



M(1) – 1 FEBRUARY 2022

# Ordinary Council Meeting

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Minutes

The **Ordinary Meeting** of the **Alpine Shire Council** was held on **1 February 2022** and commenced at **5:00pm**.

## **PRESENT**

### **COUNCILLORS**

Cr Sarah Nicholas - Mayor

Cr Katarina Hughes - Deputy Mayor

Cr John Forsyth

Cr Ron Janas

Cr Tony Keeble

Cr Simon Kelley

Cr Kelli Prime

### **OFFICERS**

Charlie Bird - Chief Executive Officer

William Jeremy - Director Assets

Helen Havercroft - Director Corporate Performance

### **APOLOGIES**

Nil

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## 1. Recording and livestreaming of Council meetings

*The CEO read the following statement:*

All council meetings are filmed with both video and audio being recorded.

This meeting is being held online and audio and video is focused on Councillors and Council Officers.

Question time will still be held, however it is requested that questions be submitted in writing prior to the meeting. By submitting a question, you consent to your question being read aloud at the meeting.

In common with all narrative during council meetings verbal responses to congratulations, obituaries and question time will not be recorded in the written minutes.

The reasoning behind recording council meetings is of course to hold us more accountable and improve transparency of council's decision making to our community.

The full meeting is being streamed live on Council's YouTube channel which is "Alpine Shire Council" and will also be available on the YouTube channel shortly after this meeting.

## 2. Acknowledgement of traditional custodians, and recognition of all people

*The Mayor read the following statement:*

The Alpine Shire Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land we are now on, we pay our respect to Elders, past and present.

We also acknowledge those people who have contributed to the rich fabric of our community and strive to make wise decisions that will improve the quality of life for all.

## 3. Confirmation of minutes

### 3.1 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING – M(14) – 14 DECEMBER 2021

*Cr Janas*

*Cr Hughes*

*That the minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting M(14) held on 14 December 2021 as circulated be confirmed.*

*Carried*

## 4. Apologies

Nil.

## 5. Obituaries / congratulations

Refer to Alpine Shire Council's website [www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au](http://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au); for its YouTube live-streaming recording for responses to questions.

## 6. Declarations by Councillors of conflict of interest

Cr Prime declared a conflict of interest with respect to Item 8.2.1 Contract 2106701 - Toms Road Upgrade as it directly affects her parent's property. Cr Prime will be moved into the virtual meeting room when this report is being dealt with.

## 7. Public questions

Questions on Notice will be limited to two questions per person.

Questions on Notice must be submitted in writing prior to the meeting.

Refer to Alpine Shire Council's website [www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au](http://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au); for its YouTube live-streaming recording for responses to questions.

## 8. Presentation of reports by officers

### 8.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER – CHARLIE BIRD

#### 8.1.1 Councillor Affirmation of Office and Code of Conduct declaration

File Number 640.01

##### **INTRODUCTION**

Following the extraordinary vacancy due to the resignation Councillor Charlie Vincent in December 2021, the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) conducted a countback of the formal ballot papers cast at the last general election held in October 2020.

VEC held the countback on Wednesday 19 January 2022, with Simon Kelley officially declared elected on Thursday 20 January 2022.

The *Local Government Act 2020* (LGA 2020) specifies that a person elected to be a Councillor is not capable of acting as a Councillor unless he or she has taken the oath or affirmation of office in the manner prescribed by the regulations.

*Cr Forsyth*

*Cr Keeble*

*That the Affirmation of Office signed on 25 January 2022 be received and recorded in the minutes of this Council meeting.*

*Carried*

##### **BACKGROUND / ISSUES**

Section 31 of the LGA 2020 states that the office of a Councillor becomes vacant if a person elected to be a Councillors does not take the Oath or Affirmation of Office within three months after the day on which the person was declared elected.

##### **Oath or Affirmation of Office**

Section 30 of the LGA 2020 requires the Oath or Affirmation of Office to be administered by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO); signed and dated before the CEO; and recorded in the minutes of a Council meeting, whether or not the Oath or Affirmation was taken at a Council meeting. Regulation 5 of the Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2005 provides for the Oath or Affirmation of Office to be conducted via audio visual link, with the approval of the CEO.

The Affirmation of Office ceremony was held on Tuesday 25 January 2022 via audio visual link and the signed Affirmation is included with the minutes of this meeting. The CEO approved the order of proceedings prior to the ceremony to ensure that it complied with both the LGA 2020 and Regulations.

Oaths and Affirmations were in accordance with the required format in the *Oaths and Affirmations Act 2018*, and the Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020, which required the following form:

*"I will undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the municipal community.*

*I will abide by the Councillor Code of Conduct and uphold the standards of conduct set out in the Councillor Code of Conduct.*

*I will faithfully and impartially carry out and exercise the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the Local Government Act 2020 and any other Acts to the best of my skill and judgement."*

### **Code of Conduct Declaration**

In addition to the Councillor taking the Oath or Affirmation of Office, the Councillor has made a separate declaration regarding the Councillor Code of Conduct (the Code). This declaration was made in writing and witnessed by the Chief Executive Officer.

This declaration will be included with the Councillor Code of Conduct (version 6) that was most recently adopted by Council on 23 February 2021.

### **Policy Implications**

Section 30(1) of the LGA 2020 states that a person elected to be a Councillor is not capable of acting as a Councillor until the person has taken the Oath or Affirmation of Office in the manner prescribed by the *Local Government Act 2020*, and the Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020.

Once the Oath or Affirmation of Office has been completed, the Councillor-elect can commence their role as a Councillor.

### **Financial and resource implications**

Mayor and Councillors are entitled to receive allowances in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020, and reimbursement of expenses in accordance with the Councillor Expenses Policy No. 76. Council has budgeted for these expenses in the Annual Budget.

### **Consultation**

A Councillor is able to choose their preferred version of Oath or Affirmation. As this is a statutory process, no community consultation was required.

### **Conclusion**

Council is required to include a copy of signed Oaths and Affirmations in the minutes of a Council meeting. This report ensures that Council has complied with this LGA 2020 requirement.

## **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

In accordance with section 130 of the Local Government Act 2020, and Chapter 7 section A6 of Council's Governance Rules, the following officers declare that they have no interests to disclose in providing this report.

- Chief Executive Officer
- Governance Officer
- Executive Assistant to CEO

## **ATTACHMENT(S)**

8.1.1 Councillor Affirmation of Office



## 8.1.2 Contracts approved by the CEO

*Cr Janas*  
*Cr Forsyth*

*That the Capital Works Contracts approved by the CEO be noted.*

<b>Contract No:</b>	<b>CQ21135</b>	<b>Process:</b>	<b>RFQ</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Bright Strategic Traffic Assessment</b>		
<b>Tenderer:</b>	<b>One Mile Grid</b>		
<b>\$ (excl. GST):</b>	<b>\$56,200</b>		

<b>Contract No:</b>	<b>CQ21064</b>	<b>Process:</b>	<b>RFQ</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Gravel Resheeting 2021-22 (Supply)</b>		
<b>Tenderer:</b>	<b>Indigo Shire Council</b>		
<b>\$ (excl. GST):</b>	<b>\$126,000</b>		

<b>Contract No:</b>	<b>CQ21065</b>	<b>Process:</b>	<b>RFQ</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Gravel Resheeting 2021-22 (Cartage)</b>		
<b>Tenderer:</b>	<b>North East Civil Construction \$80,080 (+GST)</b> <b>Richardson Earthmoving \$22,165 (+GST)</b> <b>McPherson Earthmoving \$22,165 (+GST)</b>		
<b>\$ (excl. GST):</b>	<b>\$124,410</b>		

<b>Contract No:</b>	<b>CQ21009</b>	<b>Process:</b>	<b>RFQ</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Bright Railway Museum Roofing Repairs</b>		
<b>Tenderer:</b>	<b>Argyle Maintenance Services</b>		
<b>\$ (excl. GST):</b>	<b>\$81,150</b>		

*Carried*

## 8.1.3 MomentumOne Shared Services

### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the report is for Council to note MomentumOne Shared Services' (MomentumOne) Annual Financial Report for 2019/20 as well as provide Council with information on recent developments in relation to the status of the company.

*Cr Janas*

*Cr Keeble*

*That Council notes the MomentumOne Shared Services:*

- 1. Annual Financial Report for 2019/20;*
- 2. Annual Financial Report for 2020/21;*
- 3. Dividend payment to Alpine Shire Council in 2021/22; and*
- 4. Board's decision to cease provision of labour hire and technology solutions effective 31 October 2021 and place the business into dormancy.*

*Carried*

### BACKGROUND

MomentumOne Shared Services (MomentumOne) was established by Alpine Shire Council and Towong Shire Council in 2015 to deliver the benefits of shared services to local government through its labour hire and technology solution. Since this time, MomentumOne has placed over 530 team members with eight partner councils. While MomentumOne has specialised in workforce solutions for seasonal pools, it has also placed cleaning and waste management staff with its partner councils, as well as provided employment management services for Council's Working for Victoria program.

MomentumOne was established as an innovative response to the challenges faced by small rural councils, including limited financial resources, lean organisational structures, complex legacy administrative systems and limited opportunities to reduce costs through economies of scale or by outsourcing to a competitive private sector. Over the last six years, MomentumOne's solution has reduced service delivery costs for Council by more than \$0.5m, while also reducing the administrative overheads associated with recruitment, onboarding and ongoing employment management services.

While MomentumOne has been able to viably provide its services to date, several factors have emerged over time that have an influence on its future viability, including fixed business costs, internal resourcing, business scale and changes to industrial instruments. A review of its position to continue providing labour hire and technology solutions was undertaken by the Board in 2021 and the decision was made to cease operations. Its final contract concluded 31 October 2021.

## ISSUES

As a wholly owned subsidiary of Alpine Shire Council and Towong Shire Council, annual audits are undertaken by an external auditor on behalf of the Victorian Auditor General's Office.

Activities are now underway to finalise its operations and ensure that both the Company and Council can continue to meet their obligations. MomentumOne has sufficient retained earnings to maintain business dormancy for several years. The MomentumOne Board will meet annually and review the dormancy decision at these meetings.

## POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The recommendation is in accordance with the following Strategic Objective of the Council Plan 2021-2025:

- 5.2 A responsible, transparent and responsive organisation

## FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

While its continuing operation is not viable, MomentumOne has achieved positive financial results over the past five financial years and has also reduced service delivery costs for Council as well as its other local government partners.

MomentumOne's Board recently made the decision to distribute dividends totalling \$90,000 to Alpine and Towong which will be distributed in accordance with profit share provisions contained in the Shareholders Agreement.

## CONSULTATION

Council was consulted during the formation of MomentumOne in September and October 2015. Council has been kept informed of MomentumOne activities and performance through Council briefings, including the decision made to cease company operations earlier this financial year.

## CONCLUSION

MomentumOne has provided cost-effective and efficient services to both Council and as well as its other local government partners over the past six years, fulfilling its objective to deliver the benefits of shared services to local government. The decision to cease its operations is prudent given the review undertaken earlier in 2021.

## DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

In accordance with section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, and Chapter 7 section A6 of Council's Governance Rules, the following officers declare that they have no interests to disclose in providing this report.

- Chief Executive Officer

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

8.1.3.a. MomentumOne Shared Services Annual Financial Report 2019/20

8.1.3.b. MomentumOne Shared Services Annual Financial Report 2020/21

*Cr Prime was moved into the virtual waiting room at 5.36pm.*

## 8.2 DIRECTOR ASSETS – WILLIAM JEREMY

### 8.2.1 Contract 2106701 - Toms Road Upgrade

File Number: 2106701

#### **INTRODUCTION**

This report relates to the award of the Toms Road Upgrade Tender

*Cr Keeble*

*Cr Kelley*

*That Council awards Contract No. 2106701 "Toms Road Upgrade" to Richardson Earthworks and Maintenance for the lump sum price of \$242,522.12 (GST exclusive).*

*Carried*

#### **BACKGROUND**

Toms Road is 1.6km in length and maintained by Alpine Shire Council. Existing road drainage is inadequate, impaired and not functioning as required. Poor drainage, inadequate road formation and the narrow road carriageway has resulted in further road degradation.

A detailed assessment of the situation has been undertaken by Council in consultation with the affected landowners. This has resulted in the development of the detailed scope of works that will rectify the situation and provide the appropriate access and service to meet all landowners' requirements.

Council has successfully secured funding for these works via the Victorian government's AgriLinks Upgrade Program.

A tender for the construction works was advertised in the Herald Sun on 25 November 2021, as well as on tenders.net and the Alpine Shire Council website.

The tender documents were downloaded by 15 prospective tenderers and three conforming responses were received by the closing date.

#### **EVALUATION**

The evaluation panel consisted of the Manager Asset Development and the Project Officer. The tenders were evaluated according to the key selection criteria listed in the Invitation to Tender:

- Price
- Qualifications and Previous Performance
- Delivery
- Social
- Environmental

Following the assessment of the tenders, it was determined that the tender from Richardson Earthmoving and Maintenance best met all the requirements of the selection criteria.

## **ISSUES**

During the scoping phase of this project was identified that the formed road was not located entirely in the road reserve and that private infrastructure had been constructed on the road reserve following earlier Council approval to do so.

Extensive consultation has been undertaken with landowners to develop an agreed solution which includes a road deviation plan that will align the road reserve with the existing formed road.

The road deviation plan and associated administration and governance will be submitted to Council in a separate report in due course once these road reconstruction works are complete and the final alignment has been surveyed.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The tender was advertised and evaluated in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy.

The recommendation is in accordance with the following Strategic Objective of the Council Plan 2021-2025:

- 4.5 Assets for our current and future needs

## **FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

The project is \$255,396 completely funded by the Victorian government's AgriLinks Upgrade Funding Program". There is sufficient allocation within the project budget to award this contract and deliver the works.

## **CONSULTATION**

Director Assets, Manager Asset Development and the Project Officer have been heavily involved in the decision making relating to the outcome of the project.

Extensive negotiations have been carried out with affected landowners.

North East Catchment Management Authority has been consulted and is supportive of the works.

External customers directly impacted during the delivery of the works will be notified in advance of the works commencing. The works schedule will also be provided on the Council's website.

## **CONCLUSION**

That the Contract be awarded to Richardson Earthmoving and Maintenance for \$242,522.12 (GST exclusive) to undertake Toms Road Upgrade.

## **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

In accordance with section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, and Chapter 7 section A6 of Council's Governance Rules, the following officers declare that they have no interests to disclose in providing this report.

- Director Assets
- Manager Asset Development

## **ATTACHMENT(S)**

Nil

*Cr Prime was returned to the meeting at 5.40pm.*

## 8.2.2 Contract 2112801 - Bakers Gully Road Drainage Works

File Number: CT21128

### INTRODUCTION

This report relates to the award of a contract for drainage works along Bakers Gully Road between Park Street and Faulkner Rise. The works include drainage, pedestrian safety, traffic calming and parking upgrades.

*Cr Hughes*

*Cr Keeble*

*That Council awards Contract No. 2112801 for the "Bakers Gully Road Drainage Works" to Stadelmann Enterprises Pty Ltd for the lump sum price of \$372,619.42 (GST Exclusive).*

*Carried*

### BACKGROUND

This section of Bakers Gully Road has a history of issues relating to drainage, pedestrian access and safety, turning traffic and parking.

A tender for the construction works was advertised in the Herald Sun on 10 November 2021, as well as on tenders.net and the Alpine Shire Council website.

The tender documents were downloaded by 13 prospective tenderers and three conforming responses were received by the closing date.

### EVALUATION

The evaluation panel consisted of the Manager Asset Development and Director Assets.

The tenders were evaluated according to the key selection criteria listed in the Invitation to Tender:

- Price
- Qualifications and Previous Performance
- Delivery
- Social
- Environmental

Following the assessment of the tenders, it was determined that the tender from Stadelmann Enterprises best met all the requirements of the selection criteria.

### ISSUES

Between Park Street and Sommer Avenue, Bakers Gully Road is adjacent to the Bright P-12 College. Delivery of the works will be planned to minimise disruption to the school, with access to other properties along the road to be maintained under traffic control. Only minor delays are expected.



## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The tender was advertised and evaluated in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy.

The recommendation is in accordance with the following Strategic Objective of the Council Plan 2021-2025:

- 4.5 Assets for our current and future needs

## **FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

In the December 2021 Council Meeting, Council allocated \$179,000 of funding from the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Phase 3 Fund towards the Bakers Gully Road Drainage Upgrade. Together with funds committed in the 2021/22 Annual Budget, there is sufficient funding to deliver the scope of this contract.

## **CONSULTATION**

The local residents and school have approached Council on numerous occasions to request improvements to address the issues noted. The proposed scope addresses these requests and all known issues along this section of road. Further updates will be provided to the school community and residents before works commence to ensure all are kept well informed.

## **CONCLUSION**

Following a comprehensive assessment, the Tender from Stadelmann Enterprises is considered to present the best value option for Council.

## **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

In accordance with section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, and Chapter 7 section A6 of Council's Governance Rules, the following officers declare that they have no interests to disclose in providing this report.

- Director Assets
- Manager Asset Development

## **ATTACHMENT(S)**

Nil

## 8.2.3 Contract 2107501 - Mount Beauty Airport Upgrade - Variation

File Number: 2107501

### INTRODUCTION

This report relates to variations on the Mount Beauty Airport Upgrade project that require additional expenditure and optimising available grant funding.

*Cr Keeble*  
*Cr Forsyth*

*That Council approves:*

- 1. A variation to Contract No. 2107501 for the "Mount Beauty Airport Upgrade Construction" to Winslow Constructors for the lump sum price of \$440,227 (GST exclusive) for treatment of the runway extension subgrade to meet design specifications; and*
- 2. A further variation to Contract No. 2107501 for the "Mount Beauty Airport Upgrade Construction" to Winslow Constructors for the lump sum price of \$169,961 (GST exclusive) for the enlarged apron and widening an additional section of the runway.*

*Carried*

### BACKGROUND

The Mount Beauty Airport Upgrade involves an extension and widening to the existing runway.

Council adopted a revised masterplan for the Mount Beauty Airport in March 2011, which recommended extending the runway from 930m to 1,540m and widening from 10m to 18m.

Funding was sought from the Australian Government's Regional Airport Program (RAP) in December 2019, based on an expanded scope to have the upgrade meet the standards of a registered airport. On 13 June 2020, Council was advised that the funding application was successful.

Specialised airport design consultants were engaged in July 2020 to re-assess the funding application scope against new Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) regulations. On the basis of the feedback received, the scope of the project was revised, with the key change being the decision to retain the airport with the classification 'Aeroplane Landing Area' rather than aiming for an upgrade to a registered airport. The Regional Airports Program approved the change in scope and Council entered into a funding agreement on this basis.

Detailed design was progressed between January and May 2021, and this included flood modelling which was mandated by the North East Catchment Management Authority (NECMA), as the proposed extension was considered likely to encroach onto the Kiewa River floodplain.

The design and geotechnical investigations were completed in accordance with CASA guidelines.

Winslow Constructors were awarded the contract for the construction of the Mount Beauty Airport Upgrade construction for the amount of \$1,865,794.80 (GST exclusive). The budget for this project is \$3,111,820 (GST exclusive) which is 50% funded by the Australian Government's RAP on eligible expenditure (not including design, approvals etc.).

### ***Subgrade Treatment***

Physical work commenced on the runway extension on 22 November 2021 with the stripping of topsoil and excavation. These works revealed that the subgrade of the proposed runway extension did not meet the specification requirements. This is a latent ground condition, and the subgrade requires stabilising treatment for the extended runway to be constructed in accordance with design specifications.

### ***Apron Enlargement and Additional Runway Widening***

The Mount Beauty Airport Management Association (MBAMA) requested Council consider additional works involving the enlargement of the apron and widening of the runway at the southern end to further improve the serviceability and safety of the airport operations if funding permitted. Council requested a quote from the contractor for the apron enlargement and extra widening works.

## **ISSUES**

### ***Subgrade Treatment***

It is imperative that the subgrade of the extended runway pavement is stabilised to ensure the project is delivered in accordance with design specifications and meets performance standards.

A number of potential technical solutions were investigated to stabilise the subgrade:

1. Bridging mattress with crushed rock
2. Bridging mattress with river gravel (available next to site)
3. Polycom stabilising agent.

Both bridging mattress options produced results that comply with the design specifications, however the Polycom stabilising agent option didn't.

Option 2 (bridging mattress with river gravel) presents the best value for money solution to meet the design specifications.

The contractor has quoted \$410,227 plus an allowance of \$30,000 for land restoration after the river gravel is extracted which will total \$440,227 (GST exclusive) for this variation.

### ***Apron Enlargement and Additional Runway Widening***

The contractor provided a quote for the apron enlargement and additional runway widening for \$169,961 (GST exclusive) for this additional scope.

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The recommendation is in accordance with the following Strategic Objective of the Council Plan 2021-2025:

- 4.5 Assets for our current and future needs

### **FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

This project is funded through the Australian Government's RAP for a total of \$3,111,820 (GST exclusive). The funding ratio is \$1 RAP: \$1 Council. Council's financial commitment to the project is its 50% share under the RAP funding agreement being \$1,555,910 (GST exclusive). There is sufficient funding under the RAP grant to award these two variations. The award of these two variations will result in a total of \$3,038,342 (GST exclusive) being spent under the RAP. The grant cannot be used for project planning, design or permit costs. These costs for the project total \$265,147 (GST exclusive) and are entirely Council's responsibility.

The two variations Council approval is sought for include:

1. Subgrade stabilisation treatment required to ensure the extended runway pavement meets design specifications - \$440,227 (GST exclusive).
2. Apron enlargement and additional runway widening to enhance the serviceability and safety of the airport operations. - \$169,961 (GST exclusive)

If the two proposed variations are approved by Council, Council's total contribution to the project would be \$1,784,318 (GST exclusive), which is \$228,408 (GST exclusive) above its total original commitment of \$1,555,910 (GST exclusive). At this stage Council does not anticipate any further unexpected expenditure on this project.

Any unspent RAP grant funding will be returned to the Australian Government.

### **CONSULTATION**

The design of the Mount Beauty Airport Upgrade project has been undertaken in consultation with the MBAMA, representatives of the airport user groups, adjacent landowners, and relevant State Government authorities including the NECMA and Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

Council will continue to engage with key stakeholders through the delivery of the construction phase of the project. Current restrictions on airport operations resulting from the construction works are being managed in close consultation with the MBAMA, with safety remaining the highest priority.

## **CONCLUSION**

Due to latent conditions encountered onsite with the subgrade of the proposed runway extension, stabilising treatment is required to ensure the extended runway pavement meets the design specifications and for the contractor to complete the approved scope of works for the Mount Beauty Airport Upgrade project.

There is also an opportunity to use unallocated RAP grant funding to cover half (50%) of the cost to enlarge the apron and widen an additional length of the runway, which will enhance the serviceability and safety of the airport operations. Any unspent RAP grant funding will be returned to the Australian Government.

Half (50%) of the cost of these works can be covered by the RAP funding and would be a variation to the contract. Approving these variations would increase Council's contribution by \$228,408 (GST exclusive) above its total original commitment of \$1,555,910 (GST exclusive). It is recommended that Council approve these variations.

## **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

In accordance with section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, and Chapter 7 section A6 of Council's Governance Rules, the following officers declare that they have no interests to disclose in providing this report.

- Director Assets
- Manager Asset Development
- Project Officer

## **ATTACHMENT(S)**

Nil

## 8.2.4 Building Better Regions Fund - Implementation of Alpine Better Places Harrietville

### INTRODUCTION

An opportunity exists for Council to seek significant funding to implement the Alpine Better Places priority projects in Harrietville. This report relates to available funding opportunity and seeks Council's financial commitment for the nominated project.

*Cr Hughes*

*Cr Keeble*

*That Council authorises an application to the Australian Government's Building Better Regions Round 6 Fund for the Alpine Better Places Harrietville Project with a maximum Council commitment of up to \$2,300,000 (GST exclusive).*

*Carried*

### BACKGROUND

The Australian Government has established a \$250 million Building Better Regions Round 6 Fund (BBRF R6) to help successful applicants undertake infrastructure or community investment projects that help their local communities recover from the effects of the pandemic.

BBRF R6 also aims to encourage local opportunities for growth that may be emerging due to a growing appetite for domestic tourism as well as more permanent population movements to the regions. This round will help enhance the local infrastructure that regional areas need to support their recovery and to grow. The closing date for applications is 10 February 2022.

