

Agenda

Ordinary Meeting of Council

Corryong Council Chamber

Wednesday 22 February 2023

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

<p>AGENDA FOR THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL TO BE HELD AT TOWONG SHIRE COUNCIL CORRYONG OFFICE ON WEDNESDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2023 COMMENCING AT 10.30AM.</p>
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Commonly Used Acronyms

ABBREVIATION	TITLE
Council Officers	
SAE	Senior Asset Engineer
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
DIE	Director Infrastructure and Environment
DCP	Director Community and Planning
DCOD	Director Corporate and Organisational Development
MF	Manager Finance
Government/Organisation	
ACSUM	Alliance of Councils and Shires of the Upper Murray
CH	Corryong Health (formerly Upper Murray Health and Community Services)
DJPR	Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions
DOT	Department of Transport
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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	Opening Prayer.....	5
2	Councillor and Officer Presence at the Meeting	5
3	Apologies and Granting of Leave of Absence	5
4	Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest.....	5
5	Confirmation of Minutes	7
6	Petitions and Joint Letters	7
7	Public Question Time.....	7
8	Informal Meetings of Councillors.....	8
9	Organisational Improvement.....	9
9.1	Quarterly Budget Report (06/04/0212-DCOD).....	9
9.2	Occupational Health and Safety (06/04/0212-DCOD).....	13
9.3	Corporate and Organisational Development Report (06/01/0011-DCOD).....	17
9.4	Council Plan Priorities (07/05/0022-DCOD).....	21
10	Bushfire Relief and Recovery	24
10.1	Bushfire Relief and Recovery Update (02/02/0013-DCP)	24
10.2	Bushfire Resilience and Recovery Fund - Proposed Allocations (02/02/0013-DCP)	28
11	Community Wellbeing	32
12	Asset Management	32
12.1	Asset Plan (01/07/0004-DIE)	32
12.2	Discontinuance and Sale of Section of Road 1\TP329264 (01/01/0429-DIE)	32
12.3	Mitta Streetscape Upgrade – Stage 1 Tender Evaluation - Contract No. 2022/23-001 (02/11/0022-DIE)	39
12.4	Proposed Alignment of Walking Track through Brooke Street, Towong – (05/02/0162-DIE)	43
12.5	Flood Damage Repairs - Towong Shire Eastern Section – Contract No. 2022/2023-025; Flood Damage Repairs - Towong Shire Western Section – Contract No. 2022/2023-026 (01/01/0420-DIE)	43
13	Land Use Planning	48
13.1	Land Use Planning Report (03/02/0003-DCP)	48
14	Environmental Sustainability.....	48
14.1	Environmental Sustainability Report (01/07/0004-DIE).....	48
15	Economic and Tourism Development	48
15.1	Mobile and Internet Communications Strategy (05/01/0166-DCP)	48
15.2	Economic Development (Tourism) Report (05/01/0164-DCP)	54
16	Councillor Reports	54
17	Urgent Business.....	54
18	Committee Minutes	54
19	Occupational Health and Safety	54

19.1	OHS Committee (06/04/0212-CEO)	54
20	Council Policies (10/01/0007-CEO).....	54
20.1	Policies for Review and Adoption	54
21	Sealing of Documents	55
22	Confidential.....	55

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

Crs Whitehead, Wortmann, Scales, Anderson and Dikschei

In Attendance:	Title:
Ms Phelps	Chief Executive Officer
Ms Gadd	Director Infrastructure and Environment
Ms Pagan	Director Community and Planning
Ms Woolaston	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

Special Council Meeting held on 01 February 2023.

The minutes were circulated following the meeting.

Recommendation:

That the Minutes as circulated be confirmed for the Special Council Meeting held on 01 February 2023.

Council Resolution:

To be resolved at the Council meeting.

6 Petitions and Joint Letters

Nil

7 Public Question Time

Public Question Time has now replaced the Open Forum section of the Council meeting.

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 Chief Executive Officer will advise the meeting of the receipt of any questions.

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 Record from the Informal Meeting of Councillors held on 25 January 2023 is attached at [Appendix 1](#).

Recommendation:

That the information be noted.

Council Resolution:

To be resolved at the Council meeting.

9 Organisational Improvement

9.1 Quarterly Budget Report (06/04/0212-DCOD)

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

This report was prepared by Ms Emma Woolaston, Director Corporate and Organisational Development and Mr Dylan Howard, Manager Finance.

At the time of preparation of this report, the officers 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:

At 31 December 2022, Council's financial position was \$7.9 million ahead of budget, primarily due to:

- \$5.4 million in grant income being carried forward from 2021/22 due to multi-year projects and COVID-19 related delays to capital works projects;
- \$0.5 million in funding for Bushfire Recovery that was not anticipated at the time of the budget;
- \$0.5 million in flood support funding that was not anticipated at the time of the budget;
- \$0.7 million in planned operational expenditure not yet spent; and
- \$0.4 million in wages savings due to unfilled positions.

Recommendation:

That:

1. The report be noted; and
2. It be noted that the Chief Executive Officer has advised that a revised budget is not required.

Attachment:

Appendix 2 – Quarterly Budget Report as at 31 December 2022.

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 –*
 - (a) *a comparison of the actual and budgeted results to date; and*
 - (b) *an explanation of any material variations; and*
 - (c) *any other matters prescribed by the regulations.*
- (3) *In addition, the second quarterly report of a financial year must include a statement by the Chief Executive Officer as to whether a revised budget is, or may be, required.*

This report meets the requirements of the *Act*.

The Chief Executive Officer has determined that a revised budget is not required.

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

Not applicable.

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

The year-to-date position is significantly ahead of budget, primarily due to the carry forward of selected one-off grant funds from the prior financial year, as well as additional one-off grant funds not anticipated at the time that the budget was adopted. It is expected that these funds will be expended as the relevant work being funded by the grants is progressed. Longer term financial sustainability is dependent on the ongoing receipt of grants to fund renewal of Council's aging infrastructure.

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

Not applicable.

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

The Budget Report reflects a significant amount of one-off grant funding which is being spent on improvements in services and infrastructure for the benefit of the community.

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

Not applicable.

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

Council has achieved a net budget position that is higher than anticipated primarily due to the carry forward of selected grant funds from 2021/22.

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

Not applicable.

Council Plans and Policies:

Council has prioritised grant applications and expenditure against the objectives outlined in the *Council Plan 2021-2025*.

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

It is the officers' view that it is appropriate to consider this matter in an open meeting.

Risk Assessment:

A substantial amount of grant funding has been secured to support various projects across the municipality, some of which has been carried forward from the prior year due to COVID-19 related delays. Additional resources have been recruited to ensure that these projects can be delivered.

Officer's View:

The financial position of the organisation remains strong particularly given the amount of one-off competitive grant funding secured to support project delivery over the next 12 months. Council remains dependent on the receipt of one-off grant funding to support renewal of its aging infrastructure into the future.

Council Resolution:

To be resolved at the Council Meeting.

9.2 Occupational Health and Safety (06/04/0212-DCOD)

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

This report was prepared by Ms. Emma Woolaston, Director Corporate and Organisational Development and Mr. Wayne Carter, Occupational Health and Safety Officer.

At the time of preparation of this report, the officers 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 a bi-monthly update on Occupational Health and Safety activities throughout the organisation.

Summary:

Major OHS activities conducted during the period included:

- Continued progress against the recommendations of the 2021 OHS Management System audit;
- Distribution of Rapid Antigen Tests to staff and the community;
- Further progress in relation to completion of Council's insurance claim in relation to the 2019/20 bushfires;
- Risk assessment and safety planning to ensure that the Corryong Saleyards were ready for the annual sale in December;
- Further risk and assessment and training in relation to the operation of the Corryong Aerodrome, particularly in relation to the new 24/7 refueling area;
- Review and action planning relating to the newly updated Child Safe Standards; and
- Review of the Working Alone procedure.

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

Attachment:

Appendix 3 – Bi-Monthly Occupational Health and Safety Report.

Background/History:

The OHS report is provided on a bi-monthly basis to communicate the work being undertaken to ensure a healthy and safe work environment. The report highlights progress in strengthening processes, procedures and practices across the organisation and details how emerging health and safety risks are being addressed.

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

OHS activities are governed by the principles of health and safety protection in accordance with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004* and the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017*. Employees, other persons at work and members of the public are given the highest level of protection of risks to their health and safety that are reasonably practicable in the circumstances.

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

Community members have been offered access to Rapid Antigen Tests as part of Victorian State Government programs.

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

Activities are prioritised to best support sustainable health and safety outcomes for employees, Councillors and the general community.

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

Not applicable.

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

Progress continues to be made in relation to the 2021 Audit of Council's OHS Management System with 9 actions now completed and a further 25 in progress, out of a total 56 recommended actions.

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

Officers continue to collaborate with other councils to ensure that our interpretation of current COVID-19 recommendations and requirements is consistent.

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 State Government Council Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) Distribution Program allows free RATs to be distributed to all community members free of charge.

Council Plans and Policies:

OHS improvement activities support the following *Council Plan 2021-2025* priority:

6.2 Provide a safe and healthy workplace for all Councillors and staff in a continually evolving environment.

Activities also undertaken in accordance to the *Occupational Health and Safety Policy* and *Risk Management Policy*.

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

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

Risk Assessment:

Activities are prioritised commensurate to the likelihood and impact of identified OHS risks.

Officer's View:

COVID-19 case numbers are slowly declining throughout Victoria. Officers continue to support staff in understanding the appropriate course of action in case of contracting symptoms, testing positive to a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) or coming into contact with positive cases. Officers have also been supporting the State government program to distribute RATs to community members.

Good progress continues to be made in relation to the actions stemming from the OHS Management System Audit. Risk assessments and subsequent follow-up actions

to reduce risks have also been conducted relating to two major capital works projects at the Corryong Saleyards and Corryong Aerodrome to ensure that the facilities are safe for near term intended uses. The review of Council's obligations and requirements in accordance with the newly updated Child Safe Standards has also been a major focus.

Council Resolution:

To be resolved at the Council Meeting.

9.3 Corporate and Organisational Development Report (06/01/0011-DCOD)

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

This report was prepared by Ms Emma Woolaston, Director Corporate and Organisational Development.

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 a quarterly update on the activities of the Corporate and Organisational Development area.

Summary:

The attached report provides an overview of activities within the Corporate and Organisational Development area between October and December 2022.

Highlights include the development of a fortnightly e-newsletter as an additional means to keep community members abreast of Council news, project updates and events, and a 'Halfway Point' communication to reflect on the achievements of the Council mid-way through the current term. The recruitment and onboarding of the lifeguards was a major activity for the quarter. Notably there was success in recruiting a new Accountant, Manager Finance and Governance Officer following a period of substantial recruitment challenges.

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

Attachment:

Appendix 4– Corporate and Organisational Development Report.

Background/History:

The Corporate and Organisational Development Report is provided on a quarterly basis.

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

Corporate and Organisational Development activities and decisions have been made in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

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

Where appropriate our residents and ratepayers are engaged to ensure that our decisions are well informed and made in the best interests of current and future generations.

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

Both the Manager Finance and Accountant roles within the Finance team were filled, providing for long term sustainability and mitigating key person risk.

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

The Communications and Engagement team continues to support numerous community engagement activities in relation to community-facing projects and activities across the organisation. Notably the team's coverage of our flood damage updates received strong community interest, as did our advocacy in relation to the State Government reinstating funding to fix country roads.

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

Investigations were made to upgrade our IT network firewall to ensure that we have a contemporary solution to monitoring and blocking viruses and malware, and to provide for improved performance of internal IT networks.

The Customer Service team continued to focus on clarifying processes and MOUs are now in place between customer service and many departments. This has led to a noticeable reduction in the time to train a new staff member and has supported the provision of a more consistent customer experience.

Improvements also continue to be made to staff onboarding, offboarding and payroll processes.

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

Officers continue to collaborate with Alpine and Indigo Shire Councils, most notably in relation to the embedding of the new rates, property and receipting system, and also in relation to the *Rural Councils Transformation Program* funded project to review planning and building systems and processes.

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

Budget requirements and availability have been confirmed and expenditure is being monitored within budget allocations.

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

Not applicable.

Council Plans and Policies:

The activities of the Corporate and Organisational Development team during the quarter supported the following *Council Plan 2021-2025* priorities:

6.1 Continue to improve awareness, engagement and involvement of the community in relation to matters that affect them – facebook page followers, reach and engagement all continued to trend upwards and a new e-newsletter was developed.

6.2 Continually improve the customer service experience across the organisation – MOUs were established between customer service and a number of internal departments to provide for clarity of roles and responsibilities and consistency of the customer experience.

6.3 Continually improve processes to support improved service delivery – ongoing improvements were made to the staff onboarding, offboarding and payroll processes.

6.8 Continue to seek opportunities to improve service delivery and achieve best value including further investigation of shared services – progress was made in relation to the *Rural Councils Transformation Program* funded project to review planning and building processes and systems, with a view to expanding the current shared service arrangement between Towong and Indigo Shire Councils to include Alpine Shire Council.

6.9 *Continue to advocate for increased government funding support to ensure long term sustainability* – advocacy work was undertaken in relation to reinstating government funding to support fixing country roads.

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 Manager Finance role was vacant from July through to mid-January which posed some risk to the continuity of financial management practices. External consultants were appointed to take carriage of the end-of-financial-year process, the Director worked directly with our Finance Officers to support key regular processes, and an external recruitment agent was appointed to assist with filling the position. Contact was maintained with the previous Manager Finance in his role at an Albury based audit firm and a commercial arrangement was put in place to enable us to secure his advice as required.

Officer's View:

Officers continued to prioritise work throughout the quarter given key staffing vacancies. Staffing has been a major challenge despite concerted efforts to recruit. It was pleasing to be able to appoint an Accountant, Manager Finance and Governance Officer, with the Accountant commencing in November and the latter two officers commencing in January.

Council Resolution:

To be resolved at the Council meeting.

9.4 Council Plan Priorities (07/05/0022-DCOD)

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

This report was prepared by Ms Emma Woolaston, Director Corporate and Organisational Development.

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 is a standing report to provide an update on the progress of the *Council Plan 2021-2025* priorities.

Summary:

In accordance with section 90 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council must prepare and adopt a Council Plan for a period of at least the next four financial years after a general election in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices. This report provides a quarterly update on the progress of the priorities in our 2021-2025 Council Plan.

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

Attachment:

[Appendix 5](#) – Council Plan Priorities – October to December 2022

Background/History:

Each quarter Council officers provide an update to Council on the progress of the priorities listed in the Council Plan for information only.

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

Council officers provide quarterly updates in relation to the Council Plan that has been set in accordance with section 90 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)):

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)):

Not applicable.

Council Plans and Policies:

This is a quarterly report to provide an update on the progress of the *Council Plan 2021-2025* priorities.

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 excellent progress is being made across all departments on a significant number of the Council Plan priorities.

Council Resolution:

To be resolved at the Council Meeting.

10 Bushfire Relief and Recovery

10.1 Bushfire Relief and Recovery Update (02/02/0013-DCP)

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 provide a six-monthly update for the period to December 2022 in relation to community recovery in the Upper Murray following the 2019/20 summer bushfires.

Summary:

The recovery staff have continued to progress key priorities within the constraints of COVID-19 related restrictions. Highlights include:

- Securing additional funding for continued operation of the recovery hub (\$480k) and additional funding for recovery projects (\$3.672m);
- Delivery of the Corryong Spirit event;
- Monitoring of the Municipal Recovery Plan and follow-up on actions; and
- Monitoring and continued collaboration with agencies and the community, with a strong focus on recovery transitioning towards resilience.

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

Attachments:

Appendix 6 – Bushfire Relief and Recovery Update - June to December 2022

Background/History:

This report forms part of a six-monthly series monitoring the progress of actions undertaken towards community recovery in the Upper Murray following the 2019/20 summer bushfires.

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

The role of Local Government in relation to emergency management and community recovery following a disastrous event such as the 2019/2020 bushfires is outlined in the *Victorian Emergency Management Act 2013*.

The Act defines recovery as:

“the assisting of persons and communities affected by emergencies to achieve a proper and effective level of functioning”.

Council officers are ensuring that decisions in the delivery of relief and recovery services are in accordance with the Act.

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

Consistent with Section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, bushfire recovery activities undertaken across the Shire are underpinned by the following principles:

- Community is at the centre and are the leader of what we do;
- We value the history and dynamics of each of the Upper Murray communities across the shire;
- Successful recovery builds on and supports the communities’ strengths and resilience; and
- Community ownership of recovery strategies and actions depends on effective and inclusive engagement.

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

Council’s community recovery approach is structured around the five pillars of recovery as identified in the *State Recovery Framework*. These are:

- People and Wellbeing
- Aboriginal Culture and Healing
- Environment and Biodiversity
- Business and Economy
- Buildings and Infrastructure.

This provides a comprehensive and sustainable approach to building and renewing community resilience into the future.

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

Officers have engaged with community recovery committees regarding the structures required to support medium to longer term recovery needs and the progress of relevant projects such as the Great River Road Stage 2 and the Playles Hill development.

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

The nature of recovery work is highly collaborative and officers continue to collaborate with relevant agencies and community groups to support recovery plans and activities.

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

The recovery team and associated services are supported by funding received from Bushfire Recovery Victoria (BRV) until 30 June 2024. Additional funding was secured during the period, including an additional \$480,000 to continue operation of the recovery hub and \$3.672m for bushfire recovery projects.

