorfer
Against:	Nil

7.9 Planning Permit for Determination 44/2022, 2 Opal Court, West Wodonga

MOTION

Cr Danny Lowe / Cr Olga Quilty

That Council resolves to issue a Notice of Decision to grant a Planning Permit (PP 44/2022) for buildings and works to construct four dwellings at Lot 68 PS098989, 2 Opal Court, West Wodonga subject to the planning permit conditions detailed at attachment 2, and in accordance with the submitted development plans at attachment 3.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

For:	Cr Danny Chamberlain, Cr Libby Hall, Cr Danny Lowe, Cr Ron Mildren, Cr Kev Poulton, Cr Olga Quilty and Cr Graeme Simpfendorfer
Against:	Nil

7.10 Sustainability Strategy 2022 - 2026

MOTION

Cr Danny Chamberlain / Cr Libby Hall

That the Sustainability Strategy 2022 – 2026, as attached, be adopted, and its implementation be considered in future budgets.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

For:	Cr Danny Chamberlain, Cr Libby Hall, Cr Danny Lowe, Cr Ron Mildren, Cr Kev Poulton, Cr Olga Quilty and Cr Graeme Simpfendorfer
Against:	Nil

7.11 Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan 2022 - 2027

MOTION

Cr Danny Chamberlain / Cr Graeme Simpfendorfer

That the Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan 2022 – 2027, as attached, be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

For:	Cr Danny Chamberlain, Cr Libby Hall, Cr Danny Lowe, Cr Ron Mildren, Cr Kev Poulton, Cr Olga Quilty and Cr Graeme Simpfendorfer
Against:	Nil

8 Reports for noting

8.1 Works-in-Kind Agreements

MOTION

Cr Kev Poulton / Cr Danny Chamberlain

That the report on Works-in-kind agreements be received and noted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

For:	Cr Danny Chamberlain, Cr Libby Hall, Cr Danny Lowe, Cr Ron Mildren, Cr Kev Poulton, Cr Olga Quilty and Cr Graeme Simpfendorfer
Against:	Nil

8.2 Australia Day Advisory Committee Meeting

MOTION

Cr Kev Poulton / Cr Danny Lowe

That:

1. The report from the Australia Day Advisory Committee be received and noted; and

2. The Mayor involve the Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year at council events and functions throughout the year, as appropriate.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

For:	Cr Danny Chamberlain, Cr Libby Hall, Cr Danny Lowe, Cr Ron Mildren, Cr Kev Poulton, Cr Olga Quilty and Cr Graeme Simpfendorfer
Against:	Nil

8.3 Place Names Advisory Committee Minutes - October 2022

MOTION

Cr Danny Lowe / Cr Danny Chamberlain

That the report from the Place Names Advisory Committee be received and noted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

For:	Cr Danny Chamberlain, Cr Libby Hall, Cr Danny Lowe, Cr Ron Mildren, Cr Kev Poulton, Cr Olga Quilty and Cr Graeme Simpfendorfer
Against:	Nil

9 Reports for information

9.1 Two Cities One Community 2022-2023 progress update

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

9.2 Council Plan progress report

FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

9.3 Decisions register

FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

9.4 Record of councillor meetings

FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

Addendum: It was noted that Cr Chamberlain attended the entire Councillor briefing on March 6, 2023, whereas the Record of councillor meetings incorrectly showed him leaving at noon.

10 Notices of motion

10.1 Delegated Committee - key projects and advocacy

MOTION

Cr Olga Quilty / Cr Danny Lowe

1. That the Key Projects and Advocacy Committee (the Committee) be established with an appropriate authority to act.
2. The Committee is comprised of all the Councillors.
3. The purpose of the Committee is to undertake strategic assessment and advocacy in respect of Albury – Wodonga Hospital
4. The Council will request the staff to draft a suitable instrument of delegation to the Committee for the approval of the Council.
5. The Committee may engage external experts where necessary, as determined by the Council.
6. The Committee may invite community representatives and other external stakeholders to address the Committee during a meeting.

LOST 2 / 5

For:	Cr Libby Hall and Cr Olga Quilty
Against:	Cr Danny Chamberlain, Cr Danny Lowe, Cr Ron Mildren, Cr Kev Poulton and Cr Graeme Simpfendorfer

11 Petitions

There were no Petitions submitted.

12 General business

Cr Simpfendorfer
Attended a Business Women Albury Wodonga event and commended the group for its outstanding work. He also wanted to alleviate any concerns some people had with his attendance not being acknowledged – he pointed out that he had attended the event in a private capacity and not as a councillor.

Cr Chamberlain
Attended the launch of the expanded RACV Wodonga store and noted the significant expansion in employment numbers.
Attended the Chryslers on the Murray event, March 17 to 19, 2023.

Cr Lowe
Attended the Chryslers on the Murray event, March 17 to 19, 2023.
Also at the adjacent venue the Albury Wodonga Waterski Club hosted the Aussie Kiwi Waterski Challenge, under 21 team event.

Cr Mildren
Attended the Chryslers on the Murray event, March 17 to 19, 2023.
Attended the Wodonga Jobs Expo, March 16, 2023

13 Urgent business

PROCEDURAL MOTION

Cr Kev Poulton

That following the presentation at item 5 by Dr Phillip Steele, an item of urgent business to address health and hospital services be considered.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

For:	Cr Danny Chamberlain, Cr Libby Hall, Cr Danny Lowe, Cr Ron Mildren, Cr Kev Poulton, Cr Olga Quilty and Cr Graeme Simpfendorfer
Against:	Nil

MOTION

Cr Danny Chamberlain / Cr Kev Poulton

That Council:

1. Endorse the ongoing acts of the previous resolutions of Council at the February 20, 2023 council meeting in relation to hospital advocacy;
2. Call for expressions of interest from community members to address council;
3. Continue to advocate for a greenfield hospital for Albury Wodonga; and
4. Call special meetings of council as required.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 / 0

For:	Cr Danny Chamberlain, Cr Libby Hall, Cr Danny Lowe, Cr Ron Mildren, Cr Kev Poulton, Cr Olga Quilty and Cr Graeme Simpfendorfer
Against:	Nil

14 Confidential business

There was no confidential business.

15 Confidential urgent business

There was no confidential urgent business.

16 Close of meeting

16.1 Chairperson to close the meeting

Next scheduled meeting of council: 6pm on Monday, April 17, 2023.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Minutes confirmed this …… day of …….. 2023.

…….
Chairperson

5 Question time

Question time at council meetings is conducted in accordance with Rule 62 of the Meeting Procedure Chapter of the *Governance Rules.*

6 Delegates reports

Nil

7 Reports for determination

7.1 Draft Budget 2023-2024 - Community feedback

PURPOSE

To provide council with the community feedback from the consultation to inform the Draft Budget 2023-2024 and determine inclusions for the development of the draft budget.

SUMMARY

In February and March this year, the council undertook a community consultation to engage the community in providing feedback to inform the development of a draft budget.

More than 200 people got involved during the consultation with more than 100 items of feedback and requests presented for consideration in developing the budget.

The feedback has been considered by staff and workshopped by councillors.

Following this phase of the consultation, inclusions are being determined for the development of the Draft Budget 2023-2024 which will be presented to the community for further feedback in May.

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. The report on the community feedback be received and noted;
2. The items noted for ongoing advocacy be supported; and,
3. The budget expenditure be increased by $91,000 to incorporate the following:
   a. $50,000 for the planning required for the removal of pine trees in Lawrence St outside the Wodonga Tennis Centre
   b. $20,000 for the Business Wodonga job expos
   c. $10,000 to support Business Wodonga's Digital Literacy Program
   d. $11,000 for Albury Wodonga Ethnic Community Council's Harmony Day and Refugee Week events.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Phase 1 - Draft Budget 2023-2024 Feedback Report [**7.1.1** - 40 pages]
2. Community feedback with responses [**7.1.2** - 11 pages]

DISCUSSION

In 2022, we started the budget conversation early so that we could hear what the community thinks should be prioritised in the budget.

This is the second year we have undertaken the consultation this way.

The feedback received from the community is to inform the draft budget, which will be then taken back to the community for further feedback.

Feedback was received in-person at pop-ups, online, through social media and through submissions.

All feedback is included in the feedback report at Attachment 1.

Formal submissions are outlined in this report in accordance with our Community Engagement Policy.

Specific items taken into consideration are stepped out in Attachment 2. Some items were already part of the long-term financial plan. This is noted in the funding options column.

The top six areas of feedback are noted below following the feedback being themed based on business areas and then each piece of feedback tallied to show the most prominent areas of community interest.

1. Road intersection safety - Public safety concerns leading to suggested upgrade of nine different intersections (raised by 13 people)
2. Waste management - Increased promotion of green bag use and recycling, additional public bins near fast food outlets, reinstate the annual hard rubbish collection, weekly bin collection, reduced waste costs (raised by 11 people)
3. Road maintenance - Improved monitoring and maintenance of roads, particularly after heavy rainfall and flooding (raised by 10 people)
3. Culture and events - more funding for live music and community events, a museum and more things for children such as a cinema, bowling, skating (raised by 10 people)
4. Economic development - greater support for business community and financial support for Business Wodonga (raised by 7 people)
5. Bike path network - proposed extensions, additional connections and call for increased maintenance (raised by 6 people)
6. Accessibility - Additional changing places throughout the city (raised by 5 people)

There were 11 formal submissions. These are summarised in the table below. The full submissions are included in the attached report.

Submitter	Officer response
John McLeish Various requests including a zero rate rise, freeze of staff wages, a stop to the social engineering of the climate issue,	Points considered as part of development of draft budget 2023-2024. Decisions on any rate rise will be part of the presentation of the draft budget in

reduction of council debt, stop to spending on High St landscape, bus service connecting to train station, Pearce St bike lane review and community engagement suggestion.	May. **Officers recommend no change to proposed 2023-2024 budget**
Ron Finemore Transport Requests a commitment of $255,00 from council for the cost of traffic signals in the establishment of a proposed rear exit road which would reduce the number of vehicles accessing Melbourne Rd by about 105 vehicles per day.	Refers to a VicRoads Road. Developer has purchased land to construct road but the private entrance is on a VicRoads declared road. **Officers recommend no change to proposed 2023-2024 budget**
Wodonga Tennis Centre Priority needs requested for consideration including removal of Lawrence St trees, fencing renewal, lighting upgrade and building rewiring and surfacing renewal/replacement	The pine trees sit outside Wodonga Tennis Centre lease area. The tree removal is identified in the Kelly Park Masterplan. Consultation should be undertaken with the community, surrounding residents and users of the Wodonga Tennis Centre to fully inform any decision on the tree removal. Following that consultation, planning and design work would be required which would inform the capital budget request. Council could consider a partnership application with WTC and Tennis Australia to apply for the Community Safety Fund in 2023-24 for the fencing renewal if the project is deemed eligible to the fund guidelines. The lighting upgrade is not identified in the Kelly Park Masterplan (2018). Under the terms of the lease lighting replacement is the responsibility of the tenant. Electrical assessment has been undertaken and full building rewiring is not required. It have been recommended that the electrical loads on the servers been distributed more evenly and the power board upgraded. Not currently budgeted but could be considered for building renewal works if the budget allows this financial year. The synthetic courts were determined as nearing end of life in a review conducted by Tennis Victoria 2019. This report suggested they be replaced in the next three years. As identified in the review by Tennis Victoria in 2019, the resurfacing works for the plexipave courts have been broken up

	across two financial years to spread to cost and minimise disruptions to tennis programs and events. **Officers recommend increasing the operating expenditure by $50,000 to proposed 2023-2024 budget for the planning required for the removal of the pine trees and the synthetic courts with allocations in the long-term capital plan for works and reaffirm the resurfacing for the plexipave in the long-term financial plan.**
Wodonga Cemetery Trust Requesting $20,000 for storage of a golf cart which will be used to improve accessibility and safety	The cemetery trust is a state-incorporated body. This request would be better suited to a Communty Infrastructure Grant. **Officers recommend no change to proposed 2023-2024 budget**
Business Wodonga Support for biannual jobs expo through $10,000 to support hire of venue as well as $12,000 for a project management fee.	The two previous expos have been reasonably successful and supported by industry. Recommendation to continue support at previous level of $10,000 per expo. **Officers recommend increasing the operating expenditure by $20,000 to proposed 2023-2024 budget**
Business Wodonga Seeking financial support for a digital literacy program providing participants with workshops, a website (if they do not already have one), hosting for 12 months and the Microsoft 365 product for 12 months. Program would cover about 30 participants.	Assumption that budget request represents total cost of program, it is suggested there is the potential to provide an allocation to support a grant application from Business Wodonga to the Victorian Government. **Officers recommend increasing the operating expenditure by $10,000 to proposed 2023-2024 budget**
Startup Shakeup Seeking financial and in kind support from council to support the development of innovation potential of business in the region	This request reflects previous seed funding provided through grant funding council received. However, there are no clear outcomes for Wodonga and the previous performance and outcomes from past financial support have not been made clear. **Officers recommend no change to proposed 2023-2024 budget**
Albury Wodonga Ethnic Community Council Seeking continued support from council of $11,000 per year to facilitate two annual events (Harmony Day and Refugee Day celebrations) as a way of supporting multiculturalism in Wodonga and providing an opportunity for different communities to share their	Harmony Day recognises the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Refugee Week provide opportunity to celebrate the positive contributions of refugees to Australian society The event supports engagement and inclusion of the multicultural community and the council has previously supported this event financially.

cultures	Wodonga is a Refugee Welcome Zone and 11.3 per cent of Wodonga residents were born overseas. The request aligns with community feedback for more festivals and events. **Officers recommend increasing the operating expenditure by $11,000 to proposed 2023-2024 budget and putting an MOU in place.**
Wendy McInnes Submission covered storm drainage as a very large issue that needs to be addressed, especially in the old areas of Wodonga central. Infrastructure on our local roads and bridges needs to be constantly monitored and maintained. She feels that there should be larger support to the business community of Wodonga and the local surrounds. This would be inclusive of existing establishments as well as new ventures coming to the area. This support could also be inclusive to the assist and support of any existing support bases that currently provide this service.	Infrastructure renewal is part of the capital and operational budgets with our asset renewal fully funded. The council undertakes a range of activities in economic development, marketing and event attraction that supports our local economy. Requests from Business Wodonga are dealt with separately in this report. **Officers recommend no change to proposed 2023-2024 budget**
Greg Haysom Submission noted part of a successful city is its business community and historically we have had great support from local business groups like Business Wodonga. Would like to see council budget more to support this group, as council use it to promote to new businesses how strong our business community is, when luring businesses to Wodonga.	The council undertakes a range of activities in economic development, marketing and event attraction that supports our local economy. Requests from Business Wodonga are dealt with separately in this report. **Officers recommend no change to proposed 2023-2024 budget**
Chris Phillips Suggested that council stop wasting money on libraries/cube and spend more time distributing this money on the community programmes. Planning enforcement officer as there is a lack of enforcement.	Cultural services such as libraries, galleries and performing arts centres contribute to the liveability of our city and make it attractive to new businesses and residents, further enhancing the local economy. These venues host a range of community programs along with our community centres and council-run and sponsored events. **An internal review is being undertaken into the council's enforcement activities.**
Murray Geddes Extensive submission on the role and impact of the budget and the need to	The budget is prepared in line with best-practice guidelines provided by the Victorian Government. The budget, along with the Council Plan, is part of the

link the budget activity and data more closely to the dynamics and collaborations of our community, economy and ecosystem.	council's integrated planning framework. Strategic indicators and various data touchpoints are reported on through the government's Local Government Performance Reporting Framework. **Officers recommend no change to proposed 2023-2024 budget**

Persons whose rights will be directly affected by this decision

There are no people whose rights will be directly affected, however, decisions around the budget have an indirect effect on the whole community.

RELEVANT LAW

This report is providing a summary of the draft 2023-2024 budget community feedback following the process conducted under the council's *Community Engagement Policy*, as required by section 96 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

N/A

OPTIONS

Option 1 – Accept recommendations and incorporate all community submissions

The council can accept the officer's recommendation in full, funding the requests of $91,000 that came through the community feedback.

The first stage of the budget consultation is the opportunity for the community to share feedback on their priorities and ideas for the city. This is in line with our *Community Engagement Policy* which allows the community the opportunity to influence decision-making and outcomes.

The community will have a further opportunity to provide feedback on the presentation of the draft budget.

The requests can be fiscally accommodated in the development of the draft budget.

This is the recommended option.

Option 2 – Accept some or different community submissions

The council can decide to accept some of the community submissions listed in the recommendation and choose different items from the feedback detailed in Attachment 2.

The community has provided extensive and constructive feedback during the consultation process and it is important to consider their priorities in guiding the direction of the development of the draft budget.

The community will have a further opportunity to provide feedback on the presentation of the draft budget.

It is considered that community requests can be accommodated in the development of the draft budget.

Option 3 – Resolve to not approve any community submissions

The council can consider that any increase in operating expenditure would not be prudent for this draft budget, recognising inflationary pressure on the council and the community.

It is important to recognise the time and effort the community has taken to provide their feedback and to consider this in not moving ahead with any of the requests put forward.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The annual budget is compiled in conjunction with the 10-year Financial Plan, which is essential to providing economic sustainability for the council over the long term. All submissions have been considered in relation to the impact on the Financial Plan.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

There was an extensive community consultation undertaken over six weeks with multiple ways to engage and provide feedback.

The activities and measures of this process are outlined in the feedback report at Attachment 1.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The council is continually exploring new ways and means for engaging with our community in ways that are timely, inclusive and accessible.

Following the inaugural process in 2022, changes and refinements were made and learnings acted upon.

Through each consultation, staff seek opportunities to revise, modify and improve engagement processes and we expect further improvements in future years.

COLLABORATION

Engaging the community early to provide feedback on their ideas and priorities for the draft budget provides an opportunity for the community to be involved and influence the development of the budget.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The council is to determine which community submissions will be accepted as part of the operating budget and the operating expenditure will vary in accordance with the submissions accepted.

If the officers' recommendations are accepted in full there will be an increase in operating expenditure in the 2023-2024 budget of $91,000.

This expenditure has been reviewed and assessed as being a financially viable option for the council.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

COUNCIL PLAN AND POLICIES

Strategic objective
Provide transparent governance and strong leadership, demonstrating excellence in the way we do business by being innovative and responsive.
Strategy
Undertake responsible financial management and budgeting to ensure financial sustainability.

Strategic objective
Create a welcoming and inclusive city for people of all backgrounds, ages and abilities that is well-connected, which supports people to meet, participate and move safely and access services and opportunities they need.

Strategy
Build a connected and inclusive community that has access to information and the opportunity to engage.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There have been no conflict of interest declarations by the following officers involved with the preparation of this report:

Manager Communications, Marketing and Customer Focus - Kellie Davies
Deputy CEO - Debra Mudra

CITY OF WODONGA VIC

FEEDBACK REPORT

Priorities for the 2023-2024 budget

Community engagement January 31 to March 6, 2023



Wodonga Council acknowledges the traditional owners of this land on which we stand and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and future, for they hold the memories, the tradition and the culture of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

DATA SOURCES

The data sources in this document come from the following unless otherwise stated.

- Google Analytics
- Campaign Monitor insights
- Social media insights
- Media monitoring
- Survey monkey results

INTRODUCTION

Following success in 2022, we again started the budget conversation early so that we could hear what the community thinks should be prioritised in the budget.

The feedback received from the community will inform a draft budget, which will be then taken back to the community for further feedback.

Community members have two opportunities to give input and feedback on the budget for 2023 to 2024.

We asked people:

- What do you think the priorities should be in Wodonga's budget for 2023 to 2024; and,
- What are your ideas for Wodonga?

Our objectives

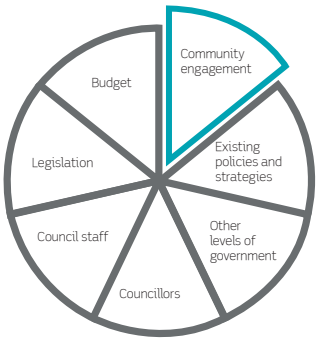
- To better inform the draft budget, get feedback from as many people as possible about what they would like to see prioritised; and,
- Grow awareness of opportunities to get involved in the budget process.

"Thank you for asking for consultation."

More than 200 people got involved

How the budget is developed

- Community Consultation
- Council Plan 2021-2025
- Annual Action Plans



Community engagement is not the sole determinant in a decision-making process. There are many other stakeholders and factors that need to be taken into consideration. Some of these are shown in the chart pictured.

DECEMBER 2022

Council staff commence the budget process for the following year. Draft budgets are aligned to 2021-2025 Council Plan requirements and are also compared to the previous financial year, the current year-to-date, with detailed explanations and breakdowns for each line item in their business unit's budget.

FEBRUARY-MARCH 2023

Community consultation undertaken to inform the council of the community's priorities to inform the building of the draft budget for 2023-2024. This feedback forms the basis of this report and was provided to councillors as part of budget workshops.

MARCH TO APRIL 2023

The councillors undertake a series of workshops to determine the draft budget that is presented to the May meeting and is endorsed to go out to the community for a 28 day exhibition period. At the end of this period, a special meeting will be held for submitters requesting to be heard.

MAY 2023

The draft budget is presented to a council meeting to be endorsed for public exhibition and for community feedback.

JUNE 2023

Councillors consider the feedback and the budget is presented to the June council meeting for adoption.

HOW PEOPLE GOT INVOLVED



68 people had their say at the pop-ups

POP-UPS

- 22 people had their say at Albury Wodonga Farmers Market (Saturday, February 4, 8am to 12pm)
- 11 people had their say at Killara, opposite the Piccolo Pod in Riverside Blvd (Wednesday, February 8, 8am to 10am)
- 13 people had their say at Whitebox Rise Shopping Centre (Thursday, February 9, 2.30pm to 4.30pm)
- 9 people had their say at Mann Central shopping centre (Monday, February 13, 12pm to 2pm)
- 13 people had their say at IGA Baranduda (Saturday, February 25, 9am to 11am)



22 people attended the meetings

MEETINGS WITH GROUPS

- Staff met with members of the Access Advisory Group on January 31, 2023.
- Wodonga Council Mayor and CEO met with Cypress Court residents



115 people had their say online

ONLINE

On the Make Wodonga Yours website, people could choose a range of ways to have their say including filling out a survey, sending a formal submission or a community group submission.

	33 people did a survey
	57 individuals made comments on social media
	15 people emailed Make Wodonga Yours
	10 people used the online form
	12 submissions were formal submissions

81% of survey and online form respondents had not made a submission to the budget before

HOW WE PROMOTED THE OPPORTUNITY

MEDIA

1 media opportunity

1 newspaper report

2 TV news reports

2 radio reports

ADVERTISING

88 ad spots on AM and FM radio

4 public notices

2 social media campaigns

ONLINE CHANNELS

7705 emails sent*

49.6% average open rate

51 click-throughs

13 Facebook posts

30491 reach

94 likes and reactions

7 Instagram posts

1785 reach

34 likes and reactions

1 LinkedIn post

473 unique impressions

274 video views

11 likes

344 page views to Make Wodonga Yours

266 unique page views

THIRD PARTY CHANNELS

The Draft Budget 2023-2024 consultation and the opportunity for community to have their say was promoted in third party channels including the Business Wodonga newsletter.

Emails included:

- Community Conversations;
- CityLife;
- Active News;
- Invitations to community groups to arrange a meeting or make a submission;
- Reminders to community groups

WHAT DID WE HEAR?

ONLINE SURVEY

Survey respondents would like to see prioritised in order:

1. Roads, parks and gardens
2. Capital works
3. Family services
4. Planning and infrastructure
5. Environmental and waste
6. Community services and engagement
7. Arts culture and events

Drilling down within capital works, people ranked in the following order of importance:

1. Roads
2. Footpaths and bike paths
3. (equal) Drainage and kerbs and Parks, open space and streetscapes
4. (equal) Events and community activities and Recreational, leisure and community facilities
5. Waste management
6. Sustainability initiatives
7. Buildings
8. Bridges
9. Technology

Top 3 key matters raised by multiple people.

- Council funding of the Valley Views Estate development plan (6 people)
- Road safety highlighting the need for increased maintenance efforts, an intersection upgrade and planning for future growth (6 people).
  Intersection upgrade suggested by one person was Kiewa Valley Hwy/ John Schubert drive/John Boyes Drive Baranduda
- Waste management - reduce management costs, reinstate hard waste collection, weekly recycling collection and a larger red bin collected weekly as standard (4 people)

21 survey respondents signed up to receive updates on this consultation

SOCIAL MEDIA

Top matters, raised by multiple people

- Recreational events and facilities - Skate park like Albury, more for young people, cinema, playground improvements, water park, extended bike tracks and trails (raised by 6 people)
- Waste management - bin system and hard waste rubbish collection (raised by 4 people)
- Road maintenance and repair (raised by 3 people)
- Animal management - Wodonga dog pound (raised by 2 people)
- Removal of Mars Petcare due to odour (raised by 2 people)

WHAT DID WE HEAR?

FORMAL SUBMISSIONS

- Wendy McInnes believes that storm drainage is a very large issue that needs to be addressed, especially in the old areas of Wodonga central. Infrastructure on our local roads and bridges needs to be constantly monitored and maintained.
  She feels that there should be larger support to the business community of Wodonga and the local surrounds. This would be inclusive of existing establishments as well as new ventures coming to the area. This support could also be inclusive to the assist and support of any existing support bases that currently provide this service.

- Greg Haysom notes that part of a successful city is it's business community and historically we have had great support from local business groups like Business Wodonga. It came as a great surprise to Greg when Council cut funding to this organisation.
  Greg and many local businesses would like to see Council budget more to support this group, as council use it to promote to new businesses how strong our business community is, when luring businesses to Wodonga.
  Business Wodonga is doing great chasing up it's own funding, but a STRONG support package is still required from Council to make us stronger. Albury does it for it's businesses, why not Wodonga?

- Chris Phillips suggested that council stop wasting money on libraries/cube and spend more time distributing this money on the community programmes. Planning enforcement officer as there is a lack of enforcement.

- John McLeish requests a zero rate rise, freeze of staff wages, a stop to the social engineering of the climate issue, reduction of council debt, stop to spending on High St landscape, bus service connecting to train station, Pearce St bike lane review and community engagement suggestion (see appendix 1, page 16).

- Ron Finemore Transport is requesting a commitment of $255,00 from council for the cost of traffic signals in the establishment of a proposed rear exit road which would reduce the number of vehicles accessing Melbourne Rd by approximately 105 vehicles per day (see appendix 2, page 18).

- List of priority needs from Wodonga Tennis Centre for consideration including removal of Lawrence St trees, fencing renewal, lighting upgrade and building rewiring and surfacing renewal/replacement (see appendix 3, page 20).

- Proposal for a shed at Wodonga Cemetery for storage of a golf cart which will be used to improve accessibility and safety (see appendix 4, page 24).

- Business Wodonga is seeking financial support for a digital literacy program and a series of Job Expos to support businesses and job seekers (see appendix 5, page 25 and appendix 6, page 26).

- Partnership proposal from Startup Shakeup seeking financial and in kind support from council to support the development of innovation potential of business in the region (see appendix 7, page 28).

- Albury-Wodonga Ethnic Communities Council is seeking continued support from council of $11,000 per year to facilitate two annual events (Harmony Day and Refugee Day celebrations) as a way of supporting multiculturalism in Wodonga and providing an opportunity for different communities to share their cultures (see appendix 9, page 37).

WHAT DID WE HEAR?

- Suggestion from Murray Geddes that the council budget should be linked more closely to the dynamics and collaborations of our community, economy and ecosystem (see appendix 10, page 38).

EMAILS TO MAKE WODONGA YOURS

- I believe it is vital that we increase the number of green spaces. I also believe that all our nature strips need to be greened with as big a trees as practicable. I walk down the streets around Chenery St and am very aware of missing trees. Perhaps there could be two trees per block. This would have the effect of cooling the temperature under the trees and be great to help prevent global warming.
  There is a great piece of land in a flood plain off Huon Creek Road that I used to call the "horse paddock" that could make for a wonderful treed road parkland.
  I implore the council to increase the number of green spaces and to increase tree planting.
- Install traffic lights at the roundabout at Melbourne Road and Melrose Drive Wodonga. Install traffic lights at Anzac Parade and Kiewa Valley highway intersection. These are both very dangerous high traffic areas that need to be made safer.
- Killara requires a community centre to provide similar services as Baranduda and Felttimber community centres. Such as host maternal and child health services, immunisation clinics as well as a large variety of community events and activities.
  As the funding for this building has been captured through developer contributions , it makes sense to build this facility sooner rather than pay more into the future. I understand conversations have started around this topic but I believe the community deserves more and it needs to be noted that it's a conversation in the community that needs to be heard.
- I would like to propose a set of lights, for the safe crossing of Lawrence street, between Mayfair Drive and Dundee Street. Safety is an issue for pedestrians and the users of mobility scooters. As a school bus driver and a resident of West Wodonga, I think a safe crossing in this area would assist young and old, taking them away from an already busy roundabout.
  Thank you for your time.
- With the ever expanding Avalon Park in Baranduda already approaching half developed, the traffic exiting the estate is now becoming significant, particularly in the morning and school times in the afternoon.
  Traffic is exiting the estate at times without stopping, dangerously turning right and often going straight ahead into John Schubert Drive. This junction is awaiting another serious accident.
  I think traffic lights would be overkill and slow traffic down in quiet times and difficult in getting sequencing and timing commensurate with good traffic flow. I believe a large roundabout would allow better filtering of traffic and not be constricting to traffic flow at quiet times.
  With Avalon Park estate only half built and the only practical exit out of the estate being Glenwood Boulevard, I believe a roundabout project needs urgent consideration before traffic build up grows with house numbers and daily makes this project a more difficult exercise.
  I feel council should inconspicuously view this junction between 8.30am and 9.00 on and school weekday and count the near misses of a few resident playing Russian Roulette to get out of the estate

WHAT DID WE HEAR?

POP-UPS

Albury Wodonga Farmers Market

- Parking bays in Lawrence St east, indented parking from Havelock to Anne St - the pipes keep cracking as people drive over them. Poor design, needs to be looked at. It has been repaired in March and August 2022.
- Knock down the pine trees in Lawrence St
- Lawrence St bridge is poorly designed, you can't turn right and the railing obstructs your view
- The cycle lane on Victoria Cross Pde is unusable. It is dirty and needs to be regularly swept
- Would like to see a zero rate rise. Surrounding councils rates are half the price. You should reduce staff wages
- Proper shopping centre at Baranduda
- More music facilities and funding for music programs

Whitebx Rise Shopping Centre

- Focus on promoting better use of green bags and recycling of soft plastic
- Better link bicycle paths. Eg - Bandiana link the path ends and doesn't go anywhere, potential to connect to local paths or extend along Bandiana Link to connect to rail trail
- More public bins a block or two from fast food outlets (eg Opposite Bunnings or on Chapple St) to reduce littering
- Direct debit rates
- Second hospital
- Build a dump point

More stuff for kids - Bowling, movies and skating

Killara

- More playgroups
- Second entrance at Killara (raised by 3 people)
- Community Centre in Killara (raised by 3 people)
- More dog parks in different areas
- Rollerblading/Iceskating rink
- Do something about Whytes Rd, creates a lot of dust for residents. Young people in utes race up and down the road given it's dirt. It's a concern
- Review the traffic flow in the CBA eg High/Elgin, Hume/Elgin and Smythe/Elgin
- Extension of indoor pool to 50m (WSLC). Land is there and available and the original intent was to extend.
- Tap to community gardens in Killara
- Support businesses to collaborate and put on live music and small events. Eg Pub in Junction having live music outside
- Budget spread between all suburbs not just Wodonga.
- Gifting rates to charities NOT MANDATED (re Community Grants Program)
- Garden and grass maintenance of side walks and gutters - how many street sweepers do we have? Killara needs more Street sweeping needed at least every 2-3 months in all streets not just a select few in Killara.
- Extend the 25m pool at the leisure centre
- Bus service Killara (There is none, problem for the elderly and teenagers can't get to the pool etc) (raised by 2 people)
- Better public information of events ie. I was informed by a resident of this public forum
- More council public partnership with events eg clean up vic, landcare tree planting, wildlife vic, market and entertainment, council bbq can go to events and involve volunteers

Mann Central

- History of stockman/cattle in Wodonga, nod to sale yards. The cut-outs were a perfect opportunity. Encouraged awareness of From The Gulf Poem by William Henry Ogilvie

WHAT DID WE HEAR?

- New changing place at Willow Park area
- Update facilities at WSLC
  Community Grants should be kept.
  Community should have access to it.
- More community events
- Request for a tree planting freeze - $400K annually means 2.5M saved over 5 years
- Ash trees at the water tower roundabout - why were the trees planted - any community consultation? Trees are semi-permanent. Height restrictions on these trees? 13m- 42 feet when full grown. Will be too big for that area.
  Would like to see the Councillors to inspect the site.
- Removal of tree vegetation officer who does rural and semi-rural road. They show no common sense, zero wild fire fuel load understanding on rural and semi-rural land and more improved communication required

Baranduda

- Voiced concerns of gates at either end of Jack Perry reserve and regularly uses the walking track and cannot get her bike through the gates easily. Due to not being cattle grazing yards and now zoned as industrial, she is requesting these gates be removed, or replaced with a larger gate more accommodating to bikes.
- Would be good to see a Vic Roads standard green speed limit sign with flashing lights placed on Baranduda Blvd where the road becomes a 60km zone near Westmont. People don't pay attention to the sign that is there and regularly speed past.
- Whytes Road needs repair, there are so many depressions and pot holes.
- Wodonga needs a Visitor information centre with toilets and coffee
- We need more long vehicle parking
- Helsinger Ave; Could someone look at putting in a speed hump of how to relieve congestion at this corner? Narrow streets, too many cars parked near the corner and buses are an accident waiting to happen

ONLINE FORM SUBMISSIONS

- Another changing place in West Wodonga near willow Park would be good since the Junction square area is getting one for Central Wodonga. The Wodonga sports and leisure centre needs money spent on it. The change rooms are terrible. Need an adult change table and hoist would be great too
- A sealed footpath along Beechworth road all the way to streets road would be ideal as the current link is gravel and not great.
- Homes - for homeless, women's and teen shelter refuge.
- Following the recent heavy rainfall, the underling condition of Wodonga's roads has been exposed, with pot- holes right across the network. Many of these roads need to be rebuilt, not just patched up (raised by 2 people)
- Support for the business community is very important. It has been through a pandemic, remains heavily impacted by labour shortages, supply chain issues, rising expenses, including increased borrowing costs. Business Wodonga needs Council to support it so that it is able to continue to be there for those business owners who rely upon it for all kinds of support.

WHAT DID WE HEAR?

MEETINGS WITH GROUPS

- We need a labrinth to support psychological and mental health.
  Strolling through a labrinth can help you feel the relaxation response, which is the opposite of the stress "fight or flight" state, says Hubert Benson, MD, founder of the Benson-Henry Institute for Mind Body Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital and author of Relaxation Revolution.
  More than 30 years of research shows that the relaxation response brings slower breathing, a slower heart rate and lower blood pressure, among other things Benson says.
  Lorelei King, RN, former director of surgery at Mercy Hospital in Grayling, MI, says she's seen first-hand the impact of patients who walk the hospitals labrinth. *"You can visually see them relax. Afterward, when I take their pulse, it's often slowed down dramatically. I've also had many patients tell me that their pain has decreased after walking the labrinth."*
- Would be good to see the Wodonga Sports and Leisure Centre facilities updated so they are more accessible
- We need changing places in different areas of Wodonga.
- It was a great opportunity for the residents affected by the recent November flood to demonstrate the levels involved and the water pathway around the pond that eventually swirled into the back fences and then into the yards, garages and sheds.
  We do hope you now have an understanding of the seriousness of the issue and the constant concern residents feel with each major flood event.
  In addition we did appreciate you sharing the concept plan for the Les Stone Park flood levy to be funded by the following: detailed planning and cultural awareness in the 23/24 budget, construction in the 24/25 budget.
  We understand that the project has not been locked into those budgets at the present time and that the Cypress Court residents will need to provide continued submissions to Council to keep the project at a priority level.
  This we will do both collectively and individually

"A second and third changing places within Wodonga would be helpful. Having one planned in the centre of town is great, but we need more in multiple locations around the city as one location for accessible changing is not enough and you cannot always travel from one side of the city to another when a person requires changing"

"Wodonga has a great network of bike tracks which I enjoy using. With the growth we have seen on the eastern side if town I would love to see a safe connection to the track that finishes on the Link road"

WHAT DID WE HEAR?

TOP 6

Community feedback was themed based on business areas and then each piece of feedback tallied to show the most prominent areas of community interest. The top six areas of feedback are noted below.

1. Road intersection safety - Public safety concerns leading to suggested upgrade of nine different intersections (raised by 13 people)

2. Waste management - Increased promotion of green bag use and recycling, additional public bins near fast food outlets, reinstate the annual hard rubbish collection, weekly bin collection, reduced waste costs (raised by 11 people)

3. [Equal]
Road maintenance - Improved monitoring and maintenance of roads, particularly after heavy rainfall and flooding (raised by 10 people)
Culture and events - more funding for live music and community events, a museum and more things for children such as a cinema, bowling, skating (raised by 10 people)

4. Economic development - greater support for business community and financial support for Business Wodonga (raised by 7 people)

5. Bike path network - proposed extensions, additional connections and call for increased maintenance (raised by 6 people)

6. Accessibility - Additional changing places throughout the city (raised by 5 people)

"Support businesses to collaborate and put on live music and small events"





APPENDIX

1. John McLeish (page 16)
2. Ron Finemore (page 18)
3. Wodonga Tennis Centre (page 20)
4. Wodonga Cemetery Trust (page 24)
5. Business Wodonga: Jobs Expo (page 25)
6. Business Wodonga: Digital Literacy Program (page 26)
7. Startup Shakeup (page 28)
8. Albury Wodonga Ethnic Community Council (page 36)
9. Murray Geddes (page 37)

APPENDIX 1 - JOHN MCLEISH

Hello,

I am requesting the following items be taken into account when the new Wodonga Council budget is established.

1. A zero rate rise due to the present economic conditions. Our rates are much higher than most other regional councils and approximately twice that of multi million dollar properties in Kew and Toorak. Many Wodonga ratepayers are struggling to pay their mortgages and put food on the table.

2. Freeze staff wages. Or at least give employees the option to accept the pay freeze.

Rational; All Council staff received wages and pay rises throughout the covid pandemic. Those workers in the private sector, the majority of Wodonga ratepayers, lost their incomes, faced financial ruin if they were running a small business, endured financial and mental hardships. It wage freeze would help reduce any rate rise.

The average Council wage is approximately $109,000. This is close to twice the income of the average hourly rate of workers in Wodonga, in Q4 2022 it was $26.19 per hour.

Source; https://www.payscale.com/research/AU/Location=Wodonga-Victoria/Salary

3. Stop the social engineering on the climate issue. All reductions in Australia's Co2 levels will make absolutely no difference what so ever to the global temperature. 97% of all Co2 emissions are from natural sources. Australia is responsible for 1.3% of the remaining 3%.

The climate fear is all about money and control by unelected Marxist green leaders in the United Nations and World Economic Forum. Climate action will break Australia financially and destroy capitalism. The W.E.F. leader Klaus Schwab, recently publicly said when asked about the W.E.F. plans to save the planet; by 2030 "You will own nothing and be happy" See https://wattsupwiththat.com/

In the near future Australia is closing coal power plants that produce 4Gw. China has just announced its building 2 new coal fired power station every week for the next year. a total of 100Gw. China is building six times as much coal power as the rest of the world combined , but no-one cares. No-one complains to China.

https://joannenova.com.au/2023/02/china-approves-two-new-coal-plants-every-week-to-ensure-stability-when-renewables-fail/

The present rush to renewable transition is going to end very badly. In the last two years large solar batteries have tripled in price and are now half the capacity. With an 8 to 10 year lifespan and China owning 80% of the worlds lithium reserves there is no guarantee that replacement batteries will be available or affordable. The standby diesel generator installed at you council offices will be well used by 2030.

May 2021 Yackandandah's battery cost $200,000 plus the same amount again to bring to town, and this was only possible with government grants. .....274KwH battery total cost $400,000

This week: Energy Minister Lily D'Ambrosio announced the new 120KwH neighbourhood battery at Tarneit. Costing $1.3 Million dollars. Less than half the KwH capacity of Yackandandah's and more than 3 times the price in less than 2 years.

The new Tarneit battery will only keep the lights on for 170 homes. If every 170 homes needs a new $1.3 million dollar battery (at current prices) every 8 to years, does anyone within the Wodonga Council seriously think energy prices will decline? When the bill is due to be paid for this rushed renewable transition, it will be so large, we will not be able to pay it.

Money saved from this wasteful climate expense should be spent of ensuring new immigrants are made to feel inclusive and a proud part of Australian society. Helping them speak English and give them 100% support in local sporting activities. The recent skateboarding training for younger children was an excellent idea to help new arrivals integrate.

4. Council debt levels must continue to be driven downwards to zero and maintained at that level.

5. No more spending on the High Street landscape. If Junction Place cannot proceed without ratepayers money, sell the land to private enterprise and let the market decide its future with the Council having an input on the development applications.

6. There are many bus routes around Wodonga but none to the Wodonga Railway Station. Wodonga Railway Station must be one of the few stations in Australia with train arrivals but without a public transport link to the surrounding city? Please get a bus service there for each train arrival and departure that links to the city centre and surrounding bus routes.

7. The Pearce Street bike lane marking poles are a joke. Looking at the dozens of tyre marks on them I can only conclude countless numbers of cars have hit them.

I drive down Pearce Street regularly and never see a cyclist using the lanes. Please remove the poles. They will cause accidents.

8. To ensure genuine feedback from Wodonga residents and not a mass letter writing exercises from minority groups, (which I have witnessed taking place at a Greens Party monthly meeting) send every homeowner a prepaid Council addressed stamped envelope. Ask them to write feedback on the enclosed blank A4 paper enclosed and post it back to the Council.