Following an assessment of projects in Council's Project Pipeline which meet the grant funding criteria and are sufficiently well developed to be deliverable within the nominated project timeframes, it is recommended that an application is made for funding to deliver the Alpine Better Places Harrietville project.

The project encompasses the following precincts: Tronoh Dredge Hole Carpark; Pioneer Park and Tavare Park; and Harrietville Community Hall. The project will:

- Improve the streetscape, including wayfinding signage, paths, tracks or trails to better connect the town's assets and facilities, integrated landscape treatments and improved parking options; and
- Improve open space reserves, including upgraded and/or additional facilities and amenities.
- Ultimately this project will make Harrietville a more desirable place to live, invest in and visit. The project is well timed to take advantage of the soon to be opened Australian Government funded Harrietville to Bright shared trail, which will drive further visitation and economic stimulus.

## ISSUES

Council is awaiting a decision on a funding application to the Australian Government's Black Summer Bushfire Fund to support the delivery of the Tronoh Dredge Hole Precinct component of the Alpine Better Places Harrietville project. If this application is successful, then Council would withdraw this component from the application to the BBRF R6 application.

## POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The recommendation is in accordance with the following Strategic Objective of the Council Plan 2021-2025:

- 4.5 Assets for our current and future needs

## FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The BBRF R6 funding application requires Council to co-contribute to the project at a ratio of BBRF R6 \$1: Council \$1. The capital cost to deliver the Alpine Better Places Harrietville project is \$4.6m, with \$2.3m to be sought from grant funding, and the remaining project costs of \$2.3m being met by Council. It is anticipated that the expenditure would be incurred over the 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years.

The impact of delivering this project without the deferral of other planned projects has been modelled in Council's Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) and shown to result in a reduction in the forecast working capital ratio from 4.0 to 3.5. This reduction can be accommodated without impacting significantly on Council's financial sustainability however the following impacts should be noted:

1. Delivery of these projects will impact the timing of asset renewal works, as approximately 50% of the project expenditure are estimated to be asset renewal. The LTFP considers the ongoing asset renewal cost, which Council will be responsible for
2. Given the significant investment required to implement the project, this will impact Council's ability to commit to further discretionary spend on other new and upgrade projects in the project pipeline and into the future. The capital works project pipeline is currently being reviewed as part of the FY 2022/23 budget process.

## CONSULTATION

The Alpine Better Places Harrietville project has been developed in consultation with residents, community organisations and internal stakeholders has occurred throughout the development of the detailed concept designs.

Three rounds of community consultation have been carried out including:

- July 2020 - Consultation 1 via Zoom webinar. The community provided feedback on the preliminary plans and areas of focus.
- February 2021 – Consultation 2, Harrietville Community Hall, lunch and evening sessions. The community was invited to provide comment on the draft detailed concept designs and proposed project priority list. The presentation and plans were

made available online and the feedback period was open for two weeks. A further third round of consultation was supported by the community.

- July 2021- Consultation 3, Harrietville Community Hall, lunch and evening sessions. The community was invited to view and provide feedback on the third revision of the plans. The presentation and plans were made available online. The feedback period was open for five weeks.
- 14 October -12 November 2021 - consultation 4, 28 Day Public Exhibition Period. Plans were made available online, in Harrietville township, Bright Library and Bright Council Offices. Media notices included Facebook, radio and newspaper notices. Emails were sent to all contacts recorded during the consultation process and community group email contacts. Links to the project website were provided in all correspondence where all plans and submission contact details could be accessed by the public.

Council adopted the Alpine Better Places Harrietville Final Detailed Concept Designs at its Council Meeting held on 14 December 2021.

The project that has been nominated has been identified as high priority on Council's Project Pipeline. The project has been selected based on alignment with the funding eligibility and evaluation criteria.

If funded, Council Officers will continue to liaise with key stakeholders throughout the implementation phase.

## **CONCLUSION**

Implementation of the Alpine Better Places Harrietville project will result in significant benefits for Harrietville and the Alpine Shire. Council can fund this project, and this presents a great opportunity to secure significant funding from the Australian Government for implementation. There is strong community support for this project and it is recommended that Council endorses a funding application for BBRF R6 fund.

## **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

In accordance with section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, and Chapter 7 section A6 of Council's Governance Rules, the following officers declare that they have no interests to disclose in providing this report.

- Director Assets
- Manager Asset Development

## **ATTACHMENT(S)**

Nil



## 8.3 Director Corporate Performance – Helen Havercroft

### 8.3.1 Appointment of Councillors to represent Council on Committees and Boards

File Number: 615.00

#### INTRODUCTION

Following the extraordinary vacancy due to the resignation Councillor Charlie Vincent in December 2021, the appointment of Councillors to represent Council on Committees and boards is being presented to allow for redistribution of representation following the countback. The Appointment of councillors to the various committees and groups will enable good governance and decision making for the 2022 year.

*Cr Prime*

*Cr Janas*

*That:*

- Councillors be appointed as Council's delegate on the following groups and committees (non-executive):*

<i>Committee</i>	<i>Councillor representative appointed at M(14) - 14 December 2021 to December 2022</i>	<i>Councillor representative appointed at M(1) - 1 February 2022 to December 2022</i>
<i>Municipal Association of Victoria</i>	<i>Mayor Deputy Mayor</i>	<i>Cr John Forsyth Mayor Sarah Nicholas</i>
<i>Hume Region Local Government Network</i>	<i>Mayor</i>	<i>Mayor Sarah Nicholas</i>
<i>Rural Councils Victoria (RCV)</i>	<i>Mayor</i>	<i>Mayor Sarah Nicholas</i>
<i>Alpine Shire Council – Audit and Risk Committee</i>	<i>Mayor Sarah Nicholas Cr Charlie Vincent</i>	<i>Mayor Sarah Nicholas Cr Simon Kelley</i>
<i>Alpine Shire Council – Finance Committee</i>	<i>Mayor Sarah Nicholas Cr Charlie Vincent</i>	<i>Mayor Sarah Nicholas Cr Simon Kelley</i>
<i>Alpine Resilience Committee (formerly known as Community Resilience Committee)</i>	<i>Cr Katarina Hughes Cr Ron Janas</i>	<i>Cr Katarina Hughes Cr Ron Janas</i>
<i>Alpine Children's Services Inc.</i>	<i>Cr Katarina Hughes</i>	<i>Cr Katarina Hughes</i>
<i>Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance</i>	<i>Cr Charlie Vincent Mayor Sarah Nicholas</i>	<i>Cr John Forsyth Mayor Sarah Nicholas</i>

<i>North East Waste and Resource Recovery Group (Forum)</i>	<i>Cr Kelli Prime</i>	<i>Cr Kelli Prime</i>
<i>Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group</i>		<i>Mayor Sarah Nicholas Cr John Forsyth</i>

2. *notes that a new Waste Authority will come into effect on 1 July 2022 to support a transition to a circular economy and that North East Waste and Resource Recovery Group will no longer operate.*

*Carried*

## **BACKGROUND**

### **Council Representation**

Councillor representation on committees is required for Council's own committees / groups, as well as other external committees.

In addition to discretionary appointments, Council's Mayor holds executive positions on committees / boards / groups as the regional representative. These are non-discretionary appointments.

### **Appointments**

Delegate and committee appointments are focussed on councillors' experience and areas of interest and in some cases, appointments may be made on the basis of maintaining consistency.

### **Committees no longer requiring Councillor representation**

*Alpine Alliance between Alpine Heath and Alpine Shire*

By mutual agreement between Alpine Health and Alpine Shire Chief Executive Officers (CEOs), the Alpine Alliance will continue between the CEOs without the requirement for Councillor representation.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

The roles and responsibilities of councillors will vary depending on the position they are appointed to and it is important that this is understood.

*External Legal Entities*

Where a councillor or an officer is nominated to the board or executive of a separate legal entity, the nominee may take on fiduciary responsibilities in accordance with the *Corporations (Victoria) Act 1990*, and they are required to act in the best interests of that company or entity.

*Council Advisory Committees*

There is no formal decision making that can be made in an advisory capacity on behalf of Council, but rather, recommendations arising from the deliberations of the committee may be presented to Council for consideration, deliberation and final adoption.

*Responsibilities*

Regardless of the type of appointment, councillors are bound by their Code of Conduct and must comply with requirements relating to:

- Declaring conflicts of interest.
- Maintaining confidentiality of information.
- Recognising and abiding by their extent of authority i.e. not making decisions on behalf of Council.

<b>Council appointed delegates to non-executive groups and committees</b>	
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Overview</b>
Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV)	Each member council of the MAV must appoint a representative to attend State Council meetings, exercise their council's vote and provide regular reports to their council on MAV activities. Appointments for MAV representatives are made annually by each council.
Hume Region Local Government Network (HRLGN)	Non-discretionary appointment HRLGN is comprised of 12 member Councils in the Hume Region. It represents a shared regional perspective on local government issues and can provide advocacy and submissions on issues of joint interest. The CEO and Mayor from each Council participate in the HRLGN.
Rural Councils Victoria (RCV)	Rural Councils Victoria represents Victoria 37 rural councils, supporting and promoting sustainable, liveable, prosperous rural communities.
Alpine Shire Council – Audit and Risk Committee	An advisory committee of council responsible for: Monitoring compliance of Council policies and procedures with the LGA 2020, regulations, governance principles and Ministerial directions. Monitoring Council financial and performance reporting. Monitoring and providing advice on risk management and fraud prevention systems and controls. Overseeing internal and external audit functions.
Alpine Shire Council – Finance Committee	An advisory committee of Council that provides advice on the prudent, fair and transparent management of Council's finances.

<b>Council appointed delegates to non-executive groups and committees</b>	
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Overview</b>
Alpine Shire Council – Alpine Resilience Committee	The Alpine Resilience Committee identifies community needs and resource requirements and makes recommendations to recovery agencies, council and recovery managers on strategies and plans regarding community preparedness, recovery and resilience. At the July 2021 Council endorsed the change of name from Community Resilience Committee to Alpine Resilience Committee
Alpine Children's Services Inc.	A not-for-profit organisation that provides early childhood services to families throughout the Alpine Shire.
Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance	The Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance was established in 2007 to promote regional action on climate change and consists of representatives from regional Catchment Management Authorities, DELWP and twelve local government municipalities.
North East Waste and Resource Recovery Group (Forum)	<p>NEWRRG as an organisation is legislated under the <i>Environment Protection Act 1970</i> and is one of seven waste and resource recovery groups in Victoria established under the Act. The role of the Forum is to act as a conduit between the North East WRRG and the councils and alpine resorts within the region.*</p> <p>*The Victorian Government is establishing a new Waste Authority to support the transition to the circular economy, underpinned by strong statutory powers and functions. As part of the proposed change the seven Waste and Resource Recovery Groups (WRGG's) will no longer operate. Council is not yet aware of the detail and if councillor representation will be required.</p>
Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group	Council is developing a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) in accordance Reconciliation Australia RAP Framework. Council has been strengthening its relationship with First Nation communities that have an interest in Alpine Shire under Bushfire Recovery Victoria's Cultural Healing Pillar, and developing RAP is the natural next step. The RAP development is funded by Bushfire Recovery Victoria.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The recommendation is in accordance with the following Strategic Objective of the Council Plan 2021-2025:

- 5.3 Bold leadership, strong partnerships and effective advocacy

## **FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Councillors are paid an annual allowance and do not receive additional payments for their involvement on council-appointed committees. Resourcing of councillors attending meetings and participating in the activities of these committees is supported by Council's annual budget.

## **CONSULTATION**

Once Council has appointed its representatives, appropriate communication actions will be undertaken.

## **CONCLUSION**

Appointment of councillors as Council's representative on its own advisory committees and project / working groups as well as external entities, associations, advisory and advocacy groups committees must now be made.

## **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

In accordance with section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, and Chapter 7 section A6 of Council's Governance Rules, the following officers declare that they have no interests to disclose in providing this report.

- Director Corporate Performance
- Governance Officer
- Executive Assistant to CEO

## **ATTACHMENT(S)**

Nil

## 8.3.2 Airport Services Lease for Aircraft Hangar Lease at Porepunkah Airfield

### INTRODUCTION

This report seeks approval to execute leases at the Porepunkah Aerodrome. Leases have been prepared for hangars on land contained in Lot 1 Plan of Subdivision PS612929, 266 Buckland Valley Road Porepunkah for 10-year terms, with option for additional 10 years.

*Cr Forsyth*

*Cr Prime*

*That Council:*

- 1. Approve and execute a lease forming part of Lot1 PS612929, 266 Buckland Valley Road Porepunkah for aircraft hangars; and*
- 2. Sign and Seal the lease documents at the appropriate stage of the Council meeting.*

*Carried*

### BACKGROUND

The Porepunkah Aerodrome Master Plan was presented to Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting June 2006. A recommendation of the Master Plan was that Council negotiate with the adjoining land owner of the airfield with regard to acquisition of additional land for potential hangar relocation and new hangars.

At the Ordinary Council meeting July 2007 Council approved the Acting CEO be authorised to proceed with the acquisition of an adjoining strip of land at the Porepunkah Aerodrome.

The land was acquired in 2008 and is contained in Lot 1 of Plan of Subdivision PS612929, 266 Buckland Valley Road Porepunkah. A new entrance to the airfield was created on this land with the remaining land set aside for hangars and taxi way.

Lease documentation has been developed for the purpose of entering into long term hangar leases on this land. The length of the leases are 10 years, plus an option for a further 10 years. Commencement rent for the attached lease will be \$1153.90 (GST exclusive) per annum calculated based on the square meterage of the sites.

In September 2018 and in accordance with Section 190 of the Local Government Act 1989 Council posted public notices notifying of proposed future leases at the airfield and invited submissions in accordance with Section 223 (Section 190(3b) & (4)) of the Local Government Act 1989 against such future leases. No submissions were received.

This report sets out the proposals for issuing the proposed future leases for hangars consulted on in September 2018 with 10 (plus 10) year terms.

## ISSUES

Under Section 115 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act),

- (1) A Council's power to lease any land to any person is limited to leases for a term of 50 years or less.
- (2) Subject to any other Act, and except where section 116 applies, if a Council leases any land to any person subject to any exceptions, reservations, covenants and conditions, it must comply with this section.
- (3) A Council must include any proposal to lease land in a financial year in the budget, where the lease is—
  - (a) for one year or more and -
    - (i) the rent for any period of the lease is \$100 000 or more a year; or
    - (ii) the current market rental value of the land is \$100 000 or more a year; or
  - (b) for 10 years or more.
- (4) If a Council proposes to lease land that is subject to subsection (3) and that was not included as a proposal in the budget, the Council must undertake a community engagement process in accordance with the Council's community engagement policy in respect of the proposal before entering into the lease.

In September 2018 and in accordance with Section 190 of the *Local Government Act 1989* Council posted public notices notifying of proposed future leases at the airfield and invited submissions in accordance with Section 223 (Section 190(3b) & (4)) of the *Local Government Act 1989* against such future leases. No submissions were received.

The intent and terms of these leases have not changed (saved for Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjustments to annual rents). Council has therefore previously communicated its intention to enter into leases for aircraft hangars at the site and met its obligation under the *Local Government Act 1989* which applied at that time.

## POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The process adopted by Council for the awarding of future leases at the Porepunkah Aerodrome was in accordance with obligations under the *Local Government Act 1989* and the Local Government Best Practice Guidelines for the Sale, Exchange and Transfer of Land at that time. This lease is to be awarded as a result of these processes.

The recommendation is in accordance with the following Strategic Objective of the Council Plan 2021-2025:

- 4.5 Assets for our current and future needs

## FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The commencement annual lease income for a lease will be \$1,153.80 (GST exclusive). Forward lease charges are indexed to CPI annually and subject to a market review after the first 10 years of the lease.

Income collected from hangar rentals at the airfield is paid to the Porepunkah Aerodrome Association to assist it in fulfilling its responsibilities to operations and day to day maintenance of the airfield.

## **CONSULTATION**

In accordance with Section 190 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, public notices were posted in September 2018 notifying of proposed future leases at the site and inviting submissions in accordance with Section 223 (Section 190(3b) & (4)) of that Act. No submissions were received at that time.

Council has therefore previously communicated its intension to enter into leases for aircraft hangars at the site and met its obligation under the *Local Government Act 1989* which applied at that time. The current lease has been developed under the same terms (save for CPI adjustments to annual rent) and therefore it is not considered necessary to undertake further community engagement relating to such leases at the airfield.

The Porepunkah Airfield Association have been consulted and are supportive of the issuing of the leases.

## **CONCLUSION**

Having previously met Council's obligations under the *Local Government Act 1989* Council in relation to issuing leases at the airfield that the lease subject to this report does not require further Community Engagement and is executed by Council under the terms of section 115 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

## **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

In accordance with section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, and Chapter 7 section A6 of Council's Governance Rules, the following officers declare that they have no interests to disclose in providing this report.

- Director Corporate Performance
- Manager Facilities
- Commercial Officer

## **ATTACHMENT(S)**

Nil



### 8.3.3 Contract 2114001 - ICT System Host and Storage Renewal

#### INTRODUCTION

This report relates to the award of a Contract for the renewal of host servers and storage infrastructure used to run Council's information and communications technology (ICT) systems.

*Cr Hughes*

*Cr Keeble*

*That Council award No. CT21140-01 for the supply of professional services, components, software and maintenance agreements to design, install and commission ICT servers and storage as a renewal of existing systems to GlobalOne Technologies for the maximum contract price of \$335,807.55 (GST exclusive).*

*Carried*

#### BACKGROUND

Council operates a mix of on-premise and cloud-based platforms to host, maintain and protect the availability of the ICT systems. The on-premise systems provide services such as the workstations used to access computer programs, key organisational services such as Intramaps, storing electronic files or enabling printing.

The on-premise platforms are due for renewal due to their age and an increase of accompanying risk and performance issues. The typical lifecycle of ICT server platforms is around 4-5 years. After this time the risks of system outages and data loss increase substantially for each year the platform remains in operation. Council has budgeted for the replacement of all ICT server systems greater than five (5) years old in the current financial year.

The tender CT21140-01 includes project management, provision and supply of detailed designs, components and software, installation, migration of systems to the new platform and provision of documentation and training.

The tender was advertised on tenders.net and in the Alpine Observer on 24 November 2021. The tender was viewed by 34 suppliers in tenders.net and Council received eight conforming submissions.

#### EVALUATIONS

The initial evaluation panel consisted of the ICT Coordinator and Manager Technology and Transformation. Supplementary independent assessment was undertaken by an independent specialist.

The submissions were evaluated according to the tender evaluation criteria listed in the Invitation to Tender:

- Cost to Council
- Response to Specification

- Experience, Reputation and Resources
- Methodology
- Environmental Sustainability and Social Principles.

The evaluation was conducted through the following process:

- Cost assessment. Proposals deemed poor value for money were eliminated.
- Technology and architecture proposed is fit-for-purpose. Proposals using technologies not fit for purpose were eliminated.
- Tenders were independently assessed by a partner organisation that specialises in the virtual desktop technology used by Council. They identified significant performance risks in three proposals.

Three tenders were shortlisted. References were then sought to validate the proposals and capability of all remaining tenderers. Through this evaluation process it was determined that the tender from GlobalOne Technologies best met the selection criteria.

## **ISSUES**

### ***Risk of not going ahead***

The existing ICT platform systems are suffering performance problems that directly impact Council's ability to deliver services to our community. ICT performance failures also prevent some new technologies from being effectively implemented, such as SharePoint and OneDrive.

Finally, components of the existing systems are failing, such as failed storage devices. The replacement components are now difficult to source and the systems are not covered by warranty, meaning that component failures could lead to catastrophic system outages.

### ***Risk of failure in meeting project specifications***

By evaluating proposals against defined requirements, conducting reference checks and performing an independent assessment the likelihood of failure by GlobalOne Technologies have been greatly mitigated. Council is also already using familiar technology, which will reduce the time that is required by the ICT team to understand and manage any upgraded and renewed system.

### ***Supply chain delays in delivery of components***

The global pandemic has caused unprecedented supply chain issues for many industries, including ICT. Supply of components is currently estimated to be 90-100 days lead time which may impede the team's efforts to complete this renewal within the 2021-2022 financial year.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The recommendation is in accordance with the following Strategic Objective of the Council Plan 2021-2025:

- 2.3 Access to technology that meets our evolving needs

## **FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Every effort has been made to balance the up-front cost of implementing a new system that meets Council's requirements with the projected future needs and expenditure. Where possible license and support costs have been included for 5 years to avoid larger costs in future.

The total cost of the solution is \$335,808 (GST exclusive). This is broken down as:

- hardware and vendor support/warranties: \$288,220
- professional services to implement: \$47,5878

This exceeds the original project budget of \$265,000 (GST exclusive) approved in the FY2020-2021 and carried forward to the current financial year.

The increased supply and demand pressures over the past 18 months and large component cost increases have resulted in an increase to the project's cost.

However, some of this increased capital expenditure will be offset by lower ICT licensing (operational) costs in future years.

## **CONSULTATION**

The requirements outlined in the advertised tender were developed by researching and discussing similar projects at other Victorian LGAs, internal ICT team workshops, and discussions with independent specialists.

All members of the ICT Team were involved in the evaluation of proposals and were guided by the expert advice provided by qualified third parties.

## **CONCLUSION**

Following a comprehensive evaluation process it is recommended that Council award the contract for ICT System Host and Storage Renewal FY21-22 to GlobalOne Technologies.

## **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

In accordance with section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, and Chapter 7 section A6 of Council's Governance Rules, the following officers declare that they have no interests to disclose in providing this report.

- Director Corporate Performance
- Manager Technology and Transformation
- ICT Coordinator

## **ATTACHMENT(S)**

Nil

## 8.3.4 Domestic Animal Management Plan

File Number: DAMP2022-2026

### INTRODUCTION

This report relates to the adoption of the Alpine Shire Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022-2026.

*Cr Prime*

*Cr Janas*

*That Council:*

- 1. adopts the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022-2026; and*
- 2. signs and seals the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022-2026 at the appropriate stage of this meeting.*

*Carried*

### BACKGROUND

Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) is reviewed every four years to meet Council's obligations under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*.

The Plan sets out how the Council will manage its domestic animal (cat and dog) population over a four-year period.

The Draft plan was adopted by Council on 9 November 2021 Council meeting and placed subsequently placed on public exhibition.

### ISSUES

Council made a commitment in the DAMP 2017-2021 to investigate into Cat Curfews. Unfortunately, Council has not delivered on this commitment due to several impacts in recent years. The Cat Curfew will now be investigated as part of the DAMP 2022-2026.

### SUBMISSIONS

Comments on draft DAMP	Key Change
Order of data so that most recent data is on the left	All tables have been amended to make them easier to read.

Comments on draft DAMP	Key Change
Greater controls on cats	The issue will require significant community engagement. This will be investigated in the DAMP 2022-2026 period. The draft DAMP 2022-2026 attracted 10 submissions. The majority indicated strong support for additional cat controls with a preference for a cat curfew.
Develop Collaborations with DELWP	This comment is noted but has not resulted in any change to the DAMP 2022-2026.
Create an Off Lead Dog Park	This suggestion has been noted and will be considered as part of the next review of the DAMP.
Cat Control Local Law	The creation of a specific cat control Local Law will be considered as part of a future Local Law review. Effective implementation and enforcement will be a key consideration.

## POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Council's DAMP is reviewed every four years to meet Council's obligations under the *Domestic Animal Management Act 1994*.

This report is consistent with the following strategic objective in the Council Plan.

A well planned and safe community.

## FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The initiatives contained within the DAMP are to be implemented over a four-year period. The DAMP 2022-2026 will not require additional resources over and above those already identified in the Strategic Resources Plan 2021/2022.

Actions to be delivered from 2022/2023 financial year onwards will be considered through the annual Council budgeting processes.

## CONSULTATION

Community consultation was conducted as part of the review process.

The Draft DAMP was placed on public exhibition for 28 days between 17 November and 15 December 2021. This was advertised in local newspapers and Council's Facebook page. The Draft DAMP was available on Council's website, hardcopies in libraries and the Bright office. In addition, individuals who have shown interest in the DAMP 2017-2021 over the last year received an email from Council inviting them to provide feedback.

Council has responded to each submission received.

## **CONCLUSION**

The DAMP 2022-2026 has been amended where required to respond to submissions received and meets Council's obligations under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*. If adopted a copy will be sent to the Victorian Government in accordance with the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*.

## **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

In accordance with section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, and Chapter 7 section A6 of Council's Governance Rules, the following officers declare that they have no interest to disclose in providing this report.

