

Minutes

Ordinary Meeting of Council

Held at 10:30am, Wednesday 28 May 2025
Council Chamber, Corryong Council Office
76 Hanson Street, Corryong, Victoria

Our Community Vision

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

This information is available in alternative formats on request.

**Minutes for the Ordinary Meeting of Council held at
76 Hanson Street, Corryong, Victoria
at 10:30am on Wednesday 28 May 2025**

Commonly Used Acronyms

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

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Confirmed

The Mayor declared the meeting open, the time being 11:15 am.

The delayed start was due to power a outage in the Corryong township.

1 Opening Prayer

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

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

Amen."

2 Councillor and Officer Presence at the Meeting

Councillor Attendance

Crs Whitehead, Anderson, Wortmann, Tolsher and Pitman

Officer Attendance:	Title:
Ms Phelps	Chief Executive Officer
Mr Heritage	Director Infrastructure and Environment
Mr Florence	Director Community and Planning
Ms Taylor	Director Corporate and Organisational Development

3 Apologies and Granting of Leave of Absence

Nil.

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.

There were no disclosures of any conflicts of interest.

5 Confirmation of Minutes

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

- 30 April 2025

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 30 April 2025 be confirmed.

Council Resolution:

**CR TOLSHER
CR PITMAN**

**THAT THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 30
APRIL 2025 BE CONFIRMED.**

CARRIED

6 Petitions and Joint Letters

Nil.

7 Public Question Time

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

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

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

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

7.1 Submitter: Ms Debbie Monteny

Subject: Truck parking at Lord Huts Reserve

Questions:

1. Around this time of year, (around and beyond Easter school holidays) a large truck and trailer is left on Lord's Hut Reserve for approx 14 days. My question is why is this allowed to happen? At present, as I type, the Truck can be seen in situ. I'm unsure why a private business asset is allowed to take over public land for such a length of time. If this is happening with council approval what will stop other trucks parking there, if this is the example that is set. And why have council approved this?
2. What will council do to stop this from happening next year if they haven't approved this parking. Every year, same time (ish), 14 days . Nothing like a big truck to welcome out tourists entering Tallangatta off the bike trail is there?

Council Response:

Ms Taylor advised that a letter was sent to Ms Monteny on 5 May 2025 in regards to this issue, confirming that the truck was parked in a designated parking zone and is allowed to park there under the *Road Safety Road Rules 2017*.

7.2 Submitter: Ms Victoria Kane

Subject: Corryong Cemetery

Questions:

1. The Man from Snowy River Museum has previously sent letters asking for the list of people buried in the cemetery being restored in the entrance to the museum. This correspondence started two years ago. When will this be completed?
2. The sign to Jack Riley's grave in the cemetery faces the wrong direction. Could this be moved to the gate built to access Jack Riley's grave so that tourist are not rushing through the locals' graves, going the incorrect way?

Council Response:

Ms Taylor advised that no record of the correspondence had been found, notwithstanding that, an updated list of people buried at the cemetery will be displayed at the gatehouse. Ms Taylor also advised that in regard to the sign to Jack Riley's grave, it is something that can be addressed and will also be considered as part of the broader masterplan for the Corryong Cemetery that is being developed.

7.3 Submitter: Mr Auchinleck

Subject: Lack of response from Council's CEO to my 19 March email about Towong Hill Road

Questions:

1. Please explain why CEO or her Deputy have not replied to my 19 March email. I have only received two automated acknowledgements. Having to wait such a long time for an answer is unacceptable and not commensurate with normal business practice.

Council Response:

Ms Phelps acknowledged that Mr Auchinleck had not been provided with a response to his 19 March 2025 email. Ms Phelps advised that there are a number of requests that are ahead of Mr Auchinleck in the queue and staff have been working on other priorities. Ms Phelps committed to providing a response in due course.

7.4 Submitter: Ms Mary Fraser

Subject: Rates and Roads

Questions:

1. These last few years have been difficult for farmers, by far the largest contributors to the Council's rates. Sheep prices dropped 60% and cattle prices by 40% a couple of years ago and now a very severe drought is causing people to buy expensive feed or sell stock. Both of these things will impact on this year's income and next. Will the Council consider not increasing the rates the full amount and carefully scrutinise the budget for savings by postponing things that are nice to do but not essential. Council must realise that they cannot ignore the looming deficits, it's time to start tightening the belt. I would also ask the Council to refuse to collect these obscene Fire Services levy increases the State Government is charging farmers and others and seek the support of other Councils in doing so.
2. I have also noticed that Wises Creek road is listed for further works if possible. This is a subdivision developed some years ago and has the road sealed. Can the Council give consideration to roads on which properties have been paying rates for more than a hundred years to be considered for more work than annual maintenance. The Honeysuckle Road ratepayers who pay annually between \$80,000 or \$70,000 and have had no improvements other than a bridge approach for more than forty years. There are seven families living on this road and five different ratepayers plus one absentee. Only one family lives on the short sealed section plus the landowner who visits regularly. There are probably other gravel roads around the Shire who would be equally grateful for some sealing. I hope Council will consider my requests.

Council Response:

Mr Heritage confirmed that there is a bridge on Honeysuckle Road that where there are ongoing maintenance issues at the lead on and lead off approaches. Mr Heritage advised it is in our capital works program over the next two to three years.

The Mayor advised that Council has taken on board the questions and is working with other councils to look at strategies to push back on the State Government's Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund Levy. Council is very much opposed to the way it has been brought about without any community consultation. The State seems to have two standards between what they expect councils to do and how they want them to run, and how they run themselves. It's time they have a look at their own backyard and the way they are running things.

8 Informal Meetings of Councillors

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

The Meeting Records from the Informal Meeting of Councillors held on 16 April 2025 and 30 April 2025 are attached as follows:

1. Workshop Meeting Records 16 April 2025 [8.1.1 - 3 pages]
2. Workshop Meeting Records 30 April 2025 [8.1.2 - 3 pages]

Recommendation:

That the information be noted.