Recovery services spending is in accordance with the available budget and in line with the funding agreement.

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

The role of local government in community recovery is outlined in the *Victorian Emergency Management Act 2013*. Council has a *Municipal Emergency Management Plan* and a *Municipal Recovery Plan* which outline the priorities and directions for emergency management and in particular, community recovery following the Upper Murray bushfires. These are consistent with the *National Community Recovery Plan* and the Victorian Government *State Recovery Plan*.

Council Plans and Policies:

Council's approach to recovery is guided by the *Towong Municipal Recovery Plan*.

Activities are also conducted in alignment with the following *Council Plan 2021-2025* priority:

2.14 Support our communities to drive their recovery from bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic and improve their mitigation of and resilience to future adverse events.

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

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

Risk Assessment:

Officers continue to work with community groups to address project implementation risks due to material and contractor shortages, and to provide advice on funding applications and project extension requests. As committed funding for recovery services is reducing, we continue to advocate for future funding to support the continuation of critical recovery services to the community.

Officer's View:

Officers have continued to deliver recovery services through the Upper Murray Community Recovery Hub and achieved key project delivery and community engagement objectives.

Council Resolution:

To be resolved at the Council meeting.

10.2 Bushfire Resilience and Recovery Fund - Proposed Allocations (02/02/0013-DCP)

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 approval for the allocation of the new Bushfire Resilience and Recovery Fund (\$3.672m) for recovery projects.

Summary:

Following the Black Summer Bushfires 2019-2020, we have been advised we have been allocated a final tranche of funding through the Resilience and Recovery Fund Program, through Emergency Recovery Victoria, of (\$3.672m) for recovery projects.

The proposed distribution of the Resilience and Recovery Fund provides significant investment to better prepare communities for future risks, particularly given the significant risk and impact of events resulting from climate change on our communities.

Achieving the outcomes articulated in the Municipal Recovery Plan and the Upper Murray Community Recovery Committee Plan, as well as providing assistance to all parts of the municipality to improve their resilience to future climate risks and emergencies, were key considerations in putting together the proposed allocations.

Recommendation:

That the proposed allocation of the \$3.672m Resilience and Recovery Fund as presented be adopted.

Attachments:

Appendix 7 – Proposed allocation of the Resilience and Recovery Fund

Background/History:

The Resilience and Recovery Fund was established to deliver the following outcomes:

- Communities' recover and build resilience together;
- Recovery and resilience of the whole community is strengthened through Aboriginal culture, knowledge, traditions and connection to country.
- Recovery of industries and businesses through leveraging economic strengths and opportunities.
- Local economies have increased capacity to respond and adapt to future disasters.
- Recovery responses strengthen community capability to manage their own recovery and resilience to future disasters.
- The recovery workforce has the capabilities and support needed to respond to community needs.

Council has been advised that \$3.672m will be available for use across Towong Shire.

The funding does not cover any operational costs associated with the recovery hub as this will be funded through the existing Council Support Fund program.

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

The role of Local Government in relation to emergency management and community recovery following a disastrous event such as the 2019/2020 bushfires is outlined in the *Victorian Emergency Management Act 2013*.

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

Consistent with Section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, bushfire recovery activities undertaken across the Shire are underpinned by the following principles:

- Community is at the centre and are the leader of what we do;
- We value the history and dynamics of each of the Upper Murray communities across the shire;
- Successful recovery builds on and supports the communities' strengths and resilience; and
- Community ownership of recovery strategies and actions depends on effective and inclusive engagement.

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

Council's community recovery approach is structured around the five pillars of recovery as identified in the *State Recovery Framework*. These are:

- People and Wellbeing
- Aboriginal Culture and Healing
- Environment and Biodiversity
- Business and Economy
- Buildings and Infrastructure

This provides a comprehensive and sustainable approach to building and renewing community resilience into the future.

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

The proposed allocation of the Resilience and Recovery Fund provides significant investment to better prepare communities for future risks. The proposed allocations have also been designed to achieve the outcomes articulated in the *Municipal Recovery Plan, Upper Murray Community Recovery Committee Plan* and ensuring all parts of the municipality to improve their resilience to future climate risks and emergencies. These plans were the result of extensive community and stakeholder consultation.

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

The nature of recovery work is highly collaborative and officers continue to collaborate with relevant agencies and community groups to support recovery plans and activities.

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

The additional funding under the Resilience and Recovery Fund will provide additional financial support for Council to continue to undertake much needed recovery activities and projects.

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

The role of local government in community recovery is outlined in the *Victorian Emergency Management Act 2013*. Council has a *Municipal Emergency Management Plan* and a *Municipal Recovery Plan* which outline the priorities and directions for

emergency management and in particular, community recovery following the Upper Murray bushfires. These are consistent with the *National Community Recovery Plan* and the Victorian Government *State Recovery Plan*.

Council Plans and Policies:

Council's approach to recovery is guided by the *Towong Municipal Recovery Plan*.

Activities are also conducted in alignment with the following *Council Plan 2021-2025* priority:

2.14 Support our communities to drive their recovery from bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic and improve their mitigation of and resilience to future adverse events.

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 has been undertaken in relation to the proposed allocation of the funds.

Officer's View:

The proposed allocation of the Resilience and Recovery Fund provides significant investment to better prepare communities for future risks. The proposed allocations have been designed to achieve the outcomes articulated in the *Municipal Recovery Plan*, *Upper Murray Community Recovery Committee Plan* and ensuring all parts of the municipality to improve their resilience to future climate risks and emergencies.

Council Resolution:

To be resolved at the Council meeting.

11 Community Wellbeing

The Community Services Report is presented bi-annually and will be provided in May 2023.

12 Asset Management

12.1 Asset Plan (01/07/0004-DIE)

At the time of agenda collation the report was not available. The report will be forwarded as soon as possible prior to the meeting.

12.2 Discontinuance and Sale of Section of Road 1\TP329264 (01/01/0429-DIE)

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:

The purpose of this report is to:

1. seek approval for the discontinuance and sale of a 612m² section of the Corryong Stock Route – Road 1\TP329264 to facilitate a road deviation and land exchange; and
2. seek approval to sell the discontinued section of road to the adjacent landowners of 201 Thomas Lane, Corryong.

Summary:

Upgrade works to the Corryong Stock Route to create a heavy vehicle bypass and redirect heavy vehicles off Hanson Street in Corryong are due to commence in late April 2023. The project includes re-alignment of sharp bends adjacent to 201 Thomas Lane. To facilitate the realignment of the road, a road discontinuance and land exchange is required with the adjacent property owners.

Recommendation:

That:

1. In accordance with Section 206, Schedule 10, Clause 3 and Sections 207A(a) and 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* and Section 114 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the statutory process to give public notice of the intention of Council to discontinue and sell to the adjacent landowner at 201 Thomas Lane, Corryong by private treaty the 612m² section of Road 1\TP329264 as shown on the attached Discontinuance Plan along the Stock Route, Corryong, be hereby commenced;
2. The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to make the proposed Discontinuance and sale of section of road 1\TP329264 available for public inspection and invite public submissions, with submissions closing at 5:00 pm on 24 March 2023; and
3. At the Council Meeting scheduled for 29 March 2023;
 - a. Any submission in relation to the proposed *Discontinuance and sale of section of road 1\TP329264* be considered;
 - b. Any person who has requested to appear in person (or their representative) in support of their submission be heard; and
 - c. The adoption of the proposed *Discontinuance and sale of section of road 1\TP329264* be considered.

Attachments:

Appendix 8 - Discontinuance Plan - including an encumbrance (for publication with the public notice and for community engagement).

Appendix 9 - Gazettal Plan (for publication following any decision of Council to discontinue the road).

Background/History:

The upgrade of the Corryong Stock Route to create a heavy vehicle bypass and redirect heavy vehicles off Hanson Street are due to commence in late April 2023. These works will also achieve road safety compliance including widening and realignment of bends. As a result, a section of the parcel of land Road 1\TP329264 is required to be discontinued to facilitate a land exchange.

Road 1\TP329264 is Council-owned land set aside and appropriated as a road. As such, Council has statutory powers to consider discontinuing the road. Any discontinuance (and subsequent sale of the land) must be carried out in accordance with the provisions of Section 206, Schedule 10, Clause 3 and Sections 207A(a) and 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* and Section 114 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

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

Power of Councils over roads

Section 206 of the *Local Government Act 1989*

- (1) The powers of a Council in relation to roads in its municipal district include the powers set out in Schedule 10*
- (2) Except as provided in section 207B(1), the exercise of a power under clause 2, 3 or 8(1)(a) of Schedule 10 does not in itself vest the land in a Council.*

Power to discontinue roads

Schedule 10, Clause 3 of the *Local Government Act 1989*

A Council may, in addition to any power given to it by sections 43 and 44 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 —

- a) discontinue a road, or part of a road, by a notice published in the Government Gazette; and*
- b) sell the land from that road (if it is not Crown land), transfer the land to the Crown or itself or retain the land.*

Submissions under section 223

Section 207A of the *Local Government Act 1989*

- A person may make a submission under section 223 on the proposed exercise of any power under—*
- (a) clauses 1(b), 2, 3, 7 and 8(1)(a) of Schedule 10;*

Right to make submission

Section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*

1. *The following provisions apply if a person is given a right to make a submission to the Council under this section (whether under this or any other Act)—*
 - (a) *the Council must publish a public notice—*
 - i. *specifying the matter in respect of which the right to make a submission applies;*
 - ii. *containing the prescribed details in respect of that matter;*
 - iii. *specifying the date by which submissions are to be submitted, being a date which is not less than 28 days after the date on which the public notice is published;*
 - iv. *stating that a person making a submission is entitled to request in the submission that the person wishes to appear in person, or to be represented by a person specified in the submission, at a meeting to be heard in support of the submission;*
 - (b) *if a request has been made under paragraph (a)(iv), the Council must—*
 - i. *provide the person with the opportunity to be heard in support of the submission in accordance with the request at a meeting of the Council or of a committee determined by the Council;*
 - ii. *fix the day, time and place of the meeting;*
 - iii. *give reasonable notice of the day, time and place of the meeting to each person who made a request;*
 - (c) *if the committee determined under paragraph (b)(i) is not responsible for making the decision in respect of which the submissions have been made, the committee must provide a report on its proceedings, including a summary of hearings, to the Council or the special committee which is responsible for making the decision;*
 - (d) *the Council or special committee responsible for making the decision must—*
 - i. *consider all the submissions made under this section and any report made under paragraph (c);*
 - ii. *notify in writing, each person who has made a separate submission, and in the case of a submission made on behalf of a number of persons, one of those persons, of the decision and the reasons for that decision.*
2. *If a proposal by the Council involves the exercise of powers at the same time under more than one section giving a right to make a submission and written submissions are received under more than 1 of those sections the submission procedure may be carried out in respect of all the written submissions at the same time.*

3. *Despite section 98, a Council may authorise the appropriate members of Council staff to carry out administrative procedures necessary to enable the Council to carry out its functions under this section.*
4. *A member of a committee specified in subsection (1)(b)(i) is subject to section 79 as if that member were a member of a special committee.*

Restriction on power to sell or exchange land

Section 114 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

- 1) *Except where section 116 applies, if a Council sells or exchanges any land it must comply with this section.*
- 2) *Before selling or exchanging the land, the Council must—*
 - i. *at least 4 weeks prior to selling or exchanging the land, publish notice of intention to do so—*
 - ii. *on the Council's Internet site; and*
 - iii. *in any other manner prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this subsection; and*
- 3) *undertake a community engagement process in accordance with its community engagement policy; and*
- 4) *obtain from a person who holds the qualifications or experience specified under section 13DA(2) of the Valuation of Land Act 1960 a valuation of the land which is made not more than 6 months prior to the sale or exchange.*

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

Option 1 – Proceed with the road discontinuance and subsequent sale of Road 1\TP329264.

Option 2 – Officers develop an alternative route for the realignment of the Stock Route.

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

Economic and Social

Removing heavy vehicles from Hanson Street is a key priority for the community and will lead to increased opportunities for economic and tourism development in Corryong and improve safety along Hanson Street.

Environmental

Removing heavy vehicles from Hanson Street will improve air quality in the Corryong CBD area, as well as reducing vehicle noise and odour from the transport of stock.

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

A public notice will be published on Council's website and in local newspapers, with submissions to be received in accordance with Section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* and otherwise in compliance with Council's community engagement policy.

Any submissions received will be presented to Council for consideration before a final decision is made in relation to the proposed discontinuance and sale of the land.

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

The removal of heavy vehicles travelling through Corryong's main street will be a significant improvement in terms of traffic volume, noise, odour and safety.

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

Not applicable.

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

Survey and legal costs for the process will be funded through the Stock Route upgrade capital project budget.

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

Not applicable.

Council Plans and Policies:

The proposal will help deliver the following Council Plan 2021-2025 priorities:

- 1.1 Deliver 100% of the annual capital works program and bushfire recovery projects.*
- 1.6 Complete the Upgrade of the Stock Route Alignment in Corryong.*

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 public.

Risk Assessment:

Not applicable.

Officer's View:

It is the officer's recommendation that, in order to facilitate the road deviation and land exchange, the discontinuance plan as presented and the sale of the discontinued section of land to the adjacent landowners of 201 Thomas Lane, Corryong be approved.

Council Resolution:

To be resolved at the Council meeting.

12.3 Mitta Streetscape Upgrade – Stage 1 Tender Evaluation - Contract No. 2022/23-001 (02/11/0022-DIE)

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:

The purpose of this report is to provide information to support the assessment of tender submissions for stage one of the streetscape upgrade works at Mitta Mitta, including the intersection of Omeo Highway and Lafontaine Street. The report also seeks approval to appoint the recommended contractor.

Summary:

This report demonstrates the tender process followed for the procurement of a suitable contractor to undertake streetscape upgrade works in Mitta Mitta including upgrades to kerb and channel, new footpaths and formalised parking. This report also provides a recommendation for the appointment of a contractor to undertake these works.

Recommendation:

That:

1. Contract No. 2022/23-001 for stage one streetscape upgrade works at Mitta Mitta be awarded to ATD Civil Group Pty Ltd. for the lump sum of \$669,624.20 (excluding GST); which includes \$50,000 (excluding GST) of provisional items to implement any design changes;
4. The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to sign and seal Contract No. 2022/23-001 in accordance with Local Law 1 – Common Seal and Miscellaneous Penalties; and
5. The Chief Executive Office be authorised to approve contract variations up to the value of the total allocated project budget.

Attachments:

A comparative tender evaluation for Contract No. 2022/23-001 has been provided to Councillors prior to the meeting.

Background/History:

Council has received Department of Transport funding under the Safe Pedestrian Program to support the upgrade of the Mitta Mitta intersection on the Omeo Highway.

A tender was issued in December 2022 in accordance with the Procurement Policy, with advertising through www.tenders.net, in local newspapers and Council's Facebook page. Four tenders were received. A comparative tender evaluation for Contract No. 2022/23-001 has been provided to Councillors prior to the meeting.

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

Section 109 of the *Local Government Act 2020* states:

"A Council must comply with its Procurement Policy before entering into a contract for the purchase of goods or services or the carrying out of works"

The procurement process followed for this tender and the subsequent assessment and recommendation have been undertaken in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy.

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. 2022/23-001 to ATD Civil Group Pty Ltd for a lump sum of \$669,624.20 (excluding GST.)

Option 2 – Retender the works.

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

Economic

The streetscape works are funded through the Department of Transport's Safe Pedestrian Program and a contribution from Council.

Social

The intersection is a high pedestrian activity zone for tourists and residents. The successful completion of the project will improve pedestrian safety in the Mitta Mitta township.

Climate change/Environmental

Awarding the contract to an Albury based contractor will minimise the transit time and therefore limit emissions and consumption of resources. Recycled materials (e.g. crushed concrete and compacted fill) will be used on site as required, with non-recycled material sourced from local suppliers (e.g. steel, paint).

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

Mitta Mitta members at the Mitta Mitta township have been consulted with plans circulated on Council's website and at the local general store.

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

Permeable sections of carparking have been implemented as part of the design to enable stormwater filtering and dispersion, and reduced impact on existing trees by allowing storm water to infiltrate into the ground around the base of the trees.

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

Not applicable.

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

The recommended tender value is \$669,624.20 (excluding GST). This is within the budget for the project and provides good value when compared to similar projects tendered in past twelve months.

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

Not applicable.

Council Plans and Policies:

The tender has been conducted in accordance with the *Procurement Policy* and supports the following *Council Plan 2021-2025* priority:

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

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 public.

Risk Assessment:

The significant risk for this project is the limited time available to spend the allocated grant funding and the possibility of delays caused by weather. These risks will be mitigated by active management and supervision of the contractor.

Officers View:

It is the officer's view that ATD Civil Group Pty Ltd be awarded Contract No. 2022/23-001. The references provided by ATD Civil Group Pty Ltd in the tender submission demonstrate that they will deliver good value and are a low risk to Council for this project. They have experience undertaking similar works and have also completed high quality work for Council eg. reconstruction of the retaining wall at Bellbridge and as a sub contractor on the Towong Street East project.

Council Resolution:

To be resolved at the Council meeting.