- Director Corporate Performance
- Manager Planning and Amenity
- Compliance Coordinator

## **ATTACHMENT(S)**

8.3.4 Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022-2026

### 8.3.5 Planning Application P.2021.124 - 650 Buffalo River Road, Buffalo River

<b>Application number:</b>	<i>P.2021.124</i>
<b>Proposal:</b>	<i>Use and Buildings and Works for a Dwelling, and Alteration of Access to a Road in a Road Zone - Category 1.</i>
<b>Applicant's name:</b>	<i>Mr David Hunter (Habitat Planning)</i>
<b>Owner's name:</b>	<i>Yvonne E Kennewell</i>
<b>Address:</b>	<i>650 Buffalo River Road, Buffalo River VIC 3737 (Lot 1 PS 316685C)</i>
<b>Land size:</b>	<i>3733sqm</i>
<b>Current use and development:</b>	<i>The site is currently developed with shedding.</i>
<b>Site features:</b>	<i>The site is of an irregular shape and relatively flat. The site contains several sheds and is fenced on all sides. There is an existing crossover located near the southern corner of the site.</i>
<b>Why is a permit required?</b>	<i>Clause 35.07-1 Use (FZ) Clause 35.07-4 Buildings and Works (FZ) Clause 44.04-2 Buildings and Works (LSIO) Clause 44.06-2 Buildings and Works (BMO) Clause 52.29-2 Alter access to a road in a Road Zone, Category 1</i>
<b>Zoning:</b>	<i>Farming Zone (FZ)</i>
<b>Overlays:</b>	<i>Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO)</i>
<b>Restrictive covenants on the title?</b>	<i>None</i>
<b>Date received:</b>	<i>22 November 2021 (amended plans)</i>
<b>Statutory days:</b>	<i>71 days</i>
<b>Planner:</b>	<i>James Trimble</i>

*Cr Janas*  
*Cr Prime*

*That a refusal be issued for the proposed Use and Buildings and Works for a Dwelling and Alteration of Access to a Road in a Road Zone - Category 1 for the reasons identified in appendix 8.3.5.a and on the following summarised grounds:*

- 1. The proposal does not meet the relevant planning permit framework of the Alpine Planning Scheme including relevant State and Local Policies, and the purposes and decision guidelines of the Farming Zone.*
- 2. The proposal does not provide for the orderly planning of the area.*
- 3. The proposal does not provide for adequate onsite wastewater management.*

*Carried*

## **PROPOSAL**

The proposal involves Use and Buildings and Works for a Dwelling, and Alteration of Access to a Road in a Road Zone - Category 1.

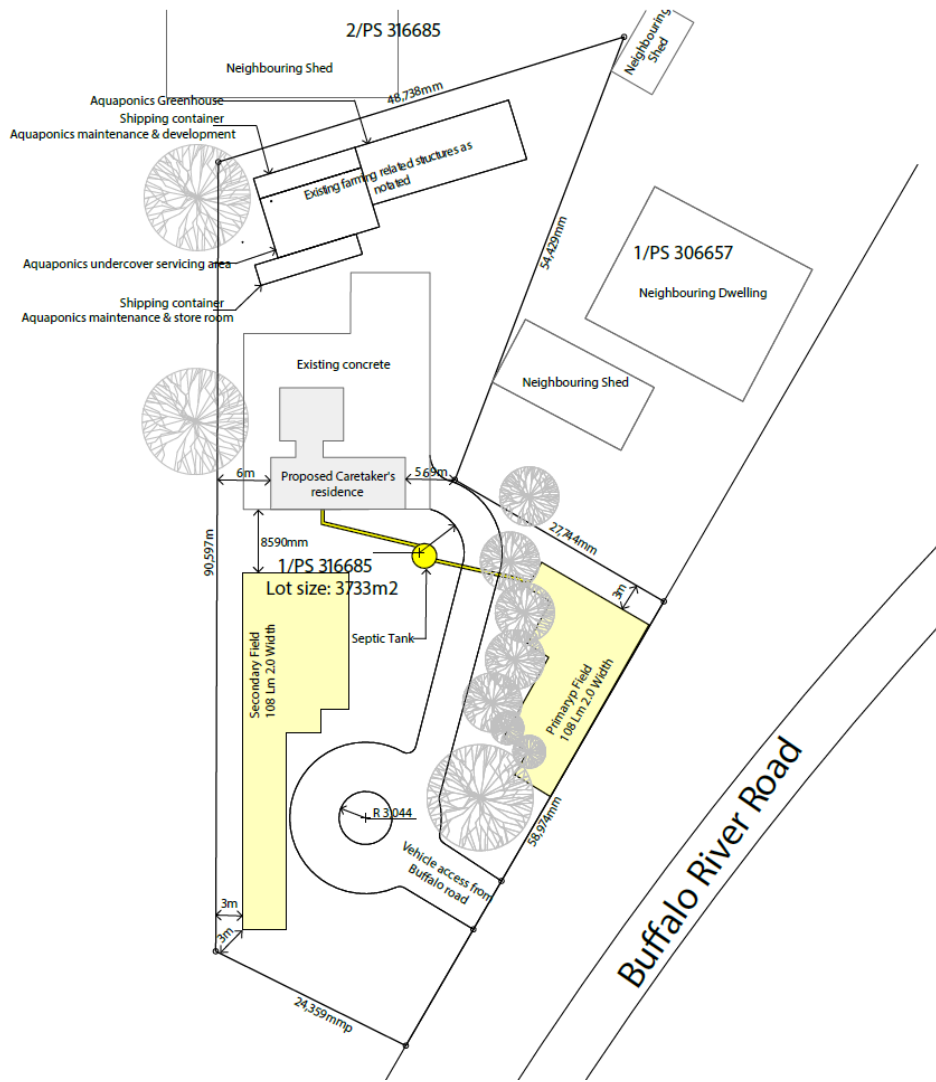
At ground floor the proposed dwelling has a single garage, open plan living and kitchen, separate laundry, two (2) bathrooms and a bedroom. An upper level is proposed with an office, two (2) bedrooms and a toilet.

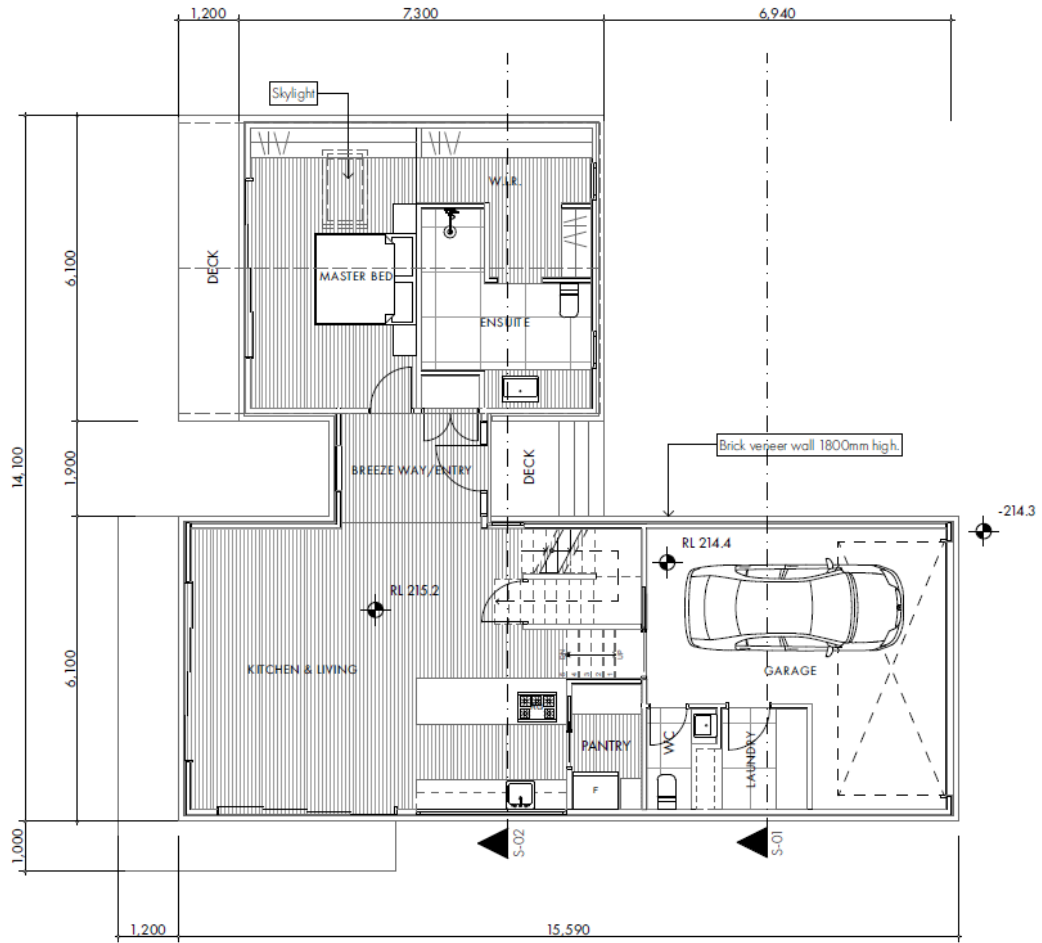
The minimum setbacks include 6 metres to the western (rear) lot boundary, approximately 26.9 metres to the northern (side) lot boundary, 5.69 metres to the eastern (side) lot boundary, and approximately 51.58 metres to the southern (side) lot boundary. An approximate minimum setback of 29.5 metres to Buffalo River Road is proposed.

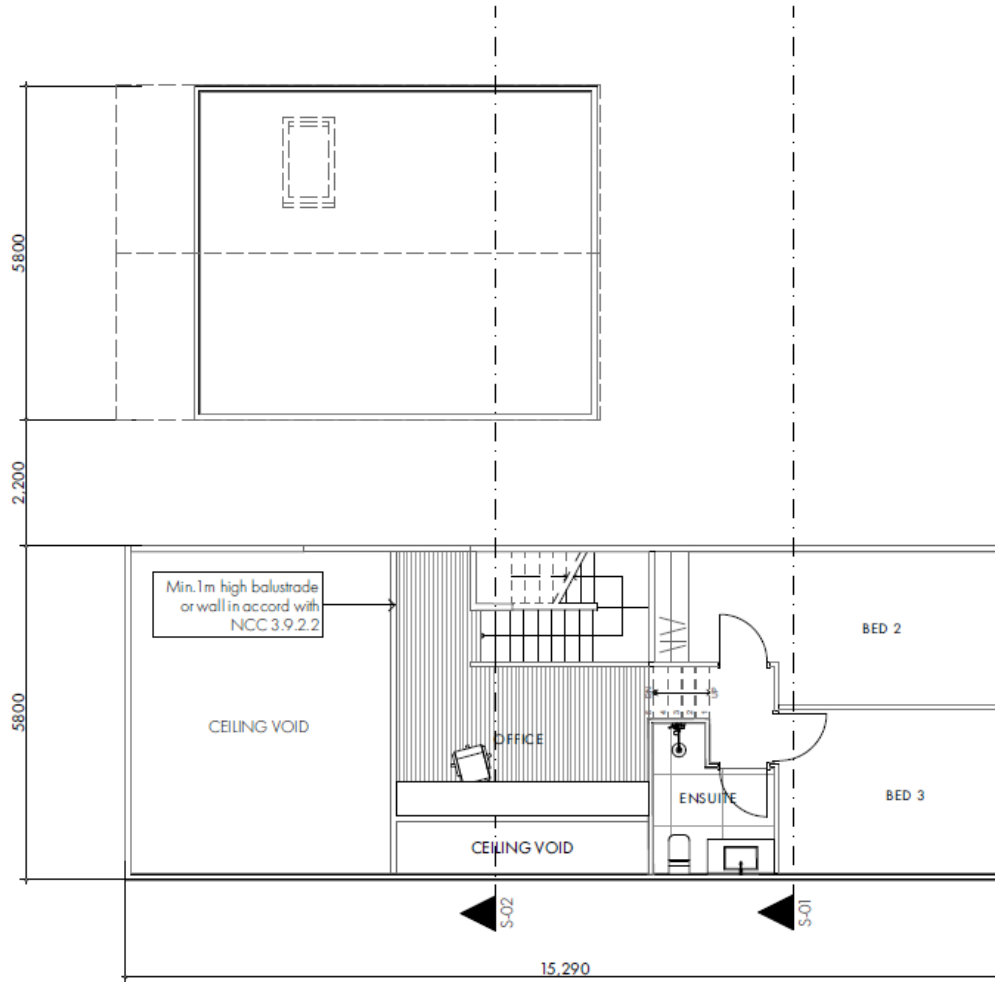
The maximum building height proposed is approximately seven (7) metres. External materials include Lysaght Enseam Metal Roof and Wall Cladding and brickwork.

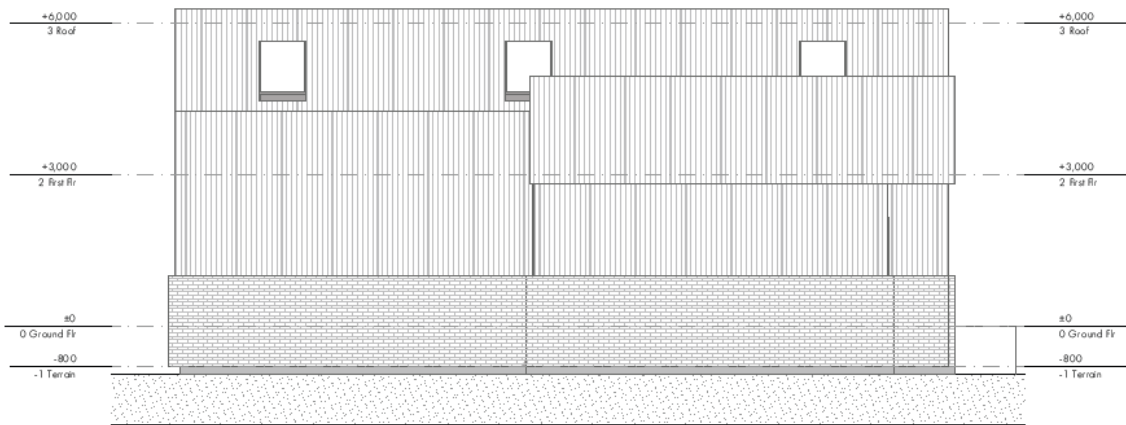
An associated onsite wastewater disposal area has been indicated to the south of the proposed dwelling, which includes both a primary and secondary field.





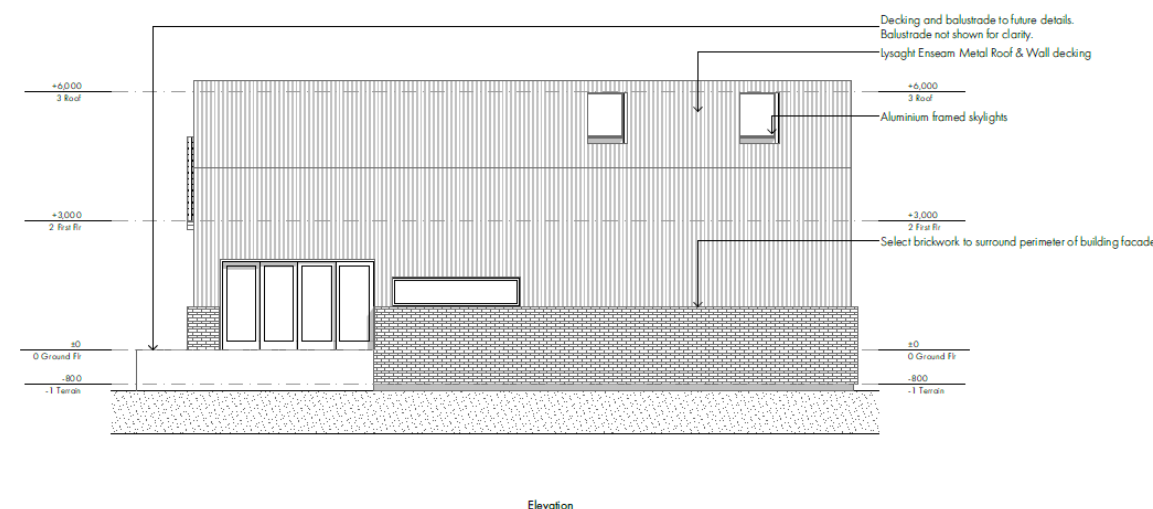






Elevation





**Figure 1: Shows the development layout on site.**

### SUBJECT LAND AND SURROUNDS

The site is an irregular shape with the side boundaries measuring 77.65 metres (abutting adjoining 648 Buffalo Rover Road, Buffalo River) and 178.65 metres (abutting adjoining 642 Buffalo River Road, Buffalo River), with the front lot boundary measuring 58.13 metres. The site has an area of 3,733sqm, contains several sheds, fencing on all sides, a concrete pad, a driveway, a crossover and landscaping, and is relatively flat.

The site is surrounded by land of varied lot sizes within the Farming Zone (3,217sqm to 116,267sqm), and to the east of the site on the eastern side of Buffalo River Road the land is zoned Rural Living Zone. Most of the surrounding smaller sites are developed for the purpose of a single dwelling, and larger lots being used for agricultural purposes. The site abuts Buffalo River Road which is zoned Road Zone – Category 1, and is sited approximately 240 metres to the south, and 285 metres to the east of Buffalo River.

### Planning History

Refusal 2011.83.1 was issued on 5 December 2012 for Use and Development of a Dwelling on the site. The reasons for refusal included wastewater disposal impact concerns on water quality, and associated wastewater not being able to be treated and retained on-site in accordance with the State Environment Protection Policy (Water of Victoria) under the *Environment Protection Act 1970*.

Corrected planning permit 2019.152.2 was issued on 20 April 2020 for Building and Works (Development of Agricultural Sea Containers and Greenhouse) associated with an Aquaculture (Aquaponics) Use on the site. This application was considered by Council at the 3 March 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting. The development approved in this permit incorporates the construction of two sea containers with an awning attached to northern sea container and one greenhouse to allow for the storage of aquaponics and associated equipment, testing and evaluating aquaponic systems. There is an associated endorsed landscaping plan and waste management plan.

Planning permit P.2020.221 was issued on 5 January 2021 for Buildings and Works for the Installation of a Chicken Coop on the site. The development approved in this permit incorporates the construction of a chicken coop and chicken fencing in the northern corner of the site.



**Figure 2: Subject land.**

## PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

The application was advertised in accordance with Section 52 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. Notice of the application was sent to surrounding landholders and occupiers. A sign was displayed on the site. Three (3) objections were received and maintained. The matters raised in the objections have been summarised as follows:

1. Compliance concerns
  - a. Failure to comply to comply with previous planning permit issued for the site
    - i. Conditions not met
    - ii. Potential for major infestation of foreign fish into the Buffalo River
    - iii. Inadequate drainage causing flooding
  - b. Has a permit for access to a Road in Road Zone - Category 1 been obtained?
  - c. Has a permit for a water tank at the end of the greenhouse been obtained?
  - d. Electric fencing non-compliant to Australian Standards
  - e. Already commenced building a dwelling on the site without a permit.
  - f. A person has been living on the site for more than 28 days in a calendar year. Associated wastewater concerns.
  - g. Does the steel structure on the site have a building permit?
2. Aquaculture activity does not exist on the site and does not provide adequate justification for the proposed dwelling.
3. The proposal is not environmentally appropriate
4. Water trust pipe concerns
  - a. Tapped into without approval from the water trust
  - b. Neighbouring access to water trust pipes not provided and denied
  - c. Previously broken water trust pipe, denying water to surrounding dwellings
  - d. Building over water trust pipes
  - e. Access to property for pipe maintenance and repair
  - f. Redirecting the water trust pipes
5. It will be an eyesore - Large bulky black metal cladding
6. Will devalue property values
7. Overlooking concerns - Loss of privacy within side and back yards
8. Overshadowing concerns
9. Boundary concerns - Do the subject plans reflect the property 'as is' or its true legal measurement?
10. Flooding impact concerns
  - a. Will result in build-up of debris
  - b. Will prevent floodwaters from dissipating along their natural course
  - c. Will cause flood waters to inundate surrounding properties

In response to the objections received the applicant submitted a response which is summarised below:

1. Compliance

- a. Compliance with previous planning permit issued for the site
    - i. In relation to the previous application, the applicant advises that the works on the current application are not yet complete and as such the 29 conditions will only apply in their entirety once a final inspection and certificate of occupancy has been issued. This application does not make any changes to the previously considered planning application.
    - ii. In relation to the uses on the land, it is clarified that the construction underway as per the previous planning approval is for Aquaponics. The applicant is required to meet all conditions of the previous approval in establishing these works and intends to do so as part of the works.
    - iii. The species of fish being considered are all native and the tanks are to be at a working height that is above the nominated 1 in 100 year inundation levels.
    - iv. The applicant advises that stormwater drainage is part of the current permit and works underway are not yet completed.
  - b. It is noted that the Regional Roads Victoria has no objection to the development, they require as a condition of development that the crossover be constructed and maintained in accordance with Vic Roads GD4010 subject to a permit for such works.
  - c. It is confirmed that water tanks are not part of the current permit.
  - d. All fencing is compliant to applicable regulations.
  - e. There has been no commencement of construction of a permanent dwelling on the property by the applicant.
  - f. The applicant is not permanently residing on the property. The applicant has camped on the property within the permitted time periods from time to time. Wastewater from any caravans on the property are collected and disposed of via the cassette toilet at the applicant's home in Myrtleford.
2. A dwelling on the property is an acceptable use of the land in supporting the proposed aquaponics and associated activities. The alternative has been a vacant unusable and largely untidy area of farmland.
  3. Environmental appropriateness - No response
  4. Water trust pipe
    - a. Water trust water has not been used to fill any water tanks. The applicant also notes in response to submissions that water trust pipes run through the subject site and exist without an easement or established location. It is not the fault of the applicant that easements have not been applied to the location of the pipes within the property. Despite this, the applicant acknowledges the location and advises that to their knowledge no buildings are proposed to be placed over Water Trust pipes.
    - b. The applicant notes the location of pipes and infrastructure in the land. It is also acknowledged that the applicant has facilitated access to the nominated maintenance contact for emergency repairs.
  5. The overall development of the site, including the previously permitted activities, have been professionally planned and arranged on the site to be an efficient and



appropriate development. Notably, the design is intended to provide a pleasant landscaped streetscape ensuring development is not imposing from Buffalo River Road. It is positioned as far as practical from the eastern property and to make use of the existing shed on adjoining land to screen sight lines as much as practically possible given all constraints. Finally, the development has been considered to ensure compliance with CFA bushfire guidelines .

6. It is considered that the proposal will not impact on property values as it seeks approval for a permitted use of land for rural purposes and that this is not dissimilar to the character of surrounding properties. Despite this, loss of property values is not a relevant planning consideration.
7. Overlooking was considered in detail when preparing the documentation for submission. The architectural package was carefully considered to avoid overlooking and other amenity impacts to adjoining properties, including 648 Buffalo River Road. It is noted that there are no windows in the second storey that will be facing the adjoining property at 648 Buffalo River Road from the second storey. There is also a reasonable distance and a shed building between the dwelling and the neighbouring property. Therefore, it is not considered that there will be any overlooking/privacy issues.
8. Overshadowing - No response
9. The applicant believes that the fence and driveway are wholly within the property boundary, however does not object to a survey being completed to verify exact location. Likewise, the applicant is agreeable to relocating the driveway away from the fence line to satisfy the neighbouring landowners concerns. This could be applied as a condition requiring amended plans in consultation with the neighbouring landowner or similar condition.
10. In relation to flooding concerns of neighbouring properties, it is noted that the land is within the LSIO rather than FO and that the extent of flooding across the land is not significant. The works carried out on site will not substantially alter flood flows or behaviour and it is not likely that adjoining properties will be more impacted by flooding. It is also noted that the application has been referred to North East Catchment Management Authority in relation to flooding and they have recommended approval subject to appropriate conditions. As such, the applicant believes that appropriate consideration has been given to flooding and that there will be no further impacts on adjoining properties.