Council Resolution:

CR PITMAN
CR ANDERSON

THAT THE INFORMATION BE NOTED.

CARRIED

9 Organisational Improvement

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

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

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

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

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to inform Councillors of the status of the resolutions from the Ordinary Council meeting on 30 April 2025

Summary:

The attached report summarises the progress made in relation to the resolutions from the Ordinary Council meeting on 30 April 2025.

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

Attachment:

1. Action Sheet from Ordinary Council Meeting 30 April 2025 [9.1.1 - 3 pages]

Background/History:

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

Council Plans and Policies:

Not applicable.

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

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

Risk Assessment:

Not applicable.

Officer's View:

It is the officer's view that good progress has been made.

Council Resolution:

CR ANDERSON

CR PITMAN

THAT THE REPORT BE NOTED.

CARRIED

Confirmed

9.2 Quarterly Budget Report (DCOD)

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

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

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

Purpose of Report:

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

Summary:

The quarterly budget report presented in the attachment demonstrates that Council has recorded a quarterly surplus of \$8.9 million to the year end of March 2025. The Budget 2024/25 initially forecast a deficit of \$2 million for the full financial year. Updated forecasts indicate a small surplus for the year end to 30 June 2025, with additional grant income and disaster recovery funding received, that was not initially budgeted.

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

Attachment:

1. Quarterly Budget Report as at 31 March 2025 [9.2.1 - 8 pages]

Background/History:

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

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

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

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

(2) A quarterly budget report must include –

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

This report meets the requirements of the Act.

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

Not Applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not Applicable.

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

Not Applicable.

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

Not Applicable.

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

The current budget report demonstrates our financial viability is currently healthy. The long-term reporting indicates that we have an ongoing reliance on one-off Capital grants for infrastructure development.

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

Not Applicable.

Council Plans and Policies:

Council Plans:

Not applicable.

Council Policies:
Not applicable.

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

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

Risk Assessment:

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

Officer's View:

The organisation is still in a strong financial position, however a significant portion of Council resources are committed to budgeted capital works and services such as flood recovery funding. The presentation of the budget for 2025/26 highlighted that into the future, Council remains dependent on the receipt of one-off grant funding to support renewal of its aging infrastructure into the future. Significantly, the funding being supplied by State and Federal governments is more often tied to construction of new infrastructure, as opposed to the renewal of roads, bridges and drainage assets. An increase in untied government grant support is required to facilitate asset renewal to the extent that Council requires.

With the Emergency Services Volunteer Fund Levy increases coming into effect in the 2025/26 financial year, this will result in an additional \$1.3 million collected by Council to then be paid to the State Revenue Office (SRO). This will place financial strain on some rural property owners with the flow on effect being that our arrears balances will grow as Council are not allowed to determine the allocation of ratepayer inflows that can be assigned to council debt versus SRO debt. We will be monitoring our arrears balances and promoting options available to ratepayers experiencing financial hardship.

Council Resolution:

CR ANDERSON

CR TOLSHER

THAT THE REPORT BE NOTED.

CARRIED

Confirmed

10 Community Wellbeing

There are no Community Wellbeing reports to present this meeting.

11 Asset Management

11.1 RFT Cleaning of Municipal Buildings 2024/25-053 (DIE)

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

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

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

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to present the assessment of tenders received in relation to Contract No. 2024/25-053 for the cleaning of Council managed municipal amenities and seek approval to appoint the recommended contractors.

Summary:

A Request for Tender (RFT) process was conducted to seek contractors for the cleaning of Council managed municipal amenities. The tender process attracted a strong interest with 14 downloads and 6 submissions.

The RFT includes amenities in the following locations:

- Walwa / Tintalra / Bellbridge Foreshore / Bellbridge – Roy Williams Park / Bethanga Bay / Bethanga / Talgarno Rec Reserve
- Eskdale / Mitta / Dartmouth

As a result of the submissions received it is recommended that the contract be split into two parts ('a' and 'b') which align with the grouping of townships as above.

This report presents the tender results and seeks approval to appoint the recommended contractors. A copy of the detailed tender assessment has been provided to the Councillors prior to the meeting.

Recommendation:

That:

1. Contract No. 2024/25-053 for the Cleaning of Municipal Amenities (public toilets and barbeques) be split into parts 'a' and 'b';
2. The contracts include an annual CPI adjustment and options for two additional one-year extensions with CPI adjustments;
3. JNC Tallangatta be awarded Contract No. 2024/25-053 (a) for the lump sum of \$139,317.50 ex GST;
4. Border Grasshopper be awarded Contract No. 2024/25-053 (b) for the lump sum of \$49,280 ex GST;
5. The use of the Common Seal be authorised in accordance with Local Law 1 – Common Seal and Miscellaneous Penalties for the purpose of signing the contract documents; and
6. The Director Infrastructure and Environment be authorised to approve contract variations up to the value of the allocated budget.

Attachment:

A comparative Tender Evaluation for Contract No. 2024/25-053 has been provided to councillors prior to the meeting.

Background/History:

Cleaning of municipal amenities (public toilets and public BBQ's) has been under contract since 2021, with the new contract term to be two years with an additional two single consecutive year extensions, with an annual CPI adjustment.

Council currently has a mix of Council Parks and Gardens crew and contractors under Cleaning of Municipal Amenities contracts that clean public toilets and BBQ's located in Tallangatta, Corryong, Walwa, Cudgewa, Staceys Bridge Reserve, Mitta, Eskdale, Dartmouth, Bellbridge, Bethanga. Additional public toilet blocks for Roy Williams Park, Bellbridge and Talgarno Rec Reserve are currently under construction, with these on track to be operational by 1 July 2025. These have been included in this tender.