Sincerely,

John McLeish

APPENDIX 2 - RON FINEMORE TRANSPORT

Proposed Traffic Improvements – Wodonga (ref: D23.10216)

I am pleased to provide the following information as requested in your letter to me dated 23 January 2023. For ease of reference, I have provided the information under the headings provided in your original letter.

Prior to doing so I would like to remind the Wodonga Council that Ron Finemore Transport (RFT) employs more than 900 employees in providing transport services regionally to deliver food, produce and fuel on behalf of our customers safely and reliably - 396 of these employees are directly employed from within the Albury/ Wodonga area. A growth of some 23% over the past five years.

Financial

Based on current estimates and information provided, the traffic signals will cost $255,000. Ron Finemore Transport will be requesting support from the Wodonga Council for this cost. To date RFT has spent $259,500 of its own funds in preparation for the exit road. This includes costs associated with legal costs and pre works required by the Cemetery Trust (inclusive of drainage, fencing and planting), excavations, groundwork, drainage works and sealing of land toward the rear of the current RFT property (previously grassed and unconsolidated land) and will further fund approximately $430,000 to install a suitable exit road.

Benefits

Based on current exit and entry points, all fleet comes into and out of Sangsters Road. For exiting trucks this requires a right-hand turn onto Melbourne Road. The prime movers and trailers then travel towards the Melbourne Road / Melrose Drive roundabout. Southbound vehicles drive through the roundabout, continue along Melbourne Road and enter onto the Hume Highway. Northbound vehicles must negotiate a right-hand turn into the roundabout to access Melrose Drive and travel onto the Hume entry point.

As the Council would no doubt be aware, Melbourne Road and the Melbourne Road / Melrose Drive roundabout are becoming increasingly busy and there are several peak periods throughout the day based on school start and finish times, start and finish times at various workplaces and general traffic flows associated with residents, business owners and other road users. Entering onto Melbourne Road from Sangsters Road is difficult for all vehicles but particularly prime mover/trailer combinations. Without an alternative exit this is currently the only viable option for our drivers.

The proposed rear exit would remove approximately 105 vehicles per day from having toaccess Melbourne Road. Northbound vehicles (approximately 33 per day) would exit at the proposed lights and travel via Melrose Drive onto the Hume Highway entry ramp without having to travel onto and through the Melbourne Road / Melrose Drive roundabout.

Southbound vehicles (approximately 72 per day) would exit the site via the proposed trafficsignals, removing risks associated with entering live roads and an entry onto Melbourne Road across traffic lanes and enter the Melbourne Road / Melrose Drive roundabout from a much safer direction.

Criticality

Having self-funded in excess of $250,000 to date for this project and, if approved, the potential for a further $430,000, Ron Finemore Transport (a family-owned private business), may decide not to proceed with this additional expenditure and the planned exit road should Wodonga Council choose not to fund the traffic signals (an investment that may well negate or defer expenditure to improve safety and traffic flows in and around the Melbourne Road/Melrose Drive roundabout).

Alternatives

Without this solution, Ron Finemore Transport cannot identify any alternative methods to safely exit the site.

Other

Ron Finemore Transport is continuing to try and arrange a time to meet with Vic Roads. Detailed traffic flows and modelling have been provided by our consultants (Trafficworks).

We have previously engaged with Mars to assess the likelihood of being able to build and use an exit road that utilised the Mars exit lights. This was not an option based on Mars needed all of their land and roadways to cater for potential future expansion plans. It is envisaged and has been discussed with Vic Roads that any future exit road traffic signals would be operated in conjunction with the Mars traffic signals to facilitate traffic flows and safety for both exit roads. Vic Roads has not offered up any financial support.

Based on the current risks and hazards, subject to final approvals and funding, Ron Finemore Transport would plan to commence initial work on the exit road during Q4 of the 2023 calendar and finalise the work not later than June 2024. Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information and/or clarification.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Parry

Managing Director

APPENDIX 3 - WODONGA TENNIS CENTRE

I am Secretary of the Wodonga Tennis Centre. We have just completed 13 days straight of tournament tennis. At the recent Australian Under 12 and Under 14 tennis championships held at the Centre I met with councillor Ron Mildren and Mr. Bill Tilley. They were both excited at the prospect of Wodonga hosting the national event again next year, and suggested I document our priority needs as far as managing the Wodonga Council asset. Some of these will already be on Council's future budget considerations.

1. Tree removal along Lawrence Street. This is our biggest priority and requires immediate action.
    a. The trees were proposed for removal under the 2019-2020 draft council budget under the "Lawrence Street Works" project.
    b. The trees cause a considerable impact on the Tennis Centre curator, as time is taken up each day with pine needle/cone/chip removal from courts as well as the impact of the trees drawing water away from the grass courts. Council pay an annual $5000 to the Tennis Centre to account for some of this time. The impact includes:
        i. 3 hours are spent by the curator each morning before play to remove pine cones, needles and chips from the courts.
        ii. 50-100 cockatoos inhabit the trees and are creating a mess with dropping cones and generating chips. The same birds have destroyed 5 tennis nets by eating through the netting. The same birds are causing damage to the grass court surface.
        iii. There is a health risk with falling cones hitting players/pedestrians, as well as cars travelling along Lawrence Street hitting cones and creating missiles for pedestrians.
    c. If the trees were removed, the Tennis Centre would explore artificial shade options along Lawrence Street during our various tournaments and Country Week events.
2. Fencing the Tennis Centre.
    a. The Wodonga Tennis Centre badly needs new fencing.
    b. Replacement fencing was highlighted in the 2019 Kelly Park Master Plan.
    c. Speaking with Tennis Australia officials at the recent tournament highlighted the impact new fencing makes to a facility. They confirmed the possibility of 50% co-contribution toward the upgrade given grass courts are a Grand Slam surface.
    d. Initial cost estimates are $300,000.
3. New lighting
    a. Switching current synthetic and blue court lighting to LED will save future electricity usage.
    b. Initial estimates of $100,000 for the conversion.
4. Building rewiring
    a. The tennis clubhouse is in urgent need of professional rewiring.
    b. There have been several instances in recent tournaments where poor wiring has resulted in shortages in the kitchen impacting our ability to cook and serve food to patrons.
5. Replacing synthetic court surfaces
    a. There is a need to replace the 4 synthetic court surfaces adjacent to the carpark along the northern side of the facility (represented by number 3 on page 16 of the 2019 Kelly Park Master Plan. Players are starting to slide due to the slippery surface which becomes a health risk.

6. Resurfacing the blue courts.
    a. The blue plexipave courts require resurfacing. Many cracks are starting to appear and without remediation will become worse as water is introduced into the court subsurface.

I have included a Tennis Overview of the Centre that was undertaken by Tennis Australia in 2020, as well as our strategic plan. Our focus is making the facility a community hub for recreational activity. We very much appreciate the constructive relationship we enjoy with Wodonga Council and hope the above remediations can be considered. I am more than happy to provide additional information if required.

Yours Sincerely

Sam Ebert

Secretary Wodonga Tennis Centre


Observations
Annual visits per Court
1043
LED Lighting
0%
100%
Programming Diversity
Poor
Good
Excellent
Asset Renewal Spend Timeline
$317,009
$30,818
$25,649
$35,837
0 - 3 Years
3 - 6 Years
6 - 9 Years
9 - 12 Years
Participation Breakdown
20000
18000
16000
14000
12000
10000
8000
6000
4000
2000
0
3,400
13,760
10,178
17,280
5,445
Social
Competition
Events
Coaching
School Pupils
TENNIS RESTART - Tennis Overview - Wodonga Tennis Centre
tennis
INFRASTRUCTURE
INFRACTRUCTURE RATING
"A fit for use facility as defined by Sport Facility Audit"
OPERATIONS
FINANCIAL RATING
"A venues capacity to deliver against its current and future financial obligations"
PARTICIPATION
PARTICIPATION RATING
"Levels of facility usage including appropriate programming and community engagement"
PROGRAMMING
ACCOUNTABILITY
100%
OVERALL VENUE HEALTH
58%
Critical
Risk
Stable
Healthy
Excellent
ANNUAL VISITS
%
SOCIAL 7%
COMPETITION 27%
TOURNAMENT 20
COACHING 35%
SCHOOL PUPILS 11%
TOTAL ANNUAL VISITS 50,063
YEARS OF SUSTAINABILITY REMAINING
3.0 YEARS
GENDER BREAKDOWN
56%
44%
SUSTAINABILITY
45%
COMMUNITY BENEFIT
92%
INSIGHTS
MANAGEMENT MODEL
Volunteer
ENGAGED
Affiliated
ANNUAL SINKING FUND REQUIRED
$34,109
VENUE TIER TYPE
3
NUMBER OF COURTS
48
ACCESSIBILITY
75%
ACCESSIBILITY
Ease of Access
Online Booking
Online Programming
Online Payments
Digital Presence
Google My Business
Social Media
Website
Court Lighting
Some Lighting
All Lighting
Automated Lighting
Universal Design
Physical Access For All
Amenities For All
Communication Access
COMMUNITY BENEFIT
School Engagement
Schools Hiring Courts
TA Partnership Program
School Competitions
Social Play
Casual Court Hire
Open Court Sessions
Cardio Tennis
Competition
Junior Comp Offerings
Adult Comp Offerings
Formalised Comp Pathway
Coaching
Beginner Classes
Intermediate Classes
High Performance Classes
SUSTAINABILITY
Operations
Formal Club/Coach Agreement
Tennis Australia Coach
Contracted Manager
Asset Management Plan
Covers Court Condition
Covers General Maintenance
Covers Operational Fixed Costs
Business Plan
Includes a Strategic Plan
Includes a Financial Plan
Includes a Marketing Plan
Sinking Fund
Is There a Sinking Fund
Does It Cover Asset Renewal
Allows for Future Upgrades
ACCOUNTABILITY
Operational Requirements
5 Year Constitutional Review
Roles and Responsibility Document
Contract Providing Tenure
State of Play
Annual Financial Audit
Annual Participation Audit
Annual Lifecycle Audit
National Programs
Deliver One National Program
Deliver Two National Programs
Deliver Three National Programs
Lawful Requirements
First Aide Officer
Member Protection Officer
Working With Children Checks

Wodonga Tennis Centre Strategic Plan 2020 -2022

Our Vision

To be an inspirational community hub, supporting health and well-being with tennis.

Our Objectives

Leadership
We lead the way in all that we do

Participation
We inspire participation and provide opportunity

Community
We support and engage our community

Sustainability
We are sustainable for our future

Partnership
We partner to achieve our vision

Our Goals

- Wodonga Tennis Centre is managed by a high performing committee.
- To actively collaborate with our stakeholders.
- Leaders in health and wellness support through tennis and our facility.
- Continuous improvement in tennis delivery.

- Increase tennis participation
- Create new opportunities to participate in tennis
- Celebrate and support tennis

- Provide the safest possible environment for our community
- Attract the wider community to our centre through off court activities

- Ensure strong financial management
- Actively pursue funding opportunities
- We provide and maintain a high-quality facility
- Our management model is sustainable

- Provide high level of service to our current partners
- Create new partnerships to achieve our goals and vision

Icons obtained from www.flaticon.com

APPENDIX 4 - WODONGA CEMETERY TRUST

Description - Buggy Shed/Carport

The Cemetery Trust is in the process of applying for a grant to assist in the purchase of a 4 seater golf buggy to provide transportation to frail, aged and disabled community members when attending the cemetery.

If successful, we would need to erect a shed/carport which would be attached to the western side of our office currently located in the cemetery grounds. This comes at a considerable cost with quotes around $20,000.

Benefit to the Community

We feel strongly that the buggy will improve community accessibility of this beautiful facility, giving opportunity to participate, and most importantly improve safety when accessing difficult areas where uneven surfaces or long walking distances are required. There is no official parking for vehicles inside the cemetery grounds. Visitors attending funerals or seeking to arrange their future needs in the cemetery are often elderly community members who use mobility walkers to access grassed grave areas, and this can be extremely difficult and somewhat dangerous.

Without the shed, our other option for storage is the current maintenance shed at the rear of the cemetery grounds which is approximately 400 metres away. This would be impracticable in terms of using the buggy.

The Trust is managed by a small group of volunteers. All our income is derived from the sale of plots, interment costs and memorial permits. We rely heavily on grants to provide sufficient funds for extra capital works as we receive no general funding from any institution. The Victorian Department of Health and Human Services requires us to set aside 15% of our yearly income for the Perpetuity Fund Account which will be used to maintain the cemetery when the current site has been filled. These costs would be enormous in future years for Wodonga council if these Perpetuity Funds are not planned for now.

Kind Regards,

Dianne Hartnett

Trust Member

APPENDIX 5 - BUSINESS WODONGA: JOBS EXPO

Submission to conduct two jobs Expo per year in Wodonga

In September 2022 Business Wodonga held in conjunction with a Working Group comprising Wodonga Council, Wodonga TAFE, Jobs Victoria, LA Trobe University and Ashlin Technology Solutions as our technology partner, a Jobs Expo. This was the first time such an event has ever been held in Wodonga.

Council partnered with us and provided support with costs of Cube Hire, catering and numerous other costs.

On March 16, 2023, we are holding a second Expo, with the theme of "Jobs Now." We have deliberately taken the theme away from Careers, and have primarily targeted employers who have entry or low skill level jobs. Also involved will be Group & Registered Training Organisations.

A second Expo is already being planned for September 2023 which will have much more a careers theme, targeted not only at Job Seekers, but also school students.

We propose running two expos on this basis in the future as we do not believe that the shortage of workers is a problem that will be solved anytime soon.

At the first Expo we did not charge exhibitors any fees at all for taking part, however we are charging exhibitors at the second and future Expos. Most of those at the 2022 Expo were surprised there was no site fee, however as we had nothing previous to benchmark against, we did not want to charge and not deliver. We are gaining much experience in conducting events of this nature and see this type of event management as a revenue stream that will help make us more sustainable and selfsufficient into the future. It is also helping to grow our member base, particularly from larger employers who see that we do in fact deliver value for them, that we may not have in the past.

We seek Council funding for each of these Expos in two ways:

- Firstly, up to $10,000 support in funding hire of The Cube, catering for Exhibitors and other sundry expenses.
- $12,000, plus GST, as a Project Management Fee. Business Wodonga must engage an employee or contractor for the three months leading up to the event and without sponsorship, this is not something we would be able to do with our limited human resources. Having the certainty of this role's funding locked in well in advance allows us more time to focus on delivering a successful Expo. To date Jobs Victoria has provided this funding however it is most certainly not guaranteed on an ongoing basis.

The economic value of these Expos is huge, as we:

- Highlight the wide and varied number of careers available within Wodonga at world standard businesses. School-leavers do not need to leave Wodonga to find a rewarding, challenging career in a wide range of industries.
- Assist employers by bringing job and career seekers directly to them in a face-to-face environment. Employers can sum up a candidate instead of making judgements based on email submitted resumes. The same works in reverse just as well for the job-seekers.
- Jobs Expos provide value to all, not only Business Wodonga Members, but also employers, job-seekers, students and the broader economy.

APPENDIX 6 - BUSINESS WODONGA: DIGITAL LITERACY PROGRAM

Business Wodonga is the peak business Chamber of Commerce in North East Victoria. Part of our role is providing business education and upskilling business owners and/or their teams.

An area of need for small businesses that we have identified whether they be new, existing, or considering starting a business, is a lack of digital literacy. Other "Digital Literacy Programs" assume that candidates already have some level of literacy and often run their workshops online, alienating those not familiar or comfortable with that means of delivery. We connect well with these businesses as they are very often in start-up mode and we are an early port of call for guidance and assistance. We have developed our own Digital Literacy Program that we run over ten workshops, using primarily local businesspeople who are experts in their field, helping them to learn new skills in the areas of:

- Website Development.
- Marketing, primarily using digital tools.
- Finance, using software such as Xero, to run the financial side of their businesses and using this type of software to do more than only issue invoices. Ie; Profit & Loss, Forecasting, Budgeting and more. We ask that participants purchase, if they have not already done so, this type of software themselves so that they make a co-contribution as a sign of commitment to the Program.
- Microsoft products, using 365

As part of this Program, we provide participants with their own website (if they do not already have one) including hosting for twelve months and the Microsoft 365 Product for twelve months, at no cost for the first twelve months.

We are at the time of writing this submission, currently running two series of workshops as above.

We seek Council funding to be able to offer three of these workshop series in the 2022-23 budget year to both Business Wodonga Member businesses and non-member businesses.

Each series will be limited to a maximum of ten participants, to allow as much one-on-one time as possible.

The funding amount sought is $85,290 (excl GST) which is a cost of $2,843 per participant. This includes the costs of provision of websites, Microsoft 365 and payments to Mentors for their time and expertise during the Program as well as Business Wodonga Program Management expense.

Benefits we are seeing from the first two Pilot Programs.

- The Mentors are making themselves available outside of the workshops to handle queries from participants at no extra charge, giving them a great deal of extra value.
- The participants are building relationships between themselves and even starting to do business with each other.
- This is building a strong connection between businesses in Wodonga, with only the Business Victoria workshops involving a person or organisation delivering as a Presenter, from outside Wodonga, helping the circular economy.
- Particularly those new or newer in business are being upskilled in digital skills, building their confidence, and helping ensure they remain in business. Or in one case to date, one participant in our second series looks likely to resign from her "day job" to make her current side hustle her full-time business.

Business Wodonga has the resources and connections to deliver these workshops on a regular base. With a well visited

website and a weekly e-newsletter that goes out to over 2,400 inboxes every Friday, we can promote our activities, including these workshops right across the Wodonga business community. Upskilling of businesses with increased digital literacy matches our objective of building a world class business community.

We ask that this program be given consideration by Council.

In May we will have an evaluation of the first two rounds completed that we will share with Council, should you wish to see that to help you form your opinion.

APPENDIX 7 - STARTUP SHAKEUP



Innovation is a necessary factor in the Australian Business landscape

"Innovation is the key to productivity and growth"

Dr Pradeep Philip, Head of Deloitte Access Economics"

Innovation features in economic development strategies at every level across the Ovens Murray

However successful innovation is the exception rather than the rule

which increasingly matters as we enter an age where change and innovation will become the 'norm'

Summary of innovation activity in Australian business by employment size – 2 years to 30 June 2021 As percentages and proportion of all businesses		0–4 p	5–19 p	Subtotal 0-19 p	20–199 p	200+ P	Total All Bus
Businesses which introduced:							
Goods or services		20	26	23	31	35	22
Process		32	52	42	61	61	40
Total % Businesses who had introduced any innovation (innovating businesses)		**38**	**58**	**48**	**65**	**66**	**45**
Businesses with innovative activity which was:							
still in development(b)	a.	20	28	24	43	49	24
abandoned	b.	13	16	15	18	12	14
Total % Businesses with any innovative activity (innovation-active businesses)	c.	**46**	**63**	**55**	**71**	**71**	**52**
Therefore total % businesses with a successful innovation in place	c-(a+b)	**13**	**19**	**16**	**10**	**10**	**14**

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Innovation in Australian Business 2020-21 financial year
https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/industry/technology-and-innovation/innovation-australian-business/latest-release

Startup Shakeup

Click Region.

startupshakeup.org
clickregion.org.au

Small and non-employing businesses make up large numbers in the Ovens-Murray

These businesses are the backbone of our communities

However these are the businesses (our research tells us) that struggle in the digital space meaning they are increasingly challenged to innovate, survive and thrive

Number of businesses by employment size ABS data (2021)																
	Ovens Murray		Alpine (S)		Benalla (RC)		Indigo (S)		Mansfield (S)		Towong (S)		Wangaratta (RC)		Wodonga (RC)	
	No		No		No		No		No		No		No		No	
Large business (200+ p)	9	0.1%	0	0.0%	3	0.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	0.1%	3	0.1%
Medium business (20-199	233	1.8%	26	1.7%	21	1.4%	27	1.4%	20	1.5%	6	0.7%	50	1.6%	83	2.8%
Small business (<20 p)	4925	37.2%	656	41.7%	518	35.4%	630	33.4%	497	37.6%	262	28.6%	1160	37.7%	1201	40.0%
Non employing businesse	8072	61.0%	891	56.6%	921	62.9%	1229	65.2%	805	60.9%	647	70.7%	1865	60.6%	1715	57.1%
	13239		**1573**		**1463**		**1886**		**1322**		**915**		**3078**		**3002**	

Source: 8165.0 Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits, June 2016 to June 2021

Startup Shakeup Click Region.

startupshakeup.org
clickregion.org.au

Startup Shakeup and Click Region – this is what we do supporting Regional Innovators and small businesses

Our Vision A dynamic and innovative region in which Startups, Shakeups and Innovators thrive in a business ecosystem nurturing sustainable growth and strong communities.

Our Mission To accelerate innovation, business growth, digitisation and resilience

Our Values Inspiring - Innovative - Respectful
Collaborative - Inclusive - Impactful

The Problem Our evidence is that many wanting to launch a regional startup or innovate in regional business feel they
- Lack connections & networks;
- Don't have relevant expertise;
- Don't know how to assess things;
- Are isolated with no voice;

SO they lack the confidence to try!

Exacerbated by the digital challenges

Many small businesses are still struggling post-COVID
They are being forced into a 'brave new digital world'
They need digital skills to be able to thrive not just survive

Startup Shakeup

Click Region.

startupshakeup.org
clickregion.org.au

Innovation thrives with a Regional Innovation Ecosystem
"Regional Victoria has 24% of the Victorian population, yet currently only 3% of its startups. This is the opportunity"
Dr Kate Cornick, CEO LaunchVic
"Startup Programs help build the innovation community. These include meetups, events, hackathons, education, mentoring, bootcamps and incubators.
Dr Kate Cornick, CEO LaunchVic
Events & Meetups
Raise Awareness
Inspiration
Information
Networking
Business Advice
Legal / Financial
Technology
Branding & Marketing
Human Resources
Co-Working
Raise Awareness
Inspiration
Information
Networking
Innovation programs
Entrepreneur programs
Knowledge & Ideation
Hackathons & challenges
Validation & Acceleration
Experienced advisors
Academia
Skills (STEM)
Feeder Programs
Internships
Partner programs
R&D Facilities
Founders
Access to capital
Seed investment
Angel investment
Venture capital
Crowd funding
Grants
Government and Industry
State & Federal (Advocacy, policy, grants & funding)
Local Government (Support)
Local Committee (Advocacy and politics)
Business Chambers (Business links & programs)
startupshakeup.org
clickregion.org.au
Startup Shakeup
Click Region.

Startup Shakeup and Click Region Programs 2023 - 24

To inform and connect businesses

Newsletters and websites(Startup Shakeup & Click Region)
Regional Events directory
Regional Business directory
Regional Advisors directory

For Startups

"Inspire Me" - meetups around the region
"Kick Start" - how to enhance my business idea using tech
"Ideas Lab" - taking my idea through to a reality (16 wks)
"BrainsTrust" - brainstorming sessions with Regional Advisors

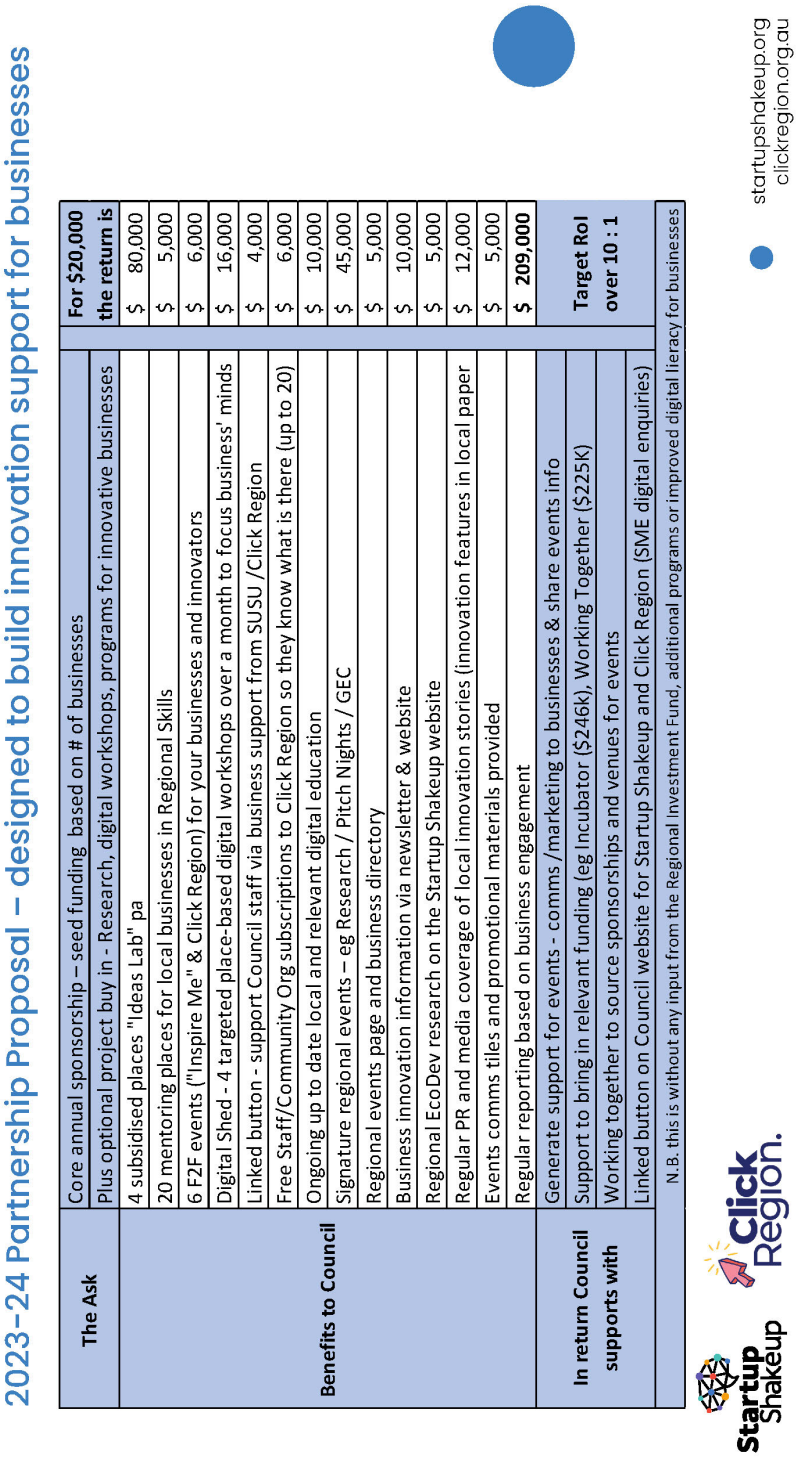
For Small Businesses needing digital literacy support

Digital Literacy Workshops - face to face place-based sessions
Click Region - online education building digital confidence
"Hour of Power" - online webinars on requested digital topics

For Shakeups (businesses seeking to grow)

Regional Impact Fund - a $20-$30M regional investment fund
"BrainsTrust" - brainstorming sessions with Regional Advisors
"Creative Lab" - "how to rethink what I am doing" (2 wks)
"Ready-Set-Grow" - "rethinking and scaling what I do" (14 wks)

startupshakeup.org
clickregion.org.au


2023-24 Partnership Proposal – designed to build innovation support for businesses
The Ask
Core annual sponsorship – seed funding based on # of businesses
Plus optional project buy in - Research, digital workshops, programs for innovative businesses
For $20,000 the return is
Benefits to Council
4 subsidised places "Ideas Lab" pa $ 80,000
20 mentoring places for local businesses in Regional Skills $ 5,000
6 F2F events ("Inspire Me" & Click Region) for your businesses and innovators $ 6,000
Digital Shed - 4 targeted place-based digital workshops over a month to focus business' minds $ 16,000
Linked button - support Council staff via business support from SUSU /Click Region $ 4,000
Free Staff/Community Org subscriptions to Click Region so they know what is there (up to 20) $ 6,000
Ongoing up to date local and relevant digital education $ 10,000
Signature regional events – eg Research / Pitch Nights / GEC $ 45,000
Regional events page and business directory $ 5,000
Business innovation information via newsletter & website $ 10,000
Regional EcoDev research on the Startup Shakeup website $ 5,000
Regular PR and media coverage of local innovation stories (innovation features in local paper $ 12,000
Events comms tiles and promotional materials provided $ 5,000
Regular reporting based on business engagement $ 209,000
In return Council supports with
Generate support for events - comms /marketing to businesses & share events info
Support to bring in relevant funding (eg Incubator ($246k), Working Together ($225K)
Working together to source sponsorships and venues for events
Linked button on Council website for Startup Shakeup and Click Region (SME digital enquiries)
Target RoI over 10 : 1
N.B. this is without any input from the Regional Investment Fund, additional programs or improved digital literacy for businesses
Startup Shakeup
Click Region.
startupshakeup.org
clickregion.org.au


Thank you
We would like to be your active partner in developing the innovation potential of businesses in the region
Ilena Young,
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APPENDIX 8 - ALBURY WODONGA ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL

FUNDING FOR HARMONY DAY AND REFUGEE DAY CELEBRATIONS

Albury Wodonga Ethnic Communities Council (AWECC) requests a three (3) year annual funding of $11,000 to deliver two events each year to celebrate multiculturalism in Wodonga. The funding will be used to deliver cultural entertainment, free food, venue, and advertisement. Recently, the event has attracted about 500 participants from both multicultural backgrounds and Australians, most of whom are residents of Wodonga. AWECC supports the events through in-kind support in organising and running these events.

Albury-Wodonga Ethnic Communities Council

The Albury-Wodonga Ethnic Communities Council (AWECC) is a not-for-profit community organisation and registered charity established in 2014 with the initial support of the Wodonga Council. AWECC's vision is of an inclusive and cohesive Albury-Wodonga community where everyone belongs. Its core business is advocacy and is committed to promoting the successes of multiculturalism, and ensuring equitable, human rights-based outcomes for all, regardless of their background. Its office is based in Wodonga.

Harmony Week and Refugee Week

Through the auspice of Wodonga Council, AWECC has been delivering Harmony Day and Refugee Week events and activities on both sides of the border alongside its community partners and members. Wodonga Council has financially auspiced AWECC to deliver both campaigns since 2016 (with the exception of 2021 due to the COVID) to defay some of the event expenses.

Harmony Week is celebrated each year in March nationally and includes Harmony Day (21 March), which recognises the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. It is a time to celebrate Australian multiculturalism and the successful integration of migrants into our community. The multicultural celebration serves to minimise cases of racism which unfortunately are on the increase.

Refugee Week is recognised each year in June nationally and includes Refugee Day (20 June). Refugee Week provides an opportunity to inform the public about refugees and celebrate the positive contributions of refugees to Australian society. The City of Wodonga is one of the Australian cities that has committed to being a Refugee Welcoming City. Notably, Australian migration is intricately linked to the Wodonga's Bonegilla Migrant Reception and Training Centre, which between 1947 and 1971 hosted around 300,000 migrants from over 50 countries who sought a better life.

Multicultural Nature of Wodonga

Wodonga, like Australia, has become genuinely multicultural. The 2021 Census indicated that 24.5% of Wodonga residents have at least one or more parent born overseas. Also, almost seven per cent (7%) of the residents speak a non-English language at home. The main non-English languages spoken in Wodonga include Swahili, Nepali, Filipino, Vietnamese, Punjab, Mandarin, and German. With the multicultural nature in mind, we request that the Council continues to support Harmony Day and Refugee Day as a way of supporting multiculturalism in Wodonga and providing an opportunity for different communities to share their cultures.

By funding the events, the Council will be supporting multiculturalism in Wodonga, providing a platform to celebrate the different cultures and providing a sense of belonging to migrants.

Kind regards

Richard Ogetii

Community Executive Officer

APPENDIX 9 - MURRAY GEDDES

Challenges for Wodonga Council Budget – 2023

This is a contribution to improving the role & impact of the council's draft budget on the sustainable development of our community, economy & environment. It focusses on support for a broad range of council's interests rather than specific project development initiatives.

This approach is proposed because there are serious limits to the framework of the budget which is heavily concentrated on the management of capital & community infrastructure & facilities, on state requirements for council financial reporting, imposed internal finance caps & assumptions on the range of activities an active council might pursue to strengthen its extensive roles in fostering a community's capacities-well beyond the old Roads, Rates & Rubbish traditions of decades ago. Contemporary, but responsible, council roles need not only to meet those (necessary) requirements but to link the budget activity & data more closely to the dynamics & collaborations of our community, economy & ecosystem. So this note urges improving those relationships, that can build on council's initiatives in some of those fields & maybe some arising from budget consultations. It deepens & expands the general principles contained in the mayor's introductory budget note, in the council's draft financial plan & strategy/vision & in (zoomed meetings') comments by councillors wanting to be 'more strategic" in their deliberations.

Previous budget statements are virtually devoid of outcome measures or targets in major fields, apart from fineece allocations. Several related council support plans refer to some impact indexes. Community opinion surveys/quizzes (including recent welcome budget community consultations & panels) need testing by laying them alongside a more systematic outline of trends & framework for key dynamics of Wodonga's attractive & competitive strengths.

That framework surely needs links to impact indexes more extensive than the few in budget discussion statements by our elected council leaders or the very general statements in council vision or the list of specific projects in any draft budget summary circulated for community comment (mostly of capital works or property, does not allow any links to activity expenditure, necessary.

Budgets are vital to sending signs of community mobilisation & education supporting our community's confidence as well as investment promotion. Council's promotion of budget consultation is good & growing, but very limited. Standing (community conversation) panels may help.

Better data on our community's progress towards targets & impacts of expenditures & activity is essential to strengthening confidence & demonstrating comparative strength, not only to ourselves over time but also to our competitors (eg to the 18+ urban centres ranked above us in the top 20 , including Ballarat & Bendigo & Geelong). Considerable metropolitan subareas trends are also accessible.

I have watched several of our elected members show uncertainty on related matters when considering "delegations" to staff. I have also wondered if some of recent dissatisfaction of aspects of council operation "climate" , including by state government, might be affected by a lack of such data structure or better integration into discussion & debate .

Most state & national government budgets lay out the forecasts of operating environment key to some of these platforms as do larger organisations budgets. The new national Government Treasurer has committed to a wellbeing structure for national government budget review and redraft this year. This is likely to draw on federal Treasury's 6 year old wellbeing framework & New Zealand's Wellbeing Budget approach. The Tasmanian & NSW premiers said they are to follow. A number of Australian councils are also developing similar frameworks. There are some convergent concerns in Albury City's approaches as well as in some of Wodonga's drafting of Supporting Plans to its revised Council Plan (more than its ambitious 10year finance plan in uncertain times of interest rates, inflation, costs of living, changing central government policy).

There are a number of monitoring & impact assessment measures used in council's ongoing investment attraction activities & vision statements (including by eco dev unit). These are mostly project specific investigations such as for development approvals or inquiries, or preliminary inquiries by individuals or firms on locating to Wodonga or expanding here ; business cases are sometimes made on development investment proposals (public or private); support for grant seeking; several regional cooperative groups map

out some trends eg in tourism. But most are not focussed on overall core trends or program impacts. There appears to be no regular reports to council- on some of the strategic dimensions sought by councillors.- how are we going?

Nationwide there has been development of local level & regional reporting & analysis capacities including through : id.com/NIEIR, REMPLAN (both partly accessible via council web); & annual State of The Regions reporting over 22years (NIEIR-ALGA) , National Progress in Aust. Regions; RDA groups & state /joint regional agencies; Regional Aust Institute; CSIRO & ACF Eco regions trends; RMIT social urban indicators, annual Rural Bank LGA farm sale prices/productions ; & a large volume of data from ABS, ATO, (incl. business size turnovers, profits) , ABN, social agencies, &, after disasters , the Institute Of Actuaries risk indexes.

Some data sources allow analysis at regional levels (eg Hume Region RDA & LGAs down to postcodes , (including down to part -LGA areas). Selections from these can help build analysis at Wodonga LGA & Hume sub regional levels (& maybe later for Wodonga & Albury combined!).

For Wodonga it should be possible to build up a core priority set of trends from these sources that may be set alongside the budget framework. They could mostly be annual, but some are more frequent, say quarterly (including council applications/ inquiries / construction values of activity). Early work could use the trends seen incensus reports 2016-21- Regional analysis from a number of these sources can be structured as the dynamic of a development framework -a "state of our community " report that recognises some of the interactions of our demographic, economic/business/labour market, ecological forces & public objectives & competitive strengths. This not only helps accountability but also supports mobilising collaborations & partnerships, lifting broad community awareness & allowing comparisons with other areas (eg regional cities, parts of metros). It can put more flesh on the bones of statements of what makes Wodonga attractive for living & investment.

This outline is not an action toolbox, but rather a framework to monitor, guide & evaluate actions. Specific areas of priority action to minimise deficits & to optimise action areas of potential growth & sustainability can build on them & utilise others' experiences, some of which are outlined in various forums. Some have stronger potential council & local community influence than others. (eg id.com's hand book for councils moderating house costs)

It could be begun this year! It requires modest resources. What should be priority topics?

PRIORITY TOPICS-SUGGESTIONS

Under these headings are specific measures accessible from the sources referred to above. Comparisons can be made with nonmetro Vic., larger rural towns, Hume Region, etc.

Much Census 2021 derived data will be updated from September '22.

- **population, migration flows, (domestic/overseas), "forecasts", composition trends, (eg with Melb housing prices falling, & sustained interest rates & inflation trends)**
- **household income, (personal income), wealth & debt, income diversity, social security take ups, superannuations (& its potential for local investment), wages & property & interest income**
- **labour force, participation & uninvolvement, (incl genders, ATSIC), occupations, un/underemployment, skill levels/qualifications, (eg 30.5% OF Wodonga's work force have tertiary training) & education, vocational qualifications, wages X hours, school participation rates,**
- **jobs local & outside, (JTW), resident employment X business sizes, X industry groups (around 30 groups) , level of LGA jobs "selfsufficiency", total trends, (eg 50% Wodong live & work in Wodonga, 24% live in Albury, 8% in Indigo; 10% in manufacturing, 8.6% in construction, 11 % in retail, 4.5% in transport, 14% in healthcare, 12.5% in public admin & defence, 1.5 % in ag-forestry fishing)**
- **housing, affordability indexes, median prices & valuations, trends, size/types, mortgage levels, (household types), vacancy & occupancy levels, new /established construction activity, (eg number of residents per bedroom with increasing house sizes) & maybe clearance rates; value/price movements**
- **construction activity values (housing, non-residential, engineering), value p.c.**

- **area income flows & productivity, local gross product, & resident GRP, (later on perhaps - labour & capital overall productivity), % of state GRP or non metro total,**
- **businesses types X industry groups, size of turnover, number employees, some ATO profit levels, shift/ share of resident employment, (maybe % of state non metro employment), industry GRP total vs wages-interest-property income, startups/exits x industry group, insolvencies**
- **infrastructure support- NBN cover & speeds, public transport access, (?water/electricity rates), utility employment, (? Level of journalist access -survey results)**
- **eco systems-% of EV vehicles, % solar instals, LGA /region electricity generation (incl. renewables & community energy schemes), CSIRO -ACF eco region climate forecasts, rainfall & temperature trends, % of green cover, open space level p.c., (maybe MDBA water trades) Institute of Actuaries disaster risk indexes,**
- **liveability & services-beyond those imbedded in numbers of the categories above: (eg scale of employment in entertainment/tourism/hospitality /public admin /retail /health/education /social assistance industry groups). In longer term it will be possible to outline some of cost of living & inflation trends, that will add to local service level information such as doctor etc /population ratios, & sector /fields reports incl in recreation/sports (eg boating registrations?), open spaces, arts-culture, library levels, hospitality venues , schools/education /training places, preschool/kinder places/prices, crime/safety stats, community associations, & facilities provided through council. Several are referred to in some of the supporting plan lists of the council.**

While this list seems extensive, some of the information is accessible locally through promotional materials & is better provided by words & pictures/graphs rather than simple data .

Lga level assessments for Wodonga are also accessible (derived from State of Regions report now in its 22nd year).

I look forward to discussing these challenges as part of budget consultation. I have put very short notes on them to councils' mayor & ceo & will copy this note to them.

