

Agenda

Ordinary Meeting of Council

10:30 am, Wednesday 22 May 2024

Corryong Council Offices

76 Hanson Street, Corryong, Victoria

Our Community Vision

Towong Shire will be the ideal place to be: welcoming, vibrant and diverse communities with quality facilities and services.

This information is available in alternative formats on request.

**Agenda for the Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held at
76 Hanson Street, Corryong, Victoria
on Wednesday 22 May 2024 commencing at 10:30 am**

Commonly Used Acronyms

Abbreviation	Title
Council Officers	
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
DIE	Director Infrastructure and Environment
DCP	Director Community and Planning
DCOD	Director Corporate and Organisational Development
MF	Manager Finance
SAE	Senior Asset Engineer
Government/Organisation	
CH	Corryong Health (formerly Upper Murray Health and Community Services)
DFFH	Department of Families, Fairness and Housing
DJSIR	Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions
DTP	Department of Transport and Planning
DEECA	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
GMW	Goulburn Murray Water
HRGLN	Hume Region Local Government Network
MAV	Municipal Association of Victoria
NECMA	North East Catchment Management Authority
NERPEN	North East Regional Procurement Excellence Network
NEW	North East Water
NEWRRG	North East Waste and Resource Recovery Group
RCV	Rural Councils Victoria
RDA	Regional Development Australia
RDV	Regional Development Victoria
THS	Tallangatta Health Service
VGC	Victorian Grants Commission
WBNC	Walwa Bush Nursing Centre

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1 Opening Prayer

“Almighty God, we ask that you be present at this meeting to assist us in our service to the Community through Local Government.

We pray that our decisions will be wise and taken with goodwill and clear conscience.

Amen.”

2 Councillor and Officer Presence at the Meeting

Councillor Attendance

Crs Whitehead, Anderson, Scales, Wortmann and Dikschei

Officer Attendance:	Title:
Ms Phelps	Chief Executive Officer
Ms Gadd	Director Infrastructure and Environment
Ms Pagan	Director Community and Planning
Ms Taylor	Director Corporate and Organisational Development

3 Apologies and Granting of Leave of Absence

4 Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

Section 130 of the Act requires that a ‘Relevant person’ (which means a person who is a Councillor, a member of a delegated committee who is not a Councillor or a member of Council staff) disclose any conflict of interest in the manner required by Council’s Governance Rules and exclude themselves from the decision making process in relation to the matter including any discussion or vote on the matter at any Council meeting.

Council’s *Governance Rules* state as follows:

A2 Obligations with regards to conflict of interest

Councillors, members of delegated committee, and Council staff are required to:

- a. *Avoid all situations which may give rise to conflicts of interest;*
- b. *Identify any conflicts of interest; and*
- c. *Disclose or declare all conflicts of interest.*

A3 Disclosure of a conflict of interest at a Council meeting

A Councillor who has a conflict of interest in a matter being considered at a Council meeting at which he or she:

A3.1 is present must disclose that conflict of interest by explaining the nature of the conflict of interest to those present at the Council meeting immediately before the matter is considered; or

A3.2 intends to be present must disclose that conflict of interest by providing to the Chief Executive Officer before the Council meeting commences a written notice:

A3.2.1 advising of the conflict of interest;

A3.2.2 explaining the nature of the conflict of interest; and

A3.2.3 detailing, if the nature of the conflict of interest involves a Councillor's relationship with or a gift from another person, the:

- a. name of the other person;*
- b. nature of the relationship with that other person or the date of receipt, value and type of gift received from the other person; and*
- c. nature of that other person's interest in the matter, and then immediately before the matter is considered at the meeting announcing to those present that he or she has a conflict of interest and that a written notice has been given to the Chief Executive Officer under this sub-Rule.*

The Councillor must, in either event, leave the Council meeting immediately after giving the explanation or making the announcement (as the case may be) and not return to the meeting until after the matter has been disposed of.

5 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meetings listed below were circulated to Councillors following each respective meeting. Confirmation of the minutes is now sought.

- Ordinary Council Meeting held on 24 April 2024

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 24 April 2024, be confirmed.

6 Petitions and Joint Letters

Nil

7 Public Question Time

In accordance with Council's Governance Rules, all questions must be submitted to Council in writing by 2.00pm on the day prior to the Council meeting.

An online form is available on Council's website, and a hard copy of the form is available at both the Tallangatta and Corryong Council offices.

Public Notice of Public Question Time was included in the advertisement for the Council meeting.

The CEO will advise of any Public Question Time submissions at the meeting.

8 Informal Meetings of Councillors

In accordance with Council's *Governance Rules*, a written summary of the matters discussed at each informal meeting of Councillors is to be tabled at the next convenient Council meeting and recorded in the minutes of that meeting.

The Meeting Records from the Informal Meeting of Councillors held on 3 April 2024, 10 April 2024, 15 April 2024 and 17 April 2024 are attached as follows:

1. Workshop Meeting Record 3 April 2024 [**8.1.1** - 2 pages]
2. Workshop Meeting Record 10 April 2024 [**8.1.2** - 2 pages]
3. Workshop Meeting Record 15 April 2024 [**8.1.3** - 2 pages]
4. Workshop Meeting Record 17 April 2024 [**8.1.4** - 1 page]

Recommendation:

That the information be noted.

9 Organisational Improvement

9.1 Action Sheet Report (CEO-06/06/0010)

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

This report was prepared by Mr Justin Troy, Coordinator Governance and Compliance.

At the time of preparation of this report, the officer did not have a general or material conflict of interest in any matter to which the report or advice relates.

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to provide information.

Summary:

The attached report shows the progress made in relation to the resolutions from the 24 April 2024 Ordinary Council meeting.

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

Attachment:

1. Action Sheet from Ordinary Council Meeting 24 April 2024 - Tallangatta [9.1.1 - 2 pages]

Background/History:

Not applicable.

Relevant Law (s.9(2)(a)):

Not applicable.

Options – Best Outcomes for the Community (s.9(2)(b)):

Not applicable.

Sustainability Implications (s.9(2)(c)):

Not applicable.

Community Engagement (s.9(2)(d)):

Not applicable.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement (s.9(2)(e)):

Not applicable.

Collaboration (s.9(2)(f)):

Not applicable.

Financial Viability/Budget Impact (s.9(2)(g)):

Not applicable.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies (s.9(2)(h)):

Not applicable.

Council Plans and Policies:

Not applicable.

Transparency of Decision (s.9(2)(i)) :

It is the officer's view that it is appropriate to consider this matter in a Council meeting that is open to the public.

Risk Assessment:

Not applicable.

Officer's View:

It is the officer's view that good progress has been made in relation to the actions arising from previous meetings.

9.2 Quarterly Budget Report

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

This report was prepared by Mr Dylan Howard, Manager Finance.

At the time of preparation of this report, the officer did not have a general or material conflict of interest in any matter to which the report or advice relates.

Purpose of Report:

To present the Quarterly Budget Report in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Summary:

The quarterly budget report presented in the appendix demonstrates that income is ahead of budget due to the deferral of operating and capital grant income from 2022/23 into the current financial year, and this has also driven a strong operating surplus in comparison to budget.

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

Attachment:

1. Quarterly Budget Report as at 31 March 2024 [**9.2.1** - 6 pages]

Background/History:

This report provides a quarterly update on the financial performance of the organisation.

Relevant Law (s.9(2)(a)):

Section 97 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires the following:

- (1) *As soon as practicable after the end of each quarter of the financial year, the Chief Executive Officer must ensure that a quarterly budget report is presented to the Council at a Council meeting which is open to the public.*
- (2) *A quarterly budget report must include –*

- (1) a comparison of the actual and budgeted results to date; and*
- (2) an explanation of any material variations; and*
- (3) any other matters prescribed by the regulations.*

This report meets the requirements of the Act.

Options – Best Outcomes for the Community (s.9(2)(b)):

Not Applicable.

Sustainability Implications (s.9(2)(c)):

Not applicable.

Community Engagement (s.9(2)(d)):

Not Applicable.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement (s.9(2)(e)):

Not Applicable.

Collaboration (s.9(2)(f)):

Not Applicable.

Financial Viability/Budget Impact (s.9(2)(g)):

Council has achieved a net operating result that is higher than anticipated primarily due to the carry forward of selected grant funds from 2021/22 and 2022/23. This is likely to be amended through year end journals to defer any further unearned income into the next financial year. Timing issues aside, Council is still meeting budgeted income, and will achieve a better result than the forecast deficit for the 2023/24 financial year.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies (s.9(2)(h)):

Not Applicable.

Council Plans and Policies:

Council Plans:

Not applicable.

Council Policies:

Not applicable.

Transparency of Decision (s.9(2)(i)) :

It is the officer's view that it is appropriate to consider this matter in a Council meeting that is open to the public.

Risk Assessment:

Whilst the quarterly budget report presents a positive operating result and the cash position remains strong, a large portion of this is committed to projects (operating and capital) for which the funding was obtained.

Officer's View:

The organisation is still in a strong financial position, however a significant portion of Council resources are committed to budgeted capital works and services such as flood recovery funding. The presentation of the budget for 2024/25 highlighted that into the future, Council remains dependent on the receipt of one-off grant funding to support renewal of its aging infrastructure into the future. Significantly, the funding being supplied by State and Federal governments is more often tied to construction of new infrastructure, as opposed to the renewal of roads, bridges and drainage assets. An increase in untied government grant support is required to facilitate this asset renewal, as Council will be unable to commit Council funds to the to the extent that we are budgeting for in the next financial year.

9.3 Audit and Risk Committee - Notice of Resignation

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

This report was prepared by Mr Justin Troy, Coordinator Governance and Compliance.

At the time of preparation of this report, the officer did not have a general or material conflict of interest in any matter to which the report or advice relates.

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to provide information.

Summary:

This report acknowledges the resignation of Ms Loren Murray from the Audit and Risk Committee. As per the Audit and Risk Committee Charter, an independent member may resign before the expiry of their term by notifying Council of their intention in writing.

Recommendation:

That:

1. Ms Loren Murray's resignation be accepted by Council; and
2. Ms Murray be thanked for her contribution to the Audit and Risk Committee.

Attachment:

Nil

Background/History:

Section 53 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires that a Council must establish an Audit and Risk Committee, which is an advisory committee of Council. An Audit and Risk Committee must include members who are Councillors of Council and consist of a majority of members who are not Councillors of Council and who collectively have expertise in financial management and risk, and experience in public sector management.

Ms Murray was appointed to the Audit and Risk Committee by Council at the 26 July

2023 Ordinary Council Meeting, with the term expiring 31 July 2027. A resignation was provided to the Acting Chief Executive Officer on 10 May and in accordance with the Charter, is now being reported to Council for noting. Ms Murray brought extensive experience in WHS risk and compliance which was very much valued and relied upon by the Committee.

Relevant Law (s.9(2)(a)):

The resignation is made in accordance with Council's Audit and Risk Committee Charter, which has been adopted in accordance with the requirements of section 53 and 54 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Options – Best Outcomes for the Community (s.9(2)(b)):

Not applicable.

Sustainability Implications (s.9(2)(c)):

Not applicable.

Community Engagement (s.9(2)(d)):

Not applicable.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement (s.9(2)(e)):

Not applicable.

Collaboration (s.9(2)(f)):

Not applicable.

Financial Viability/Budget Impact (s.9(2)(g)):

Not applicable.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies (s.9(2)(h)):

Not applicable.

Council Plans and Policies:

Council Plans:

Not applicable.

Council Policies:

Audit and Risk Committee Charter

Transparency of Decision (s.9(2)(i)) :

It is the officer's view that it is appropriate to consider this matter in a Council meeting that is open to the public.

Risk Assessment:

The recruitment for a new independent member will commence as soon as possible, with a focus on attracting an individual with OHS risk and compliance experience to ensure diversity in the skillset and experience of the Committee.

Officer's View:

It is the officer's view that Ms Murray provided valuable contributions to the Audit and Risk Committee and should be thanked for her efforts.

10 Bushfire Relief and Recovery

There are no Bushfire Relief and Recovery reports.

11 Community Wellbeing

11.1 Reconciliation Action Plan

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

This report was prepared by Ms Amanda Pagan, Director Community and Planning.

At the time of preparation of this report, the officer did not have a general or material conflict of interest in any matter to which the report or advice relates.

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's direction.

Summary:

This report seeks in-principle approval of the draft Reconciliation Action Plan. The intention is for Council to approve the submission to Reconciliation Australia for feedback and finalisation.

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Provide in-principle approval to the draft Reconciliation Action Plan; and
2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to submit the draft Reconciliation Action Plan to Reconciliation Australia for feedback and final endorsement.

Attachment:

1. RAP Towong DRAFT April 2024 [**11.1.1** - 12 pages]

Background/History:

Since 2006, Reconciliation Action Plans (RAPs) have empowered organizations to take meaningful and sustainable steps towards advancing reconciliation. Centred on the principles of relationships, respect and opportunities, RAPs offer concrete benefits for First Nations peoples, promoting economic equity and supporting First

Nations self-determination. Endorsed by Reconciliation Australia, the RAP framework offers a nationally recognised structure, to guide us as an organisation, within a broader movement, towards reconciliation across Australia.

In 2022, we embarked on the journey to develop a RAP for Towong Shire Council. Our RAP is a *Reflect* RAP. A *Reflect* RAP helps prepare an organisation to engage in reconciliation meaningfully. Committing to a *Reflect* RAP starts with engaging staff and leaders in understanding the importance of reconciliation. It includes developing relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders, and scoping where your organisation can best have impact in your sphere of influence. A *Reflect* RAP is implemented over 12 – 18 months.

The journey of developing the draft *Reflect* RAP began with the signing of a joint commitment statement on reconciliation with Corryong Health Service, Tallangatta Health Service and Walwa Bush Nursing Centre, Alpine Shire Council and Alpine Health.

A small staff team engaged in initial discussions regarding the draft content, and the final draft was circulated across the organisation in April 2024. With the draft complete, we seek Council approval to submit it to Reconciliation Australia for review and feedback. Following feedback, we anticipate finalising the draft and securing a formal endorsement from Reconciliation Australia. There may be some time before the final document receives endorsement, but this should not stop us from implementing the actions outlined in the RAP as a show of our commitment to reconciliation.

Relevant Law (s.9(2)(a)):

Naming rules for places in Victoria 2022

Options – Best Outcomes for the Community (s.9(2)(b)):

The draft RAP applies solely to Council and its staff and not the broader community of Towong Shire. Our commitment to this endeavour aligns with the community vision: "*Towong Shire will be the ideal place to be: welcoming, vibrant, and diverse communities with quality facilities and services.*"

Sustainability Implications (s.9(2)(c)):

Social

Developing a RAP brings numerous social and economic advantages:

- Acknowledging First Nations History: A RAP aids in acknowledging historical injustices and ongoing challenges faced by First Nations peoples, demonstrating our commitment to understanding and addressing the impacts of colonisation.
- Commitment to Reconciliation: Creating a RAP marks a significant stride towards genuine reconciliation. It fosters structured engagement with First Nations communities, cultivates respectful relationships, and works towards shared goals, driving continuous improvement.
- Cultural Competence and Awareness: Engaging in the RAP process enhances staff cultural competence and awareness, leading to more inclusive practices and policies that better serve First Nations stakeholders and broaden our understanding of diverse perspectives and needs.
- Social Responsibility: Reconciliation aligns with principles of social responsibility and ethical business practices, fulfilling our obligation to positively contribute to the communities we serve.
- Organisational Benefits: Implementing a RAP can enhance reputation, boost employee satisfaction, and strengthen relationships with First Nations stakeholders, yielding tangible benefits for the organisation.

Community Engagement (s.9(2)(d)):

For the purposes of the RAP, Council staff and Councillors were the key groups engaged in the development of the document. Throughout April a range of workplace sessions were run to engage staff in the process. Engaging staff should foster a sense of ownership and commitment to the RAP's goals and objectives, motivating them to contribute to its development and implementation actively.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement (s.9(2)(e)):

Through the RAP process, we have critically reflected on our practices, policies, and relationships with First Nations peoples. By identifying areas for improvement and setting measurable goals for reconciliation, the RAP provides a framework for ongoing assessment and evaluation of progress.

Collaboration (s.9(2)(f)):

Reconciliation Australia (RA) is a critical partner in developing Reconciliation Action Plans (RAPs). Reconciliation Australia has provided invaluable guidance, resources, and support throughout the RAP process and in the development of the draft RAP.

In addition, we have actively involved Emergency Recovery Victoria's Aboriginal Culture and Healing Coordinator to support ongoing relationship building with local First Nations Groups. In addition, we have developed initial relationships with the

Duduroa Dhargal Aboriginal Corporation on specific projects related to bushfire recovery and early years education.

Financial Viability/Budget Impact (s.9(2)(g)):

Budget requirements and availability have been confirmed, grant funding has been sought where possible and all expenditure is being monitored and managed within agreed budget allocations.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies (s.9(2)(h)):

Victorian Aboriginal and Local Government Strategy

Council Plans and Policies:

Council Plans:

This report supports the following Council Plan 2021-2025 priorities.

2. Community Wellbeing - Encourage and support all people in our Shire to be healthy, happy, connected and resilient.

2.3 Maintain a contemporary Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan which reflects our community priorities

2.12 Build relationships and develop understanding of aboriginal people and consider the commitment to an ongoing reconciliation action plan process

Council Policies:

Not applicable.

Transparency of Decision (s.9(2)(i)):

It is the officer's view that it is appropriate to consider this matter in a Council meeting that is open to the public.

Risk Assessment:

No risk assessment is required for the Reconciliation Action Plan process.

Officer's View:

The development of the RAP is a major milestone in Council's commitment to reconciliation. The outcomes of the RAP should make the organisation more inclusive and welcoming to all First Nations communities.

11.2 Early Years and Maternal Child Health Report - January 2024 - March 2024

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

This report was prepared by Mr Mark Florence, Acting Director Community and Planning.

At the time of preparation of this report, the officer did not have a general or material conflict of interest in any matter to which the report or advice relates.

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to provide information.

Summary:

Previous reports in relation to the Early Years and Maternal Child Health (MCH) services were issued along with Community Services information. Since the last report, the two items have been separated to allow an Individual Early Years and MCH report.

Throughout the reporting period, the following successful activities and events were delivered:

- Progressive implementation of changes to the management structure of the Early Years services.
- Staff participation in the Teacher Talk Program.
- Children from Tallangatta Early Years contributed artwork to the Tallangatta Show art exhibit.
- Harmony week was celebrated by all services,
- Easter was celebrated by all through Easter Hat parades, Easter egg hunts and Easter craft creations.
- Significant work with vulnerable children and matters of Child Protection.
- Large numbers in attendance at Corryong playgroup – up to 10 families in some weeks.
- Successful Gateway Health Emotions Coaching workshops conducted in Tallangatta and Corryong.
- Connections made with staff at Royal Flying Doctor's Service to talk about having their dental van visit our more rural communities like Corryong.
- Collaborating to deliver Smile Squad services for the local schools in the Towong Shire area.