The RFT includes amenities in the following locations:

- Walwa / Tintaldra / Bellbridge Foreshore / Bellbridge – Roy Williams Park / Bethanga Bay / Bethanga / Talgarno Rec Reserve
- Eskdale / Mitta / Dartmouth

The remainder of public amenities is serviced by Tallangatta and Corryong Parks and Gardens staff, as follows:

- Corryong / Cudgewa / Stacey's Bridge Reserve
- Tallangatta

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

The *Local Government Act 2020*

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

The below options are provided for consideration:

Option 1

Approve the Cleaning of Municipal Amenities contracts as per the recommendations in this report; or

Option 2

Appoint an alternative contractor from the tender submissions provided for all or any of the contracts.

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

Economic

Awarding the contracts as per the recommendation in this report will provide local economic stimulus through employment of local staff.

Social

The provision of routine cleaning and restocking services will see the amenity of our public toilets and BBQ's throughout the shire be maintained to a high level of neatness, cleanliness and functionality with an increased frequency in areas with an identified need. This will benefit the community and visitors to our shire through improved amenity and safety.

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

Servicing frequencies has been reviewed following feedback from community, user groups, and staff.

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 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:

Council Plans:

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

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

1.28. Implement the maintenance program for Council's buildings

Council Policies:

Procurement Policy

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

It is the officer's view that it is appropriate to consider this matter in a Council meeting that is open to the public. It is appropriate that the tender evaluation is kept confidential, as it includes private commercial information, being information provided by a business that, if released, would unreasonably expose the business to disadvantage.

Risk Assessment:

The recommended changes to the contractual arrangements for cleaning of municipal amenities will reduce reputational risk by providing clean, functional and well stocked amenities.

Officer's View:

The RFT – Cleaning of Municipal Amenities attracted strong interest with 14 downloads and 6 submissions.

The tender included a schedule of rates for additional cleaning services on weekdays, weekend and public holidays. This will ensure cleaners can be engaged for additional services as required; for example, pre and post events and festivals, or other unpredictable circumstances.

It is pleasing to report that two local contractors have submitted quotes and would work together to deliver the services under a separate contract for the Mitta Valley and Peninsula / Upper Murray.

Council Resolution:

**CR ANDERSON
CR TOLSHER**

THAT:

- 1. CONTRACT NO. 2024/25-053 FOR THE CLEANING OF MUNICIPAL AMENITIES (PUBLIC TOILETS AND BARBEQUES) BE SPLIT INTO PARTS 'A' AND 'B';**
- 2. THE CONTRACTS INCLUDE AN ANNUAL CPI ADJUSTMENT AND OPTIONS FOR TWO ADDITIONAL ONE-YEAR EXTENSIONS WITH CPI ADJUSTMENTS;**
- 3. JNC TALLANGATTA BE AWARDED CONTRACT NO. 2024/25-053 (A) FOR THE LUMP SUM OF \$139,317.50 EX GST;**
- 4. BORDER GRASSHOPPER BE AWARDED CONTRACT NO. 2024/25-053 (B) FOR THE LUMP SUM OF \$49,280 EX GST;**
- 5. THE USE OF THE COMMON SEAL BE AUTHORISED IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOCAL LAW 1 – COMMON SEAL AND MISCELLANEOUS PENALTIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF SIGNING THE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS; AND**
- 6. THE DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT BE AUTHORISED TO APPROVE CONTRACT VARIATIONS UP TO THE VALUE OF THE ALLOCATED BUDGET.**

CARRIED

11.2 RFT Town Maintenance 2024/25-(039-043) (DIE)

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

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

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

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to present the assessment of tenders received in relation to Contract Number 2024/25 - (039-043) for town maintenance services and seek approval to appoint the recommended contractors.

Summary:

A Request for Tender (RFT) process was conducted to seek contractors for the provision of town maintenance services. Whilst there was strong interest in the tender process, with 24 downloads of the tender documents, only the current contractors lodged submissions.

This report presents the tender results and seeks approval to appoint the recommended contractors. A copy of the detailed tender assessment has been provided to the Councillors prior to the meeting.

Recommendation:

That:

1. The contracts for delivery of Town Maintenance Services include an annual CPI adjustment and options for two additional one-year extensions with CPI adjustments;
2. Total Garden Solutions be awarded Contract 2024/25 - 039 – Upper Murray for Town Maintenance Services for the lump sum of \$285,750 ex GST;
3. Total Garden Solutions be awarded Contract 2024/25 - 040 – Peninsula for Town Maintenance Services for the lump sum of \$390,510 ex GST;
4. Mitta Swimming Pool Committee of Management be awarded Contract 2024/25 - 041 – Mitta Mitta for the delivery of Town Maintenance Services for the lump sum of \$76,005 ex GST;
5. Dartmouth Progress Association be awarded Contract 2024/25 - 042 – Dartmouth for the delivery of Town Maintenance Services for the lump sum of \$118,959 ex GST;
6. Eskdale Progress Association be awarded Contract 2024/25 - 043 – Eskdale for the delivery of Town Maintenance Services for the lump sum of \$124, 944 ex GST;
7. The use of the Common Seal be authorised in accordance with Local Law 1 – Common Seal and Miscellaneous Penalties for the purpose of signing the contract documents; and
8. The Director Infrastructure and Environment be authorised to approve contract variations up to the total value of the allocated budget.

Attachment:

A Comparative Tender Evaluation for Contract No. 2024/25-(039-043) has been provided to Councillors prior to the meeting.

Background/History:

Council has a mix of contractor and Council Parks and Gardens crews in place to perform town maintenance service activities. Works include mowing and slashing, street tree pruning, garden bed maintenance, street and sign cleaning, street litter bin tidiness, park, street and playground infrastructure cleaning and minor maintenance.