The assessing officer's response is provided as follows:

1. Compliance. Any potential compliance issues with previous permits issued for the site, and use and buildings and works on the site, is beyond the scope of relevant planning considerations for this application. Each application is considered on its own merits.
2. Council's Compliance Coordinator has inspected the site and confirmed that an aquaponics activity is not currently operating on the site. There is no current agricultural/farming activity being undertaken on the site to provide adequate justification for the proposed dwelling, under the relevant state and local planning policies and farming zone considerations. No farm management plan has been

- submitted for the proposal and there is no guarantee that the site will be used for an agricultural/farming activity providing a need for a dwelling on the site.
3. Environmental appropriateness. The application was referred to Council's Health Team. A refusal response was provided. The proposal is not considered to be environmentally appropriate, due to failure to demonstrate that all wastewater for the proposed dwelling will be treated and retained within the lot in accordance with the requirements of the Environment Protection Regulations under the *Environment Protection Act 2017* for an on-site wastewater management system.
  4. Water trust pipe. The applicant submitted a recent copy of title for the land, including the relevant plan of subdivision. The relevant plan of subdivision being PS316685C does not identify any easements on the site. The application including the amended plans were referred to North East Water for comment. A letter of no objection was received.
  5. The external building materials include brickwork and Lysaght Enseam Metal Roof and Wall Cladding. These materials are considered appropriate subject to appropriate conditions if the application were to be supported. The proposed dwelling has a maximum height of approximately 6.8 metres, is setback approximately 29.5 metres from the Buffalo River Road lot boundary and has an approximate ground floor area of 152sqm. The scale and bulk intensity of the proposal is considered appropriate.
  6. Property values. The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal has regularly determined that this is not a relevant planning consideration.
  7. Overlooking concerns. The proposal is not considered to result in substantial additional overlooking impacts. The nearest existing dwelling is sited approximately 26.22m to the north-east of the proposed dwelling. This existing dwelling has private open space to the north.
  8. Overshadowing concerns. The proposal is not considered to result in substantial additional overshadowing impacts. The nearest existing dwelling is sited approximately 26.22m to the north-east of the proposed dwelling. This existing dwelling has private open space to the north.
  9. Boundary concerns. A suitable condition could be included should the application be supported, requiring a title re-establishment survey. It is understood that the proposed buildings and works can be constructed entirely within the site.
  10. Flooding impact concerns. The site is covered entirely by the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay within the Alpine Planning Scheme. The application was referred to the North East Catchment Management Authority (NECMA) for consideration of flooding impacts. Conditional consent was provided subject to the submission of amended plans which demonstrate compliance with the conditions requested by NECMA. The proposal is considered to meet the relevant flooding considerations.

A planning forum was held on 13 January 2022.

**REFERRALS**

Referrals / Notice	Advice / Response / Conditions
Section 55 referrals	<p>Country Fire Authority - No objection, subject to conditions.  North East Catchment Management Authority - No objection, subject to conditions.  Regional Roads Victoria - No objection, subject to conditions.  Goulburn Murray Water - No objection, subject to conditions.</p>
Section 52 referrals	<p>North East Water - No objection</p>
Internal referrals:	<p>Council's Engineering Department - No objection, subject to conditions.  Council's Environmental Health Department - Objection</p> <p><i>The submitted plans suggest that the available site would be inadequate for long term wastewater disposal.</i></p> <p><i>Further grounds for objecting to approving the planning permit include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a. The wastewater disposal area must be located in accordance with Table 5 of the Environment Protection Act Code of Practice – Onsite Wastewater Management, Publication 891.4, July 2016, from any waterways, drainage lines, dams or bores.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>i. The secondary field along the western boundary does not meet the required setback from the undefined adjacent waterbody.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li><i>b. Insufficient land application area. All wastewater must be applied to land via pressure-compensating sub-surface irrigation installed along the contour.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>i. As the secondary field does not meet the setbacks, the primary field is insufficient for the required land application area.</i></li> <li><i>ii. Additionally, the primary field does not meet the required setbacks from the front boundary adjacent to Buffalo River road.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li><i>c. Limited water balance table provided</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>i. Water balance table: a calculation of the area required for wastewater disposal based on a full water balance specific to the site and proposed development in accordance with the EPA Code of Practice Onsite Wastewater Management.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## **PLANNING ASSESSMENT**

All applicable policy and decision guidelines can be found in Appendix 8.3.5(b).

### **State Planning Policy Framework**

The following State Planning Policy Framework (SPPF) does not give support to the proposal.

Clause 14.01-1S Protection of Agricultural Land as the proposal does not:

- Prevent inappropriately dispersed urban activities in rural areas.
- Limit new housing in rural areas.
- Fully consider the sites agricultural land capability.

Clause 16.01-3S Rural Residential Development as the proposal does not:

- Protect agriculture and avoid inappropriate rural residential development.
- Discourage development of small lots in rural zones for residential use.

### **Local Planning Policy Framework**

The following Local Planning Policy Framework (LPPF) does not give support to the proposal.

Clause 21.03-2 Rural Residential Living as the proposal does not protect rural land from inappropriate development, as the site is classified as high quality for agriculture within the Alpine Shire Council Agriculture Precincts and Land Capability mapping, referenced within the Alpine Shire Council Rural Land Strategy (2015)

Clause 21.03-3 Rural lifestyle, subdivision and dwellings as the proposal is not linked to and required for an agricultural, associated rural activity or rural tourism purpose, and the proposal results in the loss of agricultural land that is of strategic significance in the local context, as the proposal does not:

- Limit rural lifestyle development in agricultural areas.
- Discourage the proliferation of dwellings not associated with agriculture.
- Demonstrate that the dwelling is required to support a legitimate, established agricultural or rural activity/ies.

Clause 21.05-3 Agriculture as the proposal does not protect strategically significant agricultural land for production, and protect the land from residential expansion, as the proposal does not:

- Reinforce agricultural production as the primary purpose of the Farming Zone.
- Protect agricultural land from inappropriate use and development such as isolated non-agricultural uses including residential uses.
- Protect strategically significant agricultural land to support future agricultural industries.
- Ensure that rural land is used and developed in a way that will support agricultural production.

Clause 21.06-1 Infrastructure as the proposal does not reduce the loss of agricultural land for the purposes of urban/residential development.

Clause 22.03-2 Agriculture as the proposal does not;

- discourage the conversion of agricultural land to non-soil based use and development, and it has not been demonstrated that the proposal complements the agricultural base of the shire and
- discourage development which is sensitive off site effects and may prejudice agricultural production.

## **Zoning**

The subject land is zoned Farming Zone. The proposal does not meet the considerations of the Farming Zone for the following reasons:

- The proposal does not provide of the use of land for agriculture.
- The proposal does not encourage use and development of land based on comprehensive and sustainable land management practices and infrastructure provision.
- It has not been clearly demonstrated that all wastewater for the proposed dwelling will be treated and retained within the lot in accordance with the requirements of the Environment Protection Regulations under the Environment Protection Act 2017 for an on-site wastewater management system.
- It has not been clearly demonstrated that the proposal will support and enhance agricultural production.
- The dwelling will be adversely affected by agricultural activities on adjacent land due to dust, noise, and odour.
- The location of on-site effluent disposal areas have not been sited to minimise the impact of nutrient loads on waterways.

## **Land Subject to Inundation Overlay**

The land is covered entirely by the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay. There is a planning permit trigger for the proposal at clause 44.04-2. The application was referred to the North East Catchment Management Authority (NECMA) for comment. Conditional consent was provided. The application is considered to meet the relevant requirements of the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay, subject to conditions if approved.

## **Bushfire Management Overlay**

The land is covered entirely by the Bushfire Management Overlay. There is a planning permit trigger for the proposal at clause 44.06-2. The application was referred to the Country Fire Association (CFA) for comment. Conditional consent was provided. The application is considered to meet the relevant requirements of the Bushfire Management Overlay, subject to conditions if approved.

## **Particular Provisions**

### **Clause 52.06 - Car Parking**

Pursuant to the requirements of Table 1 within clause 52.06 the proposal requires the provision of 2 onsite car spaces and at least 1 space must be provided under cover. The application is considered to meet the relevant requirements of this clause, subject to conditions if approved. A detailed assessment of the proposal against the provisions of Clause 52.06 is contained on the planning file – reference no. P.2021.124.

### **Clause 52.29 - Land adjacent to a Road in a Road Zone, Category 1**

The application was referred to Regional Roads Victoria (RRV) for comment. Conditional consent was provided. The application is considered to meet the relevant requirements of this clause, subject to conditions if approved.

### **Clause 53.02 – Bushfire Planning**

The application was referred to the Country Fire Association (CFA) for comment. Conditional consent was provided. The application is considered to meet the relevant requirements of this clause, subject to conditions if approved.

## **General Provisions**

Clause 65.01 of the Alpine Planning Scheme provides the general decision guidelines that must be considered before deciding on an application. A detailed assessment of the proposal against the provisions of Clause 65.01 is contained on the planning file – reference no. P.2021.124. The proposal is considered to have a negative effect on the environment due to not providing adequate onsite wastewater management and does not provide for the orderly planning of the area.

## **CONCLUSION**

The application is not considered to be consistent with the Alpine Planning Scheme and should be refused for the following summarised reasons:

1. The proposal does not meet the relevant planning permit framework of the Alpine Planning Scheme including relevant State and Local Policies, and the purposes and decision guidelines of the Farming Zone.
2. The proposal does not provide for the orderly planning of the area.
3. The proposal does not provide for adequate onsite wastewater management.

## **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

In accordance with section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, and Chapter 7 section A6 of Council's Governance Rules, the following officers declare that they have no interests to disclose in providing this report.

- Director Corporate Performance
- Acting / Manager Planning and Amenity
- Planning Officer

## **APPENDICIES**

8.3.5.a. Reasons for refusal

8.3.5.b. Policy and decision guidelines

**Appendix 8.3.5.a. Reasons for refusal**

1. The proposal does not comply with Clause 14.01-1S Protection of Agricultural Land as the proposal does not:
  - a. Prevent inappropriately dispersed urban activities in rural areas.
  - b. Limit new housing in rural areas.
  - c. Fully consider the sites agricultural land capability.
2. The proposal does not comply with Clause 16.01-3S Rural Residential Development as the proposal does not:
  - a. Protect agriculture and avoid inappropriate rural residential development.
  - b. Discourage development of small lots in rural zones for residential use.
3. The proposal does not comply with Clause 21.03-2 Rural Residential Living as the proposal does not protect rural land from inappropriate development, as the site is classified as high quality for agriculture.
4. The proposal does not comply with Clause 21.03-3 Rural lifestyle, subdivision and dwellings as the proposal is not linked to and required for an agricultural, associated rural activity or rural tourism purpose, and the proposal results in the loss of agricultural land that is of strategic significance in the local context, as the proposal does not:
  - a. Limit rural lifestyle development in agricultural areas.
  - b. Discourage the proliferation of dwellings not associated with agriculture.
  - c. Demonstrate that the dwelling is required to support a legitimate, established agricultural or rural activity/ies.
5. The proposal does not comply with Clause 21.05-3 Agriculture as the proposal does not protect strategically significant agricultural land for production, and protect the land from residential expansion, as the proposal does not:
  - a. Reinforce agricultural production as the primary purpose of the Farming Zone.
  - b. Protect agricultural land from inappropriate use and development such as isolated non-agricultural uses including residential uses.
  - c. Protect strategically significant agricultural land to support future agricultural industries.
  - d. Ensure that rural land is used and developed in a way that will support agricultural production.
6. The proposal does not comply with Clause 21.06-1 Infrastructure as the proposal does not reduce the loss of agricultural land for the purposes of urban/residential development.
7. The proposal does not comply with Clause 22.03-2 Agriculture as the proposal does not



- a. Discourage the conversion of agricultural land to non-soil based use and development, and it has not been demonstrated that the proposal complements the agricultural base of the shire.
  - b. Discourage development which is sensitive off site effects and may prejudice agricultural production.
8. The proposal is inconsistent with the considerations of the Farming Zone for the following reasons:
- a. It does not implement the relevant Planning Policy Framework.
  - b. It does not provide for the use of land for agriculture.
  - c. It has not been clearly demonstrated that all wastewater for the proposed dwelling will be treated and retained within the lot in accordance with the requirements of the Environment Protection Regulations under the Environment Protection Act 2017 for an on-site wastewater management system.
  - d. It has not been clearly demonstrated that the proposal will support and enhance agricultural production.
  - e. The dwelling will be adversely affected by agricultural activities on adjacent land due to dust, noise, and odour.
  - f. The location of on-site effluent disposal areas have not been sited to minimise the impact of nutrient loads on waterways.
9. The proposal will have a negative effect on the environment and human health due to not providing adequate onsite wastewater management.
10. The proposal does not provide for the orderly planning of the area.

### **8.3.5.b POLICY AND DECISION GUIDELINES**

All of the below mentioned relevant planning considerations from the Alpine Planning Scheme may be viewed at the following link: <https://planning-schemes.delwp.vic.gov.au/schemes/alpine>.

#### **State Planning Policy Framework**

The State Planning Policy Framework (SPPF) provides relevant direction to the proposal at the following clauses:

- 11.01-1S Settlement
- 13.01-1S Natural hazards and climate change
- 13.02-1S Bushfire planning
- 13.03-1S Floodplain management
- 13.07-1S Land use compatibility
- 14.01-1S Protection of agricultural land
- 14.01-2S Sustainable agricultural land use
- 14.02-1S Catchment planning and management
- 15.01-2S Building design
- 15.01-5S Neighbourhood character
- 15.01-6S Design for rural areas
- 16.01-1S Housing supply
- 16.01-3S Rural residential development
- 18.02-4S Car parking

#### **Local Planning Policy Framework**

The Local Planning Policy Framework (LPPF) provides relevant direction to the proposal at the following clauses:

- 21.03-2 Rural residential living
- 21.03-3 Rural lifestyle, subdivision and dwellings
- 21.04-4 Environmental risk
- 21.04-6 Catchments and waterways
- 21.05-3 Agriculture
- 21.06-1 Infrastructure
- 21.07-11 Rural Precincts
- 22.03-2 Agriculture

### **Zone**

The land is zoned Farming Zone.

### **Overlays**

The land is covered entirely by the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay and Bushfire Management Overlay.

### **Particular Provisions**

52.06 Car Parking

52.29 Land adjacent to a Road Zone, Category 1

53.02 Bushfire Planning

### **General Provisions**

Clauses 65.01 within the Alpine Planning Scheme provides the general decision guidelines.

**8.3.6 Planning Application P.2021.144 - 35 Station Street Porepunkah**

<b>Application number:</b>	<i>P.2021.144</i>
<b>Proposal:</b>	<i>Use and Buildings and Works for a Store, and a Car Parking Waiver.</i>
<b>Applicant's name:</b>	<i>Mr Nick Vlahandreas (Mountain Planning)</i>
<b>Owner's name:</b>	<i>Madharjack Pty Ltd</i>
<b>Address:</b>	<i>35 Station Street, Porepunkah VIC 3740 (Lot 2 PS 635322L)</i>
<b>Land size:</b>	<i>1000sqm</i>
<b>Current use and development:</b>	<i>The site is currently used as a store and developed with several sea containers.</i>
<b>Site features:</b>	<i>The site is of a rectangular shape and relatively flat. The site contains several sea containers sited towards the rear and is fenced on all sides. There is an existing crossover located near the southern corner of the site. There is a sealed footpath, two (2) small street trees and a constructed kerb and channel in the verge in front of the site. There is a 6 metre wide drainage easement along the rear lot boundary of the site to the benefit of Alpine Shire.</i>
<b>Why is a permit required?</b>	<i>Clause 32.05-2 Use (TZ) Clause 32.05-10 Buildings and Works (TZ) Clause 44.06-2 Buildings and Works (BMO) Clause 52.06-3 Car Parking Waiver</i>
<b>Zoning:</b>	<i>Township Zone (TZ)</i>
<b>Overlays:</b>	<i>Bushfire Management Overlay - Schedule 1 (BMO1)</i>
<b>Restrictive covenants on the title?</b>	<i>None</i>
<b>Date received:</b>	<i>8 December 2021 (amended plans)</i>
<b>Statutory days:</b>	<i>55 days</i>
<b>Planner:</b>	<i>James Trimble</i>

*Cr Hughes*  
*Cr Prime*

*That a Notice of Decision to grant a planning permit be issued for Use and Buildings and Works for a Store and a Car Parking Waiver in accordance with the conditions outlined in Appendix 8.3.6.a. and the following summarised reasons:*

- 1. The proposal generally meets the relevant provisions of the:*
  - a. State and Local Planning Policy Framework;*
  - b. Township Zone;*
  - c. Particular provisions including*
    - i. clause 52.06 Car Parking,*
    - ii. 53.02 Bushfire Planning,*
    - iii. 53.18 Stormwater Management in Urban Development;*
  - d. Decision Guidelines at Clauses 65.01.*
- 2. The proposal provides an appropriate design, and respects the existing and desired neighbourhood character.*

*Carried*

## **PROPOSAL**

The proposal involves Use and Buildings and Works for a Store, and a Car Parking Waiver.

### Use and Buildings and Works for a Store

The Use and Buildings and Works for the Construction of a Store component involves 24 shipping containers with a total floor area of 387sqm. The buildings have a maximum height of 2.98 metres. The shipping containers will be grey in colour. The buildings have a setback of 6 metres from Station Street, a 4.81 metre setback from the side (north-western) lot boundary, a 6 metre setback from the rear (north-eastern) lot boundary, and a 5.05 metre setback from the side (south-eastern) lot boundary. Vehicle access is proposed around the buildings, making use of an existing crossover at the front of the site. A 10,000 litre water tank is proposed in the rear setback area. A 1.2 metre wide landscaping area is proposed within the street setback and a 2 metre wide landscaping area is proposed in the rear setback area. Proposed landscaping includes Japanese Maples and grass.

### Car Parking Waiver.

The Car Parking Waiver component involves the provision of no formal onsite car spaces in lieu of 10% of the site area (100sqm), as stated in Table 1, within clause 52.06 Car Parking within the Alpine Planning Scheme.



**Figure 3: Shows the development layout on site.**

**SUBJECT LAND AND SURROUNDS**

The site has a total area of 1,000sqm, is rectangular in shape and is relatively flat. The site is currently used as a store, has several sea containers sited towards the rear, and is fenced on all sides. There is a 6-metre-wide drainage easement along the entire rear lot boundary, to the benefit of Alpine Shire Council.

Vehicle access to the site is via an existing sealed crossover located near the southern corner of the site. There is a sealed footpath, two (2) small street trees and a constructed kerb and channel in the verge in front of the site.



All surrounding sites are zoned Township Zone. Within 5 sites of the subject site in all directions, lot sizes range from approximately 405sqm at 1/24 Station Street to 17,287sqm at 47 Station St, Porepukah. Adjoining sites to the north, south and west contain an existing dwelling. The dwelling at adjoining 33 Station Street has an approximate street setback of nine (9) metres.

39 Station Street, 43 Station Street, 45C Station Street and 47 Station Street in close proximity of the site are developed and used for non-residential purposes. The smallest of these sites has an area of approximately 978sqm. The buildings at adjoining 39 Station Street have been approved with a street setback of eight (8) metres.



Figure 4: Subject land.

## PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

The application was advertised in accordance with Section 52 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. Notice of the application was sent to surrounding landholders and occupiers. A sign was displayed on the site. Five (5) objections were received and maintained. The matters raised in the objection have been summarised as follows:

1. External colour will negatively affect the amenity of the area. Should be a neutral colour.
2. Proposed landscaping will not provide adequate screening.
3. Non-compliance with planning permit for another store facility in close proximity.
4. Driveway width is a concern. Not wide enough for car and trailer or furniture removal vans to turn.
5. Devalue property values.
6. Lack of side setback to 33 Station Street.
7. Height not appropriate.

8. Overshadowing of 33 Station Street.
9. Loss of views to the east.
10. Not in keeping with the character of the area. Does not contribute positively to the local context and enhance the public realm. Unightly.

In response to the objections received the applicant submitted amended plans to address some of the issues raised by the objectors. These amended plans were circulated to all objectors.

The assessing officer's response is provided as follows and is based on the most recent version of plans:

1. External colour. The plans state that the shipping containers will be grey in colour. This is considered suitable. A suitable condition will be included should the application be supported.
2. Landscaping is a relevant planning consideration pursuant to
  - a. 15.01-1S Urban Design - Ensure that development provides landscaping that supports the amenity, attractiveness, and safety of the public realm.
  - b. 15.01-2S Building Design - Ensure development provides landscaping that responds to its site context, enhances the built form, and creates safe and attractive spaces
  - c. 21.05-2 Commercial and Industrial - Promote appropriate landscaping in commercial and industrial areas.
  - d. 22.03-4 Industrial area policy - Landscaping should be provided along common property boundaries and within frontage setbacks and areas. Landscaping should use suitable native indigenous species. In designing landscaping consideration should be given to management of fire risk.
  - e. 32.05-13 Industrial Zone – Decision guidelines - Provision of car and bicycle parking and loading bay facilities and landscaping.

Should the application be supported suitable conditions would be included to ensure native evergreen, established landscaping is provided within the street setback area. As the site is covered by the bushfire management overlay and defensible space requirements apply. No formal onsite car and bicycle parking spaces are proposed and therefore there is no associated landscaping need for such facilities. The provision of landscaping to provide full screening of the proposed buildings and works from the street is not possible.

3. Non-compliance with planning permit for another store facility in close proximity – This is not a relevant planning consideration for this application. Every planning application is considered on its own merits.
4. Driveway width. The application has been assessed against the provisions of clause 52.06-9 design standards for car parking which includes accessway considerations. The application was referred to Council's Engineering Team and conditional consent was provided. A 12.5m long vehicle will not be able to enter and exit the site in a forward gear. This is the length of a Heavy Rigid Truck and a common length for a car and trailer. A 10m long vehicle may be able to enter and exit the site in a forward



gear subject to the submission of amended plans. This is the length of a medium rigid truck. Should the application be supported suitable conditions would be included.

5. Devalue property values – This is not a relevant planning consideration as determined by VCAT.
6. Side setback to 33 Station St. Setbacks are a relevant planning consideration for this application pursuant to:
  - a. 22.03-4 Industrial areas policy- Building heights, setbacks and form should have regard to and seek to be compatible with the surrounding development and the character of the locality in which the development is situated.
  - b. 32.05-13 Township Zone decision guidelines - The design, height, setback and appearance of the proposed buildings and works including provision for solar access.

The application proposes a 4.81 metre setback to 33 Station St. The proposed use isn't one which is considered likely to generate noise, dust, detrimental amenity issues etc and based on the existing surrounding developed site context the side setback to 33 Station St is considered suitable.

7. Building height is a relevant consideration for this application pursuant to:
  - a. 15.01-2S Building design - Ensure a comprehensive site analysis forms the starting point of the design process and provides the basis for the consideration of height, scale and massing of new development.
  - b. 21.03-4 Built form and heritage - Where appropriate limit the height of buildings in towns and villages to reflect the current character and urban design and to maintain rural and mountain vistas.
  - c. 22.03-4 – Industrial areas policy - Building heights, setbacks and form should have regard to and seek to be compatible with the surrounding development and the character of the locality in which the development is situated.
  - d. 32.05-13 Township Zone – Decision guidelines - The design, height, setback and appearance of the proposed buildings and works including provision for solar access.

The proposed building height of 2.98m is considered appropriate for the site in the context of existing surrounding development within 5 sites with the same zoning, with a higher building height. Whilst it is recognised that the building height is referred to in the application report but not the plans a condition would be included to ensure this information is provided on the plans.

8. Overshadowing. The proposal is not considered to result in substantial overshadowing of adjoining 33 Station St because the proposed side setbacks and building height minimise the extent of any overshadowing. There are no habitable room windows at 33 Station St, within 1 metre of the common lot boundary with 35 Station St.
9. Views. There is minimal consideration of the impact on existing views. There are strategies in PPF 15.01-2S Building Design and LPPF 21.03-4 Built Form and Heritage

relevant to views, however the proposal is considered to meet the objectives of these policies in relation to views.

#### 10. Neighbourhood Character

- a. The area considered to form the existing neighbourhood character was all lots with the same zoning, within 5 sites in all directions.
- b. Adjoining sites to the north, south and west contain an existing dwelling. The dwelling at adjoining 33 Station Street has an approximate street setback of nine (9) metres.
- c. 39 Station St, 43 Station St, 45C Station and 47 Station Street are developed and used for non-residential purposes. 39 Station Street abutting the site to the east, has planning permit approval for Use of Land and Building and Works for the Construction of a Store (Self Storage Facility). The endorsed plans forming part of this permit indicate:
  - i. a minimum eight (8)m setback of buildings from Station Street,
  - ii. a 1.2m wide landscaping area within the street setback area
- d. Respecting character does not mean preventing change. The neighbourhood character standard is not intended to result in the replication of existing building stock or stop change. In simple terms, respect for the character of a neighbourhood means that the development should try to 'fit in'.
- e. A minimum 6 metre street setback is proposed to single storey development.
- f. The proposal is not considered to result in change in the streetscape and neighbourhood characteristics, subject to conditions including the requirement to have a minimum 8 metre street setback.
- g. Should the application be supported suitable conditions would be included.