Key engagements/networking with the community this month:

- Foodbank
- Department Families Fairness and Housing(DFFH)
- Aboriginal Health Service MCH nurses
- Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Association
- Mungabareena Aboriginal Corporation
- Upper Murray Family Care
- Social Work Albury Wodonga Health
- Walwa Bush Nursing Centre
- Corryong Medical Practice Nurses and Medical Staff
- Child protection
- Family Violence Action Committee
- Royal Flying Doctor Service
- Gateway Health Parenting Team
- The Orange Door
- National Centre for Farmers Health
- Corryong College
- Ovens Murray Public Health Unit

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

Attachment:

1. Early Years and MCH Report April 2024 [**11.2.1** - 3 pages]

Background/History:

This report is presented at regular intervals across the year.

Relevant Law (s.9(2)(a)):

Not applicable.

Options – Best Outcomes for the Community (s.9(2)(b)):

The Early Years units provide services to improve educational and wellbeing outcomes for young children and families and carers.

Sustainability Implications (s.9(2)(c)):

Not applicable.

Community Engagement (s.9(2)(d)):

There were several key community engagement activities throughout the reporting period including:

- Delivery of required Early Years and Maternal Child Health services.
- Delivery of Supported Playgroup sessions

Innovation and Continuous Improvement (s.9(2)(e)):

The Maternal Child Health and Family Support Services continue to refine processes and communication channels to improve the identification of known or potentially at-risk children and families.

The early intervention practices can have important effects on family care, and child development.

Collaboration (s.9(2)(f)):

The teams continued to participate in key collaborations, including:

- Family Violence networks in Corryong and Tallangatta;
- Delivery of professional development for educators and teachers across the municipality with the Department of Education (through School Readiness Funding); and
- Delivery of Early Years projects and parenting programs with the Australian Childhood Foundation, Tallangatta Health, Gateway Health and the Department of Education and Training

Financial Viability/Budget Impact (s.9(2)(g)):

Budget requirements and availability have been confirmed, grant funding has been sought where possible and all expenditure is being monitored and managed within agreed budget allocations.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies (s.9(2)(h)):

Community services activities have been conducted in accordance with relevant state and national plans, including:

- The Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority's National Quality Framework;
- The Victorian State Government's Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework;

- The Victorian State Government's Education State Early Childhood Reform Plan;

Council Plans and Policies:

Council Plans:

This report supports the following Council Plan 2021-2025 priorities:

2. Community Wellbeing - Encourage and support all people in our Shire to be healthy, happy, connected and resilient.
 - 2.3 Maintain a contemporary Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan which reflects our community priorities
 - 2.7 Expand and improve early years services across the Shire to support young families

Council Policies:

Not applicable.

Transparency of Decision (s.9(2)(i)) :

It is the officer's view that it is appropriate to consider this matter in a Council meeting that is open to the public.

Risk Assessment:

Not applicable

Officer's View:

The Early Years services continue to deliver appropriate and well-managed services which meet the needs of children, families, and carers. With minimal private sector operators offering these services in the municipality, the community are in critical need of these services.

12 Asset Management

12.1 Asset Management Report

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

This report was prepared by Mr Matthew Fleet, Senior Asset Engineer.

At the time of preparation of this report, the officer did not have a general or material conflict of interest in any matter to which the report or advice relates.

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of Asset Management activities throughout the Shire for the period of 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024.

Summary:

This report presents the overall status of the asset management program up to 31 March 2024.

Including:

- Asset inspections
- Asset maintenance and replacement programs
- Issue of permits

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

Attachment:

Nil

Background/History:

This report is produced bi-monthly by the Infrastructure and Environment department, to provide a progress overview of asset management activities and key deliverables of the Council Plan 2021-2025.

The asset team has progressed road inspections across the Shire as per Council's Road Management Plan and annual inspection program. These inspections have informed the annual major patching program which will continue into June.

The annual reseal and guardrail replacement programs have now been completed, with Council's asset team now focusing on developing the program for the next financial year. As part of this year's program of works, 12km of Council sealed road network was resealed, and 324m of guardrail was replaced on both roads and bridges.

An independent bridge inspection program is in the final stages to identify works to be delivered in the 2024/25 capital bridge renewal program and compile data to support future flood damage claims.

A tender was advertised for the design and construction of a new Walwa playground. The tender has now closed with the evaluation of the designs now in progress.

A tender is also currently advertised for playground audit inspections. The outcome of this audit will determine the current condition of existing playground facilities and facilitate a future program of playground renewal and maintenance works.

Storm damage repairs are progressing on roads damaged in the January and October 2022 flood events with a tender out for the reconstruction of the damaged Lake Road culvert and preliminary design investigations including a geotechnical survey being undertaken for the replacement of the Spring Creek Road Bridge.

The delivery of the timber furniture renewal and maintenance program is progressing well. Works have been completed at the Tallangatta Intergrated Community Centre, the Cudgewa tennis court grandstand and at multiple public open space areas throughout the Shire. Most works included the replacement of broken timbers, re-sanding, painting and oiling of aged timber furniture components.

Council officers have undertaken a total of 166 bridge and major culvert inspections and have issued a total number of 18 permits for this period including 10 Legal Point of Discharge Permits and 8 Working Within Road Reserve Permits.

Relevant Law (s.9(2)(a)):

The Local Government Act 2020

Options – Best Outcomes for the Community (s.9(2)(b)):

Not Applicable.

Sustainability Implications (s.9(2)(c)):

Economic

Works within the asset management program provide local economic stimulus through the employment of local contractors.

Social

Projects within the asset management program are prioritised in line with the *Council Plan 2021-2025* to improve social amenity and economic outcomes across the Shire including road patching and resheeting of gravel roads.

Environmental/Climate Change

Drier weather conditions have seen some improvement in the condition of sealed and unsealed roads.

Community Engagement (s.9(2)(d)):

Community engagement within the asset team for capital projects has continued over this period including officers meeting community members at the Mechanics Institute in Mitta and community discussions regarding the design of the new Walwa playground.

Asset officers continue to assist Shire residents to the best of their ability whenever they are requested to do so while carrying out their daily responsibilities beyond the confines of the Tallangatta office.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement (s.9(2)(e)):

From a safety perspective, day and night road inspections will now be undertaken on the same day for the required road section and area. This will allow our road inspection officers to identify any road hazards during their day inspections that may have an impact on their ability to undertake night inspections safely.

All night inspection officers are now issued with 5-watt UHF radios, Personal Location Device, torches, suitable high vis clothing and flashing lights on their vehicle. It's also a requirement that all night inspections are signed off via text message to the officer's manager once the officer has safely returned to the Tallangatta office.

Collaboration (s.9(2)(f)):

Not Applicable.

Financial Viability/Budget Impact (s.9(2)(g)):

Due to changes in the financial reporting structure of the Asset Management report, the previously documented Quarterly Financial Table has been removed from this May 2024 Asset Management report.

An improved and updated Quarterly Financial Table will be presented as part of the July 2024 Asset Management report.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies (s.9(2)(h)):

Not Applicable.

Council Plans and Policies:

Council Plans:

This report supports the following *Council Plan 2021-2025 priorities*.

Asset Management Plan - Maintain and improve our Shire's infrastructure to meet the levels of service established in consultation with our communities.

Council Policies:

This report supports the following Council Policies.

Asset Management Policy

Stock Grid Policy

Asset Valuation Policy

Community Engagement Policy

Road Construction Policy

Transparency of Decision (s.9(2)(i)):

It is the officer's view that it is appropriate to consider this matter in a Council meeting that is open to the public.

Risk Assessment:

The ongoing demand for suitability qualified road maintenance contractors is still affecting their immediate availability for Council. As a result of time delays, this is leading to an expansion in the scale of necessary road works and consequently escalating the overall cost of repairing these expanded areas.

Officer's View:

The recent changes in weather patterns over the past month are expected to assist with asset restoration timeframes.

Regarding asset inspections and data collection along with the current condition of our bridges and major culverts, it is expected that the asset team will be well placed in the future identification of replacement and rectification projects for the 2025/26 capital budget.

It's the officer's view that substantial future capital budget will be required for future maintenance requirements and replacement of Council assets.

12.2 Capital Works Report

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

This report was prepared by Mr Vilfred Correa, Deputy Director Infrastructure and Environment.

At the time of preparation of this report, the officer did not have a general or material conflict of interest in any matter to which the report or advice relates.

Purpose of Report:

This report gives an overview of the 2023/2024 Capital Works Program to 31 March 2024. It is provided for information only.

Summary:

This report presents the overall status of the active capital works program to the end of March 2024 and includes updates on project status, progress, expenditure and completion risk.

Recommendation:

That Council approve:

1. Reallocation of \$30,000 from the 2023/2024 Dust Strips capital budget to the Major Patching budget;
2. Reallocation of \$30,000 from the 2023/2024 Dust Strips capital budget to the Resheeting budget;
3. Reallocation of \$25,596 from Triangles Irrigation Upgrades budget (LRCIP funding) to the Corryong Weighbridge and Truckwash;
4. Reallocation of \$12,375 from Annual Drainage Renewal to Corryong Weighbridge and Truckwash;
5. Reallocation of \$155,926 from Eskdale walking track (LRCIP funding) to Corryong Weighbridge and Truckwash;
6. Reallocation of \$65,000 from Drainage Renewal budget to the Stock Route budget;
7. Reallocation of \$180,000 from Roads to Recovery funding, \$55,000 from Street Furniture Renewal and \$42,075 from the Pavement Renewal budget to Mitta Streetscape;
8. Reallocation of \$30,184 from Shade Sails (LRCIP funding) to the Triangles Toilet Block and Visitor Information Centre; and

9. The expenditure of up to \$150,000 of the 2024/2025 Major Patching budget prior to winter.

Attachment:

1. 2023-24 Capital Budget - Quarter Three [**12.2.1** - 3 pages]

Background/History:

This is a new report that replaces the quarterly budget report for capital works projects and the project status update previously provided with the bi-monthly Asset Management Report. It will be produced by the Infrastructure and Environment team bi-monthly to provide a progress overview of the capital works program.

The Council budget for 2023/2024 includes a capital works budget of \$26.7 million. The capital works program consists of sixty-two projects including new projects and projects carried forward from previous years. The largest sixteen projects represent 64% of the total capital works budget for 2023/2024. Five are complete, seven are under construction and four are in the tender stage and are expected to be completed by December 2024. Out of the forty-six remaining projects, fifteen have been completed, seventeen are under construction, eight out for tender and six are in the design/engagement phase.

The annual reseal and guardrail replacement program has now been completed for 2023/24. The continued dry weather has enabled several road projects to progress well including the Stock Route upgrade which will be completed in the next quarter along with ongoing works on Yabba Road and Wises Creek Road Stage 3 projects.

The Walwa-Jingellic walking track including a 5km sealed walking trail, along with four pedestrian bridges was completed this quarter. The Bellbridge walking track Stage 2 and Dartmouth Splash Park tenders are presented in this meeting for approval.

Relevant Law (s.9(2)(a)):

The Local Government Act 2020

Options – Best Outcomes for the Community (s.9(2)(b)):

Not Applicable.

Sustainability Implications (s.9(2)(c)):

Economic

Works within the capital works program provide local economic stimulus through the employment of local contractors.

Social

Projects within the capital works program are prioritised in line with the *Council Plan 2021-2025* to improve social amenity and economic outcomes across the Shire.

Environmental/Climate Change

The ongoing dry weather conditions has led to continued road construction activities over the quarter.

Community Engagement (s.9(2)(d)):

Community engagement for capital projects has continued over this period including specific engagement activities with business owners for the Corryong CBD Streetscape and parking, Corryong skate park, Dartmouth splash park/pump track and the Walwa Park playground.

Community engagement is also undertaken through project related datascape requests with 192 received this financial year and 168 resolved to date.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement (s.9(2)(e)):

The capital works program provides for the continuous strategic improvement of assets across the Shire.

Collaboration (s.9(2)(f)):

Not Applicable.

Financial Viability/Budget Impact (s.9(2)(g)):

As of 31 March 2024	\$	%
Total Budget	\$27,733,510	100
Year To Date (31 March 2024)	\$8,102,084	29
Left to Spend	\$19,631,426	71
Forecast carry forward to 2024/2025	\$12,785,305	46

As of 31 March 2024	Number of Projects	%
Total projects	62	100
Projects completed to 31 March 2024	20	32
Projects left to complete	42	68
Forecast carry forward to 2024/2025	31	50

The forecast carry forward is expected to reduce over the next quarter with many projects currently out to tender or under construction. This is a conservative forecast taking into account the risks of weather and availability of contractors to start on tendered works.

There are several budget adjustments required to ensure there are adequate funds to complete active capital works projects. These include the Stock Route Upgrade, Mitta Streetscape

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies (s.9(2)(h)):

Not Applicable.

Council Plans and Policies:

Council Plans:

This report supports the following *Council Plan 2021-2025* priorities.

1. Asset Management - Maintain and improve our Shire’s infrastructure to meet the levels of service established in consultation with our communities.

- 1.1 Deliver 100% of the annual capital works program and bushfire recovery projects
- 1.3 Complete Stage 2 Great River Road
- 1.4 Continue the upgrade of Georges Creek Road
- 1.5 Complete upgrades of Hanson Street from Sugarloaf Road to Kiel Street
- 1.6 Complete the upgrade of the Stock Route in Corryong

- 1.7 Progressively deliver the upgrade of the unsealed sections of Lake Road
- 1.8 Investigate upgrade options for Wisers Creek Road
- 1.11 Seek funding to deliver upgrades of load limited bridges on strategic transport routes
- 1.12 Continue to deliver the upgrade of unsealed streets in urban areas program
- 1.13 Complete the upgrade of the Corryong CBD
- 1.14.1 Complete streetscape upgrades in Dartmouth
- 1.14.2 Complete streetscape upgrades in Mitta Mitta
- 1.16 Continue to deliver the strategic footpath network improvement program in urban areas
- 1.18 Seek funding to deliver improved public toilets across the shire
- 1.22 Review and deliver the strategic parks and playgrounds upgrade program to completion
- 1.23 Undertake upgrades at the Colac Colac Caravan Park to ensure long term viability of the park
- 1.25 Deliver the Corryong aerodrome 24 hour fuel project
- 1.27 Deliver annual asset inspection and renewal programs per asset management and road management plan requirements
- 1.28 Implement the maintenance program for Council's buildings

Council Policies:

Procurement Policy adopted in June 2023.

Transparency of Decision (s.9(2)(i)):

It is the officer's view that it is appropriate to consider this matter in a Council meeting that is open to the public.

Risk Assessment:

Limited contractor availability has and will continue to cause delays on road construction projects due to a high demand for suitable contractors across the state. The team will continue to contact local and regional contractors to encourage tender submissions and quotations. A review of tender documentation and procurement processes will be undertaken in the next quarter.

Wet weather may begin to delay certain projects over the next quarter. A risk assessment will be undertaken for each project as weather conditions develop into the winter period to assess expected delays and the postponement of projects until September to ensure community and worker safety.

Recruitment of suitably qualified and experienced project managers continues to be challenging and has resulted in the delayed start of some projects as consultant services have not been readily available in lieu of staff vacancies.

Officer's View:

The team has made significant progress on the completion of the capital works program this year when compared to last financial year. The financial report provided presents a year-to-date (YTD) expenditure as of 31 March 2024. As per the report, the total expenditure for the year is \$8.1 million and is approximately 30% of the capital budget. However, some of the larger projects are under construction and the progress claims are likely to reflect a larger spend in the last quarter.

There are specific projects including Mitta Streetscape, Stock Route Upgrade, Weighbridge and Truck Wash, Triangles Toilet Block and Visitor Information Centre where expenditure has exceeded the allocated budget due to changes in project scope and unanticipated storm damage mid construction. Council has been fortunate to receive \$500,000 in funding under the State Government's Council Flood Support Fund to supplement some of the additional works. The recommendations in the above report seek approval to adjust project budgets within the overall capital budget to address any remaining budget adjustments. Some of these projects are funded through the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phases 1 to 4. This funding can only be reallocated to projects within the phase they were funded through.

Where road conditions are considered unsuitable to be left over winter and require major patching and resheeting to ensure the safety of the community a reallocation of road renewal budgets has been recommended.

12.3 Cleaning of Municipal Buildings Contract No. 2023/24-056

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

This report was prepared by Mrs Natalie Butler, Technical Officer - Maintenance.

At the time of preparation of this report, the officer did not have a general or material conflict of interest in any matter to which the report or advice relates.

Purpose of Report:

A decision is required by Council.

Summary:

This report presents the tender results and provides advice for the award of Contract No. 2023/24-056 Cleaning of Municipal Buildings. A copy of the detailed tender assessment has been provided to Councillors prior to the meeting.

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Award the two-year Contract No. 2023/24-056 Cleaning of Municipal Buildings to Waynes Cleaning Services for the lump sum of \$176,789 excluding GST;
2. That the contract include options for two additional one-year extensions with CPI adjustments;
3. The use of the Common Seal be authorised in accordance with Local Law 1 – Common Seal and Miscellaneous Penalties for the purpose of signing the contract document; and
4. The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to approve contract variations up to the total value of the allocated budget.

Attachment:

Nil

Background/History:

Council contracts out the cleaning of municipal buildings located in Tallangatta,

Corryong and Bellbridge. A tender process was initiated to meet the requirements of Council's *Procurement Policy* as the current contracts are nearing the end of their term.

The cleaning tender included the following buildings:

- Tallangatta Council Office;
- Old Tallangatta Kinder / Neighbourhood House
- Tallangatta Integrated Community Centre (TICC) / Early Years Centre (TEYLC);
- Tallangatta Seniors Community Room;
- Bellbridge Early Years Centre / Maternal Child Health Centre;
- Corryong Office / Library;
- Corryong Visitor Information Centre (CVIC);
- Corryong Early Years Centre (CEYLC);
- Corryong Maternal Child Health Centre (MCHC); and the
- Upper Murray Community Recovery Hub (UMCRH) *

*The UMCRH was included in the tender as a provisional item pending the ongoing use of this facility and required cleaning requirements.

This report summarises the assessment of tenders received for the cleaning of the above municipal buildings and provides advice to assist with a Council decision for the award of one consolidated contract to deliver these services.

Relevant Law (s.9(2)(a)):

The *Local Government Act 2020*

Options – Best Outcomes for the Community (s.9(2)(b)):

Option 1: Approve the Cleaning of Municipal Buildings Contract as per the recommendation in this report or;

Option 2: Nominate an alternative contractor from the tender submissions.

Sustainability Implications (s.9(2)(c)):

This contract will be funded through Council's operational budgets. The services will provide local economic stimulus through employment of local staff and a keen commitment from the contractor to provide monetary support through sponsorship of local community groups.

Community Engagement (s.9(2)(d)):

Servicing frequencies and the time allocated have been reviewed and updated following feedback from staff, user groups and the current contractor.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement (s.9(2)(e)):

The recommended contractor has a strong community connection and wish to extend this in Towong. They are strong believers of working within the community to support the locals, showing a strong social connection, and proving to be an employer of choice.

Collaboration (s.9(2)(f)):

Not Applicable.

Financial Viability/Budget Impact (s.9(2)(g)):

The contract value is within the allocated operational budget for the cleaning of municipal facilities.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies (s.9(2)(h)):

Not Applicable.

Council Plans and Policies:

Council Plans:

This report supports the following *Council Plan 2021-2025 priorities*.

1.28 Implement the maintenance program for Council's buildings

Council Policies:

The tender process has been delivered in accordance with Council's *Procurement Policy* for spend thresholds of \$150,000 and over.