12.4 Proposed Alignment of Walking Track through Brooke Street, Towong – (05/02/0162-DIE)

At the time of agenda collation the report was not available. The report will be forwarded as soon as possible prior to the meeting.

12.5 Flood Damage Repairs - Towong Shire Eastern Section – Contract No. 2022/2023-025; Flood Damage Repairs - Towong Shire Western Section – Contract No. 2022/2023-026 (01/01/0420-DIE)

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:

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the awarding of contracts for remedial works to rectify damage to the municipal road network caused by flooding.

Summary:

This report demonstrates the tender process followed for the procurement of suitable contractors to undertake flood remedial works across Council road networks including grading, resheeting and drainage works. This report also provides a recommendation of the most suitable contractors to undertake these works.

Recommendation:

That:

1. Contract No. 2022/23-025 for Flood Damage Repairs - Towong Shire Eastern Section – be awarded to Country Wide Asphalt Pty Ltd for the lump sum of \$137,690 (excluding GST);
2. Contract No. 2022/23-026 for Flood Damage Repairs - Towong Shire Western Section – be awarded to Tallangatta Construction and Maintenance for the lump sum of \$464,112(excluding GST);
3. The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to sign and seal Contract No. 2022/23-025 and Contract No. 2022/23-026 in accordance with Local Law 1 – Common Seal and Miscellaneous Penalties; and
4. The Chief Executive Officer be approved to approve contract variations up to the total value of the allocated budget.

Attachments:

A comparative tender evaluation for Contract No. 2022/23-025 and Contract No. 2022/23-026 has been provided to Councillors prior to the meeting.

Background/History:

In January and October 2022, the Shire experienced severe storm events resulting in extensive damage to the municipal road network. Officers have applied for Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) through Emergency Management Victoria (EMV) to undertake remedial works following these storm events. The events have been registered with Emergency Management Victoria (EMV) under Australian Government Reference Number AGRN 1004 and AGRN 1007.

A tender was issued in line with the Procurement Policy in January 2023 with advertising through www.tenders.net and in local newspapers and Council's Facebook site. The tender was divided into the Eastern and Western ends of the Shire. Two tender submissions were received for each area however one of the tenders received for the eastern end was non conforming and was not included in the assessment.

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

Section 109 of the *Local Government Act 2020* states:

"A Council must comply with its Procurement Policy before entering into a contract for the purchase of goods or services or the carrying out of works"

The procurement process followed for this tender and the subsequent assessment and recommendation have been undertaken in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy adopted in June 2022.

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 – Award Contract No. 2022/23-025 to Country Wide Asphalt Pty Ltd for a lump sum amount of \$137,690 (excluding GST) and award Contract No. 2022/2023-026 to Tallangatta Construction and Maintenance for a lump sum amount of \$464,112 (excluding GST).

Option 2 – Retender the works.

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

Economic

The flood remedial works are funded through Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) funding assistance from Emergency Management Victoria (EMV).

Social

Successful completion of the project will improve road safety conditions across the Shire.

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

Local community members will be notified before the commencement of work.

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 values are \$137,690 (excluding GST) for Contract No. 2022/23-025 (eastern section) and \$464,112 (excluding GST) for Contract No. 2022/23-026 (western section).

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

Not applicable.

Council Plans and Policies:

The tender process was conducted in accordance with the *Procurement Policy* and supports the following *Council Plan 2021-2025* priority:

1.27 - Deliver annual asset inspection and renewal programs per asset management and road management plan requirements

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 risk for this project is the limited time to spend the allocated grant funding and the possibility of weather delays. This risk will be mitigated where possible by active supervision and management of the contractor.

Officers View:

It is the officer's recommendation that Council proceed with option 1 and award Contract No. 2022/23-025 to Country Wide Asphalt Pty Ltd and Contract No. 2022/23-026 be awarded to Tallangatta Construction and Maintenance Pty Ltd.

The references provided by Country Wide Asphalt Pty Ltd and Tallangatta Construction and Maintenance Pty Ltd demonstrate that they will deliver good value

and are a low risk to Council for these projects. Both companies have undertaken similar works previously and have also completed high quality work for Council in the past.

Council Resolution:

To be resolved at the Council meeting.

13 Land Use Planning

13.1 Land Use Planning Report (03/02/0003-DCP)

The next Land Use Planning Report will be presented in March 2023.

14 Environmental Sustainability

14.1 Environmental Sustainability Report (01/07/0004-DIE)

The Environmental Sustainability Report is presented quarterly and will be presented in March 2023.

15 Economic and Tourism Development

15.1 Mobile and Internet Communications Strategy (05/01/0166-DCP)

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 provide a summary of the feedback which resulted from the public exhibition of the draft *Mobile and Internet Communications Strategy*.

Summary:

The draft *Mobile and Internet Communications Strategy* provides a current state assessment and prioritised framework for Council to advocate for improvements to mobile and internet communications across the municipality.

The draft *Mobile and Internet Communications Strategy* outlines:

- The mobile and internet communication potential of Towong Shire as described by network providers;
- The lived experience of connectivity within Towong Shire;
- A roadmap to develop Towong Shire digital connectivity to sixth-generation technology by 2030; and
- Advocacy options and approaches to support the progress of Towong Shire's digital connectivity.

The draft strategy was placed on public exhibition, and community feedback was invited during January 2023.

Recommendation:

That:

1. The feedback be noted regarding the draft *Mobile and Internet Communications Strategy*; and
2. Officers undertake further investigations into the feedback received regarding mobile connectivity in Talgarno, Towong, Bullioh, Upper Thowgla, and Nariel Valley, as well as future proofing the capacity of 3G/4G/5G networks to cater for tourism needs in key tourist areas.

Attachments:

Nil.

Background/History:

Towong Shire experiences some of the lowest levels of digital inclusion in the state, as demonstrated by the recent *Ovens Murray Regional Economic Development Strategy*. The highly dispersed population and the topography have resulted in a significant inequity in the delivery of telecommunications services within and outside of townships across the shire. There are also numerous mobile black spots along major transport routes, unreliable or low-capacity mobile 3/4G services and poorly performing ADSL and satellite services. Without access to high-performing telecommunications services, the population and economy within the shire cannot prosper.

To drive reform in telecommunications (mobile and internet) within the shire, Council engaged Gravelroad Group, in partnership with Alpine Shire Council, to develop a

Mobile and Internet Communications Strategy specific to each local government area. The purpose of this strategy was to:

- Describe the mobile and internet communication potential of Towong Shire as described by network providers;
- Define the lived experience for Towong Shire;
- Provide a roadmap to develop Towong Shire digital connectivity to sixth-generation technology by 2030; and
- Provide prioritised advocacy options to support the development of Towong Shire's digital connectivity.

The Gravelroad Group developed the draft *Mobile and Internet Communications Strategy* through desktop review, field testing and limited community consultation. The strategy provides Council with a clear direction for the improvements to mobile and internet connectivity. The strategy highlights the priorities, new technologies, future funding opportunities and infrastructure that is required to improve telecommunications across the municipality.

In November 2022, the strategy was placed on public exhibition for community feedback. The feedback was sought through Facebook, flyers/posters in key locations and advertising through the Corryong Courier and Tallangatta Herald. Feedback was primarily received through the feedback survey.

The feedback is summarised as follows:

- Talgarno mobile connectivity has not been adequately captured in the current strategy;
- Towong mobile connectivity has not been adequately captured in the current strategy;
- Bullioh mobile connectivity has not been adequately captured in the current strategy;
- Upper Thowgla mobile connectivity has not been adequately captured and should be re-prioritised to a short term priority;
- Nariel Valley mobile connectivity should be re-prioritised to a short term priority; and
- Future proofing the capacity of 3G/4G/5G networks is required to cater for tourism needs in key tourist areas.

Some of the responses were related to areas where there are known projects that are yet to be delivered. Specifically these included fibre to the premises in Corryong, a new 5G tower being commissioned in Bandiana that will improve the mobile

connectivity in Bellbridge, and a 5G tower upgrade in Bethanga. There is also a Rural Connectivity for Recovery and Resilience program being run by CBConnect to support valleys with 'last mile' technology. This is particularly pertinent to locations such as Thowgla and Nariel Valley. Officers will work with CBConnect to ensure these locations are prioritised.

Many of the responses included proposed technological solutions that would not be viable from an infrastructure perspective. The responses suggested that digital literacy levels are generally low and there are some opportunities to address this within specific communities. Officers have commenced work to develop a digital literacy program to support this.

Although more work needs to be included in the strategy relating to the locations identified during the feedback, the strategy can be used as an effective tool for advocating to the state and federal government for potential improvements in the interim. To date this has been used to support the priorities within the Indi Telecommunications Action Group and for the Regional Connectivity Fund – Round 3.

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

All activities are undertaken in accordance with the service performance principles outlined in the section 106 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

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

The draft *Mobile and Internet Communications Strategy* is designed to provide a roadmap to drive improvements to mobile, internet access and digital inclusion across the municipality, representing a positive outcome across the community.

To ensure that the strategy adequately captures all areas within Towong Shire, it is recommended the community feedback be included in the final version of the strategy. This will be presented to Council for adoption at a future meeting.

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

The draft *Mobile and Internet Communications Strategy* will assist with lobbying and seeking funds to improve the digital inclusion of the community. The increased digital inclusion will assist making the economy more sustainable and support population growth and retention across the municipality.

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

Limited community engagement has been undertaken to develop the strategy to date because of the technical nature of the content. In November 2022, the draft strategy was placed on public exhibition for community feedback, which was sought through Facebook, flyers/posters in key locations and advertising through the Corryong Courier and Tallangatta Herald. The draft strategy was placed on public exhibition again in January 2023.

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

The strategy is designed to support and prioritise Council's advocacy efforts to improve mobile and internet connectivity across the municipality. Improving connectivity is key to supporting continuous improvement within the local economy.

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

This project was undertaken in collaboration with Alpine Shire Council.

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)):

The Towong Shire *Mobile and Internet Communications Strategy* aligns with regional, state and national policies including:

- *Ovens Murray Regional Economic Development Strategy*
- *Ovens Murray Digital Plan*
- *Universal Service Guarantee*
- *Upper Murray 2030 Masterplan*

Council Plans and Policies:

The draft *Mobile and Internet Communications Strategy* supports the

- *Council Plan 2021 – 2025:*

- 2.14 - Support our communities to drive their recovery from bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic and improve their mitigation of and resilience to future adverse events.
- 3.17 – Deliver improved visitor information and experience across the Shire.
- 3.24 – Attract investment to address key weaknesses (connectivity and reliability) in critical infrastructure (mobile telecommunications, internet and power).
 - *Economic Development Strategy 2021-25*
 - *Strategic Plan for Agriculture 2022 – 26 (draft)*

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 draft *Mobile and Internet Communications Strategy* clearly sets out the telecommunications shortcomings across Towong Shire and is an excellent resource for advocating for telecommunications improvements. Whilst further work is still required to develop the strategy, it is still a valuable document in the interim.

Council Resolution:

To be resolved at the Council meeting.

15.2 Economic Development (Tourism) Report (05/01/0164-DCP)

The Economic Development Report is presented bi-annually and will be presented in April 2023.

16 Councillor Reports

No Councillor reports had been received at the time of agenda preparation.

17 Urgent Business

18 Committee Minutes

There are no Committee Minutes for consideration.

19 Occupational Health and Safety

19.1 OHS Committee (06/04/0212-CEO)

There are no Occupational Health and Safety Committee Minutes for consideration.

20 Council Policies (10/01/0007-CEO)

20.1 Policies for Review and Adoption

There are no policies for review or adoption this month.

21 Sealing of Documents

There are no documents for sealing this month.

22 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*
- (l) *Information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989.*

There are no confidential items for consideration.

Appendix 1

Informal Meetings of Councillors

Chapter 8 Section A1 of Towong Shire Council Governance Rules

Date	Names of all Councillors and Council Staff attending	Matters considered	Conflict of Interest disclosures made by a Councillor	Did disclosing Councillor leave the meeting?
25 January 2023	Cr Whitehead Cr Wortmann Cr Anderson Cr Scales Cr Dikschei Ms Gadd Ms Woolaston Ms Curtis Mr Cornea	Councillor Workshop See attached	No	N/A

Meeting Record

Councillor Workshop

Wednesday 25 January 2023 - Tallangatta

Attendees: Crs Whitehead, Wortmann, Anderson, Scales and Dikschei
Rachael Gadd (Acting Chief Executive Officer) and officers as listed below

Apologies: Juliana Phelps (CEO) – on leave

Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest:

Nil conflicts of interests declared

9.30am Update on matters raised previously/Councillor questions

10.30am Council Meeting

11.30am Councillor feedback/issues/questions (spreadsheet):

Cr Whitehead:

24 Jan Policy review

24 Jan Installation of UHF signs on Council roads

24 Jan Local Development Strategy Launch 16 February

Cr Wortmann:

16 Jan Update on proposed sub divisions at Tallangatta, Bellbridge,
Road and Tankard Road

18 Jan Dart Mining – Lithium project

18 Jan Mitta Streetscape project

18 Jan Warning light project Old Tallangatta-MV Highway

24 Jan Retention on Contracts

24 Jan Meeting with CNC

Our Community Vision

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

Cr Anderson:

23 Jan Update on Walwa dump point

23 Jan Hume Boat Club name

23 Jan Show signage

23 Jan Sandy the War Horse

23 Jan Update on drainage – Bethanga

24 Jan Zebra crossing - Bellbridge

24 Jan Fire Levy collection

24 Jan Council buildings - owned or leased

24 Jan Performance statements

Cr Dikschei:

3 Jan Corryong Kindergarten enrolment enquiry

3 Jan 'Pop up' and portable businesses

24 Jan Wayside stop closure

24 Jan Parking at Corryong Post Office

24 Jan Walwa Recreation Reserve management

24 Jan Corryong Rotary rail trail funding application

24 Jan Walwa Jingellic Trail community engagement

24 Jan Australia Day approach

Cr Scales:

24 Jan GIVIT funding – flood recovery

24 Jan MAV Board Nomination

24 Jan Mitta toilets and waste management

12.30pm Lunch

1.00pm Councillor feedback/issues/questions (spreadsheet) (continued)

1.30pm Communication and Engagement update (*Georgina Curtis*)

2.00pm Director Corporate and Organisational Development
(*Emma Woolaston*)

Budget 2023/24

A high level overview of the budget process was provided and the budget consultation approach was discussed.

Our Community Vision

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

Bushfire insurance claim

An update regarding the insurer's assessment of Council's claim for damages relating to the 2019/20 bushfires was provided.

AGL invoice

A brief update was provided relating to progress on finalising the contract with AGL regarding the Payment in Lieu of Rates.

2.30pm Briefing - Mark Florence

Riverview Independent Living Units – Walwa

An overview of the future management structure of the Riverview Independent Living Units at Walwa was provided.

Colac Colac Caravan Park

The approach to negotiating the next lease for Colac Colac Caravan Park was provided.

Corryong Skate Park

Information was provided on the possible locations for the new Corryong Skate Park and the approach to community engagement.

3.30pm Acting Director Infrastructure and Environment (*Vilfred Correa*)

Update on storm damage claims

An update was provided on the progress with flood damage tenders and the claim process for Council assets.

Capital project budget review

A progress update was provided on all capital projects.

Towong boardwalk

Approaches to resolving the alignment of the pedestrian connection across the Towong wetlands area was discussed.

4.00pm Director Community and Planning (*Amanda Pagan*)

Planning matters

A discussion regarding planning applications for major developments and/or are likely to result in refusals.

Pool operations

A short presentation on the pool visitation data.

Our Community Vision

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

Corryong Early Years

An update on the Corryong Early Years discussions with Peekaboo.

YacVic project

An update on transitioning the YacVic project to CNC.

Native vegetation matter

A discussion regarding the recent native vegetation removal on multiple properties.

Pub Grub Month launch

An update on the upcoming tourism program (Pub Grub Month).

4.30pm Acting Chief Executive Officer (*Rachael Gadd*)

Corryong leachate removal

Information was provided on the issues with excess leachate management at the Corryong Landfill.

Murray Place update

The result of the recent magistrates court hearing was discussed.

Mitta Mountain Rally objection

An overview of the objection received to the running of the Mitta Mountain Car Rally along a section of Callaghans Creek Road was provided.

Mitta Pub septic

An update was provided to councillors on the approach to the issues with the Mitta Pub Septic system.