The current Town Maintenance Service Contracts are currently in the final +1-year extension. During this time a review of service levels, scope and frequency has been completed. The existing contractors are as follows:

- Total Garden Solutions – Peninsula (Bellbridge / Bethanga / Granya / Kurrajong Gap Lookout / Talgarno / GRR – Granya Lookout, Bellbridge Wayside Stop, Talgarno Wayside Stop)
- Total Garden Solutions – Upper Murray (Walwa / Tintaldra / GRR – Jim Newmans Lookout, Mt Alfred Wayside Stop, Pine Mountain Lookout, Thologolong Wayside Stop.
- Mitta Swimming Pool Committee of Management – Mitta
- Dartmouth Progress Association - Dartmouth
- Eskdale Progress Association – Eskdale / Lockharts Gap Lookout

Over the term of the current contract there has been a significant number of capital projects delivered, resulting in increases in town maintenance services required across the shire. With an increased and stable works force within Council's Parks and Gardens crews of up to six (6) staff in each Depot, rather than the typical 2-4 staff, we will be working towards stronger integration with works being completed by a mix of contractor and council staff across the shire.

Feedback from current contractors, council staff, councillors and the community was considered. A real focus on improving the level of service in high use / tourism areas was identified as well as investing in garden maintenance, renewal and watering.

As part of the review process there was also an opportunity to investigate the option to split the current scope of works of the town maintenance service and have separately the waste management function of street and park bins in the townships that are not serviced by council staff. Since the change over from council waste management to the Cleanaway contract resulting in fortnightly kerbside collection, waste management has been an increasing issue in these outlying townships. The revised model will see the street and park bins emptied weekly, with an increase in this service during the peak tourism (traditionally school holidays) times.

The RFT - Town Maintenance Service attracted strong interest with 24 downloads, however submissions had only been received from the current contractors.

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

The Local Government Act 2020

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

The below options are provided for consideration:

Option 1

Approve the Town Maintenance Service contracts as per the recommendations in this report.

Approve the changes to the allocations of works areas to integrate works between Council Parks and Gardens staff and contractors as per the recommendation to deliver the additional scope of town maintenance works.

Remove waste management responsibilities from the Town Maintenance contract, to be managed by the Coordinator of Environment.

Option 2

Award no contracts and go back out to the market for all or any of the contracts and / or increase Council Parks and Gardens staffing levels to deliver all services in-house.

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

Economic

Continuing contracts with the Mitta Mitta Swimming Pool CoM, Dartmouth and Eskdale Progress Associations provide for a strong financial contribution to these local communities.

Social

Town maintenance services preserve the amenity of our municipal parks, streets and open spaces for the benefit of the community and provide local employment opportunities.

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

Feedback from the community received via customer service requests has been collated over the period of the previous town maintenance contracts and considered in the scope of works for each contract. Consultation was also undertaken with current contractors including the Dartmouth and Eskdale Progress Associations and the Mitta Mitta Swimming Pool CoM, providing further insight into community expectations.

Key themes included a desire to increase the scope of works to ensure continued amenity of open spaces and townships, including maintenance and renewal of gardens.

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; 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:

Council Plans:

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

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

Council Policies:

Procurement Policy

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

It is the officer's view that it is appropriate to consider this matter in a Council meeting that is open to the public. It is appropriate that the tender evaluation is kept confidential, as it includes private commercial information, being information provided by a business that, if released, would unreasonably expose the business to disadvantage.

Risk Assessment:

The recommended changes to contractual arrangements for town maintenance services will reduce reputational risk by providing increased capacity to maintain town amenity.

Officer's View:

It is the officer's view that the rebalancing of town maintenance service areas between contractors and Council's Parks and Gardens staff will make the best use of Council resources. The recommendations in this report will result in the assignment of the following areas to contractors:

- Total Garden Solutions – Peninsula (Bellbridge / Bethanga / Granya / Kurrajong Gap Lookout / Talgarno / GRR – Granya Lookout, Bellbridge Wayside Stop, Talgarno Wayside Stop)
- Total Garden Solutions – Upper Murray (Walwa / Tintaldra / GRR – Jim Newmans Lookout, Mt Alfred Wayside Stop, Pine Mountain Lookout, Thologolong Wayside Stop.
- Mitta Swimming Pool CoM – Mitta
- Dartmouth Progress Association - Dartmouth
- Eskdale Progress Association – Eskdale / Lockharts Gap Lookout

The remainder of locations will be serviced by Council's parks and gardens staff based at the Corryong and Tallangatta depots:

Corryong Parks and Garden

- Corryong / Cudgewa / Towong / GRR - Farrans Lookout, Walwa – Jingellic Walking track / Stacey's Bridge Reserve / Towong Gap Lookout.

Tallangatta Parks and Garden

- Tallangatta / Tallangatta Lookout;
- Tallangatta Foreshore
- Old Tallangatta / Old Tallangatta Lookout

Council Resolution:

CR TOLSHER

CR ANDERSON

THAT:

- 1. THE CONTRACTS FOR DELIVERY OF TOWN MAINTENANCE SERVICES INCLUDE AN ANNUAL CPI ADJUSTMENT AND OPTIONS FOR TWO ADDITIONAL ONE-YEAR EXTENSIONS WITH CPI ADJUSTMENTS;**
- 2. TOTAL GARDEN SOLUTIONS BE AWARDED CONTRACT 2024/25 - 039 – UPPER MURRAY FOR TOWN MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE LUMP SUM OF \$285,750 EX GST;**
- 3. TOTAL GARDEN SOLUTIONS BE AWARDED CONTRACT 2024/25 - 040 – PENINSULA FOR TOWN MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE LUMP SUM OF \$390,510 EX GST;**
- 4. MITTA SWIMMING POOL COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT BE AWARDED CONTRACT 2024/25 - 041 – MITTA MITTA FOR THE DELIVERY OF TOWN MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE LUMP SUM OF \$76,005 EX GST;**
- 5. DARTMOUTH PROGRESS ASSOCIATION BE AWARDED CONTRACT 2024/25 - 042 – DARTMOUTH FOR THE DELIVERY OF TOWN MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE LUMP SUM OF \$118,959 EX GST;**
- 6. ESKDALE PROGRESS ASSOCIATION BE AWARDED CONTRACT 2024/25 - 043 – ESKDALE FOR THE DELIVERY OF TOWN MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE LUMP SUM OF \$124, 944 EX GST;**
- 7. THE USE OF THE COMMON SEAL BE AUTHORISED IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOCAL LAW 1 – COMMON SEAL AND MISCELLANEOUS PENALTIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF SIGNING THE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS; AND**
- 8. THE DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT BE AUTHORISED TO APPROVE CONTRACT VARIATIONS UP TO THE TOTAL VALUE OF THE ALLOCATED BUDGET.**