Transparency of Decision (s.9(2)(i)):

It is the officer's view that it is appropriate to consider this matter in a Council meeting that is open to the public.

Risk Assessment:

Not Applicable.

Officer's View:

Historically, engaging contractors to deliver cleaning services on a facility-by-facility basis has been driven by the geographic location of the service provider and has proven effective in meeting Council's commitment to engage local providers, who are often sole traders. However, the level of supervision required to manage these individuals has been challenging and at times resulted in a lower than preferred level of service.

The tendered contract has a two-year term with a maximum of two additional year-by-year performance based and business need extensions. A review of the annual sum will be adjusted in line the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

The tender included a schedule of rates for additional cleaning services on weekdays, weekends and public holidays. This will be in the contract as additional works to be paid in a lump sum and will ensure cleaners can be engaged when additional services are required. For example, pre and post events and festivals, or other unpredictable circumstances.

The recommended contractor has completed a thorough inspection of all sites, investigated opportunity within the community for employment and social support opportunities and have current contracts within the area. They are wishing to expand and have staff ready.

It is the officer's recommendation that Waynes Cleaning Services are awarded Contract 2023/24-056 Cleaning of Municipal Buildings.

12.4 Dartmouth Splash Pad - Tender Evaluation - Contract No 2023/2024-051

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

This report was prepared by Mr Craig Heiner, Consultant Project Manager.

At the time of preparation of this report, the officer did not have a general or material conflict of interest in any matter to which the report or advice relates.

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of the report is to provide information to support the assessment of tender submissions for the Dartmouth Splash Pad construction and to seek Council approval to appoint the recommended contractor.

Summary:

This report demonstrates the tender process followed for the procurement of a suitable contractor to undertake the Dartmouth Splash Pad construction.

The key elements of the Dartmouth project are:

- Design and construction of a new splash pad, including an associated re-use irrigation option.
- Construction of an earthen pump / jumps track around the park.
- Reconfiguration of the playground to enable the splash pad construction including a new edge beam.

This tender evaluation relates to splash pad design and construction only, as all tenderers elected to not price the irrigation element. This will either be managed separately or included in their scope of works by agreement. This report provides a recommendation for the most suitable contractor to undertake these works. A comparative tender evaluation for Contract No. 2023/2024-051 has been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

Recommendation:

That:

1. Council award Contract No. 2023/2024-051 for the Dartmouth Splash Pad construction to Farley Pools Australian Pty Ltd for a contract value of \$240,829 excluding GST;
2. The use of the Common Seal be authorised in accordance with Local Law 1 – Common Seal and Miscellaneous Penalties for the purpose of signing the contract document; and
3. The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to approve contract variations up to the total value of the allocated budget.

Attachment:

Nil

Background/History:

Council has received funding to deliver a Splash Pad and pump / jumps bike track in Dartmouth through the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.

A tender was issued in March 2024 in line with Council's *Procurement Policy* with advertising through www.tenders.net, in local newspapers and on Council's Facebook page. Three tender submissions were received. A comparative tender evaluation for Contract No. 2023/24-051 has been provided to Councillors prior to the meeting.

Quotes are being separately sourced for the pump / jumps bike track and playground re-configuration.

Relevant Law (s.9(2)(a)):

The *Local Government Act 2020*

Options – Best Outcomes for the Community (s.9(2)(b)):

In terms of achieving the best outcome for the municipal community, including future generations, two options are proposed for considerations:

Option 1 – Approve the tender as presented and award Contract No. 2023/2024-051 for the Dartmouth Splash Pad construction be awarded to Farley Pools Australian Pty Ltd for a contract value of \$240,829 excluding GST which includes \$30,000 of provisional items to implement design changes;

Option 2 – Retender the works.

Sustainability Implications (s.9(2)(c)):

Economic

The project is funded through the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (Phase 3) and a Council contribution. It is expected to assist in attracting family visitation to Dartmouth which can improve economic outcomes for local businesses.

Social

The Splash Pad will add to the visitor experience in Dartmouth.

Climate Change/Environmental

In addition, the re-use of water to provide irrigation for the lawns in the local park will provide a greener landscape in summer.

Community Engagement (s.9(2)(d)):

Community members were invited to provide input into the design of the Splash Pad with the Progress Association / Hall Committee providing valuable input to the project. The finalised design will be shared with the community for feedback on what can be delivered within the project constraints of budget and site conditions.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement (s.9(2)(e)):

Not Applicable.

Collaboration (s.9(2)(f)):

Not Applicable.

Financial Viability/Budget Impact (s.9(2)(g)):

The recommended contract value is \$240,829 excluding GST. This is within the budget for the project and is expected to leave provide sufficient funding for the other elements of the broader project.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies (s.9(2)(h)):

Not Applicable.

Council Plans and Policies:

Council Plans:

This report supports the following *Council Plan 2021-2025* priorities.

1. Asset Management - Maintain and improve our Shire's infrastructure to meet the levels of service established in consultation with our communities.

1.1 Deliver 100% of the annual capital works program and bushfire recovery projects.

1.14.1 Complete streetscape upgrades in Dartmouth.

Council Policies:

Procurement Policy adopted in June 2023.

Transparency of Decision (s.9(2)(i)):

It is the officer's view that it is appropriate to consider this matter in a Council meeting that is open to the public.

Risk Assessment:

There is a risk of weather delays however the relatively small scale of the construction footprint means only a short window for on-site works is required.

Officer's View:

The references provided by Farley Pools Australian Pty Ltd in their tender submission and the works completed by this contractor for Tallangatta Swimming Pool Refurbishment support the view that they will deliver good value and a low risk to Council for this project. It is the officer's recommendation that Farley Pools Australian Pty Ltd are awarded Contract No. 2023/2024-051 for the lump sum of \$240,829 excluding GST.

12.5 Bellbridge Walking Track Stage 2 & 3 Tender Evaluation Contract No 2023/2024-045

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

This report was prepared by Mr Jason Schneider-Fuller, Consultant Project Manager.

At the time of preparation of this report, the consultant did not have a general or material conflict of interest in any matter to which the report or advice relates.

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to provide information and seek a Council decision to appoint a contractor to deliver the construction of the Bellbridge Walking Track Stages 2 and 3.

Summary:

This report demonstrates the tender process followed for the procurement of a suitable contractor to undertake upgrade works on the Bellbridge walking track including supporting drainage works, pavement preparation and sealing. This report also provides a recommendation of the most suitable contractor to undertake these works. A comparative tender evaluation for Contract No. 2023/24-045 has been provided to Councillors prior to the meeting.

Recommendation:

That:

1. Council award Contract No. 2023/24-045 for the Bellbridge Walking Track Upgrade Stages 2 and 3 to ATD Civil for the contract value of \$490,939.52 excluding GST.
2. The use of the Common Seal be authorised in accordance with Local Law 1 – Common Seal and Miscellaneous Penalties for the purpose of signing the contract document; and
3. The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to approve contract variations up to the total value of the allocated budget.

Attachment:

Nil

Background/History:

Council has received funding through Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program to deliver the upgrade of the Bellbridge walking track.

This contract relates to the track upgrades in Stage 2 and the new track construction in Stage 3. The purpose of these works is to improve the safety and accessibility of the track through a more consistent surface and a connection to the Kurrajong Boat Ramp.

The design includes barriers to control vehicle access along and across the track. These measures are being put in place to ensure the longevity of the track.

A tender was issued in April 2024 in line with Council's *Procurement Policy* with advertising through www.tenders.net, in local newspapers and on Council's Facebook page. Three tender submissions were received.

Relevant Law (s.9(2)(a)):

The *Local Government Act 2020*

Options – Best Outcomes for the Community (s.9(2)(b)):

In terms of achieving the best outcome for the municipal community, including future generations, two options are proposed for consideration:

Option 1 – Approve the tender as presented and award Contract No. 2023/24-045 for the Bellbridge Walking Track Upgrade Stages 2 and 3 to ATD Civil Pty Ltd. for a lump sum contract value of \$490,939.52 excluding GST which includes \$50,000 of provisional items to implement any design changes resulting from community feedback;

Option 2 – Retender the works.

Sustainability Implications (s.9(2)(c)):

Economic

The project is funded through the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (Phase 2 and 3).

Social

The walking track improve to the visitor experience in Bellbridge. Safety and accessibility for visitors and residents will improve due to the upgrade of the walking track.

Environmental/Climate Change

Awarding the works to a contractor located within a 30km of the site and using locally sourced materials will minimise the transport time, distances travelled and limit carbon emissions.

Community Engagement (s.9(2)(d)):

Members of the Bellbridge Rotary Club and local residents were consulted during the early design phase of the project as key stakeholders.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement (s.9(2)(e)):

Not Applicable.

Collaboration (s.9(2)(f)):

Not Applicable.

Financial Viability/Budget Impact (s.9(2)(g)):

The recommended tender value is within the budget for the project and represents good value when compared to similar projects tendered in the last year.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies (s.9(2)(h)):

Not Applicable.

Council Plans and Policies:

Council Plans:

This report supports the following *Council Plan 2021-2025* priorities.

1. Asset Management - Maintain and improve our Shire's infrastructure to meet the levels of service established in consultation with our communities.

- 1.1 Deliver 100% of the annual capital works program and bushfire recovery projects

Council Policies:

Procurement Policy adopted in June 2023.

Transparency of Decision (s.9(2)(i)):

It is the officer's view that it is appropriate to consider this matter in a Council meeting that is open to the public.

Risk Assessment:

The significant risks for this project are weather delays with construction due to commence just prior to winter. Should construction be delayed due to wet weather further damage to the existing path may occur due to the current lack of drainage infrastructure. This may result in additional works and expenditure that are not currently within the scope of the contract. These risks will be mitigated by active management and supervision of the contractor to adhere to the proposed construction program.

Officer's View:

The references provided by ATD Civil in their tender submission and the works completed for Council on a variety of past projects support the view that they will deliver good value and a low risk to Council for this project.

It is the officer's recommendation that ATD Civil Pty Ltd are awarded Contract No. 2023/2024-045 for the lump sum of \$490,939.52 excluding GST.

12.6 Corryong CBD Parking Options Report

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

This report was prepared by Mr Craig Heiner, Consultant Project Manager.

At the time of preparation of this report, the Consultant did not have a general or material conflict of interest in any matter to which the report or advice relates.

Purpose of Report:

This report is provided to update Council on the Corryong CBD parking review and seeks Council's support for the proposed on-going engagement activities.

Summary:

The parking review for the Corryong CBD explores where and how additional parking could be developed to service local businesses and their customers.

This report provides an update on the progress to date with a focus on the options for increasing the parking yield of Donaldson Street.

Recommendation:

That Council notes the update and supports:

1. Ongoing targeted engagement with land/business owners to further explore additional parking options; and
2. Engaging with the community on the options for Donaldson Street parking modifications.

Attachment:

1. Corryong CBD parking options [**12.6.1** - 7 pages]

Background/History:

As part of the review of options for the Corryong CBD revitalisation, Council committed to exploring options to increase the number of parking lots in the broader CBD area.

Relevant Law (s.9(2)(a)):

The *Local Government Act 2020*.

Options – Best Outcomes for the Community (s.9(2)(b)):

Two parking layout options are identified in the attached report and proposed for presentation to the community to gather feedback. The options are designed to understand the community's preferences.

Sustainability Implications (s.9(2)(c)):

Economic

The proposed improved parking options for the Corryong CBD are designed to complement the CBD revitalisation investments which will enhance the on-going attractiveness of Corryong as a shopping precinct for locals and visitors.

Environmental/Climate Change

Subject to community feedback regarding the trade-off between the number of parking bays and the planting of shade trees, the project could contribute to the targeted 40% shade cover for urban areas.

Community Engagement (s.9(2)(d)):

Significant community engagement has shaped the options including discussions with several landholders along the street. Community engagement will continue throughout the project.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement (s.9(2)(e)):

Not applicable.

Collaboration (s.9(2)(f)):

Not applicable.

Financial Viability/Budget Impact (s.9(2)(g)):

The proposed solutions in Donaldson Street will require a budget allocation in the 2024/25 annual budget. If more ambitious solutions are identified through the next stages of the project these will be tested for financial viability.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies (s.9(2)(h)):

Not applicable.

Council Plans and Policies:

Council Plans:

This report supports the following *Council Plan 2021-2025 priorities*.

1. Asset Management - Maintain and improve our Shire's infrastructure to meet the levels of service established in consultation with our communities.

1.1 Deliver 100% of the annual capital works program and bushfire recovery projects

1.13 Complete the upgrade of the Corryong CBD

1.17 Address long vehicle and overflow parking issues in CBD areas

5. Environmental Sustainability - Integrate sustainable environmental management practices into all of our activities.

5.9 Continue to implement the tree planting strategy to achieve 40% canopy coverage in urban streets by 2025

Council Policies:

Community Engagement Policy.

Transparency of Decision (s.9(2)(i)):

It is the officer's view that it is appropriate to consider this matter in a Council meeting that is open to the public.

Risk Assessment:

The two options being presented have similar overall risk profiles.

Officer's View:

The officer is of the opinion that the options for Donaldson Street should be tested with the broader community before proceeding to detailed design. The broader parking options require on-going targeted engagement and development before seeking community feedback.

12.7 Stabilisation of Major Patches 2024/2025 - 001

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

This report was prepared by Mr Syed Abdullah, Civil Asset Engineer.

At the time of preparation of this report, the officer did not have a general or material conflict of interest in any matter to which the report or advice relates.

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to provide information to support the assessment of tender submissions for Stabilisation of Major Patches under Contract 2024/2025 - 001 and to seek Council approval to appoint the recommended contractor.

Summary:

This report demonstrates the tender process followed for the procurement of a stabilization of major patching Contractor to undertake the resealing of Council roads. This report also provides a recommendation of the most suitable contractor to undertake these works.

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Award Contract No. 2024/2025 - 001 for the Stabilisation of Major Patches to Szabolics Construction Pty Ltd for the lump sum of \$868,000 excluding GST;
2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign and seal Contract No. 2024/2025 - 001 in accordance with Local Law 1 – Common seal and Miscellaneous Penalties; and
3. Authorise the Chief Executive Office to approve contract variations up to the total value of the allocated project budget.

Attachment:

Nil

Background/History:

Major patching of Council roads is completed annually between October and April each year as part of the capital works program. This tender will secure the successful major patching contractor for 2024/25 and 2025/26 seasons and includes the option at Council's discretion for performance-based year on year extensions for a maximum of two years.

Tender submissions were sought through www.tenders.net for a period of three weeks.

Four tender submissions were received. A detailed comparative analysis was completed of the submitted rates to ensure best value was gained. A copy of this assessment has been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

Relevant Law (s.9(2)(a)):

The *Local Government Act 2020*

Options – Best Outcomes for the Community (s.9(2)(b)):

Option 1 - Approve the tender as presented and award the contract to Szabolics Construction Pty Ltd for the lump sum of \$868,000 excluding GST.

Option 2 – Select a different tender submission to approve.

Sustainability Implications (s.9(2)(c)):

Economic

Major patching works are important to keep the Shire's roads within the agreed service levels and maintain a safe road network. This ensures that visitors and residents can access businesses within the local area and the region.

Community Engagement (s.9(2)(d)):

Not applicable.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement (s.9(2)(e)):

Not Applicable.

Collaboration (s.9(2)(f)):

Not Applicable.

Financial Viability/Budget Impact (s.9(2)(g)):

The recommended tender value is \$868,000 excluding GST. The budget for these works will be sourced from the 2024/2025 major patching capital budget. The quoted value for this year's works is within the allocated 2024/2025 budget.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies (s.9(2)(h)):

Not Applicable.

Council Plans and Policies:

Council Plans:

This report supports the following *Council Plan 2021-2025 priorities*.

1. Asset Management - Maintain and improve our Shire's infrastructure to meet the levels of service established in consultation with our communities.

- 1.1 Deliver 100% of the annual capital works program and bushfire recovery projects

Council Policies:

Procurement Policy adopted in June 2023.

Transparency of Decision (s.9(2)(i)):

It is the officer's view that it is appropriate to consider this matter in a Council meeting that is open to the public.

Risk Assessment:

The references provided by Szabolics Construction Pty Ltd in their tender submission, along with previous experience on Council projects support the view that they will deliver good value and a low risk to Council. They have undertaken similar works in the past and have also completed high quality work for Council for the past 6 years and surrounding municipalities.

Officer's View:

Following the tender evaluation process, it is the officer's recommendation that Szabolics Construction Pty Ltd be awarded Contract No. 2024/2025-001.

13 Land Use Planning

There are no Land Use Planning reports.

14 Environmental Sustainability

There are no Environmental Sustainability reports.

15 Economic and Tourism Development

15.1 Economic Development and Tourism Update Oct - Mar 2024

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

This report was prepared by Ms Sophie Hanna, Agriculture Officer, and Ms Kerissa Heritage, Economic Development Tourism Officer.

At the time of preparation of this report, the officer did not have a general or material conflict of interest in any matter to which the report or advice relates.

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of the report is to provide information.

Summary:

This report provides information on the activities undertaken by the Economic Development team from 1 October 2023 to 31 March 2024.

Activities which were a focus during period were:

- Submission of the Bellbridge Boathouse application to the *Growing Regions* fund;
- Delivery and installation of the artworks along the Great River Road;
- Development of the Pub to Pelican marathon event; and
- Delivery of agriculture workshops (four) across the municipality with excellent attendance from producers (53 attendees).

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

Attachment:

1. Eco Dev & Tourism Report Oct - March 2024 [**15.1.1** - 5 pages]

Background/History:

The report is provided bi-annually. In previous reports, work related to essential services such as telecommunications, potable water, sewerage, power and renewables was included in this report. This information is now contained in a standalone report and will be presented to Council later in 2024.

Relevant Law (s.9(2)(a)):

Not applicable.

Options – Best Outcomes for the Community (s.9(2)(b)):

Economic and tourism development activities are aimed at supporting the economic prosperity of the community.

Sustainability Implications (s.9(2)(c)):

Economic and tourism development activities help to provide for the ongoing economic sustainability of the Shire.

Community Engagement (s.9(2)(d)):

During the period, the following engagement activities occurred:

- Co-design program for the development of the destination websites across the municipality;
- Community and stakeholder engagement in the development of the Mount Elliot Masterplan and Bellbridge Boathouse development; and
- Promotion of the region wide consultation process for the draft *Ovens Murray Regional Drought Resilience Plan*.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement (s.9(2)(e)):

Developing a strategic plan for activating Mount Elliot is a critical part of our continuous improvement strategy for economic expansion. This plan serves as a roadmap, offering clear direction and guidance for the community and future funders regarding potential development endeavours in and around this invaluable natural asset. By systematically identifying opportunities for enhancement and conservation, we will unlock Mount Elliot's full potential while safeguarding its

ecological integrity for generations to come.

Similarly, the Bellbridge Boathouse development represents another significant milestone in our pursuit of continuous improvement. Not only does this project enhance the lifestyle offerings available to Bellbridge residents, but it also exemplifies our commitment to sustainable design principles. With a focus on incorporating environmentally friendly features and practices, such as energy efficiency, water conservation, and use of renewable materials, the building design of the Bellbridge Boathouse sets a new standard for responsible development within our community. Through such initiatives, we strive to ensure that our projects not only meet the needs of today but also contribute to a brighter and more sustainable future for all.