5.00pm Councillor only time

5.30pm Close

Future items for Workshops:

Rainbow Local Government 22 February 2023

Our Community Vision

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

Quarterly Budget Report as at 31 December 2022

Operating Result

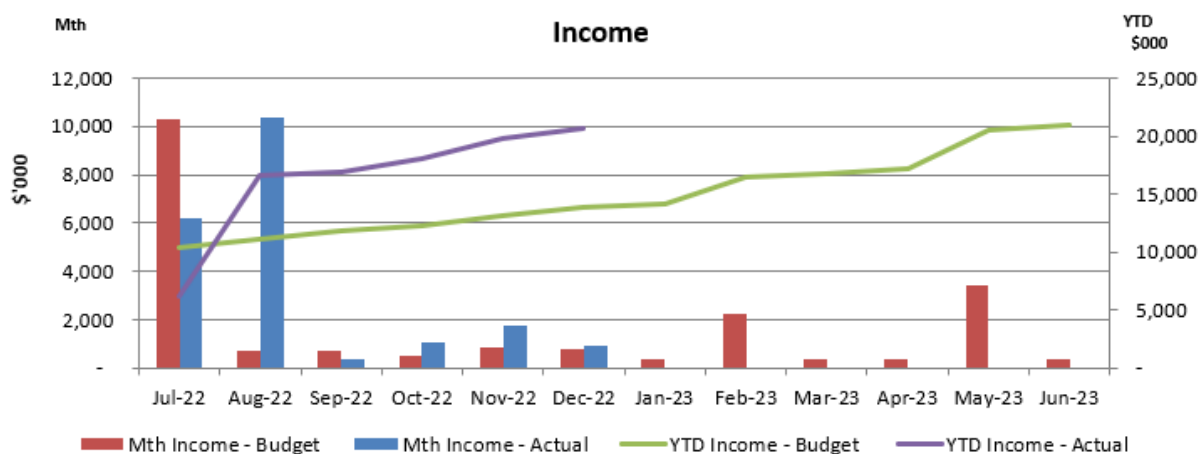
	Note	Dec-22 (Actual) \$'000	Dec-22 (Budget) \$'000	YTD (Actual) \$'000	YTD (Budget) \$'000	YTD (Variance) \$'000	YTD (Variance) %	2021/22 Full Year (Budget) \$'000	2021/22 Full Year (Achieved) %
Income	1	927	754	20,703	13,826	6,877	50%	20,906	99%
Expenditure	2	2,283	1,532	8,677	9,653	976	10%	23,649	37%
Surplus/ (Deficit)		(1,356)	(778)	12,026	4,173	7,853	188%	(2,743)	(438%)

Table 1: Operating Result

Note 1:

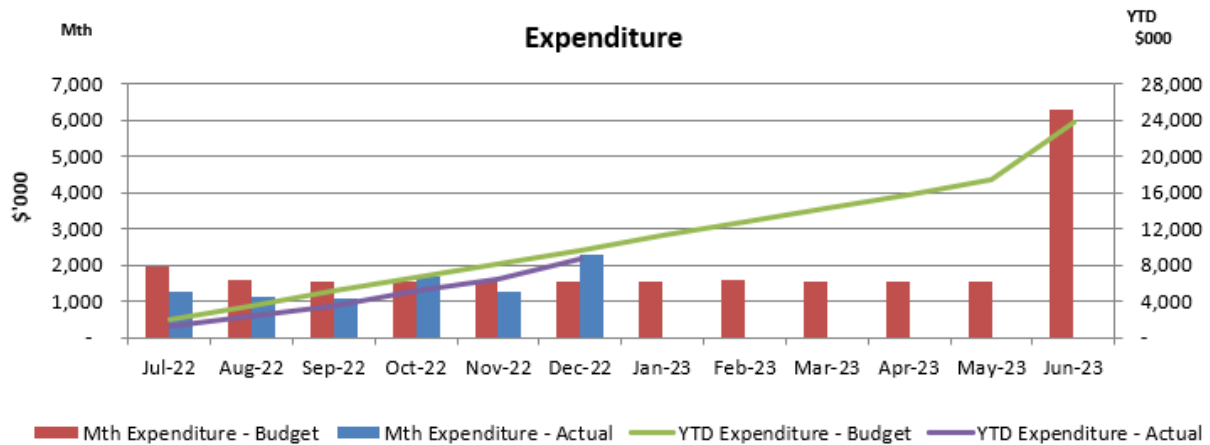
YTD income for the quarter ending 31 December 2022 was \$20.703 million against a budget of \$13.826 million. The major items contributing to the \$6.877 million favourable variance were:

- \$5.351 million grant income deferred from 2021/22 due to COVID-19 related delays in completing grant-funded capital works (as new accounting standards require that grant income is not recognised until the specific performance obligations of the grant are met);
- \$480,000 in Bushfire Recovery funding that was not anticipated at the time of the budget; and
- \$500,000 in flood support funding that was not anticipated at the time of the budget.



Note 2:

YTD expenditure for the quarter ending 31 December 2022 was \$8.677 million against a budget of \$9.653 million. The major items contributing to the \$0.976 million favourable variance were a) \$0.750 million due to the timing of planned operational projects and b) \$0.422 million in wages savings due to unfilled positions, partially offset by \$0.300 million in deferred expenditure related to the Talgarno Tennis Courts.

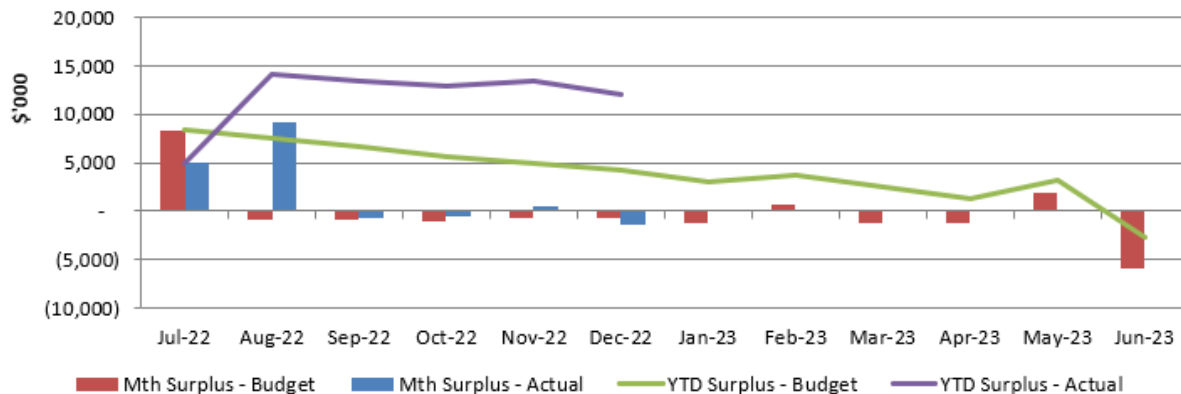


Council was operating with 111.6 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staff at 31 December 2022 against an annual budget of 116.1 FTE. Vacant positions included:

- Manager Finance
- Governance Officer
- Coordinator People and Culture
- Educators
- Technical Officer – Design
- Technical Officer – Maintenance.

Positions filled that were previously vacant included the Ranger / Enforcement Officer, Librarian, Senior Asset Engineer, Customer Service Officer and selected Educator positions.

Operating Surplus



Grant Income

	Note	Dec-22	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	2021/22	2021/22	2021/22
		(Actual)	(Actual)	(Budget)	(Variance)	(Variance)	(Budget)	(Achieved)	(Forecast)
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%	\$'000	%	\$'000
Recurrent	1	104	1,476	1,028	448	44%	4,461	33%	4,461
Non-Recurrent	2	614	8,382	1,645	6,737	410%	7,526	111%	16,179
Total		718	9,858	2,673	7,185	269%	11,987	82%	20,640

Table 2: Grant Income

Note 1:

YTD recurrent grant income as at 31 December 2022 was \$1.476 million against a budget of \$1.028 million with contributing factors including the receipt of higher than anticipated Victorian Grants Commission funding and child care subsidies.

Note 2:

YTD non-recurrent grant income as at 31 December 2022 was \$8.382 million against a budget of \$1.645 million. The major items contributing to the \$6.737 million favourable variance included:

- \$5.351 million grant income deferred from 2021/22 due to COVID-19 related delays in completing grant-funded capital works (as new accounting standards require that grant income is not recognised until the specific performance obligations of the grant are met);
- \$480,000 in Bushfire Recovery funding that was not anticipated at the time of the budget; and
- \$500,000 in flood support funding that was not anticipated at the time of the budget.

Grants received Year-to-Date (YTD) excluding grants carried forward from the prior year are as follows:

Recurrent Grants	\$'000
Financial Assistance Grants	544
Financial Assistance Grants - Local Roads Funding	288
Public Libraries funding program 2022-2023	120
Maternal and Child Health Enhancement	107
Kindergarten - Corryong	106
Kindergarten - Tallangatta	98
Kindergarten - Bellbridge	62
Municipal Emergency Resourcing Program	60
Maternal and Child Health	45
Kindergarten Cluster	22
School Crossing Supervisor Program Funding 2022-23	15
Kindergarten Enrolment	9
Kindergarten Early Start Program	0
Total Recurrent Grants	1,476

Table 3: Recurrent Grant Income received

Non-Recurrent Grants	\$'000
Council Flood Support	500
Bushfire recovery variance -OPP 9	480
Colac Colac Caravan Park	364
Cudgewa Walking Track	350
Local Roads and Community Infrastructure - Phase 2	276
Community Child Care Fund (Special circumstances - Bellbridge)	156
High Country Rail Trail (Regional Tourism Bushfire Recovery)	110
Kindergarten Three Year Old	75
Supported Parent and Playgroup	70
Future Proof: Young People	68
Rebuild Support Service	63
Neighbourhood House - Tallangatta	63
Bridges Renewal Program - Mitchells Bridge	45
Transforming Tintalra	41
Weed Project	37
Corryong and Bellbridge Structure plans	36
Rural Roads Support Program	35
Bellbridge - Playground Project stages 1A, 1B & 2 - Building Blocks	19
Mitta Valley Gravel Grinder (Regional Tourism Bushfire Recovery)	10
Enabling Inclusive Outdoor Participation - Tallangatta Early Years	10
Kindergarten Support - COVID-19	9
Health Admin (Vulnerable persons - HACC)	6
Premier's Reading Challenge	6
Upper Murray Victorian Open Road Series Stage	5
Immunisation services - school and adult	3
Kindergarten Inclusion	3
Tobacco 2023	3
Tobacco 2022	1
Workforce Support	1
Total Non-Recurrent Grants	2,845

Table 4: Non-Recurrent Grant Income received

CASH POSITION

Total cash and investments as at 31 December 2022 was \$39,382,226. Investments were made up of the following:

Date	Product	Institution	Principal	Yield	Term	Rating	Maturity
11/07/2022	Term Deposit	ME Bank (BOQ)	1,000,000	3.32%	182 Days	A2	9/01/2023
19/04/2022	Term Deposit	ME Bank (BOQ)	1,000,000	1.50%	272 Days	A2	16/01/2023
21/04/2022	Term Deposit	ME Bank (BOQ)	1,000,000	1.55%	273 Days	A2	19/01/2023
5/05/2022	Term Deposit	ME Bank (BOQ)	1,000,000	2.50%	270 Days	A2	30/01/2023
16/05/2022	Term Deposit	Bank of Queensland	1,000,000	2.55%	276 Days	A2	16/02/2023
18/05/2022	Term Deposit	Bank of Queensland	1,000,000	2.55%	278 Days	A2	20/02/2023
25/05/2022	Term Deposit	Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Ltd	1,000,000	2.50%	276 Days	A2	20/02/2023
10/06/2022	Term Deposit	AMP	1,000,000	3.00%	270 Days	A2	7/03/2023
11/04/2022	Term Deposit	Westpac	1,000,000	1.77%	337 Days	A1+	14/03/2023
15/03/2022	Term Deposit	Macquarie Bank Limited	1,000,000	1.15%	365 Days	A1	15/03/2023
20/07/2021	Term Deposit	National Australia Bank	1,000,000	3.52%	243 Days	A1+	20/03/2023
28/06/2022	Term Deposit	AMP	1,000,000	2.50%	272 Days	A2	27/03/2023
14/06/2022	Term Deposit	Macquarie Bank Limited	1,000,000	2.85%	300 Days	A1	10/04/2023
15/06/2022	Term Deposit	ME Bank (BOQ)	1,000,000	3.70%	306 Days	A2	17/04/2023
18/07/2022	Term Deposit	Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Ltd	1,000,000	3.65%	274 Days	A2	18/04/2023
20/06/2022	Term Deposit	National Australia Bank	1,000,000	3.71%	303 Days	A1+	19/04/2023
2/08/2022	Term Deposit	National Australia Bank	1,000,000	3.45%	273 Days	A1+	2/05/2023
5/05/2022	Term Deposit	ME Bank (BOQ)	1,000,000	2.90%	365 Days	A2	5/05/2023
6/05/2022	Term Deposit	WAW Bank	500,000	1.10%	365 Days		6/05/2023
20/06/2022	Term Deposit	AMP	1,000,000	2.85%	336 Days	A2	22/05/2023
18/05/2022	Term Deposit	Bank of Queensland	1,000,000	3.10%	365 Days	A2	18/05/2023
2/09/2022	Term Deposit	AMP	1,039,312	3.90%	270 Days	A2	30/05/2023
3/06/2022	Term Deposit	Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Ltd	1,000,000	2.85%	364 Days	A2	2/06/2023
5/12/2022	Term Deposit	Defence Bank	1,000,000	4.40%	182 Days	A2	5/06/2023
9/12/2022	Term Deposit	Bank Vic (Police Financial Services)	1,000,000	4.35%	180 Days	A2	7/06/2023
12/12/2022	Term Deposit	AMP	1,000,000	4.30%	183 Days	A2	13/06/2023
18/10/2022	Term Deposit	Macquarie Bank Limited	1,000,000	3.99%	272 Days	A1	17/07/2023
28/10/2022	Term Deposit	Bank of Queensland	1,000,000	4.30%	273 Days	A2	28/07/2023
6/09/2022	Term Deposit	National Australia Bank	1,000,000	3.93%	330 Days	A1+	2/08/2023
8/11/2022	Term Deposit	AMP	1,000,000	4.65%	272 Days	A2	7/08/2023
21/11/2022	Term Deposit	Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Ltd	1,000,000	4.15%	270 Days	A2	18/08/2023
29/08/2022	Term Deposit	Westpac	1,000,000	4.16%	365 Days	A1+	29/08/2023
8/11/2022	Term Deposit	Bank of Queensland	1,000,000	4.40%	306 Days	A2	11/09/2023
12/12/2022	Term Deposit	Westpac	1,000,000	4.17%	274 Days	A1+	12/09/2023
19/12/2022	Term Deposit	Bank of Queensland	1,000,000	4.30%	270 Days	A2	15/09/2023
17/11/2022	Term Deposit	Police Bank	1,000,000	4.35%	330 Days	A2	13/10/2023
1/12/2022	Term Deposit	Westpac	1,000,000	4.24%	335 Days	A1+	1/11/2023
N/A	Cash Management	Westpac	2,446,014	0.55%	On Call	A1+	N/A
N/A	S86 Committee	Various	156,634	1.60%	N/A		N/A
Total Investments			39,141,961				

Table 5: Investments at month end

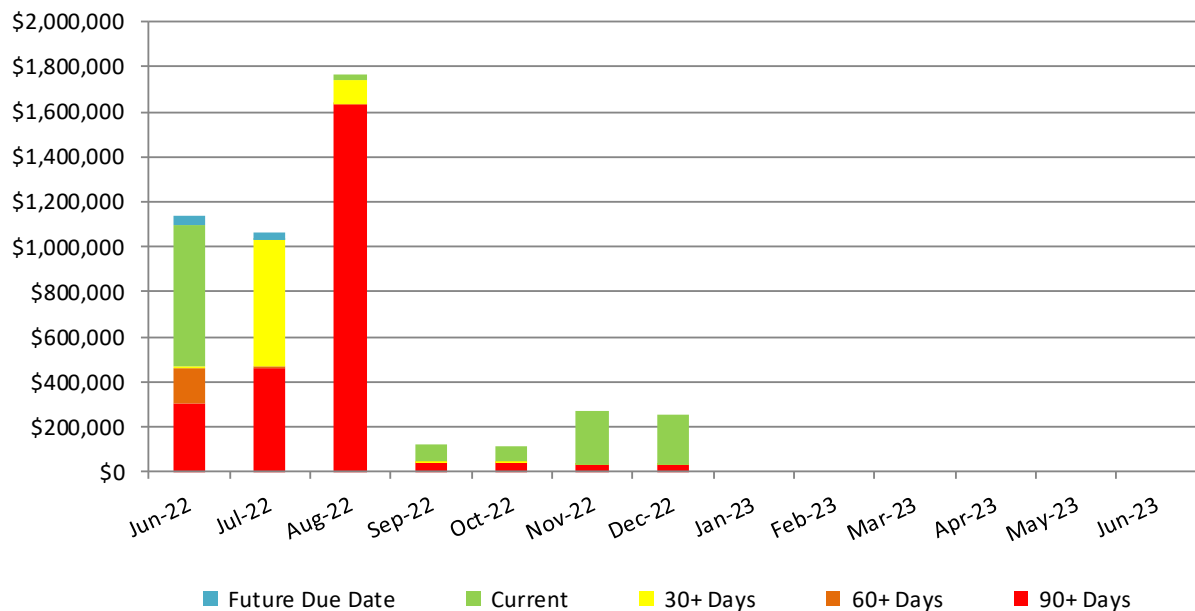
RECEIVABLES

Sundry Debtors

The Sundry Debtors outstanding at month end, and the movement from the prior month is shown below:

Sundry Debtors	Future Due Date	Current	30 Days	60 Days	90+ Days	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
December 2022	-	227,248	1,099	628	28,320	257,295
November 2022	-	236,808	628	2,386	27,334	267,156
Movement	-	(9,560)	471	(1,758)	986	(9,861)

Table 6: Sundry Debtors



Significant debtors (>\$1,000) with ageing of greater than 90 days as at 31 December are as follows:

Reference	Amount	Description	RO	Notes
240218	\$15,955	Lease payment	DCOD	No longer outstanding at the time of writing this report
284711	\$5,000	Return of unspent grant	DGP	
526665	\$3,094	Lease payment	DCOD	No longer outstanding at the time of writing this report
4053302	\$1,269	Costs for clean-up of illegally dumped waste	DIE	Debtor is on a monthly payment plan

CAPITAL WORKS

Total expenditure allocated against capital works accounts for the financial year was \$3.911 million against a full year budget of \$32.121 million, with wet weather and shortages of contractors and materials causing delays across a number of projects.