Thanks, Regards

Murray Geddes

Principal , Geddesnairn Development Fund (philanthropy non profit)



CITY OF WODONGA VIC

ADVOCACY

Community feedback

ADVOCACY

Submitters	Request	Costings (subject to feasibility and costing assessment)	Officer response
	Homes for homeless Womens and teens refuge	N/A	Housing is a priority project in council's Advocacy Plan and council recognises there is no women's refuge in Wodonga and demand on existing cross-border services exceeds availability. Victorian Government has previously announced Minimum Investment Guarantee of $30 million into affordable housing in Wodonga and recently announced funding for an Education Youth Foyer in Wodonga **Ongoing advocacy**
	Install traffic lights at the roundabout at Melbourne Road and Melrose Drive Wodonga.	$1,000,000	This would need to be joint project with VicRoads which is the responsible authority for the road. No evidence at this stage it is required, a review would be required to determine if it needs upgrading. **Ongoing advocacy**
	Helsinger Ave – Install a speed hump or look at how to relieve congestion at this corner	Scope dependent	This would need to be joint project with VicRoads which is the responsible authority for the road. Future duplication of Beechworth Rd will resolve issue of congestion. Upgrading intersection as an interim could be reviewed but would require survey, design. **Ongoing advocacy**
	Council should consider ways to take control of the land in the central part of the city near the former railway station and sell or assign it to a developer who has the right vision, financial resources, and capability to develop the centre of the city with quality inner city residences rather than the current untidy and undesirable crammed unit proposal.	N/A	Junction Place is owned by the Victorian Government. A developer interest process is presently under way and a Community Reference Group formed to input into the process. **Ongoing advocacy**
	Extend bicycle network to include a safe connection to the track that finishes on the Link road	N/A	VicRoads is the responsible authority for the road. We would support and encourage VicRoads to include a shared path from where it currently terminates all the way to Anzac Parade in the future or when the need arises to duplicate this roadway. **Ongoing advocacy**
	Public transport in and around Killara	N/A	Public transport is a priority project in council's Advocacy Plan. **Ongoing advocacy**

CITY OF WODONGA VIC

INFRASTRUCTURE

Community feedback

INFRASTRUCTURE

Submissions	Request	Costings (subject to feasibility and costing assessment)	Funding options	Officer response
	Build a labyrinth to support mental health	Scope dependent	Not budgeted	Would need to be placed in existing public space that has access to toilets and require ongoing maintenance and regular mowing. Closest ones in Beechworth and Thurgoona. Potential for a community partnership. **Not supported at this time**
5x submitters	Build changing places in Wodonga eg Junction Square and Willow Park	$230,000	$143,530 grant funding received In 2023-2024 budget	Changing Places are larger than standard accessible toilets with extra features to meet the needs of people with disability and their carers. There are no accredited CP toilets in Wodonga. Following the resolution passed at the February council meeting, council officers are continuing to explore suitability of alternate sites. Liaising with funding body to secure an extension, to be formalised once an alternate site has been secured. **Supported**
(2x submitters)	Improvements to change rooms at the Wodonga Sports and Leisure Centre. Add an adult change table and hoist.	$50,000	In 2023-2024 budget	Retrofit of equipment not recommended. Adult change facilities could be incorporated into a full upgrade of the WSLC aquatics change rooms. Undertake detailed design works immediately, with works to commence in summer 2023-24. **Supported**
	BBQ and toilets at the river in Killara	Scope dependent	Not budgeted	Will require further exploration and discussions with NECMA considering flooding issues in area **Investigation required**
4x submitters	Second exit at Killara	$700,000	Not budgeted	Responsibility of developer as part of the Riverside development and part of planning permit. **Not supported for council funding**
	Install traffic lights at Anzac Parade and Kiewa Valley highway intersection.	$500,000 (signals only)	Not budgeted	This would need to be joint project with VicRoads which is the responsible authority for the road. VicRoads has indicated they would like to construct a roundabout in that location Would require review to determine need for upgrading. **Not supported for council funding**
	Install traffic lights, for the safe crossing of Lawrence street, between Mayfair Drive and Dundee Street.	$300,000	Not budgeted	For pedestrian operated signals. Prior to completing works investigation of pedestrian movement through survey and cameras would be recommended. **Investigation required**
	Install large roundabout at Glenwood Blvd/Baranduda Blvd/John Schubert Dr intersection (Avalon Park)	N/A	Developer	Baranduda Leneva DCP item. Traffic lights are being installed as part of development under works in-kind agreement. Construction scheduled for 2023-2024, due to be complete in September 2023. **Works scheduled**
	Upgrade to the intersection of Kiewa Valley Hwy John Schubert Drive and John Boyes Drive Baranduda.	$5,000,000	Baranduda-Leneva DCP	Baranduda Leneva DCP item will be constructed as required. **Pending**
2x submitters	Whytes Rd needs repair - Creates a lot of dust for residents. - There are so many depressions and pot holes.		Not budgeted	Whytes Rd is in a tree protection zone overlay which limits any significant reconstruction work on the road. The road is slated for closure to vehicles once the second entry to the estate is constructed. The road is maintained in line with the council's Road Management Plan.

				No action for 2023-2024
	Install a footpath on the south side of Bassett St.	$70,000	Not budgeted	Replacing driveways allowed in costings. Not presently in 10-year Financial Plan and there are other footpaths that have more need. Bassett Rd has a footpath on north side. **Not supported at this time**
	Visitor information centre with toilets and coffee	$300,000 plus ongoing operation	Not budgeted	Wodonga Council has a joint tourism partnership with Albury City branded -Visit Albury Wodonga. It is not feasible financially to support two visitor centres. **Not supported**
	Additional long vehicle parking Build a dump point	N/A	Not budgeted	There is 11 long vehicle parks across the city. Future long vehicle options will be reviewed during the dump point location mapping process. **Under investigation**
	Remove or replace gates at either end of Jack Perry reserve to accommodate bikes.	Scope dependent	Not budgeted	**Investigation required**
	Bike path along Chapple Street and Osburn Street past Arnold's and links up with the bike path. Then safe access across High Street to Sumsion Gardens would be great.	Scope dependent	Not budgeted	Not currently identified. Consideration as a future project. **No action for 2023-2024**
	Upgrade the playground on Felltimber Crk and Macpherson St	N/A	Long-term capital plan	Alan Goyne Park playground will be considered for upgrade through the playground renewal works in the next few years. **No action for 2023-2024**
	Add a basketball ring to the playground on Clarendon ave	N/A	Not budgeted	Bernie Cox playground has had shade installed over the playground in recent years, supported by the current playground strategy. Consideration of a basketball court would require community consultation as it would most likely involve the removal of other existing play elements. **Not supported at this time**
2x submitters	Extension of indoor pool to 50m (WSLC)	Scope dependent	Not budgeted	Council is considering several options as part of a current review of its aquatics facilities. **Under review**
	Second pool at WAVES designed specifically for Waterpolo with the potential for a roof Medium sized swimming pool at WAVES	Scope dependent	Not budgeted	A second body of water (medium sized pool) at WAVES has been previously identified in the 2017 WAVES stage 2 planning. A second pool could provide a range of additional uses and programs, such as learn to swim classes, rehabilitation swimming, warm-up pool for event and activities. It could also be provided community with a pool to use when larger events are on in the 50m pool. Having a second pool covered has also been previously considered. Council is considering several options as part of a review of its aquatics facilities. **Under review**
4x submissions	Build a community centre in Killara	$4.5m plus land	Not budgeted	Further planning work is required to establish catchment demand, costings, timeframes, and growth centre facility provision. The S173 Agreement states the owner must nominate a site within or near the future commercial centre, and the site will be transferred to council at a value determined by the Valuer General. It includes a community infrastructure levy which has been used for the embellishment of open space in Killara ie. playgrounds etc

				Currently no specific site identified for a community centre and as per the Wodonga Growth Strategy, a Level 1 Community Centres requires population catchment of up to 10,000. **Further planning recommended**
6x submissions	Council to fund 100% of the development plan for Valley Views Estate	Est $400,000	Not budgeted	Valley Views presents a complex planning problem, with the Low Density Residential zoning of the land not matching the rural residential nature of the developed estate. Funding the preparation of a Development Plan will not necessarily result in the realisation of an integrated development. This is due to the ownership of land being highly fragmented with many landowners unlikely to develop their land. This presents problems in developing integrating infrastructure and any infrastructure cost recovery scheme. A briefing paper for council is being prepared on this matter. **Under review**
2x submissions	Reinstate Wodonga dog pound	Scope dependent	Not budgeted	A shared pound with four other councils to provide a regional service is best practice. There are economies of scale that could otherwise not be realised. Good rehoming rates are currently being provided. **Not supported**
Wodonga Cemetery	Funding for buggy shed/carport	Requested $20,000	Not budgeted	The cemetery trust is a state incorporated body. Recommend applying for a Community Infrastructure Grant. **Not supported**
Ron Finemore	Traffic signals installed on new exit road at the rear of the RFT property	Requested $255,000 Est is $700,000	Not budgeted	VicRoads is the responsible authority for the road. Developer has purchased land to construct road. This is a private entrance on to VicRoads declared road. **Not supported**
Wodonga Tennis Centre	Removal of trees on Lawrence St	Requested $250,000 Cost est $1 million including path, drainage, guttering, car parking bays and trees	Not budgeted	The pine trees sit outside Wodonga Tennis Centre lease area. The tree removal is identified in the Kelly Park Masterplan. Consultation should be undertaken with the community, surrounding residents and users of the Wodonga Tennis Centre to fully inform any decision on the tree removal. Following that consultation, planning and design work would be required which would inform the capital budget request. **Supported**
Wodonga Tennis Centre	Upgrade to Tennis Centre fencing	Requested $300,000 Cost est $350,000	Not budgeted	Council could consider a partnership application with WTC and Tennis Australia to apply for the Community Safety Fund in 2023-24 if the project is deemed eligible to the fund guidelines. **Support grant application**
Wodonga Tennis Centre	Lighting upgrade	Requested $100,000 Cost est Between $200,000 (globes only) and $1 million (for new poles and globes)	Not budgeted	These works are not identified in the Kelly Park Masterplan (2018). Under the terms of the lease lighting replacement is the responsibility of the tenant. **Not supported**
Wodonga Tennis Centre	Building rewiring	Cost est $10,000	Not budgeted	Electrical assessment have been undertaken and full building rewiring is not required. It have been recommended that the electrical loads on the servers been distributed more evenly and the power board upgraded. Not currently budget for but could be considered for building renewal works if the budget allows this financial year. **Pending budget allocation**

Wodonga Tennis Centre	Replace synthetic court surfaces	Cost est $150,000	In 2023-2024 draft budget	The courts were determined as nearing end of life in a review conducted by Tennis Victoria 2019. This report suggested they be replaced in the next three years. **Included in draft budget**
Wodonga Tennis Centre	Resurface blue plexipave courts	Cost est $500,000	Long-term capital plan	As identified in the review by Tennis Victoria in 2019, the works have been broken up across two financial years to spread to cost and minimise disruptions to tennis programs and events. **Included in draft budget**
Cypress Court residents	Flood levy in Les Stone Park	$550,000	Budgeted 2023-2024 design 2024-2025 construction	**Included in draft budget**

CITY OF WODONGA VIC

OPERATIONAL

Community feedback

OPERATIONAL

Submitters	Request	Costings (subject to feasibility and costing assessment)	Funding options	Officer response
	Public toilets that are OPEN 24/7 and accessible to general public, especially walkers and children.	Scope dependent	Not budgeted	Being reviewed as part of the consultation and development of a draft Public Toilet Strategy **Pending strategy outcomes**
	Review the traffic flow in the CBA eg High/Elgin, Hume/Elgin and Smythe/Elgin	$20,000	In 2023-2024 budget	$10,000 for modelling and $10,000 for road safety assessment. **Supported**
	Vic Roads standard green speed limit sign with flashing lights placed on Baranduda Blvd where the road becomes a 60km zone near Westmont.	N/A	Not budgeted	A 60 ahead sign is already in place. Once development increases a township entrance sign might be required. **Not supported**
	Parking bays in Lawrence St east, indented parking from Havelock to Anne St - the pipes keep cracking as people drive over them. Poor design, needs to be looked at.	N/A	Operational budget	Maintenance request. Lodged as customer service request #287039 **Request lodged**
	Killara needs more Street sweeping needed at least every 2-3 months in all streets not just a select few in Killara.	N/A	Operational budget	Maintenance request. Lodged as customer service request #287040 **Request lodged**
	Repair Yack Wodonga road at Baranduda and remove warning sign	N/A	N/A	VicRoads is the responsible authority for this road. **No action required at this time**
	Support businesses to collaborate and put on live music and small events	Scope dependent	In 2023-2024 budget	Council officers have proposed in the 23-24 budget a continuation of 'Fridays in the Square' that supports traders, markets and artists. **Supported**
	Lawrence St bridge is poorly designed, you can't turn right and the railing obstructs your view	N/A	Not budgeted	Intersection was altered to address road safety audit. Turning right out of Parkland Drive was unsafe. **Not supported**
	There is a great piece of land in a flood plain off Huon Creek Road that I used to call the "horse paddock" that could make for a wonderful treed road parkland. Increase the number of green spaces and to increase tree planting. Continue tree planting program including deciduous trees.	Scope dependent	Not budgeted	Land will have significant restrictions as it is a flood plain. Council commits a $150,000 per year to tree planting. **Investigation required**
	Add a tap to the community garden in Killara	N/A	Not budgeted	This has been discussed previously with the group who have been instructed to apply for a grant. **No action required at this time**
	Clean the Wodonga creek area near the miniature train. Install tables and chairs.	N/A	Operational budget	Remediation works have commenced at Diamond Park since the flood waters have receded and will continue over the coming months. **Supported**
	More council public partnership with events	N/A	Operational budget	Council hosts a calendar of events annually across the city that encourage partnerships with local organisations, the arts community, service clubs and

				sporting clubs. Council encourages sponsorship opportunities from our business community across cultural services and venues **Supported**
8x submissions	More stuff for kids - Rollerblading rink - Ice skating rink - Movies - Bowling - Splash park Local museum More community events Community activities	Scope dependent	Not budgeted	Commercial activities would need to be supported by private developers. The Wodonga and District Historical Society is located at Bonegilla Migrant Experience. The council hosts an annual calendar of events for the community, additional events would need to be supported with funding. **No action required at this time**
	Source equipment that will improve the maintenance of cycle /walking pathways, e.g. four wheel 'Polaris" type vehicle	N/A	Operational budget	The council undertakes regular inspections of footpaths and shared paths, checking for defects using detailed video imaging by contractors on quad-bike as well as with an own ATV and staff on foot. The data gathered from the survey is used for proactive, cost-effective maintenance and renewal of our footpaths. **No further action required**
2x submissions	Upgrade the skate park to be like Albury's	N/A	Not budgeted	Wodonga Skatepark was previously upgraded in 2017, to include several new skate elements and the basketball court. This facility caters for a range of ages and abilities. Wodonga also has a skatepark at Baranduda and a pump track that can be used by skaters and scooter riders in West Wodonga. **Not supported**
	Additional public bins a block or two from fast food outlets	N/A	Operational budget	All new public places are processed via a flow chart to ensure the need is real. Audits are taken to determine level of littering or dumping. **No action required at this time**
4x submissions	Annual hard waste collection	Scope dependent	Not budgeted	More than half of Victoria's councils do not provide a hard waste collection. The accumulation of hard waste at a property is the occupier's responsibility. Many businesses offer the service of removing old appliances etc. Council continues to provide assistance for pensioners for hard waste collection. **Not supported**
6x submissions	Weekly bin collection Larger red bins	N/A	N/A	The present fortnightly refuse bin collection is industry best practice. Householders can apply for an upsized bin at their cost. **No action required**
	More playgroups	N/A	Funding	Early Years provides funded facilitated Supported Playgroups across the city with five groups per week to eligible families. These are funded through the Department of Education. Community playgroups are run by parents/carers/volunteers who attend the group. Community playgroups currently operate out of the Baranduda and Felltimber Community Centres. **No action required**
	Proper shopping centre at Baranduda	N/A	Developer	The Leneva-Baranduda Precinct Structure Plan is a comprehensive land use plan for the city's principal growth area. The PSP includes two local town centres, one of which is in Baranduda. **No action required**

Albury Wodonga Ethnic Community Council	Funding for Harmony Day and Refugee Day celebrations	Requested $11,000 per year	Proposed for 2023-2024 budget	Harmony Day recognises the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Refugee Week provide opportunity to celebrate the positive contributions of refugees to Australian society The event supports engagement and inclusion of the multicultural community and the council has previously supported this event financially. Wodonga is a Refugee Welcome Zone and 11.3 per cent of Wodonga residents were born overseas. The request aligns with community feedback for more festivals and events. **Supported**
Business Wodonga (4x submitters support funding of Business Wodonga)	Jobs expo funding	Requested $22,000 per expo. ($44,000)	Proposed for 2023-2024 budget	The two previous expos have been reasonably successful and supported by industry. Proposal is two run two expos in the 12 months. **Support at previous level, up to $10,000 per expo ($20,000)**
Business Wodonga (4x submitters support funding of Business Wodonga)	Digital Literacy Program funding	Requested $85,290	Proposed for 2023-2024 budget	Assumption is that budget request represent total cost of program for about 30 participants. **Not supported at that level. Recommend up to $10,000 to support a grant application to Victorian Government.**
Startup Shakeup (1x submission supports funding support for business innovation)	Partnership designed to build innovation support for businesses	Requested $20,000	Not budgeted	Council have supported program in the past through received grant funding. There are no clear outcomes for Wodonga and the previous performance/outcome from past financial support has not been made clear. **Not supported**
Chris Phillips	Planning enforcement officer	N/A	Not budgeted	Compliance and enforcement review to be presented to councillors in due course. **In progress**

7.2 Community Engagement Policy

PURPOSE

To adopt the updated Community Engagement Policy following the community consultation.

SUMMARY

The council's Community Engagement Policy was first adopted in line with requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* in February 2021. As part of the resolution, council requested a future review of the policy.

The policy was revised incorporating the community's feedback and went out for public exhibition and feedback in February and March this year.

It is now being presented to Council for adoption.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Community Engagement Policy, as attached, be adopted.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Community Engagement Policy 2023 [**7.2.1** - 9 pages]
2. Draft Community Engagement Policy Engagement Snapshot [**7.2.2** - 2 pages]
3. Draft Community Engagement Policy 2023 with changes [**7.2.3** - 9 pages]

DISCUSSION

Under the *Local Government 2020,* all councils had to adopt a Community Engagement Policy, giving effect to the community engagement principles listed in the Act, by March 1, 2021.

The *Community Engagement Policy* outlines the council's commitment to engaging and consulting its community through appropriate, timely, effective and inclusive practices.

In line with the council resolution, council staff undertook a review in 2022 of the adopted policy.

The feedback and suggestions were incorporated into the revised policy which was put out for public exhibition in February and March this year.

Two submissions were received and are outlined below.

Submitter	Feedback	Officer response
Susanne Frost	I have read both of the policy documents available and congratulate the Council for updating and embedding policy amendments to enhance communicating with the community of Wodonga. A further suggestion I feel would cement the intentions of Council efforts for community engagement would be to have a whole day as an open day (perhaps in the Cube auditorium) with stands representing the different departments of Council and have staff on hand to inform community members. All types of posters and plans can be available to attendees - even suggestion boxes and activities (for example, town maps with coloured pins to identify areas/needs considered important to community members) to express support for proposed developments. This convention-style council event could happen once per year (? twice) and engender a sense of place for community members.	We thank the submitter for the positive feedback. The suggestion for an open day has been taken on board for consideration in future budgets and planning. Community vision consultations held in 2023/24 will provide an opportunity for community to be engaged in a broad range of discussion relating to the organisation and the services it provides and the development of the city. **Officers recommend no change to policy**
Pauline Bluck	This policy is needed for community engagement and inclusion.	We thank the submitter for the positive feedback. **Officers recommend no change to policy**

An internal review of the final policy noted some changes to the formal submissions section of the document.

This was to include the word "minimum" (read … for a minimum 21-day period) to make the time periods less prescriptive and remove reference to excluding personal details in making the submissions public. This has been covered by a process improvement in the way the submissions are received.

A gender impact assessment was undertaken regarding the policy. Two recommendations were put forward to address a commitment to inclusion and equitable access to participate in consultation activities. It is considered that these are adequately covered in the principles and commitments section of the policy.

Persons whose rights will be directly affected by this decision

The policy defines community as those who live, work, study or conduct business in the municipality, are involved in local community groups or organisations; who

visit, use, or enjoy the services, facilities and public places located within the municipality; and those who share an interest, a sense of identity or a shared common goal.

RELEVANT LAW

The *Local Government Act 2020* sets out the requirements for the policy as well as providing principles by which the council undertakes community engagement, in line with its community and resources.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

At its meeting, on February 22, 2021, the council passed the following recommendation.

1. That the Community Engagement Policy, as attached, be adopted.
2. The policy be reviewed with the community and a further update be presented to the council before June 2022.

At its meeting on June 27, 2022, the council extended the time for the review to December 2022.

At its meeting on December 16, 2022, the council resolved that:

1. The Community Engagement Policy review report be received and noted; and,

2. An updated draft policy, inclusive of community feedback be presented to the February 2023 Council meeting.

At its meeting on February 20, 2023, the council resolved to put the draft policy out to the community for feedback.

OPTIONS

Option 1: Adopt the Community Engagement Policy

The policy has been revised and updated following an extensive community consultation process which has seen numerous changes to the policy incorporating that feedback.

The outcome is an improved and inclusive policy reflective of the community's expectations.

This option is the recommended option.

Option 2: Do not adopt the revised policy

As part of the adoption of the policy in 2021, the council resolved to undertake the review with the community.

Community members have participated in, and contributed to, the review. Their input provides an opportunity to strengthen the current policy and improve the related consultation approaches.

By not adopting this revision, the council will still meet its legislative responsibilities with its existing policy adopted in 2021.

Option 3: Adopt the policy with more changes

The policy has been through an extensive consultation and been tested with the community with their feedback incorporated.

In line with our engagement principles, any further notable change should be subject to further consultation.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Community consultation is critically important as a way for council and the community to work together in the decision-making process. Input from the community provides the opportunity for councillors to make more informed and sustainable decisions.

As the community grows, and resourcing is limited, there will be more demand on council to engage with innovative approaches and technology to ensure that it can continue to involve the community in the decision-making process in an effective and efficient manner.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The draft policy, which had been subject to community consultation in its development detailed in previous reports, was put out for public exhibition for 28 days.

Two submissions were received and are outlined earlier in this report.

The engagement snapshot (attachment 1) outlines the activities taken as part of that consultation.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The council is continually exploring new ways and means for engaging with our community in ways that are timely, inclusive, and accessible.

Following the review, staff have already taken some of the feedback on board including changing the way feedback is captured at face-to-face opportunities, reiterating the scope and influence online and in-person opportunities and upcoming opportunities being displayed on the council website.

Through each consultation, staff seek opportunities to revise, modify and improve engagement processes.

A new, contemporary community engagement platform software to allow more efficient and effective dialogue and updates with our community is due to be launched in April.

COLLABORATION

Staff engage across the organisation in developing and undertaking community consultation.

The council worked closely with a focus group to inform the policy update.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The undertaking of the review and update to the policy was done within operational budgets. Future requests for additional resources would form part future budget considerations.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

N/A

COUNCIL PLAN AND POLICIES

Strategic objective
Create a welcoming and inclusive city for people of all backgrounds, ages and abilities that is well-connected, which supports people to meet, participate and move safely and access services and opportunities they need.

Strategy
Build a connected and inclusive community that has access to information and the opportunity to engage.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There have been no conflict-of-interest declarations by the following officers involved with the preparation of this report:

Manager Communications, Marketing and Customer Focus - Kellie Davies
Deputy CEO - Debra Mudra



Community Engagement Policy

Purpose

The Community Engagement Policy outlines the council's commitment to engaging and consulting its community through appropriate, timely, effective and inclusive practices.

This policy replaces the 2019 policy to meet the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* having been developed in consultation with the community and giving effect to the community engagement principles listed in the Act.

Objective

Community engagement is critical to effective, transparent and accountable governance in the public, community and private sectors.

It is defined as the range of opportunities and activities that allow for public involvement in council's decision-making.

Meaningful community engagement seeks to address barriers and build the capacity and confidence of people to participate in, negotiate and partner with, institutions that affect their lives.

This policy will embed a consistent approach to community engagement within the council and ensure it is well-integrated into council processes and activities to support decision-making and strengthen relationships and partnerships with our community and key stakeholders.

The principles and council's commitment aim to ensure its engagement with its community is genuine, authentic, informative and inclusive.

Scope

This policy applies to all councillors, employees of the council, volunteers, external consultants and contractors employed as representatives of council who organise, convene and facilitate council community engagement and consultation activities.

This policy does not replace processes relating to permit applications and planning scheme amendments governed by the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and associated regulations.

It does not apply to other council processes such as service requests or complaints.

In making a decision, the council takes all opinions into consideration, often from differing viewpoints, while weighing up a range of factors.

Community engagement is not the sole determinant in a decision-making process. There are many other stakeholders and factors that need to be taken into consideration. These include existing policies and strategies, other levels of government, legislation and budget.



Community Engagement Policy

Definitions

Advocacy	Public support for or recommendation of a particular cause or policy.
Community	Refers to the people who have a stake and interest in the city of Wodonga and includes the following. • Those who live, work, study or conduct business in the municipality • Those involved in local community groups or organisations • Those who visit, use or enjoy the services, facilities and public places located within the municipality • Those who share an interest, a sense of identity or a shared common goal
Community Engagement	Community engagement is a planned process with the specific purpose of working with individuals and groups to encourage active involvement in decisions that affect them or are of interest to them. It seeks to better engage the community to achieve long-term and sustainable outcomes, processes, relationships, discourse, decision-making or implementation. It must encompass strategies and processes that are sensitive the community context in which it occurs.
Consultation	The activity of seeking input or feedback on a matter or topic.
Deliberative Engagement	The Local Government Act principles for community engagement refer to deliberative engagement practices (s.55(2)(g)). The Act does not prescribe these practices. For the purposes of this policy the key characteristics of deliberative engagement are considered to be: authentic engagement with the community; good representation of the community in engagement activities; clear demonstration of how all views have been considered; accessible and relevant information available to the community to ensure the decision-making process; and, the community's level of influence is clear in each instance and that participants are fully informed. Deliberative process should be designed to meet the needs of our council and our community and be consummate with our resources. The form of deliberative engagement will be relevant to the situational context.
Policy	Sets out the council's views with respect to a particular matter. It includes a set of principles or rules that provide a definite direction for the organisation.
Stakeholder	An individual or group identified with a strong interest in a particular topic in regards to the decision-making of the council and are directly affected by an outcome.

Policy

Principles and council's commitment

Wodonga Council commits to the following six principles for community engagement which are based on those outlined in section 56 of the *Local Government Act 2020*. Against each principle, the council has outlined its commitment which reflects the expectations of the community as determined through consultation in developing of the policy.



Community Engagement Policy

Principle	Council's commitment
Each process will have a clearly defined and communicated objective and scope	• Engagement is planned in line with this policy and identifies the purpose, scope and objectives of the community's participation • Reasons for the engagement will be communicated to the community early in the process through multiple platform and communications tools. • Available resources will be allocated to engagement planning and implementation • Identify at the start of the process the level of community influence and the parameters of the consultation and inform the community across all engagement materials and activities, whether online or in person. • Any changes throughout an engagement process should be communicated early and clearly.
The community will have access to objective, relevant and timely information	• Provide the community with the information necessary to participate meaningfully in the engagement including constraints and opportunities • Information provided will be balanced, objective, relevant to the engagement, and promptly available • Information will be clear, easy to understand and provided in a way that is accessible for all members of the community • Where possible, provide advance notice of council's intent to review key policies, strategies and plans.
Participants will be representative of the persons and groups affected	• Identify people, communities and stakeholders directly and indirectly affected by and interested in the topic of engagement • Reach and undertake targeted activities to involve and hear from participants that represent the affected and interested groups • Undertake activities that seek to hear from a cross-section of the community • Increase inclusiveness and reach by using existing networks and safe, trusted spaces • Partner, where appropriate, with other organisations to maximise collective effort, impact and the opportunities to



Community Engagement Policy

	engage with the community but not to the detriment of others
The community will receive reasonable and effective support to enable meaningful and informed engagement	• Design engagement that is inclusive by minimising any physical, social, financial and cultural barriers • Seek to obtain the views of, and feedback from, a broad cross-section of the community • Provide the time and opportunities through various methods of engagement for anyone affected by a council decision to provide input and feedback • Allow sufficient time for members of the community for the review of information and participation in varied engagement activities
Each community engagement process details at the outset the ways in which the feedback will influence council decision-making.	• Identify the appropriate level of engagement as outlined in this policy • Outline as part of the engagement scope how community input, feedback and perspectives will be incorporated into the council's decision-making • Communicate what other factors will influence the decision-making process
Outcomes following the engagement process will be reported back to the community.	• Share the outcomes of the engagement and how the community and stakeholder views were taken into account • Include verbatim feedback from comments and submissions from participants (unless defamatory or inappropriate) • Detail the reasons and factors that have been considered in the final outcome • Evaluate activities in terms of participation, reach, effectiveness for engaging the audience and the quality of information.



Community Engagement Policy

Engaging the community

The council will engage the community throughout the various stages when planning for changes to, or the introduction of, new services, facilities, policies or local that impact the community.

This engagement should occur early in the planning stage to ensure the community has the time to influence decision-making and outcomes.

In some instances, work will be undertaken to include information such as technical research and feasibility of options before seeking community input to ensure the community is appropriately informed.

The council commits to engaging the community in any of - but not limited to - the following situations.

- Legislative requirements
- Potential significant impacts on the health, safety or wellbeing of the community
- Proposed changes will impact on current users or customers of a council service or facility
- Proposed changes will affect the rights or entitlements of community members
- Potential impact on surrounding neighbours
- To identify community issues, needs and priorities
- Proposed changes that are inter-generational in nature
- To monitor customer satisfaction with council's services and facilities
- Where there is a level of controversy, conflict or sensitivity about a particular issue

Types of community engagement

Community engagement can include multiple levels of participation, at different stages of the process and as different stakeholders choose to engage at different levels.

The level of community engagement will be in regard to the significance, complexity and anticipated level of impact of what is being proposed, and the stakeholders that will need to be targeted. It will also give regard to any legislative requirements.

This policy broadly outlines three approaches to community engagement and where they may be applied in the legislative, strategic and operational context. The council can use one or a combination of approaches in its community engagement.

Deliberative: This practice has the highest level of influence. This type of engagement is measured and considered. A deliberative process involves a diverse representation of participants; allows time and space for people to weigh up important, useful information from a range of sources; and, where decision-makers respond transparently to that input. The key feature of a deliberative process is to come to a decision after considering all information and prioritising and weighing solutions. It can be scaled and targeted to fit the size and impact of the project.

Participatory: This has a lower level of influence and involves a one-way exchange of information from the council to the community or vice versa. It is the invitation to provide feedback on ideas, alternatives or draft documents. The level of community participation and representation can be very broad.



Community Engagement Policy

Formal submissions: Where previously governed by the section 223 process of the Local Government Act 1989, the council will take a formal submissions approach. This approach will be complementary to the participatory and deliberative approaches.

The formal submissions process will include the following.

- Advertisement of the item in appropriate channels for a minimum 21-day period to allow the community or stakeholders to make a written submission. The period will begin from publication on council channels.
- Make available a template for submissions which includes permission to publish
- Ensure all written submission under this process are provided to all councillors before any decision is made
- Make available the submissions to the public unless otherwise notified by the submitter

As a guide, the approach for community engagement for the council's statutory requirements is set out below.

Matter	**Engagement Approach**
Community Vision	Deliberative engagement
Council Plan	Deliberative engagement
Financial Plan	Deliberative engagement
Asset Plan	Deliberative engagement
Budget	Participatory engagement
Making of a Local Law	Formal submissions
Acquiring or selling land	Formal submissions
Other statutory and non-statutory plans, strategies or policies, service planning and capital works projects	Level to be selected depending on the complexity of the matter.

Roles and responsibilities

Everyone has a role to play in the activities that shape the places where we live, work, visit and invest. Community engagement is a shared responsibility across community, councillors and council staff.

The council recognises community engagement does not replace appropriate decision-making by elected representatives but decisions can be enhanced through understanding the needs of the community and the impact of these decisions.

Community engagement is the responsibility of all council service areas and staff as appropriate to their role and function. Engagement of the community should be central to the consideration by the council in the delivery of any service, development of any project or building of any relationship. The effective application of principles and processes outlined in this policy is effectively the responsibility of staff across the organisation.



Community Engagement Policy

Who	Responsibilities
Councillors	Champion the commitment and principles of engagement through leadership, modelling best-practice and decision-making. Record feedback on open consultations for inclusion by staff in the relevant feedback reports Encourage community to engage with the consultation process by providing feedback through online channels or submissions Ensure that matters under consideration are informed by the planned level of community engagement. Balance the range of stakeholder views and concerns on an issue when making a decision.
Executive	Champion better practice community engagement through policy, process and leadership. Monitor implementation and compliance with this policy.
Managers	Manage areas of responsibility to ensure community engagement is consistent with this policy.
Staff	Undertake to make community engagement activities consistent with this policy.

Reasons for limited engagement

There might be times when community engagement activities do not occur or the opportunity for engagement might be limited.

It can be expected there will be instances that the level of engagement could be at the base inform level where the council must make a decision in the best interests of the community without undertaking consultation.

This could include situations related to health and safety, where work relates to operational matters or where there is an unacceptable risk to the community that requires immediate action.

Examples where there might be limited engagement include but are not limited to:

- Where the council isn't the leading agency;
- Where specialist knowledge or expertise is required;
- An initiative which involves confidential or commercial information;
- Where there are clear and defined legislative responsibilities that must be met;
- The development or review of internal policies and procedures;
- Where the council is responding to an emergency; or,
- Where there is a risk to public safety.

If a project or decision will impact members of the community but there is no opportunity for community input then, wherever possible, the council will work to ensure that information is provided in a timely manner.



Community Engagement Policy

For the duration of the election period as governed by Local Government Act 2020 and in line with the council's Election Period Policy, consultation should be avoided.

Keeping the community updated

As outlined in the sixth principle, the outcomes of the engagement and how feedback was taken into account will be shared with the community. Reporting of outcomes and updates will always be available online on the council's website as well as provided directly to those who asked to be kept informed and have provided contact details.

The reasons and factors that have been considered in reaching a final outcome should be communicated to the community as part of the reporting process.

Monitoring and evaluation

The council will continually monitor the processes, information sharing and decision-making to understand the overall level of success in the policy's implementation.

A periodic review of this policy will be undertaken to ensure any changes required to strengthen or update the policy are made in a timely manner.

Attachments

Nil

Note: The implementation of this policy is supported by planning and implementation tools for staff.

Related policies

Governance Rules
Public Transparency Policy

Related legislation

Planning and Environment Act 1987
Subdivision Act 1988
Local Government Act 2020
Local Government Regulations 1990
Health Act 1958
Equal Opportunity Act 2010
Transport Integration Act 2010
Information Privacy Act 2000
Building Act 1993
Age Discrimination Act 2004
Disability Discrimination Act 2004
Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006

References

Local Government Act 2020 Principle of Community Engagement



Community Engagement Policy

Review

Council may review this policy at any time but unless otherwise requested at least every four years from date of adoption. Minor amendments to the policy may be authorised by the CEO at any time where such changes do not alter the substance of the policy eg: typographical errors, a change to the name of a related policy, or a change to the name of legislation.

Title:	Community Engagement Policy
Reference No:	To be completed after adoption
Business Unit:	Communications, Marketing and Customer Focus
Category:	Policy
Approved By:	
Next Review:	June 2026



Draft Community Engagement Policy

ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT

Draft Community Engagement Policy

WHEN: Wednesday, February 22 to Tuesday, March 21

ENGAGEMENT METHODS: To encourage residents to get involved, we promoted the opportunity for people to have their say through our communication channels, including public notices, emails, social media and a have your say page on makewodongayours.com.au.

RESPONSES

2 submissions through Make Wodonga Yours

0 relevant comments on social media

COMMUNICATIONS

5149 emails

48.54% average open rate

24 click-throughs

4 Facebook posts

6057 reach

12 likes and reactions

4 Instagram posts

1408 reach

24 likes and reactions

91 website visits

65 unique pageviews

2 public notices

CITY OF WODONGA VIC



Draft Community Engagement Policy

ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT

FEEDBACK

There were two formal submissions recieved during the consultation period, both have been included in full.

- Susanne Frost

I have read both of the policy documents available and congratulate the Council for updating and embedding policy amendments to enhance communicating with the community of Wodonga.

A further suggestion I feel would cement the intentions of Council efforts for community engagement would be to have a whole day as an open day (perhaps in the Cube auditorium) with stands representing the different departments of Council and have staff on hand to inform community members. All types of posters and plans can be available to attendees - even suggestion boxes and activities (for example, town maps with coloured pins to identify areas/needs considered important to community members) to express support for proposed developments. This convention-style council event could happen once per year (? twice) and engender a sense of place for community members.

- Pauline Bluck

This policy is needed for community engagement and inclusion.

CITY OF WODONGA VIC



Community Engagement Policy

Purpose

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Objective

Community engagement is critical to effective, transparent and accountable governance in the public, community and private sectors.

It is defined as the range of opportunities and activities that allow for public involvement in council's decision-making.

Meaningful community engagement seeks to address barriers and build the capacity and confidence of people to participate in, negotiate and partner with, institutions that affect their lives.

This policy will embed a consistent approach to community engagement within the council and ensure it is well-integrated into council processes and activities to support decision-making and strengthen relationships and partnerships with our community and key stakeholders.

The principles and council's commitment aim to ensure its engagement with its community is genuine, authentic, informative and inclusive.

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Community Engagement Policy

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Policy

Principles and council's commitment

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Community Engagement Policy

Principle	Council's commitment
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~~Participants~~ The community will have access to objective, relevant and timely information	• Provide the community with the information necessary to participate meaningfully in the engagement including constraints and opportunities • Information provided will be ~~objective~~balanced, objective, relevant to the engagement, ~~timely~~ and promptly available ~~and easy to understand~~ • Information will be clear, easy to understand and provided in a way that is accessible for all members of the community • ~~Endeavour to~~ Where possible, provide advance notice of council's intent to review key policies, strategies and plans.
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Community Engagement Policy

	• Partner, where appropriate, with other organisations to maximise collective effort, impact and the opportunities to engage with the community but not to the detriment of others~~.~~
~~Participants~~ The community will receive reasonable and effective support to enable meaningful and informed engagement	• ~~Seek to reduce any~~ Design engagement that is inclusive by minimising any physical, social, financial and cultural barriers ~~to participation~~ • Seek to obtain the views of, and feedback from, a broad cross-section of the community • Provide ~~ample~~ the time and opportunities through various methods of engagement~~y~~ for anyone affected by a council decision to provide input and feedback • Allow sufficient time for members of the community for the review of information and participation in varied engagement activities
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Outcomes following the engagement process will be reported back to the community.	• Share the outcomes of the engagement and how the community and stakeholder views were taken into account • Include verbatim feedback from comments and submissions from participants (unless defamatory or inappropriate) • Detail the reasons and factors that have been considered in the final outcome • Evaluate activities in terms of participation, reach, effectiveness for engaging the audience and the quality of information.

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Community Engagement Policy

Engaging the community

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Asset Plan	Deliberative engagement
Budget	Participatory engagement
Making of a Local Law	Formal submissions
Acquiring or selling land	Formal submissions
Other statutory and non-statutory plans, strategies or policies, service planning and capital works projects	Level to be selected depending on the complexity of the matter.

Roles and responsibilities

Everyone has a role to play in the activities that shape the places where we live, work, visit and invest. Community engagement is a shared responsibility across community, councillors and council staff.

The council recognises community engagement does not replace appropriate decision-making by elected representatives but decisions can be enhanced through understanding the needs of the community and the impact of these decisions.

Community engagement is the responsibility of all council service areas and staff as appropriate to their role and function. Engagement of the community should be central to the consideration by the council in the delivery of any service, development of any project

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Community Engagement Policy

or building of any relationship. The effective application of principles and processes outlined in this policy is effectively the responsibility of staff across the organisation.

Who	Responsibilities
Councillors	Champion the commitment and principles of engagement through leadership, modelling best-practice and decision-making. Record feedback on open consultations for inclusion by staff in the relevant feedback reports Encourage community to engage with the consultation process by providing feedback through online channels or submissions Ensure that matters under consideration are informed by the planned level of community engagement. Balance the range of stakeholder views and concerns on an issue when making a decision.
Executive	Champion better practice community engagement through policy, process and leadership. Monitor implementation and compliance with this policy.
Managers	Manage areas of responsibility to ensure community engagement is consistent with this policy.
Staff	Undertake to make community engagement activities consistent with this policy.

Reasons for limited engagement

There might be times when community engagement activities do not occur or the opportunity for engagement might be limited.

It can be expected there will be instances that the level of engagement could be at the base inform level where the council must make a decision in the best interests of the community without undertaking consultation.

This could include situations related to health and safety, where work relates to operational matters or where there is an unacceptable risk to the community that requires immediate action.

Examples where there might be limited engagement include but are not limited to:

- Where the council isn't the leading agency;
- Where specialist knowledge or expertise is required;
- An initiative which involves confidential or commercial information;
- Where there are clear and defined legislative responsibilities that must be met;
- The development or review of internal policies and procedures;
- Where the council is responding to an emergency; or,
- Where there is a risk to public safety.

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Community Engagement Policy

If a project or decision will impact members of the community but there is no opportunity for community input then, wherever possible, the council will work to ensure that information is provided in a timely manner.

For the duration of the election period as governed by Local Government Act 2020 and in line with the council's Election Period Policy, consultation should be avoided.

Keeping the community updated

As outlined in the ~~fifth~~ sixth principle, the outcomes of the engagement and how feedback was taken into account will be shared with the community. Reporting of outcomes and updates will always be available online on the council's website as well as provided directly to those who asked to be kept informed and have provided contact details.

The reasons and factors that have been considered in reaching a final outcome should be communicated to the community as part of the reporting process.

Monitoring and evaluation

The council will continually monitor the processes, information sharing and decision-making to understand the overall level of success in the policy's implementation.

A periodic review of this policy will be undertaken to ensure any changes required to strengthen or update the policy are made in a timely manner.

Attachments

Nil

Note: The implementation of this policy ~~will be~~is supported by planning and implementation tools for staff. ~~(to be updated)~~

Related policies

Governance Rules
Public Transparency Policy

Related legislation

Planning and Environment Act 1987
Subdivision Act 1988
Local Government Act 2020
Local Government Regulations 1990
Health Act 1958
Equal Opportunity Act 2010
Transport Integration Act 2010
Information Privacy Act 2000
Building Act 1993
Age Discrimination Act 2004
Disability Discrimination Act 2004
Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006

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Community Engagement Policy

References

Local Government Act 2020 Principle of Community Engagement

Review

Council may review this policy at any time but unless otherwise requested at least every four years from date of adoption. Minor amendments to the policy may be authorised by the CEO at any time where such changes do not alter the substance of the policy eg: typographical errors, a change to the name of a related policy, or a change to the name of legislation.

Title:	Community Engagement Policy
Reference No:	To be completed after adoption
Business Unit:	Communications, Marketing and Customer Focus
Category:	Policy
Approved By:	
Next Review:	June 2026~~2~~

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7.3 Community Grants Program Review

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the community consultation undertaken by council in relation to the Community Grants program and to present a range of options for councillors' consideration.

SUMMARY

At the council meeting in July 2022, it was resolved that the Community Grants Program be reviewed in line with community consultations for the annual budget.

Consultations opened 30 January 2023 and closed 6 March 2023 and community feedback is contained within this report (attachment 1).