CARRIED

11.3 Flood Damage Recovery Works (DIE)

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

This report was prepared by Mr Bivek Regmi, Manager Assets 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 re-awarding the contracts for flood damage repair works (for the eastern section of the municipality) to the second preferred supplier (Country Wide Asphalt Pty Ltd).

This approval is being sought due to the withdrawal of the contractor Council had previously resolved to award the contracts to (Extens Pty Ltd).

Summary:

At the 26 March 2025 Council Meeting officers presented a report seeking approval to award contracts for flood damage rectification works following the receipt of DRFA funding approval (DRFA – ARGN 1037).

Council resolved to award the Eastern Section Priority 1 and 2 works to Extens Pty Ltd. The contractor has subsequently advised that they are no longer able to undertake the works and accordingly have withdrawn.

Council officers have reviewed the tender evaluation from March for the Eastern Section works and are of the view that it would be appropriate to award the contract to the second preferred contractor rather than re-tender the works.

Recommendation:

That:

1. Contract 2023/24-040 for Flood Damage Repair Works (Towong Shire Eastern Section – Priority 1 Works) be awarded to Country Wide Asphalt Pty Ltd for a lump sum of \$31,996 ex. GST;
2. Contract 2023/24-040 for Flood Damage Repair Works (Towong Shire Eastern Section – Priority 2 Works) be awarded to Country Wide Asphalt Pty Ltd for a lump sum of \$348,884 ex. GST;
3. The Director Infrastructure and Environment be authorised to approve additional works due to asset deterioration that has occurred between the event and remediation works approval, up to the total value of the approved DRFA flood grant;
4. The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to sign and seal the contract documents in accordance with Local Law 1 – Common Seal and Miscellaneous Penalties; and
5. The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to approve contract variations up to the total value of the allocated DRFA flood grant.

Attachment:

A comparative Tender Evaluation 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 and AGRN 1037.

AGRN 1004 and 1009 have been completed as immediate emergency works while 1037 is a more extensive remedial works program for Council Road network. In line with delivering repair and maintenance caused by ARGN 1037 flood event, four tenders were advertised in March 2024 on www.tenders.net, local newspapers and Council's Facebook site in accordance with the Procurement Policy in March 2024.

These tenders were divided into the Eastern (2 tenders) and Western (2 tenders) ends of the Shire. Two submissions were received for each tender and contractor evaluation was done to determine the appropriate contractors for their respective works.

Council resolved at the 26 March 2025 Council Meeting to award contracts for the works. The western section works are well underway and on the verge of completion. However, the contractor approved by Council for Eastern section works "Extons Pty Ltd" are unable to undertake the works and have withdrawn.

Officers have reviewed the tender received from the second preferred contractor "Country Wide Asphalt Pty Ltd" and now seek Council's approval to award the contracts for the eastern section works to this contractor.

Funding from DRFA (ARGN 1037) has been approved by Emergency Management Victoria (EMV) to deliver flood remediation works. The contract amount for the approved defects is within the grant funding allocation.

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

The *Local Government Act 2020*

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

Option 1 – Award Eastern works tenders as listed below - Preferred

Contract No	Contract Work Description	Contractor
2023/24- 040	Towong Shire Eastern Section Priority 1 Works	Country Wide Asphalt Pty Ltd
2024/25-032	Towong Shire Eastern Section Priority 2 Works	Country Wide Asphalt Pty Ltd

Option 2: Retender the contracts – Not the preferred option, as it would lead to further deterioration of the assets due to delays, and there is no certainty of contractor availability as we approach the winter season.

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

Economic

Where possible, local suppliers are engaged, this provides for ongoing economic sustainability in our shire.

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 of any impacts before work commences.

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 through DRFA, 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:

Council Plans:

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

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

Council Policies:

Procurement Policy

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

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

Risk Assessment:

The 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.

Officer's View:

It is the officer's recommendation that Council proceed with option 1:

- Award Contract No. 2023/24-040 to Country Wide Asphalt Pty Ltd
- Award Contract No. 2024/25-032 to Country Wide Asphalt Pty Ltd

The reference checks were also conducted for Country Wide Asphalt Pty Ltd and the referees have mentioned that the contractor demonstrates good experience in similar projects and has the capacity to deliver such maintenance works.

Council Resolution:

CR PITMAN

CR WORTMANN

THAT:

- 1. CONTRACT 2023/24-040 FOR FLOOD DAMAGE REPAIR WORKS (TOWONG SHIRE EASTERN SECTION – PRIORITY 1 WORKS) BE AWARDED TO COUNTRY WIDE ASPHALT PTY LTD FOR A LUMP SUM OF \$31,996 EX. GST;**
- 2. CONTRACT 2023/24-040 FOR FLOOD DAMAGE REPAIR WORKS (TOWONG SHIRE EASTERN SECTION – PRIORITY 2 WORKS) BE AWARDED TO COUNTRY WIDE ASPHALT PTY LTD FOR A LUMP SUM OF \$348,884 EX. GST;**
- 3. THE DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT BE AUTHORISED TO APPROVE ADDITIONAL WORKS DUE TO ASSET DETERIORATION THAT HAS OCCURRED BETWEEN THE EVENT AND REMEDIATION WORKS APPROVAL, UP TO THE TOTAL VALUE OF THE APPROVED DRFA FLOOD GRANT;**
- 4. THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER BE AUTHORISED TO SIGN AND SEAL THE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOCAL LAW 1 – COMMON SEAL AND MISCELLANEOUS PENALTIES; AND**
- 5. THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER BE AUTHORISED TO APPROVE CONTRACT VARIATIONS UP TO THE TOTAL VALUE OF THE ALLOCATED DRFA FLOOD GRANT.**

CARRIED

12 Land Use Planning

There are no Land Use Planning reports to present this meeting.