The table below reports capital expenditure incurred for all capital projects with a project budget greater than \$100,000 for the 2021/22 financial year.

Capital Works - 2022/23	YTD Actual	Total 22/23 Budget
Fixing Country Roads (Hanson Street Development) (550069)		\$ 3,406,881
Corryong CBD Revitalisation	\$ 17,695	\$ 2,985,744
Stock route	\$ 50,699	\$ 2,646,109
Great River Road (Stage 2)	\$ 151,861	\$ 2,215,698
Plant replacement	\$ 432,910	\$ 985,233
Circuit Trail - Corryong (LRCl#1)	\$ 381,835	\$ 946,682
Corryong Skate Park		\$ 932,000
Georges Creek Road (Stage 6) - Section 3	\$ 111,703	\$ 911,664
Towong Street East (LRCl phase1)	\$ 406,215	\$ 863,173
Colac Colac Caravan Park (Amenities block upgrade)	\$ 49,128	\$ 706,909
Wises Creek road		\$ 701,000
Digouts/major patching	\$ 198,114	\$ 693,169
Pavement construction - Wises Creek Road (Talgarno)	\$ 44,358	\$ 580,000
Walwa Recreation Reserve Resilience Enhancements Project	\$ 11,834	\$ 571,000
Reseal program		\$ 550,000
Bridge replacement - Little Snowy Creek Road	\$ 25,560	\$ 527,049
Corryong Airport	\$ 363,818	\$ 523,693
Playles Hill	\$ 334,700	\$ 500,000
Cudgewa Avenue of Honour	\$ 55,095	\$ 500,000
ICT Infrastructure Program (IT equip)	\$ 7,431	\$ 487,000
Bellbridge Walking Path upgrade and Exercise Equipment	\$ 27,564	\$ 484,787
Talgarno tennis court		\$ 469,272
Town entry/ locality signage		\$ 459,967
Corryong Saleyards	\$ 19,110	\$ 436,042
Lake Road Upgrade and sealing		\$ 428,232
Mitta Streetscape		\$ 420,050
Bridge replacement - Smythes Road	\$ 11,920	\$ 394,262
Bridge replacement - Burrowye Koetong Road North	\$ 1,400	\$ 394,262
Upper Murray Road upgrade	\$ 54,146	\$ 380,000
Weighbridge Corryong	\$ 482,740	\$ 374,666
Building Renewal		\$ 360,000
Dartmouth Splash Park and Pump Track		\$ 350,000
Yabba Road upgrade	\$ 13,500	\$ 319,880
Eskdale Walking Path upgrade		\$ 267,458
Talgarno Toilet Block	\$ 449	\$ 250,000
Retaining wall (Tallangatta Transfer Station)	\$ 895	\$ 249,100
Blackspot Program (Lake Road and MVH - Old Tallangatta)		\$ 239,000

Capital Works - 2022/23	YTD Actual	Total 22/23 Budget
Bridge replacement - Burrowye Koetong Road South	\$ 2,100	\$ 234,426
Triangles toilet block	\$ 7,310	\$ 218,055
Outdoor Dining Bethanga Playground	\$ 71,531	\$ 200,000
Pavement renewal		\$ 200,000
Bellbridge Early Years Playground		\$ 188,995
Carpark and Shelter Works, Talgarno Recreation Reserve		\$ 180,000
Resheeting		\$ 180,000
Upper Murray 2030 projects (2016/17) (550048)		\$ 150,000
Walwa Walking Track		\$ 150,000
Cudgewa toilet block	\$ 159,032	\$ 142,802
Tallangatta Holiday Park (Stage 2)		\$ 142,571
Tallangatta office	\$ 28,453	\$ 137,870
Colac Colac Caravan Park (Kiosk)	\$ 51,005	\$ 130,100
Triangles Irrigation System	\$ 3,554	\$ 120,000
Kerb and channel replacement		\$ 119,076
Dartmouth Streetscape		\$ 100,000
Drainage renewal		\$ 100,000

Table 7: Capital Works year ending 31 December 2022

Occupational Health and Safety Report – December 2022 – January 2023

Occupational Health and Safety Management System

Following the audit of Council’s Occupational Health and Safety Management System (OHSMS) against the standard *AS/NZS 4801:2001 Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems* it was found that Council’s OHSMS practices are generally sound with no major shortcomings identified. Altogether 46 management actions and 10 opportunities for improvement were identified of which 9 have been completed and 25 are currently in progress. Two actions were completed during this period including revisions to the internal consultation procedure and clarification as to when a Safe Work Method Statement is required.

Major actions in progress include:

- Reviewing the process for setting objectives and targets, and documenting this process in the Integrated Management System Compliance Manual (this comprises the two high priority items identified during the audit);
- Reviewing the Skills Matrix and Training Plans;
- Reviewing key elements of the Risk Framework including the Strategic Risk Register and Risk Management Action Plan;
- Reviewing individual Workplans to ensure alignment with Council Plan and OHS Improvement Plan;
- Ensuring that building inspections are conducted annually on Council owned or managed buildings for insurance purposes – this is in addition to annual Essential Safety Measure inspections conducted by the Building Surveyor against Building Code requirements;
- Reviewing the incident reporting form and Incident Register to classify event types as a hazard, near miss or incident; and
- Reviewing immunisation requirements and processes.

Action Status Tracking

Status	Priority			Total
	L	M	H	
Not started	1	21	0	22
In progress	1	22	2	25
Completed	4	5	0	9
TOTAL	6	48	2	56

WorkCover Incidents

There were no new WorkCover claims for this period. There is one open WorkCover claim, and we continue to work closely with the employee and our WorkCover agent to manage the claim.

Public Liability Incidents

There were 10 new Public Liability incidents reported for this period relating to minor incidents at the Swimming Pools such as small cuts and scrapes. There are no outstanding Public Liability incidents awaiting action.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

The pandemic declaration came to an end on 12 October 2022 however organisations are still required to keep current COVIDSafe Plans at all workplaces. Council's COVIDSafe Plans have been updated and distributed and will be reviewed again at the end of April 2023. OHS and Human Resources officers have continued to respond to staff enquiries regarding the appropriate course of action in their individual circumstances, in accordance with state requirements and recommendations.

Officers received a delivery of Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) from the state government for distribution to staff, Councillors and community members. Officers continue to closely manage the supply and distribution of these RATs, and the required reporting to the State Government.

Insurance Claims

Two previously outstanding Property insurance claims have been completed, in relation to damage to surfaces and equipment at the Corryong Kindergarten due to a rain event, and in relation to a large tree limb falling onto the main office at the Tallangatta Resource Recovery Centre.

There is currently one Liability claim in progress relating to damage caused to a retaining wall in a private residence in 2015. Repairs are mostly completed and it is expected this claim will be finalised by the end of March 2023.

Further progress has been made in relation to Council's insurance claim relating to damage caused by the 2019/20 bushfires. The claim progress has been lengthy due

to complexities involved in its resolution, such as the large number of transactions and expense types being claimed for, and the fact that some insurable costs were not incurred until more than 18 months after the bushfires taking place. Staff changes and shortages at both the insurer and Council have also posed challenges. Following submission of the claim by our insurance agent Marsh, the insurer has made an initial assessment indicating that the claim has been approved except for the portion relating to damage to the landfill cell. As the amount involved is significant, officers are working with insurance agent representatives to challenge this assessment and may seek further legal advice regarding policy coverage. Officers have also requested a progress payment in regard to the portion of the claim that has been approved.

Corryong Saleyards

A review of the safety of the Corryong Saleyards was conducted in advance of the annual sale on 9 December 2022, particularly as a construction project was underway to construct a weighbridge on the site, and that storms had also impacted on the site. The OHS Officer attended the site along with the project manager, Enforcement Officer and a works crew representative. A safety plan was agreed to and implemented and a final risk assessment was conducted on 6 December 2022. A further risk assessment will be undertaken following the completion of the weighbridge installation.

Corryong Aerodrome

A new 24/7 refuelling area has been constructed at the Corryong Aerodrome. Training has been conducted to support officers to sample and test the fuel and to maintain the site to a safe standard. An interim risk assessment of the area has been completed and potential risks are scheduled to be addressed early in 2023. Associated procedures are being documented.

Child Safe Standards and the Reportable Conduct Scheme

Victoria's introduced seven Child Safe Standards in 2016 to protect children and young people from harm and abuse.

Changes have been made to the Standards in order to increase protection for children and young people and provide clarity for organisations that must comply with them. From 1 July 2022, 11 Standards replaced the original seven and include requirements to:

- Involve families and communities in organisations' efforts to keep children and young people safe;
- Provide greater focus on safety for Aboriginal children and young people; and
- Manage the risk of child abuse in online environments.

Work has been underway across Early Years teams to meet the new standards and work will be conducted to assess any further requirements across the broader organisation. The induction process and any additional training, policy and monitoring requirements will be reviewed.

Working Alone

A review of the Working Alone procedure is underway with particular focus on ensuring workers who travel around the municipality by themselves do so with their safety as the highest priority. These workers include, among others, outdoor workers, Maternal and Child Health nurses, project managers and rangers.

The review includes ensuring that officers are provided with appropriate first aid kits, fire extinguishers, a "fire kit" containing essential items in case they are caught in or near a bushfire, and an emergency backup plan documented in a Safe Work Method Statement. The review will also consider the need or requirement to travel on days of Extreme or Catastrophic fire danger ratings.

Consideration will also be given to what arrangements are appropriate for Councillors travelling on Council business.

Appendix 4

Quarterly Corporate and Organisational Development Report – October - December 2022

Information Technology

Ongoing progress is being made with Alpine and Indigo Shire Councils in relation to the development of a joint digital platform. As part of the development of the platform, a new project to improve planning and building systems and processes has commenced, partially funded by the *Rural Councils Transformation Program – Round 2*. Despite some initial challenges identifying suitable resources to manage the project, a project manager has now been recruited and initial project governance has been established, including a Project Control Board consisting of executive members from each council. The project manager will aid in establishing any additional resources needed to run the project. Work has commenced between the vendor and selected staff at each council to begin working through implementation planning.

An IT Security Audit was recently conducted as part of the internal audit plan. An initial debrief to the Audit and Risk Committee was provided in December and the audit firm is scheduled to provide a full debrief to the Committee in February. Initial actions have been underway to update key security infrastructure including replacement of the firewall which is approaching end of life. Updating the firewall will ensure that there is a contemporary solution to monitor incoming and outgoing network traffic and block potentially harmful traffic such as viruses and malware. Contemporary firewalls can also help to optimise the performance of internal networks so that users experience more consistent speeds. Multifactor authentication has been implemented across Microsoft products to reduce the risk of a security breach due to a password being compromised.

Governance and Strategy

A new Audit and Risk Committee member was appointed and attended the December Committee Meeting. The terms of the remaining three external members are due to expire during 2023 and it has been proposed that one of their terms be extended to provide for continuity. Committee members have been asked to nominate whether they would like to extend. Recruitment of new members is expected to commence in the fourth quarter of the financial year.

A recruitment process for the new position of Governance Officer was undertaken. The role will be responsible for some of the duties undertaken by the Coordinator of the Office of the CEO, the Director Corporate and Organizational Development, and Chief

Executive Officer, as well as various risk and governance related tasks. The successful candidate brings a background in policy and governance at the federal level and commenced in January.

Communications and Engagement

The team continued to work with other internal departments on communication and engagement across a wide range of major projects during the quarter including the Bethanga Playground, 24 hour fuel at Corryong Airport, Corryong CBD, Mitta Streetscape, Playles Hill, Stock Route, Bellbridge Walk Track and Towong Street East.

Community events also continued to be a focus, including the Magic of Cinema, Battle of the Bands, Creative Fridays and Walk and Talk, as well as regular activities such as the commencement of the pool season, Big Summer Read, school holiday program, Australia Day Awards, fire season commencement and the state funded community RAT program. 'Half way point' communications were developed to reflect on Council achievements over the first half of the current Council term.

Facebook page followers, reach and engagement all generally continued to trend upwards. There was particular community interest in our flood damage updates and advocacy in relation to the State Government reinstating adequate funding to fix country roads. An email newsletter was developed to further extend reach to community members interested in staying abreast of Council activities, with the first newsletter launched in January.

Following the promotion of the Communications Officer to the role of Senior Communications and Engagement Officer, the vacant role was adjusted to attract relevant skills. The new Digital Marketing and Communications Officer commenced in November, bringing tertiary qualifications in screen and media while having substantial experience in contributing to local press outlets within the Shire. The screen skills will enable the team to produce more video content for the Council website and Facebook page to build community engagement.

Customer Service

The team continued to focus on embedding and documenting processes. MOUs are now in place between customer service and many internal departments to clarify and document the roles and tasks of the customer service team as well as the responsibilities of the respective department. The time to train a new staff member to be competent in customer service tasks has reduced considerably. Ongoing focus is being placed on monitoring error rates and providing coaching to target weak spots.

Further activity to target the closure of dated service requests is also underway. A 'How Do I?' campaign is also being devised to pre-empt common community enquiries.

Organisational Development

Recruitment continued to be a key focus with recruitment of the lifeguards being a major activity for the quarter. This was the first time in recent years that lifeguard recruitment was conducted completely in-house following the conclusion of our contract with MomentumOne Shared Services and challenges in working with an alternative labour hire firm over the 2021-22 season.

Continued focus was placed on onboarding, offboarding and payroll processes. The onboarding checklist was expanded to ensure good coverage of induction topics, and the HR Officer and IT Officer worked together to provide for a smooth offboarding process from Council's systems.

A firm was engaged to rollout leadership training across the organisation's key leaders including the Councillors and 20 senior people leaders across five months commencing in January. The intensive program involves a combination of leadership seminars and one-on-one coaching to optimise the effectiveness of the organisation's leaders. A further introductory version of the program is planned for rollout to additional staff later in the year.

Health and Safety efforts are as outlined in the bi-monthly Occupational Health and Safety Report.

Finance

The Finance team continued to focus on embedding the new rates, property, receipting and animal management system. Further time was dedicated to working with the system vendor and printers to confirm the mapping of the new system's data to rates notices to ensure a smooth second rates notice for the year. The volume of rates enquiries continued to be high, largely due to ongoing enquires regarding changes to the land area provided on rates notices. Previously, land area data was based on historical information provided by ratepayers to staff over a long period of time. The new system utilises statewide mapping data provided by Vicmap. On investigation it was found that the historical information was sometimes inaccurate and that the Vicmap data generally matched very closely to the land areas provided on land titles. The Rates team was dedicated to ensuring that ratepayers understood the variance, that their land titles were the 'source of truth' and that the actual amount of land that they owned had not changed.

Substantial challenges were experienced in recruiting a Manager Finance with the position remaining vacant from July 2022 to late January 2023. On several occasions a candidate was selected and reference checks were conducted, prior to the candidate

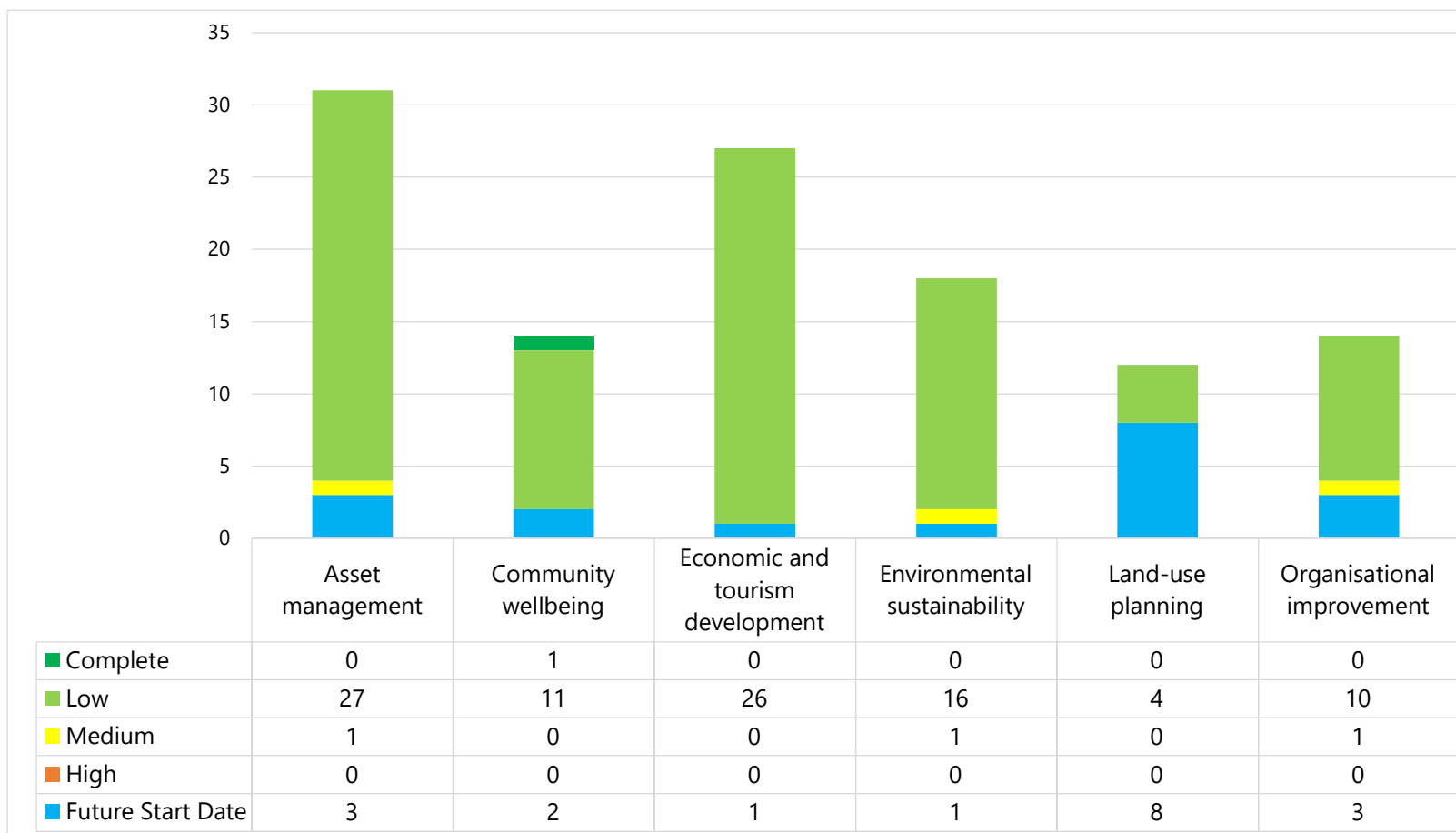
dropping out. Anecdotally it is an extremely challenging market to recruit finance staff. The position was eventually filled with the assistance of an external recruitment agency; the ability of the candidate to find local housing also posed a considerable challenge. The new Manager Finance commenced in January, bringing skills and experience from accounting firms and multi-national private companies. The Accountant role was also filled with the new Accountant bringing local audit experience and strong excel skills.