An objector's forum was held on 16 December 2021.

#### REFERRALS

Referrals / Notice	Advice / Response / Conditions
Section 55 referrals	Country Fire Authority - No objection, subject to conditions. Ausnet - No objection, subject to conditions.
Section 52 referrals	North East Catchment Management Authority - No objection, subject to conditions.
Internal referrals:	Council's Engineering Department - No objection, subject to conditions. Council's Arborist Department - No objection, subject to conditions.

#### PLANNING ASSESSMENT

All applicable policy and decision guidelines can be found in Attachment 8.3.6.(b).

### **State Planning Policy Framework**

The following State Planning Policy Framework (SPPF) gives support to the proposal.

15.01-5S Neighbourhood character

The proposal respects the existing neighbourhood character as it responds to its context.

17.01-1S Diversified economy

The proposal will strengthen and diversify the economy.

17.02-1S Business

To proposal encourages development that meets the community's needs for other commercial services.

### **Local Planning Policy Framework**

The following Local Planning Policy Framework (LPPF) gives support to the proposal.

21.05-2 Commercial and industrial

The proposal will enhance the economic competitiveness of the area.

21.07-5 Porepunkah

The proposal is of a scale and bulk that reflects that of existing development in the area.

The subject land is located in the former railway goods area, where service and light industrial uses are encouraged.

### **Zoning**

The subject land is zoned Township Zone. The proposal is consistent with the purposes and decision guidelines of the Township Zone for the following reasons:

- The proposal respects the neighbourhood character of the area.
- The proposal includes a non-residential use which will serve local community needs in an appropriate location.
- The design, heights, setbacks and appearance of the proposed buildings and works are generally appropriate for the site, subject to conditions.
- The scale and intensity of the use and development is appropriate for the site, subject to conditions.
- The safety, efficiency and amenity effects of traffic to be generated by the proposal are appropriate for the site, subject to conditions.
- Existing uses on adjoining or nearby land will have minimal effect *on the proposal*.

### **Bushfire Management Overlay**

The land is covered entirely by the Bushfire Management Overlay. There is a planning permit trigger for the proposal at clause 44.06-2. The application was referred to the Country Fire Association (CFA) for comment. Conditional consent was provided. The application is considered to meet the relevant requirements of the Bushfire Management Overlay, subject to the submission of an amended Bushfire Management Plan to be

consistent with the proposed site layout as indicated on the amended plans submitted 8 December 2021. A suitable condition has been included should the application be supported.

## **Particular Provisions**

### **Clause 52.06 - Car Parking**

Pursuant to Table 1 within clause 52.06-5, 10% of the site area (100sqm) should be provided as car parking. No car parking is proposed onsite. Pursuant to 52.06-3 there is a permit trigger for the proposed car parking waiver. The application has been assessed against the relevant considerations at clause 52.06-7. A detailed assessment of the proposal against the provisions of Clause 52.06 is contained on the planning file – reference no. P.2021.144. The application is considered to meet the relevant requirements of this clause, subject to conditions if approved.

### **Clause 53.02 – Bushfire Planning**

The application was referred to the Country Fire Association (CFA) for comment. Consent was provided. The application is considered to meet the relevant requirements of this clause, subject to conditions.

### **Clause 53.18 – Stormwater Management in Urban Development**

The application was referred to the North East Catchment Management Authority (NECMA) and Council's Engineering Department for comment. Conditional consent was provided by both. The application is considered to meet the relevant requirements of this clause, subject to conditions.

## **General Provisions**

Clause 65.01 of the Alpine Planning Scheme provides the general decision guidelines that must be considered before deciding on an application. A detailed assessment of the proposal against the provisions of Clauses 65.01 is contained on the planning file – reference no. P.2021.144. The proposal is generally in accordance with the decision guidelines.

## **CONCLUSION**

The application is considered to be consistent with the Alpine Planning Scheme and should be approved for the following summarised reasons:

1. The proposal generally meets the relevant provisions of the:
  - a. State and Local Planning Policy Framework;
  - b. Township Zone;
  - c. Particular provisions including 52.06 Car Parking, 53.02 Bushfire Planning, 53.18 Stormwater Management in Urban Development.
  - d. Decision Guidelines at Clause 65.01.

2. The proposal provides an appropriate design and respects the existing and desired neighbourhood character.

### **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

In accordance with section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, and Chapter 7 section A6 of Council's Governance Rules, the following officers declare that they have no interests to disclose in providing this report.

- Director Corporate Performance
- Manager Planning and Amenity
- Planning Coordinator
- Planning Officer

### **APPENDICIES**

- 8.3.6.a Conditions
- 8.3.6.b Policy and decision guidelines

### **Appendix 8.3.6.a. Conditions**

#### **Amended Plans Required - Development**

1. Before the development start(s), amended plans to the satisfaction of the responsible authority must be submitted to and approved by the responsible authority. When approved, the plans will be endorsed and will then form part of the permit. The plans must be drawn to scale with dimensions. The plans must be generally in accordance with the plans submitted with the application but modified to show:
  - a. A minimum street setback of 8 metres.
  - b. Maximum building height of 2.98 metres (or lessor) above natural ground level.
  - c. An altered Bushfire Management Plan which is consistent with the Mountain Planning Plan, Site Plain, Rev: A, Date 7 December 2021.
  - d. An amended Bushfire Management Plan in accordance with the requirements of the conditions of this permit.
  - e. The floor level of the storage units being elevated a minimum of 500 mm above surrounding natural surface levels.
  - f. That a 10-metre-long vehicle is able to enter and exit the site in a forward gear in accordance with the relevant Australian Standards. Swept path diagrams must be shown on the plans.
  - g. Landscaping with native evergreen hedges, bushes and/or trees within the Station Street setback area to soften the presence of the use and building and works authorised by this permit from both surrounding properties, roadways and the broader public realm. All species selected must be to the satisfaction of the responsible authority. Details of the landscaping must include:
    - i. A minimum of four (4) native indigenous canopy trees (minimum two metres tall when planted) within the street setback area;
    - ii. A planting schedule of all proposed trees, shrubs and ground covers, including botanical names, common names, pot sizes, sizes at maturity, and quantities of each plant;
    - iii. The means of watering/irrigation proposed to be used;
    - iv. Details of weed and invasive plant species management;
    - v. Landscaping consistent with the vegetation management requirements of clause 53.02 Bushfire Planning within the Alpine Planning Scheme.

#### **Endorsed Plans**

2. The layout of the site and the size of the proposed buildings and works must be generally in accordance with the endorsed plan/s which form part of this permit. The endorsed plan/s must not be altered or modified (whether or not to comply with any statute statutory rule or local law or for any other reason) without the prior written consent of the responsible authority.

#### **External Materials and Colours**

3. The external materials of the building(s) including the roof must be constructed in materials of muted colours, to the satisfaction of the responsible authority. No

materials having a highly reflective surface shall be used. For the purposes of this condition 'highly reflective' includes but is not limited to unpainted zincalume.

### **Landscaping Works**

4. Before the commencement of the store use or by such later date as is approved by the responsible authority in writing, the landscaping works shown on the endorsed plans must be completed to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.
5. The landscaping shown on the endorsed plans must be maintained to the satisfaction of the responsible authority, including that any dead, diseased or damaged plants are to be replaced.

### **Construction Site Storage Area**

6. An area for the storage of construction materials must be designated prior to the arrival of equipment and materials onsite. At the completion of construction all excess materials must be removed from the site to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

### **Amenity**

7. The amenity of the area must not be detrimentally affected by the use or development, through the:
  - a. The transport of materials or goods to or from the land
  - b. The appearance of any stored materials or goods
  - c. Traffic generated by the use
  - d. Emissions from the land
  - e. to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

### **Maintenance**

8. All buildings and works authorised by this permit must be maintained in good order and appearance to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

### **Mandatory Bushfire Conditions**

9. The bushfire mitigation measures forming part of this permit or shown on the endorsed plans, including those relating to construction standards, defensible space, water supply and access, must be maintained to the satisfaction of the responsible authority on a continuing basis. This condition continues to have force and effect after the development authorised by this permit has been completed.

### **Disturbed Surfaces**

10. All disturbed surfaces on the land resulting from the development must be stabilised to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

**Construction of Car Parking**

11. Before the commencement of the store use authorised by this permit starts, the access lanes, driveways and associated works and landscaping as shown on the endorsed plans must be:
  - a. constructed and available for use in accordance with the plans approved by the responsible authority;
  - b. formed to such levels and drained so that they can be used in accordance with the plans;
  - c. treated with an all-weather seal or some other durable surface;
  - d. all to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

**Vehicle Manoeuvring**

12. All driveways must be designed to allow all vehicles to drive forwards both when entering and leaving the property.
13. A corner splay or area at least 50 per cent clear of visual obstructions extending at least 2 metres along the frontage road from the edge of an exit lane and 2.5 metres along the exit lane from the frontage, is required to provide a clear view of pedestrians on the footpath of the frontage road. The area clear of visual obstructions may include an adjacent entry or exit lane where more than one lane is provided, or adjacent landscaped areas, provided the landscaping in those areas is less than 900mm in height.
14. The accessways associated with the store must be well lit and clearly signed, to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.
15. Areas set aside for the movement of vehicles as shown on the endorsed plans must be made available for such use and must not be used for any other purpose.
16. Before the commencement of the store use authorised by this permit starts, a sign must be displayed at the vehicle entrance to the site, stating that the maximum vehicle length that can enter the site is 10 metres, to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

**Noise**

17. Noise levels emanating from the premises must not exceed those required to be met under State Environment Protection Policy (Control of Music Noise from Public Premises), No. N-2 and EPA Guideline Noise from Industry in Rural Victoria.
18. All security alarms or similar devices installed on the land must be of a silent type in accordance with any current standard published by Standards Australia International Limited and be connected to a security service.



19. No external sound amplification equipment or loudspeakers are to be used for the purpose of announcement, broadcast, playing of music or similar purpose.

### **Un/loading of Goods**

20. The un/loading of goods must only be carried out onsite, to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

### **Goods Storage**

21. All goods, refuse and packaging material associated with the development must be stored within the premises at all times unless the Responsible Authority has approved, in writing, alternative arrangements.

### **Use**

22. The site must not be used for any purpose listed in clause 53.10 Uses and Activities with Potential Adverse Impacts (as amended) within the Alpine Planning Scheme, without the prior written consent of the responsible authority.

### **Operating hours**

23. The use may operate only between the hours of 7am to 7pm Monday to Friday and 8am to 5pm Saturday and Sunday, unless the prior written consent of the responsible authority is obtained.

### **Illumination**

24. All external lighting provided on the site must be suitably baffled so that no direct light is emitted beyond the boundaries of the site and no nuisance is caused to adjoining properties, to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

### **Street Trees**

25. The existing street tree(s) must not be removed or damaged without the prior written consent of the responsible authority.
26. Before the development (including demolition) starts, a tree protection zone fence must be erected around the existing street tree(s), to define a tree protection zone. The fence must be constructed of (star pickets and chain mesh or similar) to the satisfaction of the responsible authority. The tree protection fence must remain in place until construction is completed. The tree protection zone fencing is to be installed in accordance with Australian Standard AS 4970.
27. No vehicular or pedestrian access, trenching or soil excavation is to occur within the tree protection zone without the written consent of the responsible authority. No storage or dumping of tools, equipment or waste is to occur within the tree protection zone.

28. Any pruning that is required to be done to the canopy and/or root system of the street tree is to be done by a qualified arborist to Australian Standard – Pruning of Amenity Trees AS4373-1996.

#### **Defect identification - Council Assets**

29. Prior to commencement of the buildings and works authorised by this permit, the owner or developer must submit to the responsible authority a written report and photos of any prior damage to public infrastructure. Listed in the report must be the condition of kerb and channel, seal, streetlights, signs and other public infrastructure fronting the property and abutting at least two properties either side of the development. Unless identified with the written report, any damage to infrastructure post construction will be attributed to the development. The owner or developer of the subject land must pay for any damage caused to Alpine Shire Council's assets/public infrastructure caused as a result of the development permitted by this permit.

#### **North East Catchment Management Authority Conditions -**

30. The finished floor level of the self-storage units must be constructed no less than 500 mm above the surrounding finished surface level.
31. The development shall make appropriate provision for drainage within and around the site to avoid impacting adjacent properties through the diversion of floodwater emanating from the adjacent drainage line and/or the drainage of stormwater runoff directly from the development

#### **Council's Engineering Department Conditions –**

32. Prior to commencement of construction, detailed construction plans must be submitted to and approved by the Alpine Shire Council. Construction detail shall be generally in accordance with Council's Infrastructure Design Manual ([www.designmanual.com.au](http://www.designmanual.com.au)). When approved, the plans will be endorsed and will then form part of the permit. The plans must be drawn to scale with dimensions, and shall include proposed construction detail, further information or modifications to:
- Sealed or concrete Driveway Pavement with drainage
  - Underground drainage system
  - Vehicular crossings
  - Swept path analysis for a 10m single unit truck

#### **Urban Drainage Works**

33. Prior to commencement of use, all stormwater and surface water discharging from the site, buildings and works must be conveyed to the legal point of discharge by underground pipe to the satisfaction of the Alpine Shire Council. No effluent or polluted water of any type may be allowed to enter the Council's stormwater drainage system. The legal point of discharge for this site is the grated pit on the lot. All roof water from buildings and surface water from paved areas must be collected and discharged to the legal point of discharge (LPOD) to avoid any nuisance discharge to adjacent land, to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

**Urban Vehicle Crossing Requirements**

34. Prior to commencement of use, vehicular crossings shall be constructed in accordance with the endorsed plan(s) to the satisfaction of the Alpine Shire Council, and shall comply with the following:
- a. standard vehicular crossings shall be constructed at right angles to the road to suit the proposed driveways, and any existing redundant crossing shall be removed and replaced with concrete kerb and channel to match into the surrounding profile. The vehicle crossing must be constructed of plain grey concrete.
  - b. Any proposed vehicular crossing shall have satisfactory clearance to any side-entry pit, power or Telecommunications pole, manhole cover or marker, or street tree. Any relocation, alteration or replacement required shall be in accordance with the requirements of the relevant Authority and shall be at the applicant's expense;
  - c. crossings shall be constructed of concrete and be generally in accordance with IDM drawing SD240.

**Vehicle Turning**

35. The driveway must be designed to allow vehicles to drive forwards when entering and leaving the property. A turning template is to be submitted for approval drawing which clearly indicates a 10m single unit truck is capable of achieving the required movements.

**No Mud on Roads**

36. Appropriate measures must be implemented throughout the construction stage of the development to rectify and/or minimise mud, crushed rock or other debris being carried onto public roads and footpaths from the subject land, to the satisfaction of the Alpine Shire Council.

**Ausnet Conditions –**

37. The applicant must enter into an agreement with AusNet Electricity Services Pty Ltd for the extension, upgrading or rearrangement of the electricity supply to the lot. A payment to cover the cost of such work will be required.

**Country Fire Authority Conditions -****Bushfire Management Plan**

38. Before the development starts, an amended Bushfire Management Plan (BMP) which is generally in accordance with BMP prepared by Mountain Planning, drawing ref: 35 Station St, Porepunkah SC, Rev 0 dated 10 August 2021 must be submitted to and endorsed by the Responsible Authority. The plan must show the following bushfire protection measures, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the CFA and the Responsible Authority:

- Defendable Space
39. Show an area of defendable space to the property boundary where vegetation

(and other flammable materials) will be modified and managed in accordance with the following requirements:

- a. Grass must be short cropped and maintained during the declared fire danger period.
- b. All leaves and vegetation debris must be removed at regular intervals during the declared fire danger period.
- c. Within 10 metres of a building, flammable objects must not be located close to the vulnerable parts of the building.
- d. Plants greater than 10 centimetres in height must not be placed within 3m of a window or glass feature of the building.
- e. Shrubs must not be located under the canopy of trees.
- f. Individual and clumps of shrubs must not exceed 5 sq. metres in area and must be separated by at least 5 metres.
- g. Trees must not overhang or touch any elements of the building.
- h. The canopy of trees must be separated by at least 5 metres.
- i. There must be a clearance of at least 2 metres between the lowest tree branches and ground level.

- Construction Standard

40. Nominate a minimum Bushfire Attack Level of BAL – 12.5 that the buildings will be designed and constructed.

- Water Supply

41. Show 10,000 litres of effective water supply for firefighting purposes which meets the following requirements:

- a. Be stored in an above ground water tank constructed of concrete or metal.
- b. Have all fixed above ground water pipes and fittings required for firefighting purposes made of corrosive resistant metal.
- c. Include a separate outlet for occupant use.
- d. Be readily identifiable from the building or appropriate identification signage to the satisfaction of the relevant fire authority.
- e. Be located within 60 metres of the outer edge of the approved building.
- f. The outlet/s of the water tank must be within 4 metres of the accessway and unobstructed.
- g. Incorporate a separate ball or gate valve (British Standard Pipe (BSP 65 millimetre) and coupling (64 millimetre CFA 3 thread per inch male fitting).
- h. Any pipework and fittings must be a minimum of 65 millimetres (excluding the CFA coupling)

- Access

42. Show the access for firefighting purposes which meets the following requirements:

- a. All weather construction.
- b. A load limit of at least 15 tonnes.

- c. Provide a minimum trafficable width of 3.5 metres
- d. Be clear of encroachments for at least 0.5 metre on each side and at least 4 metres vertically.
- e. Curves must have a minimum inner radius of 10m.
- f. The average grade must be no more than 1 in 7 (14.4 per cent) (8.1 degrees) with a maximum of no more than 1 in 5 (20 per cent) (11.3 degrees) for no more than 50m.
- g. Dips must have no more than a 1 in 8 (12.5 per cent) (7.1 degrees) entry and exit angle.

**Expiry**

43. This permit will expire if one of the following circumstances applies:
- a. the development is not started within two (2) years of the date of this permit.
  - b. the development is not completed within four (4) years of the date of this permit.
  - c. the use is not started within four (4) years of the date of this permit.
44. The responsible authority may extend the periods referred to if a request is made in writing before the permit expires, or within six (6) months afterwards.

**- End of Conditions -****Planning Notes**

1. This permit does not authorise approval under the Building Act. It is the responsibility of the applicant to determine if a building permit is required for the proposed buildings and works.
2. A road opening/crossing permit must be obtained from the responsible authority prior to working in or occupying the road reserve with construction equipment or materials. Applications may be accessed from the Alpine Shire Council website.
3. Unless no permit is required under the planning scheme, no sign must be constructed or displayed without a further permit.
4. The facilities approved by this permit shall be constructed and maintained to accord with all relevant legislation (Federal or State), Australian Standards, or any other design requirements relating to access or other issues affecting people with disabilities to the satisfaction to the responsible authority.
5. The Environment Protection Act 1970 covers air pollution, including odour. Section 41 says that businesses must not pollute the air to make it unsafe or offensive to others. For further information it is recommended that you contact Alpine Shire Environmental Health Department and the Environmental Protection Authority.
6. Australian Standard AS 4282-1977 Control of the obtrusive effects of outdoor lighting, includes controls around outdoor lighting.

7. It is recommended that, at an early date the applicant commences negotiations with AusNet Services for a supply of electricity in order that supply arrangements can be worked out in detail. Arrangements for the supply will be subject to obtaining the agreement of other Authorities and any landowners affected by routes of the electric power lines required to supply the lots and for any tree clearing. For all enquiries please email: [subdivisions@ausnetservices.com.au](mailto:subdivisions@ausnetservices.com.au)
  
8. CFA does not accept the proposed variation to the water supply requirements of four 2,500lt water tanks as these would not be effective from an operational perspective and hence has requested an amended BMP. The preferred position is one 10,000lt tank or a variation of two 5,000lt tanks interconnected with 75mm copper pipe.

### **Appendix 8.3.6.b POLICY AND DECISION GUIDELINES**

All of the below mentioned relevant planning considerations from the Alpine Planning Scheme may be viewed at the following link: <https://planning-schemes.delwp.vic.gov.au/schemes/alpine>.

#### **State Planning Policy Framework**

The State Planning Policy Framework (SPPF) provides relevant direction to the proposal at the following clauses:

- 11.03-6S Regional and local places
- 13.01-1S Natural hazards and climate change
- 13.02-1S Bushfire planning
- 13.03-1S Floodplain management
- 13.07-1S Land use compatibility
- 14.02-1S Catchment planning and management
- 15.01-2S Building design
- 15.01-5S Neighbourhood character
- 17.01-1S Diversified economy
- 17.02-1S Business
- 18.02-4S Car parking

#### **Local Planning Policy Framework**

The Local Planning Policy Framework (LPPF) provides relevant direction to the proposal at the following clauses:

- 21.03-1 Townships and villages
- 21.03-4 Built form and heritage
- 21.04-4 Environmental risk
- 21.04-6 Catchments and waterways
- 21.05-2 Commercial and industrial
- 21.06-1 Infrastructure
- 21.07-5 Porepunkah
- 22.04-4 Urban stormwater management

#### **Zone**

The land is zoned Township Zone.

## **Overlays**

The land is covered by the Bushfire Management Overlay - Schedule 1.

## **Particular Provisions**

52.06 Car Parking

53.02 Bushfire Planning

53.18 Stormwater Management in Urban Development

## **General Provisions**

Clauses 65.01 within the Alpine Planning Scheme provides the general decision guidelines.



## 9. Informal meetings of Councillors

### Introduction

In accordance with Chapter 8, section A1 of Council's Governance Rules, if there is a meeting of Councillors that:

- is scheduled or planned for the purpose of discussing the business of Council or briefing Councillors;
- is attended by at least one member of Council staff; and
- is not a Council meeting, Delegated Committee meeting, or Community Asset Committee meeting;

the Chief Executive Officer must ensure that a summary of the matters discussed at the meeting are tabled at the next convenient Council meeting, and are recorded in the minutes of that Council meeting.

*Cr Forsyth*

*Cr Prime*

*That the summary of informal meetings of Councillors for December 2021 and January 2022 be received.*

*Carried*

### Background

The written records of the informal meetings of Councillors held during the previous month are summarised below. Detailed records can be found in Attachment 9.0 to this report.

Date	Meeting
7 December	Briefing Session
14 December	Australia Day Assessment Panel
14 December	Briefing Session
16 December	Planning Forum
13 January	Planning forum

### Attachment(s)

- 9.0 Informal meetings of Councillors – December 2021 and January 2022

## 10. Presentation of reports by delegates

Refer to Alpine Shire Council's website [www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au](http://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au); for its YouTube live-streaming recording for responses to reports by delegates.

## 11. General business

Refer to Alpine Shire Council's website [www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au](http://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au); for its YouTube live-streaming recording for responses to general business.

## 12. Motions for which notice has previously been given

Nil

## 13. Reception and reading of petitions

*Cr Prime*  
*Cr Forsyth*

*That Council notes and receives the petition from Upper Kiewa Valley Community Association proposing that the Mount Beauty Central Business District speed limit be reduced to 30/40km per hour.*

*A report will be tabled at the next Ordinary Council meeting in March 2022.*

*Carried*

## 14. Documents for sealing

*Cr Hughes*  
*Cr Forsyth*

*That the following documents be signed and sealed.*

- 1. Section 173 Agreement – Michael and Antoinette Quirk. Lots 2 on Plan of Subdivision 831583M Volume 12305 Folio 906. Conditions 7, 27 and 40 of Planning Permit 2019.55.2 for an 8 Lot Staged Subdivision at 94-102 Station Street, Porepunkah.*

*The Agreement applies to the finished floor level of any new habitable building; bushfire protection measures as set out in the Bushfire Management Plan to be implemented; and the drainage to be constructed in accordance with the Drainage Discharge Plans.*

*This Section 173 Agreement supersedes Agreement executed in August 2021 (which will not be registered).*

- 2. Lease of Lot 1 on PS 612929 being part of the land in Certificate of title Volume 10529 Folio 040 and 041 to Luc Palisse.*
- 3. Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022-2026.*

*Carried*

There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 6.56p.m.

.....

Chairperson



**ALPINE**  
SHIRE COUNCIL

# Sport and Active Recreation Plan



**2022-2033**

## Disclaimer

The information contained in this report is intended for the specific use of the within named party to which it is addressed ("the communityvibe client") only. All recommendations by communityvibe are based on information provided by or on behalf of the communityvibe client and communityvibe has relied on such information being correct at the time this report is prepared. communityvibe shall take no responsibility for any loss or damage caused to the communityvibe client or to any third party whether direct or consequential as a result of or in any way arising from any unauthorised use of this report or any recommendations contained within.