Our collaboration with Riverine Plains to deliver agriculture-specific economic development initiatives is steadily evolving. The workshops held during this period have served as a platform to highlight the extensive expertise that Riverine Plains brings to the table in supporting producers within Towong Shire. This innovative approach to delivering agriculture-specific support in Towong exemplifies our commitment to fostering partnerships that empower local industries and drive sustainable growth.

Collaboration (s.9(2)(f)):

Throughout the quarter, the team has engaged in collaborative efforts with various organisations, including with:

- Tourism North East, with a particular focus on cycling promotion and product delivery initiatives.
- Upper Murray Inc and The Man from Snowy River Tourism Association, working together to execute the Upper Murray Business and Tourism Expo along with other joint activities.
- The Lake Hume Boat Club, to deliver the submission for the Bellbridge Boathouse project;
- Business Victoria, collaborating on the coordination and delivery of business-related events aimed at supporting local enterprises.
- Agriculture Victoria, in the development of the Ovens Murray Regional Drought Resilience Plan, as well as in the creation of a comprehensive program of workshops and events aimed at bolstering agricultural resilience in the region.

Financial Viability/Budget Impact (s.9(2)(g)):

Budget requirements and availability have been confirmed, grant funding has been sought where possible, and all expenditure is being monitored and managed within

agreed budget allocations.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies (s.9(2)(h)):

Activities are undertaken in accordance with the following:

- Tourism North East: Victoria's High Country Destination Management Plan 2013-2023
- North East Victoria Cycling Optimisation Plan
- The Hume Strategy for Sustainable Communities 2010-20
- Hume Regional Growth Plan
- Victoria's High Country Destination Management Plan 2013-23
- Visit Victoria Visitor Economy Strategy Action Plan 2016-20
- Lake Hume Land and On-Water Management Plan
- Goulburn Murray Water Corporate Plan 2019-20 to 2023-24
- Regional Development Victoria: Ovens Murray Regional Partnership roadmap
- Hume Regional Growth Plan 2014
- Goulburn Murray Water, Corporate Plan 2021–22 to 2025-26
- Regional Development Victoria Ovens, Murray Regional Partnership 2019–20
- Victoria State Government, Victoria's Climate Change Strategy 2021

Council Plans and Policies:

Council Plans:

This report outlines how Council have been fulfilling the following Council Plan 2021-2025 priorities over the last six months.

1. Asset Management - Maintain and improve our Shire's infrastructure to meet the levels of service established in consultation with our communities.

1.2 Deliver infrastructure projects that arise from place-based master planning

1.3 Complete Stage 2 Great River Road

2. Community Wellbeing - Encourage and support all people in our Shire to be healthy, happy, connected and resilient.

2.4 Support the development of recreational activities and infrastructure to encourage active lifestyles for all ages and stages

3. Economic and Tourism Development - Expand economic and employment opportunities across our Shire in a sustainable way.

3.1 Connect businesses to learning, development and networking opportunities to increase capacity

3.4 Support businesses to adapt to and recover from the impact of bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic

- 3.5 Support businesses to expand adventure tourism offerings across the shire
- 3.6 Advocate for the development and broadening of the Pine Mountain experience
- 3.7 Advocate for the development of adventure tourism opportunities at Mount Elliot
- 3.9 Support Mitta Valley Inc to develop the Mitta Valley Mountain Bike Park
- 3.10 Seek funding to complete the High Country Rail Trail
- 3.11.1 Establish new annual cycling events in the Mitta Valley
- 3.17 Deliver improved visitor information and experience across the Shire
- 3.18 Expand the reach of tourism marketing and promotional materials
- 3.23 Work with Upper Murray Inc to deliver outcomes from the UM2030 Plan

In addition to the Council Plan, the activities within this report also support the following specific plans;

- *Our Bellbridge*
- *Towong Shire Economic Development Strategy*
- *Towong Shire Destination Management Plan*
- *Towong Shire Mountain Biking Strategy*
- *Towong Shire Strategic Plan for Agriculture*
- *Towong Shire Mobile and Internet Communications Strategy*
- *Towong Shire Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan*
- *Upper Murray 2030 Masterplan*
- *Upper Murray 2030 Agriculture Statement*

Council Policies:

Not applicable.

Transparency of Decision (s.9(2)(i)) :

It is the officer's view that it is appropriate to consider this matter in a Council meeting that is open to the public.

Risk Assessment:

Not applicable.

Officer's View:

The Economic Development team is making substantial progress in relation to the Council Plan 2020-2025's objectives.

16 Councillor Reports

16.1 Wodonga Health Summit Report - Cr Anderson

Date of Meeting/Event:	Friday, 1 March 2024
Key information presented/discussed at meeting:	Albury Wodonga Health Summit
Members Comments/Thoughts:	<p>Towong Council Representatives; Mayor Andrew Whitehead, Deputy Mayor Denise Anderson, CEO Ms Julianna Phelps.</p> <p>Attending; Representatives from Federal, NSW State Governments, Local Universities, Rural Health Alliance, Border Medical Association, Murray Primary Health Network, Better Border Health and 18 Representatives from the Local Government catchment of NSW and VIC.</p> <p>Aim; To explore the strengths, address the challenges and propose solutions.</p> <p>Purpose; As Local Government Representatives, collectively advocate for a premier regional health service that has the capacity to cater to the cross border and wider communities, to improve health outcomes now and into the future.</p> <p>The Speakers and Panellists; The summit was about exploring what are the health challenges for Albury/Wodonga and the wider region, when are these critical, what are emerging and need intervention now, what do we need to address these, what can we collectively do to improve health outcomes in Albury Wodonga region.</p> <p>Outcomes; There are many stakeholders involved with Albury/Wodonga Health and the services they provide. The attendees at this meeting decided collectively on 10 points, moving forward and these have been provided to the councillors for further discussion.</p>

Action Required:	The Towong Shire Councillors will continue to advocate for the best outcomes for our residents.
Additional Information Available:	1. Albury Wodonga Regional Health Summit Ask [16.1.1 - 1 page]

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

16.2 Opening of the new Emergency Department Albury /Wodonga Health - Cr Anderson

Date of Meeting/Event:	Thursday, 4 April 2024
Key information presented/discussed at meeting:	Opening of the new Emergency Department Albury /Wodonga Health
Members Comments/Thoughts:	<p>Attending; Deputy Mayor, Denise Anderson and CEO Ms Juliana Phelps</p> <p>Opening Presentation; Albury/Wodonga Health CEO Bill Appleby, Albury/Wodonga Health Board Chair, Jonathon Green, Victorian Health and Ambulance services, Minister Mary-ann Thomas MP all spoke with enthusiasm and conviction with the opening of the new Emergency department.</p> <p>The new Emergency Department has 3 new bays with easy access to the ED. It is colourful and bright and so is the new equipment trolly's etc. There will be a greater emphasis on paediatrics' away from main stream admissions, with suitable wait areas. The increase beds, short stay extension will be built on the existing ED site and will not open until later this year.</p> <p>Minister Mary-Ann Thomas spoke of the opportunity to return patients to their local hospitals for rehabilitation and recouperation as an alternative for the Bed Block situation and highlighted Tallangatta as an example. We also had the opportunity to speak with operations staff on ways our shire patients can receive assistance with navigating challenges with distance and travel.</p> <p>Towong Shire will continue to communicate with our Hospitals through our Alliance program advocate for our residents for better health outcomes.</p>

Action Required:	Nil.
Additional Information Available:	Nil.

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

16.3 ANZAC Day Report - Cr Dikschei

Date of Meeting/Event:	25 April 2024 - ANZAC DAY
Key information presented/discussed at meeting:	<p>Dawn Service at Cudgewa.</p> <p>A simple service attended by approximately 35 people, who huddled around a large, elevated fit pit.</p> <p>A short talk and The Ode was delivered by Peter Purs. Then wreaths were laid by him and myself (on behalf of TSC).</p> <p>The ceremony was followed by bbq bacon and eggs provided by Cudgewa CFA.</p>
Members Comments/Thoughts:	A respectful, quiet service that was relevant for the community.
Action Required:	Nil
Additional Information Available:	They seemed appreciative that Council was represented.

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

16.4 ANZAC Day Report - Cr Whitehead

Date of Meeting/Event:	25 April 2024 - ANZAC DAY
Key information presented/discussed at meeting:	<p>A large crowd of about 230 attended the ANZAC Day Service where we were welcomed by Ivor Atkins RSL President. The Catafalque party from Construction Troop, Army School of electrical and mechanical engineering were called upon to mount before Pastor Graeme Van-Brummelen read the prayer.</p> <p>Pomes were read from the local schools with all the students doing a great job.</p> <p>Guest speaker Mr. Michael Greenham gave the crowd a very interesting history lesson on DR. Greenham and the influence he had on the way our community grew and developed into the wonderful community we have today, and the sacrifices he and many like him made to allow us the life we now have.</p> <p>The official party, student representatives and members of the public were invited to lay wreathes.</p> <p>A very moving rendition of The Last Post was performed by Gavin Heycox with the Bugle.</p> <p>Greg Nankervis was the MC for the service and finished by thanking everyone for there attendance and invited everyone to drop into the RSL clubrooms and take some time to have a look at all the photos and memorabilia they have on display.</p>
Members Comments/Thoughts:	A really well run event and by the numbers of community members in attendance it shows the growing respect we have for all the men and women that have served our country and continue to do so
Action Required:	Nil.
Additional Information Available:	Nil.

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

17 Urgent Business

In accordance with Council's Governance Rules, matters of urgent business can only be considered if:

- a) It relates to or arises out of a matter which has arisen since distribution of the agenda; and
- b) It cannot safely or conveniently be deferred until the next Council meeting; and
- c) The Council resolves to admit an item considered to be urgent business.

18 Committee Minutes

18.1 OHS Committee Meeting - April 2024

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

This report was prepared by Mr Wayne Carter, Occupational Health and Safety Officer

At the time of preparation of this report, the officer did not have a general or material conflict of interest in any matter to which the report or advice relates.

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to provide information.

Summary:

The unconfirmed minutes of the Occupational Health and Safety Committee meeting held on 9 April 2024 have been provided to Councillors prior to the meeting.

Recommendation:

That the unconfirmed minutes for the Occupational Health and Safety Committee meeting held on 9 April 2024 be noted.

19 Council Policies

19.1 Policies for Adoption

The following policy was tabled for review at the March 2024 Council Meeting:

- Kerbside Refuse and Recycling Collection Policy

Attachment:

1. DRAFT Kerbside Residual Waste and Recycling Collection Policy [**19.1.1** - 5 pages]

Please note the recommended changes are shown in colored text.

Recommendation:

That the following policy as amended and presented, be adopted, with the Chief Executive Officer authorised to make minor administrative changes where necessary:

- Kerbside Residual Waste and Recycling Collection Policy

20 Sealing of Documents

Nil.

21 Confidential

Section 66 of the *Local Government Act 2020* declares that meetings are to be open to the public unless the following specified circumstances apply:

1. *A Council or delegated committee must keep a meeting open to the public unless the Council or delegated committee considers it necessary to close the meeting to the public because a circumstance specified in subsection (2) applies.*
2. *The circumstances are –*
 - a) *the meeting is to consider confidential information; or*
 - b) *security reasons; or*
 - c) *it is necessary to do so to enable the meeting to proceed in an orderly manner.*
3. *If the circumstance specified in subsection (2)(b) or (2)(c) applies, the meeting can only be closed to the public if the Council or delegated committee has made arrangements to enable the proceedings of the meeting to be viewed by members of the public as the meeting is being held.*
4. *For the purposes of subsection (3), the arrangements may include provision to view the proceedings on the Internet or on closed circuit television.*
5. *If a Council or delegated committee determines that a meeting is to be closed to the public to consider confidential information, the Council or delegated committee must record in the minutes of the meeting that are available for public inspection –*
 - a) *the ground or grounds for determining to close the meeting to the public by reference to the grounds specified in the definition of confidential information in section 3(1); and*
 - b) *an explanation of why the specified ground or grounds applied.*

As defined in section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020 "confidential information" means the following information

- a. *Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released;*
- b. *Security information, being information that if released is likely to endanger the security of Council property or the safety of any person;*

- c. *Land use planning information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values;*
- d. *Law enforcement information, being information which if released would be reasonably likely to prejudice the investigation in an alleged breach of the law or the fair trial or hearing of any person;*
- e. *Legal privileged information, being information to which legal professional privilege or client legal privilege applies;*
- f. *Personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs;*
- g. *Private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that –*
 - (i) *relates to trade secrets; or*
 - (ii) *if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage;*
- h. *Confidential meeting information, being the records of meetings closed to the public under section 66(2)(a);*
- i. *Internal arbitration information, being information specified in section 145;*
- j. *Councillor Conduct Panel confidential information, being information specified in section 169;*
- k. *Information prescribed by the regulations to be confidential information for the purposes of this definition; and*

Information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989.

Nil.

22 Closure of Meeting

Council Meeting - 22 May 2024 Attachments

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Meeting Record

Councillor Workshop

Wednesday 3 April 2024 - Tallangatta

Attendees: Crs Whitehead, Wortmann, Anderson, Scales and Dikschei
Juliana Phelps (Chief Executive Officer) and officers as listed below.

Apologies: Nil

Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest: Nil

Presentation of Budgets for each Directorate:

9.30am Director Community and Planning (*Amanda Pagan*)

A detailed review of operational costs was undertaken for discussion about the priority of the provision of services and the ability of Council to continue to fund all existing services to the same extent into the future.

10.30am Director Corporate and Organisational Development (*Narelle Taylor*)

A detailed review of operational costs was undertaken for discussion about the priority of expenditure in the provision of corporate services and the ability of Council to continue to fund all existing corporate services to the same extent into the future.

11.30am Deputy Director Infrastructure and Environment (*Vilfred Correa*)

Capital works budget

A review of the proposed capital budget items and carry forward capital projects was provided to Councillors.

12.00pm Working Lunch

Our Community Vision

Towong Shire will be the ideal place to be: Welcoming, vibrant and diverse communities with quality facilities and services.



1.00pm Meeting Close

innovation : technology : sustainability

Our Community Vision

Towong Shire will be the ideal place to be: Welcoming, vibrant and diverse communities with quality facilities and services.



Meeting Record

Councillor Workshop

Wednesday 10 April 2024 - Tallangatta

Attendees: Crs Whitehead, Wortmann, Anderson, Scales and Dikschei
Juliana Phelps (Chief Executive Officer) and officers as listed below.

Apologies: Nil

Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest: Nil

9.30am Director Corporate and Organisational Development (*Narelle Taylor*)

2024/25 Budget & LTFP

An update was provided to Councillors on the progress of budget preparation and the Long Tern Financial Plan

Procurement Policy

A copy of the procurement policy was provided to Councillors for discussion about how to best maximise value for money within a prudent governance structure.

10.30am Deputy Director Infrastructure and Environment (*Vilfred Correa*)

Corryong CBD update

An update on the Corryong CBD streetscape project was provided to Councillors.

Talgarno Recreation Reserve

An update on the progress of the toilet block designs and tennis clubrooms funding application was provided.

Great River Road budget vs actual

A review of the Great River Road budget and expenditure to date was provided.

11.30am Director Community and Planning (*Amanda Pagan*)

Our Community Vision

Towong Shire will be the ideal place to be: Welcoming, vibrant and diverse communities with quality facilities and services.



12.30pm Lunch

1.30pm Chief Executive Officer

Tallangatta Estate update

The CEO provided an update on the planning permit application and discussions in relation to the Public Open Spaces contribution.

3.00pm Councillor time

4.00pm Meeting Close

Our Community Vision

Towong Shire will be the ideal place to be: Welcoming, vibrant and diverse communities with quality facilities and services.



Meeting Record

Councillor Workshop

Monday 15 April 2024 - Virtual

Attendees: Crs Whitehead, Wortmann, Anderson, Scales and Dikschei
Ms Juliana Phelps (Chief Executive Officer) and officers as listed below.

Apologies: Nil

Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest: Nil

8pm **Director Corporate and Organisational Development** (*Narelle Taylor*) and
Director Infrastructure and Environment (*Rachael Gadd*)

Potential amendments to the implementation of FOGO and transition to Cleanaway contract.

A discussion was coordinated on the risks associated with delaying the introduction of the Green FOGO bin to October 2024.

Costings for 2023/24 kerbside collection – proposed rebate.

Expenditure for kerbside waste and recycling services for 2023/24 were reviewed in line with the increase in fees for the service and a discussion regarding an appropriate reimbursement framework was held.

Costings for 2024/25 kerbside collection – proposed changes to fees and charges if implementation changes.

Fees and charges for the proposed kerbside waste and recycling services for 2024/25 were discussed in conjunction with when the best time was to introduce the new service.

Our Community Vision

Towong Shire will be the ideal place to be: Welcoming, vibrant and diverse communities with quality facilities and services.



8.30pm **Councillor time**

9.00pm **Meeting Close**

innovation : technology : sustainability

Our Community Vision

Towong Shire will be the ideal place to be: Welcoming, vibrant and diverse communities with quality facilities and services.



Meeting Record

Councillor Workshop

Wednesday 17 April 2024 – Tallangatta & Virtual

Attendees: Crs Whitehead, Wortmann, Anderson, Scales and Dikschei
Ms Amanda Pagan (Acting Chief Executive Officer) and officers as listed below.

Apologies: Ms Juliana Phelps (CEO)

Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest: Nil

9.30am Director Corporate and Organisational Development (*Narelle Taylor*) and
Acting CEO (*Amanda Pagan*)

Potential budget cuts were discussed for the Community & Planning, Corporate Organisational Development teams.

Rates & Municipal charges - The construct of the rates and municipal charges were discussed and a review of prior year's movements in the differential was undertaken along with an analysis of the impact this has had on the make-up of the contribution from each ratepayer category.

10.15am Director Infrastructure & Environment (*Rachael Gadd*)

Capital Works Budget - An update was provided to Councillors regarding the Capital Works budget in preparing the *Draft Budget 2024/25*

11.00am Acting CEO (*Amanda Pagan*)

Funding requests – a discussion was had about an increase in requests for funding and given the financial constraints Council is facing into the future, if there is the opportunity to continue to provide financial support.

11.30am Meeting Close

Our Community Vision

Towong Shire will be the ideal place to be: Welcoming, vibrant and diverse communities with quality facilities and services.