The Director worked with Finance Officers to support regular processes on a prioritised basis through to the commencement of the Manager Finance. Ongoing assessment of directorate priorities was conducted to ensure sufficient focus was able to be dedicated to high priority Finance tasks and team needs. External consultants assisted in the completion of year-end reporting and extensions were sought to ensure that the consultants had time to adequately build their knowledge of Council financials and compile accurate deliverables. Officers spent considerable time supporting the consultants and then subsequently in aiding the new Accountant and Manager Finance to build their knowledge of our processes and organisation. The team is to be commended on their ongoing dedication to supporting continuity, resolving issues and embedding a new system during a challenging time.

Local Laws

Barking dogs and occasionally aggressive dogs continued to be a major focus. A new ranger commenced in the second ranger role in October, taking on additional responsibilities such as fire management as well as planning inspection and enforcement, while reducing key person dependency on the current ranger. The team placed dedicated effort in working with the Infrastructure team to prepare the Corryong Saleyards for the annual sale, with storm weather and construction project work having impacted on the site.

Council Plan Priorities - Progress Report (1 October to 31 December 22)



Future start date	High	Medium	Low	Complete
Priority is not due for commencement	Milestones are not being met. There is high risk that the project will not be completed within advised timeframes or to satisfaction.	Strategy milestones are not being met. There is medium risk that the strategy will not be completed within advised timeframes.	Milestones are being met. There is low risk that the project will not be completed within advised timeframes.	The project has been completed.

Council Plan Priorities - Progress Report (1 October to 31 Decemer 22)

Responsible Officer	Position	Person
CEO	Chief Executive Officer	Juliana Phelps
CACC	Co-ordinator Advocacy, Communications, and Customer Service	Georgina Curtis
CDO	Community Development Officer	Katherine Lanigan
CED	Co-ordinator Economic Development	Laura Carmen
CFS	Co-ordinator Family Services	Ebony Ablett-Johnstone
CLO	Customer Liaison Officer	Sandra Dower
CRAC	Co-ordinator Recreation, Arts and Culture	Joe Calvert
DCP	Director Community and Planning	Amanda Pagan
DIE	Director Infrastructure and Environment	Rachael Gadd
DCOD	Director Corporate and Organisational Development	Emma Woolaston
EPM	Engineer/ Projects Manager	Various Staff
EMC	Emergency Management Coordinator	Sven Erikson
ITO	IT Officer	Chris Rootsey
MF	Manager Finance	Dylan Howard
MIA	Manager Infrastructure Assessment	Dolf Abbruzzese
NHC	Neighbourhood House Coordinator	Katherine Lanigan
OHS	OHS and Risk Officer	Wayne Carter
TLCS	Team Leader Customer Service	Jayne Merbach
SMT	Senior Management Team	CEO and Directors
YO	Youth Officer	Renee Carkeek

Council Plan Priorities - Progress Report (01 Oct to 31 Dec 22)

Ref	Priority	RO	When	Status	Progress - Previous Period	Progress - Current Period
Asset management						
Maintain and improve our Shire's infrastructure to meet agreed levels of service.						
1.1	Deliver 100% of the annual capital works program and bushfire recovery projects	DIE	2021/22	Medium	63 projects are included in the program for 2022/23, of which 53 are in progress.	63 projects are included in the program for 2022/23, of which 52 are in progress., 11 have been completed.
1.2	Deliver infrastructure projects that arise from place-based master planning	DIE	2022 -2025	Low	Supplier currently being finalised to conduct 2022/23 master plans.	Consultant engaged to undertake placebased masterplanning in late 2022. Community consultation to begin in early 2023. Projects expected to be included in 2024-25 budgets and beyond.
1.3	Complete Stage 2 Great River Road	DIE	2022	Low	Community engagement is underway for Artworks and Signage. Construction is ongoing. Construction of pedestrian bridges from Walwa to Jingellic are in fabrication stage, estimated install onsite December 2022.	Pedestrian bridge construction is complete an in storage off site with installation planned by March 2023. Track repair contract in place and works have commenced. Track sealing also contract in place for when repairs are complete.
1.4	Continue the upgrade of Georges Creek Road	DIE	2022	Low	Sections 1 and 2 complete, Section 3 construction work underway.	Section 3 construction work ongoing.
1.5	Complete upgrades of Hanson Street from Sugarloaf Road to Kiel Street	DIE	2022/23	Low	Water and sewer designs nearing completion. Final civil design review underway.	Hanson Street project out to tender.
1.6	Complete the upgrade of the Stock Route in Corryong	DIE	2022/23	Low	Design is currently underway, awaiting response from service providers (NEW / AusNet). Tender for construction is underway.	Construction contract awarded, planned started date early February 2023.
1.7	Progressively deliver the upgrade of the unsealed sections of Lake Road	DIE	2022 -2025	Low	Designs are 90% complete.	No further progress due to flood damage priorities.
1.8	Investigate upgrade options for Wises Creek Road	DIE	2022/23	Low	Construction has commenced. Completion expected early 2023.	Construction work ongoing.

Council Plan Priorities - Progress Report (01 Oct to 31 Dec 22)

Ref	Priority	RO	When	Status	Progress - Previous Period	Progress - Current Period
1.9	Advocate for the upgrade of the Benambra Corryong Road from Stacey's Bridge 40km South	SMT	2022 -2025	Low	Ongoing.	Ongoing.
1.10	Seek funding to deliver upgrades of key transport routes and hazardous road alignments to improve efficiency and safety	DIE	2022 -2025	Low	Approval process with VicRoads is underway.	Approval process ongoing.
1.11	Seek funding to deliver upgrades of load limited bridges on strategic transport routes	DIE	2022 -2025	Low	Two bridges out to tender: Smythes and Little Snowy Creek Road. Burrowye Road x 2, in final design phase.	Construction contract signed.
1.12	Continue to deliver the upgrade of unsealed streets in urban areas program	DIE	2022 -2025	Low	To be delivered in the 2023/24 budget.	To be delivered in the 2023/24 budget.
1.13	Complete the upgrade of the Corryong CBD	DIE	2022/23	Low	Shade sails in arcade complete. Final designs for streetscape complete and under community consultation.	Corryong CBD project out to tender.
1.14.1	Complete streetscape upgrades in Dartmouth	DIE	2022/23	Low	Recreation masterplan process underway which includes proposed location for the Splash Park and Pump Track.	Ongoing.
1.14.2	Complete streetscape upgrades in Mitta Mitta	DIE	2022/23	Low	Stage 1: Contractor awarded. Stage 2: Application submitted under Building Better Regions Fund Round 6 for expanded project, awaiting announcement.	Stage 1: out to tender due to contractor withdrawal. Stage 2: Funding application unsuccessful

Council Plan Priorities - Progress Report (01 Oct to 31 Dec 22)

Ref	Priority	RO	When	Status	Progress - Previous Period	Progress - Current Period
1.15.1	Investigate and plan for upgrades at Tintaldra	DIE	2023	Low	Boat ramp construction complete in Tintaldra. Walking track base complete, contract for walking track sealing in place, awaiting dry weather. Streetscape master planning to be completed early 2023.	Consultant engaged to undertake streetscape planning in late 2022. Community consultation to begin in February 2023. Sealing of walking track planned for early 2023.
1.15.2	Investigate and plan for upgrades at Towong	DIE	2024	Low	Walking path under construction. Contract for walking track sealing in place. Design of boardwalk section under preparation. Streetscape master planning to be completed early 2023.	Consultant engaged to undertake streetscape planning in late 2022. Community consultation to begin in February 2023. Boardwalk design plans progressing.
1.15.3	Investigate and plan for upgrades at Cudgewa	DIE	2022	Low	Initial tree removal complete. Planning for remaining avenue trees in process and streetscape master planning to be completed early 2023.	Consultant engaged to undertake streetscape planning in late 2022. Community consultation to begin in February 2023. Planning application for avenue works submitted.
1.16	Continue to deliver the strategic footpath network improvement program in urban areas	DIE	2022 -2025	Low	Corryong Circuit Trail under construction, sealing of walking tracks contractor awarded and works planned for late 2022. Towong Street East footpath under construction.	Stage 2 Towong Street East footpath under in design phase. Final section of Circuit Trail awaiting cultural heritage assessment.
1.17	Address long vehicle and overflow parking issues in CBD areas	DIE	2022 -2025	Low	Long vehicle parking signs installed in Tallangatta (Lords Hut/Akuna Avenue), long vehicle parking in Mitta Mitta to be delivered as part of Mitta streetscape stage 1, Corryong CBD and Walwa overflow parking in development.	Long vehicle parking continues to be considered as a priority as part of the streetscape design process for all towns.
1.18	Seek funding to deliver improved public toilets across the shire	DIE	2022 -2025	Low	Funding application submitted for Mitta Mitta toilet block improvements under BBRF. Playles Hill, Walwa and Cudgewa toilet blocks under construction. Tallangatta Triangles and Corryong CBD toilet block upgrades in design phase. Funding allocated for new Talgarno toilet block.	Funding Application for Mitta Mitta toilet block improvement unsuccessful. Cudgewa toilets nearing completion. Tallangatta Triangles toilet block out to tender. Corryong CBD and Talgarno toilet block in design phase. COMPLETE - Playles Hill and Walwa toilet block

Council Plan Priorities - Progress Report (01 Oct to 31 Dec 22)

Ref	Priority	RO	When	Status	Progress - Previous Period	Progress - Current Period
1.19	Seek funding to deliver upgrades to town entrances and wayfinding signage across the shire	DIE	2022 -2025	Future	Future start date.	Future start date.
1.20	Seek funding to deliver an upgraded Corryong Integrated Community Centre	DIE	2023	Future	Future start date.	Future start date.
1.21	Increase the recreation opportunities for young families in Dartmouth	DIE	2022/23	Low	Planning and design underway for Splash Park and Pump Track.	Consultant engaged for project development and delivery
1.22	Review and deliver the strategic parks and playgrounds upgrade program to completion	DIE	2022 -2025	Low	Planning and consultation for Bethanga Park upgrade underway.	Play equipment for Bethanga playground has been ordered and is scheduled to be installed by March.
1.23	Undertake upgrades at the Colac Colac Caravan Park to ensure long term viability of the park	DIE	2022/23	Low	Black summer application unsuccessful. Kiosk/café under construction.	Kiosk/cafe construction complete and in storage off site until peak season finishes.
1.24	Investigate options for additional boat ramps	DIE	2022 -2025	Future	Future start date.	Future start date.
1.25	Deliver the Corryong aerodrome 24 hour fuel project	DIE	2021/22	Low	Onsite works to be completed mid November 2022	Onsite construction is complete
1.26	Deliver a rolling program for the maintenance of strategic limited access roads for improved emergency access	DIE	2022 -2025	Low	List of roads identified, planning underway for 2022/23. Koetong Creek Track storm damage works completed.	Future start date.
1.27	Deliver annual asset inspection and renewal programs per asset management and road management plan requirements	DIE	2022 -2025	Low	Inspection program is being delivered according to program.	Ongoing.
1.28	Implement the maintenance program for Council's buildings	DIE	2022 -2025	Low	Technical Officer hired. Program of works being delivered.	Market responses received for external painting of Shire Offices in Corryong and Tallangatta. Technical Officer developing a maintenance plan for delivery.

Council Plan Priorities - Progress Report (01 Oct to 31 Dec 22)

Ref	Priority	RO	When	Status	Progress - Previous Period	Progress - Current Period
Community wellbeing						
Assist all residents to attain a high level of health and safety, resilience and connectedness to their communities.						
2.1	Undertake place-based master planning for the Peninsula including the investigation of options for early years and community facilities	DCP	2023	Low	Consultant has been selected and recommended for appointment.	Detailed planning has been undertaken for place visits. Initial visits were conducted in December 2022.
2.2	Undertake place-based master planning for the Mitta Valley, Corryong and Tallangatta	DCP	2023	Low	Consultant has been selected and recommended for appointment.	Detailed planning has been undertaken for place visits. Initial visits were conducted in December 2022.
2.3	Maintain a contemporary Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan which reflects our community priorities	DCP	2021	Complete	COMPLETE - Plan was adopted by Council in November 2021.	Plan was reviewed and annual report provided to Council at end of 2022.
2.4	Support the development of recreational activities and infrastructure to encourage active lifestyles for all ages and stages	DCP	2022 -2025	Low	Final community feedback was received regarding the masterplan. Masterplans are currently being finalised with user groups before formally being released to the community.	All draft masterplans are complete and ready for community feedback except Corryong Rec Reserve, Bethanga Rec Reserve, Tallangatta Showgrounds and Granya. These plans are still undergoing detailed community consultation to finalise plans.
2.5	Review opportunities for communities to access library resources and connect through libraries	DCP	2023	Future	Book week was successfully held in the Library; Author talks and book club was also re-established.	NEED EMMA TO COMMENT.
2.6	Develop a strategy for arts and cultural offerings across the Shire	DCP	2023	Future	A number of events were held at Davis Cottage to celebrate the arts, including the music and skate event.	No further action this period, however a number of creative workshops were held throughout the quarter.
2.7	Expand and improve early years services across the Shire to support young families	DCP	2022 -2025	Low	Completion of inclusive playgrounds for Corryong and Tallangatta. Inclusive yard upgrade for Bellbridge Kindergarten has begun and expected completion 2023.	A finalised agreement and valuation was sent to Peekaboo to lease their building and establish a new Corryong child care.
2.8	Renew the Youth Plan to embed the 'youth voice' in all aspects of service delivery	DCP	2022 -2025	Low	Successful delivery of the school holiday program and afterschool workshops (cooking and sewing).	Successful delivery of the school holiday program and afterschool workshops including Evolve Festival in Corryong.

Council Plan Priorities - Progress Report (01 Oct to 31 Dec 22)

Ref	Priority	RO	When	Status	Progress - Previous Period	Progress - Current Period
2.9	Advocate for the development of a variety of housing options to match community needs, particularly for older people	DCP	2022 -2025	Low	Further advocacy undertaken with DELWP to justify the release of addtinal housing.	Further advocacy undertaken with DELWP to justify the release of addtinal housing.
2.10	Encourage the establishment of innovative, sustainable transport solutions for remote communities	DCP	2022 -2025	Low	No action in this quarter.	No action in this quarter.
2.11	Support our communities to ensure that Shire places are welcoming to culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) and LGBTIQ+ communities and are inclusive and connected	DCP	2022 -2025	Low	Tallangatta Neighbourhood House has planned Auslan classes scheduled and ESL classes.	No action in this quarter.
2.12	Build relationships and develop understanding of aboriginal people and consider the commitment to an ongoing reconciliation action plan process	DCP	2022 -2025	Low	Initial meetings have been held with staff committee to develop action plan.	Ongoing meetings with staff throughout the quarter. Currently scheduling cultural awareness training for early 2023.
2.13	Participate in key networks to support communities and key stakeholders on solutions to address family violence, suicide and mental health	DCP	2022 -2025	Low	Participation in Tallangatta and Corryong Family Violence Networks. Planning is underway for Welcome to Baby ceremonies for Peninsula and Mitta Valley.	Participation in Tallangatta and Corryong Family Violence Networks. Planning is underway for Welcome to Baby ceremonies for Mitta Valley.
2.14	Support our communities to drive their recovery from bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic and improve their mitigation of and resilience to future adverse events	DCP	2022 -2025	Low	Successfully secured funding for the next stage of the North East Hume Emergency Management Collaboration to test the community emergency management plans. As a member of the Towong Multi Agency MEMPC, Council has led the drafting of the 2022-25 MEMP which is now being reviewed by the REMPC Assurance SubCommittee. we have also supported the formation of the Fire Planning Sub Committee of the MEMPC which is chaired and led by DEWLP.	Successfully secured funding for the next stage of the North East Hume Emergency Management Collaboration to test the community emergency management plans. As a member of the Towong Multi Agency MEMPC, Council has led the drafting of the 2022-25 MEMP which is now being reviewed by the REMPC Assurance SubCommittee. we have also supported the formation of the Fire Planning Sub Committee of the MEMPC which is chaired and led by DEWLP.