The Community Grants Program provides funding to a range of mostly volunteer run community organisations, community groups and sporting clubs to drive a range of outcomes for residents in the Wodonga municipality that are aligned with the Council plan and other adopted strategies. These organisations serve and support a broad cross-section of the community.

The council administers two community grants rounds per year with a total current annual budget of $115,000.

Through the grants program, council seeks to achieve strategic policy outcomes by collaborating with and resourcing local community organisations. These groups in turn deliver innovative projects that seek to address recreational, social, cultural and environmental aspirations in the community, and contribute to an enhanced quality of life and long-term benefits for residents.

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. Council consolidates all community grant funding and Memorandum of Understandings into the one annual process that is aligned with the budget submission process effective January 2024; and

2. Current Memorandum of Understandings and Community Partnership agreements continue until the end of each agreement.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment 1 Community Grants Program Review Engagement Report [**7.3.1** - 11 pages]
2. Attachment 2 Grants Program Aims [**7.3.2** - 2 pages]
3. Attachment 3 Community Grants Program Case Studies [**7.3.3** - 2 pages]

DISCUSSION

Government grants

Government grants are an important source of funding for most community organisations. According to the Australian Institute of Grants Management[2], four out of five Australian community organisation rely on government grants as their primary funding source, compared to other forms of funding, such as philanthropic grants or corporate funding, etc. A total of 65 per cent of community organisations are estimated to rely on either state or federal government grants as their primary funding source.

Community groups and voluntary organisations, who typically access council's grants program, often lack the human resources required to secure larger grants, such as state and federal government grants. State and federal grants programs often require significant strategic planning investment and co-contribution and can be more complex in nature than localised grants. They are also often more competitive or targeted, and more restrictive based on organisation type and/or geographical location whereas local government is seen as a more localised grant funder.

A desktop audit confirmed that all 79 councils offer community funding. In 2020-21, 46 of the 79 Victorian councils distributed more than $45 million worth of grants to individuals, businesses, and community groups (while 33 councils did not report their total grant spending in their 2020–21 annual reports). [1] Wodonga Council granted around $276,000 in community grants, sponsorship/donations, MOUs, and event attraction funding in 2020/21.

Policy context

There is a myriad of legislative frameworks that require council to demonstrate their endeavours in meeting compliance obligations and, as a result, achieving the best outcomes for the local community.

Community grants programs are one of the ways in which local governments can work with community organisations and groups to help deliver on the Council plan and other adopted plans and strategies and demonstrate progress in meeting legislative obligations.

Community grants are an enabler in supporting local networks, participation in community life, facilitate innovation and promotes access, inclusion and acceptance of diversity. The Community grants is a resource to assist community groups in seeking funds to achieve local outcomes, with the relationship between local governments and local communities strengthened.

Community grants are governed by a framework of policy and guidelines that is a foundation for best practice in grants management and administration that applies throughout the funding cycle.

A recent report by Victorian Auditor's General Office (2022), states that the law requires, and communities expect, councils to deliver grant programs with integrity and accountability. The governance framework around the Community grant

process ensures transparency, fairness and accountability to the community in Council decision-making.

Grants overview

The current Community Grants Program (table 1) provides funding to community organisations, sporting clubs and community groups to drive social, environmental, cultural, recreational, and economic outcomes in the Wodonga municipality.

The council administers two community grants rounds per year, in February and July, with a total current annual budget of $115,000 across three streams. The present grants program was reviewed in 2022 to ensure it complies with VAGO recommendations in terms of conflicts, assessments, recommendations, and grant approvals.

Grant program	Annual amount per annum	Grant objectives	Amount available per project
Community Impact Grants	$35,000	Provides financial contributions towards projects and events that will benefit the community in various ways, including community events, arts and culture and environmental sustainability.	Up to $4,000 per project
Community Partnership Grants	$45,000	Provides financial contributions for start-up initiatives and community partnerships that meet program objectives and demonstrate sustainability beyond the funded period.	Up to $10,000 per year, for one, two or three years
Community Infrastructure & Equipment Grants	$35,000	Provides grants funding for new infrastructure or upgrades, or equipment for new initiatives.	Up to $10,000 per project
TOTAL	**$115,000**		

Table 1: Current grant program funding streams

The aims of the grants program (attachment 2) supports Council to deliver its strategic objectives as outlined in the Council Plan.

A review of projects funded through the grants program over five years shows a clear alignment to council plan objectives, particularly in the following areas:

- fostering an inclusive and diverse community;
- encouraging community participation;
- improving access to facilities and services; and
- improving health and wellbeing outcomes for targeted populations.

An update to the grants program, adopted by Council in 2022, resulted in a range of improvements to the grants program. These included enhanced fraud controls

and improved access and equity for community members, which ensures council meets its legislative obligations, such as the Local Government Act 2020, Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008, Disability Discrimination Act 1992, Equal Opportunity Act 2010, and the Gender Equality Act 2020.

In line with VAGO's fraud control recommendations on local government grants, the applications are assessed against the funding criteria to ensure eligibility and then by a panel prior to recommendations going to council for a resolution. All alternate funding models explored later in this paper will require assessment, administration and acquittal.

Community groups and organisations may also seek funding support from council by way of memorandum of understanding (MOU), sponsorship, a donation request, or by making a budget submission.

Review of grant allocations 2017 - 2022

For the five-year period, 2017/18 to 2021/22, Wodonga Council administered 10 rounds of the grants program, awarding over $100,000 per year to community groups.

Community Grants Program 2017/18 to 2021/22	
Total amount funded	$515,200
Avg amount funded per year	$103,040
Grant submissions (approved/total)	125/193 (64%)
Avg number of grants funded per year	25

Table 2: Overview of grants 17/18 - 21/22

Sporting and arts/cultural groups account for over 40 per cent of all projects funded through the grants program over the last five years.

Grants funded by organisation type (2017-18 to 2021-22)	
Sport & Recreation	22.0%
Culture and Arts	20.6%
Disability & Social Support	16.2%
Environmental Groups	13.2%
Service Clubs	8.9%
Education & Training	7.4%
Other	11.7%

Table 3: Overview of grants recipient categories

For every project funded through the grants program there is an average of 112 participants.

Over the five years of 2017/18 to 2021/22, it is estimated that around 13,500 residents, volunteers and visitors have directly or indirectly participated in projects funded through the grants program.

The types of projects funded are diverse, with examples including:

- new accessibility ramps or infrastructure;
- environmental education and planting projects;
- sports equipment or programs to support increased participation;
- cultural events and celebrations; and
- community pilot programs.

Social Implications

The grants program directly and indirectly provides range a broad range of reported benefits to individuals, organisations, and the community. (Two case studies are discussed in attachment 3).

Impact on individuals

- Social and personal benefits of participating in the community, either as participants, event attendees, volunteers, committee members, etc;
- The benefits of volunteering, such as developing new skills and interests, expanding social connections and networks, and benefits to health and wellbeing, including mental health; and
- Promotes community leadership.

Impact on organisations

- Can improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and quality of service delivery;
- Supports volunteerism;
- Encourages collaboration between services, businesses, and the community.
- Improves access to facilities and services;
- Builds organisational capacity, such as grant seeking and grant writing skills;
- Ability to secure funding – community organisations receiving local government grants are seen as more credible to funders and more likely to secure additional levels of funding; and
- Supports innovation – grants encourage organisations to develop innovative ways to address challenging issues and fill service gaps. Innovation and credibility are important due to the competitive funding environment.

Impact on community

- Supports social inclusion;
- Better access to community facilities and services (e.g., community transport programs, ramps to buildings, etc.);
- Promotes community cohesion, harmony, and cultural exchange (e.g., multicultural community events);
- Encourages social connection and reduces isolation;
- Promotes volunteering and good will; and
- Other indirect benefits and longer-term cost savings relating to changing community attitudes or behaviours, increasing social capital, and improved public health and wellbeing.

Community Engagement on the Community Grants Program

Community consultation was conducted on the community grants program, to understand how community feel about the grants program and the perceived value of the program. The consultation ran in conjunction with the budget consultation process from 30 January 2023 to 6 March 2023. Members of the public were able to make a submission online, via email, by phone, or face-to-face.

Key Findings from the engagement

73 people engaged face-to-face and a further 23 written submissions were received. 19 people expressed support for the community grants program, three were not in support, and one was indifferent.

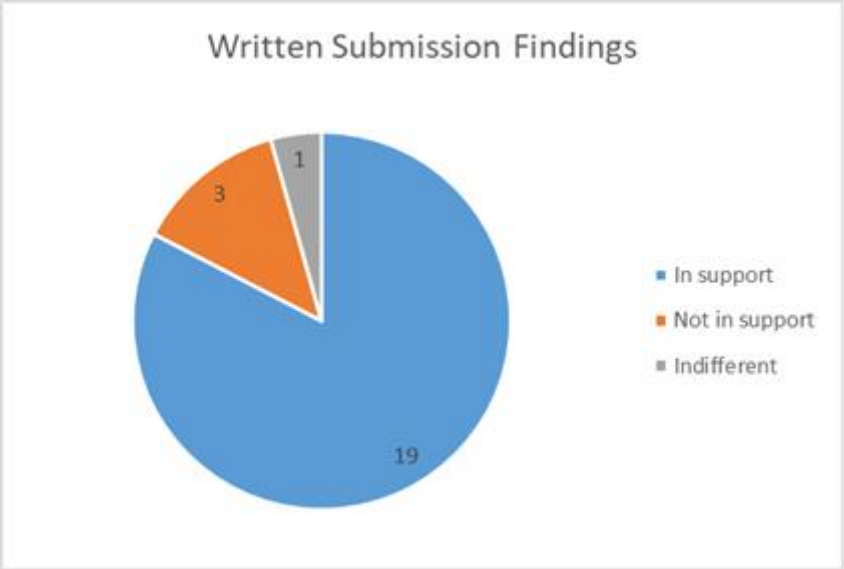


Figure 1: Written submissions

Submissions that were not in support of the Community Grants program viewed grant funding as a gift or donation to not-for-profit groups. The responses indicated that, in the respondent's opinion the Community Grants Program only benefits small pockets of the community and that the funding could be better utilised by council:

"I already donate time and money to various charities. My issue is I have no say where my contribution via rate donation goes. Whilst I agree there are many worthy charities, we cannot support them all. It comes down to this, if the council is going to use part of my rates for charities, then I will no longer contribute to the charities I already support. It seems to me that my council wants to contribute more of my money to their selection of charities, not mine. Not very democratic."

Whilst the term 'charities' does not relate to the majority of the groups Council funds, as outlined in table 3, the intent of the respondents meaning can be assumed.

Submissions in support of the Community Grants program believe the program achieves its stated aims to:

"Empower organisations and to drive social environmental, cultural and economic outcomes" and they speak to the significant return on investment the program offers "the grants are cost effective. For a small financial investment, the return in volunteer labour, enabling a myriad of work to be completed at very little cost to Council- truly a great return on investment."

When considering the process in applying for a grant, one person felt that the application process is "excessive for a small return."

Two people supported the rigorous application process, to ensure quality projects that are genuinely in the best interests of the community are supported. It was suggested that the program could be improved through evaluation of project outcomes following completion and better sharing of this information with community.

It was also suggested that in addition to promoting council's Community Grants Program, that council should share information on other funding opportunities from state and federal bodies.

The full Community Grants Program engagement report is included in attachment 1.

Community Funding Model

The current Community Grants model consists of three funding streams that sit alongside other forms of community funding that Council provides such as sponsorship and donations, strategic partnerships (memorandum of understanding) and budget submissions. These occur at different points in time through different mechanisms and for varying periods of time. It is important to note that Councillors currently approve MOU's (Memorandum of Understanding) through the budget process while the CEO has delegation to approve sponsorships and donations up to $3,000. Sponsorships and donations are seen as having a short lead time and quick turnaround approvals throughout the year and a low dollar value.

There is an opportunity to review how funding to the community is administered and distributed to approved community/sporting organisations and groups.

In response to Councillors request to review the grants program the following opportunities have been identified:

1. Continue to provide grant funding to community groups through the current Community Grants program twice a year.

Continuation of the program will help optimise community driven initiatives across the city and yield a social return on investment.

This option would see continued shared accountability for community solutions through engagement and partnership with community; support program accessibility (particularly for women, gender diverse people, persons with disabilities, and culturally and linguistically diverse communities); and would also support strong governance. A review of the grants program was undertaken in July 2022 to strengthen its governance, fraud controls and inclusion.

This option contributes to the programs and activities driven by community organisations, and the work they undertake in contributing to the quality of life in Wodonga.

Conversely, due to applications occurring at various times during the year the program requires a resource investment to administer the program, and ongoing training required to support the community's engagement in the application platforms.

With this option, MOU's and sponsorship and donations will continue to be administered through their receptive processes.

2. Consolidated Community Funding

The community grants program in place presently has three streams of funding and a separate policy and procedure from sponsorship/donations requests and MOU's.

There is the opportunity to align the funding of community organisation projects with the budget process annually, providing an opportunity to line up requests with the development of the council budget. It would also support a more consolidated view and opportunity to competitively consider the support council provides to community/sporting organisations and groups.

There is also the opportunity to consolidate the grants program with MOU's to be a more consolidated single program which could involve:

- Changing the community grants program to be once a year in advance of the budget, opening in January/February, closing in March/April and successful applications awarded in the June as part of the budget with funding allocated in July each year;
- Retaining existing categories of Community Impact grants and Community Infrastructure and Equipment grants, but consolidate the Community Partnerships grants and MOU's together in one category;
- Consolidating the program so that all budget submissions can be directed through the one central entry point;
- A revision of the existing community grants policy and guidelines to accommodate the consolidated remit;
- Retaining the sponsorship program for projects which have short lead times and require a quick-turn-around throughout the year with CEO approval; and
- Existing multi-year MOU's and partnership grants continue until the end of their present terms, at which time they would be redirected to the consolidated program.

Current MOU's		
Group	**Amount**	**MOU Ceases**
Murray Arts	$ 21,227.30	October 2025
Hothouse Theatre	$ 62,740.70	October 2025
Wodonga Historical Society	$ 23,500	September 2024

Table 4: Current MOU's expiry dates.

* **Please note**: There are presently no Community Partnership Grants agreements in place that extended beyond June 2023.

Whilst this option would result in only one annual opportunity for community to engage with funding, it would enable council to determine the level of available funds each year, with consideration of the global budget.

For requests that require a short lead time and quick turnaround approvals throughout the year and are of a low dollar value, Council's sponsorship program is a more appropriate existing program for these requests.

Aligning all community requests with the budget submission process will require a revised administrative framework to support good governance and risk controls aligned with the recommendations from VAGO'S Fraud Control Over Local Government Grants 2022, including procedures that separate advice, assessment, and awarding of funding.

A consolidated grant program, as outlined in table 4 below, would still encourage the alignment of community initiatives and projects with the council plan strategic objectives and legislative outcomes and include tiers of funding to guide merit-based applications and assessment.

Existing Programs			**Consolidated Grant Program**		
Program	*Amount Allocated*	*Maximum available per applicant*	*Level*	*Amount Allocated*	*Maximum available per applicant*
Community Impact Grants	$35,000	up to $4,000 per project	**Community Grant -Tier 1**	To be determined during budget development	up to $3,000 per project
Community Partnership Grants	$45,000	up to $10,000 per year, for one, two or three years	**Community Grant -Tier 2 MOU's**	" "	up to $60,000 per year, for one, two or three years (as per upper limit of existing mou's)
Community Infrastructure & Equipment Grants	$35,000	up to $10,000 per project	**Community Grant -Tier 3 Community Infrastructure and equipment grants**	" "	up to $10,000 per project
Community Grant Program	**$115,000**				
MOU Program	As indicated in table 4				
Sponsorship/ Donations	**$15,000**	CEO delegation $3K	**Sponsorship/ Donations** Continuation	**$10,000**	CEO delegation $3K

Table 5: A proposed model of community funding

References

1. Victorian Auditor-General's Office, 2022
2. Australian Government Productivity Commission, 2020

Persons whose rights will be directly affected by this decision

Community organisations and in turn participants of funded programs and initiatives across the city will be directly impacted by the outcomes of this report.

RELEVANT LAW

- Local Government Act 2020
  Part 2 Div 1 Section 8, 9, 10 & 11; Part 5 Div 1 Section 106(2); Part 6 Div 1, Section 123, Div 2, Section 127, 128, 129 & 130

- Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008
  Part 3 Division 3 Section 24

- Disability Discrimination Act 1992
  Part 2 Div 2 Section 23, 24, 27, 28; Div 2A Section 31 & 32

- Equal Opportunity Act 2010
  Part 2 Section 9 & 12; Part 4 Div 4 Section 44,45,46, Div 5 Section 57 & 58, Div 6 Section 65

- Gender Equality Act 2020
  Part 2 Section 7

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

An update of the Community Grants policy and guidelines were undertaken and presented to council at the July 2022 meeting in response to the VAGO report that highlighted the opportunity for local governments to further mitigate fraud risks in their grants programs by strengthening program design and how they are operated.

Key recommendations from the VAGO report included in the policy and guidelines include:
- Strengthening fraud controls, including by improved conflict of interest processes;
- Improving guidance and training for those involved in the assessment or approving of grants;
- Improving the transparency of decision-making; and,
- Excluding councillors from assessing and making recommendations on grant applications.

It was resolved, at the meeting that the Community Grants Program be reviewed in line with community consultations for the annual budget.

OPTIONS

Option 1: Continue with the community grants program

Continuation of the program will help optimise community driven initiatives across the city and yield a social return on investment.

This option would see continued shared accountability for community solutions through engagement and partnership with community; support program accessibility (particularly for women, gender diverse people, persons with disabilities, and culturally and linguistically diverse communities); and would also support strong governance. A review of the grants program was undertaken in July 2022 to strengthen its governance, fraud controls and inclusion. This option contributes to the services/events/programs driven by community organisations, and the work they undertake in contributing to the quality of life in Wodonga.

Conversely, due to applications occurring at various times during the year the program requires a resource investment to administer the program, and ongoing

training required to support the community's engagement in the application platforms.

Option 2: Cease the community grants program with organisations currently funded under the partnership program being able to complete their funding cycle.

This option would see the Community Grants Program and funding and support to community groups through the program cease.

Some of the benefits of this option would include financial savings to council's budget (grants budget allocation and administration), it may also help build the resilience and agility of community groups in encouraging sourcing of alternate partnerships/funds.

This option may also result in community groups having more flexibility to run projects/events as they see fit, without aligning to grant parameters/conditions.

However, several risks include adversely impacting on the ability of organisations to secure funds for programs, services, and events; a reduction in the number of community driven initiatives in the city; and potentially impacting volunteering, participation in activities and civic engagement.

There is also the risk of the negative perception of reducing the value and support for community organisations and volunteers in the municipality and potentially impacting the work, they undertake in contributing to the quality of life in Wodonga.

It is important to note that organisations currently funded under a Community Partnership Grant or an MOU, would need to complete their current funding cycle and reapply through the budget process should further funding be requested.

Option 3: Consolidate all community grant funding and MOUs into the one annual process that is aligned with the annual budget submission process

This option would see community groups and community organisations still supported and offer an efficient submission process once a year.

This option consolidates and aligns the Community Grants program, MOU's, and budget submissions with the annual budget development process, except for sponsorship/donations.

This option would provide a competitive overall view of all community requests at the one time; still support shared accountability for community solutions through engagement and partnership with community; and has the potential to still promote accessibility (particularly for women, gender diverse people, persons with disabilities, and culturally and linguistically diverse communities).

However, this option would only allow for submissions once a year, which may not align with timeframes of some community initiatives and in turn disadvantage some groups and projects.

Additionally, this option will require a revised administrative framework, including policy and guidelines to support good governance and risk controls aligned with the recommendations from VAGO'S Fraud Control Over Local Government Grants 2022. The administrative framework that currently exists through the community grant program, can still be used (i.e.: smarty grants).

With this option it would be recommended that the current budgeted funding round for February 2023 is awarded, however, the July 2023 Community grant round does not occur, and the next funding round be offered in January/February to March/April 2024 to align with the budget process for 24/25.

Option 4: Outsource community grant funding to an external body.

An alternative option is to outsource some or all the administration of the grants program to an external provider or community foundation. This option would see an external service manage the application, assessment and (potentially) the approval processes.

This option has the potential to reduce the administrative impost. However, a key risk would be the reduced opportunities for council to foster relationships with community groups, and reduced capacity for council to keep a "pulse" of community issues/needs.

Additionally, there is no evidence of this approach being utilised and/or working in other regions and is likely to cost to the equivalent of the existing model due to the need to subsidise management and administrative costs.

This option also poses the risk of reduced administrative and financial oversight, negative community perceptions (e.g., council relinquishing responsibility), and lack of alignment with Council Plan objectives.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The grants program presents limited sustainability implications.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A formal community consultation opened on 30 January 2023 and closed 6 March 2023. This was in response to a resolution from the council meeting in July 2022 that the grants program be reviewed in line with consultation for the annual budget.

The aim of the consultation was to seek feedback from the community to understand how the community feel about the grants program and the perceived value of the program, to ensure the grants program is relevant and providing maximum community benefit.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The grants program policy, guidelines and procedures were reviewed and updated in July 2022 which resulted in improved fraud control measures and improvements in access to the program for women and diverse groups, as well as strengthened administration, reporting and evaluation processes.

COLLABORATION

Funding of community driven initiatives/programs/events provides a platform for council to collaborate with the community and the opportunity to align strategic agendas (as articulated in the council plan); which in turn contributes to the diverse quality and richness of day-to-day experiences of Wodonga residents.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The grants program operates in line with annual adopted budget allocation to the program, presently $115,000 in the 2022/23 budget, 0.18% of the annual budget.

In addition to the $115,000 grant allocation, is salary and administration costs of $29,017. The total sum being of $144,017.

Wodonga Council's grants program predominantly funds small community groups, many of which are entirely volunteer run. The Return of Investment (ROI)of volunteerism is high. According to Volunteering Australia, volunteering yields $290 billion in economic, social, and cultural value to Australia annually, a 450 per cent ROI for every dollar invested.[2]

When applied to the Council's grants program, for $103,040 in grants per year the ROI is estimated to be worth around $566,000 per year, or $2.8 million over five years.

[2] Pro Bono Australia, 2019.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Nil

COUNCIL PLAN AND POLICIES

Strategic objective
Provide transparent governance and strong leadership, demonstrating excellence in the way we do business by being innovative and responsive.
Strategy
Undertake responsible financial management and budgeting to ensure financial sustainability.
Ensure good contemporary governance through accountable and transparent practices, appropriate risk management and continuous improvement.

Strategic objective
Create a welcoming and inclusive city for people of all backgrounds, ages and abilities that is well-connected, which supports people to meet, participate and move safely and access services and opportunities they need.
Strategy
Build a connected and inclusive community that has access to information and the opportunity to engage.

Community Grants Policy
Community Engagement Policy

Wodonga 2033: Revisited - Engagement Report
Cultural Services Plan 2021-2026
Sport and Recreation Plan 2014-2040
Physical Activity Strategy 2021-2026

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There have been no conflict-of-interest declarations by the following officers involved with the preparation of this report:

Manager Community Development and Wellbeing – Simone Hogg
Director Community Development - Debra Mudra



Community Grants Program review

ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT

Community Grants Program review

WHEN: Monday, January 30 to Monday, March 6

ENGAGEMENT METHODS: To encourage residents to get involved, we promoted the opportunity for people to have their say through our communication channels, including public notices, emails, social media and a have your say page on makewodongayours.com.au. There were also five Have Your Say Pop-Up s as part of the Draft Budget 2023-2024 consultation during February 2023 at various locations.

FACE-TO-FACE ENGAGEMENT IN THE COMMUNITY

5 Have your say pop-up

68 residents who engaged with us in person

RESPONSES

19 submissions through Make Wodonga Yours

2 email submissions

2 submissions at pop-ups

COMMUNICATIONS

7053 emails

51.26% average open rate

27 click-throughs

9 Facebook posts

21585 reach

85 likes and reactions

6 Instagram posts

1527 reach

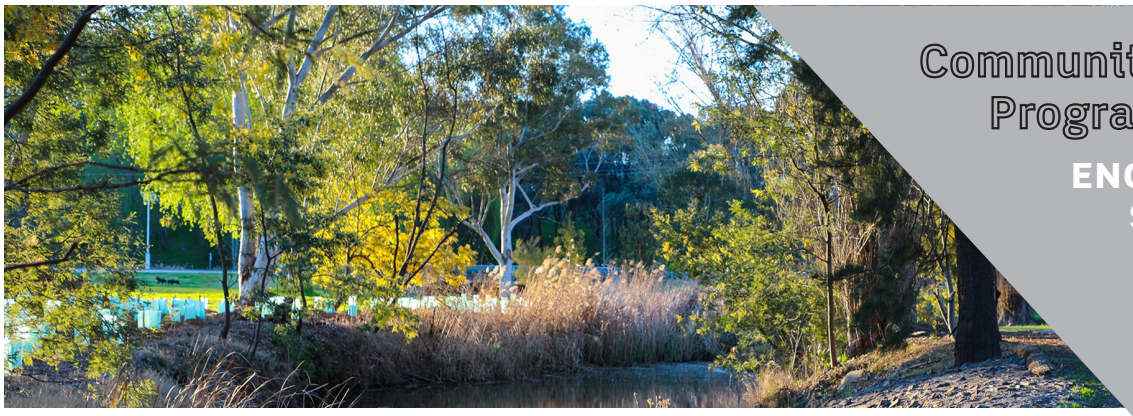
35 likes and reactions

246 website visits

204 unique pageviews

3 public notices

CITY OF WODONGA VIC



Community Grants Program review

ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT

FEEDBACK

SUMMARY

There were 23 submissions. 19 submissions were in support of the Community Grants Program, three submissions against the program and one submission indifferent.

Feedback considered things such as cost to council, benefits to council and community and the application and evaluation process of the program.

Submissions not in support of the program see the program funding as a gift or donation to not-for-profit groups. They believe that the Community Grants Program only benefits small pockets of the community and that the funding could be better utilised by council.

Submissions in support of the Community Grants Program advocate for its continuance. They speak to the significant return on investment the program offers. They believe that the relatively small investment by council *"is multiplied through the long hours of volunteer planning, project management, construction, and networking of voluntary organisations"* and *"provides significant social benefits through supporting volunteerism, networking ,community belonging and community pride. These grant programs allow community to prioritise projects according to micro-level needs, building a sense of community and adding to the amenity of this beautiful city."*

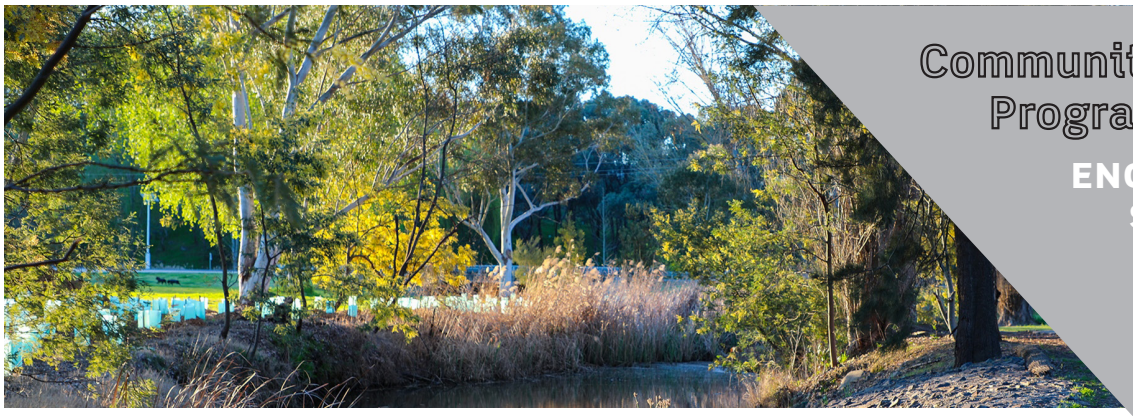
Submission in support indicated that they felt the Community Grants Program achieves its stated aims to *"empower organisations and to drive social environmental, cultural and economic outcomes"* and also assists in meeting councils strategic objectives.

When considering the process in applying for a grant, one person felt that the application process is *"excessive for a small return."* Two people supported the rigorous application process, which includes the need for a letter of support from a council officer, to ensure quality projects that are genuinely in the best interests of the community are supported.

It was suggested that the program could be improved through evaluation of project outcomes following completion and better sharing of this information with community.

It was also suggested that in addition to promoting council's Community Grants Program, that council should share information on other funding opportunities from state and federal bodies.

CITY OF WODONGA VIC



Community Grants Program review

ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT

FEEDBACK

SUBMISSIONS FROM ORGANISATIONS

GARDENS FOR WILDLIFE ALBURY WODONGA

Gardens 4 Wildlife Albury-Wodonga (G4W) is a Wodonga Urban Landcare Network (WULN) program that has been a past (and current) recipient of Wodonga Council Community Impact grants.

We would like to highlight the following benefits/features of the grants:

COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS ASSIST COUNCIL TO MEET ITS OBJECTIVES

Wodonga Council's Regional Natural Environment Strategy (a joint strategy with Albury Council) emphasises the importance of habitat gardening. It lists these three actions:

1. Continue awareness campaigns ... around topics such as ... habitat gardening.
2. Support the delivery and promotion of local environmental education initiatives such as ... Gardens 4 Wildlife.
3. Continue to support and/or deliver community education events that encourage connection to nature and improve community understanding of the local environment, including initiatives such as habitat gardening.

Wodonga Council staff have very few resources to educate, engage and inspire residents in the wildlife gardening space. If it were not for the G4W program, the above objectives would be difficult to meet.

The grants help groups share the load with the Council. The volunteers add significant numbers of hours of work that would not be possible by Wodonga Council.

The ground works completed with the grants improve the amenities in public parks and reserves, enhance Council's assets and promote increased use of public spaces by the community. It increases citizen satisfaction with amenities.

COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS BENEFIT GARDENS 4 WILDLIFE ALBURY-WODONGA

The grants provide Gardens 4 Wildlife with necessary funding to conduct education and engagement events, including community plantings, habitat gardening presentations, open gardens and responsible cat ownership activities. The 'Safe Cat, Happy Wildlife' program alone was an outstanding success, resulting in the establishment of a local cat enclosure business, creation of a popular cat enclosures video and strong interest by interstate councils and DELWP in the resources created.

A significant number of Wodonga residents have benefitted from our program directly and indirectly – hundreds have attended our Wodonga events and viewed our videos and online resources and

thousands have been inspired by our social media posts. We have more than 2000 Facebook followers with some (unboosted) Facebook posts reaching 40,000+.

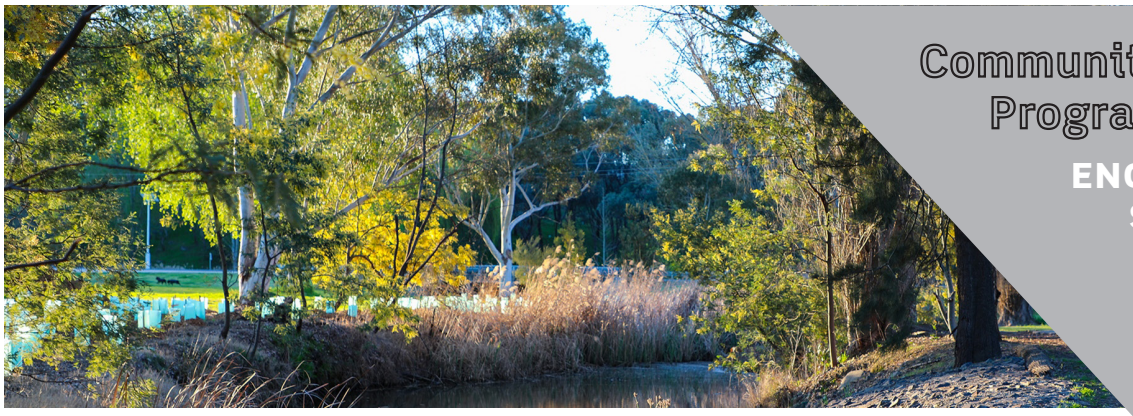
We depend on grant support from Council to host many of our Wodonga-based events.

COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS BENEFIT OTHER GROUPS

The grants support diverse local projects and organisations. Many groups are unlikely to receive grants from other sources – there's a real and ongoing need for small local grants supporting small local groups, projects and ideas.

The grants incentivise these groups, providing them with resources needed to carry out their on-ground works and conduct education and engagement

CITY OF WODONGA VIC



Community Grants Program review

ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT

FEEDBACK

events. Without them, some of the groups might disband because they would find it too difficult to continue to volunteer using only their own personal resources. By helping them to continue to volunteer, the grants also boost the wellbeing of those who volunteer.

The grants help to leverage other funds from the State and Commonwealth governments and from philanthropic trusts. The work carried out through the grants can demonstrate to other funding bodies that local groups have the capability.

COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS ARE COST EFFECTIVE

The grants are cost effective. Volunteer labour enables the work to get done at a cheaper rate - therefore the Council gets much more for its money.

The grants are a relatively small part of the Wodonga Council budget. Between 2018-2022 Wodonga Council spent $390,298 on grants. This equates to $97,574 per annum. Assuming a population of 42,700, this suggests a per capita spend of $2.28. Perhaps this figure excludes other grant monies, but this figure is considerably lower than the spending by Hume, Knox, Loddon, Southern Grampians, Warrnambool and West Wimmera councils, which average $22.14 (range $6.10 to $75.11)

Finally, it needs to be stressed that Wodonga Council's rigorous application process ensures substandard projects are unlikely to receive funding. The requirement of a letter of support by a council officer is an assurance that applications are genuinely in the best interests of the community.

The stated aims of the community grants are to empower organisations and to drive social, environmental, cultural and economic outcomes. We believe the grants achieve this.

We sincerely hope that your review of the Wodonga Community Impacts Grants results in the continuation of these relatively inexpensive but invaluable lifelines for our community.

OUR NATIVE GARDEN NURSERY

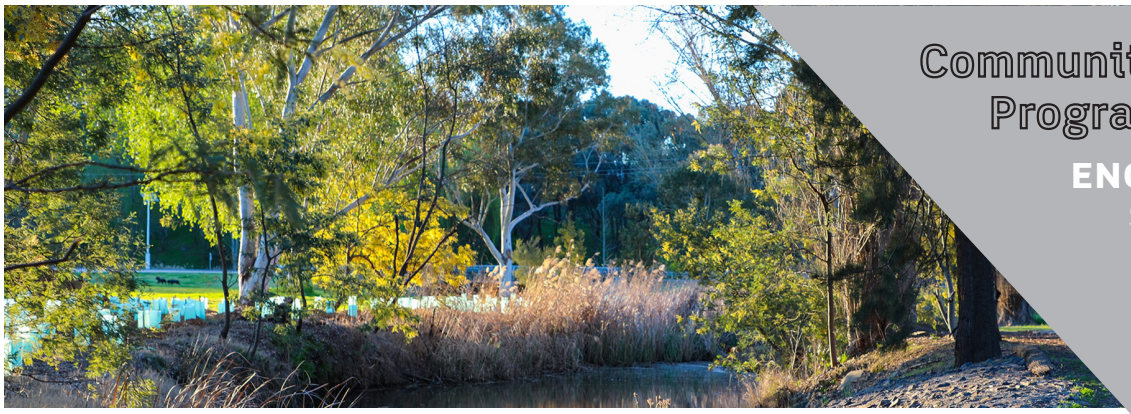
We operate a not for profit volunteer run nursery that grows only local occurring native plants. Our objective is to provide low cost plants for landcare groups, landholders and residents of the Wodonga Region and further afield.

Through the sale of plants we are able to self fund the cost of materials we use in order to grow plants. However there are capital items that we require from time to time that draw larger sums of money from our savings and we actively seek out grant programs to assist with these purchases.

Using the grant program to build infrastructure capacity has enabled us to have a productive operation supplying over 20000 plants per annum and provide a facility for community members to share in what we do as well accommodate an active intellectual need support program.

Thank you on behalf of the volunteers of Our Native Garden Nursery.

CITY OF WODONGA VIC



Community Grants Program review

ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT

FEEDBACK

WODONGA URBAN LANDCARE NETWORK

Wodonga Urban Landcare Network (WULN) has been very fortunate to have benefited from the Wodonga Council Community grants program over a number of years and we appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on the program.

WULN is an umbrella organisation that employs a part time network and member support facilitator through grant funding from the Victorian Landcare Facilitator Program. These positions support 16 groups which have different environment and sustainability focuses but who collectively aim to enhance the environment of the Wodonga Council area and have a membership of approximately 490 volunteers.

OUR VISION is of a biodiverse, connected and sustainable landscape supported by an integrated community approach.

WULN has been successful in obtaining funds through the community grants program to undertake a wide range of environmental works within Wodonga Council area.

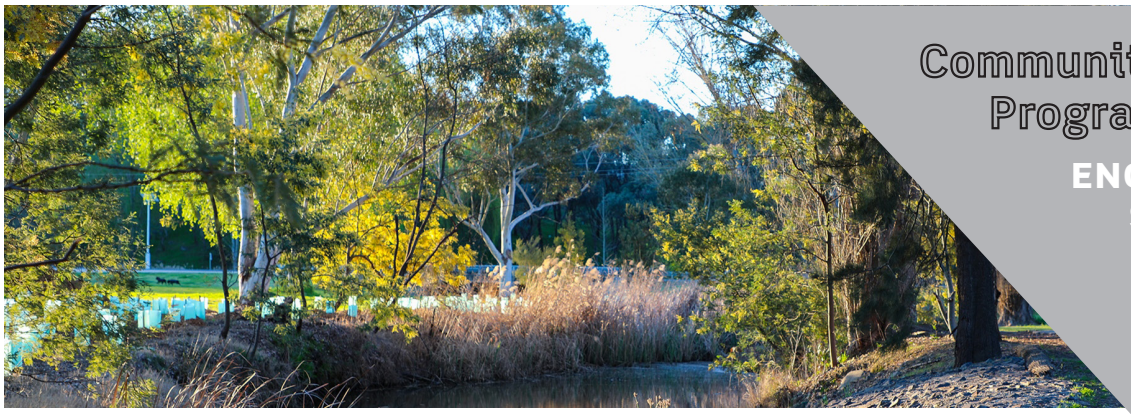
We collaborate closely with Wodonga Council and NECMA our two key partners to ensure that any works delivered are of benefit to Council and the community it serves and the environment. In preparing grant applications WULN consults with Council and aligns its project work with the Wodonga Regional Waterway Action Plan, Council Plan and the Regional Natural Environment Strategy (a joint initiative with Albury City Council). In this way the work which WULN is doing through these grant programs directly supports the objectives of Wodonga Council and its vision:

Albury Wodonga has a thriving natural environment and connected community that underpins the liveability and prosperity that makes us nationally significant

We believe that the continuation of the grants program is critical to achieve this vision and below are some of the direct benefits of the program to WULN and Council.

- These grants incentivise our small volunteer groups. The grants provide them with resources needed to carry out their on-ground works and conduct education and engagement events. Without them, some of the groups might disband because they would find it too difficult to continue to volunteer using only their own personal resources. Through the on-ground works, groups add significant environmental and aesthetic value to the community - and by helping them to continue to volunteer, the grants help to add to the wellbeing of those who volunteer.
- The work that groups do with the grants improves the amenities in public parks and reserves through planting, weeding, signage and infrastructure- this improves Council's assets and promotes increased use of public spaces by the community. It increases citizen satisfaction with the amenities.
- The grants help groups share the load with the Council. The volunteers add significant numbers of hours of work that would not be possible by the Council.

CITY OF WODONGA VIC



Community Grants Program review

ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT

FEEDBACK

- The grants are cost effective. For a small financial investment the return in volunteer labour, enabling a myriad of work to be completed at very little cost to Council- truly a great return on investment.
- The grants allow our groups to purchase services from private businesses in the municipality, adding to the economic growth of those businesses
- The grants help to leverage other funds from the State and Commonwealth governments and from philanthropic trusts. The work carried out through the grants can demonstrate to other funding bodies that our groups have the capability to complete projects.

We rely on a variety of funding sources to complete our work and the community grant program grants have specifically supported WULN In recent years to;

- Expand the Gardens for Wildlife program to include responsible cat ownership and education around the habitat gardening message to service clubs and community groups.
- The establishment of stewardship groups on the hills as part of a partnership effort between WULN and Council to implement the Hills Strategy. Without the grant, WULN could not have established those groups
- New tracks on Susan Campbell & Kent McKoy reserves, new shelter in David Winterbottom Park, enhancement of the entrance to tunnel at Lou Lieberman Park, expanded native vegetation and riparian health across Wodonga.

In addition we acknowledge the many other community groups who have driven local projects for community benefit. Without these small grant opportunities many community organisations would be unable to deliver community services.

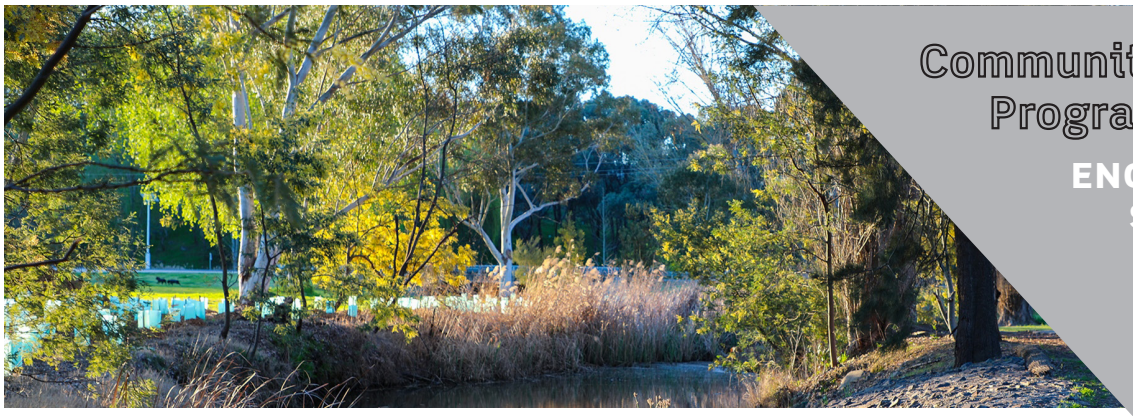
The council community grants program aims to provide opportunities to empower organisations and groups to drive social, environmental, cultural, and economic outcomes in the Wodonga municipality. We feel that this program delivers on these aims and wish to see the program continue into the future with the same robust requirements for all community groups.