Report Date: January 2022

## Prepared by



## Funded by:



This plan has been jointly funded by the Victorian State Government in partnership with Alpine Shire Council.

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## 1.0 Executive Summary

Alpine Shire is blessed with an abundance of beautiful outdoor settings where both local residents and visitors enjoy cycling, hiking, kayaking, skiing, horse riding, swimming, paragliding, running, fishing, dragon boat racing and many other active recreational pursuits. It also features a diversity of sporting facilities and community spaces, providing opportunities for activities such as basketball, yoga, tennis, AFL football, netball, skate boarding, dancing, lawn bowls, croquet, cricket, gymnastics, bocce, soccer, golf and baseball.

Alpine Shire Council recognises the significant benefits that can be achieved through participation in sport and active recreation, including improved physical and mental wellbeing, the development of strong social connections, increased demand from local businesses to supply goods and services and greater appreciation of the natural environment. The provision of inclusive, accessible and diverse sport and active recreation pursuits also enhances liveability and has definitely played a role in attracting new residents to move to Alpine Shire to live.

This Sport and Active Recreation Plan provides a strategic framework to guide Council's investment in sport and active recreation over the next 12 years to ensure that its resources have the greatest impact on positively contributing to the health and wellbeing of the community and promoting liveability and social connections.

Alpine Shire Council is also mindful of some of the challenges that it is currently facing and may continue to experience over the next 12 years. These challenges include:

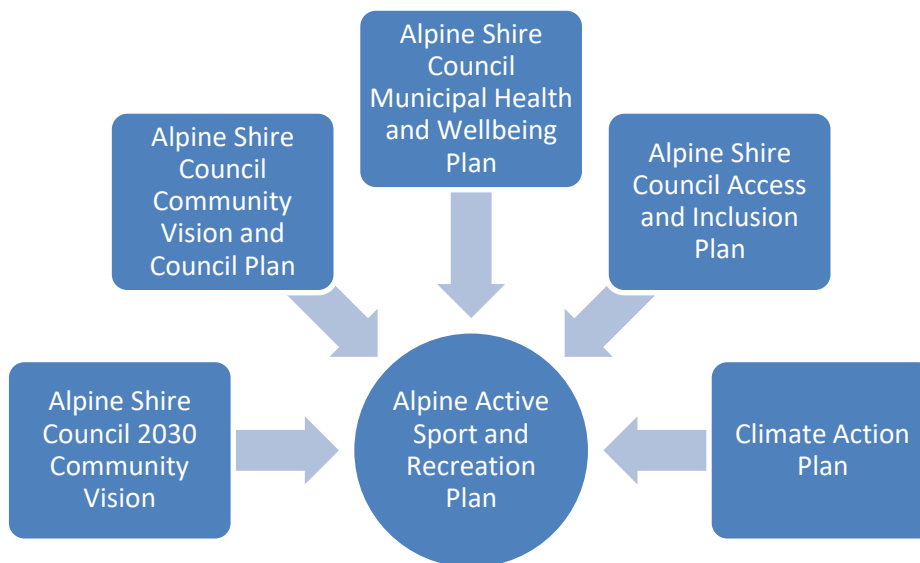
- a high percentage of people who are overweight or obese
- 45% of adults in Alpine Shire are insufficiently active to achieve health benefits
- growing mental health issues
- proximity to forests and potentially devastating bushfires
- the existing and ongoing impact of COVID-19.
- the impact of climate change
- high levels of tourism impacting the use of open space and recreation facilities.

In order to prepare the Sport and Active Recreation Plan, the following activities were undertaken:

- assessed various plans and documents to understand the strategic directions of Alpine Shire Council and other key stakeholders such as Sport and Recreation Victoria
- analysed demographic data and projections
- undertook an audit of all facilities to assess condition and identify opportunities for improvements
- assessed physical activity trends and participation data
- engaged with 757 members of the community through online engagement, surveys, listening posts and social media engagement
- engaged with 90 stakeholders (e.g. sports club representatives, State Government representatives, school students, etc).

The Sport and Active Recreation Plan is supported by a strong evidence base and aligns closely with the strategic directions contained within Alpine Shire Council's plans and visions:





To guide Alpine Shire Council’s work in the sport and active recreation sector, the following vision has been devised:

### “Active, connected and liveable communities”

Supporting the vision are eight planning principles. Everything Alpine Shire Council does in the sport and active recreation area will be guided by these principles:

Principle	What it means to us
<b>Evidence-based</b>	Any proposed facility developments / upgrades will be supported by demonstrated need (feasibility studies for large projects) and any programs or services will be implemented based on evidence of need or evidence of likely benefits to the community.
<b>Promotes physical activity, liveability and connections</b>	Any proposed facility developments / upgrades, programs or services will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• result in maintaining or increasing physical activity levels; <b>and / or</b></li> <li>• help to create a more liveable community; <b>and / or</b></li> <li>• encourage opportunities for social connections between people.</li> </ul>
<b>Sustainability</b>	Any proposed facility developments / upgrades, programs and services will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• consider environmentally sustainable design principles and materials as part of their construction or development; <b>and / or</b></li> <li>• be financially sustainable to develop, operate and maintain wherever possible; <b>and / or</b></li> <li>• support Council’s Climate Action commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through avoiding / reusing, improving efficiency, using onsite renewable energy, purchasing renewable energy or offsetting residual emission.</li> </ul>

Principle	What it means to us
<b>Equity</b>	<p>Any facility developments / upgrades, programs or services are designed to ensure:</p> <p>equity of provision across Alpine Shire (based on the appropriate level of provision for towns and areas, i.e. larger towns with larger catchments are more likely to be able to support facilities, programs or services for more specialised or 'regional level' sport and active recreation activities); <b>and / or</b></p> <p>equity for people who may be traditionally disadvantaged (e.g. First Nations people, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse people, people with disabilities, females and older adults).</p> <p>Note that whilst equitable distribution of facilities and activities is a principle, sometimes it makes sense to have a larger facility in a town for other reasons, e.g. it already exists there, there is significant regional use of that facility in that location, there is a culture of the activities supported by that type of facility locally, etc.</p>
<b>Accessible and inclusive</b>	Any facility developments / upgrades, programs or services are designed to increase access for all abilities and be inclusive of everyone regardless of abilities, age, gender, cultural background and socio-economic status.
<b>Multi-purpose and adaptable</b>	Facilities can be used in multiple ways by more than one group (unless a regional level single-purpose facility or a facility that has no option for sharing with others due to specialisation of infrastructure); <b>and / or</b> facilities, programs or services can be adapted to meet changing needs.
<b>Optimises usage of existing assets</b>	Any facility developments / upgrades, programs or services are designed to better use existing facilities, programs or services rather than necessarily developing new ones (unless need is clearly demonstrated).
<b>Partnerships and collaborations</b>	Wherever possible, facility developments / upgrades, programs and services will be developed in partnership with other organisations to maximise the use of limited resources and to improve outcomes.

From the planning principles, four key pillars have been developed, each with a clear objective:

People	Places	Partners	Processes
To encourage and support increased participation in physical activity by the community.	To provide a diversity of quality and accessible sport and active recreation places and spaces for the community.	To work in partnership with community organisations, government agencies and the private sector to facilitate sport and active recreation opportunities for the community.	To provide a strategic framework to guide Council's decision making and investment in relation to sport and active recreation.

Each objective features a number of actions which will be detailed in the action plan. These actions are likely to focus on projects such as the following:

- **Undertaking an aquatics options analysis including determining the feasibility of developing aquatic facilities in Bright**
- **Assessing the feasibility of developing a second oval at Pioneer Park in Bright**
- **Developing accessible and intergenerational play spaces**
- **Undertaking master planning of recreation reserves in Bright, Mount Beauty and Myrtleford**
- **Improving active recreational opportunities such as installing outdoor fitness equipment in parks**
- **Supporting clubs and volunteers**
- **Considering emergency response plans when upgrading facilities**
- **Improving paths, tracks and trails for recreational purposes**
- **Developing planning tools and frameworks to assist Council to make sport and active recreation investment decisions.**

Guided by the Sport and Active Recreation Plan, Alpine Shire Council will focus on the following areas over the next 12 years:



## 2.0 Introduction

### 2.1 Purpose of the Plan

The purpose of this plan is to establish an evidence base and to identify opportunities that will enable Alpine Shire Council to increase participation in physical activity levels, particularly by people who are currently not sufficiently active to achieve health benefits. It also aims to provide guidance to improve places and spaces where people take part in physical activity. However, Council cannot achieve increased participation and improved facilities on its own. It is reliant on establishing and maintaining effective relationships with a broad array of partners including clubs / organisations, government agencies, the health sector and the private sector, and will require some external resources. Its strategies and actions will be clear with defined outcomes and will be guided by evidence of need and a variety of tools to ensure equity and transparency.

### 2.2 Alpine Shire

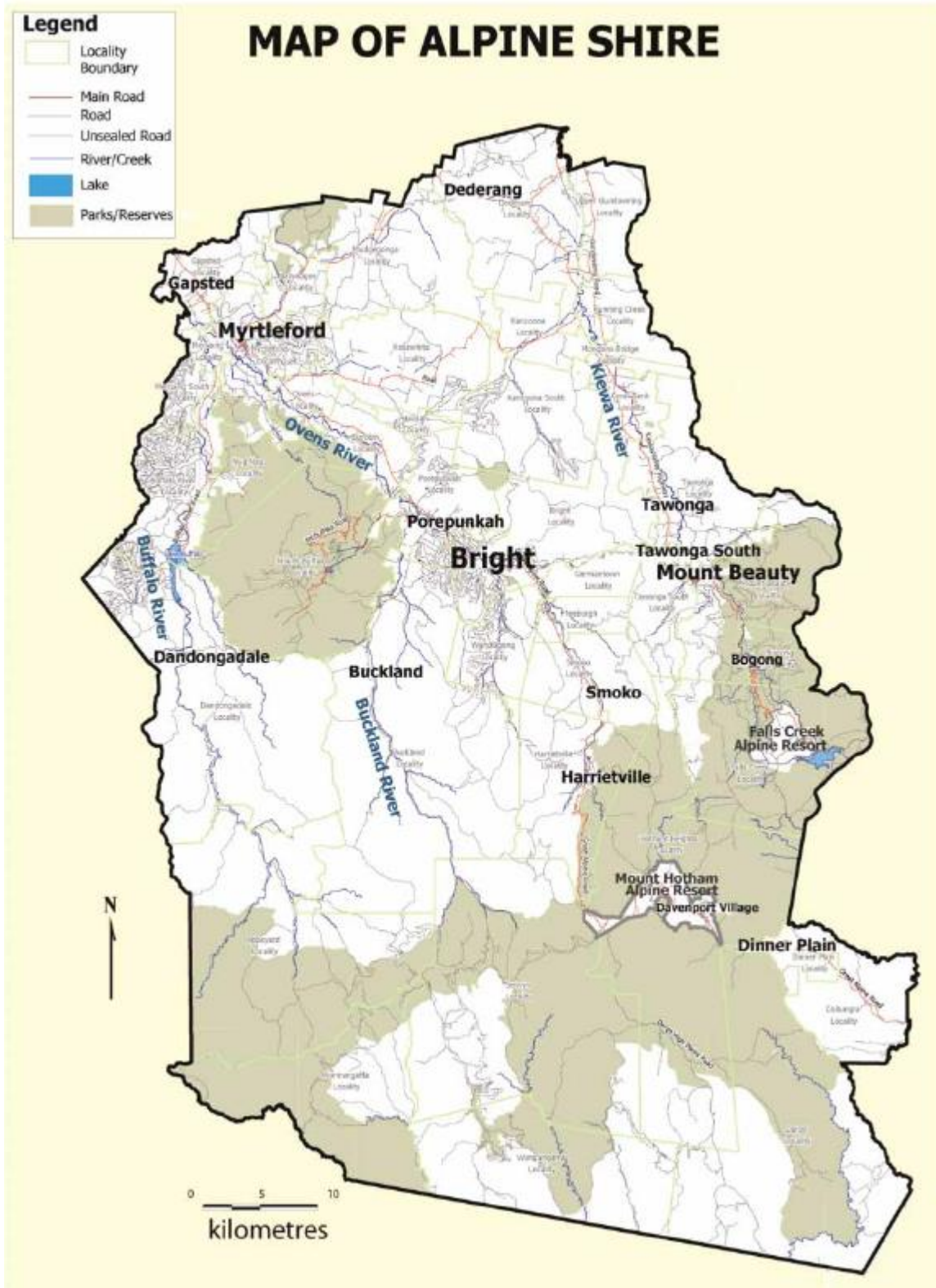
Alpine Shire is situated in the north-east of Victoria, approximately 300 kilometres north-east of Melbourne and 50 kilometres south of Wangaratta. Its main towns are Bright, Myrtleford and Mount Beauty.

Alpine Shire covers 4,790 square kilometres. Only 8% of this land is made up of towns, villages and farms. The remaining 92% of land is public land, including parts of the Alpine National Park and all of Mount Buffalo National Park. Two of the state's major ski resorts (Falls Creek and Mt Hotham) are surrounded by Alpine Shire but managed by the Alpine Resorts Victoria. Alpine Shire is home to the alpine village of Dinner Plain.

Alpine Shire has a rich and diverse history. The Taungurung peoples have a Land Use Agreement that includes a part of Alpine Shire. A number of other Traditional Owner groups have an interest in Alpine Shire and a rich cultural connection with the alpine area.

Alpine Shire became a centre for gold mining in the 1850's and saw an increase in population and visitors to the area once roads were opened up to extract timber for the post-war housing boom in Melbourne.

The region has a strong agricultural focus and is known for its beef cattle farming, grape growing, hops, maize, nuts and fruit. It is also a popular tourist destination and attracts visitors for snow sports, cycling, hiking, camping, four-wheel driving, fishing, aerial sports, autumn leaves, festivals, markets, exhibitions, wineries, breweries and quality food. Tourist numbers expand the local population numbers significantly at key times of the year and also create greater demand on local sport and active recreation facilities.



## 2.3 Methodology

In order to gather the evidence base to determine priorities for community programs, services and facilities the following activities occurred:

Assessed the current situation	Undertook community engagement with 757 participants	Undertook stakeholder engagement with 90 participants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identified participation levels and trends</li> <li>Reviewed 12 relevant strategies</li> <li>Prepared a demographic analysis</li> <li>Audited and photographed all of the sport and active recreation facilities in Alpine Shire.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertook a community survey (199 responses)</li> <li>Undertook online feedback with the community (504 unique site visitors – 100 comments from 60 unique stakeholders)</li> <li>Held 2 community listening posts (20 attendees)</li> <li>Received social media feedback (34 responses and 44 likes).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertook a club survey (42 responses)</li> <li>Held 11 key stakeholder meetings with clubs, Government agencies, etc (36 attendees)</li> <li>Surveyed State Sporting Associations, schools and neighbouring LGAs (8 responses)</li> <li>Received written submissions and phone calls from stakeholders (4 participants).</li> </ul>

## 2.4 Recent achievements and works under-way

Alpine Shire Council undertakes a range of works annually to upgrade and maintain sport and active recreation assets. Some recent highlights include:

- Upgrade and expansion of the Myrtleford Indoor Stadium
- Upgrade of McNamara Recreation Reserve netball and tennis facilities
- Upgrade of Mount Beauty Skate Park
- Upgrade of pavilion at Pioneer Park in Bright.

A selection of current projects include:

- The Great Valley Trail between Bright and Harrietville
- Dinner Plain Activation (a portion of which is related to public sport and active recreation opportunities)
- The Alpine Better Places program in Harrietville and Tawonga (includes park upgrades, trail works, etc)
- Pioneer Park jumps track.



### 3.0 Sport and active recreation benefits

Whilst individuals benefit from sport and recreation from a health and wellbeing perspective and greater connections within their community, the whole community benefits from a greater sense of community cohesion, economic opportunities, improvement to the environment, reduction in crime and a more liveable and vibrant community. Some of the benefits that can occur through participation in sport and active recreation are:

Social Benefits	Health Benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater sense of community</li> <li>• Stronger, more self-reliant communities</li> <li>• Greater social and friendship networks</li> <li>• Improved liveability of an area</li> <li>• Reduction in anti-social behavior and vandalism</li> <li>• Helps to develop shared attitudes, values and codes of behavior in the community (cohesion)</li> <li>• Breaks down barriers between different sectors of the community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Protects against cardiovascular disease, hypertension, type 2 diabetes, osteoporosis, musculoskeletal impairments, obesity, some cancers and poor mental health.”<sup>1</sup></li> <li>• Improved balance and coordination, resulting in fewer falls</li> <li>• Stronger muscles, joints and bones</li> <li>• Improved confidence and self-esteem</li> <li>• Improved body image</li> <li>• Improved motor skills</li> <li>• Less likely to suffer from depression and anxiety</li> <li>• Greater sense of achievement</li> <li>• Reduced stress levels</li> <li>• Higher energy and concentration levels</li> <li>• Reduction in incidence and severity of illness and disability</li> <li>• Increased life expectancy – physical inactivity causes an estimated 16,000 premature deaths a year.<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>
Environmental Benefits	Economic Benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourages a greater appreciation and awareness of the natural environment (i.e. develops environmental stewardship)</li> <li>• Encourages the protection of areas of conservation or cultural heritage value</li> <li>• Reduces carbon emissions, air pollution and noise pollution (through activities such as active transport, e.g. walking and cycling in place of vehicular transportation)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attracts visitors and generates tourism</li> <li>• Attracts businesses and creates employment</li> <li>• Creates higher market value of properties near public open space</li> <li>• Improvements to local business viability through sale of sport and recreation equipment, services and programs</li> <li>• Lower health care costs - physical inactivity costs the Australian economy \$805 million annually - \$640m in direct costs (healthcare expenditure) and \$165m in indirect costs (loss in productivity) (2013 figures)<sup>3</sup></li> <li>• Fewer days off work - productivity loss due to physical inactivity is estimated at 1.8 working days per worker per year.<sup>4</sup></li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> VicHealth (2015) Promoting equity in physical activity: An evidence summary

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> Eoin Blackwell (2017) Physical Inactivity is Costing Australia Nearly \$1 Billion a Year: *HuffPost* 29 July 2017 [https://www.huffingtonpost.com.au/2016/07/28/physical-inactivity-is-costing-australia-nearly-1-billion-a-yea\\_a\\_21441164/](https://www.huffingtonpost.com.au/2016/07/28/physical-inactivity-is-costing-australia-nearly-1-billion-a-yea_a_21441164/)

<sup>4</sup> Ibid

## 4.0 Sport and active recreation trends

The sport and recreation landscape is constantly changing. The table below describes some of the trends currently occurring in the industry which we need to be aware of when planning facilities, programs and services in the future:

<b>Trend</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Liveability</b>	<i>Quality sport, recreation and open spaces are seen as one of the key tools used by Local Government Authorities and property developers to attract new residents to come and live in a town and to improve the liveability of towns.</i>
<b>Individual lifestyle activities</b>	<i>There has been a movement away from many traditional organised sports such as football, cricket, netball and tennis to more individual or small group non-organised activities, e.g. walking, gym workouts, fitness classes, cycling, swimming, running, skiing, rock climbing, white water rafting, stand up paddle boarding and personal training.</i>
<b>Growth of female participation in specific sports</b>	<i>There has been significant growth across sports by females in Victoria in AFL, soccer and cricket. This growth is accompanied by the need to find suitable sports grounds and change facilities for training and games.</i>
<b>Events and tourism</b>	<i>There has been greater demand on sporting facilities and public open spaces such as parks for special events, e.g. music festivals, sports tournaments, markets, festivals, weddings, fun runs and cycling events. These can create a positive economic impact for the municipality.</i>
<b>Programming</b>	<i>There is a growing focus by Local Government on providing or facilitating programs in open spaces to attract greater levels of participation in physical activities, e.g. summer activities and Park Run.</i>
<b>Dog parks</b>	<i>There has been an emergence of off leash dog parks in response to the desire to connect with other dog walkers and the desire for dogs to socialise with one another.</i>
<b>Playgrounds</b>	<i>There has been greater investment in developing destination play spaces in open space areas, designed to attract people from both within and outside municipalities. Within these play spaces there may be a greater focus on providing quality landscaping and more natural spaces which utilise loose materials, rocks and logs.</i>
<b>Water play</b>	<i>Many municipalities are developing splash parks or water play areas for children (such as the water play area in Bright). These spaces can feature dry riverbeds, fountains, sprays, etc.</i>
<b>Outdoor fitness equipment</b>	<i>There has been a growth in the installation of outdoor fitness equipment in public open spaces in recent years, either clustered together in one location or spread along a linear pathway.</i>
<b>Active transport and linkages</b>	<i>There is a greater focus on ensuring that sport, recreation and open space areas are connected to existing walking / cycling networks.</i>



<b>Trend</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Accessibility and inclusion</b>	<i>There is greater awareness of the need to ensure that people of all ages and all abilities can safely and easily utilise areas of open space. Universal Design Principles and Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) requirements provide guidance in this area. Infrastructure to encourage participation by people of all abilities includes ramps, unisex toilets with change tables, single story buildings to allow for wheelchair access and Braille signs.</i>
<b>Planning</b>	<i>Master planning of recreation reserves and open spaces has occurred to ensure that needs of all existing and casual users are considered in the long term – including the linking of cycling / walking paths, development of play spaces, landscaping and BBQ / picnic facilities and formalised parking.</i>
<b>Multi-purpose design and diversity</b>	<i>Parks and open spaces are being used for a variety of different purposes including sport, markets and festivals; hence spaces need to be as multi-purpose as possible to cater for community needs and may include the need for additional power outlets for food trucks or performances.</i>
<b>Safety</b>	<i>There is a greater awareness of safe design when it comes to sport and recreation facilities, parks and open spaces to ensure safety and perceived safety issues do not act as a barrier to usage. Clear sight lines, lighting, vegetation that can be seen through, passive surveillance and shade are all tools that can be used to improve safety.</i>
<b>Sustainability</b>	<i>There has been a greater focus on the development of environmentally responsible practices such as solar hot water, recycled water systems, double glazed windows, wetlands, community gardens, synthetic surfaces, use of recycled materials and use of locally sourced materials to reduce the impact of facilities / spaces and their users on the environment and to potentially reduce operating costs of facilities.</i>
<b>Climate change</b>	<i>There is a greater focus on climate-proofing areas of open space as much as possible to reduce water usage, provide shade and to retain some green space during periods of low rainfall.</i>
<b>Community gardens</b>	<i>There has been an increase in the number of community gardens in towns in areas of public open space where people come together to garden together and increase their access to affordable fruit and vegetables.</i>
<b>Food and coffee</b>	<i>There has been a growing trend for Local Government Authorities to develop a café or restaurant in some open spaces or encourage food trucks to visit these sites.</i>
<b>Community hubs</b>	<i>There has been a trend to co-locate several sporting facilities to form recreation precincts to maximise limited resources and to cross- market activities.</i>
<b>Management and maintenance</b>	<i>Local Government Authorities and clubs are focusing on more effective planning, management and maintenance, including understanding whole of life costs of infrastructure, i.e. construction, management, activation, maintenance and replacement. Asset renewal gaps are increasing across the State and sport and active recreation projects must be considered against all other service area priorities.</i>

<b>Trend</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Modified versions of existing sports</b>	<i>A variety of traditional sports have developed a modified version (or several modified versions) of their game to keep older players playing longer, to involve children at an earlier age or to attract new participants, e.g. pickleball (a form of tennis played on a smaller court), cardio tennis, walking soccer, walking netball, AFL 9's, T20 cricket.</i>
<b>Creating pandemic-safe locations</b>	<i>Parks, reserves and open space are viewed by many people as safer places to recreate than indoor sport and recreation facilities following the COVID-19 pandemic. To ensure that these spaces continue to play an important role, it will be important to ensure that they are able to meet the requirements of a world where social distancing, hand washing, etc will become the new norm. This could impact the size and layout of social facilities in pavilions / hubs, the need for soap and hand sanitizer in toilets or near playgrounds, waiting spaces that can accommodate a line of people 1.5m apart, etc.</i>

## 5.0 Planning framework

A workshop with Council staff reviewed information gathered in the research and consultation phase and identified eight key planning principles to guide the provision of sport and active recreation in Alpine Shire Council over the next 12 years. From these planning principles, a vision has been developed. This vision aligns with the direction of Alpine Shire’s Council Plan and Community Vision, Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan and Access and Inclusion Plan and is a summary of the goals inherent to these strategies, i.e. goals around liveable communities.