Council Plan Priorities - Progress Report (01 Oct to 31 Dec 22)

Ref	Priority	RO	When	Status	Progress - Previous Period	Progress - Current Period
Economic and tourism development						
Expand employment and economic opportunities whilst continuing to maintain and promote our natural environment and the lifestyle our municipality offers.						
3.1	Connect businesses to learning, development and networking opportunities to increase capacity	DCP	2022 -2025	Low	Ongoing support of Start Up Shake Up and promotion of the program. Ran a number of networking and industry nights to encourage new businesses to expand their knowledge and skills.	Ongoing support of Start Up Shake Up and promotion of the program. Ran a number of networking and industry nights to encourage new businesses to expand their knowledge and skills.
3.2	Run a series of business expos to support local businesses	DCP	2021-2022	Low	No action in this quarter.	Social media workshop was held in Bethanga and Tallangatta; Online presence training held in Upper Murray and Mitta Valley.
3.3	Develop a business assistance service for new businesses including accommodation providers in the shared economy	DCP	2022	Low	No action in this quarter.	No action in this quarter.
3.4	Support businesses to adapt to and recover from the impact of bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic	DCP	2022	Low	Grant information has been made available businesses to assist with recovery.	Grant information has been made available businesses to assist with recovery, particularly for those impacted by recent floods.
3.5	Support businesses to expand adventure tourism offerings across the shire	DCP	2022 -2025	Low	Lake Hume Masterplan project completed community engagement during the quarter. Successfully secured funding for Mt Elliot masterplan.	Lake Hume Masterplan due to be presented to Council for public exhibition in early 2023. Mt Elliot masterplan project steering group established.
3.6	Advocate for the development and broadening of the Pine Mountain experience	DCP	2022	Low	Continued to support cycling development (with ebikes project roll-out), seek funding for masterplan at Pine Mountain, consider seeking seed funding (or seed fund) adventure events in the Shire.	Engage with arts group regarding content of signage and brief for artists.
3.7	Advocate for the development of adventure tourism opportunities at Mount Elliot	DCP	2022 -2025	Low	Successfully secured funding.	Finalised funding agreement; Mt Elliot masterplan project steering group established.
3.8	Develop and implement a masterplan for cycling across the Shire	DCP	2022	Low	No action in this quarter.	Released HCRT masterplan on public exhibition.

Council Plan Priorities - Progress Report (01 Oct to 31 Dec 22)

Ref	Priority	RO	When	Status	Progress - Previous Period	Progress - Current Period
3.9	Support Mitta Valley Inc to develop the Mitta Valley mountain bike park	DCP	2022/23	Low	Ongoing assistance provided to MVI and PSG.	Ongoing assistance provided to MVI and PSG.
3.10	Seek funding to complete the High Country Rail Trail	DCP	2022 -2025	Low	Applied for funding under the Regional Infrastructure Fund for funding the Corryong/Colac Colac loop.	Released HCRT masterplan on public exhibition.
3.11.1	Establish new annual cycling events in the Mitta Valley	DCP	2022 -2025	Low	Event was delayed due to COVID-19. The event is rescheduled for November 2022.	Mitta Gravel Unravel was held in December 2022. The event was very successful.
3.11.2	Establish new annual cycling events in the Upper Murray	DCP	2022 -2025	Low	Event was delayed due to COVID-19, it is now rescheduled for 15 and 16 October 2022.	The event was cancelled due to flooding.
3.12.1	Seek funding to develop key touring routes as premier touring destinations, including the Great River Road	DCP	2022 -2025	Low	No further action this quarter.	No further action this quarter.
3.12.2	Seek funding to develop key touring routes as premier touring destinations, including the Omeo Highway	DCP	2023 -2025	Low	No further action this quarter.	No further action this quarter.
3.12.3	Seek funding to develop key touring routes as premier touring destinations, including the Benambra Corryong Road	DCP	2022 -2025	Low	No further action this quarter.	No further action this quarter.
3.13	Seek funding to develop a master plan for Lake Hume as a tourism destination including houseboats and the Narrows project	DCP	2022	Low	Draft plan is due to be presented at the October Council workshop.	Final Lake Hume plan to be presented to Council and put on public exhibition in early 2023.
3.14	Seek funding to develop and expand the tourism opportunities at Dartmouth Dam	DCP	2023 -2025	Low	Funding application was not successful. Engaged a photographer to capture the Dartmouth Dam spill and supported promotion through TNE.	No further action this quarter.
3.15	Capitalise on Tallangatta's status as a Notable Town	DCP	2023	Low	Plans for a new heritage walk around Tallangatta have commenced.	No further action this quarter.

Council Plan Priorities - Progress Report (01 Oct to 31 Dec 22)

Ref	Priority	RO	When	Status	Progress - Previous Period	Progress - Current Period
3.16	Secure control of the Tallangatta Caravan Park and seek funding to implement the adopted recommendations from Tallangatta Holiday Park Planning Study	DCP	2022 -2025	Low	No further action this quarter.	No further action this quarter.
3.17	Deliver improved visitor information and experience across the Shire	DCP	2022 -2025	Low	Staff continued to prepare for the Summit.	Successful summit held in Corryong. The event was well received.
3.18	Expand the reach of tourism marketing and promotional materials	DCP	2022 -2025	Low	Applied branding to visitor assets, continued to work with community to deliver the GRR, Mitta Mountain Bike Park and other tourism projects.	Completed branding; commenced work in new websites and procuring consultant to do website design and content. Continued to support the development of the tourism and marketing plan for Great River Road Stage 2.
3.19	Seek to support the growth of value-add product and/or diversification opportunities for the agriculture industry	DCP	2022 -2025	Low	Connected producers with a number of diversification workshops and programs. Continued to work with Start Up Shake Up to develop an ag specific program for new producers/producers looking to diversify into non-ag small businesses.	No further action this quarter.
3.20	Facilitate the creation of a centre of excellence for innovation in agriculture	DCP	2022 -2025	Future	No further action this quarter.	No further action this quarter.
3.21	Seek funding to support efforts to attract and sustain new industries	DCP	2022 -2025	Low	No further action this quarter.	No further action this quarter.
3.22	Explore opportunities to activate the Corryong Aerodrome	DCP	2022 -2025	Low	No further action this quarter.	No further action this quarter.
3.23	Work with Upper Murray Inc to deliver outcomes from the UM2030 Plan	DCP	2022 -2025	Low	No further action this quarter.	Continued work with UMI to deliver the Local Development Strategy.
3.24	Attract investment to address key weaknesses (connectivity and reliability) in critical infrastructure (mobile telecommunications, internet and power)	DCP	2022 -2025	Low	Draft Telecommunications Review will be presented in October to Council for community feedback. Worked collaboratively with ERV and DELWP to establish a community wide back up battery.	Final mobile and internet communications strategy presented to Council for public exhibition in November 2022.

Council Plan Priorities - Progress Report (01 Oct to 31 Dec 22)

Ref	Priority	RO	When	Status	Progress - Previous Period	Progress - Current Period
Land-use planning						
Implement a strategic and sustainable long-term land-use direction for the Shire based on an integrated approach to the natural and built environment.						
4.1	Support the rebuild process for fire impacted properties	DCP	2022 -2025	Low	The rebuild support service (RSS) continues to be staffed in addition to the business as usual planning arrangements. The service has supported 21 homes to commence their house rebuild. Council extended the farm shed exemption option for an additional 12 months until January 2023. All permit fees associated with rebuild continue to be offered free of charge.	RSS has been extended and continues to support rebuild of all destroyed dwellings.
4.2	Establish a Developer Contributions Policy and a Minimum Social Infrastructure Requirements Policy	DCP	2022/23	Future	No further action this quarter.	No further action this quarter.
4.3	Develop structure plans for Corryong, Tallangatta and Bellbridge and incorporate into the planning scheme	DCP	2022/23	Low	A consultant has been selected for the structure plans for Corryong and Bellbridge. DELWP have developed an RFQ for Destination Mitta and feedback has been provided to DELWP.	Detailed planning undertaken with consultant. Draft opportunities papers developed for Bellbridge and Corryong.
4.4	Review the Residential Settlement Strategy	DCP	2022-2024	Future	No further action this quarter.	No further action this quarter.
4.5	Support population growth outside of key townships through appropriate amendments to the planning scheme	DCP	2022 -2025	Future	Staff advocated to DELWP about the growth required along the Berringa Peninsula to support housing demand.	Staff advocated to DELWP about the growth required along the Berringa Peninsula to support housing demand.

Council Plan Priorities - Progress Report (01 Oct to 31 Dec 22)

Ref	Priority	RO	When	Status	Progress - Previous Period	Progress - Current Period
4.6	Review the Rural Land Use Study	DCP	2022/23	Future	Staff met with DELWP again to discuss the ongoing issues with land availability across the shire. DELWP proposed that the immediate land around Bellbridge be included in the structure plan and no additional land around the peninsula is to be included. DELWP have also proposed additional land around Corryong to be included in the study that would result in a good outcome.	Staff met with DELWP again to discuss the ongoing issues with land availability across the shire. DELWP proposed that the immediate land around Bellbridge be included in the structure plan and no additional land around the peninsula is to be included.
4.7	Review the Schedule to the Rural Activity Zone	DCP	2022/23	Future	Staff met with DELWP again to discuss the ongoing issues with land availability across the shire. DELWP proposed that the immediate land around Bellbridge be included in the structure plan and no additional land around the peninsula is to be included. DELWP have also proposed additional land around Corryong to be included in the study that would result in a good outcome.	Staff met with DELWP again to discuss the ongoing issues with land availability across the shire. DELWP proposed that the immediate land around Bellbridge be included in the structure plan and no additional land around the peninsula is to be included.
4.8	Advocate for changes to the farming zone to allow for a second residence to enable succession planning	DCP	2022/23	Future	No further action this quarter.	No further action this quarter.
4.9	Seek funding to extend the Heritage Study	DCP	2022/23	Low	No further action this quarter.	No further action this quarter.
4.10.1	Update planning scheme overlays including: Bushfire Management	DCP	2022-2024	Future	BMO overlays were updated through a joint project with DELWP.	BMO overlays were updated through a joint project with DELWP.
4.10.2	Update planning scheme overlays including: Heritage	DCP	2022-2024	Future	No further action this quarter.	No further action this quarter.
4.11	Review statutory service processes to ensure an excellent customer experience	DCP	2022 -2025	Low	No further action this quarter.	No further action this quarter.

Council Plan Priorities - Progress Report (01 Oct to 31 Dec 22)

Ref	Priority	RO	When	Status	Progress - Previous Period	Progress - Current Period
Environmental sustainability						
Integrate sustainable environmental management practices into all of our activities.						
5.1	Continue to investigate options for domestic waste water management in high risk towns including Eskdale, Mitta Mitta and Bethanga	DIE	2023-2025	Low	Town meeting held at Mitta Mitta, conversations with NE Water commenced.	Funding opportunity identified to review the domestic waste water management plan under the new EPA Act.
5.2	Consider the options available for reticulated potable water in Bethanga and Mitta Mitta	DIE	2022-2025	Low	Integrated Water Management Forum for feasibility study funding application unsuccessful. Town meeting held at Mitta Mitta, conversations with NE Water commenced.	NE Water have advised that the cost of reticulation would be high compared to the population of the town. Council to lead the community conversation.
5.3	Continue to seek funding for integrated water management projects to maximise the use of recycled and raw water sources for public amenity and climate change mitigation	DIE	2022-2025	Low	Corryong CBD, Towong Street East and Mitta Mitta streetscape Stage 1 include design elements for water sensitive urban design.	Officers are actively participating in integrated water management forum activities to develop joint projects for funding across the region
5.4	Explore options for the establishment of a recycling industry	DIE	2022-2024	Medium	State Government recent funding opportunities for sorting at MRFs will not provide any opportunity for Towong Shire. Further investigation of opportunities required.	A consultant's brief is under preparation for an options analysis and business case development.
5.5	Improve the use of recycled materials in infrastructure projects eg crushed concrete, glass and rubber	DIE	2022-2025	Low	Modwood has been used for outdoor furniture. Ongoing.	All tenders now request contractors to prioritise and report on the use of recycled materials in project delivery.
5.6	Investigate and implement options for the management of roadside vegetation for fire mitigation	DIE	2023-2025	Low	Request for quotation is under preparation	No further action this quarter due to storm damage recovery taking priority.
5.7	Advocate for the establishment of roadside clearances on arterial roads for emergencies	DIE	2022-2025	Low	An assessment of stacksites along the Murray Valley Highway is pending	An assessment of stacksites along the Murray Valley Highway is complete. A meeting with Regional Roads is planned for February 2023.

Council Plan Priorities - Progress Report (01 Oct to 31 Dec 22)

Ref	Priority	RO	When	Status	Progress - Previous Period	Progress - Current Period
5.8	Continue to implement noxious weed control and monitoring along roadsides within available funding	DIE	2022-2025	Low	Program will commence in early summer	Procurement is complete and contracts are under preparation.
5.9	Continue to implement the tree planting strategy to achieve 40% canopy coverage in urban streets by 2025	DIE	2022-2025	Low	Trees planted at Tintaldra. On ground assessments of vacant spaces and areas available to plant is underway.	54 sites for new trees have been identified through inspections with planting to commence in Autumn.
5.10	Explore the diversification of options for the establishment of native vegetation offset sites	DIE	2023	Future	Future start date	Future start date.
5.11	Seek funding to establish a network of electric car charging stations	DIE	2022-2025	Low	Agreement for installation at Corryong currently under review.	Corryong EV Charge station in planning stage.
5.12	Develop a climate change action plan (including actions to reduce carbon emissions, electric vehicle charging, etc)	DIE	2023	Low	Evaluation of Climate Change Action Plan consultants has been completed.	Draft action plan under review.
5.13	Transition waste and recycling services operations as per Victorian Government Circular Economy Strategy to deliver a four bin system for waste and recycling collection including separation of glass, green waste and organics	DIE	2023-2025	Low	Community consultation completed and feasibility study on glass collection completed. Recommendation to go to Council in November meeting.	Regional tender assessment underway.
5.14	Invest in community education programs and a waste services survey to improve waste and recycling separation	DIE	2022-2025	Low	Community survey completed indicating preferred engagement methods to improve recycling separation.	Community education program under development.
5.15	Investigate options for hard waste, green waste and agricultural waste management e.g silage wrap	DIE	2022-2025	Low	Short video on recycling of Silage Wrap in planning phase. Silage Wrap recieved is currently recycled with Plastic Forests.	No further action this quarter due to committments with landfill leachate management and recycling tender evaluation.
5.16	Replace the retaining wall at the Tallangatta Transfer Station	DIE	2022	Low	\$211K of funding secured to complete works..	The replacement of the Tallangatta RRC retaining wall is in design phase.

Council Plan Priorities - Progress Report (01 Oct to 31 Dec 22)

Ref	Priority	RO	When	Status	Progress - Previous Period	Progress - Current Period
5.17	Investigate options for the future of the Corryong Landfill	DIE	2022/23	Low	Works approval application under review and response to EPA queries underway.	Works approval application submitted to EPA for final approval.
5.18	Implement required measures to ensure management of closed landfills is compliant with EPA requirements	DIE	2022-2025	Low	RFQ being developed for ground water monitoring for Eskdale and Tallangatta closed landfills.	Ongoing.
Organisational improvement						
Embed organisational excellence into our governance and management processes in order to deliver the best possible outcomes for our residents and ratepayers.						
6.1	Continue to improve awareness, engagement and involvement of the community in relation to matters that affect them	SMT	2022-2025	Low	Facebook page followers, reach and engagement are all continuing to trend upwards. A rates flyer was delivered with rates notices; over 200 responses were received in relation to four streams of waste survey. Communications and engagement continued in relation to major capital projects including in-person sessions for the Walwa-Jingellic Walking Track, the Walwa Recreation Reserve and the Cudgewa Streetscape.	Facebook page engagement continued to trend upwards with particular interest in our storm related posts. A new e-newsletter has been in development and a 'Half way point' communication was launched to reflect on Council achievements over the first half of the current term. Communications and engagement continued in relation to major capital works projects and other events and activities.
6.2	Continually improve customer service experience across the organisation	SMT	2022-2025	Low	'Blitz' of dated service request conducted in July resulting in 200 more service requests being closed during the month than the monthly average. The development of MOUs has been underway between the customer service team and each department to clarify and document roles and processes, to provide for consistent, accurate and responsive handling of enquiries.	MOUs are now in place between customer service and a number of Council departments to provide for increased clarity as to roles and responsibilities and an improved customer service experience. A 'How Do I?' campaign has been under development to pre-empt common community enquiries.