- Clears aims, objectives and deliverables linked to Council strategies
- Engagement with relevant Council officers in the development of grants with letters of support.
- Defined budgets
- A fair and impartial assessment process for all grant applications.

Our Annual for 2021-22 highlighting our direction and successes for the year and what we can achieve with grant funding and volunteers is available here https://wodongalandcare.org.au/what-we-do/publications/

We hope that your review of the Wodonga Community Grants Program results the continuation of this program into the future.

CITY OF WODONGA VIC



Community Grants Program review

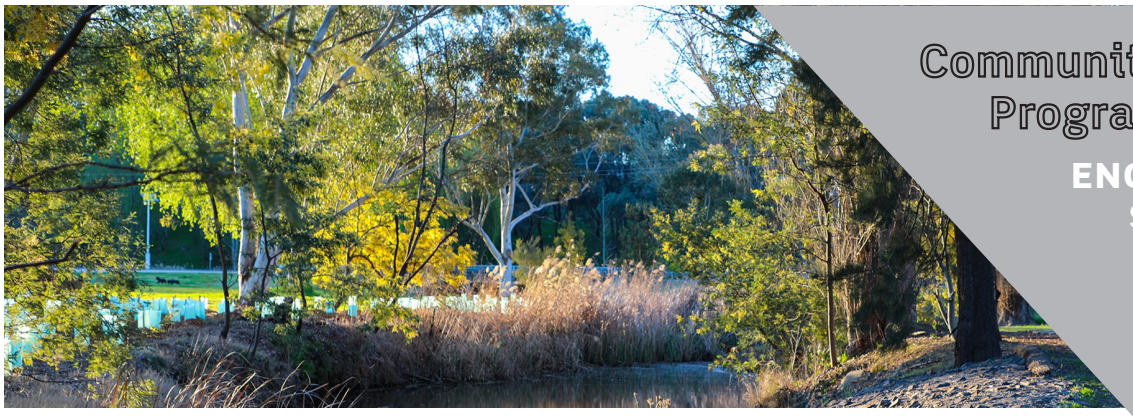
ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT

FEEDBACK

SUBMISSIONS FROM INDIVIDUALS

- I already donate time and money to various charities. My issue is I have no say where my contribution via rate donation goes. Whilst I agree there are many worthy charities, we cannot support them all. It comes down to this, if the council is going to use part of my rates for charities then I will no longer contribute to the charities I already support. It seems to me that my council wants to contribute more of my money to their selection of charities, not mine. Not very democratic.
- Would be good to see a regular list of available grants on the council website that goes beyond council grants and includes state, federal grants etc
- Community grants are good - Id suggest in some of the park related ones not funding paths etc that will wash away in floods (Winterbottom Park) or a lot of repair after.
- I work in community services and am on the committee for a local neighbourhood house, my husband is on a committee for a sporting club. We both see great value in community grants. The support they provide the community are so important and impact a wide range of people, I fully support the grants remaining.
- I am involved with a number of volunteer groups who have all accessed the Council grants for one off projects It is never the core funding of these group but helps deliver on community group priorities in a timely manner. Since Covid19 our regular and successful fundraising events and activities have been curtailed and don't raise the funds they used to. At a time of rising cost of living impacting on how much locals can donate, this is the time that Council needs to step up and support community and wellbeing, not step away at a time of such high need. Please show leadership and compassion. I have witnessed the benefits of these valued grants.
- Council gains a lot from our local clubs and organisations. Places like Trudewind Road Neighbourhood house, are fantastic, and provide so many services for the local community, and they do get some funding from other grants, but without the local councils support they wouldn't be able too.
  Supporting local organisations also give council a HUMAN face that can help them be seen favourably in other areas.
- Community organisations provide many services, mostly using volunteer labour, that if those organisations were not providing, the need would not go away and it would fall back to Council to take up that slack and provide those services itself. It is common sense that once a paid labour force and dare I say, a bureaucracy becomes involved, the cost of provision of those services will be far greater than when performed by willing volunteers.
  Volunteering in the community is what makes people feel valued and gives them a sense of belonging. As an active member myself of a service club (Lions International) I know how hard it is to attract volunteers as new members. Any loss of financial support will only make finding and keeping volunteers serving our community all the more difficult.
  It would be extremely short-sighted of Council to reduce support for those who help build a stronger Wodonga.
- Community Grants programs are vital to supporting the endeavors of volunteer, not for profit and other community focused groups. Perhaps in moving forward, additional assessment could be included as a part of the grants process to evaluate the impact and success of these grants, and resulting outcomes for the community. I strongly support the continued delivery of these grants.
- There are more important infrastructure projects that can be funded throughout Wodonga. Community groups have other avenues to fund their goals and not all residents receive any benefit from their programs. Killara doesn't even have a community centre to run such programs.
- Community Grants should be kept. Community should have access to it.

CITY OF WODONGA VIC



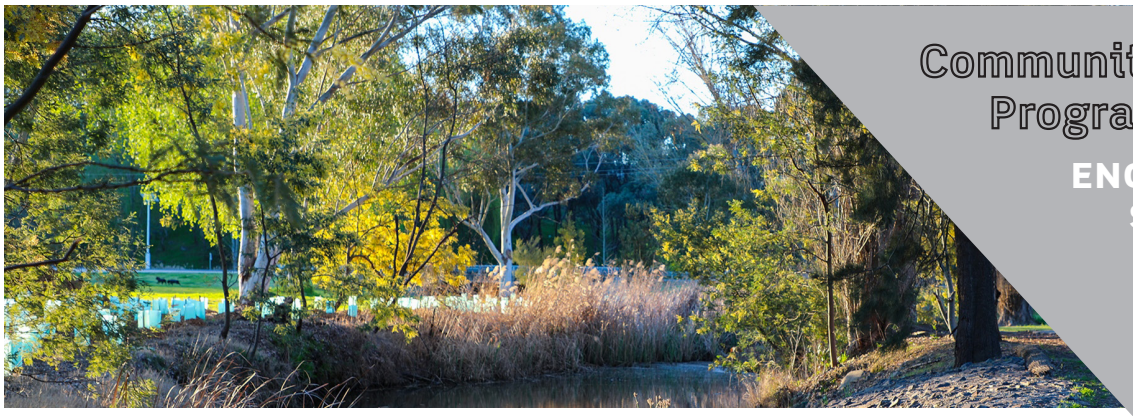
Community Grants Program review

ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT

FEEDBACK

- Wodonga Council's Community Grants program is absolutely critical to the community it serves.
  Many organisations across the community rely on opportunities like this to build their reach, try something new, engage community members, offer participation opportunities for community to get involved, learn, connect and feel a sense of belonging in the place where they live, work, learn and or play.
  As the Coordinator of the Albury Wodonga Local Food Network, since its inception in 2018, Wodonga Council has been an active partner and supporter of the Wodonga Local Food Strategy and its implementation.
  The Network received $28,000 under the Community Partnerships Grant category of the Program. This provided much needed seed funding to really assist in establishing the Network, its structure, marketing and communications and also develop and deliver a number of key actions, that in turn supported a number of community organisations, businesses and community members across the board.
  This funding gave Wodonga an opportunity to lead important work, advocacy, coordination of key projects across the broader North East and Border Region and place our local government area on the map. The impact has continue to have groundswell and includes being formally recognised as a key case study in State Government Strategies and Policies that support local food systems and community health and wellbeing. Without the funding it is fair to say, much of what has been achieved here in the food systems space wouldn't have occurred.
  The Network also received $1,500 in 2021 to partner with Felltimber Community Centre, Albury Wodonga Volunteer Resource Bureau and Supergoat Media, to run a series of community 'Grow Your Own' workshops for community members to participate in.
  These workshops formed part of the Albury Wodonga Sustainable Living Festival's program of events, in which Wodonga Council was hosting that year. This essentially added a key element to the Program in linking food and community capacity building.
  I strongly support the continuation of the Program as I see the benefits for both community organisations and groups working hard to create and deliver important activities, events and engagement opportunities for all community to enjoy and engage with. After all this is the essence of what creates a resilient, diverse, connected and vibrant community.
- I am the Vice-President of Wodonga Hearts FC and we have been fortunate enough to be a recipient of the community grants in the past.
  As a voluntary and non-for-profit community sporting club we would not be able to function to our current ability without support. With the funds we received we have been able to expand our programs and support groups we would generally not have resources for. This has resulted in Wodonga Hearts being able to offer more teams this year including two all girl teams in the u12 and u14 age groups. Many of the u14 girls come from refugee backgrounds and this opportunity not only offers them the chance to build community relationships but also their parents and siblings.
  My professional role outside soccer is youth social work. From a professional point of view with the continued complexities that our youth face any opportunity for youth to engage in community events is of great benefit. The opportunity to make connections, assimilate, understand culture and community expectations are all additional bonuses and intangibles that these grants offer.
  I strongly advocate that these grants remain and that council take the opportunity to get down to local sporting events and fields to see the impact they have. I am not sure if council has had the opportunity to come down to Willow Park to see Wodonga Hearts in action but the invitation is always open and it would be fantastic to show how these grants are crucial to community development and inclusion.

CITY OF WODONGA VIC



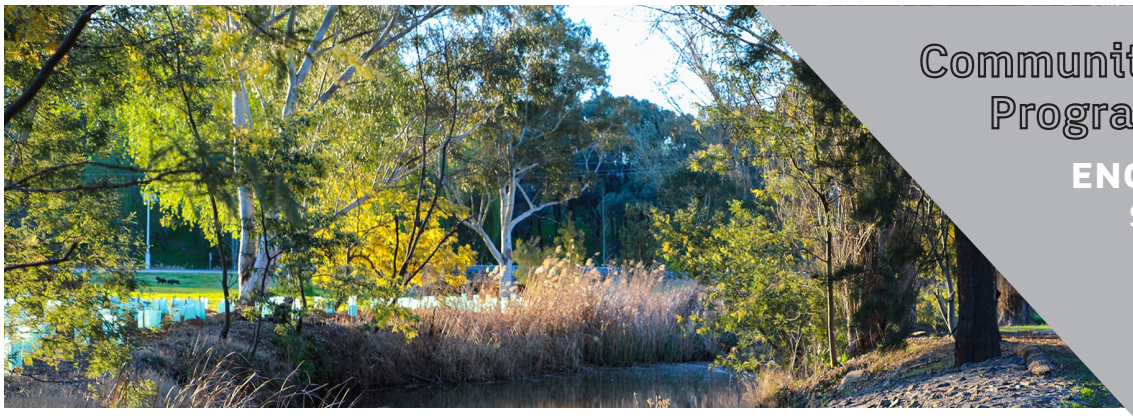
Community Grants Program review

ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT

FEEDBACK

- I am the President of the Filipino Australian Community of Albury Wodonga Incorporated (FACAW Inc), for the last 15 years. There were previous occasions over 10 years ago in which FACAW Inc received small funding support from Wodonga Council to hold the annual Fiesta Filipina celebrations which showcased Filipino food and culture through dance performances, music and language interaction during the Fiesta events.
  The cultural grants are therefore significant for the Filipino Australian community, with a large number settling in the Wodonga and surrounding districts of Northeast Victoria. They are mostly skilled migrants employed by local businesses and industries.
  We could not find any willing or suitable venue in Wodonga that is accessible to our community members and to the general public or other CALD Communities that is culturally sensitive to our needs. We could not afford the price of the CUBE as the funding from Wodonga council was minimal, we are a non profit organisation relying on donations and kindness of volunteers to assist with the coordination and facilitation of the Fiesta Filipina event. When the event is held, both Mayors of Albury and Wodonga Councils are invited and the local MPS NSW and Victoria. I remember Councillor Mark Byatt attending our events and becoming so popular with our community members that it was recommended that if the current sitting Mayor was not available, that we specifically request for Councillor Byatt.
  When the venue was changed to Albury Commercial Club, City of Wodonga Council was not interested with our funding submissions under the cultural grants program, and no Mayor or other Councillors attended to find out at least the issued of the Filipino Community living and working in Wodonga and the Northeast region..
  In summary:
  - the cultural grants program should continue as it helps groups like my community to support multiculturalism, diversity, reduce racism and discrimination, connect with other CALD communities and general public, and it helps Council to report that their Multicultural Strategic Plan has at least been achieved with the Fiesta Filipina celebration. It has social and economic benefits to Wodonga as it encourages people from outside of Wodonga and Northeast to attend our Fiesta and visit Wodonga and spend money in local businesses.
  - City of Wodonga should review the amount being granted to successful groups who are non profit organisations such as FACAW, the amount barely covers our costs despite our efforts to fund raise more monies for our events and activities we wanted to start to benefit our communities who are sometimes in isolation, no families, social or community networks, and as we have an aging community as well, the activities we organise supports their mental health. welfare and wellbeing.
- The application process is excessive for a small return.
  The time taken and the cost to process, assess and councillor discussion & confirmation could be better utilised.
  Over recent years controversy has risen over these awards at Council meetings.
  I don't believe ratepayers money should be gifted to groups in this manner.
  Perhaps Council could support other opportunities for fundraising for these groups. Seminars on how to fundraise or run a Club or charity.
  More recognition of volunteers or young achievers either a group or individual could encourage or recognise profiles of volunteering.
- As a member of Friends of Willow Park I have seen the benefit of the community grants again and again. They have allowed us to partner with a wide range of organisations including Wodonga Senior Secondary College. and they have enable us to move forwards with development of the park and to build a strong group at Willow Park.
  The grants have help to build a positive relationship with the council.
  I think from the council's point of view there has been a lot of benefit as with a small input of capital and expertise from the council, an ongoing group has formed to continue to work in the park and to provide ongoing maintenance and improvements.
  I hope the council continue this excellent program

CITY OF WODONGA VIC



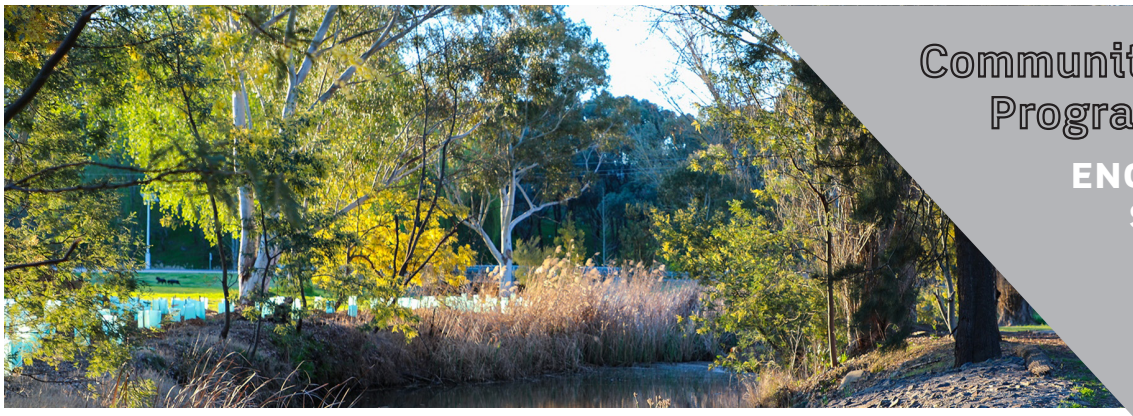
Community Grants Program review

ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT

FEEDBACK

- Over the years the Wodonga Council community grants have supported the implementation of valuable community based projects. Without the small amount of funding provided by the grants program many of these projects would not have happened.
  The financial impact of the grants program is multiplied through the long hours of volunteer planning, project management, construction, and networking of voluntary organisations such as sporting clubs and service organisations. These groups are constantly fundraising and dipping into the pockets of members to provide the amenities and activities that makes them sustainable and contributing to strong, resilient and vibrant community. Often grant supported projects are also supported by local businesses through donations and discounts, further adding to the financial return on investment made by Council.
  The relatively small investment by council provides significant social benefits through supporting volunteerism, networking ,community belonging and community pride. These grant programs allow community to prioritise projects according to micro-level needs, building a sense of community and adding to the amenity of this beautiful city.
  Without the community grant program, many place-based and interest-based community projects would not be developed and implemented. At this time of chaos and rapid change, it is even more vital to continue to provide opportunities for the community to come together to create community cohesion and develop neighbourhood identity.
  I commend Wodonga Council for its long history of valuing community activity and supporting community identified and led projects . I sincerely hope that Council will consider expanding the community grants program to broaden accessibility for our more vulnerable community cohorts, especially young people and people from diverse cultural backgrounds and to continue to support those hard working volunteer community groups and associations.
- The community grants program is a fantastic mechanism for council; staff, executive and councilors to know, understand and engage with dynamic and inspired groups within their community.
  Along with this knowledge, Council, representing residents and ratepayers, are able to support these groups with the necessary resources to continue their great work.
  Lets face it, the program is not a lot of money, but the flow on effects through volunteer labour, purchasing local business services, improved amenities and citizen satisfaction and appreciation is huge.
  I hope this program continues and expands,
- My involvement has only been through environmental activities and I strongly support the community grants for these actions.
  Working as part of a volunteer Landcare group, the community grants have enabled us to achieve great outcomes with modest funding because of our ability to leverage our volunteer labour. I believe the outcomes should exceed the grant value either through other private funding or through 'in kind' donations and labour.
  I think in a very general sense there does need to be strong accountability and scrutiny to ensure there are genuine, sustained benefits from community grants and I'm confident we have been able to achieve this through the Landcare activities.
- A number of my friends and family volunteer in groups that have received funding through the Community Grants Program. Even though the amount of the grant may have been small, they all said it was a huge boost to their group both in terms of finances as well as morale. It allowed them to expand their services and/or reach into the community.
  When I look at how much the program costs Council each year - a little over $100k - and see the analysis of what that money actually delivers in benefits - over $500k per year plus immense community benefits that are often difficult to quantify - I believe that this is an essential component of the Council's budget. Given how much value the CGP gives to Wodonga, I would hope that the program can be expanded in the coming budget. It would make responsible fiscal sense to do so.

CITY OF WODONGA VIC



Community Grants Program review

ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT

FEEDBACK

- In working with a variety of local Community groups I have at various times used council's community grants funds to support community projects which would otherwise have either not been undertaken or else have fallen short of the mark in achieving its intended outcomes.
  As a community member I see a lot of work in our community done by volunteers who are often under-resourced with volunteer man-power and reliant on their own tools, trailers and vehicles to do their work in and for the community to make Wodonga a better place.
  They [the volunteers] are more often members of the retired segment of our community, a group who have skills and experience to offer, a group that keep themselves healthy, engaged and productive and a group that needs to belong and engaged with like-minded people.
  The community grants program has not only supported this community of active and community-minded retirees, but it has become one of the jigsaw pieces that has over time establish a positive relationship and vibrant partnership of good will and appreciation between the council and the volunteers.
  I personally have put the council's Community Grants Program to good use on a variety of projects related to my local Landcare and Rail Trail groups and would strongly encourage continued support of this kind from council in the future.

CITY OF WODONGA VIC

Appendix 1:

Program Aims

As per the grants program guidelines, project objectives must align with one or more of the aims listed below. These aims are aligned with objectives of the Council Plan and other Council strategies and plans, including the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.

Community Impact Grants	• Support healthy and active lifestyles • Foster an inclusive and diverse community and encourage community participation • Support volunteers and encourage volunteering • Improve community safety • Create and strengthen community collaborations and partnerships • Improve mental wellbeing and community resilience • Prevent violence against women and promote gender equality • Improve access to employment pathways, particularly for young people • Improve ways for residents to move around the city and to access services • Increase access to green spaces and outdoor recreation • Develop and promote art and cultural works produced in the region • Foster activation of Wodonga, building a dynamic city profile to grow visitation through cultural tourism experiences • Provide equitable access to diverse cultural experiences, resources, and opportunities that encourage engagement and participation • Preserve and interpret the history, heritage, and contemporary stories of the people of Wodonga, their city and region • Cultivate professional development of the arts in Wodonga and foster partnerships between artists, cultural workers, and the wider community • Celebrate the cultural, social, and recreational diversity within the city • Cater for diverse community members • Attract and grow new and inspiring events, which benefit the community, celebrate connection, and attract visitors to Wodonga • Nurture a sense of community identity and positive engagement • Create opportunities for Wodonga residents to experience events and festivals • Create long-term benefit to Wodonga's environment • Be sustainable and not rely on council's ongoing maintenance or upkeep • Raise awareness and understanding of environmental sustainability issues • Improve the community's capacity to respond to climate change • Encourage collaboration across Albury Wodonga • Leverage innovation and resources from across the region to provide opportunities of benefit to Albury Wodonga • Facilitate the participation of Wodonga residents in regional events and programs • Support economic development and job creation • Leverage regional benefits to attract visitors and new residents to the city of Wodonga

Community Partnership Grants	• Improve environmental sustainability • Showcase and celebrate creative expression, development, and innovation • Encourage community ownership and action on a community need • Increase employment opportunities and support economic development for the benefit of the community • Support new and inspiring events which benefit the community and foster connection • Maximise an organisation's potential and build capacity to become self-sustaining • Foster diversity and inclusion • Improve access to services, affordable housing, and transport networks • Attract visitors to the city and provide meaningful experiences during their stay • Preserve and showcase cultural heritage
Community Infrastructure & Equipment Grants	• Build new infrastructure in response to an identified community need • Upgrade or improve existing community infrastructure • Improve accessibility of community facilities to increase use and promote inclusion • Improve community health and wellbeing • Enhance and diversify participation • Improve safety and perceptions of community safety • Address environmental sustainability issues and concerns

Community Grants Program – Case Studies

Case Study: Wodonga Heart FC

Wodonga Heart Football Club is one of four soccer clubs based in Wodonga. It has a reputation for its competitiveness, professionalism, and family-friendly values. The club has over 200 members, across several age groups and league grades, as well as up to a hundred community members from diverse backgrounds participating in its various community programs throughout the year.

Wodonga Heart has received over $12,000 through the Council's Community Infrastructure and Equipment Grants Program. The funding has enabled the club to replace old soccer goals and nets with premium portable goals which it uses at its Willow Park facilities. Through the grant funding, the club also purchased portable marquees which it uses on game days to protect players, coaches, and spectators from the elements, and to promote the club at community and fundraising events.

Wodonga Heart secretary Rose Martin, who described the Heart as being "all about fun, family and community," said that being awarded the funding gave the club a significant morale-boost (especially emerging from the pandemic) noting that the club was "really proud" to have new equipment through the council's support.

Ms Martin noted that Wodonga Heart would not operate without its volunteers and members. With no paid staff in 2022, its volunteers contributed more than 5,200 hours over the year to deliver its core activities, which includes coaching and umpiring, running training sessions and community programs, and operating the canteen. The total value of its volunteers as a replacement cost calculation ($46.62 per hour), is over $240,000 per annum.

Wodonga Heart was recently recognised for its community contributions by Football Victoria who named it the 'Regional Club of the Year' and acknowledged Ms Martin for her outstanding contributions as the 'Female Volunteer of the Year.'

Case study: Murray River Fine Music

In 2021, Murray River Fine Music was awarded $3,000 through the grants program to deliver a series of music workshops and classical performances in Wodonga.

The first event was held at Bonegilla Migrant Experience (BME) featuring the 5-piece group Inventi Ensemble, who performed to a crowd of 160 people. The concert was preceded by tours of BME. The second concert was held at The Cube Wodonga with 6-piece ensemble Elysian Fields, who performed to a crowd of 125. Prior to the concert there was a drumming workshop with 35 participants.

The project supported the development and promotion of art and cultural works in the region, activating Wodonga's cultural precincts at The Cube Wodonga and BME, and ensuring access for a diverse cross-section of the community.

Through the grant funding and the other in-kind contributions from its partners and members, the project was able to deliver a high return on investment (ROI).

The group was also able to leverage technical and artistic support from local media organisations and voluntary contributions from local musicians and volunteers.

The two events delivered attracted around 350 patrons in total, around 10 per cent of whom were visitors from outside the municipality (residing 40km or more from Wodonga). The estimated total tourism output was $132,238.[1] This includes an estimated total expenditure by event patrons of $72,450[2] and 48 voluntary hours contributed towards the project, worth around $2,238.

[1] REMPLAN, 2023

[2] REMPLAN, 2023

7.4 Appointment of authorised officers

PURPOSE

This report is for the purpose of appointing authorised officers under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (the Act).

SUMMARY

It is important that council officers are able to act as authorised officers to ensure good governance and effective enforcement under the respective Acts.

This report proposes the appointment of two officers as authorised officers to enable enforcement matters under the Act.

RECOMMENDATION

In the exercise of the powers conferred by s.147(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, Council resolves that –

1. James Trimble and Matthew Yeomans be appointed and authorised as set out in the attached instruments.
2. The instruments come into force immediately they are signed by Council's Chief Executive Officer and remain in force until Council determines to vary or revoke them and are taken to be revoked upon the officer/s ceasing employment at Council.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Instrument of appointment as an authorised officer - James Trimble [**7.4.1** - 2 pages]
2. Instrument of appointment as an authorised officer - Matthew Yeomans [**7.4.2** - 2 pages]

DISCUSSION

Section 224(1) of the *Local Government Act* 1989 provides that "a council may appoint any person other than a councillor to be an authorised officer for the purposes of the administration and enforcement of any Act, regulations or local laws which relate to the functions and powers of the council".

There is a basic distinction between a delegation and an appointment. A delegate acts on behalf of the council, exercising the council's powers. A person who is appointed to a position has the powers of that position.

Planning and compliance officers are required to act as authorised officers under a number of Acts and Regulations. The Chief Executive Officer has the delegated authority to make these appointments for all Acts and Regulations, with the

exception of the *Planning and Environment Act* (the Act). The legal position is that s.188(2)(c) of the Act provides that councils cannot delegate the power to authorise officers for the purpose of enforcing the Act, and that limitation does not apply to any other Act.

It is important that the Senior Statutory Planner be able to act as an authorised officer under the Act to ensure good governance and effective enforcement of the Act.

RELEVANT LAW

The relevant law is the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and the Local Government Act 1989 and the Local Government Act 2020

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council last appointed authorised officers under the Act at its meeting of August 16, 2021.

OPTIONS

1. Do nothing. This is not recommended as council would be non-compliant in terms of its legislative responsibilities under the Act.

2. Appoint the officers as recommended.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no sustainability implications.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable.

COLLABORATION

The work of authorised officers will apply to the Wodonga municipal district and does not involve collaboration with others LGAs.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The work of authorised officers is a component of their employment with council and there are no additional financial implications associated with the appointment.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable

COUNCIL PLAN AND POLICIES

Strategic objective
Provide transparent governance and strong leadership, demonstrating excellence in the way we do business by being innovative and responsive.
Strategy
Ensure good contemporary governance through accountable and transparent practices, appropriate risk management and continuous improvement.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There have been no conflict-of-interest declarations by the following officers involved with the preparation of this report:

Governance Officer - Kevin Scully
Deputy CEO - Debra Mudra

Instrument of appointment and authorisation by Council

April 17, 2023

James Trimble

Instrument of appointment and authorisation

In this instrument "officer" means -

James Trimble

By this instrument of appointment and authorisation Wodonga City Council -

1. under section 147(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* - appoints the officer to be an authorised officer for the purposes of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the regulations made under that Act; and

2. under section 313 of the *Local Government Act 2020* authorises the officer generally or in a particular case to institute proceedings for offences against the Acts and regulations described in this instrument.

It is declared that this instrument -

(a) comes into force immediately upon its execution;
(b) remains in force until varied or revoked, and is taken to be revoked upon the officer ceasing employment at Wodonga City Council.

This instrument is authorised by a resolution of the Wodonga City Council on April 17, 2023.

.....
Matthew Hyde
Chief Executive Officer

Instrument of appointment and authorisation by Council

April 17, 2023

Matthew Yeomans

Instrument of appointment and authorisation

In this instrument "officer" means -

Matthew Yeomans

By this instrument of appointment and authorisation Wodonga City Council -

1. under section 147(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* - appoints the officer to be an authorised officer for the purposes of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the regulations made under that Act; and

2. under section 313 of the *Local Government Act 2020* authorises the officer generally or in a particular case to institute proceedings for offences against the Acts and regulations described in this instrument.

It is declared that this instrument -

(a) comes into force immediately upon its execution;
(b) remains in force until varied or revoked, and is taken to be revoked upon the officer ceasing employment at Wodonga City Council.

This instrument is authorised by a resolution of the Wodonga City Council on April 17, 2023.

.....
Matthew Hyde
Chief Executive Officer

7.5 Valley Views Estate Proposed Development Plan – Status Update and Proposed Way Forward

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to:

1. Provide the Council with the background to the development challenges and opportunities with respect to the Valley Views Estate,

2. Provide an update with regard to the recent Resident's Survey, and

3. Allow the Council to consider and resolve how best to deal with the costs associated with the preparation and submission of the Development Plan which addresses the requirements set out in the Wodonga Planning Scheme.

SUMMARY

While a number of reports have been presented to councillors and Council meetings over the past 12 or so years, preparation of a Development Plan for the Valley Views Estate has generally not been supported or progressed.

More recently, approaches by some residents of the Estate have prompted further consideration to be given to this and for this report to be submitted to the Council for consideration.

The councillors were last briefed on this matter on 29 August 2022.

Following that briefing, it is understood that some residents met with councillors, advocating for development progress.

More recently, council officers have undertaken and completed a Resident's Survey, the outcome of this body of work set out at in the attachment, and discussed in further detail later in this report.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council acknowledges the challenges faced by the Residents of the Valley Views Estate in collaboratively contributing towards the preparation and submission of a Development Plan for the Estate, but resolves to not allocate any public funds towards the costs associated with the preparation and submission of a Development Plan in accordance with DPO18 of the Wodonga Planning Scheme.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Council Briefing Paper 12 Dec 2016 [**7.5.1** - 11 pages]
2. DPO 18 [**7.5.2** - 2 pages]

3. Resident's Survey 2022 - Responses [**7.5.3** - 20 pages]
4. SECT 163 Special Rate and Special Charge [**7.5.4** - 2 pages]
5. SECT 163 A Submissions concerning Special Rates and Charges [**7.5.5** - 1 page]
6. SECT 163 B Objection process relating to certain Special Rates and Charges [**7.5.6** - 1 page]

DISCUSSION

The Valley Views Estate is a rural-residential estate located in Baranduda and approximately 7.5 kilometres south-east of the Wodonga central business area. Comprising approximately 185 hectares in area, the estate contains 42 properties that range in size from approximately 12,000m^2 to approximately 85,000m^2.

The estate is zoned for low-density residential development and has access to reticulated services; however, development is unable to commence until a Development Plan for the entire estate is prepared and approved. This means that 185 hectares of developable, zoned land cannot currently be realised.

Releasing the Valley Views Estate for development could accommodate up to approximately 260 new homes (approximately 650 residents), which would support economic and employment growth within the City. The minimum Lot size proposed is 4000m^2.

Valley Views Estate was rezoned to the Low Density Residential Zone (LDRZ) through Amendment C86 in 2012. At that time, Schedule 18 to the Development Plan Overlay (DPO18) was also applied.

Amendment C86 addressed a strategic anomaly created by historic circumstances whereby the Valley Views Estate was originally zoned Residential 1 (the current equivalent zone is the General Residential Zone) but was developed under an agreement between the Albury Wodonga Development Corporation and the Wodonga City Council as rural living lots.

The amendment recognised that the Residential 1 Zone was not appropriate for the land and that the Rural Living Zone, like adjoining zoning to the east, was also not appropriate. In recognition of the different aspirations of owners in the estate the amendment rezoned the land to a 'mid-density' between the Residential 1 and Rural Living zones.

The Low Density Residential Zone (LDRZ) provides an opportunity for those owners wishing to further subdivide their land with an opportunity to do so whilst maintaining a reasonable level of amenity commensurate with that existing.

The DPO applied provides a mechanism to ensure orderly development planning (master planning) and a mechanism for the recovery and equitable distribution of common infrastructure development costs.

Post-C86 Council's proposal to progress the development (2014)

Officers presented a paper to a councillor briefing in May 2014, commencing discussions on a preferred option to progress the development of the estate and to seek direction as how best to proceed. At that meeting, the consensus was that a

letter be compiled, signed by the then Mayor and sent to all residents/landholders within the estate.

In July 2014, a letter (under the hand of the then Mayor) and an information sheet was sent to all property owners within the Valley Views Estate.
This correspondence set out the requirements of the property owners and how they were to progress any subdivision within the Estate. In response, a group of residents wrote to Council expressing their demands that Council:

- *Withdraw the requirements of the DPO;*
- *Withdraw the requirement for reticulated sewerage;*
- *Withdraw any requirements for alterations to the Kiewa Valley Highway/John Boyes Drive intersection be paid for by landholders of the estate; and*
- *Withdraw any requirements for the sealing of Chapples Road.*

Meetings were held with signatories to the letter, without any resolution to residents' initial demands. The matter was also referred to the Victorian Ombudsman by a resident of the Estate. The Ombudsman, after an investigation, found that Council had no case to answer.

Further Council discussions in 2016

Following further enquiries by a group of residents in 2016, a "Property Owner's Survey" was initiated by council to better understand the sentiments of all property owners within the Estate.

A total of 26 residents responded through mail and phone contact. Less than 25% of respondents indicated that they would be in favour of contributing towards the preparation of the Development Plan, with the majority not prepared to contribute or chose not to respond to the question. The survey results were reported in a Councillor Briefing Report to the December 2016 meeting (attachment 1).

A range of options were proposed by officers in 2016 to assist in the preparation of a Development Plan, but councillors at the time held the view that it remained the owners' responsibility to fund and prepare the documentation to meet the requirements of the Development Plan Overlay.

Since that time, regular inquiries to council officers have been made – on each occasion strong representations being made to allow subdivision to occur.

Landowner enquiries in 2022

There has been renewed inquiries from a group of residents in 2022 seeking to find a way forward to develop their land in isolation from the rest of the Estate. This included a request to remove DPO18 from the land.

Officers' view is that the removal of DPO18 would result in the inequitable, disorderly, and unsustainable development of the Estate. It is considered that the Estate is best planned for in its entirety, rather than in a fragmented, piecemeal manner and that the removal of the DPO would result in ad-hoc development that prejudiced the existing amenity enjoyed by residents.

Further, it is considered that the Development Plan Overlay is the most appropriate planning mechanism to realise the integrated development of the land and was supported by the recommendations made by the Planning Panel in December 2011, and adopted by the Council in February 2012. No planning justification for its removal has ever been presented.

Schedule 18 to the Development Plan Overlay (DPO18)

The requirements of DPO18 are extensive and include the following key requirements:

- A detailed physical and social infrastructure and reticulated services cost distribution plan encompassing all lots contained within the Valley Views Estate as covered by this Schedule and as a minimum providing for the distribution of costs associated with the provision of physical and social infrastructure and reticulated services that are common to more than one existing developable lot;
- Provide an overall plan showing an indicative lot layout encompassing all lots contained within the Valley Views Estate as covered by this Schedule;
- Identify the street network additions necessary to accommodate additional lots;
- Identification of any sites of conservation, heritage, or archaeological significance and how they are to be managed;
- Consideration of the separation distance and any other requirements associated with the existing wastewater treatment facility located to the north-east of the Valley Views estate;
- Consultation with all landowners within the area covered by the overlay and North East Region Water Corporation;
- Identification of necessary facilities for firefighting purposes;

It is critical to recognise that DPO18 provides a mechanism to ensure orderly longer term development planning (including to develop essential infrastructure as part of the subdivision process) and a mechanism for the recovery and equitable distribution of common infrastructure development costs.

Importantly, the DPO states that a detailed Development Plan must be prepared encompassing all lots within the Valley Views Estate before a permit is granted for a subdivision or for a second or subsequent dwelling.

The full DPO Schedule 18 is provided in attachment 2.

Availability of Low Density Residential Land

Unlocking the development potential of the Valley Views Estate is important in increasing housing supply and housing choice in the city. The availability of LDRZ land in Wodonga is limited and there has been increasing pressure from developers and landowners seeking to rezone more land to LDRZ.

It is a strategy of the Wodonga Planning Scheme (cl 11.01-1L) to avoid rezoning further land unless supply is significantly depleted. Consequently, there is a justifiable expectation to resolve the issues around unlocking the zoned land at Valley Views Estate, prior to rezoning additional land to LDRZ.

Streamlining for Growth funding application (2022)

As an officers' initiative to facilitate the development of the Valley Views Estate, a funding application was lodged in June 2022 to the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA). This application sought funding in the sum of $250,000 to contribute towards the preparation of a Development Plan and a Developer Contribution Plan (or alternative mechanism). It was proposed at the time that the council could consider co-funding the project with a $150,000 contribution to make up the estimated $400,000 necessary to fund the overall project.

Unfortunately, this funding bid was unsuccessful, again stalling any potential momentum of the progress of the project.

Proposal for Council to fully fund the preparation and submission of the Development Plan

As a result of the above, and in accordance with a Council resolution of February 2012, consideration may be given to fully fund the preparation and submission of a Development Plan through Council's 2023/2024 budget.

As noted above, the estimated cost of preparing the Development Plan and an associated Development Contributions Plan (or alternative mechanism) is approximately $400,000, but could vary considerably once further details and the quantum of the work becomes known.

There is potential to recover the costs associated with the preparation of the Development Plan. The alternative mechanisms to recover the costs associated with a development plan could be via Section 173 agreement, through a special municipal rate or charge or via a Developer Contribution Plan which will have to be introduced into the planning scheme to make it operable.

These options were discussed in detail in a previous Council Briefing report dated December 12, 2016 (see attachment 1).

To summarise these potential mechanisms, the following is provided:

A **Developer Contribution Plan** (DCP) would need to be developed and agreed upon with all property owners prior to the commencement of the preparation of the development plan. Subsequently the DCP would need to be incorporated via a planning scheme amendment via an overlay control.

While the apportionment of costs is still to be devised, simplistically, the costs apportioned to each property owner could be in the order of $2250/Ha. In this scenario, apportionment costs of circa $5000 - $20,000 could be levied to each landholder within the estate.

The levy could be structured in such a way that the levy (including initial council costs) is paid over to council upon approval of individual subdivision applications. In the event that some property owners do not submit subdivision applications, it is possible that all costs are not recovered, or that recovery could only be realised after a considerable passage of time.

A **Section 173 Agreement** under the *Planning & Environment Act, 1987*, is between council and individual property owners and will be registered on the title. Typically, this agreement would state that prior to certification of the plan of subdivision (or similar), a specified sum (possibly equal to the DCP cost + interest) must be paid to the council.

As with option above, in the event that some property owners do not submit subdivision applications, it is possible that all costs are not recovered. Additionally, as this is a two party agreement between council and the individual landowner, it may not find favour with all residents.

There are also legal fees attached to such an agreement, adding to the overall costs of the Development Plan.

A **Special Rate and Special Charge Scheme** could be implemented to cover the costs associated with the necessary works. These levies are different from general rates and charges because they are levied for particular works or services and are levied on a limited number of ratepayers - in the case of the Valley Views Estate, approximately 42 property owners.

Section 163 of the *Local Government Act, 1989* is intended to enable a council to recover costs from property owners where works will be a special benefit to them.

Section 163 of the Act is included at attachment 4.

A requirement of the process is that the council must undertake formal public consultation. The council will also set criteria to determine how the rate or charge will be apportioned between the affected ratepayers – likely very similar to the DCP method described above.

Section 163A (at attachment 5) sets out that submissions to the proposed Special Rates and Special Charges Scheme can be made under Section 223 of the *Local Government Act, 1989*.

Section 163B (at attachment 6) sets out at S163B(6) that if the majority of the residents impacted by the proposed Special Rates and Special Charges Scheme object to it, the Council cannot make a declaration to implement the scheme.

Infrastructure Costs

A significant gap in the development of reliable infrastructure costs for the development of the Estate is that no works have been undertaken to determine the infrastructure requirement (roads, sewer, water provision, drainage, footpaths, playgrounds and open space) to adequately service the current and future community.

This can only reliably be done once a Development Plan has been prepared, along with the necessary infrastructure design and costings.

While it is acknowledged that some trunk infrastructure does exist, it is envisaged that new sewer and water main extensions will be required, new and altered roads will be need to constructed to provide access to proposed new Lots and drainage

(potentially including stormwater retardation basins), and other utilities will need to be provided.

These are costly items and based on the DCP for the Leneva Baranduda growth area, could run into hundreds of thousands of dollars per developable hectare. This will only become apparent once the Development Plan has been prepared and submitted.

Risk and opportunity considerations

There are some risks to council associated with this matter and are, for clarity, distilled into 2 parts – (1) those associated with the preparation and submission of the Development Plan and (2) – those associated with the installation and upgrading of the required infrastructure and community facilities.

Cost recovery for the preparation and submission of the Development Plan

Dependent upon the recovery mechanism adopted by the Council, the following risks and opportunities may apply:

Recovery Mechanism	Risks	Opportunities
Special Rate and Special Charge Scheme	• Opposition and backlash to the scheme by the residents of the Estate may lead to reputational; damage or even legal challenge; • Likely slow recovery of the costs due to cost of living pressures; • Potential uncertainty of costs due to variations to prepare the Development Plan.	• If approved and adopted, all residents of the Estate and covered by the scheme contribute equitably to the costs; • All of the incurred costs are recovered, albeit over some time; • Enables the Development Plan to be prepared and submitted for consideration by council staff.
Developer Contribution Plan (DCP)	• Will require an amendment to the Wodonga Planning Scheme which could be a fairly lengthy process; • Will have cost and time implications in developing the DCP; • Likely not to be supported by the majority of the Estate's residents resulting in submissions to a Planning Panel with associated costs and time imperatives; • Is unlikely to recover all of the costs associated with Development Plan as it will likely only be payable upon development of each land parcel – and all won't be developing; • The general community could end up carrying the majority of the costs.	• If adopted and approved by the Minister for Planning, the DCP would recover some of the costs from of those residents who would be developing or wanting to develop their properties; • If council were to cover the initial costs of the Development Plan, it would enable the plan to be prepared and assessed for approval and could enable development within the Estate; • An approved Development Plan would also provide a sound basis for the anticipated costs and delivery program for any necessary infrastructure and the like and better inform future private development considerations;
Section 173 Agreement	• This is largely a '*by agreement*' agreement and entered into with each private property owner as a condition of development; • There could be instances where agreement cannot be reached and the development condition is	• If agreements are reached, cost recovery of those proposing to develop would occur.

	challenged at VCAT; • It is highly likely that not all costs will be recovered with the general Wodonga community carrying the major share of the costs.	