Four key focus areas have also been identified, each with an objective and numerous actions. Each of these aspects when combined, provides a framework to inform Council and the broader community of the types of facilities, programs and services Alpine Shire Council will invest in over the next 12 years to achieve an active, connected and liveable community.

### 5.1 Vision

Alpine Shire Council’s vision for sport and active recreation is:

**“Active, connected and liveable communities”**

### 5.2 Planning principles

The eight planning principles that support the vision and guide sport and active recreation provision in Alpine Shire are outlined in the executive summary. They include:

1. Evidence based
2. Promotes physical activity, liveability and connections
3. Sustainability
4. Equity
5. Accessible and inclusive
6. Multi-purpose and adaptable
7. Optimises usage of existing assets
8. Partnerships and collaborations

### 5.3 Four Pillars and objectives

The four pillars that this plan focuses on, and their related objectives, are:

People	Places	Partners	Processes
To encourage and support increased participation in physical activity by the community.	To provide a diversity of quality and accessible sport and active recreation places and spaces for the community.	To work in partnership with community organisations, government agencies and the private sector to facilitate sport and active recreation opportunities for the community.	To provide a strategic framework to guide Council’s decision making and investment in relation to sport and active recreation.









## 6.0 People

**To encourage and support increased participation in physical activity by the community.**

### 6.1 Alpine Shire residents






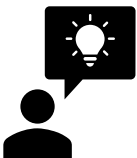


Anecdotal evidence indicates that the exodus of many families from Melbourne during and after COVID-19 in 2020 has resulted in an increase in young families moving to Alpine Shire for an improved lifestyle. This demographic shift may change the face of towns and the demand for certain sport and active recreation opportunities in the future; however, formal data is not yet available to fully support what is being observed.

The following table provides an overview of the Alpine Shire community based on the last available Australian Bureau of Statistics Census<sup>5</sup> from 2016:

<p>Current population</p>  <p><b>12,337</b></p>	<p>Females</p>  <p><b>49.2%</b></p>	<p>Males</p>  <p><b>50.8%</b></p>	<p>Projected population of Alpine Shire by 2036</p>  <p><b>13,510</b></p> <p>(a growth rate of 0.3%)<sup>6</sup></p>
<p>Median age</p>  <p><b>49</b> years of age (compared with 37 years of age for Victoria)</p>	<p>20-39 year olds (as a % of population)</p>  <p><b>15.7%</b> (compared with 28.8% for Victoria)</p>	<p>People over 65 (as a % of population)</p>  <p><b>24.4%</b> (compared with 15.6% for Victoria)</p>	<p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (as a % of population)</p>  <p><b>0.8%</b> (compared with 0.8% for Victoria)</p>

<sup>5</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016 Census QuickStats (Alpine Shire): [https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census\\_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/LGA20110?open=document](https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/LGA20110?open=document)

<sup>6</sup> DELWP (2019) Victoria in Future: [https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0032/332996/Victoria\\_in\\_Future\\_2019.pdf](https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0032/332996/Victoria_in_Future_2019.pdf)

<p>People born in Australia</p>  <p><b>76.5%</b> (compared with 64.9% for Victoria)</p>	<p>Top countries of birth (other than Australia)</p>  <p><b>England, Italy, New Zealand, Germany and Netherlands</b></p>	<p>Languages spoken at home other than English</p>  <p><b>Italian, German, French, Mandarin and Greek</b></p>	<p>Median household weekly income</p>  <p><b>\$1,002</b> (compared with \$1,419 for Victoria)</p>
<p>Those with a Bachelor degree or above</p>  <p><b>15.4%</b> (compared with 24.3% of Victorians)</p>	<p>Top 5 occupations</p>  <p><b>Managers, technicians and trades workers; professionals; labourers; and community and personal service workers</b></p>	<p>Top 5 industries of employment</p>  <p><b>Accommodation, hospitals (except psychiatric); cafes and restaurants; supermarket and grocery stores; and beef cattle farming (specialises)</b></p>	<p>Average number of motor vehicles per dwelling</p>  <p><b>1.9</b> (compared with 1.8% for Victoria)</p>

Based on the 2016 Census, in comparison with Victoria, Alpine Shire has:

- a higher proportion of older adults
- a lower proportion of 20-39 years olds
- a lower median household income.

Consequently, consideration needs to be given to:

- Ensuring that provision is made to encourage participation in physical activity by the growing number of older adults through opportunities such as: walking and cycling (e.g. off road trails and dog parks), aquatic activities (swimming, aqua aerobics and hydrotherapy), softer playing surfaces (e.g. synthetic / cushioned hard courts as opposed to asphalt), modified activities (e.g. walking soccer), exercise programs in halls (e.g. yoga and pilates), specific fitness programs designed to maintain health and wellbeing (strength training and chair exercise classes) and gentle exercise classes outdoors (e.g. tai chi).
- Acknowledging that it may be difficult to field sports teams requiring players in the 20-39-year age bracket in some areas due to low numbers in this age cohort, or conversely,

providing improved sport and active recreational opportunities in Alpine Shire to attract greater numbers of people in this age cohort.

- Keeping program / participation fees as affordable as possible in recognition of lower than state average income and the potential financial impact of COVID-19 on the community (especially for people who were reliant on industries hit hard by lockdowns, e.g. tourism related businesses).

## 6.2 How much physical activity do people need to do?

The Australian Government's Department of Health and Ageing has published National Physical Activity Guidelines<sup>7</sup> for Australians to provide an overview of the minimum amount of physical activity required to enhance health. Guidelines have been produced for a variety of age groups.

Age	Minimum Amount of Physical Activity Required to Enhance Health
<b>0-1</b>	Babies should be encouraged to take part in physical activity from birth, particularly supervised floor-based play in safe environments.
<b>1-2</b>	Toddlers should be physically active every day for at least three hours, spread throughout the day. Toddlers should include some energetic play in their day, e.g. running, twirling, jumping, dancing or skipping.
<b>3-5</b>	Pre-schoolers should be active for at least three hours each day, spread throughout the day. They should take part in one hour of energetic play (e.g. running, kicking, throwing, jumping, dancing or skipping).
<b>5-17</b>	Children and young people should do at least 60 minutes each day of moderate to vigorous physical activity that makes the heart beat faster (e.g. football, netball, swimming, dancing). At least 3 days per week, children and young people should incorporate vigorous activities and activities that strengthen muscle and bone in the 60 minutes (e.g. running, yoga, lifting weights, sit-ups). Children and young people should also do several hours of various light physical activities each day (e.g. walk to school, go to a park, help around the house).
<b>Adults 18-64</b>	Adults should be active most days, preferably every day. Each week, adults should do either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.5 to 5 hours of moderate intensity physical activity – such as a brisk walk, golf, mowing the lawn or swimming</li> <li>• 1.25 to 2.5 hours of vigorous intensity physical activity – such as jogging, aerobics, fast cycling, soccer or netball</li> <li>• an equivalent combination of moderate and vigorous activities.</li> </ul>
<b>Adults 65 and over</b>	People aged 65 years and over, should do at least 30 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity on most, preferably all, days.

<sup>7</sup> Australian Government – Department of Health and Ageing website: [http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/health-publth-strateg-phys-act-guidelines#rec\\_0\\_5](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/health-publth-strateg-phys-act-guidelines#rec_0_5). Updated 6 May 2021.

### 6.3 Victorian participation rates in physical activity

According to Ausplay data<sup>8</sup>, the top 10 participation activities for adults and the top 10 participation activities for children in Victoria in between July 2019 and June 2020 (partially during COVID-19 restrictions) were as follows:

Adults aged 15+		Children 0-14 years of age	
Activity	%	Organised out of school activities	%
Walking (recreational)	43.6%	Swimming	33.0%
Fitness/Gym	39.2%	Basketball	12.4%
Swimming	18.3%	Australian Rules Football	11.5%
Athletics, track and field (includes jogging and running)	17.1%	Dancing (recreational)	10.6%
Cycling	15.3%	Gymnastics	10.4%
Yoga	6.8%	Football/Soccer	9.7%
Bushwalking	5.8%	Netball	9.4%
Basketball	4.7%	Tennis	5.6%*
Football / soccer	4.4%	Cricket	4.2%*
Australian Football	4.3%	Athletics, track and field (includes jogging and running)	4.0%*

\*Estimate has relative margin of error between 50% and 100% and should be used with caution.

The emphasis for adults is far more on individual non-structured activities. The children's survey specifically focussed on organised sport outside of school hours, so it is not possible to ascertain the popularity of unstructured activities.

VicHealth<sup>9</sup> notes that in relation to physical activity in Victoria, there are some participation trends concerning children, young people and women that need to be addressed and turned around:

Children 5-12 years of age	Young people 12-17 years of age	Women
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children's lifestyles are becoming increasingly sedentary, with 4 out of 5 children (5–17 years) not meeting the recommended 60 minutes of physical activity every day.</li> <li>Globally, today's children may be the first generation to have a shorter life expectancy than their parents.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participation in physical activity halves during adolescence (down from an average of 120 minutes to just over 60 minutes a day).</li> <li>Sport participation levels drop suddenly at around age 15.</li> <li>Physically active children and youth are more socially active, have reduced symptoms of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 out of 5 women aren't sufficiently active to gain health benefits from their activity.</li> <li>Females participate in sport at only half the rate of males.</li> <li>Barriers to participation in sport and physical activity are higher for women and girls.</li> </ul>

<sup>8</sup> Sport Australia. Ausplay Survey 2019-2020:

<https://www.clearinghouseforsport.gov.au/research/news/feed/smi/release-of-2019-20-ausplay-data>

<sup>9</sup> VicHealth (2018) Physical Activity Strategy 2018-2023

Children 5-12 years of age	Young people 12-17 years of age	Women
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By 2025, it is estimated that one in three Australian children will be overweight or obese.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>depression and anxiety, and perform better at school.</li> <li>The transitions to and from secondary school are key life stages at which to influence behaviours that establish lifelong healthy habits.</li> </ul>	

#### 6.4 Adult physical activity participation rates in Alpine Shire

Data contained within the Victorian Population Health Survey (2017)<sup>10</sup> states that:

- 45% of adults in Alpine Shire are insufficiently active to achieve health benefits, compared with 44% of Victorians.
- 59% of local residents are overweight, compared with 51% of Victorians
- 26% of local residents are obese, compared with 19% of Victorians
- Combined, 85% of local residents over 18 years of age or over are either overweight or obese, compared with 70% of Victorians.

Of those who filled out a community survey, more than half of the people who responded to the survey (53%) are active for more than 7 hours per week, with a further 9% stating that they are active for 7 hours per week. Only 2% of survey participants were active for less than 2 hours each week.

Through the community survey undertaken as part of the plan, Alpine Shire adults identified the following 10 most popular activities that they currently participate in (note that the survey respondents may not be a representative sample of the community as their participation in the survey was voluntary and not randomly selected). These figures are compared with a survey asking the same question in 2012 as part of the previous Recreation and Open Space Plan (2013).

Rank	Activity	Number of survey respondents in 2021 n = 199	% in Alpine Shire in 2021	% in Alpine Shire in 2012
1	Bushwalking	148	74%	7%
2	Walking	142	71%	63%
3	Gardening	126	63%	Not recorded
4	Cycling - recreational	108	54%	35%
5	Skiing / snowboarding	94	47%	16%
6	Swimming	90	45%	15%
7	Mountain bike riding	82	41%	5%

<sup>10</sup> Victorian Population Health Survey 2017: <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/population-health-systems/health-status-of-victorians/survey-data-and-reports/victorian-population-health-survey/victorian-population-health-survey-2017>



Rank	Activity	Number of survey respondents in 2021 n = 199	% in Alpine Shire in 2021	% in Alpine Shire in 2012
8	Canoeing / kayaking	73	37%	3%
9	Exercise classes	64	32%	11%*
10	Gym / weight training	63	32%	11%*

\*2012 survey combined gym / fitness

Alpine Shire survey respondents show a similar pattern to Victorian trend data in that they have an increased likelihood of engaging in informal, individual physical activities as opposed to organised sporting activities. This trend highlights the need to consider both active recreation activities alongside structured sporting opportunities.

A comparison of 2012 survey results, 2021 survey results and Victorian rates in 2020 around participation in traditional organised sports shows a significant increase in participation in most sports in 2021 (at least once during the previous 12 months) in Alpine Shire, but a fairly consistent participation rate in basketball, AFL and netball. Note that there were only 199 surveys completed in 2021 (much of the feedback received was from other online sources where current physical activity participation data was not requested), compared with 488 surveys in 2012, so results provide an indicator but may not be representative of the whole community.

Sport	% of participants in 2021 (n=199)	Victorian participation rate in 2020	% of participants in 2012 (n= 488)
<b>Golf</b>	14%	5%	6%
<b>Lawn bowls</b>	12%	2%	<2%
<b>Cricket</b>	12%	2%	2%
<b>Tennis</b>	11%	4%	7%
<b>Soccer</b>	10%	3%	3%
<b>Athletics</b>	9%	6%	<2%
<b>Table tennis</b>	9%	<1%	<2%
<b>Basketball</b>	7%	4%	5%
<b>AFL football</b>	7%	3%	6%
<b>Netball</b>	5%	3%	5%

There was insufficient data from children to make any statements about the most popular activities.

## 6.5 What activities would local residents like to do

According to the community survey, the most desired activities by survey respondents from Alpine Shire include:

- Swimming (all year round preferably) (7%)
- Gym / weight training / strength classes (6%)
- Dancing – bush, rumba, older adults and children’s (4%)
- Cycling – recreational (e.g. rail trail) (4%)
- Mountain bike riding (3%)
- Water exercise classes (3%)

- Rock climbing (indoors and outdoors) (3%)
- Exercise classes (3%)
- Boxing / Muay Thai Kick Boxing (3%)
- Lawn bowls (2%)
- Martial arts / karate (2%)
- Soccer (2%)
- Tai chi (2%).

## 6.6 Barriers to participation

The key to increasing physical activity levels amongst local residents is to address barriers to participation:

<p>Factors such as lack of time; cost of activities; poor health; lack of motivation; inability to access childcare; fear of being judged; and lack of confidence or self-esteem are key factors that limit participation in physical activity by <b>individuals</b>.</p>	<p>At an <b>organisational or club level</b>, factors that may limit participation include lack of inclusive and welcoming policies and practices; lack of information about opportunities available; inadequate facilities (e.g. for female participation); lack of opportunities that meet the desired level of participation (e.g. lack of social / informal sport opportunities); poor quality coaching / instruction; and clubs or organisations that do not respond to the cultural needs of certain groups.</p>
<p>At a <b>community level</b>, lack of suitable facilities; inadequate facilities, paths and areas of open space as a result of poor planning; and lack of activation can have a negative impact on physical activity. So too can communities that are based around cars as the major form of transport; lack of public transportation; and communities where people do not feel connected to each other.</p>	<p>At a <b>societal level</b>, participation can be limited if people don't feel that facilities and areas of open space are safe; if they feel that spectators will make it unpleasant to participate; if it is more enjoyable to spend leisure time using technology; and if there is a concern that participation as a participant or support person may lead to litigation.</p>

Through the community survey, local residents told us that they would be more likely to participate in sport and active recreation if:

- Their desired activities were available locally or close to home (54%)
- Facilities they want to use are available at times that suit their needs and if facilities are of a higher quality (11%)
- They had more time (9%)
- Their health and fitness levels were improved (3%)
- They had the skills and confidence to participate in their desired activities (1%)
- There was easy access to facilities and locations from their homes (1%)
- More dogs were on leads in public spaces (1%).

Research undertaken by Active Alpine Group<sup>11</sup> adds several other barriers including seasons and weather; cost; lack of paths; lack of motivation; pain and safety. Additional barriers from VicHealth include history of being inactive, peer support, negative parental attitudes, stranger danger, ready access to electronic media and limited public transport.<sup>12</sup>

In terms of trail use, community survey respondents stated that they would ride a bike or walk more often if:

1. Missing sections on paths / tracks / trails were eliminated (38%)
2. Verges on roads were widened for cyclists to use (26%)
3. There were more toilets along trails or at trail heads (23%)
4. Paths / tracks / trails were better maintained (22%)
5. There were more shared off-road paths / tracks / trails (22%)
6. Paths / tracks / trails were wider (22%)
7. There was more information / maps available (20%)
8. There were more marked on-road bike lanes (18%)
9. There was more shade (17%)
10. There was more signage / improved wayfinding (16%).

To ensure that we can increase participation in physical activity by local residents, we need to address key issues such as activation of spaces, improving accessibility, reducing barriers to participation, ensuring activities are affordable, supporting volunteers and providing more information about what is available.

## 6.7 Council role

Alpine Shire Council currently provides, manages, maintains and promotes sport and active recreation programs, services and facilities as a community benefit. It currently undertakes the following roles:

- **Strategic planning** – undertake, facilitate or support strategic planning for sport and active recreation programs, services and facilities, e.g. assisting with recreation reserve master plans, developing policies and linking various tracks and trails to one another. This planning will help Council to achieve its health and wellbeing targets and will help to address community sport and active recreation needs both now and in the future.
- **Provision of facilities** – provide a range of places and spaces where physical activity can occur in the community. These places and spaces include formal sports facilities such as ovals and hardcourts, through to shared trails, swimming pools and playgrounds.
- **Management and maintenance of facilities** – manage and maintain sport and active recreation assets owned by Alpine Shire Council, including swimming pools, parks, playgrounds, some shared trails and some sports facilities.
- **Promotion of sport and active recreation opportunities** – promote clubs / organisations and sport and active recreation programs and events via Council's promotional tools, e.g. website, social media, newsletter, new resident's kit, etc.

<sup>11</sup> Active Alpine Group (2018) Alpine Active Living Mapping Project Findings Report

<sup>12</sup> VicHealth (2016) Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviour Evidence Summary

- **Club / organisational support** – provide support to clubs / organisations through mechanisms such as sports facility maintenance grants, community grants, information provision, advice, promotion of activities / events, etc to enable clubs / organisations to deliver a diversity of sport and active recreation opportunities in the community.
- **Partnership development** – establish and maintain effective partnerships with relevant groups, organisations and government agencies to collaboratively deliver sport and active recreation opportunities for residents and visitors to the region, e.g. Active Alpine Group.
- **Advocacy** – advocate to State and Federal Government and other relevant agencies on behalf of clubs / organisations and the community for improved sport and active recreation facilities, programs or services that can be added to the project pipeline and reviewed as and when funding becomes available.

Council performs its various roles (described above) in active recreation and sport across a range of existing business areas and initiatives. Some of the specific practices we want to continue to deliver, or to provide a greater focus on to support residents' participation in active recreation and sports, are identified in the table below. These practices demonstrate the philosophies that underpin Council's approach. The table below identifies existing actions and underpinning philosophies. The sub-headings that follow on in this section highlight actions that Council will seek resourcing to put in place to further develop the activities highlighted in this table.

<p><b>Policies and processes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate allocating resources to sport and active recreation planning, facility management, promotion, club support, partnership development and advocacy.</li> <li>• Continue to update existing tools, policies, strategies and processes as required.</li> <li>• Participate in formal and informal regional sport and recreation networks to share information with neighbouring Local Government Authorities.</li> <li>• Support the implementation of existing plans with a sport and active recreation focus, e.g. the Dinner Plain Village Detailed Designs plan.</li> <li>• Continue to update the Asset Database as new information becomes available or conditions change.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Open space planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to provide several free public places and spaces such as parks, playgrounds, shared trails, outdoor fitness equipment, pump tracks, etc for sport and active recreation participation by local residents.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Facility management and planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote universal design and compliance to Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) requirements in facilities.</li> <li>• Ensure that all sport and active recreation facility developments, upgrades and renewals incorporate Environmentally Sustainable Design principles (playing surface, clubrooms / change rooms and surrounds).</li> <li>• Design any facility developments or upgrades to include consideration of needs to respond to potential climate change impacts.</li> <li>• Ensure that consideration is given to the development of female change facilities in pavilions.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Programming and activation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote female participation in sport and active recreation.</li> <li>• Support initiatives by partner organisations that increase participation.</li> <li>• Continue to promote clubs / organisations through Council's Community Directory and expand the level of information available about each club / organisation.</li> </ul>

- Promote private sector sport and active recreation organisations that deliver physical activities for local residents in Council's Community Directory.
- Seek opportunities to work with private sector providers of sport and active recreation to deliver physical activities at events and activities as appropriate.
- Promote initiatives and programs from partner organisations that are designed to improve accessibility by people (particularly under-represented communities) to sport and active recreation.
- Monitor the impact of potential participation barriers and implement measures to improve accessibility as required.

#### **Club / organisational support**

- Encourage multi-use of facilities and the delivery of additional activities by clubs / organisations (e.g. social / modified activities) as an add-on to their traditional offerings.
- Continue to support clubs / organisations to purchase small items of equipment, develop new programs, train volunteers, etc. through the Community Grants program.
- Work in partnership with Sport North East and relevant State Sporting Associations to bring additional resources to Alpine Shire to support clubs / organisations and local residents to deliver physical activity opportunities and to be more active.
- Establish or enhance working relationships with schools throughout the municipality to enable discussions about shared facility planning to help reduce duplication and to maximise asset usage.
- Explore opportunities to better support clubs and their volunteers in relation to issues such as governance, planning, policy development, programming, information and advice regarding grant applications.
- Continue to support Alpine Shire Council's economic and community development team to implement the Active Alpine Group initiative in partnership with Alpine Health, Gateway Health and Sport North East.
- Promote any government initiative that provides funding or training for potential coaches / sports administrators locally.
- Commit to nominating sport and active recreation volunteers to awards programs in the region to recognise and reward them for their service.
- Continue to liaise with clubs and organisations to understand their specific issues and needs and provide support or advocacy as appropriate.

The following key directions have been identified in order to help increase participation in physical activity by residents of the Alpine Shire.

#### **6.7.1 Activate places and spaces**

In order to increase usage of places and spaces such as parks, playgrounds or sporting facilities, it is important to provide infrastructure to support comfort and enjoyment for users. Such infrastructure may include:

- shade in parks, playgrounds and along shared trails to enable people to visit more frequently and for longer periods, without the risk of exposure to the sun's damaging rays
- seats and picnic tables in parks, playgrounds, along shared trails and at recreation reserves to enable people to rest, watch children play and meet up with family and friends
- lighting on well-used shared trails (or on sections of well-used trails) to enable people to walk or cycle in the early morning or just after sunset more safely

- lighting at key sports facilities, e.g. some tennis courts, to enable people to play twilight sport or to train for certain sports
- wayfinding signage to enable people to better find their way to key locations within or between towns – potentially including information about the time it would take to walk or cycle to a particular location to encourage this form of active travel (rather than using a car)
- informal equipment such as outdoor fitness equipment or a basketball / netball ring to provide an additional opportunity within a park to encourage more people to use that space
- public art in parks to create a sense of community place and pride and to reflect community history, culture or artistic expressions.

It is also important that facilities are designed in such a way as to be multi-use and flexible, e.g. hard courts be used for sports such as netball and tennis, but also for a learn to ride area for children or a space to race model cars. Even within the sport itself, it is important to provide a diversity of activities or levels that will attract people to use a facility outside its traditional hours, e.g. rock up netball or cardio tennis or pickleball on a weeknight in addition to traditional competition based netball or tennis.

### 6.7.2 Improve accessibility

Accessibility can mean many things. It can refer to the improvement of physical access to a building and the user's experience whilst there through ramps, hearing loops, change facilities for people with disabilities and Braille signage. Or it may include greater access to spaces such as sports fields or pavilions that organisations were previously not permitted to use, or not permitted to use at certain times. It may also mean reducing some of the barriers to participation such as lowering the cost of activities, providing transportation to the activity, providing equipment free of charge for the activity or providing childcare, for example.

A current priority of the Victorian State Government and VicHealth is to increase access to people from under-represented communities to sport and active recreation, e.g. females; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders; people with a disability; LGBTQI+ community; culturally and linguistically diverse people; people from low on low incomes or experiencing socio-economic disadvantage; and disengaged youth.<sup>13</sup>

To ensure that under-represented communities have equitable access to sport and active recreation opportunities in Alpine Shire, accessibility issues need to be addressed.