**ACTION SHEET
FROM 24 APRIL 2024 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	PROGRESS/ COMPLETE
5	<p><u>Confirmation of Minutes</u></p> <p>That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 27 March 2024, be confirmed.</p>	Coordinator Governance and Compliance	<p>Confirmed Minutes added to Council's website.</p> <p>Complete</p>
9.1	<p><u>Dangerous Dog Management</u></p> <p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dangerous and restricted breed dogs are not permitted in Towong Shire; 2. Officers develop and deliver an awareness campaign to promote responsible pet ownership, registration of animals, and the benefits it provides to the community, as well as education on how the community can assist with identifying dangerous dogs in the municipality. 	Coordinator Governance and Compliance	<p>An awareness campaign is being internally drafted in collaboration with relevant teams.</p> <p>In progress</p>
11.3	<p><u>Community Sport Fair Access Policy</u></p> <p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to place the draft Community Sport Fair Access Policy and Action Plan on public exhibition and invite submissions; 2. At the Council Meeting on 26 June 2024: 	Co-ordinator Recreation and Community Development.	<p>Placed on public exhibition as per resolution</p> <p>In progress</p>

**ACTION SHEET
FROM 24 APRIL 2024 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**

	<p>a. Any submissions in relation to the proposed draft Community Sport Fair Access Policy and Action Plan be considered;</p> <p>b. Any person or their representative who wishes to speak in support of their submission be heard; and</p> <p>c. The draft Community Sport Fair Access Policy and Action Plan be considered for adoption.</p>		
13.1	<p><u>Tallangatta, Bellbridge and Corryong Structure Plans</u></p> <p>That:</p> <p>1. The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to place the draft Tallangatta, Bellbridge and Corryong Structure Plans on public exhibition and invite submissions; and</p> <p>2. At the Council Meeting in June 2024:</p> <p>a. Any submissions in relation to the draft structure plans be considered;</p> <p>b. Any person or their representative who wishes to speak in support of their submission be heard; and</p> <p>c. The draft structure plans be considered for in-principle adoption.</p>	Director Community and Planning	Placed on public exhibition as per resolution In progress
19.1	<p><u>Policies for Review</u></p> <p>That the policies tabled for review be noted.</p>	Coordinator Governance and Compliance	Policy reviews made aware to all staff and opportunity for feedback made available. Completed

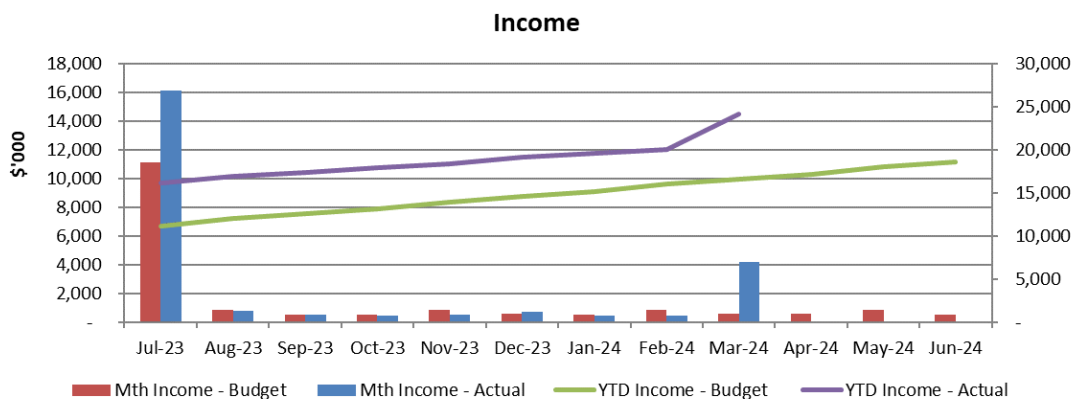


Quarterly Budget Report as at 31 March 2024

SUMMARY INCOME STATEMENT

	ACTUAL (YTD)	ADOPTED BUDGET 2023/24	%
Income			
Rates & Charges	10,289,740	10,575,000	97%
Statutory Fees & Fines	222,477	338,000	66%
User Fees	850,534	1,252,000	68%
Grants - Operating	5,825,323	3,770,000	155%
Grants - Capital	4,305,083	1,166,000	369%
Contributions - Monetary	50,888	-	
Net Gain / Loss on PIPE	-	-	
Other Income	2,696,468	1,438,000	188%
Total Income	24,240,513	18,539,000	131%
Expenses			
Employee Costs	7,483,920	11,214,000	67%
Material and Services	7,230,701	9,322,000	78%
Depreciation	4,469,544	5,075,000	88%
Finance Costs	-	14,000	0%
Other Expenses	221,936	236,000	94%
Total Expenses	19,406,102	25,861,000	75%

INCOME



Note 1:

Income for the year of \$24.2 million has now exceeded our adopted budget of \$18.5 million. Income for the quarter ending 31 March 2024 was \$1.7M made up of:

- \$2,781M in grants
- \$241K in user fees
- \$732K in investment income



We continue to expect rates and charges income to reach budget by year end with the recognizing of the revenue in lieu of rates income by year end.

Statutory fees and Fines are slightly behind budget but any shortfall will be covered by investment income exceeding budget by year end.

GRANT INCOME

	Note	Mar-24	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	2023/24	2023/24
		(Actual)	(Actual)	(Budget)	(Variance)	(Variance)	Full Year	Full Year
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%	\$'000	%
Recurrent	1	2,290	3,404	2,827	577	20%	3,769	90%
Non-Recurrent	2	102	804	875	(71)	(8%)	1,167	69%
Total		2,392	4,208	3,702	506	14%	4,936	85%

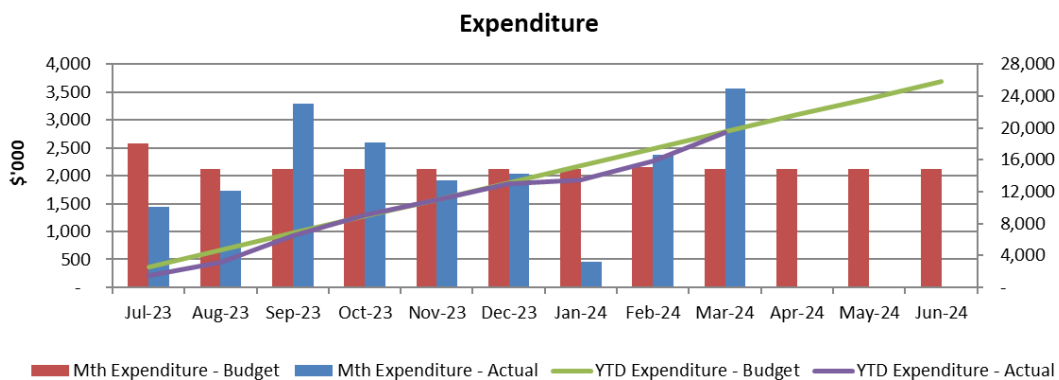
(note - this data excludes the impact of the reversal of year end journal adjustments)

Note 2:

Of the recurrent grants, the Financial Assistance Grant for 2023/24 was included in the budget to be received in this financial year. 100% of this grant was paid to Council in June 2023, and therefore recognised as income in last financial year. As a result, this income is significantly below budget for the current year. Non-recurrent grant income is currently on track to meet budget.

Roads to Recovery Grant was received in full in March (\$2M).

EXPENDITURE



Note 3:

Operating expenditure for the quarter ending 31 March 2024 was \$6.4 million taking the total year to date spendings to 75% of budget (\$19.4 million against \$26 million). Significant expenditure this quarter included:



- \$2.5 million in material and services
- \$2.3 million in employee costs

Operating expenditure is expected to exceed budget for the year due to non-capital costs associated with Placemaking activities and DRFA storm damage assessments with these costs to be recognised in the final quarter of the financial year.

Council was operating with 108 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staff at 31 March 2024 against an annual budget of 125 FTE. Vacant positions include:

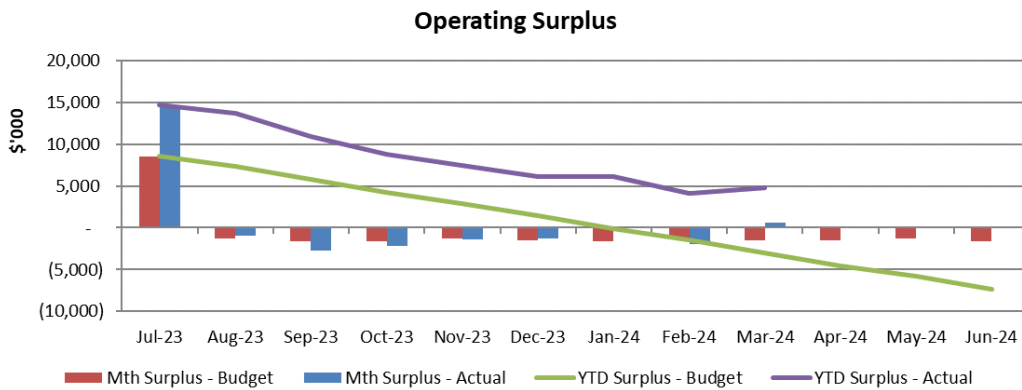
- Maternal and Child Health Nurse
- Manager Early Years and Family Services
- Kindergarten Teacher – Walwa
- Early Years/Kindergarten/Preschool/OSHC Educator – Multiple Roles – Bellbridge, Corryong, Tallangatta, Walwa.

To date, expenditure on employee costs are tracking at 67% of adopted 2023/24 budget and predicted to fall short by year end.

OPERATING RESULT

The above review of income and expenditure explains the below operating result in that we are approximately \$7.7M ahead of the forecast operating result, having already exceeded forecast income and only incurring 75% of forecast expenses.

	Note	Mar-24	Mar-24	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	2023/24	2023/24
		(Actual)	(Budget)	(Actual)	(Budget)	(Variance)	(Variance)	(Budget)	(Achieved)
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%	\$'000	%
Income	1	4,192	563	24,191	16,546	7,645	46%	18,541	130%
Expenditure	2	3,560	2,113	19,398	19,521	123	1%	25,861	75%
Surplus/ (Deficit)		632	(1,550)	4,793	(2,975)	7,768	(261%)	(7,320)	(65%)

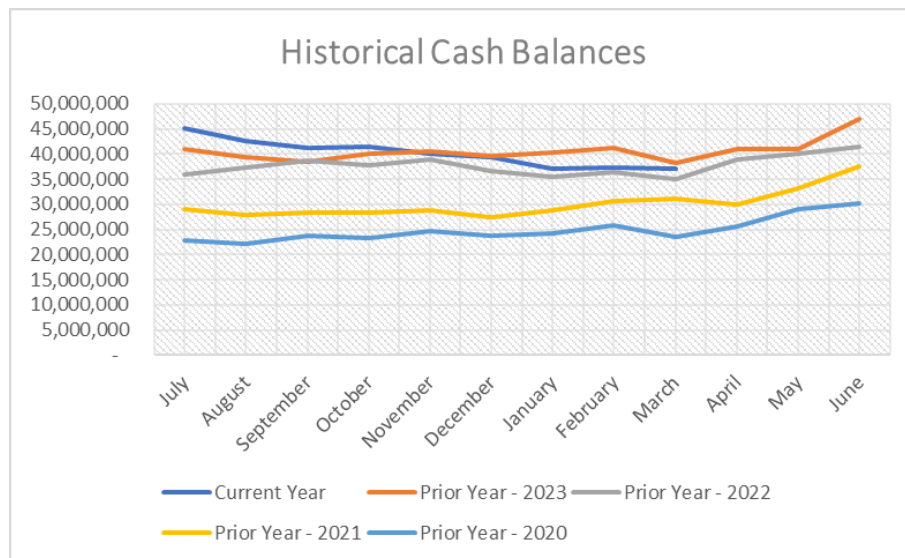


CASH POSITION

Total cash and investments as at 31 March 2024 was **\$36.9M**

Current 12 Month Term Deposit Interest Yield: 5.04% p.a

Current Cash & Investments (\$M)	
Total Cash	\$ 5.67
Total Investments < 12 months	\$ 31.50
Total Investments > 12 months	\$ -
	\$ 37.17
Interest Received YTD (\$,000)	\$1,247

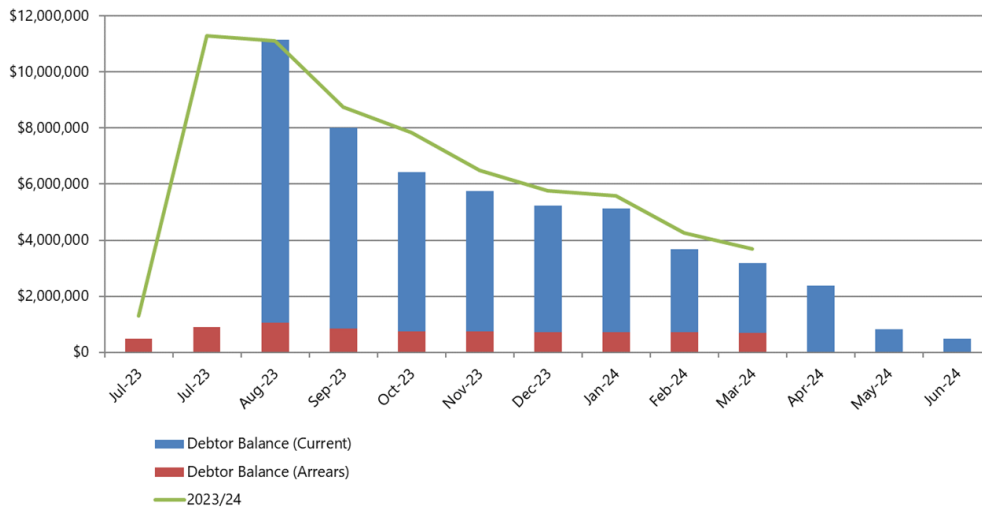




RECEIVABLES

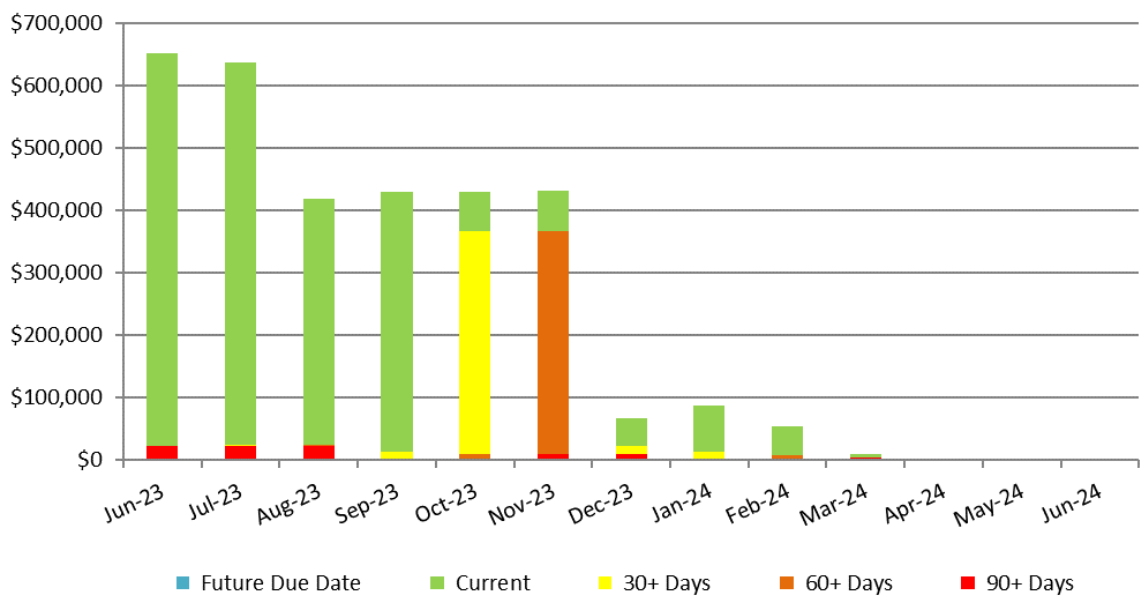
Rates debtors

Rates debtors reduced from \$5.7M in December to \$3.1M at the end of March with the prior year arrears accounting for \$611K (19% of total rates debts). Rates arrears balance was reduced by only \$20K this past quarter.



Sundry Debtors

The Sundry Debtors outstanding at month end was reduced to it's lowest amount for the year at \$6.6K. Sundry debtors will increase with the issuance of revenue in lieu of rates invoices at year end.





Sundry Debtors

CAPITAL WORKS

March 2024 Capital Works Quarterly Budget prepared and presented separately in a new Capital Works report to Council presented bi-monthly.

A summary of the capital budget

Message from the Mayor and CEO

On behalf of my fellow Councillors, I'm pleased to present Towong Shire Council's Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

This Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) is an important step forward in improving the way Council will work with all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to support reconciliation and promote connection and engagement in our organisation. It is a significant step for Council and an opportunity to make a real difference as we strive to embed principles of reconciliation and move to create a more equitable and inclusive organisation.

Our RAP identifies actions to be undertaken within four Pillars, Relationships, Respect, Opportunities and Governance and prioritises raising awareness about Council's commitment to reconciliation, while fostering a deeper appreciation and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures within our Shire.

The development of our RAP is the result of extensive consultation and contributions from the Duduroa Dhargal Aboriginal Corporation—the Shire's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Reference Group, and Council's employee Steering Group.

We see this RAP as our first step towards increasing recognition of Aboriginal culture, histories, and knowledge, while building genuine relationships within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. I extend my gratitude to the Duduroa Dhargal Aboriginal Corporation and our employee Steering Group for their collaborative efforts in shaping this Reconciliation Action Plan.

I invite you to read and reflect on the initiatives outlined in this plan, and to join me in celebrating the rich Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and histories that we are lucky enough to have within Towong Shire.

Andrew Whitehead
Mayor, Towong Shire Council.

Message from Reconciliation Australia

TO BE INCLUDED AFTER SENT TO RECONCILIATION AUSTRALIA

DRAFT

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

Towong Shire Council acknowledges that the region known as the Towong Shire is the traditional land of many First Nations peoples. We acknowledge all Traditional Owners as the custodians of their Country.

We pay our respect to all Elders and recognise the unique and continuous connections to Country for all First Nations peoples; we thank you for sharing your lands and cultures.

Our Vision for Reconciliation

To work in partnership with Traditional Owners and all First Nations people across Towong to improve cultural understanding, foster trust and demonstrate respect for their connections with these lands.

Why develop a Reconciliation Action Plan

The Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) is a crucial framework for organisations like Towong Shire Council, which are committed to contributing positively to the reconciliation efforts between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. Developing and implementing a RAP is not just a choice but necessary to demonstrate our commitment to inclusivity and social responsibility. Here are the reasons why we are creating a RAP:

- **Acknowledgement of Indigenous History:** A RAP supports us in acknowledging the historical injustices and ongoing disadvantages experienced by Indigenous Australians. By recognising this history, we can demonstrate our commitment to understanding and addressing the impacts of colonisation.
- **Commitment to Reconciliation:** Developing a RAP is not just a step but a significant leap towards a genuine commitment to reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. It provides a structured approach for engaging with Indigenous communities, building respectful relationships, and working towards shared goals, inspiring us to do better and be better.
- **Cultural Competence and Awareness:** Engaging in the RAP process empowers our staff to increase their cultural competence and awareness of Indigenous cultures, histories, and perspectives. This heightened understanding not only enriches our knowledge but also leads to more inclusive practices and policies that better meet the needs of Indigenous stakeholders, enlightening us about our community's diverse perspectives and needs.
- **Social Responsibility:** Acting on reconciliation aligns with principles of social responsibility and ethical business practices. We are responsible for contributing positively to the communities in which we work, and reconciliation efforts are a crucial aspect of fulfilling this responsibility.
- **Business Benefits:** Implementing a RAP can lead to various benefits for us as an organisation, including improved reputation, increased employee engagement and satisfaction and enhanced relationships with Indigenous stakeholders.

- **National Reconciliation Framework:** Reconciliation Australia endorses the RAP framework, providing a nationally recognised structure for our reconciliation initiatives. Participating in this framework makes us part of a broader movement towards reconciliation across Australia.