In summary, and in the event that the Council resolves to fund (or partly fund) the costs for the preparation of the Development Plan (along with all the studies, designs and other required supporting documentation), the risk remains that not all of these costs will be recoverable, and will ultimately depend upon the cost-recovery mechanism employed.

Cost recovery for the provision of physical infrastructure

Assuming that a Development Plan is prepared, submitted and approved by council, the next potential risk to the council is that which is associated with the preparation, adoption and implementation of a costs' recovery mechanism for the provision and installation of infrastructure for the Estate.

As is the case with cost recovery mechanism, a municipal council inevitably plays the initial role of the '*banker'* - a role which sees it as the collecting agency as well as the developing agency and ultimately the provider and owner of the required infrastructure.

The provision of the costs associated with the required infrastructure should be included in the council's long term financial plan and the infrastructure provided as the development requires.

This could mean that the costs associated with the installation of the early infrastructure may not be covered by the initial payments in accordance with the cost recovery mechanism – the council needing to fund the shortfall – the quantum at this time being unknown.

The risk is that with the levy only collected at either the planning permit to develop the land stage or at building permit stage, and with not all landholders seeking to develop their land, the full costs will not be collected and the council may still need to install all of the infrastructure.

This would lead to the council being in a position where less funds are collected than were spent and potentially to the detriment of the wider Wodonga community.

As is the case in the Leneva Baranduda growth area, the levy is derived by dividing the estimated costs associated with the infrastructure, public open space, playgrounds, community facilities and the like by the developable area to arrive at cost recovery formula of $$/Ha.

With respect to risks and opportunities associated with the above, these would be similar to those associated with the costs for the Development Plan – apart from potentially running into a sum of multi-million dollars.

Outcomes of the Resident's Survey 2022

During late December 2022, Resident's Survey were hand-delivered to all the residences within the Valley Views Estate, seeking responses and any related

commentary by 31 January 2023. Responses were either provided via self-addressed envelopes back to council, or via a QR code and an on-line survey.

By the end of the second week of February 2023, 27 completed survey were submitted. The full Feedback Report is provided at attachment 3.

A brief summation of the responses suggests that:

As a property owner in the Valley Views Estate, do you wish to see further, higher density, residential development within the Estate in:
- Approximately 50% of responses favoured the 0 – 5 year horizon;
- Approximately 4% preferred the 5 – 10 year time frame;
- Approximately 8% thought that 10+ years would be better;
- While almost 39% were opposed to seeing further development of or within the Estate.

As a property owner in the Valley Views Estate do you wish to develop or subdivide your property in the next: Noting that these costs could be in the order of $250,000 per net developable hectare, but subject to infrastructure requirements, further investigations, design standards and estimated construction costs.
- Approximately 44% suggested some form of development within the 0 – 5 year timeframe;
- Almost 4% stated they would have some interest in the next 5 – 10 years;
- About 8% thought that 10+ year may be an option,
- While about 44% said they would never develop or subdivide.

Currently and prior to development being considered, a Development Plan is to be prepared and approved by this Council. If you were to develop or subdivide your property, would you be prepared to contribute towards the total costs - potentially in the order of approximately $300,000 - $400,000 depending upon the range of consultancy studies required - associated with preparing a Development Plan?
- Approximately 44% responded YES;
- Almost 56% responded NO.

Would you be prepared to contribute?
- Only 2 persons indicated that they would be prepared to contribute up to $10,000;
- While 9 residents said that they would be prepared to equitably share the costs across all properties or amongst those willing to subdivide/develop.

In the event that a Development Plan is prepared and is approved by the Wodonga Council, all development and community infrastructure costs will have to be covered by the developers of the estate. These costs could be in the order of $250,000 per net developable hectare, but subject to infrastructure requirements, further investigations, design standards and estimated construction costs. Would you, as a potential developer, be prepared to cover these costs, and if not, we would be interested to have your views on this matter.
- A little over 41% said they would contribute.
- While over 58% stated that they would not be prepared to contribute.

Based on the above, a fair assessment would be that a little more than half the respondents would be prepared to see the Estate develop over the next five years

and that this split is generally consistent when it comes to recognising the cost of development.

However, it becomes apparent that the majority of respondents were not prepared to contribute towards the costs of undertaking the work associated with preparing and submitting the Development Plan.

Of the 11 responses who were prepared to contribute, it was conditional on the costs being equitably or otherwise shared amongst the residents.

More importantly was the fact that 60% of the respondents were not prepared to contribute to the costs associated with serving the developing Estate.

Persons whose rights will be directly affected by this decision

Residents and landholders of the Valley Views Estate, and ratepayers of the City of Wodonga could be directly and/or indirectly impacted by a decision of the Council.

RELEVANT LAW

The *Planning and Environment Act 1987* is applicable in this matter.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

At its ordinary Council meeting held on February 20, 2012, Council adopted Amendment C86 to rezone the estate to the Low Density Residential Zone and apply Schedule 18 to the Development Plan Overlay.

The resolution taken at that time stated the following:

That:

1 *The Wodonga Planning Scheme Amendment C86 be adopted under Sect 29 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 as considered by the Planning Panel but after due consideration by council, to include all lots in their entirety, specifically lots 25 and 29;*

2. *The adopted Wodonga Planning Scheme Amendment C86 is submitted to the Minister for Planning for approval under section 31 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.*

3. *Appropriate funding be allocated within the 2012/2013 budget, for an enquiry by design workshop to be undertaken by a suitable qualified consultancy; and*

4. *Upon approval of a Development Plan, officers be authorised to commence negotiations and actions to remove the registered Section 173 agreements from those affected lots within the Valley Views Estate with appropriate budgetary funding.*

Addressing point 3 above was unsuccessful during the 2012/2013 budget process.

OPTIONS

Options Summary

Option 1 – Do nothing;
Option 2 – Fully fund the Development Plan; or
Option 3 - Fully fund the Development Plan and recover the costs/some costs.

Option 1 – Do nothing

While an option for consideration, doing nothing is not supported as this does not take the matter forward and will inevitably result in continuing approaches from residents within the Estate seeking to develop. This could ultimately pose reputational risk to the Council.

Should this option however be preferred by the Council, the likely outcome would be that some residents continue to prosecute their argument that they 'have a right to develop' as per their respective contracts of sale and that they pursue a legal avenue to enforce this view. Inevitably, a challenge like this will have cost implications in that the council will need to have legal representation to prepare and mount the legal counter-arguments.

This report does not contemplate providing the councillors with advice regarding the contents of the sales' agreement – it merely provides background and advice on the preferred planning outcomes for the Estate, and how best to arrive at that point.

If the Council prefers this option, a resolution to this effect could be:

That:
1. *The Council acknowledges the challenges faced by the Valley Views Estate's residents in collaboratively contributing towards the preparation and submission of a Development Plan for the Estate, but resolves to not allocate any public funds towards the costs associated with the preparation and submission of a Development Plan in accordance with DPO18 of the Wodonga Planning Scheme.*

Option 2 – Consideration for the Council to fully fund the preparation of the Development Plan

The issues surrounding the future subdivision and subsequent development of the Valley Views Estate is complex, somewhat confusing for residents wishing to develop and of concern to those who do not wish to.

Recent history has however demonstrated that this matter must be brought to a conclusion and one option to do so is for the Council to approve a budgetary allocation to fund the works required to meet the obligations of the Development Plan Overlay, Schedule 18.

While it is difficult to accurately estimate the costs of this work, it is anticipated that a budget amount of approximately $400,000 could be required which will include:

- A detailed physical and social infrastructure and reticulated services cost distribution plan encompassing all lots contained within the Valley Views Estate and as a minimum providing for the distribution of costs associated with the provision of physical and social infrastructure and reticulated services that are common to more than one existing developable lot;

- Provision of an overall plan showing an indicative lot layout encompassing all lots contained within the Valley Views Estate;

- Being developed in consultation with all landowners within the Estate and North East Region Water Corporation;

- Identifying and providing any necessary arrangements for the preservation or protection of habitat areas;

- In consultation with the CFA identifying necessary facilities for firefighting purposes which may include but not be limited to hydrants, water supply, storage and systems or separation distances required;

- A storm water modelling and management report to demonstrate the capacity to service the development, treat and retard storm water and reduce any impacts on soil and water downstream of the Estate;

- Recognition that the development density increase will change traffic volumes and consequently the development plan should identify road standard upgrade requirements, including any adjacent main road upgrade works that may be required by the Department of Transport;

- Identifying any land required for public purposes such as electrical substations, pump stations, community facilities, public open space or the like;

- Identifying and map locations for public transport routes and bus stops where appropriate;

- Identifying and map any land required for infrastructure or reticulated services easements;

- Providing for a mix of lot sizes to a minimum of 4000m^2;

- Showing building envelopes for all lots including lots containing existing buildings; and

- Showing access points to all lots including existing access points.

If this is the preferred option, a resolution of the Council could be:

That:

1. *The Council resolves to consider a budgetary allocation of $400,000 during the 2023/2024 financial year to facilitate the preparation and submission of a Development Plan which meets the requirements of the Wodonga Planning Scheme.*

Option 3 – Consideration for the Council to initially fully fund the preparation of the Development Plan and implement a Cost Recovery mechanism to recoup the costs of the work

This option is based on Option 2 above, but includes a cost recovery mechanism to recoup most, if not all of the costs associated with preparing and submitting the Development Plan.

While a number of cost recovery mechanisms are available to the council (as discussed elsewhere in this report), the probability of getting formal consensus amongst the residents of the Estate, and thus being able to implement a scheme is remote.

As highlighted in the responses from the Resident's Survey 2022, only 44% of the residents were prepared to contribute towards the cost for the Development Plan – well below what would be required to implement, as an example, a Special Rates and Special Charges Scheme.

If a Section 173 Agreement were to be used, recovery, based on the above would likely only be less than half the costs of the Development Plan and similarly, if a DCP were preferred, the same cost recovery would apply.

Based on the above and the unlikelihood of full cost recovery of the Development Plan – this Option would not be preferred.

However, if the Council was inclined to support Option 3, and potential recommendation could be:

That:

1. *The Council resolves to consider a budgetary allocation of $400,000 during the 2023/2024 financial year to facilitate the preparation and submission of a Development Plan which meets the requirements of the Wodonga Planning Scheme;*

2. *Officers explore the options (Special Rates Scheme, Section 173 Agreement or Developer Contribution Scheme) available to council to implement a Developer Contribution Plan or similar to recover some or all of these costs as subdivision or development occurs and provides a further report back to the Council prior to commencing work set out above;*

3. *This matter is not progressed until such time as a cost-recovery mechanism has been approved, adopted and implemented, and*

4. *Officers provide feedback to the residents setting out the details of the adopted resolution.*

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The proposals in this report will have implications on sustainability in the following ways:

Economic

The preparation, submissions and potential approval of a Development Plan for the Valley Views Estate will unlock development potential for up to 260 low density residential lots on land zoned for this purpose.

Based on information from id. Consulting Pty Ltd, the increased population of approximately 260 new homes is estimated to lead to a corresponding direct addition of two jobs in the local construction sector per home (520 jobs).

It is also anticipated that there would be flow on effects into other related intermediate industries, creating an additional one job per home (260 jobs).

Additional rates revenue is also likely to be anticipated from the development of these properties.

Environmental and Social
DPO18 provides a mechanism to ensure orderly planning for the Valley Views Estate.

A requirement of the DPO is that any Development Plan be designed consistent with the Wodonga Retained Environment Network Strategy (WREN).

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements set out in the Development Plan preparation process.

It is critical to recognise that consensus is highly unlikely to be reached but equally critical that the Development Plan be developed in consultation with all landowners of the Estate.

Without detailing the engagement processes at this time, it is likely that an enquiry-by-design process will be followed where the appointed contractor will arrange a number of workshops with the residents to determine their developments needs and expectations and how the many incongruent views may best be accommodated.

While no statutory requirements are placed upon the Development Plan assessment process, council has preferred to place Development Plan applications on public and agency notice to ensure that the best outcomes are achieved, and that the public have some input into the proposed development of the land.

While no third party review rights exist, the process facilitates a greater understanding of the proposal.

It should also be noted that once a Development Plan is approved, subsequent planning permit applications, if generally in accordance with the approved Development Plan are exempt from notice and review, as per clause 43.04-3 of the Wodonga Planning Scheme.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable.

COLLABORATION

The schedule to the Development Plan Overlay states that the Development Plan must include the requirement that it be developed in consultation with all

landowners within the area covered by the schedule and North East Region Water Corporation.

Based on the outcomes of the Resident's Survey, it seems unlikely that consensus will be reached on how the Estate should be developed and how the proposed Lot layout, provision of open spaces, installation of infrastructure will be agreed upon. While agreement is ultimately not required, consultation in the preparation of the Plan must be undertaken.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

There is potential to recoup council's cash contribution via several alternative funding mechanisms. However, it is recognised that these options cannot guarantee the full recovery of funding expended by council.

Based on the results of the Resident's Survey, it would appear as if only 2 persons indicated that they would be prepared to contribute up to $10,000, while 9 of the respondents said that they would be prepared to equitably share the costs across all properties or amongst those willing to subdivide/develop.

That leaves approximately 30 residents of the Estate who have elected not to contribute to these costs or who have not respond to the survey generally.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

The Hume Regional Growth Plan supports the continued development of the region.

COUNCIL PLAN AND POLICIES

Strategic objective
Planning for growth, demonstrating stewardship through protecting, enhancing, and managing our unique natural and built environments.

Strategy
Undertake detailed planning and design for key community assets and recreational precincts.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There have been no conflict-of-interest declarations by the following officers involved with the preparation of this report:

Director Planning, Development and Infrastructure - Leon Schultz

2.3 - The Development of the Valley Views Estate, Baranduda

Purpose of discussion paper

Some councillors may have had recent approaches by development-willing residents of the Valley Views Estate, Baranduda.

This report seeks to provide some background and history to this estate and the discussions had over a number of years with residents seeking to subdivide and develop their properties.

The report also sets out some of the considerations of assistance put before councillors and the outcomes of these discussions.

Currently, and under Planning Scheme Amendment C86, prior to any subdivision being approved, a development plan must be prepared in consultation with all land owners and must include a detailed physical and social infrastructure and reticulated services cost distribution plan.

The estate is zoned Low Density Residential (LDRZ).

Background

At its February 2012 ordinary council meeting, the council resolved as follows:

> *"That:*
>
> 1. *The Wodonga Planning Scheme Amendment C86 be adopted under Sect 29 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 as considered by the Planning Panel but after due consideration by council, to include all lots in their entirety, specifically lots 25 and 29;*
>
> 2. *The adopted Wodonga Planning Scheme Amendment C86 is submitted to the Minister for Planning for approval under section 31 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.*
>
> 3. *Appropriate funding be allocated within the 2012/2013 budget, for an enquiry by design workshop to be undertaken by a suitable qualified consultancy; and*
>
> 4. *Upon approval of a Development Plan, officers be authorised to commence negotiations and actions to remove the registered Section 173 agreements from those affected lots within the Valley Views Estate with appropriate budgetary funding."*

Amendment C86 addressed a strategic anomaly created by historic circumstances whereby the Valley Views Estate was originally zoned Residential 1 but was developed under an agreement between the Albury/Wodonga Development Corporation and the Wodonga City Council as rural living lots.

2.3 - The Development of the Valley Views Estate, Baranduda (cont'd)

At that time, property owners were allowed to subdivide their land only upon the granting of a planning permit. This could have resulted in residential properties down to 300m^2 being developed – most likely in an ad-hoc manner, leaving many larger property owners with higher density living at their large block boundaries.

Council resolved in December 2010 to seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare an amendment to correct this anomaly. Authorisation was granted on the 3 March 2011 and subsequently the amendment was placed on public exhibition, in accordance with the requirements of Section 19 of the Planning and Environment Act, 1987.

The amendment proposed to:

- Change clause 21.10-12 and amend Figure 8 Rural Living and Rural Residential Development Strategy of the Municipal Strategic Statement;
- Rezone the subject land from Residential 1 (R1Z) and Industrial 1 (IN1Z) to Low Density Residential (LDRZ) and Public Park and Recreation (PPRZ);
- Introduce Schedule 18 to the Development Plan Overlay (DPO) and apply it to the subject land; and
- Introduce an incorporated document to prohibit the subdivision of land and the development of second or subsequent dwellings on the subject land until after 1 January 2015.

The exhibition process resulted in 9 submissions being received. Following the panel hearing held in Wodonga on the 22nd November 2011, the panel member submitted his report to council on the 6th January 2012.

At its ordinary council meeting held on Monday, February 20, 2012 council adopted the recommendations with some minor amendments.

Officers presented a paper to the councillor briefing of Monday, May 26, 2014 commencing discussions on a preferred option to progress the development of the estate and to seek direction as how best to proceed. At that meeting, the general consensus was that a letter be compiled, signed by the then Mayor and despatched to all residents/landholders within the estate.

In July 2014, a letter (under the hand of the then Mayor, Cr Wangman) and an information sheet was sent to all property owners within the Valley View Estates.

This correspondence clearly set the requirements of the property owners and how they were to progress any subdivision within the estate. Following this correspondence, a number of residents drafted a letter to council expressing their demands that council:

- *Withdraw the requirements of the DPO;*

2.3 - The Development of the Valley Views Estate, Baranduda (cont'd)

- *Withdraw the requirements for reticulated sewerage;*
- *Withdraw any requirements for the alterations to the Kiewa Valley Highway/John Boyes Drive intersection to be paid for by the landholders of the estate; and*
- *Withdraw any requirements for the provision of sealing Chapples Road.*

Following this correspondence, a number of meetings were held with some of the signatories to the letter, without any resolution to their initial demands.

The matter was referred to the Victorian Ombudsman by a resident of the estate, who, after an investigation, found that council had no case to answer to.

Over the intervening period, related enquiries have been raised with planning staff, the report author, the CEO and indeed erstwhile Cr Wangman. In each of these dealings, it has become apparent that only a handful of the residents are wanting to subdivide their properties, with seemingly the vast majority, content in maintaining their current lifestyle and property configurations.

Despite the contents of the 2014 letter to residents, there also seems to be lack of understanding and acceptance of the subdivision requirements (as set out and included in DPO18) and a lack of understanding about the costs and responsibilities associated with the provision of the necessary infrastructure.

As councillors would appreciate, the costs for the installation of services, drainage, roads and related upgrades would largely, if not wholly, fall upon the developers.

Requirements to be met (Schedule 18 to the DPO)

The essence of the amendment is that a permit to subdivide the existing estate may only be granted once a detailed development plan, encompassing all lots contained within the estate, is prepared and approved by council.

The development plan must not be prepared in stages and once approved, development must occur in sequence, unless otherwise approved by the Responsible Authority (council).

The requirement to be included within the development plan are extensive and include:

- A detailed physical and social infrastructure and reticulated services cost distribution plan encompassing all lots contained within the Valley Views Estate as covered by this Schedule and as a minimum providing for the distribution of costs associated with the provision of physical and social infrastructure and reticulated services that are common to more than one existing developable lot;
- Provide an overall plan showing an indicative lot layout encompassing all lots

2.3 - The Development of the Valley Views Estate, Baranduda (cont'd)

contained within the Valley Views Estate as covered by this Schedule;

- Identify the street network additions necessary to accommodate additional lots;
- Be designed to accommodate existing features and development and to identify any sites of conservation, heritage or archaeological significance and the means by which they are to be managed;
- Be designed to accommodate the separation distance and any other requirements associated with the existing waste water treatment facility located to the north east of the Valley Views estate;
- Include a location context description and assessment of the likely effects on the use and development of adjoining or nearby land outside of the area covered by the Schedule;
- Be developed in consultation with all landowners within the area covered by this Schedule and North East Region Water Corporation;
- Be designed consistent with the Wodonga Retained Environment Network strategy 2006 and any applicable Native Vegetation Precinct Plan;
- Provide for a mix of lot sizes to a minimum of 4,000m^2;
- Show building envelopes for all lots including lots containing existing buildings;
- Show access points to all lots including existing access points;
- Determine necessary physical and social infrastructure and reticulated services required consequent of the increased development density and establish appropriate arrangements for the provision and funding of those physical and social infrastructure and reticulated services through preparation of a costs distributions plan to form part of the Development Plan;
- Identify and provide any necessary arrangements for the preservation or protection of habitat areas;
- In consultation with the CFA identify necessary facilities for firefighting purposes which may include but not be limited to hydrants, water supply, storage and systems or separation distances required;
- Include a storm water modelling and management report to demonstrate the capacity to service the development, treat and retard storm water and reduce any impacts on soil and water downstream of the estate;
- Recognise that the development density increase will change traffic volumes and consequently the development plan should identify road standard upgrade requirements, including any adjacent main road upgrade works that may be required by VicRoads;
- Identify any land required for public purposes such as electrical substations, pump stations, community facilities, public open space or the like;
- Identify and map locations for public transport routes and bus stops where appropriate; and

2.3 - The Development of the Valley Views Estate, Baranduda (cont'd)

- Identify and map any land required for infrastructure or reticulated services easements.

It is undeniable that the requirements seem onerous, particularly given the fact that the development plan must be prepared in consultation with all landowners and that by definition, "consensus" amongst approximately 42 property owners should be reached before any subdivision can progress.

Options considered

From the above, it becomes evident that a disparate group of property owners, each potentially with different ultimate outcomes in mind, would be unlikely to reach consensus on the requirements of Schedule 18 to the Development Plan Overlay.

The Valley Views Estate consists of approximately 42 properties, varying in size from approximately 12,000m^2 to approximately 85,000m^2. The total extent of the Valley Views Estate is approximately 180 Ha. Minimum lot size under Schedule 18 is 4,000m^2, potentially allowing up to approximately 300 additional properties to be created over time.

Following a further discussions with some residents, a "Property Owner's Survey" was initiated by council to better understand the sentiments of all of the property owners within the estate, and to better determine council's role in this matter, a brief Property Owner's Survey was prepared and sent out to all property owners.

A report presented to councillors on 30 May 2016 set out the outcomes of this survey.

The outcomes are briefly discussed below.

In letters dated late January 2016, approximately 40 surveys were sent out with a response date by 19 February 2016. Only seven responses were received by that date, with another 13 received over the next two weeks, bringing the total number of responses to 20 (50% response rate) by early March 2016.

During late March 2016, phone contact was made with property owners who failed to participate in the written survey. The same questions were put to them resulting in a further six responses being received.

Many calls and left messages were not returned. The assessment and commentary provided in this report makes no assumptions as to the preferences of the non-respondents, although it could be argued that they have no immediate desire to develop their properties.

The table sets out the results of the survey.

Less than 25% of the respondents indicated that they would be in favour of contributing towards the preparation of the development plan, with the majority not

2.3 - The Development of the Valley Views Estate, Baranduda (cont'd)

prepared to contribute or not responding to the question.

Question	0 – 5 Years (%)	5 – 10 Years (%)	10+ Years (%)	Never (%)	No Response (%)
1. As a property owner in the Valley Views Estate, do you wish to see further residential development within the Estate in:	14 (35%)	1 (2.5%)	4 (10%)	5 (12.5%)	16 (40%)
2. Do you wish to develop your property in:	10 (25%)	3 (7.5%)	6 (15%)	6 (15%)	15 (37.5%)

Question	Yes	No	No Response or Unsure
3. Would you be prepared to contribute towards the costs associated with preparing a development plan?	9 (22.5%)	13 (32.5%)	18 (45%)

Written responses (additional comments) were also received from 14 of the respondents, generally relating to the fact that they purchased their properties believing they would be able to subdivide in 2015, infrastructure requirements and costs/outcome of the development plan.

Respondent's comments are set out below:

"A considered approach is required for any future subdivision or development of Valley Views. The layout with single road access is not suitable for medium or high density development. We suggest council organise a public meeting of residents of Valley Views to share information and ideas."

"Question 3 (cost) would depend on costs involved - we have no plans for development now or in the future. Our main concern would be the increase in traffic on the intersection of John-Boys Drive/Kiewa Valley Highway - something would have to be done to improve this."

"We purchased our property at auction with the understanding we could sub-divide in 2015, so we paid a higher price at the time, with this view in mind as did other buyers. Look forward to the public information session."

"Annoyed at council has walked away from development plan - isn't that what we pay rates for. Subdivision was supposed to be allowable after 2015 with council doing the development plan. Have changed the law to suit themselves."

"I would like to be able to develop our land."

"Depends on cost; you are aware of our thoughts and feel with the stuff up of Valley Views it is a complete double dip of money."

"We are not considering development of our land at the minute. We are not opposed to others exploring this option. We would only support development if it did not impact on the integrity and feel of Valley Views as a lifestyle estate."

2.3 - The Development of the Valley Views Estate, Baranduda (cont'd)

"We purchased the land with existing overlay - why change it. Advise the status of sewer. Can we develop without an EPA approved sewage treatment system? All purchasers purchased the land with full knowledge that the land would be subdivided in 2015."

"No desire to subdivide our land and are strongly opposed to any further development in the estate."

"Not interested in contributing towards any costs until we might develop. Should not be made to use reticulated sewerage."

"Major issue would be entry into highway which is currently a major concern for my family. People are uncertain about right of way at the intersection."

"Lot size down to 4000m^2 would spoil the appeal of this estate. We don't plan to develop, if it happens we would consider moving. Would like to attend any public information session."

"We only wish to cut off a piece of land which fronts Clandeboye Drive - not subdivide the rest of our land."

"Where owners have to contribute to the DPO upfront, I believe they need a say in how the DPO affects their property. Particularly where it has no/minimal impact on neighbours."

"The minimum block size we see as an important feature. Any concessions to this should be only with resident consent and only in very exceptional circumstances."

"Hope it stays the way it is."

From the survey results (responses only), it would appear as if development is generally supported, although perhaps not necessarily in the shorter term. This being the case, it was deduced that the preparation of the necessary documentation and the development plan would generally meet with some form of acceptance and that some of the residents would participate in the preparation process.

The councillor feedback provided at the 30 May 2016 councillor briefing was that there would be no change to council's current position that a development plan was to be prepared and approved before subdivision could occur. At that time, councillor's view was that the costs associated with the preparation of the development plan would be for the resident's costs.

Letters to all residents dated 8 June 2016 proposed a number of meeting dates to discuss the next steps of the process and to inform the meetings of the councillor's views.

Public meetings were held with residents of the Valley Views Estate on 29 and 30 June 2016 and on 24 August 2016. There were 40 attendees, some attending more than one meeting. It became clearer that a divide exists within the estate, between those who want to subdivide and those who did not want to. This in itself caused angst at these meetings, ultimately culminating in one or two persons stepping forward to door knock each property owner and canvass support or otherwise for a

2.3 - The Development of the Valley Views Estate, Baranduda (cont'd)

contribution to the preparation of the development plan to allow future subdivision.

Anecdotally, this has resulted in an impasse, with no clear support for a financial contribution to the preparation of the development plan with some residents continuing to seek council's assistance in this matter.

Previous options for assistance have been discussed with councillors, including the following:

Option 1 – Council fully covers the cost of the preparation of all documentation including the preparation and approval of the development plan.

The costs associated with undertaking all the preparatory work, engagement of consultants and planners to prepare the necessary documentation to meet the requirements of development plan overlay, schedule 18 could cost in the order of $120,000 - $150,000. Should council elect to follow this route, it is anticipated that a budget allocation for the 2017/2018 year would need to be considered.

Option 2 – Council facilitates a workshop between the property owners at Valley Views Estate with a consultant skilled in the preparation of development plans.

The purpose of the workshop would be for the property owners at Valley Views to gain a better understanding of the process, timing and costs associated with the preparation and approval of a development plan and supporting information, including relevant funding arrangements.

This interim step would allow both council and property owners to evaluate the timing and priority to complete a development plan and the likely density, layout, yield and cost of development that would be achieved by such a process.

Option 3 - Council facilitates the preparation of all documentation including the preparation and approval of the development plan and seeks to recover these costs.

There are a number of options to recover the costs associated with a development plan, including through (i) a developer contribution plan (DCP), (ii) a section 173 agreement or (iii) through a special rate or charge. It is recognised that all options cannot guarantee the recovery of any up-front costs expended by council.

3(i) – A **developer contribution plan** (DCP) would need to be developed and agreed upon with all property owners prior to the commencement of the preparation of the development plan. Subsequently the DCP would need to be incorporated via a planning scheme amendment via an overlay control. While the apportionment of costs is still to be devised, simplistically, the costs apportioned to each property owner could be in the order of $1000/Ha. In this scenario, apportionment costs of between $1,500 - $7,500 could be levied to each landholder within the estate.

2.3 - The Development of the Valley Views Estate, Baranduda (cont'd)

The levy could be structured in such a way that the levy (including initial council costs) is paid over to council upon approval of individual subdivision applications.

In the event that some property owners do not submit subdivision applications, it is possible that all costs are not recovered, or that recovery could only be realised after a considerable passage of time.

3(ii) – A **section 173 agreement** under the *Planning & Environment Act, 1987*, is between council and individual property owners and will be registered on the title.

Typically, this agreement would state that prior to certification of the plan of subdivision (or similar), a specified sum (possibly equal to the DCP cost + interest) must be paid to the council.

As with option 3(i), in the event that some property owners do not submit subdivision applications, it is possible that all costs are not recovered.

Additionally, as this is a two party agreement between council and the individual landowner, it may not find favour with all residents. There are also legal fees attached to such an agreement, adding to the overall costs of the development plan.

In both these options, 3(i) and 3(ii) it is proposed that council's contribution (a *facilitation contribution*) be limited to a maximum of $75,000 and that an upfront contribution of $75,000 and 10 contributing property owners be made prior to the works being commenced.

Under this arrangement, it will be required that property owners who elect to subdivide their properties at a later date will be required to contribute towards council's "facilitation contribution". In this instance, those contributing at a later date will enter into a Section 173 agreement which will attempt to recover the total full costs of the preparation of the development plan and associated works. In the event of over-recovery over the long term, this over recovery could be returned to the community via additional beautification/enhancement works.

3(iii) – A **special rate or charge** could be implemented to cover the costs associated with the necessary works.

These levies are different from general rates and charges because they are levied for particular works or services and are levied on a limited number of ratepayers - in the case of the Valley Views Estate, approximately 38 property owners.

By law, before finalising a special rate or charge, the council must undertake formal public consultation. Councils will often ask the

2.3 - The Development of the Valley Views Estate, Baranduda (cont'd)

community for comment before proposing the rate or charge, although this is not mandatory.

People have the right to put in a formal submission before the council finalises a special rate or charge. The council is required to consider all submissions that are received within 28 days of the public notice, although councils may allow a longer time for submissions.

If the council is proposing to raise more than two-thirds of the total cost of a project as a special rate or charge, the affected ratepayers must also be given a formal right to object.

If objections are received from a majority of properties within 28 days, the council cannot approve the special rate or charge.

The council will also set criteria to determine how the rate or charge will be apportioned between the affected ratepayers – likely similar to the DCP method described above.

None of the options above have been supported by a majority of councillors, with the direction given to staff that the requirements of the planning scheme be met in full by those wishing to progress development of their properties.

Conclusion

A requirement to prepare a development plan for a large tract of land is commonplace and has been done for all the large residential developments in Wodonga. The land ownership in these instances has been simple – one owner/developer, with the costs covered by the owner.

In the case of Valley Views, the principal of proper and sustainable development is maintained, but made more difficult by the number of property owners and their own views on further development of the estate.

Councillors have, over a number of years considered a range of options to assist in the preparation of a development plan, but have consistently held the view that it remains the "developers" within the Valley Views Estate who have to assume the responsibility and financial implications of preparing documentation to meet the requirements of the Wodonga Planning Scheme.

Until these property owners band together and form an entity to prepare the development plan and ultimately seek the subdivision of their properties, there appear to be no current alternate options for council, other than to amend the planning scheme to remove or simplify DPO18. This would likely be difficult to strategically justify to the Minister for Planning, given the recent adoption of amendment C86.

2.3 - The Development of the Valley Views Estate, Baranduda (cont'd)

Attachments

Nil

Tabled papers

Nil

Declaration of conflict of interests

Under section 80C of the *Local Government Act* 1989 officers providing advice to the council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

Director Planning and Infrastructure - Leon Schultz
In providing this advice, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

Chief Executive Officer - Patience Harrington
In providing this advice, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

Director Planning and Infrastructure - Leon Schultz
In providing this advice as the report author, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

Recommendation

For information only.

11/08/2022
C130wdon

SCHEDULE 18 TO CLAUSE 43.04 DEVELOPMENT PLAN OVERLAY

Shown on the planning scheme map as **DPO18** .

VALLEY VIEWS ESTATE BARANDUDA

This schedule applies to all land contained in the Valley Views Estate, Baranduda, being the area bounded by the Kiewa Valley Highway, Chappels Road, Whytes Road and the north western boundaries of lots 29 PS518114, 25 & 26 PS506567 and 7 & 8 PS428798.

1.0 Objectives

11/08/2022
C130wdon

None specified.

2.0 Requirement before a permit is granted

11/08/2022
C130wdon

A detailed Development Plan must be prepared encompassing all lots contained within the Valley Views Estate as covered by this schedule before a permit is granted for a subdivision or for a second or subsequent dwelling(s) on a lot. The Development Plan must not be prepared in stages. Once approved, development must occur in sequence unless otherwise approved by the responsible authority.

3.0 Conditions and requirements for permits

11/08/2022
C130wdon

The following conditions and/or requirements apply to permits:

- All use and development must generally comply with the adopted Development Plan.
- All development must be serviced with reticulated water and electricity.
- All lots created after 1st January 2015 must be serviced with sealed roads.
- All lots created after 1st January 2015 must be serviced with reticulated sewer.
- All subdivision permits granted after 1st January 2015 must contain a condition requiring a S173 Agreement to be entered into in respect to developer payments consistent with the adopted physical and social infrastructure and reticulated services cost distribution plan prepared in association with the Development Plan required under this schedule.

4.0 Requirements for development plan

11/08/2022
C130wdon

A development plan must including the following requirements:

- Include a detailed physical and social infrastructure and reticulated services cost distribution plan encompassing all lots contained within the Valley Views Estate as covered by this schedule and as a minimum providing for the distribution of costs associated with the provision of physical and social infrastructure and reticulated services that are common to more than one existing developable lot.
- Provide an overall plan showing an indicative lot layout encompassing all lots contained within the Valley Views Estate as covered by this schedule.)
- Identify the street network additions necessary to accommodate additional lots.
- Be designed to accommodate existing features and development and to identify any sites of conservation, heritage or archaeological significance and the means by which they are to be managed.
- Be designed to accommodate the separation distance and any other requirements associated with the existing waste water treatment facility located to the north east of the Valley Views estate.
- Include a location context description and assessment of the likely effects on the use and development of adjoining or nearby land outside of the area covered by the schedule.
- Be developed in consultation with all landowners within the area covered by this schedule and

North East Region Water Corporation.

- Be designed consistent with the Wodonga Retained Environment Network strategy 2006 and any applicable Native Vegetation Precinct Plan.
- Provide for a mix of lot sizes to a minimum of 4000 square metres.
- Show building envelopes for all lots including lots containing existing buildings.
- Show access points to all lots including existing access points.
- Determine necessary physical and social infrastructure and reticulated services required consequent of the increased development density and establish appropriate arrangements for the provision and funding of those physical and social infrastructure and reticulated services through preparation of a costs distributions plan to form part of the Development Plan.
- Identify and provide any necessary arrangements for the preservation or protection of habitat areas.
- In consultation with the CFA identify necessary facilities for fire fighting purposes which may include but not be limited to hydrants, water supply, storage and systems or separation distances required.
- Include a storm water modelling and management report to demonstrate the capacity to service the development, treat and retard storm water and reduce any impacts on soil and water downstream of the estate.
- Recognise that the development density increase will change traffic volumes and consequently the development plan should identify road standard upgrade requirements, including any adjacent main road upgrade works that may be required by VicRoads.
- Identify any land required for public purposes such as electrical substations, pump stations, community facilities, public open space or the like.
- Identify and map locations for public transport routes and bus stops where appropriate.
- Identify and map any land required for infrastructure or reticulated services easements.