13 Environmental Sustainability

13.1 Forestry Report (DIE)

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

This report was prepared by Mr Stephen Sjoberg, Technical Officer 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.

Summary:

Throughout the Shire, there are significant areas of pine plantations located in state forests and on private land. Where timber harvesting operations occur on private land, Council is responsible for ensuring compliance, as timber production is a defined land use in the Victoria Planning Provisions and associated planning schemes.

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

Attachment:

Not Applicable.

Background/History:

Council has a responsibility to ensure environmental compliance relating to forestry operations occurring on private land across the Shire. Compliance work involves inspecting and auditing forestry operations, liaising with forestry owners and the local community.

Council has received 10 timber harvesting plans since November 2024.

In the last period 345 ha of plantation has been harvested, producing an estimated 93,378 m³ of timber. Of this 72,278 m³ (77.5%) of the volume is clear fall and 21,100 (22.5%) m³ of the volume is thinning.

The inspections below were completed as part of Council's oversight of forestry operations:

- 5 inspections of harvesting operations;
- 10 Timber Harvesting Plan reviews;
- 4 post haulage road inspections.

Major harvesting operations include those conducted by Hancock Victorian Plantations in the Shelley Railway, Koetong (Emu), Burrowye and Lucyvale areas.

The emergence of fleabane weed (*Enigeron bonarlensis*) is noticeable in the recently harvested areas. HVP do not apply herbicides for control as fleabane is not a declared or restricted weed in Victoria. It is considered best practice to retain the fleabane as it offers a level of shelter for the newly planted pine seedlings. As the trees become established they outcompete the fleabane.

When reviewing THPs the following factors are considered:

- Risk of soil erosion and mitigation strategies such as using booms or hay bales to slow the rate of water runoff. Constructing windrows to reduce wind and water erosion.
- HVP provides Rare and Threatened Species and Communities (RATSAC) assessments and set out exclusion zones and modify harvest methods accordingly.
- Roads used for harvest operations are returned to pre-harvest condition by the operator. School bus operators are considered when planning timber haulage.
- Traffic control is deployed where required, such as night harvesting or harvesting close to a road.
- Restricting harvest operations in wet weather when harvesting steep terrain.

HVP conduct blackberry and feral deer control programs. Council has requested and is awaiting cost estimates pertaining to the damage/loss in production caused by introduced plants and animals.

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

All forestry activities were conducted in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Timber*

Production 2014 (the Code). The Code outlines the environmental standards for planning and conducting commercial timber harvesting operations and is referenced by the Victorian Planning Provisions.

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

Not Applicable.

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

The presence of a viable private plantation industry contributes to the Shire's economic and environmental sustainability.

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

The Towong Shire Plantations Committee meets twice yearly and provides a forum for forestry related community issues to be raised and discussed between plantation owners and community representatives. Council representatives have attended these meetings.

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

Not Applicable.

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

Council officers liaise with the following organisations and groups in relation to planned forestry activities:

- Towong Shire Plantation Committee
- Department Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions
- Parks Victoria
- Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
- D & R Henderson with Agriwealth
- Southern Forests
- Hancock Victorian Plantations
- VicForests

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

Not Applicable.

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

Forestry activities are undertaken in accordance with the following regional, state and national plans:

- *Code of Practice for Timber Production 2014*
- *North East Regional Catchment Strategy 2021-27*
- *NE Waterway Strategy 2014*
- *North East Community Support Plan 2017*

Council Plans and Policies:

Council Plans:
Not applicable.

Council Policies:
Not applicable.

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

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

Risk Assessment:

Not Applicable

Officer's View:

It is the officer's view that forestry operations are progressing across the Shire in compliance with legislative requirements. Council's oversight has ensured the appropriate standards are maintained for commercial timber harvesting operations on private land.

Council Resolution:

CR ANDERSON
CR PITMAN

THAT THE REPORT BE NOTED.

CARRIED

13.2 Environmental Sustainability Report (DIE)

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

This report was prepared by Mr Greg Karlson, Coordinator Circular Economy 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.

Summary:

This report provides a quarterly update on environmental sustainability activities throughout the Shire for the period December 2024 to March 2025.

Council's environmental sustainability activities continue to be focused on the management of recycling operations at resource recovery centres along with actions related to the circular economy waste and recycling transition processes.

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

Attachment:

Nil

Background/History:

Waste and recycling services

June 2024 saw the launch of a new 3 bin system and move to a new waste contractor – Cleanaway.

An ongoing education campaign around the 3-bin system continues to be promoted through Council's digital platforms as well as exposure through the Halve Waste platform which enjoys TV promotional content.

Recent activities around kerbside waste since the transition shows 64.30% of households with an existing kerbside bin service had taken up the additional FOGO bin. Although this figure seems low, it was heavily influenced by the level of opt-outs from eligible rural residents, who represented 38.3% of total households. Overall the participation rate of rural households was a modest 26.8% of total households.

YTD performance July - Mar 25 highlights:

- Organics tonnage levels - 570 tonnes from Avg 2134 monthly serviced households
- General Waste tonnage levels – 699 tonnes from Avg 3040 monthly serviced households
- Recycling tonnage levels – 400.05 tonnes or 44.51 tonnes (avg pm) from Avg 3040 monthly serviced households

As at March 2025 the recycling contamination Rate was 0.16 tonnes or 0.37%. Trends remain constant for contamination rates. 570 tonnes of FOGO have been collected with average contamination levels of 0.13%.