In summary, undertaking a Reconciliation Action Plan demonstrates our commitment to reconciliation, cultural understanding, and social responsibility while providing tangible benefits for us and the broader community.

Our organisation

The Towong Shire Council comprises five Councillors, including a Mayor and Deputy Mayor. The Council's workforce consists of 166 employees and many valued volunteers who actively enrich the community and enhance the Council's service provision. We do not gather data on whether our staff identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We are structured around three main Directorates: Infrastructure and Environment, Corporate and Organisational Development, and Community and Planning. Our customer service centres and libraries are situated in Tallangatta and Corryong.

Our values underpin our approach to work and will also steer the development of the Reflect RAP. Our values are:

Respect: We will listen and consider other perspectives and treat each other with courtesy.

Integrity: We will be honest with strong moral principles.

Pride: We will always take care in what we do.

Teamwork: We will help others achieve by being positive, enthusiastic and confident.

Our Shire and its people

Towong Shire, in far North East Victoria, enjoys some of Australia's most pristine environments. Our unique wilderness areas, lakes, rivers and streams create diverse landscapes that are enjoyed by around 6,223 residents and many more visitors across an area of 6,635 square kilometres.

Our municipality includes many diverse townships and localities including Bellbridge, Bullioh, Berringama, Bethanga, Biggara, Burrowye Corryong, Cudgewa, Dartmouth, Eskdale, Granya, Guys Forest, Koetong, Lucyvale, Mitta Mitta, Mt Alfred, Nariel, Old Tallangatta, Shelley, Talgarno, Tallandoon, Tallangatta, Tallangatta Valley, Thologolong, Tintaldra, Towong and Walwa.

The region's economy revolves around a prosperous agricultural sector, tourism, and timber production and processing. Approximately two-thirds of businesses in the Shire are in these industries.

112 people, or 49 families, identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander in the 2021 ABS Census data for Towong's local government area. This represents 1.8% of the population compared to the state average of 1% of the population identifying. 8.4% of the Towong population chose not to state their indigenous / non-indigenous status at the census. Council acknowledges population statistics may underrepresent First Nations' connection to regions.

Key organisations offering crucial services and support to First Nations peoples residing in Towong and the North East include the Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service, Mungabareena Aboriginal Corporation, Murray Arts, and Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency. These entities frequently collaborate with us to enhance our service delivery, such as implementing specialised cultural curriculum in our early years programs and facilitating artist participation in various projects throughout the municipality. We eagerly anticipate furthering our relationships with these stakeholders and others as we progress through the RAP process.

In addition to service provision, many First Nations groups are connected to Towong Shire. They include:

- Duduroa Dhargal Aboriginal Corporation
- Jaithmathang Traditional Ancestral Bloodline Original Owners First Nation Aboriginal Corporation
- Bpangerang Aboriginal Corporation
- Nindi-Ngujarn Ngarigo Monero Aboriginal Corporation (nindi-nagarn nargario)
- Dalka Warra Mittung Aboriginal Corporation
- Dhudhuroa Waywurru Aboriginal Nations Aboriginal Corporation
- Waywurru (Pallanganmiddang)

We recognise the need to build strong relationships with these groups and other emerging groups who may have a connection to Towong Shire. To support this, we have entered into a joint commitment statement with Corryong Health Service, Tallangatta Health Service and Walwa Bush Nursing Centre, Alpine Shire Council and Alpine Health.

Developing Towong's Reflect RAP

Towong Shire Council is committed to the RAP process. The leadership team and Councillors acknowledge the potential to improve community well-being with a public commitment to reconciliation. This aligns with our Community Vision: *"Towong Shire will be the ideal place to be: welcoming, vibrant and diverse communities with quality facilities and services"*.

Our Council Plan 2021-2025 contained a priority to:

2.12 Build relationships and develop an understanding of Aboriginal people and consider the commitment to an ongoing reconciliation action plan process

The development of a RAP is key to achieving this priority.

We have established a cross-organisational working group to support the development of this RAP. In addition to this group, we also consulted externally with Mr Sam Kirby and Mr Darren Moffatt through Emergency Recovery Victoria. We would like to acknowledge the time and effort these contributors put into the process.

As part of a broader consultation process, all staff will be invited to provide feedback on the draft RAP during April and May 2024. Following this a final version will be presented to Council in May 2024. The Council will be invited to adopt an 'in principle' version of the RAP. This version will be submitted to Reconciliation Australia. It may take some time to receive confirmation of a final RAP from Reconciliation Australia. This will not stop us from commencing work on some of the initiatives in the submitted plan because our commitment to reconciliation is firm.

How will we implement and monitor the RAP?

A new group will be created to oversee its implementation. Progress will be tracked in a live document to demonstrate achievements to the Community, Council, Staff, and Reconciliation Australia. A designated Council officer will be allocated responsibility for RAP implementation, and the funds for this role will be committed for the duration of the RAP. This document refers to this role as the 'RAP Officer'.

Reconciliation Action Plan Timeline

Reconciliation Australia provides the framework template for this action plan. Each area has a theme, with subsequent actions and deliverables associated with the theme. We have included additional actions as requested by the staff involved in the RAP Working Group. The role of 'RAP Officer' has yet to be recruited, and the structure of this role will be determined as part of the RAP process.

Relationships			
Action	Deliverable	Timeline	Responsibility
1. Establish and strengthen mutually beneficial relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders and organisations.	1.1 Identify Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders and organisations within our local area or sphere of influence.	July 2024	RAP Officer
	1.2 Research best practice and principles that support partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders and organisations.	July 2024	RAP Officer
	1.3 Develop Engagement Guidelines to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are appropriately consulted for relevant Council projects.	December 2024	RAP Officer
2. Build relationships through celebrating National Reconciliation Week (NRW).	2.1 Circulate Reconciliation Australia's NRW resources and reconciliation materials to our staff.	May 2024/Annually	RAP Officer and RAP Working Group
	2.2 RAP Working Group members to participate in an external NRW event.	27 May- 3 June 2024/Annually	RAP Officer and RAP Working Group
	2.3 Encourage and support staff and senior leaders to participate in at least one external event to recognise and celebrate NRW.	27 May- 3 June 2024/Annually	RAP Officer and RAP Working Group
3. Promote reconciliation through our sphere of influence.	3.1 Communicate our commitment to reconciliation to all staff.	July 2024	RAP Officer
	3.2 Identify external stakeholders that our organisation can engage with on our reconciliation journey.	July 2024	RAP Officer

	3.3 Identify RAP and other like-minded organisations that we could approach to collaborate with on our reconciliation journey.	July 2024	RAP Officer
	3.4 3.4 Explore additional impactful measures the Council could adopt to promote Reconciliation throughout the shire, including, but not limited to, evaluating the Council's Australia Day events, integrating First Nations knowledge into the delivery of early years and youth services, and enhancing library collections with First Nations perspectives.	September 2024	RAP Officer and Deputy Director Communities
4 Promote positive race relations through anti-discrimination strategies.	4.1 Research best practice and policies in areas of race relations and anti-discrimination.	October 2024	Human Resource Coordinator and RAP Officer
	4.2 Conduct a review of HR policies and procedures to identify existing anti-discrimination provisions, and future needs.	January 2025	Human Resource Coordinator and RAP Officer
	4.3 Review all Council policies to ensure they are culturally inclusive and respectful of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.	February 2025	RAP Officer and Deputy Director Communities
	4.4 Ensure Council decision making processes include cultural considerations	February 2025	RAP Officer and Depute Director Communities
Respect			
Action	Deliverable	Timeline	Responsibility
5 Increase understanding, value and recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures,	5.1 Develop a business case for increasing understanding, value and recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, histories, knowledge and rights within our organisation.	March 2025	RAP Officer
	5.2 Conduct a review of cultural learning needs within our organisation.	August 2024	RAP Officer

histories, knowledge and rights through cultural learning.	5.3 Deliver both general Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural competency training and specific education regarding Traditional Owner Groups to all Council staff members (where possible)	September 2024	RAP Officer
6 Demonstrate respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by observing cultural protocols.	6.1 Develop an understanding of the local Traditional Owners or Custodians of the lands and waters within our organisation's operational area.	July 2024	RAP Officer
	6.2 Increase staff's understanding of the purpose and significance behind cultural protocols, including Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome to Country protocols.	November 2024	RAP Officer
	6.3 Develop a Towong Shire Council Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome to Country Guidance Document for staff regarding appropriate protocols and wording for events, meetings and public gatherings.	November 2024	RAP Officer and Deputy Director Communities
7 Build respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and histories by celebrating NAIDOC Week.	7.1 Raise awareness and share information amongst our staff about the meaning of NAIDOC Week.	July 2024	RAP Officer and RAP Working Group
	7.2 Introduce our staff to NAIDOC Week by promoting external events in our local area.	June 2024	RAP Officer and RAP Working Group
	7.3 RAP Working Group to participate in an external NAIDOC Week event.	First week in July 2024	RAP Officer and RAP Working Group
8 Increase visible demonstrations of respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples	8.1 Implement acknowledgement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in all Council staff email and letter correspondence.	November 2024	RAP Officer and Media and Communications Officer
	8.2 Develop a Council flag flying policy to implement permanent display of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags.	May 2025	RAP Officer and Customer Service Coordinator

	8.3 Install signage articulating acknowledgement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people at appropriate community facing services.	January 2025	RAP Officer and Media and Communications Officer
	8.4 Develop a process for engaging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists to increase cultural safety of Council's public spaces, publications etc (i.e window decals, staff and Councillor lanyards and badges, artwork, graphic design for Council Plan and other strategies)	February 2025	RAP Officer and Media and Communications Officer
	8.5 Develop a Cultural Heritage Place Naming Strategy to recognise, honour and preserve the rich cultural heritage, language and contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within our community.	March 2025	RAP Officer
Opportunities			
Action	Deliverable	Timeline	Responsibility
9 Improve employment outcomes by increasing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander recruitment, retention and professional development.	9.1 Develop a business case for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment within our organisation, including recruitment of a RAP Officer (or equivalent in partnership with a key organisation)	June 2025	Human Resource Coordinator and RAP Officer.
	9.2 Build understanding of current Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staffing to inform future employment and professional development opportunities.	June 2025	Human Resource Coordinator and RAP Officer.
	9.3 Ensure cultural heritage identification by staff is encouraged, supported and culturally safe by seeking specialist advice.	June 2025	Human Resource Coordinator and RAP Officer.
10 Increase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	10.1 Develop a business case for procurement from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned businesses.	May 2025	Deputy Director Communities.

supplier diversity to support improved economic and social outcomes.	10.2 Investigate Supply Nation membership.	May 2025	RAP Officer.
Governance			
Action	Deliverable	Timeline	Responsibility
11 Establish and maintain an effective RAP Working Group (RWG) to drive governance of the RAP.	11.1 Form a RWG to govern RAP implementation.	July 2024	Deputy Director Communities.
	11.2 Draft a Terms of Reference for the RWG.	August 2024	Deputy Director Communities.
	11.3 Establish Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation on the RWG.	September 2024	Deputy Director Communities and RAP Officer.
12 Provide appropriate support for effective implementation of RAP commitments.	1.1 Define resource needs for RAP implementation, including the identification of Council staff responsibility for RAP implementation.	July 2024	Director Community and Planning.
	1.2 Engage senior leaders in the delivery of RAP commitments.	July 2024	Director Community and Planning.
	1.3 Appoint a senior leader to champion our RAP internally.	July 2024	Director Community and Planning.
	1.4 Define appropriate systems and capability to track, measure and report on RAP commitments.	August 2024	RAP Officer.

13 Build accountability and transparency through reporting RAP achievements, challenges and learnings both internally and externally.	13.1 Contact Reconciliation Australia to verify that our primary and secondary contact details are up to date, to ensure we do not miss out on important RAP correspondence.	June annually	RAP Officer.
	13.2 Contact Reconciliation Australia to request our unique link, to access the online RAP Impact Measurement Questionnaire.	1 August annually	RAP Officer.
	13.3 Complete and submit the annual RAP Impact Measurement Questionnaire to Reconciliation Australia.	30 September, annually	RAP Officer.
14 Continue our reconciliation journey by developing our next RAP.	14.1 Register via Reconciliation Australia's website to begin developing our next RAP.	May 2025	RAP Officer.

Contact details: *[Include contact details (job title, phone, and email) for public enquiries about your RAP]*

Name: Amanda Pagan

Position: Director Community and Planning

Phone: 1300 365 222

Email: amanda.pagan@towong.vic.gov.au



Early Years Report – December 2023 to May 2024

Maternal and Child Health Services (MCH) and Family Support Services.

The MCH service operated across the municipality and continued to support families, offering core services including:

- sleep and settling training;
- enhanced maternal child health support;
- key ages and stages development milestone checks;
- family violence interventions; early trauma and grief services; and
- neonatal resuscitation and choking training.

Other support included the provision of cots, car seats, linen, books, clothing and food for families requiring assistance.

Key achievements/activities delivered during the reporting period included:

- Achieved the enrolment of a vulnerable child into 3yo kinder
- Supporting mother through several referrals and second opinions by GPs and Paediatricians to achieve a diagnosis of disease
- Assessments for Child Protection at kindergartens and childcare centre then visitation
- Large numbers to Corryong playgroup – up to 10 families
- Successful Gateway Health Emotions Coaching workshops ran in Tallangatta and Corryong.
- Made connections with staff at Royal Flying Doctor's Service to talk about having a dental van visit to the rural communities in Towong, also collaborating on helping with Smile Squad services for the local schools in the Towong Shire area

Key engagements/networking with the community this month:

- Foodbank
- Department Families Fairness and Housing
- Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service MCHN
- Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Association
- Mungabareena Aboriginal Corporation
- Upper Murray Family Care
- Social Work Albury Wodonga Health
- Walwa BNC



- Corryong Medial Practice Nurses and Medical Staff
- Child protection
- Family Violence Action Committee
- Royal Flying Doctor Service
- Gateway Health Parenting Team
- The Orange Door
- National Centre for Farmers Health
- Corryong College
- Ovens Murray Public Health Unit

Early Years Services

Childcare services continued in Tallangatta, Bellbridge and Walwa. All sites are operating at capacity with few closures. The demand for Tallangatta child care services is particularly high with quite significant numbers on the waiting list. A combination of a shortage of qualified staff and facility limitations contributes to this waiting list.

Childcare in Corryong is still being delivered via the Peekaboo service.

The three and four-year-old kindergarten programs operated in Corryong, Tallangatta, Bellbridge and Walwa throughout the reporting period.

Key features and issues of the reporting period included:

- Recruitment of new staff
- Staff participation in the Teacher Talk Program.
- Children from Tallangatta Early Years contributed artwork to the Tallangatta Show art exhibit.
- Harmony week was celebrated by all services,
- Easter was celebrated by all through Easter Hat parades, Easter egg hunts and lots of Easter craft created.
- School Readiness Funding applications submitted and approved– Sessions for Robot Play and Bush Kinder have been locked in and will go ahead during Term 2, Cultural and Social Inclusion course will be available for staff to access throughout the year, Children will be receiving books through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library each month from May, Staff will attend training about Anxiety in Children in September and staff will have access to work directly with and review training from OT's and Speech Pathologists to guide their work with the young children in our care.



Project Name	Revised budget with carry forwards + adjustments	YTD Actual	Left to spend	Quarter 3	June 30 Completion Risk	Comments
23/24	23/24	23/24	23/24	23/24		
Bellbridge Walking Track Upgrade and Exercise Equipment	\$ 903,787	\$ 23,272	\$ 880,515	Tendering		Construction tender is advertised.
Hanson St. Corryong (FCRP)-R2	\$ 3,899,423	\$ 52,068	\$ 3,847,355	Engage / Design		Designs for trial layouts are being prepared along with community engagement plan.
Stock route - Corryong	\$ 1,788,109	\$ 998,427	\$ 789,682	Construction		Construction nearing completion and expected to finish in next quarter. Reallocate \$65,000 from Drainage Renewal budget to the Stock Route budget for additional pavement stabilisation works.
Corryong CBD streetscape - Jardine St to Donaldson St	\$ 2,843,744	\$ 873,741	\$ 1,970,003	Construction		Stage 1 footpath, landscape preparation and watermain works have been completed. Pavement design procured for VicRoads assets. Works have recommenced since 15 January.
Upgrade Skate Park- Corryong (Year 1)	\$ 932,000	\$ 54,557	\$ 877,444	Construction		Contract awarded. Works to begin in Quarter 4 and potential extend into late 2024 pending weather over winter.
Circuit trail Corryong	\$ 496,682	\$ 14,904	\$ 481,778	Construction		Stage 2 construction underway
Cudgewa Avenue of Honour	\$ 337,000	\$ 123,927	\$ 213,073	Construction		Signage contract awarded
Bridge replacement - Smythes Rd	\$ 355,100	\$ 231,689	\$ 123,411	Job Closure Pending		New bridge now is use
Bridge replacement - Little Snowy Creek Rd	\$ 344,000	\$ 248,067	\$ 95,933	Job Closure Pending		New bridge now is use
Georges Creek Road Section 3	\$ 613,000	\$ 18,248	\$ 594,752	Engage / Design		Black Spot Funding Application for Georges Creek Road/Murray River Road submitted. Application outcome is due in May 2024. Tree removals planned to be completed by May 2024.
Great River Road Stage 2 - ALL	\$ 1,840,930	\$ 642,763	\$ 1,198,167	Construction		Towong Gap lookout to be removed from funding scope - application submitted to RDV, Towong Walking Track under construction. Storm damage remedial works eligible under Council Flood Support Fund
Mitta Streetscape	\$ 563,150	\$ 839,736	-\$ 276,586	Job Closure Pending		Community meeting held and minor changes to Stage 1 underway with contractor. Stage 2 planning underway. Unexpended Roads to Recovery funding in the program to be reallocated towards Mitta Streetscape. Reallocate \$42,075 from pavement renewal and \$55,000 from Street Furniture renewal towards Mitta Streetscape.
Wises Creek Road	\$ 1,235,650	\$ 166,484	\$ 1,069,166	Construction		Construction has commenced. Drainage works to be completed by June 2024. Pavement works to be completed by December 2024.
Talgarno Tennis court - upgrades	\$ 182,000	\$ 7,394	\$ 174,606	Job Closure Pending		Further consultation with community regarding the tennis court resurfacing scheduled on 9 January 2024.
Tallangatta - Rail Trail Bridge	\$ 567,100	\$ -	\$ 567,100	Engage / Design		Land acquisition from Parks Victoria process underway. Contractor engaged for bridge construction.
Walwa recreation reserve	\$ 539,800	\$ 386,038	\$ 153,762	Job Closure Pending		New building Complete. Demolition works of redundant buildings will progress in Q4.
Roy Williams Park, Bellbridge stage-2	\$ 45,000	\$ 1,680	\$ 43,320	Construction		Electrical connection approved by Ausnet. Barbeque to be installed next quarter.
Bellbridge - Early Years Playground	\$ 188,995	\$ 171,625	\$ 17,370	Job Closure Pending		Completed
Bethanga Streetscape and landscaping	\$ 33,365	\$ -	\$ 33,365	Tendering		Drainage upgrades to be undertaken in Q4
Bethanga Playground - Outdoor dining	\$ 91,000	\$ 9,090	\$ 81,910	Construction		Construction of the fence pending and is scheduled to be completed next quarter. Remaining budget to be reallocated to Bethanga streetscape and drainage.
Guys Forrest Road re-alignment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Job Closure Pending		Funding transferred to Wises Creek and Georges Creeks projects
Colac Colac - Completion of kiosk at caravan park	\$ 25,000	\$ 2,560	\$ 22,440	Job Closure Pending		Completed - defects to be addressed with remaining funds.
Corryong Airport upgrade, fuel	\$ 75,000	\$ -	\$ 75,000	Job Closure Pending		Completed

Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda - 22
May 2024

Appendix 12.2.1

Project Name	Revised budget with carry forwards + adjustments	YTD Actual	Left to spend	Quarter 3	June 30 Completion Risk	Comments
	23/24	23/24	23/24	23/24		
Landfill construction-Corryong	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Job Closure Pending	Green	Cell 3 will not be constructed. Cell 2 is now closed and waste is being transported to Albury City's Landfill.
Capping cell 2	\$ 234,300	\$ 25,000	\$ 209,300	Engage / Design	Green	Designs for capping Cell 2 are underway.
New Retaining Wall RRC	\$ 300,000	\$ 47,752	\$ 252,248	Construction	Green	Works underway and nearing completion.
Disabled access at Corryong Pool	\$ 30,685	\$ 30,685	\$ -	Job Closure Pending	Green	Completed - Some funds sourced from community and planning operational budget.
Corryong - Playes Hill upgrade	\$ 175,609	\$ 175,609	\$ 0	Job Closure Pending	Green	Completed - Some funding sourced from Recovery budget.
Corryong - Weighbridge completion	\$ 228,571	\$ 422,468	-\$ 193,897	Construction	Green	Civil works complete, final signage works pending prior to truck wash being operational. Pavement Re-stabilisation works eligible under flood support fund and unexpended LRCIP Stage 3 funding.
Darmouth Splash Park and Pump Track	\$ 450,000	\$ 9,725	\$ 440,275	Tendering	Orange	Splashpark is out to tender.
Dartmouth Rec Res Driveway	\$ 40,000	\$ -	\$ 40,000	Engage / Design	Orange	Seeking quotes for repair and construction of a new driveway. Works will only proceed following a review of Recreation Reserve Plan and Splash Park and Pump Track design.
Eskdale Walking Track – Seal Path	\$ 173,458	\$ -	\$ 173,458	Job Closure Pending	Green	Completed
Lake Road - unsealed section	\$ 335,577	\$ 8,450	\$ 327,127	Engage / Design	Red	Design of lake road reviewed. Tender for construction scheduled for next quarter.
Magorra Park Entrance	\$ 30,000	\$ 1,870	\$ 28,130	Tendering	Orange	Works to be incorporated into construction of footpath stage 2 miita streetscape Q4
Talgarno Toilet Block	\$ 347,732	\$ 1,360	\$ 346,372	Engage / Design	Red	Consultant engaged to consult with community regarding concept and design options.
Tallangatta Toilet Block	\$ 243,500	\$ 251,789	-\$ 8,289	Construction	Orange	New toilet block is now open. Works to the Visitor Information Centre are programmed to be completed by June 2024. Budget to be reallocated from LRCIP P2 shade sails project which was completed last financial year.
Specific building renewal - including HVAC replacement	\$ 250,000	\$ -	\$ 250,000	Engage / Design	Red	Further staff consultation required. Budget reduction proposed to carry forward \$125K
Yabba Road upgrades	\$ 550,880	\$ 81,541	\$ 469,339	Construction	Green	Construction has commenced.
Lake Rd / MVH - Old Tallangatta	\$ 210,500	\$ 3,888	\$ 206,612	Engage / Design	Orange	Designs are with VicRoads for approval - could affect timing and pricing. Meeting with VicRoads scheduled next quarter.
Towong Street East Upgrade-Tallangatta	\$ 254,249	\$ 160,962	\$ 93,287	Construction	Green	Landscaping works underway
Tallangatta Skatepark	\$ 54,000	\$ 51,000	\$ 3,000	Job Closure Pending	Green	Completed.
Triangles Irrigation System	\$ 113,000	\$ 25,550	\$ 87,450	Job Closure Pending	Green	Completed. Remaining funds to be reallocated to Triangles toilet block.
Tallangatta Transfer station - retaining wall	\$ 449,100	\$ 170,025	\$ 279,075	Construction	Orange	Additional Sustainability Victoria grant funding added to budget. Preliminary works have commenced, final design underway.
Tintalra boat ramp	\$ 4,000	\$ 879	\$ 3,121	Job Closure Pending	Green	Major works completed. Remaining funds to be allocated to Tintalra community project group.
Pavement Renewal (Year-4)	\$ 100,000	\$ 57,925	\$ 42,075	Job Closure Pending	Green	Completed.
Annual resheeting program (Year-1)	\$ 400,000	\$ 144,158	\$ 255,842	Construction	Green	Works to be undertaken in Q3 and Q4
Major patching and road reconstruction program	\$ 1,100,000	\$ 1,010,705	\$ 89,295	Construction	Green	Additional works to be completed in Q4 to ensure roads are safe for winter. Refer to report for budget reallocation recommendations.
Resealing Program	\$ 654,500	\$ -	\$ 654,500	Job Closure Pending	Green	Completed.
Annual guard rail construction & replacement (Year-1)	\$ 50,000	\$ 77,529	-\$ 27,529	Job Closure Pending	Green	Completed.
Dust strips 2022/2023	\$ 60,000	\$ -	\$ 60,000	Job Closure Pending	Green	Dust strip budget to be reallocated to major patching and resheeting
Annual drainage asset survey and renewal (2022/23)	\$ 70,000	\$ 6,888	\$ 63,112	Construction	Green	Works to be undertaken in Q4
Drainage Repair	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ 100,000	Construction	Orange	Works to be undertaken in Q4

Project Name	Revised budget with carry forwards + adjustments	YTD Actual	Left to spend	Quarter 3	June 30 Completion Risk	Comments
	23/24	23/24	23/24	23/24		
Street Furniture Renewal	\$ 55,000	\$ -	\$ 55,000	Construction		Reallocated towards Mitta streetscape furniture.
Playground Equipment Renewals	\$ 120,000	\$ 19,377	\$ 100,623	Tendering		To be undertaken in Q4 - Walwa Playground
Footpath Renewals	\$ 59,000	\$ -	\$ 59,000	Construction		Works underway and nearing completion.
Building Demolition - Tallangatta depot, toilet block & Walwa old	\$ 180,000	\$ 55,619	\$ 124,381	Tendering		Old Mechanic Shed in the Tallangatta Depot and the old toilet block in Tallangatta have been demolished. Walwa Recreation Reserve buildings scheduled in Q4.
Building Renewals	\$ 420,000	\$ 174,765	\$ 245,235	Tendering		Building inspection complete and renewal program underway
Fixtures and Furnishings	\$ 40,000	\$ -	\$ 40,000	Construction		Furniture renewals purchased as required throughout the year
Annual fleet replacement (Year 5/5 CF)	\$ 499,546	\$ 133,052	\$ 366,494	Tendering		Program in place for cyclical replacements
Annual Plant Replacement (CF + Year 2022/23)	\$ 1,056,000	\$ 37,834	\$ 1,018,166	Tendering		Items identified for replacement as part of budget setting - tendering to commence in quarter 2.
Minor tools (item over \$1000)	\$ 30,000	\$ -	\$ 30,000	Construction		Tools purchased as required throughout the year
IT equipment upgrades (Year-1)	\$ 50,000	\$ 22,230	\$ 27,770	Construction		IT equipment purchased as required throughout the year
IT Project - Planning and Building System	\$ 187,000	\$ -	\$ 187,000	Construction		Greenlight software development project progressing
Annual library book renewal (Year4/4 CF)	\$ 30,000	\$ 27,381	\$ 2,619	Construction		Books purchased as required throughout the year
	\$ 27,636,042	\$ 8,102,084	\$ 19,533,958			

MAY 2024 - UPDATE

Corryong CBD Parking options review - update



Corryong CBD Parking

Options review update

Overview

The parking review for the Corryong CBD explores where and how additional parking could be developed to serve local businesses and their customers. This report provides an initial update on the progress to date with a focus on the options for increasing the parking yield of Donaldson Street.

Corryong is a growing community with an increasing tourism brand which drives a demand for parking in the CBD. Additionally, the nature of tourism in the area means most visitors drive vehicles - which include larger vehicles with either bike racks or those towing caravans / campers. This demand for parking occurs in locations where locals are often accustomed to being able to park near where they shop.

The context for the review also includes the reduction in parking spaces resulting from the streetscape revitalisation works and strong community interest in both the number of parking bays and their design / length.

This report provides an initial update on the community engagement to date and seeks support to engage the community in options for Donaldson Street parking.

Overview of the 'scope' for options

The scope for a parking review could range from being constrained to only looking at options within land and roads currently controlled by Council; to assuming a blank canvas for the whole area bounded by Donaldson, Wheeler, Jardine and Harris Streets. While the broader scope would enable an unconstrained plan for future parking, the level of community disruption and costs could be significant.

To strike a balance for the scope of the review it was considered appropriate to include options for additional parking including land currently privately owned. Due to the sensitivities of this approach, the project engagement will be designed to maintain a confidential engagement process for private land holders. The scope also includes other land which Council will possibly look to control in the future such as the former junior school site.

Engagement approach

The preliminary concepts are not constrained by land ownership to enable the presentation of all options for Council for consideration. When the feasibility of the presented options is revised further, the appetite for landowners to be willing parties must be tested.

The help mitigate these risks the business owners and landowners will be given the first opportunity to contribute ideas and be given the opportunity to see any sensitive project communication material before it is distributed publicly. This approach doesn't guarantee a smooth passage for the conversations about options, but it does recognise that the impacts on business and landowners could be significant and that all efforts should be made to negotiate mutually acceptable outcomes.

Based on these challenges the engagement plan uses the following steps

1. Direct contact with business owners on approach to engagement and preliminary concepts. (key businesses between WAW and Legends Café, plus the pub – completed early February 2024)
2. Actively seeking concepts and ideas from all business and property owners – via a written invitation to drop-in session for businesses at Council offices. (completed mid-March 2024)

-
3. Validate the preliminary concepts with planning staff for alignment with any broader planning objectives. (in progress)
 4. Update Council on what feedback has been received and seek endorsement of the next steps. (This update report)
 5. Subject to 4 above – engage the broader community in feedback on the short-term options and what they would like to see in the longer term.

Engagement Feedback – to date

The one-on-one meetings with business and landowners were generally well received and produced a range of ideas for consideration. The drop-in session was attended by a single landowner considered key to realising options on privately owned land. Three written submissions were also received.

There has also been a subsequent approach by a private land owner on the bakery side of the CBD to explore if their land might be viable for increasing public parking.

Participants in all these meetings were all encouraged to contribute their ideas, with many options being identified. The most common theme was a desire to see additional parking developed in the area behind the supermarket, specific ideas included:

- Creating an in and out loop from Harris Street.
- Accessing land currently in private ownership, including considering what land uses are a fit for being in the centre of town in the longer term.
- Consideration of long-term leases as an alternative to outright purchasing.
- The benefit of pedestrian and or vehicle access from Hanson Street.
- Using the elevation of the site to consider a two-storey car park.

Other ideas included:

- Improving pedestrian access to the current arcade car park to avoid people walking and pushing trolleys in the vehicle zone.
- Modifying the layout of Donaldson Street to increase parking spaces / lengths. (The focus of this update.)
- Including places for shopping trolleys to be left for collection.

-
- Exploring the future use of the vacant block on the corner of Hanson Street and Jardine Street – currently occupied by the CBD upgrade contractor.
 - Addressing the needs of larger vehicles, vehicles towing vans / campers and truck parking.
 - Looking at options in other areas of the CBD.
 - The future of the former primary school site to include new parking areas.

Key constraints identified included:

- Willingness (or otherwise) of individual landowners to be prepared to sell or lease their land.
- Need for the rear of the supermarket to also serve as a busy loading area.
- Need to honour previously dedicated parking bays i.e. Opportunity Shop.
- Existing roadway easements lack connectivity and don't lend themselves to any obvious layout solutions without accessing privately owned land.
- Vehicles currently traverse private land to access the rear of businesses.

Early Concepts

Based on the engagement to date and the ideas provided by the land/business owners, several potential concepts have been drafted for ongoing discussion with land/business owners in the area. These options will be provided to Council after the land/business owners have provided feedback.

Modifying the layout of Donaldson Street – options

One of the key suggestions in the discussions was the need for longer vehicle parking, the generous width of Donaldson Street represents an opportunity to meet this need. In response, two layout options have been developed and could be implemented reasonably quickly as Donaldson Street is Council controlled land.

It is recommended to seek community feedback on these options including the location of trees and the impact on the number of parking bays, noting the number of bays could otherwise be increased by an additional 3.

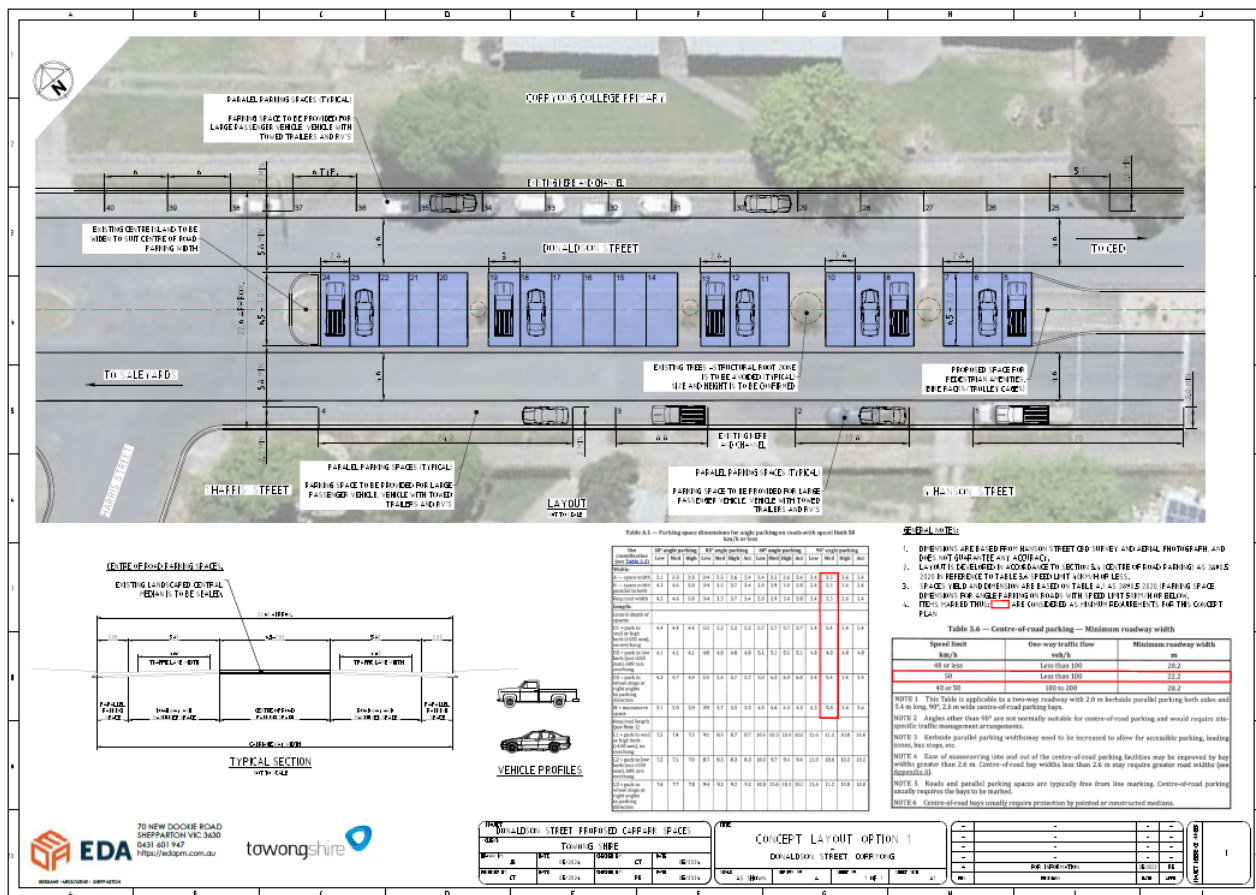
Proposed engagement approach

- A community drop-in session in Corryong to view the plans and provide feedback;
- An on-line survey;
- Plans emailed to the land / business owner network to maximise awareness of the proposed changes.

OPTIONS

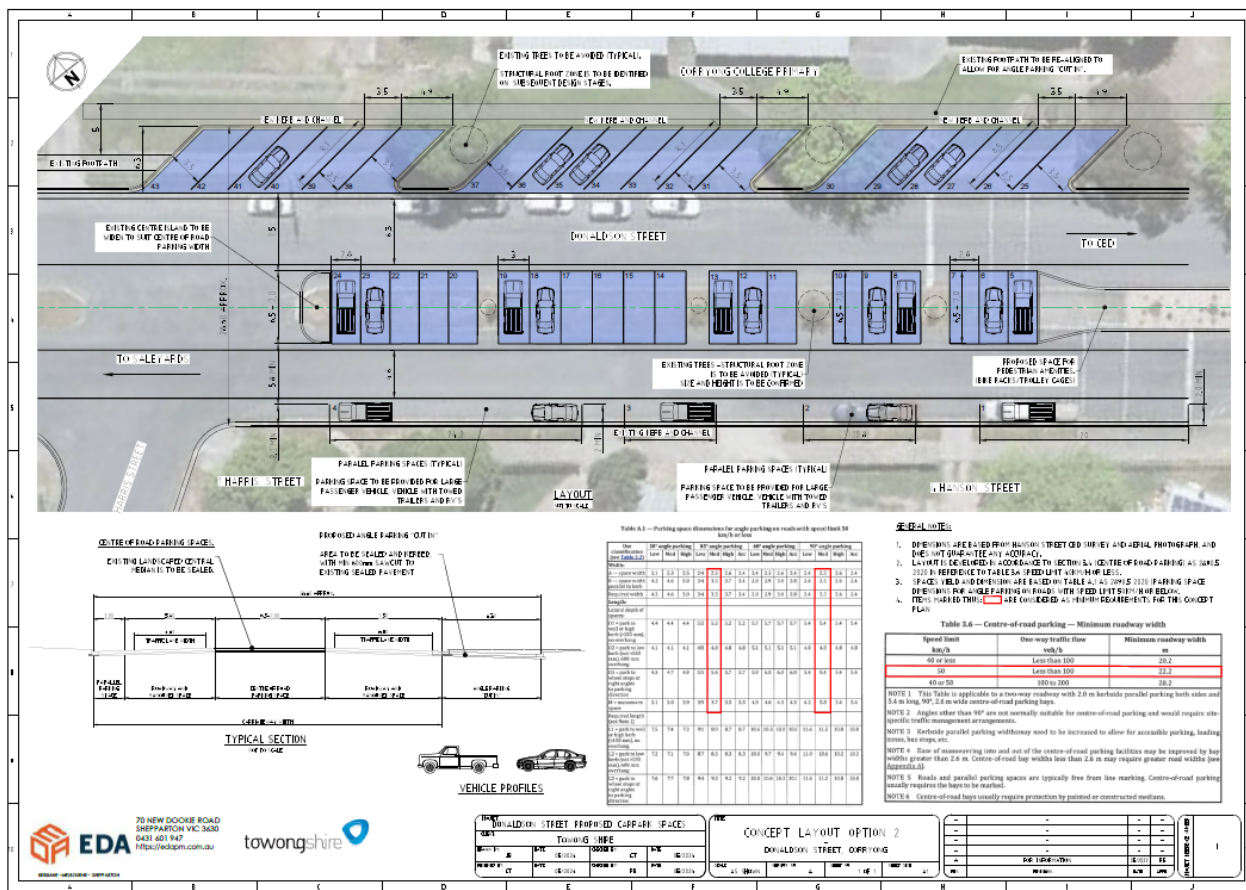
Donaldson Street – Option 1 Drive through centre bay with parallel parking each side

- 20 additional spaces (if three shade trees planted);
- Centre bays at least 6.5 metres long and 2.8 metres wide.