Valley Views Estate Residents' Survey

Q1 Name:

Answered: 27 Skipped: 0

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Ronan Pringle	2/7/2023 2:41 PM
2	Karen and Dave turner	2/3/2023 5:17 PM
3	Golman	2/2/2023 2:41 PM
4	Sharon and Brad Bohun	1/31/2023 9:35 PM
5	Anne & Ross Ludlow	1/31/2023 8:26 PM
6	Andrew and Wendi Mcadae	1/31/2023 11:41 AM
7	Ross Passalaqua	1/30/2023 2:46 PM
8	Damien Pearce	1/30/2023 10:17 AM
9	Noal and Elizabeth Pearce	1/30/2023 8:29 AM
10	Lyn and Tony Bethune	1/28/2023 8:32 PM
11	Brie-anna Sharp	1/27/2023 7:34 PM
12	Spice and Lawther	1/27/2023 11:04 AM
13	Spice	1/27/2023 10:40 AM
14	Pam and Colm Cox	1/25/2023 5:54 PM
15	Sharon Tobin	1/25/2023 10:16 AM
16	Frank Spiller	1/18/2023 4:39 PM
17	David and Tracy Wortmann	1/18/2023 10:18 AM
18	Alison Pritchard and Glenn Davies	1/16/2023 7:49 AM
19	Rod Dudley	1/16/2023 7:45 AM
20	Brett and Stephanie Garoni	1/16/2023 7:39 AM
21	Patrick Salinger (0428 663 262)	1/16/2023 7:25 AM
22	LEE LAWTHER	1/14/2023 12:07 PM
23	STEPHEN AND HELEN BORSCHMANN	12/30/2022 3:43 PM
24	Andrew Aitken and Mara King	12/29/2022 5:43 PM
25	Simone & Darren Walsh	12/28/2022 12:46 PM
26	Gary Evans / Ann Gardner	12/24/2022 8:34 AM
27	Kelly Behrens	12/23/2022 3:14 PM

Valley Views Estate Residents' Survey

Q2 Residential address

Answered: 27 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Name	0.00%	0
Company	0.00%	0
Address	100.00%	27
Address 2	0.00%	0
City	100.00%	27
State	100.00%	27
Postal Code	100.00%	27
Country	100.00%	27
Email Address	0.00%	0
Phone Number	0.00%	0

#	NAME	DATE
	There are no responses.	

#	COMPANY	DATE
	There are no responses.	

#	ADDRESS	DATE
1	360 Whytes Road	2/7/2023 2:41 PM
2	490 whytes rd	2/3/2023 5:17 PM
3	62 Clandeboye Road	2/2/2023 2:41 PM
4	54 Kingston road	1/31/2023 9:35 PM
5	35 Kingston Rd	1/31/2023 8:26 PM
6	51 Kingston Road	1/31/2023 11:41 AM
7	23 Tranquilla Road	1/30/2023 2:46 PM
8	2 Clandeboye Road	1/30/2023 10:17 AM
9	5 Kingston Rd	1/30/2023 8:29 AM
10	7 Tranquilla Rd	1/28/2023 8:32 PM
11	16 Clandeboye Road	1/27/2023 7:34 PM
12	462 Whytes Road	1/27/2023 11:04 AM
13	460 Whytes Road Baranduda, Whytes Road	1/27/2023 10:40 AM
14	57 John Boyes Drive	1/25/2023 5:54 PM
15	40 Violet Grange Rd,	1/25/2023 10:16 AM
16	52 John Boyes Dr	1/18/2023 4:39 PM
17	55 Clandeboye Road	1/18/2023 10:18 AM
18	44 Violet Grange Road	1/16/2023 7:49 AM
19	43 Violet Grange Road	1/16/2023 7:45 AM

Valley Views Estate Residents' Survey

20	61 Clandeboye Road	1/16/2023 7:39 AM
21	52 Clandeboye Rd	1/16/2023 7:25 AM
22	424 WHYTES ROAD	1/14/2023 12:07 PM
23	26 KINGSTON ROAD	12/30/2022 3:43 PM
24	24 Clandeboye Rd	12/29/2022 5:43 PM
25	25 Violet Grange Road	12/28/2022 12:46 PM
26	74 John Boyes Drive	12/24/2022 8:34 AM
27	9 John Boyes drive	12/23/2022 3:14 PM
#	**ADDRESS 2**	**DATE**
	There are no responses.	
#	**CITY**	**DATE**
1	Baranduda	2/7/2023 2:41 PM
2	Baranduda	2/3/2023 5:17 PM
3	Baranduda	2/2/2023 2:41 PM
4	Baranduda	1/31/2023 9:35 PM
5	Baranduda	1/31/2023 8:26 PM
6	Baranduda	1/31/2023 11:41 AM
7	Baranduda	1/30/2023 2:46 PM
8	Baranduda	1/30/2023 10:17 AM
9	Baranduda	1/30/2023 8:29 AM
10	Baranduda	1/28/2023 8:32 PM
11	Baranduda	1/27/2023 7:34 PM
12	Baranduda	1/27/2023 11:04 AM
13	BARANDUDA	1/27/2023 10:40 AM
14	Baranduda	1/25/2023 5:54 PM
15	Baranduda	1/25/2023 10:16 AM
16	Baranduda	1/18/2023 4:39 PM
17	Baranduda	1/18/2023 10:18 AM
18	Baranduda	1/16/2023 7:49 AM
19	Baranduda	1/16/2023 7:45 AM
20	Baranduda	1/16/2023 7:39 AM
21	Wodonga	1/16/2023 7:25 AM
22	BARANDUDA	1/14/2023 12:07 PM
23	BARANDUDA	12/30/2022 3:43 PM
24	Baranduda	12/29/2022 5:43 PM
25	Baranduda	12/28/2022 12:46 PM
26	Baranduda	12/24/2022 8:34 AM
27	Baranduda	12/23/2022 3:14 PM
#	**STATE**	**DATE**
1	VIC	2/7/2023 2:41 PM
2	Vic	2/3/2023 5:17 PM

Valley Views Estate Residents' Survey

3	VIC	2/2/2023 2:41 PM
4	Vic	1/31/2023 9:35 PM
5	Vic	1/31/2023 8:26 PM
6	VIC	1/31/2023 11:41 AM
7	VIC	1/30/2023 2:46 PM
8	VIC	1/30/2023 10:17 AM
9	Vic	1/30/2023 8:29 AM
10	VIC	1/28/2023 8:32 PM
11	VIC	1/27/2023 7:34 PM
12	Vic	1/27/2023 11:04 AM
13	VIC	1/27/2023 10:40 AM
14	Victoria	1/25/2023 5:54 PM
15	vic	1/25/2023 10:16 AM
16	VIC	1/18/2023 4:39 PM
17	VIC	1/18/2023 10:18 AM
18	VIC	1/16/2023 7:49 AM
19	VIC	1/16/2023 7:45 AM
20	VIC	1/16/2023 7:39 AM
21	VIC	1/16/2023 7:25 AM
22	VIC	1/14/2023 12:07 PM
23	VIC	12/30/2022 3:43 PM
24	VIC	12/29/2022 5:43 PM
25	Victoria	12/28/2022 12:46 PM
26	Vic	12/24/2022 8:34 AM
27	Vic	12/23/2022 3:14 PM

#	POSTAL CODE	DATE
1	3691	2/7/2023 2:41 PM
2	3691	2/3/2023 5:17 PM
3	3691	2/2/2023 2:41 PM
4	3691	1/31/2023 9:35 PM
5	3691	1/31/2023 8:26 PM
6	3691	1/31/2023 11:41 AM
7	3691	1/30/2023 2:46 PM
8	3691	1/30/2023 10:17 AM
9	3691	1/30/2023 8:29 AM
10	3691	1/28/2023 8:32 PM
11	3691	1/27/2023 7:34 PM
12	3691	1/27/2023 11:04 AM
13	3691	1/27/2023 10:40 AM
14	3691	1/25/2023 5:54 PM
15	3691	1/25/2023 10:16 AM

Valley Views Estate Residents' Survey

16	3691	1/18/2023 4:39 PM
17	3691	1/18/2023 10:18 AM
18	3691	1/16/2023 7:49 AM
19	3691	1/16/2023 7:45 AM
20	3691	1/16/2023 7:39 AM
21	3690	1/16/2023 7:25 AM
22	3691	1/14/2023 12:07 PM
23	3691	12/30/2022 3:43 PM
24	3691	12/29/2022 5:43 PM
25	3691	12/28/2022 12:46 PM
26	3691	12/24/2022 8:34 AM
27	3691	12/23/2022 3:14 PM
#	**COUNTRY**	**DATE**
1	Aus	2/7/2023 2:41 PM
2	Australia	2/3/2023 5:17 PM
3	Aus	2/2/2023 2:41 PM
4	Australia	1/31/2023 9:35 PM
5	Australia	1/31/2023 8:26 PM
6	Aus	1/31/2023 11:41 AM
7	Australia	1/30/2023 2:46 PM
8	Aus	1/30/2023 10:17 AM
9	Australia	1/30/2023 8:29 AM
10	Australia	1/28/2023 8:32 PM
11	Australia	1/27/2023 7:34 PM
12	Australia	1/27/2023 11:04 AM
13	Australia	1/27/2023 10:40 AM
14	Australia	1/25/2023 5:54 PM
15	Australia	1/25/2023 10:16 AM
16	Aus	1/18/2023 4:39 PM
17	Australia	1/18/2023 10:18 AM
18	Aus	1/16/2023 7:49 AM
19	Aus	1/16/2023 7:45 AM
20	Aus	1/16/2023 7:39 AM
21	Aus	1/16/2023 7:25 AM
22	AUSTRALIA	1/14/2023 12:07 PM
23	AUSTRALIA	12/30/2022 3:43 PM
24	Australia	12/29/2022 5:43 PM
25	Australia	12/28/2022 12:46 PM
26	Australia	12/24/2022 8:34 AM
27	Australia	12/23/2022 3:14 PM
#	**EMAIL ADDRESS**	**DATE**

Valley Views Estate Residents' Survey

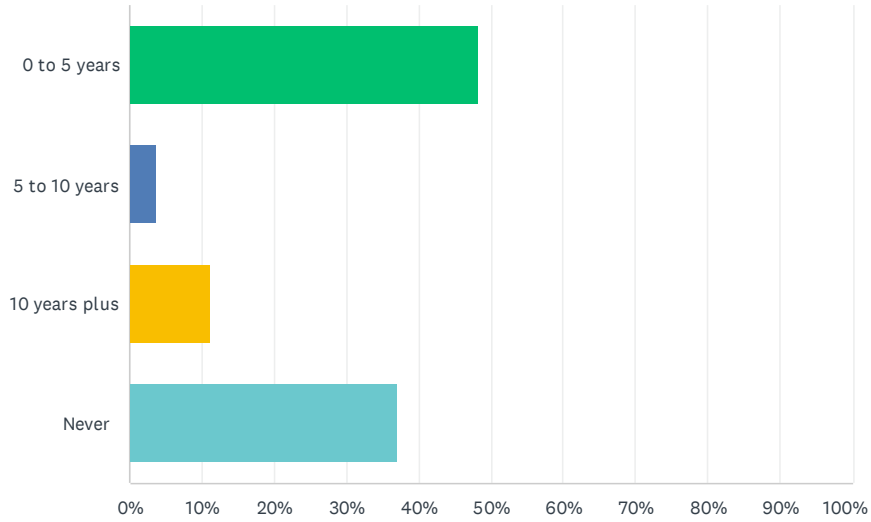
There are no responses.

#	PHONE NUMBER	DATE
	There are no responses.	

Valley Views Estate Residents' Survey

Q3 As a property owner in the Valley Views Estate, do you wish to see further, higher density, residential development within the Estate in:

Answered: 27 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0 to 5 years	48.15%	13
5 to 10 years	3.70%	1
10 years plus	11.11%	3
Never	37.04%	10
TOTAL		27

#	DO YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS?	DATE
1	We would prefer never but realistically understand population increase will require more housing at some time in future.	2/2/2023 2:41 PM
2	Minimum block size should be 4 acres and not any smaller.	1/31/2023 9:35 PM
3	We purchased the land for lifestyle	1/31/2023 11:41 AM
4	One of the key reasons for purchasing this property in Valley Views was to enjoy and utilise a rural residential property and landscape with associated space.	1/30/2023 2:46 PM
5	Will not object to people wanting to subdivide. Our is lifestyle property but would still like to keep our options open in the future.	1/30/2023 8:29 AM
6	We are in favour of future subdivision of Valley Views Estate but to a minimum lot size of 4000 square metres.	1/28/2023 8:32 PM
7	I think subdivision should be an option to those who want to pursue subdivision in their own time, however, residential services and facilities should be kept to a similar development timeframe as the newer estates in Baranduda otherwise those in Valley View will be left behind and disadvantaged by the council	1/27/2023 7:34 PM
8	Wording in this question is very misleading 'Higher Density'. We are allowed to subdivide down to an acre which is what we want	1/27/2023 11:04 AM

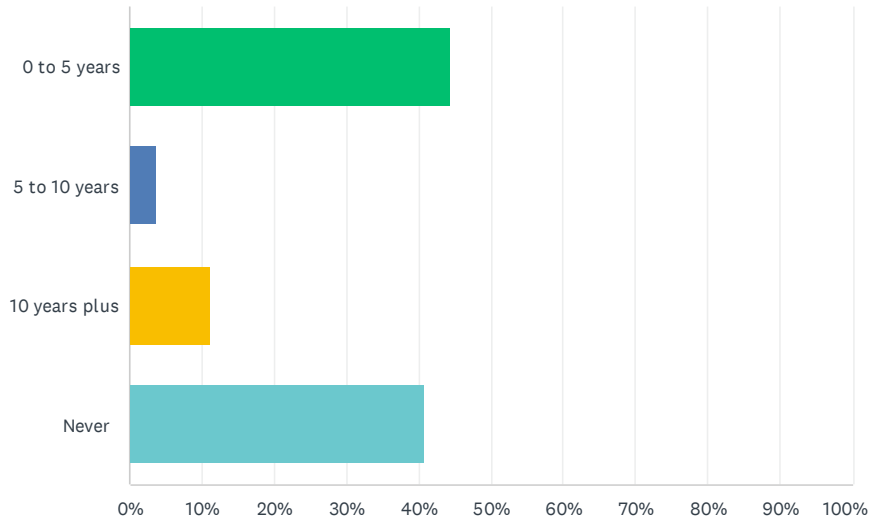
Valley Views Estate Residents' Survey

9	Higher density is very misleading. We are only allowed to subdivide down to 4000 sqm (1acre). As far as we are aware this is not considered High Density. By putting this wording in people may think, in town small house blocks! We definitely are a yes to subdivision. .	1/27/2023 10:40 AM
10	You state higher density and we are zoned 1 acre lots which is what we want. Hardly high density	1/25/2023 5:54 PM
11	I would like my rights to subdivide reinstated. My land purchase contract gave me the right to subdivide from 2015. I would like any future subdivision plans to maintain the rural / residential nature that currently exists eg. nature reserves, large varied block sizes, no street lighting or foot paths.	1/25/2023 10:16 AM
12	Absolutely against ANY high density development	1/16/2023 7:49 AM
13	100% subdivide. This is why we purchased thi block as it was open for subdividsion in 2015. It was like our 'super' fund. Everyone who purchased blocks prior to 2015 was aware of this.	1/16/2023 7:39 AM
14	Original purchase (in 2006) was done with a view to sub divide and develop. Dissapointed Council blocked this!	1/16/2023 7:25 AM
15	This was meant to go ahead in 2015? It is now 8 years later and still we are going around in circles.	1/14/2023 12:07 PM
16	We built our house as a lifestyle property, not to have smaller blocks of land around us.	12/28/2022 12:46 PM
17	No further development, the roads are not set up and there needs to be some rural areas remaining.	12/23/2022 3:14 PM

Valley Views Estate Residents' Survey

Q4 As a property owner in the Valley Views Estate do you wish to develop or subdivide your property in the next: Noting that these costs could be in the order of $250,000 per net developable hectare, but subject to infrastructure requirements, further investigations, design standards and estimated construction costs.

Answered: 27 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0 to 5 years	44.44%	12
5 to 10 years	3.70%	1
10 years plus	11.11%	3
Never	40.74%	11
TOTAL		27

#	DO YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS?	DATE
1	This estimate is far too high and a scare tactic	2/7/2023 2:41 PM
2	What is important to us is that we have the option to subdivide. Noting the minimum block size should be restricted to 4 acres to preserve the integrity of what valley views is and is supposed to be ‘rural living’.	1/31/2023 9:35 PM
3	No interest in connection or funding to further infrustructure as this will impact on established trees/environment and poses unwanted costs. We are also concerned that this will drive up our rates.	1/31/2023 11:41 AM
4	As above	1/30/2023 2:46 PM
5	We think this is out of the question for us.	1/30/2023 8:29 AM
6	We acknowledge that there will be costs involved for landowners to subdivide and develop their properties for infrastructure and connection of services. The cost per developable hectare will depend on a range of factors. However $250,000 per hectare remains subject of conjecture.	1/28/2023 8:32 PM

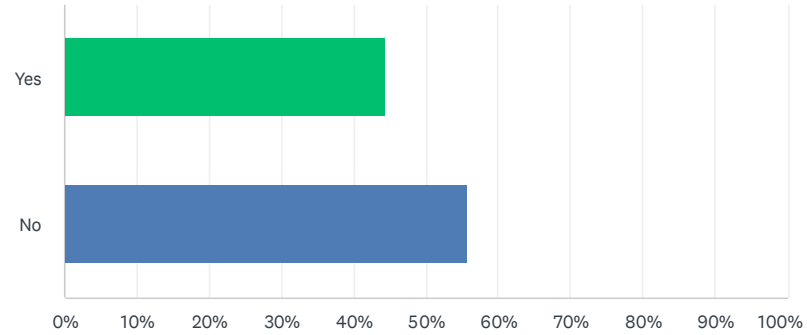
Valley Views Estate Residents' Survey

7	Possibly	1/27/2023 7:34 PM
8	Quotes actually need to be had. I am not sure it is even legal to put unrealistic figures into a survey Yes of course we wish to subdivide. That is why we paid premium prices for the property back in 2009. This was in our contract	1/27/2023 11:04 AM
9	This question is hard to answer. The development plan needs to be put in place as soon as possible. The costing per hectare needs to actually be a realistic quote not based on Leneva and surrounding developments that have no infrastructure and are starting from scratch.	1/27/2023 10:40 AM
10	We realize there are infrastructure costs associated with subdivision. However, our advice from a reputable private planner is that the suggested outlay of $250,000 per developable hectare is excessive given this estate and not comparable with Leneva as has been suggested.	1/25/2023 5:54 PM
11	My understanding is that $250,000 is a gross overestimate. Much infrastructure is already existing.	1/25/2023 10:16 AM
12	To be discussed with other residents and council regarding costings?	1/18/2023 10:18 AM
13	No interest at all in subdividing	1/16/2023 7:49 AM
14	Land is of a shortage in this area. A subdivision would help.	1/16/2023 7:39 AM
15	See answer to previous question	1/16/2023 7:25 AM
16	The main Infrastructure, ie sewerage, water, electricity, gas and nbn is already here and has been paid for in land by the Albury/Wodonga Development Corporation to Wodonga Council. I would say that roads, kerbs, guttering, lighting and drainage, (further infrastructure) was probably paid for as well? With never any transparency; changing Councillors, Mayors and CEO's in Wodonga Council, one could not be sure?	1/14/2023 12:07 PM

Valley Views Estate Residents' Survey

Q5 Currently and prior to development being considered, a Development Plan is to be prepared and approved by this Council. If you were to develop or subdivide your property, would you be prepared to contribute towards the total costs - potentially in the order of approximately $300,000 - $400,000 depending upon the range of consultancy studies required - associated with preparing a Development Plan?

Answered: 27 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	44.44%	12
No	55.56%	15
TOTAL		27

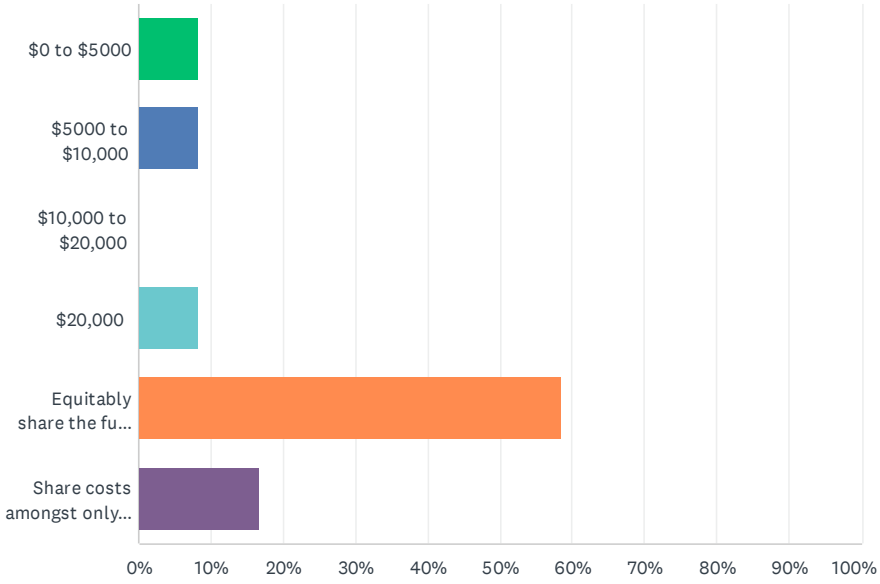
#	DO YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS?	DATE
1	This estimate is far too high and a scare tactic	2/7/2023 2:41 PM
2	History tells me council had an independent study previously done that said council should cover these costs.	2/3/2023 5:17 PM
3	The above questions seem to be trying to deter residents to agree to subdivision. The ACTUAL cost could be a lot less.	2/2/2023 2:41 PM
4	This should be councils responsibility based on the original intent and marketing of the estate.	1/31/2023 9:35 PM
5	Concern that the development plan will include or effect our property. We were told at a recent meeting that we could be left off the development plan but I do not believe that this is correct advice.	1/31/2023 11:41 AM
6	As above	1/30/2023 2:46 PM
7	We have made enquires with Consultants and Specialist Civil Engineers about potential costs for preparation of a Development Plan for the entire Valley Views Estate. Such costs include other studies such as a Vegetation Plan and a Cultural Heritage Management Plan. We have received cost estimates for all this work ranging from $100,00 to $150,000.	1/28/2023 8:32 PM
8	I don't think we should have to contribute. I suggest the 2011 Panel Report be read by council as they employed an independent panel to come up from Melbourne and the suggestions by the panel are obvious. Council should pay!!! Contribution would depend on amount	1/27/2023 11:04 AM
9	Realistic quotes need to be done. The 2011 Panel Report (council organised) recommends that council pay for the development plan. As a last resort we would consider contributing a	1/27/2023 10:40 AM

	small amount. We have had a quotes at $150k!!	
10	Yes we think every owner benefits from a development plan whether they want to subdivide or not as their land value has increased. So we believe the development plan which we have had roughly costed by a town planner (at $150,000 vs the speculative $400,000 suggested in your survey), should be spread across all lots and each owner reimburses council their share when they go to subdivide.	1/25/2023 5:54 PM
11	No. Again, $400,000 seems to be a gross overestimate. I purchased this land with the right to subdivide and a development plan already existing. It is my understanding that any changes that have taken place have been decisions made by the council as a result of failure by the council to lodge correct documentation and changing land zoning. I believe in all fairness the council should be responsible for preparing and paying associated costs of a Development Plan.	1/25/2023 10:16 AM
12	Up to $5000 per saleable block	1/16/2023 7:45 AM
13	As long as this cost is distributed amongst other residents	1/16/2023 7:39 AM
14	If required.	1/16/2023 7:25 AM
15	Please refer to Comments made in Q4 Plus, I do wonder where Council's figures have been 'plucked' from, as they seem very exaggerated and therefore very misleading and off-putting to all VV Stakeholders, particularly to relatively new Stakeholders that don't have the background knowledge that I and other long-time Stakeholders have.	1/14/2023 12:07 PM
16	As per above - would contribute to development plan but only when considering development in the next 10 years plus.	12/24/2022 8:34 AM

Valley Views Estate Residents' Survey

Q6 Would you be prepared to contribute?

Answered: 12 Skipped: 15



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
$0 to $5000	8.33%	1
$5000 to $10,000	8.33%	1
$10,000 to $20,000	0.00%	0
$20,000	8.33%	1
Equitably share the full costs across all properties	58.33%	7
Share costs amongst only those wanting to subdivide/develop	16.67%	2
TOTAL		12

#	DO YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS?	DATE
1	We acknowledge that some residents may not want to be party to the preparation of a Development Plan and therefore may not wish to contribute towards the cost. However if residents were to benefit from having a Development Plan for the Estate through increased property value, it is reasonable that they contribute. We would be prepared to pay a proportionate percentage of the cost in line with our property size as a percentage of the Estate.	1/28/2023 8:36 PM
2	Again contributions would be determined by amount we had to pay. We have had quotes no higher than 150k so figures put out by council need to be realistic. Not scare tactics to turn people off	1/27/2023 11:05 AM
3	We reimburse council when we go to subdivide. Council will still earn income from the extra rates generated.	1/25/2023 5:54 PM
4	Share full costs across all properties as even if they don't want to subdivide their property value will go up	1/16/2023 7:46 AM
5	Should be shared across all properties as this was in original contract when we purchased properties before 2015. Don't understand how this was ever changed.	1/16/2023 7:40 AM

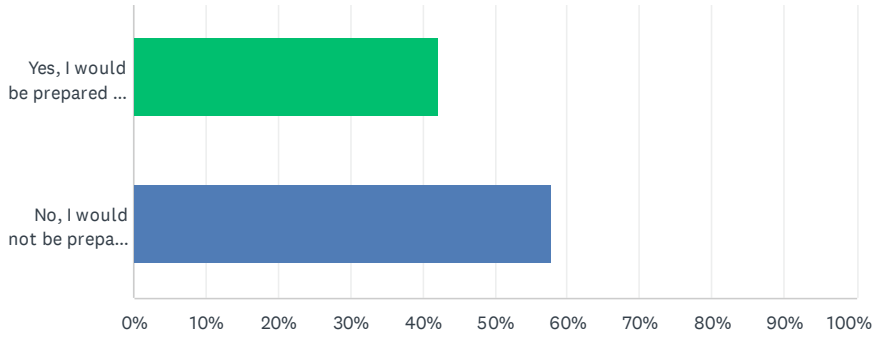
Valley Views Estate Residents' Survey

6	Depends upon other property holders	1/16/2023 7:27 AM
7	Difficult one - as not everyone wants to subdivide or at different time	12/24/2022 8:35 AM

Valley Views Estate Residents' Survey

Q7 In the event that a Development Plan is prepared and is approved by the Wodonga Council, all development and community infrastructure costs will have to be covered by the developers of the estate. These costs could be in the order of $250,000 per net developable hectare, but subject to infrastructure requirements, further investigations, design standards and estimated construction costs. Would you, as a potential developer, be prepared to cover these costs, and if not, we would be interested to have your views on this matter.

Answered: 26 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, I would be prepared to cover these costs	42.31%	11
No, I would not be prepared to cover these costs	57.69%	15
TOTAL		26

#	DO YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS?	DATE
1	If they are reasonable	2/7/2023 2:42 PM
2	We already have infrastructure running through or just out the front our property that we don't use but the newer establishments do. Within reason we would negotiate what is fair.	2/3/2023 5:20 PM
3	Whoever benefits from development should pay costs. Council also benefits by extra rate income so should share in some cost eg roads etc	2/2/2023 2:43 PM
4	Opposed to any subdivision	1/31/2023 11:42 AM
5	Do not wish to see the estate being subdivided.	1/30/2023 3:16 PM
6	Would still like to have the option to subdivide or make provisions for subdivision in the future	1/30/2023 8:31 AM
7	Subject to a Development Plan being approved by Council, it would be reasonable to expect those landowners who choose to develop to pay costs associated with their development. In respect of connection to services such as water, sewer, electricity etc, a fair sharing of these costs should apply.	1/28/2023 8:55 PM
8	50% should be covered by council and the other equally divided by landowners in Valley Views. Perhaps cost could be initially covered by council with residents making payments with rates payments	1/27/2023 7:38 PM
9	Question being asked needs to have realistic figures	1/27/2023 11:09 AM

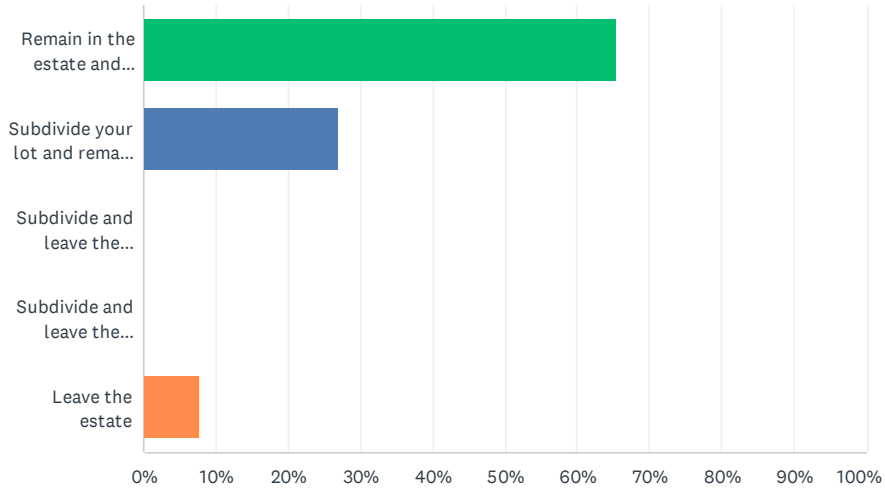
Valley Views Estate Residents' Survey

10	Prices needs quotes which we have had. The highest quote is $150K.	1/27/2023 10:55 AM
11	We realize there are infrastructure costs associated with subdivision. However, our advice from a reputable private planner is that the suggested outlay of $250,000 per developable hectare is excessive given this estate and not comparable with Leneva as has been suggested.	1/25/2023 5:57 PM
12	Undecided. This figure seems to be a gross overestimate - considering much infrastructure is in place and maintaining a rural residential environment should mean less infrastructure eg. paths and street lighting). If costs were divided equally amongst all property owners in the estate (whether they choose to subdivide or not - and considering all property values should increase with our rights to subdivide being reinstated). Equal share in the costs should be paid by land owners only at time of sale or subdivision of property.	1/25/2023 10:27 AM
13	No interest. do not want to see curbs, street lighting or any development that detracts from the peaceful country lifestyle we moved here for.	1/16/2023 7:54 AM
14	Did not select one of the multiple choice options. Response below; I need more information	1/16/2023 7:48 AM
15	I would not be prepared to cover these costs unless subdivision was 100% accepted. There was a development plan drafted when we purchased the propoerty around 2007	1/16/2023 7:43 AM
16	No multiple choice option selected on hand written survey. Response below; Possibly - depends on total cost v total return	1/16/2023 7:30 AM
17	Having past knowledge on all that has gone on with VV why would I even consider covering these costs? A number of Stakeholders have sold because of the stress created by Council; the lack of transparency; the continual changing of Zoning; the continual adding of Amendments that no one had the time to understand; etc., etc., then the adding of the Overlay and Schedule 18. An absolute debacle, thanks to Wodonga Council.	1/14/2023 12:07 PM
18	No interest in further development	12/30/2022 3:45 PM
19	The current zone and planning scheme is cost prohibitive for non-commercial development.	12/29/2022 6:01 PM
20	Yes - again not everyone wants to develop but the one's that do then should be paying the costs associated with the development.	12/24/2022 8:35 AM

Valley Views Estate Residents' Survey

Q8 If the estate was to be developed into smaller allotments (say 4000m2 under current planning controls), would you:

Answered: 26 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Remain in the estate and retain your lot size	65.38%	17
Subdivide your lot and remain in the estate	26.92%	7
Subdivide and leave the estate for smaller size lots	0.00%	0
Subdivide and leave the estate for larger size lots	0.00%	0
Leave the estate	7.69%	2
TOTAL		26

#	DO YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS?	DATE
1	Don't know	2/7/2023 2:42 PM
2	When time is right for us we would consider subdiving. We just want the option. Even if we don’t do it, when it comes time to sell it would make the property more appealing to buy. We just want the option.	2/3/2023 5:20 PM
3	We would remain in the estate until it got to a stage where the estate didnt meet our expectations. Then leave. More traffic, more noise, congestion.	2/2/2023 2:43 PM
4	1 acre is to small for the integrity of valley views 4 acres should be minimum block size.	1/31/2023 9:36 PM
5	No intention to subdivide or leave the estate	1/31/2023 11:42 AM
6	See above comments. Continued residence in the estate in the event of subdivision would be subject to no detrimental impact on quality of life.	1/30/2023 3:16 PM
7	If subdivision takes place, would like the option of larger lots.	1/30/2023 8:31 AM
8	None of councils business and not sure the relevance of this queation	1/27/2023 11:09 AM
9	This question is completely irrelevant and none of councils business. I am sure it is not a question developers would be asked! We are not wanting to subdivide straight away, we are wanting everything put in place.	1/27/2023 10:55 AM

Valley Views Estate Residents' Survey

10	NB. Undecided My plans (subject to change) are to remain in the estate regardless of whether subdivision occurs and if we subdivide our land we would maintain lot sizes greater than 1 acre - maintaining a rural feel. We would be happy for future subdivision by other land owners to have a variety of lot sizes (1 acre&+) - maintaining a rural feel.	1/25/2023 10:27 AM
11	we would remain. Assumption is that we would not be required to contribute to any development costs. Strongly against subdivision, especially down to 4000m2. If subdivision were to occur, would vigorously argue for large lots (at a minimum 5 acres).	1/16/2023 7:54 AM
12	I strongly believe that allotment sizes should be optional. Between 500m2 to 2000m2 This still offers larger size blocks than town blocks.	1/16/2023 7:43 AM
13	I am happy with 1 acre lots, however, with differing size land holdings, a mix of 1, 1.5 up to 2 acre lots would work for me.	1/14/2023 12:07 PM
14	Initially we would stay but, the constant construction, increased traffic and increased population would destroy the original reason for living in this estate. Eventually we would have to leave.	12/29/2022 6:01 PM
15	The reason we purchased / built our house was to have acreage and a quiet environment. The purchase was for the lifestyle not for a financial gain through property development.	12/24/2022 8:35 AM
16	Can't afford to relocate	12/23/2022 3:16 PM

Valley Views Estate Residents' Survey

Q9 Do you have any other related comments for us?

Answered: 22 Skipped: 5

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	I have been away and only just recieved this survey. It is ridiculous to send this out over the holiday period	2/7/2023 2:42 PM
2	There are many negatives to allowing subdivision. My main concern is change to the quiet lifestyle we have now. And loss of land value for those that don't develop.	2/2/2023 2:43 PM
3	It's important that the option to subdivide is preserved. That doesn't mean we will or should subdivide in the near future.	1/31/2023 9:36 PM
4	This development plan has been brought up previously and it has been unsuccessful. we have opposed the plan previously and will continue to do so. Please clarify, our understanding was that if developed the minimum lot size was 5 acres. Request advice from council of what support is available to those who do not wish to subdivide.	1/31/2023 11:42 AM
5	While understanding not directly under Council control, the currently non-controlled intersection of Kiewa Valley Highway and John Schubert Drive is quite busy, especially at peak times. With the addition of new housing estates such as Avalon Park, traffic volumes and flow at this intersection is becoming increasingly congested. Any subdivision of Valley Views Estate would only exacerbate this situation.	1/30/2023 3:16 PM
6	Not willing to subdivide, I would like to see the estate stay as it is.	1/30/2023 10:18 AM
7	If more residents want to subdivide, something need to be done exiting John Boyes Drive to Murray Valley Highway too much traffic now.	1/30/2023 8:31 AM
8	We purchased our property in the first stage of Valley Views Estate and have lived on our property for over twenty years. One of the reasons we purchased the land was the potential for future subdivision after January 1st 2015 which was a strong selling point emphasised by the Albury Wodonga Development Corporation. The original zoning was Residential One allowing for high density residential development STCA. The zoning was changed around 2012 limiting potential subdivision to 4000 square metres. The change of zoning and amendments to the Wodonga Planning Scheme were implemented because Wodonga Council had erred by not registering S173 agreements against all properties in the Estate. This Council mistake created a great deal of angst amongst residents and Council does not appear to acknowledge that their error has had a major impact. Council has a moral obligation to fund the cost of preparing a Development Plan and managing the process of dealing with residents' wishes to get the Development Plan approved in a reasonable and satisfactory manner.	1/28/2023 8:55 PM
9	The wording of this survey is leading and not allowing for those who are not sure of their position on this proposal.	1/27/2023 7:38 PM
10	We have again done a door to door, email, letterbox drop survey of our own and obtained results of people wanting to subdivide, having the option to subdivide, not subdivide etc. and it seems yet again people wanting to subdivide well out ways those not wanting to subdivide.	1/27/2023 11:09 AM
11	We have done a survey again of our own with other residents in the estate and there are a minimum of 23 yes wanting to subdivide. There are a few still unknown and a few not wanting to subdivide. A question missing in the survey is if you are no to subdivision are you going to object to others subdividing as the few that were a no (said they would not object). The timing for the Survey to come out was appalling as people are away during the Christmas period and it is a busy time of year. The question is do people want the OPTION to subdivide? Asking people do they want to subdivide is very different!! Finally if prices are going to be put in a survey (very negative) they need to be realistic, quotes not blown out, over inflated, non comparable figures	1/27/2023 10:55 AM
12	We have been keeping a list of the 38 blocks and have spoken to the majority of residents. Our stats show 23 want to subdivide in the future, 6 don't want to subdivide but won't object to others subdividing. 4 said NO to subdivision and 4 we couldn't locate. Kiene's blocks that were subdivided in 2007 were not included as they are smaller blocks. We are happy to provide names and addresses of the above. All we are asking is for our right to subdivide as stated under sec 173 in our contract be reinstated. Council did not register this sec 173 on	1/25/2023 5:57 PM

	all blocks and this has caused this mess. The estate is a moving picture. People selling and buying. It will always be hard to get a constant view. The above stats show 29 residents out of the 38 are wanting to subdivide or happy for others to. Only 4 have given us a definite NO. Regardless of this survey we urge council to act to reinstate our right to subdivide per our original contracts. The opportunity for council to do that is clear...ie for Council to fund the development plan for the Valley View Estate	
13	My main interests are: 1. To have my rights outlined in my original purchase contract reinstated. Ie. the right to subdivide. 2. That future subdivision maintains the rural nature of the estate. 3. Development Plan costs are the responsibility of Wodonga council 4. Any fees are shared equitably amongst all land owners and are paid at time of subdivision or sale.	1/25/2023 10:27 AM
14	When we purchased our block, we purchased with the understanding 2015 we had the option to subdivide-Give back our option, if even its one extra block per resident.	1/18/2023 10:21 AM
15	We would never contribute financially to any costs of subdivision within the estage. We moved here for a rural lifestyle. Would strongly oppose any subdivision into 4000m2 lots. If any subdivision is approved, would fight anything below around 5 acres (like camorlum). But strongly prefer no subdivision.	1/16/2023 7:54 AM
16	For the life of me and much to our disappointment, we dont understand how the council can change the original contract from hving the option to subdivide our blocks from 2015. We bought this block knowing we had the subdivision option from 2015. This was our investment to retire about now. Everyone knew the subdivision from 2015 was in the contract.	1/16/2023 7:43 AM
17	To rate determinators: Dissaponted that rates are sky rocketing for NO percievable benefit.	1/16/2023 7:30 AM
18	Valley Views was created in Stages. I do not agree that a Development Plan has to be done for the WHOLE VV Estate, as we who access onto Whytes Rd have nothing to do with those accessing onto the Kiewa Valley Hwy. Also, how can you get 36 + Lots to agree with a Development Plan done by Council? Looking at a whole Lot plan of VV Estate, I see that most Lots are in groups of 5, 6 or 7 Lots. Bearing this in mind, why can't a group of 5 Lots, i.e. say Lots 35, 36, 37, 38 and 39 work together and with Council to lodge a Plan that complies with all of the Rules and Regulations that a Developer has to comply with? Surely, by working on a Plan with Council and in small groups, all Developer conditions can be met, the Plan can be lodged, and we can move forward when ready?	1/14/2023 12:07 PM
19	What a continuing mess	12/30/2022 3:45 PM
20	The only subdivision we would consider is the original 2ha proposal when the land was zoned rural living. This would have allowed two-lot subdivision of most lots. When the zoning was changed to low density this effectively removed the ability to subdivide. We think this was the intent and to close the loophole that enabled the 4-lot subdivision of lot 5, PS428798N.	12/29/2022 6:01 PM
21	If there was any development of the estate then the intersection onto the Kiewa Valley highway would have to be upgraded. It is an interesting intersection as it is with the slight offset of the roads. Roads in the estate would also have to be upgraded if traffic volume was to be increased.	12/24/2022 8:35 AM
22	There must be a balance between high and medium residential lots (which is currently occurring in baranduda and Leneva) and larger lots, allowing the estate to remain as is providing this balance.	12/23/2022 3:16 PM

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Victorian Current Acts

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1989 - SECT 163 Special rate and special charge

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1989 - SECT 163

Special rate and special charge

(1) A Council may declare a special rate, a special charge or a combination of both only for the purposes of—

(a) defraying any expenses; or

(b) repaying (with interest) any advance made to or debt incurred or loan raised by the Council—

in relation to the performance of a function or the exercise of a power of the Council, if the Council considers that the performance of the function or the exercise of the power is or will be of special benefit to the persons required to pay the special rate or special charge.

S. 163(1A) inserted by No. 27/1997

s. 10.

(1A) A Council must not make a declaration under subsection (1) unless it has given public notice of its intention to make the declaration at least 28 days before making the declaration.

S. 163(1B) inserted by No. 27/1997

s. 10.

(1B) In addition to any other requirements specified by this Act, the public notice must—

(a) contain an outline of the proposed declaration; and

(b) set out the date on which it is proposed to make the declaration; and

S. 163(1B)(c) amended by No. 109/2003 s. 80(1).

(c) advise that copies of the proposed declaration are available for inspection at the Council office for at least 28 days after the publication of the notice.

S. 163(1C) inserted by No. 109/2003 s. 80(2).

(1C) A Council must send a copy of the public notice to each person who will be liable to pay the special rate or special charge within 3 working days of the day on which the public notice is published.

S. 163(2) substituted by No. 109/2003 s. 81(1).

(2) Before making a declaration under subsection (1), the Council must determine—

(a) the total amount of the special rates and special charges to be levied; and

(b) the criteria to be used as the basis for declaring the special rates and special charges.

S. 163(2A) inserted by No. 109/2003 s. 81(1).

(2A) For the purpose of subsection (2)(a) the total amount of the special rates and special charges to be levied must not exceed the amount calculated in accordance with the formula—

$R \times C = S$

where—

R is the benefit ratio determined by the Council in accordance with subsection (2B);

C is the total cost of the performance of the function or the exercise of the power under subsection (1);

S is the maximum total amount that may be levied from all the persons who are liable to pay the special rates or special charges.

S. 163(2B) inserted by No. 109/2003 s. 81(1).

(2B) The benefit ratio is the estimated proportion of the total benefits of the scheme to which the performance of the function or the exercise of the power relates, including special benefits and community benefits, that will accrue as special benefits to all the persons who are liable to pay the special rates or special charges.

S. 163(2BA) inserted by No. 67/2008 s. 56.

(2BA) A Council must not make a declaration under subsection (1) which has been altered from the proposed declaration specified in the public notice if the effect of the alteration is to increase the liability of any person to pay the special rate or special charge to be imposed by the proposed declaration unless—

(a) the alteration is made in response to a submission or objection received by the Council in response to the proposed declaration; and

(b) the increase in the liability of any person to pay the special rate or special charge does not exceed 10%.

S. 163(2C) inserted by No. 109/2003 s. 81(1).

(2C) The Minister may make guidelines for the purposes of subsections (2), (2A) and (2B).

S. 163(2D) inserted by No. 109/2003 s. 81(1).

(2D) Guidelines made under subsection (2C) must be published in the Government Gazette.

S. 163(3) amended by No. 109/2003 s. 81(2).

(3) The Council must specify in the declaration—

(a) the wards, groups, uses or areas for which the special rate or special charge is declared; and

S. 163(3)(ab) inserted by No. 109/2003 s. 81(3).

(ab) a description of the function to be performed or the power to be exercised; and

S. 163(3)(ac) inserted by No. 109/2003 s. 81(3).

(ac) the total cost of the performance of the function or the exercise of the power; and

S. 163(3)(ad) inserted by No. 109/2003 s. 81(3).

(ad) the total amount of the special rates and special charges to be levied; and

(b) the land in relation to which the special rate or special charge is declared; and

(c) the manner in which the special rate or special charge will be assessed and levied; and

(d) details of the period for which the special rate or special charge remains in force.

(4) A Council may levy a special rate or special charge by sending a notice to the person who is liable to pay it.

(5) The notice must contain—

(a) the prescribed information; and

(b) a statement about when the special rate or special charge is payable; and

(c) details of the period for which the special rate or special charge remains in force.

(6) A Council may use the money from a special rate or special charge for any or all of the following—

(a) any purpose for which the rate or charge was made and the purchase of land and materials required for that purpose (including land acquired before the Council declared the rate or charge);

(b) repayment of money borrowed for anything mentioned in paragraph (a) and of interest on that money;

(c) maintenance and repair of damage, management, advertising or security; and

(d) any expenses related—

(i) to anything mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (c); or

(ii) to the declaration or levying of the rate or charge.

(7) If a private street (within the meaning of section 575(1) of the **Local Government Act 1958**) is constructed wholly or partly at the cost of the owners or occupiers of any land which abuts or fronts the street, the Council may not at any future time recover any further costs in respect of the construction of a component of the private street if that component has been previously constructed to the satisfaction of the Council from the owners or occupiers of the land under this section by way of a special rate or special charge.

(8) For the purposes of subsection (7) and section 221(6), ***construct*** and ***component*** have the same meanings as in section 12 of the **Local Government (Consequential Provisions) Act 1989** .

S. 163(9) inserted by No. 67/2008 s. 56(2).

(9) For the purposes of subsections (1) and (6), "expenses" does not include any expenses incurred or anticipated to be incurred which relate to any proceedings or anticipated proceedings before VCAT, including an application for review under section 185 or an application for a declaration under section 185AA.

S. 163A inserted by No. 34/1996 s. 21, substituted by No. 27/1997

s. 11.

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Victorian Current Acts

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1989 - SECT 163A Submissions concerning special rates and charges

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1989 - SECT 163A

Submissions concerning special rates and charges

A person may make a submission under section 223 in relation to a Council's proposal to make a declaration under section 163.

S. 163B inserted by No. 109/2003 s. 82.

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Victorian Current Acts

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1989 - SECT 163B Objection process relating to certain special rates and charges

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1989 - SECT 163B

Objection process relating to certain special rates and charges

(1) Subject to subsection (2), a Council can only make a declaration under section 163(1) to levy a special rate or special charge to recover an amount that exceeds two thirds of the total cost of the performance of the function or the exercise of the power in accordance with this section.