Following the introduction of the three-bin system, Towong Shire achieved a current diversion rate* of 58.13% from landfill.

* **Diversion rate** – The amount of waste diverted from landfill. Calculated by dividing the tonnes of recyclables and organics collected (less contaminants) by the total tonnes of waste and recyclables and organics collected.

To aid with waste management during the high visitation season of Christmas and New Year holidays, Council provided additional public bins at key locations, increased the frequency of collections and promoted respectful disposal behaviours for visitors with flyers provided to caravan operators.

Council encouraged the reporting of overflowing bins and Cleanaway, Council's waste contractor, promptly responded to callouts on key dates including Boxing Day, New Years and Australia Day whilst Council provided added services and assistance to key hospitality businesses during this time.

The council supported many businesses over the peak Xmas period with "in kind support" given to event organisers. Additional commercial operators were also supported under a user pay system for additional bin collections. This was successfully managed in collaboration with town maintenance contractors, assistance from Cleanaway and via use of Council-owned fleet of vehicles.

For these peak holiday periods additional work is still to be undertaken as Council strives to improve education. A future initiative will include new street signage which will include a theme such as 'Carry In Carry Out' policy that will be promoted in

key camper locations and high patronage areas. Council will look to partner with other stakeholders such as DEECA and Parks Victoria with the intention to reduce dumped waste or unnecessary waste build up at Council supplied bin locations.

Both signs and flyer materials will be used as tools to mitigate incorrect and poor disposal habits during these periods.

Container Deposit Scheme (CDS)

Local business and community groups in Tallangatta and Corryong were successfully established as CDS point operators for the State Government's 10c deposit scheme for eligible glass, plastic, aluminium and cardboard drink containers.

Corryong YTD results for November through to February 2025 saw 1,698,841 containers returned and \$169,884 paid out in refunds which saw the Shire ranked 18 of 25 for North Zone ahead of Alpine and Indigo Shire.

Resource Recovery Centres

The operational plan for Tallangatta RRC is to be reviewed early in new fiscal year assessing the ongoing viability of the old retaining wall and whether it is "fit for purpose". Moreover, we will look to adopt best waste management practice for both facilities that addresses both public needs and operational efficiency when used by Council staff workers to ensure overall safety for all users.

Corryong Landfill status - Facility has reached full capacity and has been closed for public access since October 2023. Bulk bins supplied by contractor has proven to be the best method for disposal and transportation of general waste.

The Aftercare and Environmental Management Plan prepared by an external consultant has been ratified by EPA with the contract granted to third party contractor NECC for proposed remediation capping / capital works. These works are due to commence in May once the testing of lining materials is completed by an independent third party.

Climate Action

A Climate Action Plan has been produced by Ironbark Sustainability Group who recommends investment in climate future with changes to Council vehicle fleet and landfill management practices. The removal of putrescible waste was strongly recommended which has now been addressed following the introduction of Food and Garden Organics Bins Kerbside collection service.

Changes to council passenger fleet vehicles to electric vehicles or hybrids to reduce carbon emissions is still to be explored further with cost impost proving a barrier for change. Such change is to be reviewed as grant monies become available and as vehicle lease renewals near end dates and future upgrades occur.

Under capital works programs project engineers are encouraged to incorporate eco-friendly building material use into all projects. Resource Recovery Centre continues to provide a supply of repurposed crushed concrete material as base for all infrastructure road work as part of Council's maintenance program schedules. Capture of such data is likely to become more pronounced going forward with various government departments to include this data as part of their mandates for roll up of data under Circular Economy programs.

Tree and Weed Programs

Tree planting within the shire commenced in early June and continued over the first half of the year before summer period. Tree planting has been finalised on Playles Hill with a further 20 trees added which saw 12 different species contributing to the biodiversity required to mitigate risk from emerging pathogens and pests.

Limited planting has occurred in the first quarter due to summer period, but these included 5 trees planted in Donaldson St parking bays. Other tree plantings saw 4 trees planted in the Tallangatta Skate Park area, 3 planted at the Saleyards with further program activity resuming as we approach the cooler months.

Some further landscape and tree planting is to occur in and around the Dartmouth splash pad now that capital works have been completed.

Contractors were engaged for the annual blackberry and weed control programs identified along Council link road network which has now been finalised by first calendar quarter.

Calicivirus has been released in Corryong, Granya, Mitta, Bethanga and Talgarno as part of rabbit control program

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

All environmental sustainability actions have been undertaken in accordance with the service performance principles outlined in the *Local Government Act 2020*, *Environmental Protection Act 2017* and the *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling Act) 2021*.

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

Not Applicable.

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

Economic

Enhanced recycling methods will diminish the volume of waste sent to landfills, while adopting a four-stream waste system enhances the circular economy framework for waste management in Victoria.

Social

The projects mentioned in this report promote sustainability education for the community.

Environmental/Climate Change

Actions undertaken on recycling of materials and ongoing review of tree management practice and climate adaption will contribute positively towards the mitigation of Council's impact on the environment and adherence to risk management best practice.

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

Community Education on Recycling - Council received grant funding from Sustainability Victoria under the Circular Economy Household Education Fund (CEHEF). The community education package will continue to include digital and print material post rollout to reinforce messaging.

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

Not Applicable.

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

Council officers liaise regularly with representatives of the Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance, waste management officers from councils in the Hume region and government representatives from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) and Sustainability Victoria (SV) relating to environmental and sustainability activities.

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.