Donaldson Street – Option 2 Drive through centre bay with angle parking on school site side

- 20 addition spaces as per option 1 – plus 3 additional angle bays (if three shade trees planted);
- Centre bays at least 6.5 metres long and 2.8 metres wide;
- Cutting into the school site enables a wider traffic lane for reversing from angle bays and exiting centre bays;
- More expensive than option 1 – expected to require a watermain renewal.



Agriculture Report

One of the most significant recent developments is the partnership established with Riverine Plains to support the Agriculture Officer role that became vacant in April 2023. This partnership is poised to bring numerous benefits to our local agricultural community, including:

- Access to Research and Development: Local producers will gain access to the latest agricultural research and development findings, allowing them to adopt cutting-edge practices.
- Workshop Opportunities: Riverine Plains will provide opportunities for local farmers to participate in workshops, training sessions, and knowledge-sharing events.
- Enhanced Networking: The partnership will facilitate networking opportunities for local farmers to connect with experts and peers in the industry.
- Improved Sustainability: Through the collaboration with Riverine Plains, our agricultural community can work toward greater sustainability and resilience.

With the recruitment of the officer completed in mid 2023, several planned workshops were rolled out throughout the period. These included:

- Optimal Heifer Management Discussion Group
- Soil Pit and Pasture Field Day
- On-Farm Sustainability Information Day
- Stock Containment Area Workshop

Work is underway to plan workshops for the remainder of 2024.

Feed Testing Program

12 local producers participated in the Feed Testing Program during November 2023 and January 2024 and received two pre-paid feed test sample bags between November 2023 to January 2024. The samples were mailed to the Feed Central laboratory at Toowoomba. Once processed, the results were mailed to the participating producers.

Webinars were held in January 2024 to review the findings of the feed program and provide useful insights to any producer wanting to learn more about the program. The second tranche of feed testing will take place shortly.

Further work is currently being undertaken to program workshops for the remainder of 2024, with delivery expected across the municipality

Economic and Tourism Development Report

October 2023 – March 2024

Major Projects

Bellbridge Boathouse

The Bellbridge Boathouse project, identified as a transformative initiative within the Towong Shire Destination Management Plan, has made considerable progress. Securing funding from the State Government's Investment Fast-Track Fund in 2022, the project has since advanced through stakeholder engagement, concept design, and business case development phases. With a detailed construction design set in place, along with operational and financial models, the project awaits the outcome of its application to the Australian Government's *Growing Regions* program, following a successful submission in January 2024.

High Country Rail Trail

Plans to extend and upgrade the High Country Rail Trail are underway, with Council seeking funding to realise this vision from the *Regional Partnerships and Precincts Program*. With careful consideration of surface options and stakeholder input, the project aims to enhance recreational experiences and stimulate economic growth along the trail.

Activating Lake Hume

The completion of the Activating Lake Hume Masterplan will enhance recreational opportunities and amenities around the lake. With strong community support and prioritisation of key projects (Tallangatta Foreshore development, delivery of the Bellbridge Boathouse, and sealing of Lake Road) the plan promises to elevate Lake Hume as a premier tourist destination in the region. The plan is due to be adopted in April 2024.

Mitta Mountain Bike Park

The Mitta Valley community's vision for a Mountain Bike Park is materialising, thanks to the commitment from Mitta Valley Inc members and the support of Council. With comprehensive plans in place and stakeholder engagement ongoing, the park is on track to become a premier outdoor destination, offering recreational opportunities while preserving the natural environment.

Commented [NT1]: Do we want this to be out there in public?

Great River Road

Progress on Stage Two of the Great River Road Project is evident, with significant artworks installed and interpretive signage nearing completion. The project, aimed at enhancing visitor experiences along the iconic route, is poised to showcase the region's rich heritage and natural beauty.

Mount Elliot Masterplan

Council's efforts to develop a Masterplan for Mount Elliot are nearing fruition, promising a sustainable adventure destination that celebrates the area's natural assets. While awaiting the completion of essential reports, Council remains committed to realising this vision through community engagement and strategic partnerships.

Tourism North East Activating Gravel Cycling Project

Tourism North East's efforts to promote gravel cycling in the High Country are bearing fruit, with the development of trailheads and infrastructure aimed at attracting cycling enthusiasts. Collaborative partnerships ensure the project's success, contributing to the region's reputation as a premier cycling destination.

Marketing and Promotions

Destination Website

In 2022, the Council engaged Us&Us to spearhead the development of the new Destination Website, focusing on three destination brands within the Shire: Lake Hume, Mitta Valley, and Upper Murray. After completing the branding phase, the project transitioned to creating a unified destination website. Despite initial progress, delays arose in mid-2023 due to contractor issues and communication challenges with the platform host. Although the completion timeline was extended to February 2024, further delays pushed the project back by an additional two to three months. Recent developments include finalising revised website copy, conducting an image library audit, and developing a photography brief, which is currently in progress.

Town Entry Signage

Following the successful design and installation of town entry signs for Colac Colac and Bethanga, similar designs for Bullioh, Koetong, Shelley, Berringama, Cudgewa, and Georges Creek have been completed and are slated for installation in the coming months.

Recovery Events

Evolve Fest: Battle of the Bands

Building on the success of the inaugural Evolve Fest Battle of the Bands event in November 2022, a similar event was held in December 2023 at The Triangles, Tallangatta. Featuring local talent and guest artists, the event attracted significant participation and engagement from the community, fostering youth development and social connections. Plans are underway to expand similar events into neighbouring LGAs.

Several events aimed at promoting community engagement and recovery were held, including the Festival of Small Halls in Mitta Mitta, Long Lunch @ Towong Turf Club (which unfortunately had to be cancelled due to low registration numbers), and the Mitta Valley Gravel Unravel. Despite varying levels of success, these events contributed to community spirit and local economic activity.

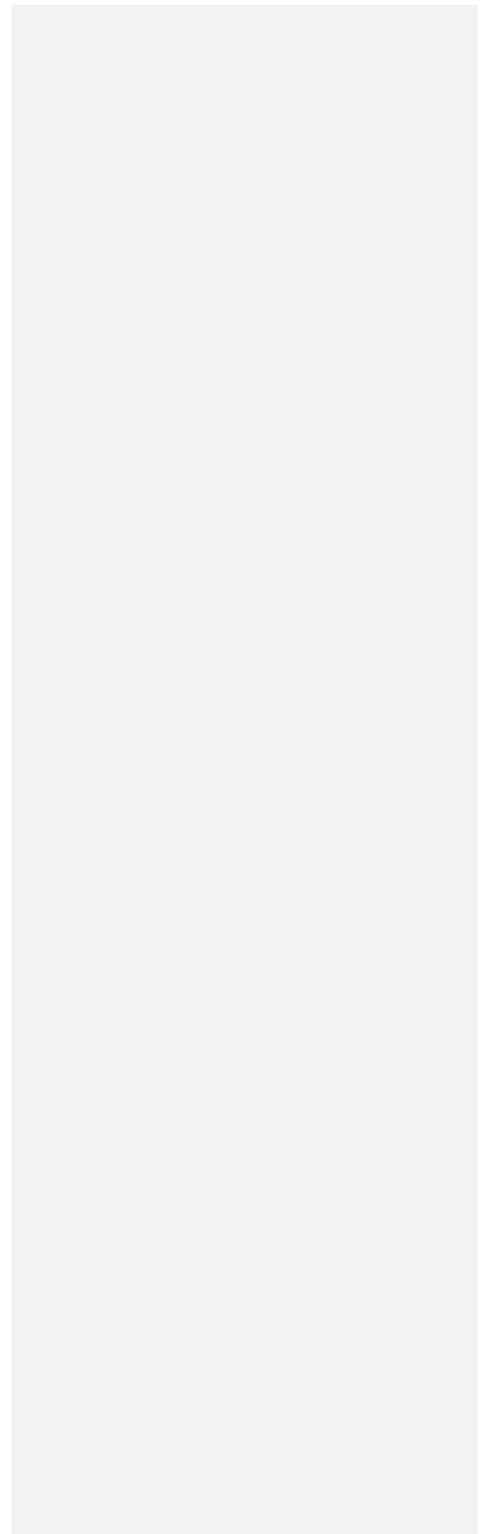
Pub to Pelican Marathon and Run Upper Murray

The High Country Rail Trail, a gem in the Towong Shire Destination Management Plan, is gearing up for action. After exploring options to activate the trail, a partnership with Mathieu Doré Coaching was forged. Mathieu Doré, renowned for his running expertise, is spearheading the Pub to Pelican marathon on June 2, 2024. The marathon, spanning from Koetong Pub to Pelican Park in Tallangatta, offers varied distances including a half marathon, 10km, and 3km run. With meticulous planning, engagement with stakeholders, and a robust promotional strategy, the event is poised for success. Additionally, plans for Run Upper Murray, scheduled for October 19-20, promise an exhilarating trail running experience through forested areas.

Business Support

The 2024 Upper Murray Business and Tourism Expo, in collaboration with Upper Murray Inc. and the Man from Snowy River Tourism Association, is underway. This year's event boasts an exciting lineup of guest speakers:

- Marcus Warner, CEO of Pepo Farms Group, shares insights into agritourism success.
- Warren Livingston, Owner/Publican of Khancoban Hotel, presents fresh perspectives for Khancoban.
- A representative from Tourism North East offers a glimpse into current tourism trends and forecasts.
- Celeste Pierce and Clayton Wood, Directors of Business Edge Advisers, delve into business growth and development strategies.



2024 Albury Wodonga Regional Health Summit Ask

1. That funding is allocated on a needs basis catering for the growth of our communities recognising that early intervention to prevent people entering the acute care system provides the best return on investment;
2. That federal and state governments provide integration of pathways into a health profession and a Rural and Regional Collaborative Health Research Centre of Excellence to provide a vibrant future of collaboration and learning and create a location of aspiration for the health fraternity;
3. That the State and Federal Governments provide seed funding for the establishment of a collaborative education and research centre for rural and regional health including operational resources and physical facilities.
4. Through informed advocacy and concerted efforts commit to uncovering and addressing key impediments that undermine collaborative healthcare and prevent professionals from working to their full scope of practice;
5. Advocate for a return of the capacity data in the 2021 Clinical Service Plan and the Masterplan as servicing the current and future Albury Wodonga Regional Cross Border Community and make this a coordinated local approach where local leaders and subject matter experts are acknowledged for their local experience and their contribution in co-designing the outcomes is paramount;
6. Advocate to all levels of government to provide a regional governance model with an independent chair and involving industry and community in order to have a "one system" - including public health and primary care - Albury Wodonga Regional Health Service that is appropriate for our community now and in the future "Make the Murray River invisible";
7. Request the Victorian and NSW Cross Border Commissioners to establish a Regional Cross Governmental Infrastructure and Services Coordinating Committee to co-ordinate the provision of infrastructure and services beyond the hospital site and to recognise the regional services, catchment and operations;
8. That the Victorian Government collaborate as a trusted partner with the Federal and New South Wales Government in a bipartisan approach and with the Albury Wodonga Region Community.
9. Seek to have representations to National Cabinet on the matters raised at the summit; and
10. That the attendees of the 2024 Albury Wodonga Health Summit thank all Health Workers and support staff that go above and beyond with the facilities they have to provide the best of healthcare for our regional community.



Kerbside Refuse Residual Waste and Recycling Collection

Responsible officer:	Director of <u>Infrastructure and Environment Technical Services</u>
Key Result Area:	Governance and Decision Making
Document type:	Policy
Reference:	02/04/0017
Approved by:	Council
Date approved:	<u>2 April 2019</u>
Date of next review:	<u>February 2020</u>
Print date:	<u>7 May 2024</u> 3 April 2019

Purpose

This policy specifies the requirements for the provision of kerbside residual waste, food and garden organics (FOGO), comingled recycling and glass recycling collection in Towong Shire, including:

- service areas
- service types and eligibility for a route extension
- service frequency

Scope

This policy specifies the requirements for the provision of kerbside refuse residual waste, food and garden organics (FOGO), comingled recycling and glass recycling collection and recycling collection (e.g. Comingled Recycling) in Towong Shire, including:

- service areas
- service types and eligibility for a route extension
- service frequency

This policy applies to all Council residual waste and recycling bins and associated infrastructure in the Towong Shire with no exceptions made for any types of habitable dwellings, or non-profit community groups.

Objectives

The objectives of this policy are:

- To clarify the collection areas, eligibility for service and service types
- To clarify the schedule for kerbside residual waste and recycling collection.
- To clarify the fees and charges relevant to this service.

Background

At the Council Meeting held on 22 March 2023, Council adopted changes to the delivery of waste and recycling services in response to the State Government's Circular Economy initiative including a review of bin sizes and collection frequencies and the introduction of a FOGO kerbside collection and a glass drop off service.

The 2024 kerbside refuse and recycling collection map can be found on Council's website.

Policy Details

The objectives of this policy will be achieved by the following statements:

1.0 Service types and eligibility

- Property owners within two (2) km of the current collection route must participate in Council's kerbside collection service for both residual waste, FOGO and comingled recycling unless evidence can be provided of alternative service providers, such as Woolpack or other commercial waste collection providers. A glass drop off service will be provided at Council's recycling sheds and resource recovery centres.
- There is also an 'opt-out' option for residential households in the farming, rural living and rural residential zones for the provision of a kerbside FOGO service. Evidence must be provided to Council of an alternative onsite FOGO management system to officially opt out of this service.
- A benchtop caddy and annual supply of compostable liners will be provided to each eligible household receiving a FOGO service.

~~providers(The Kerbside refuse and recycling collection route map 2017 can be viewed and downloaded from Council's web site serviced area for kerbside residual waste and recycling can be viewed and downloaded downloaded from the council website)~~

1.1 Service Extension

- Property owners that are not located within the current service eligibility area may request an extension of service provision. These requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis and no guarantee of extension will be made in these circumstances. An extra charge per annum will apply if the decision is made to include the applicant into the service. This charge is listed in the Towong Shire Fees and Schedules, and in 20231/20242 was \$1548.40/km of \$120/km/annual will apply if the decision is made to include the applicant into the service. The distance is counted from the end of the current route to the requested collection point
- For a request of service extension, the location of the property must have clear access for the kerbside collection truck including adequate space to turn the truck around. The access must not be classified as a "Limited Access Road" (please contact Council for the classification of roads); it is also prohibited for kerbside collection trucks to drive on private land or deviate from their designated routes without permission from the designated Council Officer.
- Council will only empty authorized ~~paid~~ bins; any other extra bins will not be emptied by Council's or its third party provider kerbside collection truck.

1.2 Service frequency

- Effective 1st June 2024 Council will provide a fortnightly weekly residual waste, fortnightly comingled recycling and a weekly FOGO collection service until further notice.
- Service is provided at different locations on different days of the week as per the collection days provided on the Council website.
- Collection times are between six (6) am to six (6) pm on weekdays; collection will be performed throughout the year including public holidays. Council reserves the right to change collection times.
- All bins need to be placed at the designated collection points the night prior to the designated collection day.
- Only bins placed at designated collection points on the collection routes will be emptied.
- Where evidence is found that a bin was placed on the kerb prior to the collection truck passing by (cameras on trucks will provide information) a missed bin service will be provided within 7 days. Where there is no evidence of the bin being placed on the kerb prior to the collection truck passing the property the bin will be collected as per the next scheduled collection.

1.3 Fees

- Fees for the collection service will be reviewed annually, please refer to Council's website for the current fees and charges.
- Council provides two vouchers per household per year, distributed with the first rates notice. Please refer to Council's website for further information.

1.4 Collection from Recycling Stations

- Recycling Stations ~~are have been~~ located at Lucyvale, Nariel Valley, Granya, Talgarno and Tallangatta Valley. These Recycling Stations form an extension to the kerbside collection service and operate in more remote areas allowing those communities to drop off recycling without additional charge. Glass drop off will also be provided at these locations as of June 2024.
- ~~Due to a lack of lighting, operating hours for the recycling stations is during daylight hours only.~~
- Users of the recycling stations are encouraged to keep them in a neat and tidy way to allow the truck drivers access for bin collection.

~~Communities who are provided this service must maintain the sheds in a neat and tidy way to allow the truck driver access for bin collection.~~



- ~~The volume of material at recycling sheds is limited by EPA and their continued operation will reviewed annually.~~ reviewed annually against state legislation.

1.41.5 Collection for community groups

- Committees or groups that wish to receive free refuse and/or recycling collection service (In Kind Support) for special events must apply to Council in writing **at least** two (2) weeks prior the required date. The application will be reviewed and assessed by Council's officer on a case-by-case basis. Council will encourage the separation of waste and recycling at events and encourage community groups to engage with container deposit scheme providers directly.
- Committees or groups receiving Council's free collection services are responsible for the maintenance of all bins and associated infrastructure; all bins will be checked for condition and quantity after the event. Damage to or loss of bins and associated infrastructure will be charged to the group at current market value.
- Council will provide additional Hard and E-waste waste collection at least once a year in various locations. The locations are publicised on Towong Shire Council's Website and only residents who have prebooked a time will be eligible for free drop off. Evidence of residential status will be required at the time of drop off via presentation of issued vouchers or service may be refused. These collections will be free for those residents that present Council issued voucher(s) on the collection day. A fee must be paid at a Council office prior to the Hard waste collection day will be charged if no voucher if the resident does not have eligible vouchers. is presented

Further details regarding this policy can be obtained from Council's website or office.

Responsibility



Responsibility	Role/Position
<u>Responsible for the implementation of this policy and oversight of Circular Economy and Environmental functions in the Shire.</u>	<u>Director Infrastructure and Environment</u>
<u>Responsible for the deployment of the initiatives and obligations outlined in this policy and Environmental S</u>	<u>Coordinator Circular Economy and Environment</u>

Application of the policy

Human Rights

The policy gives regard to relevant legislation, principles of natural justice and procedural fairness, community values and Council's resource capacity. It is considered that this policy supports the rights identified in the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act (2006).

Relevant legislation

- Local Government Act 1989 (and LG Act 2020 ?)
- Local Government Act 2020
- Environment Protection Act 2017
- Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021

Results

The deployment of this policy together with the results achieved will be reviewed at least annually.

Authorised by:

Juliana Phelps
Chief Executive Officer