Council Plan Priorities - Progress Report (01 Oct to 31 Dec 22)

Ref	Priority	RO	When	Status	Progress - Previous Period	Progress - Current Period
6.3	Continually improve processes to support improved service delivery	SMT	2022-2025	Low	Further improvements have been made to staff onboarding and exit processes including online tracking tools to ensure that key tasks are completed.	The staff onboarding checklist was expanded to provide additional coverage of induction topics and further centralised oversight was introduced to ensure a smooth offboarding process from IT systems.
6.4	Deliver improved business technology - finance, rates, human resources	DCOD	2022-2025	Low	Work is underway to identify a project manager to implement a new modernised planning and building system across Towong, Indigo and Alpine Shire Councils, funded by the <i>Rural Councils Transformation Program</i> .	Project governance has been established to support the introduction of a new planning and building system. The recruitment of a project manager is near complete.
6.5	Update the technology strategy to support the ongoing delivery excellent customer service	DCOD	2022/23	Future	Future start date.	Future start date.
6.6	Develop and implement a People Plan to support the ongoing development of a high performing, adaptable, resilient, engaged and cohesive organisation	DCOD	2022-2025	Medium	'Introduction to Local Government' training rolled out to all new starters. Planning is commencing for the next stage of people and culture development.	A new leadership program has been introduced to the organisation's key leaders to underpin their leadership effectiveness and ability to support a flourishing culture. A further introductory version of the program will be rolled out to additional staff later in the year.
6.7	Provide a safe and healthy workplace for all Councillors and staff in a continually evolving environment	CEO	2022-2025	Low	Individual workplans across the organisation are being reviewed to ensure that OHS improvement actions have been appropriately allocated. A review of OHS controls at the quarries is underway following a renewed focus by WorkSafe on high risk crystalline silica work.	Risk assessments and action plans have been underway at the Corryong Saleyards and Aerodrome to ensure that the sites are safe for intended uses. A review of Council's requirements against the newly updated Child Safe Standards has also been underway.

Council Plan Priorities - Progress Report (01 Oct to 31 Dec 22)

Ref	Priority	RO	When	Status	Progress - Previous Period	Progress - Current Period
6.8	Continue to seek opportunities to improve service delivery and achieve best value including further investigation of shared services	SMT	2022-2025	Low	Work is underway to identify a project manager to lead the implementation of the review and planning and building systems and processes, with a view to expanding the current shared service between Towong and Indigo.	The recruitment of a project manager to lead the grant-funded review of planning and building systems and processes is near complete. The end goal of the project is to expand the current shared service between Towong and Indigo to encompass Alpine Shire Council.
6.9	Continue to advocate for increased government funding support to ensure long term sustainability	CEO	2022-2025	Low	Ongoing.	Advocacy was conducted in relation to reinstating government funding to support fixing country roads.
6.10	Investigate alternative revenue streams	SMT	2022-2025	Low	Projects to install a weighbridge at the Corryong Saleyards and 24 hour fuel at the Corryong Airport are due to complete by the end of 2022 with revenue streams commencing from 2023.	Projects to install a weighbridge at the Corryong Saleyards and 24 hour fuel at the Corryong Airport have been under completion with revenue streams commencing in 2023.
6.11	Review the Revenue and Rating strategy	DCOD	2022-2025	Future	Future start date.	Future start date.
6.12	Consider options for the realisation of surplus Council assets	SMT	2022-2025	Future	Future start date.	Future start date.
6.13	Continually improve the risk management and governance frameworks and practices	DCOD	2022-2025	Low	Mechanisms are being put in place to embed operational risk registers and audit actions more directly into each department's management mechanisms and individuals' workplans.	Mechanisms are being put in place to embed operational risk registers and audit actions more directly into each department's management mechanisms and individuals' workplans.
6.14	Provide ongoing support and development of Councillors in fulfilling their roles	CEO	2022-2025	Low	Ongoing.	The leadership program being rolled out to the organisation's leaders will also be rolled out in a suitable format to the Councillors.

Bushfire Relief and Recovery Update - July – December 2022

Relief and Recovery Team

A review of relief and recovery responsibilities and staffing has continued to ensure that the most relevant support is provided the changing nature of the recovery process. Discussions have been ongoing with Emergency Recovery Victoria (ERV), and community recovery committees (CRCs) on the future operations and structures to support medium and long-term recovery needs in the community.

Recovery staff have fully transitioned to the Community and Planning directorate and three new community development positions, with a dedicated focus on recovery and resilience, have been created. All roles were successfully recruited during the period. The newly formed team will continue to support the key priorities identified in the Municipal Recovery Plan and community recovery committee plans, and will also continue to provide information and support to affected residents through the Upper Murray Recovery Hub. From July, The Upper Murray Recovery Hub's operating hours to the public have been Wednesday and Thursday 10:00am – 3:30pm, with community use of meeting spaces continuing to be available for both day and evening bookings throughout the week.

During the six month period, an additional \$3.672m was secured (Resilience and Recovery Fund) for additional bushfire projects and \$480k for ongoing operations of the recovery hub. The funding agreements will terminate on 30 June 2024.

Community Emergency Management Plans

Council assisted the development of Community Emergency Management Plans (CEMPs) across the Upper Murray region. Each community plan aims to support communities to become more resilient and responsive to the impacts of future emergencies.

Eight plans were developed in partnership with the communities of Berringama/Lucyvale, Bigarra, Corryong, Cudgewa, Nariel Valley, Thowgla, Tintaldra and Towong. Walwa developed a RediPlan map with Red Cross, and staff assisted in developing a plan which was circulated to Walwa and surrounding communities in mid-April.

Planning is underway with the community to ensure that the CEMPs are annually reviewed by the community and adjusted to ensure currency and ongoing

consideration from the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC). A committee with representatives from each of the communities has been formed, coordinated by the Emergency Management Team.

Community Recovery Grants Program

The *Community Recovery Grants Program* has been a valuable component of the Council's recovery activities, providing community groups with funding for locally-led recovery initiatives.

Staff continue to engage with community grant recipients. Of the 162 grants original distributed, all but 66 are left to acquit. The recovery team continue to provide support to the recipients to ensure they are able to spend and acquit the funding.

Events

During the six month period of this report there have been a range of key events held. These included:

- *Corryong Spirit*;
- Corryong Christmas Carols and Traders event; and
- *Rally as One* event, in partnership with Tennis Australia

In addition to the large scale events, small scale regular events have also been supported including:

- Creative Fridays at the Recovery Hub
- Paint by numbers in Walwa
- Walk and Talk in Corryong
- Other creative events at halls

An Upper Murray Events spreadsheet continues to be maintained monthly and distributed to keep oversight of the gatherings/events occurring in the region and to support the timing and reduction of duplication of organised events.

Risks and Challenges

Key risks and challenges identified in the delivery of community bushfire recovery services include:

Impact of flooding during the period

During the period the significant flooding events meant that the recovery team were temporarily reassigned to support flood recovery for a period of approximately four weeks.

Project Implementation

There continues to be building material, contractor and staffing shortages across the region due to the substantial number of projects simultaneously underway. Staff continue to work with community groups in engaging with their funding bodies to address these challenges and explore alternative approaches or options to reduce the risk to project delivery.

Grant distribution

Staff continue to engage with and support CRCs, community groups and individuals to guide and provide advice on the development of funding applications, as well as requests for project extensions. Staff are also providing support with grant acquittal processes.

Transitioning of recovery services

As funding for recovery services (non-Council) begins to reduce or transition there is a risk that recovery agencies will not be able to continue to meet the recovery needs of the community. The consequence of COVID-19 has meant there have been delays in the recovery of the community, particularly in social recovery and wellbeing activities. Staff continue to undertake regular communication with relevant agencies to understand their current and future service level capability and to advocate for future funding to support the continuation of critical services for the community.

Proposed allocation of the Resilience and Recovery Fund

During the period, additional funding was secured, including an additional \$480,000 to continue operation of the Recovery Hub and \$3.672m for bushfire recovery projects (Resilience and Recovery Fund).

The Resilience and Recovery Fund was established by Emergency Recovery Victoria to deliver the following outcomes:

- Communities' recover and build resilience together;
- Recovery and resilience of the whole community is strengthened through Aboriginal culture, knowledge, traditions and connection to country;
- Recovery of industries and businesses through leveraging economic strengths and opportunities;
- Local economies have increased capacity to respond and adapt to future disasters;
- Recovery responses strengthen community capability to manage their own recovery and resilience to future disasters; and
- The recovery workforce has the capabilities and support needed to respond to community needs.

The following cannot be expended as part of the fund:

- Projects that may have a negative impact on the environment, heritage, existing businesses, services and/or communities;
- Repair works or activities that are otherwise covered by insurance;
- Political and/or fundraising activities (including gifts or prizes);
- Asset purchases benefiting individuals (as opposed to those owned by an organisation for community benefit);
- The purchase of land or buildings;
- Activities outside of the funded period, including retrospective funding for projects that have commenced or are completed before funding is approved;
- Projects that require ongoing or recurrent funding to succeed or deliver benefit;
- Projects that are within the responsibility of another State, Federal or Local Government program and/or are more suitably funded under another program;

- Activities that will break any Federal, State or local laws (including any current coronavirus restrictions or health directions);
- Offsetting of salaries, operating costs for existing staff or contractors;
- Feasibility studies, business plans, cost-benefit analysis and economic impact studies;
- Native vegetation and threatened species offsets or offsetting activities (such as a condition of a permit) and non-indigenous vegetation;
- Boundary fencing or property subdivision fencing without a demonstrated public benefit (barbed wire fencing will not be supported); or
- Pest animal (non-native) control, including use of funds to engage an authorised contractor to undertake these activities (e.g., baiting, shooting, trapping, tranquilisers, explosive or fumigation).

The proposed allocation of the Resilience and Recovery Fund, detailed in the table below, provides significant investment to better prepare communities for future risks, including significant climate risk to our communities. The proposed allocation of funds has also been designed to achieve the outcomes articulated in the Municipal Recovery Plan, the Upper Murray Community Recovery Committee Plan as well as ensuring all parts of the municipality have the opportunity to access funds to improve their resilience to future climate risks and emergencies.

Key Activity / Delivery Area	Projects included	Proposed allocation
Recovery and resilience through culture	Further build our capacity to engage and support aboriginal culture and healing	\$78,000
Economic recovery and recovery project delivery (excludes recovery team and hub operations)	Support key projects to bolster tourism, agriculture industry and diversify the economy	\$932,500
Building community resilience	Provide support to community hall committees to enable the halls to continue to function and hold community events	\$52,000
	Offer events that bring communities together for social purposes, that have a focus on personal and community health and wellbeing, preparedness and resilience, and that build community skills and capability	\$250,000
	Support for key community led events	\$45,000

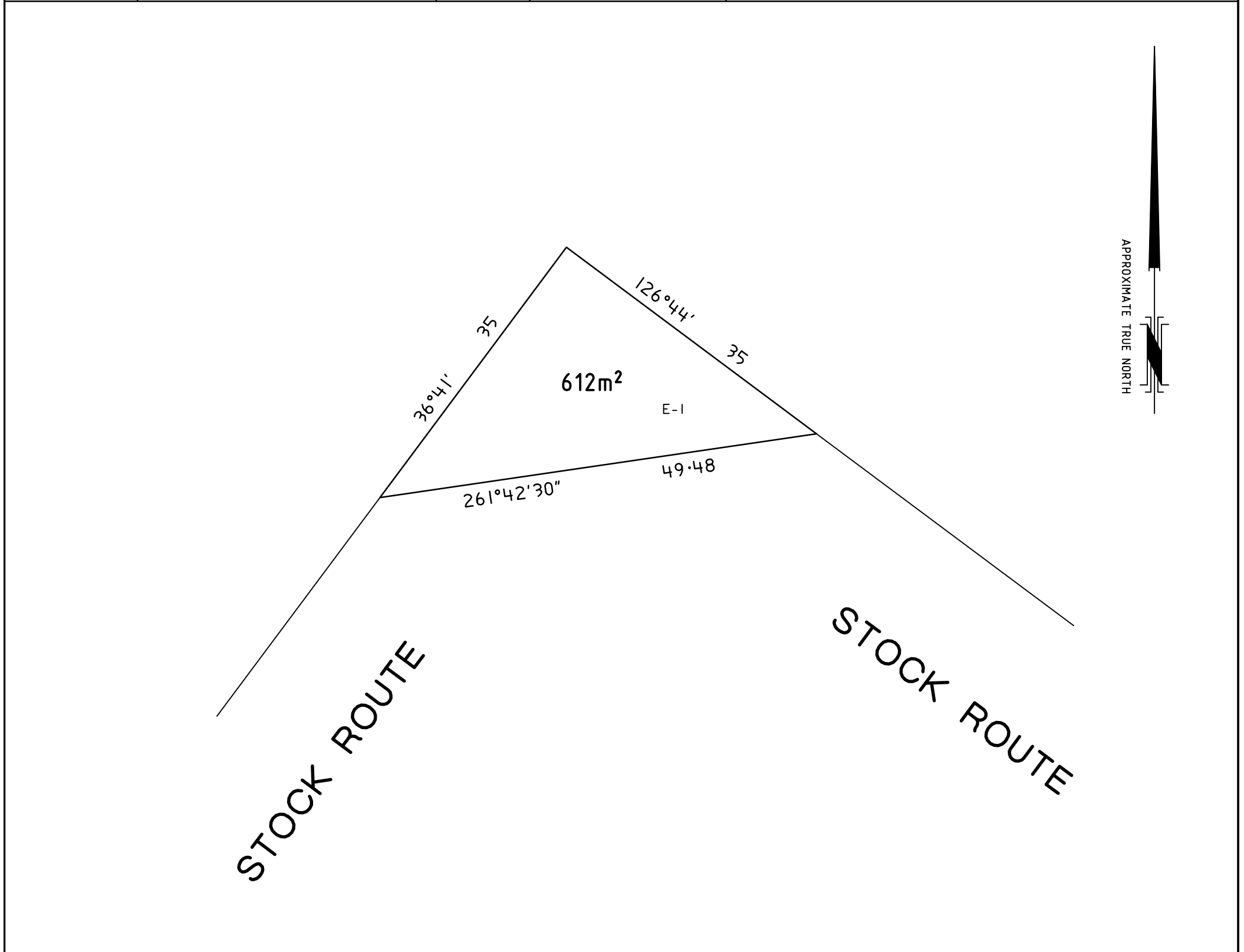
Key Activity / Delivery Area	Projects included	Proposed allocation
	Facilitate short courses and environmental recovery	\$130,000
Capacity to respond and adapt to future disasters	Better prepare key 'at risk' locations to be self sufficient during future disasters	\$1,413,000
	Undertake the design work required to develop the old Junior campus and undertake minor repairs to the building	\$430,000
	Transition arrangements for emergency management including community emergency management plans	\$162,000
Strengthen community capability to manage recovery and resilience to future disasters	Co-contributions for leadership development programs	\$120,000
	Support the CFA Youth Crew Programs	\$60,000
TOTAL (\$):		\$3,672,500

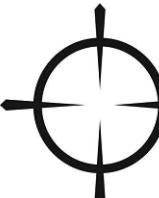
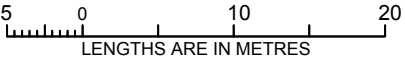
DISCONTINUANCE PLAN		EDITION 1	
Location of Land PARISH: TOWONG TOWNSHIP: ----- SECTION: O CROWN ALLOTMENT: 2A (PART) CROWN PORTION: ----- TITLE REFERENCE: VOL. 8159 FOL. 434 LAST PLAN REFERENCE: TP329264S DEPTH LIMITATION DOES NOT APPLY		WARNING: THIS PLAN REPRESENTS AN EXPECTED DIVISION OF LAND; ANY ONE LOT MAY NOT HAVE BEEN CREATED; CHECK THE LOT / PLAN INDEX FOR CURRENT INFORMATION.	
		NOTATIONS:	
		THIS PLAN HAS BEEN PREPARED BY LAND USE VICTORIA FOR TITLE DIAGRAM PURPOSES.	CHECKED BY: DATE: ASSISTANT REGISTRAR OF TITLES

EASEMENT INFORMATION

LEGEND: A - Appurtenant Easement E - Encumbering Easement R - Encumbering Easement (Road)

EASEMENT REFERENCE	PURPOSE	WIDTH (METRES)	ORIGIN	LAND BENEFITED/IN FAVOUR OF
E-1	AS PROVIDED FOR IN SEC. 207C L.G.A 1989	SEE DIA	SEC. 207C L.G.A 1989	AUSNET ELECTRICITY SERVICES PTY LTD, NORTH EAST WATER CORP, TELSTRA CORP LTD & NBN CO



 JCA LAND CONSULTANTS The Subdivision Specialists <small>Suite 9, 303 Maroondah Hwy, Ringwood VIC 3134 T: 03 9735 4888 E: jca@jcalc.com.au www.jcalc.com.au</small>	REF. 30548	VERSION 01	ORIGINAL SHEET SIZE A3	SHEET 1 OF 1
	DEALING CODE: LGA		1:500	 LENGTHS ARE IN METRES
	DEALING / FILE No: 20/01/23 LZ			

APPROXIMATE TRUE NORTH