(2) This section does not apply if the scheme to which the performance of the function or the exercise of the power relates is—

(a) a drainage scheme that the Council has declared is required for reasons of public health; or

(b) a scheme of a type prescribed by the regulations as a scheme to which this section does not apply.

(3) Before a Council can make a declaration to which this section applies, the Council must in the public notice to be published under section 163(1A) state—

(a) which persons have a right to object to the proposed declaration; and

(b) how those persons may object; and

(c) that objections in writing must be lodged with the Council within 28 days of the day on which the public notice is published.

(4) Any person who will be required to pay the special rate or special charge to be imposed by the proposed declaration is entitled to exercise the right of objection conferred by this section.

(5) For the purposes of subsection (4), a person who is an occupier is entitled to exercise the right of objection conferred by this section if the person submits documentary evidence with the objection which shows that it is a condition of the lease under which the person is an occupier that the occupier is to pay the special rate or special charge.

S. 163B(6) amended by No. 67/2008 s. 57.

(6) A Council can not make a declaration if the Council receives objections from persons who will be required to pay the special rate or special charge in respect of a majority of the rateable properties in respect of which the special rate or special charge would be imposed.

(7) The right of objection conferred by this section is in addition to the right to make a submission under section 163A but if the Council receives objections from persons who will be required to pay the special rate or special charge in respect of a majority of the rateable properties in respect of which the special rate or special charge would be imposed, the Council can discontinue the process under that section.

7.6 Racecourse Grandstand

PURPOSE

To outline and seek approval to proceed with preparatory Scope of Works (**SoW**) items for the proposed remedial works to the Wodonga Racecourse Grandstand.

SUMMARY

The Wodonga Racecourse Grandstand sits alongside the racecourse, in Hamilton Smith Drive, Wodonga and is located on crown land managed by Wodonga Council since 2013, as the Committee of Management.

The grandstand was built in 1927, has capacity for 500 people, and is covered by a heritage overlay. It is located in a prominent position within the precinct, almost directly adjacent to the racecourse's finishing post.

The preparatory works outlined in this report are required to make the structure as safe as reasonably practical to allow subsequent investigations to occur.

These works have been detailed in the proposal by the durability engineering consultant as required to be completed prior to undertaking the investigations adequately to assess the entire structure.

These investigations will result in the development of a SoW and repair designs for remediation works to be undertaken. This will allow for subsequent tenders to be requested and a contractor awarded the contract to undertake the required works.

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. Council approves the immediate commencement of preparatory and investigative works to the Wodonga Racecourse Grandstand in the approximate sum of $150,000; and

2. Once the above works have been completed, a further report, detailing the findings, potential remedial works and associated cost estimates and timelines (a full Scope of Works) be presented to the Council for consideration and a decision on the matter.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

DISCUSSION

Preparatory Scope of Works (SoW)

The following sequence outlines the SoW and the associated impact it has on the repair works:

- Install temporary fencing to the front of the grandstand to minimise the risk of the public from accessing the grandstand which is deemed unsafe. – **COMPLETED.**

- Fabricate and install temporary propping – This has been designed by a structural engineer and is awaiting approval to fabricate and install.

  As stated in the initial structural investigations of the grandstand, the timbers columns that support the grandstand roof are required to be replaced/repaired with the highest priority. This propping is required to make the structure safe for subsequent investigations for repair designs to occur. While the props are in place access will be unavailable to the grandstand seating.

- Install further temporary fencing to surround the complete structure (rear and sides);

- Asbestos and lead paint testing to occur (removal as required);

- Investigations and repair designs of the following structure components by structural and durability consulting engineers in collaboration with a heritage consultant:

  - Remove ground floor carpet and paint to the underside of the first floor concrete slab and beams. This is required for further non- destructive testing of ground and first floor slabs. This will result in any structural strengthening designs of the slabs and reinforced concrete beams;

  - Remove the custom orb metal cladding to the underside of the grandstand roof to expose the roof structure (trusses & beams). This is required to allow investigation works and any subsequent repair designs to occur;

  - Geotechnical investigation and methodology to stabilise the building foundation;

  - Testing of the timber columns and repair design, or design for new columns;

  - Waterproofing dampcourse assessment and repair design;

  - Assessment of perimeter paving, stormwater drainage system and repair design;

  - Repair design for brick walls and pillars;

  - Statement of heritage impact; and

- Schedule of conservation works.

Endstate

On completion of these investigations and assessments, a report detailing findings, recommendations and a detailed SoW will be presented to council for approval to proceed with repair works.

Persons whose rights will be directly affected by this decision

Not applicable.

RELEVANT LAW

- Local Government Act 2020
- Crown Land Act
- Wodonga Council Instruments of Delegation

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

The Council has previously, through the 2022/2023 budget process, allocated $750,000 in the 2022/2023 budget and on a proposed basis, $750,000 in the 2023/2024 budget. This is still to be approved.

OPTIONS

Option 1 Do Nothing
This option is not recommended as it risks being perceived as 'demolition by neglect' and could result in action being taken against council. Additionally, it means the grandstand will remain closed to patrons, unable to be used and risk further deterioration and risk to patrons in the precinct.

Option 2 Undertake Preparatory Scope of Works
This option would mean endorsement with an investment of approximately $150k for immediate works and investigations. This will be followed by a report to council detailing the repair SoW and estimated cost.

Option 3 Undertake structural propping
This option would only involve undertaking the structural propping of the structure to 'make safe' the structure. As with Option 1 it means the grandstand will remain closed to patrons, unable to be used and risk further deterioration and risk to patrons in the precinct.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The grandstand was placed on the heritage register in 2014 after going through a due process of consideration.

It is of historic and social significance as it contributes to an understanding of the development of the community and Wodonga from the mid-19th century and 20th century. It is architecturally significant as it is a representative example of racecourse and grandstand architecture in Wodonga.

The Wodonga Showgrounds and Racecourse precinct today hosts many small and large events which bring economic return to Wodonga. The site is also one of Wodonga's designated Emergency Management Facilities and plays a key role in council's initial response phase of emergency management.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Wodonga and District Turf Club has been consulted around options to remedy the grandstand's deteriorated state. They will continue to be updated as the investigation works occur.

Further community engagement could be undertaken once the details of the proposed remedial works are better understood, and any public notice regarding these works will be undertaken in accordance with the Wodonga Planning Scheme.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The further investigation works of the grandstand is essential in moving forward with the commencement of reinstatement works. If not to occur, the subsequent opening of the venue to full use will be delayed and may result in the risk of further deterioration of a heritage asset.

COLLABORATION

Council staff have recently met with the Wodonga and District Turf Club who initiated the meeting to gain a better understanding of the current situtation, council's likely proposed way forward and the possible timelines.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

$750,000 was allocated for the Racecourse Precinct Grandstand in the 2022/2023 capital budget with a further $750,000 allocated in the draft 23/24 capital budget.

The following details a breakdown of current expenditure and expected cost (excl GST) associated with the above preparatory works:

Current expenditure	**$16,200.60**
Investigation's expenditure	$150,000.00
Total (approx)	**$166,200.60**

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Planning and Environment Act, 1987
Wodonga Planning Scheme, Amendment C97
State *Planning Policy Framework (SPPF)*
Local Planning Policy Framework

COUNCIL PLAN AND POLICIES

Strategic objective
Planning for growth, demonstrating stewardship through protecting, enhancing and

managing our unique natural and built environments.

Strategy
Undertake detailed planning and design for key community assets and recreational precincts.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There have been no conflict of interest declarations by the following officers involved with the preparation of this report:

Team Leader Project Delivery - Danny Muldeary
Director Planning, Development and Infrastructure – Leon Schultz

8 Reports for noting

8.1 Minutes of the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee

PURPOSE

The minutes of the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) be received and noted.

SUMMARY

The MEMPC is established as a statutory committee of Council under s.59 of the Emergency Management Act 2013.

The committee meets quarterly, or sooner if required. The committee met on 21 February 2023, and the minutes are attached for receiving and noting by Council.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee be received and noted.

ATTACHMENTS

1. MEMPC Minutes for meeting held on 21 2 2023 [**8.1.1** - 10 pages]

COUNCIL PLAN AND POLICIES

Strategic objective
Provide transparent governance and strong leadership, demonstrating excellence in the way we do business by being innovative and responsive.
Strategy
Ensure good contemporary governance through accountable and transparent practices, appropriate risk management and continuous improvement.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There have been no conflict of interest declarations by the following officers involved with the preparation of this report:

Emergency Management Coordinator - Paul Leddy
Director Planning, Development and Infrastructure - Leon Schultz

MINUTES

Wodonga

Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee

MEMPC

Teams meeting held on Tuesday 21st February, 2023 at 2pm.

1.0	**Present: Chairperson:** Leon Schultz - COW, Tim Hart - VicPol MERC, Paul Leddy - COW, Craig McClanahan - COW, Libby Grant - ARC, Darren Deeble - DFFH, Charlie Sexton - SES, Adrian Gutsche - CFA, Ben Merritt - DEECA, Callum Bloomer - Ambulance Vic, Bobbi McKibbin - Community Representative, Colin Elliott - Community Representative.

Secretariat: Paul Leddy	
2.0	**Apologies:** Lynne Jones - ARC, Richard Lamb - COW, Kevin Haggerty - Dept. of Defence, Matt Johnson - FRV, Ben Van Kesteren - Albury City.

	AGREED ACTIONS CARRIED FORWARD FROM PREVIOUS MEETING 16.8.2022	Information for OR by:	DATE	DATE COMPLETED OR RESCHEDULED & COMMENTS
3.0	Moved: Bobbi McKibbin that minutes from the last meeting held on the 15th November, 2022 as distributed are confirmed and accurate and be adopted. Seconded: Colin Elliott Carried Nil outstanding.	All	Next Meeting COUNCIL CHAMBERS and TEAMS if unable to attend. **23.5.2023** **22.8.2023** **21.11.2023**	**COMPLETE**
4.0	**Updates to MEMP Contact List**	All	Paul	**Amended list emailed to committee 27.2.2023**

5.0	INWARDS/OUTWARDS CORRESPONDENCE	Information for OR by:	DATE	DATE COMPLETED OR OUTSTANDING RESCHEDULED & COMMENTS
	INWARDS CORRESPONDENCE			
5.1	Email from Kevin Haggerty - Dept. of Defence**.** 11.1.2023. **Refer Part 8.2**	All	21.2.2023	**COMPLETE**
5.2	Email from Department of Health - 24.1.2023 **Refer Part 8.3**	All	21.2.2023	**COMPLETE**
5.2a	Email from ERV- 9.2.2023 – They will not be attending MEMPC meetings for a couple of months due to re-structure.	All	21.2.2023	**COMPLETE**
	OUTWARDS CORRESPONDENCE			
5.3	As per Part 8.2 of the minutes on 15.11.2022. Email sent to the Dept. Education and Training that we will disseminate minutes from meetings and advise them if they are required to attend at any meetings. Sent 21.11.2022.	All	21.2.2023	**COMPLETE**

5.4	As per Part 8.3 of the minute's on15.11.2022. Email sent to the Manager of Infrastructure and Projects Theo Panagopoulos at Wodonga Council, indicating support from the MEMPC for application towards funding grant from the federal government renewal program for the Brockley Street Bridge. Sent 21.11.2022.	All	21.2.2023	**COMPLETE**
5.5	Email to MEMPC from DELWP a refresh of Ovens Fire Management contacts. Sent 28.11.2022.	All	21.2.2023	**COMPLETE**
6.0	**REVIEW OF EVENTS SINCE THE LAST MEETING**	**Information for OR by:**	**DATE**	
6.1	No Events Recorded	All	21.2.2023	**RECORD**
7.0	**Officers/Agencies Reports**	**Information for OR by:**	**DATE**	
7.1	From Lynne Jones- Red Cross	All	February 2023	Written report received and tabled - report disseminated to the committee.  scan_leddy_p_2023-02-27-12-12-35.pdf **COMPLETE**

7.2	From Kevin Haggerty – Dept.' of Defence	All	February 2023	Written report received and tabled - report disseminated to the committee.  Your scan (Scan to My Email).msg **COMPLETE**
7.3	From Brett Myers - CFA	All	21.2.2023	Written report received and tabled - report disseminated to the committee.  Your scan (Scan to My Email).msg **COMPLETE**
7.4	Ben Merritt - DEECA	All	21.2.2023	Verbal Report - Spoke about Fire Management Planning Committee meeting held on 14.2.2023. Minutes attached. Otherwise BAU.  Wodonga FMPC 20230214.docx **COMPLETE**

7.5	Charlie Sexton - Regional SES	All	21.2.2023	Verbal Report - Spoke about re-structure and new location at Wodonga, had a meeting with Paul and Tim Loffler from NECMA regarding a review of the Flood Plan which SES is now responsible for as it is not a Council Plan anymore. Will advise MEMPC when completed. Otherwise BAU. **COMPLETE**
7.6	Tim Hart - VicPol	All	21.2.2023	Verbal Report - BAU **COMPLETE**
7.7	Bobbi McKibbin - Community Representative	All	21.2.2023	Nothing to Report **COMPLETE**
7.8	Colin Elliott – Community Representative	All	21.2.2023	Nothing to Report **COMPLETE**
7.9	Craig McClanahan - COW MRM	All	21.2.2023	Verbal Report - Council did not receive any residential impact reports from flooding. **COMPLETE**
7.10	Callum Bloomer – Ambulance VIC	All	21.2.2023	Nothing to Report - BAU **COMPLETE**

7.11	Darren Deeble - DFFA	All	21.2.2023	Verbal Report – Still dealing with some relief applications. Some problems with on0line system. Relief and re-establishment cost so far approximately $25 million. Lynda Shields has been appointed to position of Regional Emergency Manager. They have internally conduct AAR after floods which recommended DFFH be included in ICC and Relief Centres. **COMPLETE**
7.12	Adrian Gutsche - CFA	All	21.2.2023	Verbal Report - Mentioned the need to run a table top exercise, list as and agenda item for next meeting. Advised that a project team is working on a new EMLO Training Course. Paul advised he is part of this team and hopefully courses will commence in April. **COMPLETE**

	GENERAL BUSINESS	Information for OR by:	DATE	
8.1	Arbovirus Plan 2022-2025 has been released to the council web.	All	21.2.2023	**COMPLETE**
8.2	Discuss amendments required in the MEMPlan 2021-2024.	All	21.2.2023	Resolved for everyone on the committee to have a look at the current Memplan attached and report back to the next meeting any identified parts that need to be amended. Paul has identified some parts which is also attached. Please access the Memplan through the Council Website.  Review of Municipal Emergenc OUTSTANDING

8.3	Discuss request from Department of Health to become included as a member of the Wodonga MEMPC.	All	21.2.2023	Resolved that the Department of Health be accepted to become part of the Wodonga MEMPC and be advised accordingly. Moved: Charlie Sexton Seconded: Daren Deeble Carried. Email Sent to Department of Health 27.2.2023. **COMPLETE**
9.0	**OTHER ISSUES**			
9.1	Discuss Flooding Events from 1.11.2022 to 13.11.2022 and debrief held by Council Executive and EM Group. Proposals and recommendations from De-Brief.	All	21.2.2023	**Refer Part 7.5 Update from Charlie Sexton.** **OUTSTANDING**
9.2	Exhibition Centre – Relief Centre progress report of redevelopment.	All	21.2.2023	Meeting shown work completed at this stage. **COMPLETED**

9.3	Bobbi McKibbin mentioned possible grants available for Solar Power at the Exhibition Centre.	All	21.2.2023	Bobbi will email information to Leon for follow up.  (EXTERNAL) Federal Funding Community **RECORD**
	FUTURE MEETING DATES	**RESPONSIBILITY**		**STATUS**
	Next meeting date: Tuesday the 23rd May, 2023 in the Council Chambers starting at 2pm.	Paul		**Meeting Closed at 3.45pm**

9 Reports for information

9.1 Decisions register

PURPOSE

This report provides an update on decisions from previous council meetings.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

ATTACHMENTS
Nil

DISCUSSION

There are several Council activities that contribute to good council decision making and increased transparency. These include:

- Making sure council decisions are recorded at council meetings in the meeting minutes and made publicly available;
- Making public confidential report recommendations where it does not breach section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020;
- Delegating certain decision making to council staff or special committees of council;
- Gathering information to help support decisions through:
    - advisory committees
    - councillor briefings and workshops
    - community consultation
    - contact with the community
    - links with other authorities
    - memberships of other bodies.

    Any council decision taken as a result of these processes happens at a formal council meeting or is formally delegated. In this way council decision making remains transparent and accountable to the community.

Regarding decisions made at a formal council meeting, council staff report the progress with these decisions monthly through the decision register.

Graph 1: Breakdown of decision register



As indicated in graph 1 above of the 25 decision actions ten are completed, representing 40%.

Of these remaining 15 there are:

- 5 relating to public notices are progressing on time;
- 6 actions are waiting on external input or external processes such as Regional Roads and titles register; and
- 4 actions are subject to future reports to go back to the council for determination or for information.

KEY:
SUBJECT OF FUTURE REPORTS
EXTERNAL FACTORS
BUDGET PROCESS 23/24
PUBLIC EXHIBITION
COMPLETED

Item	Jacob Group of Companies - Section 96A: Proposed Planning Scheme Amendment and Planning Permit Application (19/04/2021)
Resolution	1. That the Council refuse the request to prepare a combined planning scheme amendment and planning permit process in accordance with Section 96A of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* on the grounds that the proposal lacks strategic justification. 2. That council undertakes a detailed strategic planning evaluation of the issue broadly and the spatial land use and development conflict more specifically to identify suitable solutions and as may be appropriate prepare a strategy which either confirms the present zoning, use, and development delineations or provides the necessary strategic justification to support change consistent with the identified solution.
Status	The project has progressed and the draft report is scheduled to be presented to the councillors within the next weeks.

Item	Minor Alteration to Instrument of Delegation - s46P(2) Planning and Environment Act, 1987: Report Back (28/06/2021)
Resolution	That: 1. The report regarding the CEO exercising the delegation to accept the provision of land, works, services or facilities as set out at s46P(2) of the *Planning and Environment Act, 1987* be received and noted; and 2. A further report on the exercise of this delegation be provided to a future council meeting, subject to the first use of this delegated authority.
Status	Awaiting for 1st use of delegated authority in relation to this item.

Item	On Road Cycling Safety Program - Department of Transport (13/12/2021)
Resolution	That: 1. Council endorse the implementation of the on-road cycling road safety improvements on Pearce Street and Elgin Boulevard. 2. The improvement works be monitored by RRV and Wodonga Council to ensure the desired outcomes are achieved.
Status	In progress – works to Pearce Street have been completed. Works to Elgin Boulevard are on hold pending an evaluation of the Pearce Street project. Waiting for advice from Regional Roads on the result of the assessment process to see if Elgin Boulevard will proceed.

Item	Coyles Road Deviation - McFarlane's Hill (19/04/2022)
Resolution	That: 1. In accordance with s*chedule 10, clause 2* and *section 223* of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act) Council give Public Notice of its intention to deviate a section of road, as shown in Attachment 2, and described as allotment 2010; 2. The public notice stipulate that persons may make a submission on the

	proposed deviation in accordance with s*ection 223* of the Act and that written submissions must be received within 28 days of publication of the notice; 3. The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to undertake the administrative procedures necessary to enable council to carry out its functions under s*ection 223* of the Act in relation to this matter; 4. If submissions are received under s*ection 223* of the Act: i. a special meeting of council be convened on a date to be determined, to hear from any person or persons who request to be heard in support of a *section 223* written submission; and ii. a report on any *section 223* submissions received by council be provided to a future council meeting; and 5. If no submissions are received within 28 days of the notice the council resolve to deviate the road and to publish a notice of the deviation in the Victorian Government Gazette
Status	In progress – Awaiting private landowner's surveyor to finalise plans in conjunction with DEECA (previously DELWP).

Item	**Road discontinuation and sale (27/06/2022)**
Resolution	That: 1. Having considered the submissions and following all the required statutory procedures pursuant to Schedule 10, Clause 3 and Section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989,* and Section 114 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the council resolve to discontinue part of the road contained in certificate of title volume 10849 folio 306, known as Road 1/PS417801Q; 2. Following the discontinuation of the road, sell part of the road to the owners of 3 Turner Court for $44,000 and 4 Turner Court for $37,000 by private treaty subject to: a. The discontinued road being consolidated with the purchasers adjoining lot; and, b. The purchasers paying all costs associated with the road discontinuance, survey and land consolidation. 3. The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to sign all documents that are required to be signed in connection with the road discontinuation and sale.
Status	In progress – survey plans are sitting with the titles office to be registered into individual lots. Once registered each lot can be transferred to each landowner.

Item	**Community Grants Policy and Guidelines (18/07/2022)**
Resolution	That: 1. The updated Community Grants Program policy and guidelines, as attached, be approved; and 2. The grant program be reviewed as part of the 2023/24 budget process.
Status	1: **Completed.** 2: Final report to go to the April council meeting. Completed.

Item	**Wodonga Hills Strategy - New Wodonga Hills Advisory Committee (21/11/2022)**
Resolution	That the Chief Executive Officer be tasked to review the current Wodonga Hills Priority Action Table and provide a report not later than the June 2023 Council Meeting.
Status	The internal working group will commence work on this matter. A draft interim report was presented to the CEO. More work to follow.

Item	Proposed Park Names – Dr John Moran (21/11/2022)
Resolution	That: 1. Public notice be given of Council's intention to seek community comment on the proposed naming of the park as described in the report and as recommended by the Wodonga Place Names Advisory Committee; 2. The public notice stipulates that persons may make a submission on the proposal, and those written submissions must be received on a date that is no later than 28 days after the publication of the notice; 3. That if submissions are received, they be referred to the Wodonga Place Names Advisory Committee for consideration and a report back to the Council; and 4. If no submissions are received, the proposed recommendations be adopted without further resolution of the Council, and advice be forwarded to the Registrar of Geographic Names to undertake the gazettal procedure.
Status	No submissions were received - gazetted on 23 March. Completed.

Item	Proposed Road Deviation - Meridian Rise Estate (21/11/2022)
Resolution	That: 1. In accordance with Schedule 10, Clause 2 and Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 and Section 114 of the Local Government Act 2020, Council gives public notice of its intention to deviate the unmade Government Road onto Lot 2 PS636955 and exchange the former road with Jayslee Pty Ltd; 2. The public notice stipulates that persons may make a submission on the proposed deviation and exchange of land in accordance with Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 and section 114 of the Local Government Act 2020 and that written submission must be received within 28 days of publication of the notice; 3. The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to undertake the administrative procedures necessary to enable council to carry out its functions under Section 223 of the Act in relation to this matter; 4. At the conclusion of the Section 223 (*the 1989 Act)* and Section 114 (*the 2020 Act)* process: a. If submissions are received from persons who request to be heard in support of a Section 223 written submission a meeting of Council be convened on a date to be determined for that purpose; and b. A report on the Section 223 and Section 114 process, including any submissions received and any hearings held, be provided to a future meeting of Council for a final determination on this matter
Status	The proposal has been on public exhibition and received some feedback which is being assessed. A report on the section 223 process is scheduled at the May 2023 council meeting.

Item	Proposed Park - Butko Park (21/11/2022)
Resolution	That: 1. Public notice be given of Council's intention to name the open space at the intersection of the Murray Valley Highway, Riverside Boulevard and Klim Street, Butko Park as described in the report and as recommended by the Wodonga Place Names Advisory Committee; 2. The public notice stipulates that persons may make a submission on the proposed name, and those written submissions must be received on a date that is no later than 28 days after the publication of the notice;

	3. That if submissions are received, they be referred to the Wodonga Place Names Advisory Committee for consideration and a report back to the Council; and 4. If no submissions are received, the proposed recommendations be adopted without further resolution of the Council, and advice be forwarded to the Registrar of Geographic Names to undertake the gazettal procedure.
Status	Submissions were received from the public. The PNC will make a further recommendation to council.

Item	**Draft Community Engagement Policy - 2023 update (20/02/2023)**
Resolution	That the draft Community Engagement Policy be put out for community consultation for 28 days with a report on the feedback to be brought back to the April 2023 council meeting
Status	Draft policy going to the April council meeting. Completed.

Item	**Telecommunications Tower - James Eames Frontage (20/02/2023)**
Resolution	That: 1. In accordance with Section 115 of the *Local Government Act 2020* ("the Act") public notice be given of the intention to grant a lease to Amplitel Pty Limited for part of the land being Reserve 2 PS064130 contained in Certificate of Title Volume 09943 Folio 605 on the following terms: a. A 20-year lease, made up of 4 options of 5 years; and, b. A rental charge of $8,000 per annum for the first year, with the rent payable indexed year on year by 2.5%. 2. The public notice shall stipulate that persons may make a submission on the proposed lease in accordance with Section 115 of the Act and councils Community Engagement Policy, and that all written submissions be received on a date that is at least 21 days after the publication of the notice; 3. The Chief Executive Officer is authorised to undertake the administrative procedures necessary to enable council to carry out its functions under Section 115 of the Act in relation to this matter; 4. Separate to the section 115 process, the lessee must comply with all regulatory planning approvals applicable to the construction of a telecommunication facility on the land and this section 115 process in no way pre-determines the outcome of a planning application; and, 5. A report on the s.115 process, including any submissions received, be provided to a future meeting of Council for a determination on this matter.
Status	Consultation/submission period has closed. Feedback and final decision report to be scheduled for the May 2023 Council meeting.

Item	**Authorisation to Proceed to a Planning Scheme Amendment for Lot 33 Castle Creek Road, Wodonga (20/02/2023)**
Resolution	That Council: 1. Requests authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit the draft Amendment C139 documents (Attachments 1, 2, 3 and 4) to the Wodonga Planning Scheme under section 8A(2) and (3) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*; 2. Authorises the Director Planning, Development and Infrastructure to make minor editorial changes to the amendment documentation and to fulfil any conditions of authorisation prior to public exhibition if required; and 3. If authorised by the Minister for Planning, exhibit the amendment to

	the Wodonga Planning Scheme in accordance with notice requirements under section 19 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.Cr Libby Hall left the meeting at 7:22 pm.
Status	In progress.

Item	**Review of the Instruments of Delegation (20/03/2023)**
Resolution	1. In the exercise of the power conferred by s 11(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), council resolves: 1.1 There be delegated to the person holding the position, or acting in or performing the duties, of Chief Executive Officer the powers, duties and functions set out in the attached *S5 Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer*, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument. 1.2 The instrument comes into force immediately upon this resolution being made and is signed by the council's Chief Executive Officer and the Mayor. 1.3 On the coming into force of the instrument all previous delegations to the Chief Executive Officer are revoked. 1.4 The duties and functions set out in the instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instruments must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of council that it may from time to time adopt. 2. In the exercise of the powers conferred by the legislation referred to in the attached *S6 Instrument of Delegation by the Council to members of Council staff (other than the CEO)*, council resolves that: 2.1 There be delegated to the members of council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the offices or positions referred to in the *S6 Instrument of Delegation by the Council to members of Council staff*, the powers, duties and functions set out in that instrument, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument. 2.2 The instrument comes into force immediately upon this resolution being made and is signed by the council's Chief Executive Officer and the Mayor. 2.3 On the coming into force of the instrument all previous delegations to members of council staff (other than the Chief Executive Officer) are revoked. 2.4 The duties and functions set out in the instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instruments must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of council that it may from time to time adopt. 3. In the exercise of the power conferred by s 437(2) of the Environment Protection Act 2017 and the Instrument of Delegation of the Environment Protection Authority under the Act dated 4 June 2021, Council resolves that: 3.1 There be delegated to the members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the offices or positions referred to in the attached *S18 Instrument of Sub-Delegation to members of Council staff (EPA 2017)*, the powers, duties and functions set out in that instrument, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument. 3.2 The instrument comes into force immediately upon this resolution being made and is signed by the council's Chief Executive Officer and the Mayor. 3.3 The duties and functions set out in the instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instruments must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.

	4. That the Instruments of Delegation Policy, as attached, be adopted. 5. That the *S7 Instrument of Sub-Delegation by the CEO to other staff*, as attached, be received and noted.
Status	Instruments updated and issued on web site and to staff. Completed.

Item	**Review of Governance Rules (20/03/2023)**
Resolution	That: 1. The Governance Rules, included with the attachments, be placed on public exhibition for a 28 day period of community consultation, with the following changes: • chapter three, sub-rule 1.1 is to read: "except where and unless the delegated committee by resolution establishes its own meeting procedure, all of the provisions of Chapter Two apply to meetings of the delegated committee" and delete rule 2; and • the period for notices of motion be retained at 7 days; 2. A report on any feedback from the community consultation be submitted to a future council meeting; and 3. Should no community feedback be received the Governance Rules be adopted without further resolution of Council, with the commencement date to be the day after the public exhibition period ends.
Status	Document placed on public exhibition, and closes April 18.

Item	**Draft Councillor Briefing Terms of Reference (20/03/2023)**
Resolution	That: 1. The draft Councillor Briefing terms of reference, as attached, be adopted; and 2. The amended Councillor Briefing policy, as attached, be adopted.
Status	Documents issued. Completed.

Item	**Rural Australians for Refugees - Afghan Sponsorship Proposal (20/03/2023)**
Resolution	Rural Australians for Refugees - Afghan Sponsorship Proposal
Status	Letter issued to RAR. Completed.

Item	**La Trobe University student awards (20/03/2023)**
Resolution	That the council provides funding of $9,000 over three years for the following: 1. Four La Trobe University student awards of $500 each, a total of $2,000 annually, for a period of three years, commencing March 2023; and 2. Contributes $1,000 annually to the Albury Wodonga Materials bursary for a total of three years, commencing March 2023.
Status	Agreement in development for signing.

Item	**Intention to enter into lease - Wodonga Hockey Club (20/03/2023)**
Resolution	That: 1. In accordance with Section 115 of the Local Government Act 2020 ("the Act") public notice be given of the intention to grant a lease to Wodonga Hockey Club Incorporated for the premises contained in Certificate of Title Volume 10362 Folio 364 known as the 'Wodonga Hockey Pavilion' on the following terms: a) A 20-year lease, made up of an initial 10 years with 2 further options of 5 years each;

	b) A rent-free period for the initial 10-year term (equating to a total fee reduction of $1,680.51); and, c. A rental charge of $150 plus GST per annum in the first year of the first 5-year option, with a fixed increase of 2.5% per annum on each commencement date during the term and any further term. 2. The public notice shall stipulate that persons may make a submission on the proposed lease in accordance with Section 115 of the Act and councils Community Engagement Policy, and that all written submissions be received on a date that is at least 21 days after the publication of the notice; 3. The Chief Executive Officer is authorised to undertake the administrative procedures necessary to enable council to carry out its functions under Section 115 of the Act in relation to this matter; and, 4. A report on the Section 115 process, including any submissions received, be provided to a future meeting of Council for a final determination on this matter.
Status	Out for public comment. Closes April 16.

Item	**2023-24 State Funding Programs - Country Football & Netball Program and Australian Cricket Infrastructure Fund (20/03/2023)**
Resolution	That council support the application of the grants through the Country Football & Netball Program and the Community Cricket Program as follows: 1. Country Football & Netball Program • Les Cheesley Oval LED lighting upgrade project, and approve an additional financial contribution of $78,120 in the 2023/24 financial year from council; and 2. Australian Cricket Infrastructure Fund • Kelly Park Cricket shared storage project and approve a financial contribution of $69,761 in the 2023/24 financial year from council.
Status	Officers to prepare funding applications and supporting documents for submission. Completed.

Item	**Review of Performance Reporting Policy (20/03/2023)**
Resolution	That the Performance Reporting Policy, as attached, be adopted.
Status	Issued on website and to staff. Completed.

Item	**Planning Permit for Determination 44/2022, 2 Opal Court, West Wodonga (20/03/2023)**
Resolution	That Council resolves to issue a Notice of Decision to grant a Planning Permit (PP 44/2022) for buildings and works to construct four dwellings at Lot 68 PS098989, 2 Opal Court, West Wodonga subject to the planning permit conditions detailed at attachment 2, and in accordance with the submitted development plans at attachment 3.
Status	Waiting for NOD review period to end.

Item	**Sustainability Strategy 2022 - 2026 (20/03/2023)**
Resolution	That the Sustainability Strategy 2022 – 2026, as attached, be adopted, and its implementation be considered in future budgets.
Status	Strategy placed on website. Actions requiring budgetary requirements will be subject to annual process. Completed.

Item	**Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan 2022 - 2027 (20/03/2023)**
Resolution	That the Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan 2022 – 2027, as attached, be adopted.

Status	Action Plan placed on the website. Actions will be undertaken as per the plan and reported to council annually as a minimum. Completed.

Item	**Hospital advocacy (20/03/2023)**
Resolution	That Council: 1. Endorse the ongoing acts of the previous resolutions of Council at the February 20, 2023 council meeting in relation to hospital advocacy; 2. Call for expressions of interest from community members to address council; 3. Continue to advocate for a greenfield hospital for Albury Wodonga; and 4. Call special meetings of council as required.
Status	• EOI for community members to register their interest in supporting Council's position is now open as well as a meeting set for April 26th to discuss a formal and targeted approach with a range of key stakeholders including other LGA's. • Letter sent February 21 to AlburyCity requesting their participation in advocating for a single site hospital on a greenfield site and lobbying to the NSW government and Federal Government for funding. • Questions sent on March 3 to the Hospital board AGM requesting more information. • A meeting between the two cities' Mayors and CEO occurred 7/3/23 to discuss each Council positions.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There have been no conflict-of-interest declarations by the following officers involved with the preparation of this report:

Governance Officer - Kevin Scully
Deputy CEO - Debra Mudra

9.2 Record of councillor meetings

PURPOSE
To provide a written record of meetings held under the auspices of council and as recognised under section 131(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

SUMMARY
Using council processes to assist decision making
Schedule one of the *Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020* includes the requirement that a councillor must, in performing the role of a councillor, do everything reasonably necessary to ensure that the councillor performs the role of a councillor effectively and responsibly.

Under this requirement councillors are to ensure that they diligently use council processes to become informed about matters which are subject to council decisions [schedule one, regulation 2(b)]. The list of meetings included in this report, including councillor briefings, are a council process that enables councillors to be informed about matters subject to council decisions.

Summary of the meeting
Under chapter six of the Governance Rules if there is a meeting of councillors that:
1. is scheduled or planned for the purpose of discussing the business of *Council* or briefing councillors;
2. is attended by at least one member of Council staff; and
3. is not a *Council meeting*, *Delegated Committee* meeting or *Community Asset Committee* meeting

the *Chief Executive Officer* must ensure that a summary of the matters discussed at the meeting are:
a. tabled at the next convenient *Council meeting*; and
b. recorded in the minutes of that *Council meeting*.

A summary of recent briefings follows.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Councillor briefing of Monday, March 20, 2023 commencing at 9.30am and concluding at 1.40pm.		
Venue	Council Chamber, council offices, ground floor, 104 Hovell St, Wodonga.	
In attendance		
Ron Mildren	Mayor	All items
Libby Hall	Deputy Mayor	All items
Danny Chamberlain	Councillor	All items
Danny Lowe	Councillor – left the meeting at 1.20pm.	All items
Kev Poulton	Councillor – left the meeting at 1.30pm.	All items
Olga Quilty	Councillor – left the meeting at 1.32pm.	All items
Graeme Simpfendorfer	Councillor	All items
Matthew Hyde	CEO - attendance by MS Teams	All items
Debra Mudra	Deputy CEO	All items
Susanne Andres	Interim Director Corporate Services	All items, except item 1
Leon Schultz	Director Planning, Development & Infrastructure	All items
Kevin Scully	Governance Officer	All items, except item 1
Liona Edwards	Manager Sport and Recreation	Item one
Zoe Jin	GIS Property Officer	Item two
Simone Hogg	Manager Community Development & Wellbeing	Item four
Khal Katrib	Capital Insight	Item four
Jennifer Tran	Capital Insight	Item four
Peter Flanagan	Capital Insight	Item four
John Guthrie	JWP Architects	Item four

Conflict of interest disclosures		
Councillor	Item	Did the councillor leave the meeting?
Kev Poulton	Item 5 – that part of the council meeting agenda dealing with the Wodonga Hockey Club.	Yes

Items discussed

1. Wodonga Sports and Leisure Centre Site Visit
2. Proposed Road Names in the Baranduda Fields Sporting Precinct Report
3. VIC LG Grants Commission Presentation
4. Wodonga Senior Citizens Centre Feasibility
5. Agenda for Council meeting
6. General Business

Councillor briefing of Monday, March 27, 2023 commencing at 9.30am and concluding at 3pm.		
Venue	Council Chamber, council offices, ground floor, 104 Hovell St, Wodonga.	
In attendance		
Ron Mildren	Mayor	All items
Libby Hall	Deputy Mayor	All items
Danny Chamberlain	Councillor	All items
Danny Lowe	Councillor	All items
Kev Poulton	Councillor	All items
Olga Quilty	Councillor	All items
Graeme Simpfendorfer	Councillor	All items
Matthew Hyde	CEO	All items
Debra Mudra	Deputy CEO	All items
Susanne Andres	Interim Director Corporate Services	All items
Leon Schultz	Director Planning, Development & Infrastructure	All items
Simone Hogg	Manager Community Development & Wellbeing	Item 1
Natasha Donohue	Manager Finance	Item 2
Conflict of interest disclosures		
There were no disclosures		
Items discussed		
1. Community grant programs review 2. Draft budget.		

Councillor briefing of Monday, April 3, 2023 commencing at 9.30am and concluding at 2.30pm.		
Venue	Council Chamber, council offices, ground floor, 104 Hovell St, Wodonga.	
In attendance		
Ron Mildren	Mayor	All items
Libby Hall	Deputy Mayor	All items
Danny Chamberlain	Councillor	All items
Danny Lowe	Councillor – from 9.38am. left meeting at 2pm.	All items
Kev Poulton	Councillor	Apology
Olga Quilty	Councillor – from 9.43am	All items
Graeme Simpfendorfer	Councillor – via Teams after 1.45pm	All items
Matthew Hyde	CEO	All items
Debra Mudra	Deputy CEO	All items
Susanne Andres	Interim Director Corporate Services	All items
Leon Schultz	Director Planning, Development & Infrastructure	All items
Kevin Scully	Governance Officer	Items 1 to 3
Natasha Donohue	Manager Finance	Item 4
Conflict of interest disclosures		
There were no disclosures		
Items discussed		

1. Valley Views Estate proposed development plan – status update and proposed way forward
2. Meridian Rise: proposed road deviation – public consultation feedback and final recommendation
3. General business

a. Councillor briefings - discuss frequency
b. Civic partnerships advocacy
c. Update from the Mayor regarding the meeting with Member for Northern Victoria Mrs Gaelle Broad

4. Draft budget

Councillor briefing of Tuesday, April 11, 2023 commencing at 9.30am and concluding at 1.05pm.		
Venue	Council Chamber, council offices, ground floor, 104 Hovell St, Wodonga.	
In attendance		
Ron Mildren	Mayor	All items
Libby Hall	Deputy Mayor	All items
Danny Chamberlain	Councillor	All items
Danny Lowe	Councillor – from 10.41am	Items 3 to 5
Kev Poulton	Councillor	Apology
Olga Quilty	Councillor	Apology
Graeme Simpfendorfer	Councillor	All items
Matthew Hyde	CEO	All items
Debra Mudra	Deputy CEO	All items
Kellie Davies	Acting Director Community Services	All items
Leon Schultz	Director Planning, Development & Infrastructure	All items
Kevin Scully	Governance Officer	All items
Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell, MP	Member, Legislative Council, One Nation Party	Item 1
James Trenery	Political advisor, One Nation Party	Item 1
John Chiodo	GloBird Energy	Item 2
Nabil Chemali	GloBird Energy	Item 2
Adam Saddler	Manager Economic Development	Items 2 & 3
Natasha Donohue	Manager Finance	Item 5
Conflict of interest disclosures		
There were no disclosures		
Items discussed		
1. Meeting with Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell, Victorian Legislative Council, One Nation Party, representing Northern Victoria Region 2. GloBird Energy 3. Economic Development discussion 4. Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Summary of Minutes - March 23, 2023 5. Draft Budget / Adjusted Council Plan / Capital		

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There have been no conflict of interest declarations by the following officers involved with the preparation of this report:

Governance Officer - Kevin Scully
Deputy CEO - Debra Mudra

10 Notices of motion

There were no Notices of Motion submitted.

11 Petitions

There were no Petitions submitted.

12 General business

Rule 21 of the Meeting Procedure Chapter of the *Governance Rules* states:

21.1 The purpose of general business is to provide councillors with an opportunity to provide an update on their duties and meetings attended and to raise matters such as:

a) A note of thanks or congratulations
b) Advise of attendance at event / meeting
c) Recognition
d) Tributes

21.2 A General Business item is for information only. Matters requiring a council resolution should be raised under urgent business.

21.3 A councillor may speak for up to two minutes in general business.

13 Urgent business

Rule 22 of the Meeting Procedure Chapter of the *Governance Rules* states:

If the *agenda* for an *Council meeting* makes provision for urgent business, business cannot be admitted as urgent business other than by resolution of *Council* and only then if it:

22.1 relates to or arises out of a matter which has arisen since distribution of the agenda; and

22.2 cannot safely or conveniently be deferred until the next Council meeting; or

22.3 involves a matter of urgent community concern.

14 Confidential business

There is no confidential business.

15 Confidential urgent business

Rule 22 of the Meeting Procedure Chapter of the *Governance Rules* states:

If the *agenda* for an *Council meeting* makes provision for urgent business, business cannot be admitted as urgent business other than by resolution of *Council* and only then if it:

22.4 relates to or arises out of a matter which has arisen since distribution of the agenda; and

22.5 cannot safely or conveniently be deferred until the next Council meeting; or

22.6 involves a matter of urgent community concern.

A confidential urgent business item also needs to stipulate the reason for the matter being considered as confidential in accordance with section 66(5) of the *Local Government Act 2020.*

16 Close of meeting

16.1 Chairperson to close the meeting

Next scheduled meeting of council, 6pm on Monday, May 15, 2023.