	Note	Mar 2025 YTD (Actual) \$	2024/25 Full Year (Forecast)	2024/25 Full Year (Budget) \$	Forecast to Budget (Variance) \$	Forecast to Budget (Variance) %	
Income							
Kerbside collection	1	1,496,560	1,532,318	1,360,560	171,758	11%	
Waste facilities management	2	445,676	459,175	506,000	(46,824)	-11%	
Total Income		1,942,237	1,991,494	1,866,560	124,934		
Expenditure							
Kerbside collection	3	778,540	1,487,829	1,290,236	197,593	25%	
Waste facilities management	4	326,351	498,927	227,057	271,870	83%	
Total Expenditure		1,104,892	1,986,756	1,517,293	469,463	42%	
Net Income /(Expenditure)		837,345	4,737	349,267			

1. Revenue from kerbside collection is forecasted to surpass actual with additional revenue derived from the contractor for Council servicing street bins whilst additional fee charges have been achieved with a higher than expected take up on FOGO bins by rural residents. There has been nominal growth from rates with some additional households added to the collection service.

Actual results reflect revenues accounted on an accrual basis from rateable property income in advance due to the timing of rate payment receipts. These are traditionally either paid annually upfront or over quarterly instalments.

2. Waste facility management fees likely to fall below budget projections with lower than expected Resource Recovery tip fees.

3. Full year Budget for kerbside collection charges is expected to be met, given cost base is fully quantifiable under contract terms. Bin purchases for FOGO and Glass associated with transition under Kerbside Reform rollout totalled \$167K which will be non-re-occurring going forward.

4. Garbage and recycling charges increased more than budgeted as projections were underestimated with too little provision made for tonnage levels of general waste generated at RRC for disposed into Albury landfill.

Additionally, no provision was made for a consultancy fee for a report commissioned around options analysis for roadside vegetation. Other one off costs include the provision of mobile toilet upgrades identified under OHS review.

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

Not Applicable.

Council Plans and Policies:

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

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

5.8 Continue to implement noxious weed control and monitoring along roadsides within available funding

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

5.10 Explore the diversification of options for the establishment of native vegetation offset sites

5.11 Seek funding to establish a network of electric car charging stations

5.12 Develop a climate change action plan (including actions to reduce carbon emissions, electric vehicle charging, etc)

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

5.14 Invest in community education programs and a waste services survey to improve waste and recycling separation

- 5.15 Investigate options for hard waste, green waste and agricultural waste management e.g silage wrap
- 5.16 Replace the retaining wall at the Tallangatta Transfer Station
- 5.17 Investigate options for the future of the Corryong Landfill
- 5.18 Implement required measures to ensure management of closed landfills is compliant with EPA requirements

Council Policies:

Climate Adaptation Policy.

Kerbside Refuse and Recycling Collection Policy

Tree Policy

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

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

Risk Assessment:

Not Applicable

Officer's View:

Environmental Sustainability strategic priorities under the *Council Plan 2021-2025* have been mostly achieved with ongoing progress being made to meet all nominated objectives.

Council Resolution:

CR PITMAN

CR ANDERSON

THAT THE REPORT BE NOTED.

CARRIED

14 Economic and Tourism Development

There are no Economic and Tourism Development reports to present this meeting.

15 Councillor Reports

An opportunity is provided for Councillors to table or present a Delegate's report.

Nil.

The Mayor moved a procedural motion that a five minute recess be taken, which was seconded by Cr Tolsher, the time being 12.09pm.

The meeting resumed, the time being 12.14pm.

16 Urgent Business

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

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

Council Resolution:

**CR TOLSHER
CR PITMAN**

**THAT AN ITEM OF URGENT BUSINESS BE ACCEPTED IN RELATION TO THE
EMERGENCY SERVICES VOLUNTEER FUND LEVY.**

CARRIED

Council Resolution:

**CR WORTMANN
CR TOLSHER**

**GIVEN THE DETRIMENTAL IMPACT THAT THE NEW LEVY WILL HAVE ON OUR
RATEPAYERS AND OUR RESIDENTS, WE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO OPPOSE THE
INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW LEVY AND SEEK ADVICE ON NOT COLLECTING
THE NEW LEVY.**

CARRIED

17 Committee Minutes

17.1 OHS Committee Meeting Minutes - April (DCOD)

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

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

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

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to provide information.

Summary:

The unconfirmed minutes of the Occupational Health and Safety Committee meeting held on 29 April 2025 have been provided to Councillors prior to the meeting.

Recommendation:

That the unconfirmed minutes of the Occupational Health and Safety Committee meeting held on 29 April 2025 be noted.

Council Resolution:

**CR PITMAN
CR TOLSHER**

THAT THE UNCONFIRMED MINUTES BE NOTED.

CARRIED

17.2 Audit and Risk Committee Minutes - May 2025 (DCOD)

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

This report was prepared by Mr {author-name}, Coordinator Governance and Compliance.

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

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to provide information.

Summary:

As per section 8 of the Council Audit and Risk Committee Charter, the minutes of an Audit and Risk Committee meeting must be forwarded to the next ordinary meeting of Council, including a report explaining specific recommendations and key outcomes.

An Audit and Risk Committee meeting was held on 15 May 2025. The unconfirmed minutes were circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

Resolutions made by the Committee, other than those 'for noting' were as follows:

Charter Review

THAT ANY CHANGES TO THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE CHARTER ARE CIRCULATED OFFLINE, WITH THE PROPOSED REVISED CHARTER BEING DISTRIBUTED TO THE COMMITTEE PRIOR TO THE AUGUST 2025 MEETING FOR ENDORSEMENT.

Recommendation:

That the unconfirmed Audit and Risk Committee Minutes and Resolutions from the 15 May 2025 meeting be noted.

Council Resolution:

**CR TOLSHER
CR ANDERSON**

**THAT THE UNCONFIRMED AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MINUTES AND
RESOLUTIONS FROM THE 15 MAY 2025 MEETING BE NOTED.**

CARRIED

Confirmed

18 Council Policies

There are no policies for review or adoption.

19 Sealing of Documents

Nil.

20 Confidential

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

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

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

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

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

Nil.

21 Closure of Meeting

There being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting closed, the time being 12:23 pm.

Confirmed