### 6.7.3 Provide and promote free / low-cost sport and active recreation opportunities

One of the key barriers to participation in physical activity is cost. The weekly income of Alpine Shire households is lower than the Victorian average and the impact of COVID-19 on many of the tourism businesses in Alpine Shire has been significant. Feedback from clubs indicates that post-COVID, there are less people returning to organised sport. This in part may be due to cost. It is therefore important that a variety of free or low-cost sport and active recreation opportunities are provided for or promoted to residents of Alpine Shire.

<sup>13</sup> Victorian State Government (2017) Active Victoria. A strategic framework for sport and recreation in Victoria 2017-2021: [https://sport.vic.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0018/55602/download.pdf](https://sport.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/55602/download.pdf)

Active Alpine Group supported the community behind the scenes in establishing parkrun in Myrtleford, which is a volunteer led free weekly 5km walk/run. Initiatives like parkrun and the State Government's Get Active Victoria and This Girl can are all examples of free programs aimed at increasing people's access to sport and recreation activities. The State Government has also recently launched a Get Active Kids Voucher Program<sup>14</sup> which provides up to \$200 towards the cost of membership, sports equipment or uniforms for under-represented groups experiencing barriers to participation in sport and recreation. Sport North East has a sports library<sup>15</sup> in Wangaratta from which local residents can borrow equipment such as Nordic walking poles, yoga mats and bocce sets.

Similarly, the provision of outdoor fitness equipment, the Bright Water Park, pump tracks, skate parks, playgrounds, fishing platforms, boat ramps and shared trails are all examples of free facilities that encourage participation in physical activity.

#### 6.7.4 Increase female participation

Statewide there has been a trend for greater participation by girls and women in sports such as cricket and football. Data provided by Cricket Victoria indicates that there are a small number of girls involved in cricket blast at Mount Beauty Cricket Club and Ovens Valley United Cricket Club, but no junior girls or women's teams in Alpine Shire. Similarly, data provided by AFL Victoria indicates that girls are involved in Auskick, but as yet there are no junior or youth girls' teams and no women's teams. Girls and women who wish to play cricket and AFL football travel to Wangaratta or Wodonga to do so. However, in order to encourage more female participation and the establishment of female teams, there need to be people championing the establishment of such teams; facilities need to be accommodating for female participation (i.e. no open showers and urinals in change facilities); and female teams need to be given equitable access to sports facilities for training and matches.

#### 6.7.5 Support volunteers

The delivery of community-based sport and active recreation opportunities in Alpine Shire is heavily reliant on the use of volunteers. A number of clubs and organisations have indicated that they are struggling to recruit and retain enough volunteers, especially coaches and people willing to serve on a committee of management. This is particularly the case following COVID-19 restrictions.

Some clubs stated that it is difficult for coaches to retain their accreditation as they are required to travel significant distances to attend training sessions to upgrade their skills. Others have stated that it is difficult to attract and retain volunteers due to the complexities of the work volunteers are required to undertake, e.g. maintaining a fleet of gliders or understanding and adhering to all of the regulations of Racing Victoria.

To ensure that community-based sport and active recreation continues to be available to local residents, the attraction, retention and rewarding of volunteers in the future will be crucial. New ways of attracting people to assist, e.g. short-term project based volunteering is one option that needs to be considered, as should new ways of operating from a governance perspective. There may be opportunities to hold training for coaches in the Hume region, as opposed to all coaches travelling to Melbourne for training. Key partners in this space include local leagues / associations,

<sup>14</sup> Victorian State Government (2020) Get Active Victoria – Kids Voucher Program: <https://www.getactive.vic.gov.au/vouchers/>

<sup>15</sup> Sport North East: <https://www.sportnortheast.com.au/sports-library/>

schools, Sport North East and State Sporting Associations. Alpine Shire Council may also be able to provide a volunteer portal on its website to match potential volunteers to volunteering positions. School students and retired people could be targeted through volunteer campaigns, the former to gain new experiences and skills, and the latter to share experiences and skills gathered over many years.

#### 6.7.6 Improve information

To increase awareness of existing sport and active recreation opportunities in Alpine Shire by local residents, a diversity of communication tools (both online and hard copy) should be employed by Council, clubs and organisations, such as:

- Active use of the community directory which lists the names of sport and active recreation clubs and organisations in Alpine Shire, including venue, contact details and some information about competitions / programs, with a direct link to club / organisation websites. This needs to be regularly updated and be provided online via Council's website as well as in hard copy format at Council service centres and libraries.
- Information on Council's website and in its social media pages to promote events and activities (text and / or video).
- Information on club / organisation websites, newsletters and social media pages.
- Posters in shop windows to promote events and activities.
- Banners or signage in the street or in front of the venue.
- Letterbox drops by clubs / organisations.
- Presentations to specific target markets.
- Emails to various established networks including schools.



## 7.0 Places

**To provide a diversity of quality and accessible sport and active recreation places and spaces for the community.**

### 7.1 Existing places and spaces

Alpine Shire Council, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), Parks Victoria, Alpine Resorts Victoria, AGL Hydro, HVP Plantations, North East Water, Goulburn-Murray Water, North East Catchment Management Authority, schools and the private sector provide a diverse range of places and spaces where physical activity occurs within the Alpine Shire region.

Alpine Shire Council primarily provides sports fields / courts / greens, parks, playgrounds and shared trails, as well as some indoor sports facilities and swimming facilities.

The following table provides an overview of the facilities that are currently available



In addition to the facilities listed above, there are a variety of recreational programs and activities undertaken in Alpine Shire by community organisations, health organisations and the private sector including gym, yoga, strength classes, swimming lessons, personal training, dance, martial arts, Nordic Pole Walking, in halls, indoor stadiums and parks. Etc. There is an opportunity for Alpine Shire to further support these organisations to value add to their existing offerings to help achieve positive health and wellbeing outcomes within the community.

Facilities such as ovals can also provide for a range of sport and active recreation activities such as AFL football, soccer and athletics.

Some local residents visit facilities in other municipalities, e.g. indoor aquatic centres, soccer fields, hockey fields and basketball stadiums in other locations such as Wodonga and Wangaratta. In some instances, people who live in other municipalities utilise facilities within Alpine Shire, e.g. the rail trail and mountain bike facilities.

A review of existing facility provision against industry standards<sup>16</sup> indicates that Alpine Shire is well serviced in regard to the number of facilities provided, although there is shortfall of designated soccer fields. It is important to note that industry standards are often developed for metropolitan centres or growth areas and don't necessarily take into consideration the condition of existing facilities, their location, their distance from population centres, their layout (i.e. stand-alone facility or several facilities located together), and the geography of the surrounding area, etc. As a very basic guide, the following table provides an indication of provision in growth areas of metropolitan Melbourne:

<b><i>Sports facility</i></b>	<b>Ratio of provision planned in growth Councils (e.g. City of Casey)</b>	<b>No. of facilities in Alpine Shire</b>	<b>Ratio of provision in Alpine Shire</b>
<i>Athletics</i>	1 grass track: 75,000	No dedicated facilities	None
<i>Australian Rules Football</i>	1 oval: 4,250	8	1 oval:1,542
<i>Baseball</i>	1 field: 50,000	1	1 field:12,337
<i>Basketball</i>	1 facility: 8,000	3	1 court:4,112
<i>Cricket</i>	1 oval: 3,000	9	1 oval:1,371
<i>Hockey</i>	1 pitch: 100,000	0	None
<i>Lawn bowls</i>	1 facility: 15,000	4	1 facility:3,084
<i>Soccer</i>	1 field: 4,500	2	1 field:6,169
<i>Netball (outdoor)</i>	1 court: 5,000	9	1 courts:1,371
<i>Netball (indoor)</i>	1 court: 5,000	3	1 courts:4,112
<i>Tennis</i>	1 court: 2,300	28 (some in very poor condition)	1 court:441

<sup>16</sup> City of Casey (2014) Leisure Facilities Development Plan Policy: <https://www.casey.vic.gov.au/policies-strategies/leisure-facilities-development-plan-policy>

## 7.2 Issues and opportunities

### 7.2.1 Facility audit observations

Observations from the facility audit undertaken as part of the development of this plan identify a range of issues and opportunities, including:

- Varying level of standards from brand new facilities to **ageing facilities**, i.e. from Pioneer Park in Bright (excellent) to Gapsted Recreation Reserve (poor)
- **Lack of change facilities and toilets** at some sites, e.g. no female change facilities at Mount Beauty Recreation Reserve, no toilets at Bright Croquet Club and no change facilities at Les Peart Oval (home of junior soccer)
- **Gaps in the trail network** and opportunities to better connect towns with one another (e.g. Kiewa River Trail in Mount Beauty to Tawonga along the river) and complete the gap in the trail network from Bright to Harrierville
- Inability for some sports to grow due to **lack of access to stadium / facility space and times**, e.g. gymnastics and table tennis
- **Potential safety issues**, e.g. landing area for paragliding on both sides of the road; poor condition of rodeo grandstand in Myrtleford; road safety issues for cyclists along the Tawonga Gap Road; lack of potable water at Dederang Recreation Reserve
- **Poor wayfinding signage** to some facilities (e.g. McNamara Reserve in Myrtleford) and on some trails
- Facilities that will require an **upgrade in the near future (and considerable expenditure)**, e.g. Mount Beauty Recreation Reserve Pavilion and Myrtleford Swimming Pool
- **Various levels of accessibility** in relation to DDA compliant toilets, paths, ramps, play equipment, etc.
- **Lack of storage space** for clubs at Pioneer Park in Bright and in Mount Beauty (Dragon Boat Club, soccer and Little Athletics)
- **Lack of infrastructure that could help to further activate sites**, e.g. paths, seats, shade, picnic tables, water bubblers and play equipment

### 7.2.2 Community demand for places and spaces

Many of the issues identified through the audit were also identified through the community survey, online engagement and key stakeholder engagement.

The top sport and active recreation facility and trail upgrades desired by the community (from community surveys and online responses combined) are outlined in the table below. It is important to note that some of the facilities and trails identified lie outside of Council's responsibilities as a land manager.

<b>Sport and recreation facility upgrades desired</b>	<b>Trail upgrades desired</b>
Improve aquatic facilities in Myrtleford, Mount Beauty and Bright (indoors and outdoors)	Develop a pedestrian bridge at Nimmo Bridge in Myrtleford and trails to connect to Myrtleford and beyond
Upgrade Mount Beauty Skate Park - lights, shade and mini ramp	Improve walking / cycling opportunities throughout Alpine Shire (connections, loops, etc)
Upgrade and seal Mount Beauty BMX pump track	Construct a trail from Pebble Beach on the Kiewa River Trail to Damms Rd in Mount Beauty

<b>Sport and recreation facility upgrades desired</b>	<b>Trail upgrades desired</b>
Develop a junior sports oval on 2 <sup>nd</sup> oval at Pioneer Park in Bright for soccer, Little Athletics, junior AFL and cricket	Upgrade sections of the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail, e.g. widening trail between Bright and Porepunkah
Increase number of exercise classes at Bright Sports Centre	Create mountain bike tracks on Reform Hill in Myrtleford
Develop a splash park / water play facility in Myrtleford	Construct a footpath in Mummery Road, Myrtleford
Replace swing bridge in Rotary Park in Myrtleford with an accessible bridge	Improve trail connections in the township of Bright
Review the need for a facility at Porepunkah Oval	Improve trail maintenance in Bright
	Undertake works on the Back Porepunkah Road to improve safety for road cyclists
	Complete the gap in the trail between Bright and Harrietville
	Undertake on-road cycling improvements in Bright
	Develop an epic mountain bike trail between Bright and Mount Beauty
	Review the tracks and trails network around Harrietville

The process for a preliminary prioritising of projects identified is discussed in further detail in the Processes section of this plan.

Note that as identified above, some of the projects listed, e.g. the development of mountain bike trails on Reform Hill falls within the responsibility of DELWP. In instances where the proposed project is the responsibility of another organisation, Alpine Shire Council will inform the relevant organisation of the community's desires.

Where the project may require external funding, but then become the management, maintenance and renewal responsibility of Council, it will be listed as a potential Council project, subject to funding availability.

## 7.3 Key directions

### 7.3.1 Aquatics

One of the greatest demands identified by the community through engagement activities was for improved aquatic facilities in Alpine Shire. Ideas ranged from indoor heated pools in each of the three largest towns, to an outdoor pool in Bright, a water park in Myrtleford and a range of other aquatic improvements such as more inflatable equipment.

While the benefits of participation in aquatic activities are recognised, e.g. improved water safety skills; improved health and fitness; and enjoyment, it can be challenging from an economic perspective to provide aquatic facilities in areas with a low population. Industry research, for example, indicates that 25m-50m indoor aquatic facilities are generally not economically viable in towns with a catchment of less than 30,000-40,000 people.

Further research therefore needs to be undertaken to determine the type of aquatic opportunities desired by the community, e.g. learn to swim, lap swimming, hydrotherapy, water aerobics or water play and to really understand what is the optimum and achievable scenario for pool allocation around Alpine Shire. As part of this research consideration should also be given to the upgrade of both Mount Beauty and Myrtleford Pools, including possible relocation if warranted.

### 7.3.2 Footpaths and shared trails

Walking and cycling are two of the most popular physical activities in Alpine Shire, and one of the most effective ways of encouraging more people to become more active.

Alpine Shire is renowned throughout Australia for its many high-quality walking and cycling options, including some of the most iconic bushwalks in Australia; the best rail trail in Australia; excellent mountain biking and gravel bike riding opportunities and a vast array of recreational tracks and trails of all levels for walking, cycling, trail running and horse riding. Visitors flock to the region for walking and cycling opportunities, and without a doubt, local walking and cycling opportunities will have been a key attraction for many new residents to Alpine Shire.

A wide range of suggestions were received from local residents to further upgrade footpaths, trails and on-road bike lanes in Alpine Shire, e.g. completion of missing links between Bright and Harrierville; development of new trails around Nimmo Bridge in Myrtleford and between Mount Beauty and Tawonga; widening of existing trails such as the Murray to Mountains Trail between Bright and Porepunkah; improved connections within towns (particularly between residential areas and trails), and improved safety for road cyclists along the Tawonga Gap Road.

Whilst Council used the engagement process for this Sport and Active Recreation Plan to gather some information on community needs for trails and paths, the breadth of scope of optimisation of the trail and path network for developments, upgrades and renewals of cycling and walking infrastructure needs to be focussed into a tracks, trails and footpath strategy.

### 7.3.3 Murray to Mountains Trail

The Murray to Mountains Rail Trail is the premier recreational trail in Alpine Shire. It connects Bright, Porepunkah, Eurobin, Ovens, Myrtleford and Gapsted to one another before travelling outside the municipality to connect to Wangaratta and Beechworth. New trails south of Bright will

enable a connection to Harrietville and Wandiligong, once better town connections are developed within Bright.

Due to the immense popularity of the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail by local residents and visitors, it can become crowded during holiday periods and on weekends. The narrow trail between Bright and Porepunkah needs to be widened to reduce potential trail conflict and to allow people to ride or walk side by side. Similarly, consideration needs to be made to further activating the site and providing for a safer, more comfortable experience by reviewing wayfinding, safety and amenities.

#### 7.3.4 Play spaces

Play spaces provide an important place for children and families to develop physically and socially and enjoy the experience of free play. Council does not currently have a formal play strategy to guide its provision of play across the municipality. Ideally a review of the location of all play spaces needs to occur, along with an assessment of the remaining life span; size of play space; condition of play spaces; the type and diversity of play opportunities provided; the catchment of play spaces; the age range for each play space; supporting infrastructure such as paths, seats and shade; areas of over- or under-supply; accessibility; the value of play opportunities provided; and some principles to guide the provision of play. Budgets should also be established for capital works, upgrades, renewals and maintenance.

#### 7.3.5 Public toilets

The provision of public toilets can greatly enhance usage of public open spaces and people's ability to participate in community life, particularly for families with young children or for people who may need to access toilets quickly due to ageing or health issues. Demand for additional public toilets in locations such as at the start of Kiewa River Trail was identified through consultation and demand for upgrades, improved maintenance or opening hours was also noted, particularly in some of the smaller towns in Alpine Shire such as Dederang.

Baby change facilities enable families to more easily enjoy parks and recreation reserves, knowing that safe and comfortable facilities are available for their usage. At present there are no Changing Places fully accessible public toilet facilities in Alpine Shire. These facilities incorporate change tables and hoists for people with severe or profound disabilities. The provision of one Changing Places venue in a central location in Alpine Shire would significantly improve access for people with disabilities to recreational and community spaces and would enable people with disabilities from other areas to enjoy outings in Alpine Shire. It is suggested that if such a toilet is constructed, Bright, because of its access to a range of physical activity opportunities and its high visitor numbers, would be a logical location to install the first Changing Places facility. Potentially other facilities could be established in Myrtleford and Mount Beauty in the future.

#### 7.3.6 Environmental sustainability

A number of clubs and organisations in Alpine Shire are embracing initiatives to reduce their impact on the environment, including solar panels on the roof of the Myrtleford Bowls Club, inground irrigation systems and water tanks at various recreation reserves, passive heating and cooking in buildings, low use shower heads in change rooms, use of recycled materials in building construction, etc. Funding bodies such as Sport and Recreation Victoria require projects to incorporate

Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) features. By designing facilities according to ESD principles, significant benefits can be achieved including:

- Reduction in energy and therefore cheaper operating costs
- Protection and conservation of water
- Less materials going to landfill due to re-use
- Less waste
- Less pollution
- Less transportation costs and impacts by buying locally.

Council will continue to ensure that environmental sustainability options are included in design projects and funding applications for facility renewals and upgrades.

### 7.3.7 Impact of climate change

Alpine Shire, like the rest of the world, is being impacted by climate change. Warming temperatures and an increase in the number, duration and severity of heatwaves increases the number of extreme fire risk days and the length of the bushfire season. High temperatures can result in an increased need for cooling in sport and recreation facilities. An increase in fire risk requires the need to design facilities to withstand fire as much as possible.

High temperatures also have an impact on participation, as many activities are called off once the temperature hits 35 degrees or above to reduce the likelihood of people suffering from heat stress while playing sport. Some people are likely to stop participating in summer sports as a result of potential heat stroke and sunburn. High temperatures can also contribute to blue-green algae outbreaks, therefore impacting water sports.

Lower rainfall levels may impact the condition of playing fields and the availability of water to irrigate playing fields. Intense rainfall events may result in flooding of playing fields and buildings and the cancellation of games.

Alpine Shire Council's Climate Action Plan (2024) describes Council's commitment to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by July 2030 through avoiding / reusing, improving efficiency, using onsite renewable energy, purchasing renewable energy and offsetting residual emissions.

### 7.3.8 Sport and recreation facilities incorporating Municipal Emergency management

A number of sporting groups were keen to ensure that their venues are upgraded to a standard suitable to be used as Places of Last Resort (POLR) or Community Fire Refuges.

**Fire refuges** - according to Alpine Shire Council's Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP), there are no designated fire refuges currently.

**Place of Last Resort** - these facilities are not part of shelter in place or evacuation strategies; they are places of last resort; (where other plans have failed or cannot be followed) where a person's prospects of survival may be better than other places but cannot be guaranteed. They are places, or buildings, designated and signposted by Alpine Shire Council that meet guidelines issued by the



CFA<sup>17</sup> and the criteria in the Municipal Neighbourhood Safer Places Plan. As of May 2021, Alpine Shire's Neighbourhood Safer Places are signposted as Bushfire Places of Last Resort at the following locations:

<b>Alpine Shire Neighbourhood Safer Places - NSPs</b>		
<b>TOWN(S)</b>	<b>PLACE OF LAST RESORT</b>	<b>COORDINATES (DD)</b>
Bright and Wandiligong	Pioneer Park Oval	<a href="#">-36.737131</a>
	64/72 Coronation Avenue, Bright	<a href="#">146.970934</a>
Harrietville	Harrietville Hall	<a href="#">-36.891763</a>
	Great Alpine Road, Harrietville	<a href="#">147.063336</a>
Porepunkah	Porepunkah Hall and oval	<a href="#">-36.698301</a>
		<a href="#">146.911356</a>
Dederang	Memorial Hall	<a href="#">-36.475587</a>
	Kiewa Valley Highway, Dederang	<a href="#">147.021267</a>
Myrtleford	Ablett Pavilion	<a href="#">-36.566896</a>
	Lewis Avenue, Myrtleford	<a href="#">146.722146</a>
	RC McNamara Reserve oval	<a href="#">-36.567486</a>
	Lewis Avenue, Myrtleford	<a href="#">146.723026</a>
Mount Beauty	Mount Beauty Sports Stadium	<a href="#">-36.741793</a>
	Pool Road, Mt Beauty	<a href="#">147.168774</a>
Tawonga	Tawonga Memorial Hall	<a href="#">-36.686769</a>
	Kiewa Valley Highway, Tawonga	<a href="#">147.141023</a>

**Emergency Relief Centres (ERC)** - are locations such as halls where relief services, food, water, accommodation and support with counselling and finances are provided. These centres will only be

<sup>17</sup> CFA website: <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/your-local-area-info-and-advice/neighbourhood-safer-places>

activated and publicised once consideration has been given by the Incident Controller (in consultation with the Municipal Emergency Response Coordinator (MERC) and Municipal Recovery Manager (MRM)) to the prevailing circumstances and number of people needing assistance.

**Community Based Relief Support Centres** - are facilities where the community may gather during the watch and act phase of an emergency until people put their evacuation plan into place or move to an Emergency Relief Centre when / if one is opened. These spaces are community-led.

### 7.3.9 Pioneer Park (Bright) Master Plan

Numerous sporting groups identified the need to develop a second oval or grassed playing field at Pioneer Park in the open space area adjacent to the equestrian area, along with storage space for user groups. Potential user groups of this second oval or grassed playing field include junior football, junior cricket, junior soccer, Little Athletics and senior athletics. Should this open space area be developed, consideration needs to be given to creating a multi-purpose space that is able to cater for a variety of different sports. Consideration also needs to be given to the position of the pony club arena located next to the open space area, as junior sport and pony club immediately next to each may not be compatible.

Other suggestions received for Pioneer Park include the development of additional tennis courts onsite; an additional hardcourt suitable for netball or basketball; as well as a new clubhouse for Alpine Cycling Club (it currently shares the Scout Hall at Pioneer Park). There may be opportunities to create a shared facility with storage for users of the second oval / grassed playing field and the Alpine Cycling Club.

### 7.3.10 Dinner Plain Village Master Plan

Dinner Plain Village Detailed Designs (2020) recommends the development of a recreation reserve and adventure trail at Dinner Plain featuring mini pump park and skate features, frisbee golf, multi court, expansion to the existing play space, pedestrian access upgrade, park infrastructure and increased amenity and infrastructure at Peashooters Run and Trail Junction (Mountain Bike Hub).

### 7.3.11 Mount Beauty Education and Recreation Precinct Master Plan

A variety of suggestions were received to improve the Mount Beauty Education and Recreation Precinct, including:

- An upgrade to the Mount Beauty Recreation Reserve pavilion to improve kitchen, social and change facilities (including for female players – netball and AFL football - and umpires)
- Improvements to the drainage on the Mount Beauty sports oval to enable sports to be played over winter
- Basic clubhouse / storage facilities on Les Peart Oval to cater for junior soccer, junior cricket and Little Athletics
- Storage space for Mount Beauty Dragon Boat Club's boat and equipment
- Sealing of the Mount Beauty BMX pump track
- Installation of shade sail, lights and a mini ramp for beginners at Mount Beauty Skate Park
- Provide an improved launch ramp into The Pondage for watercraft
- Upgrade to tennis club pavilion

### 7.3.12 McNamara Recreation Reserve (Myrtleford) Master Plan

McNamara Reserve in Myrtleford is the home of high-level football, cricket and netball in the municipality. In order to continue to provide high-level sport and to attract skilled / elite players it is important to provide quality facilities.

The Recreation Reserve Committee of Management has undertaken some initial planning to develop a wellbeing and recovery centre on site. It also wishes to establish a second oval on land next to the reserve (which is currently privately owned).

The development of a second oval would enable all grades of football and cricket to be based at the one site (instead of operating partially at McNamara Reserve and partially at Memorial Park). Should Memorial Park become surplus to football and cricket needs, it could be repurposed for additional sport and recreation opportunities, or the land could potentially be sold to help fund the purchase of land for the second oval. There may also be an opportunity to develop an athletics running track around the perimeter of the second oval, thereby creating an opportunity for senior or junior athletics on site, particularly if additional athletic infrastructure is constructed.

It is likely that the committee will progress the planning further for the recovery and wellbeing centre and a second oval. Therefore, it is important that Alpine Shire Council stays informed of the planning works and vision created by the committee as it may impact decisions about future use of Memorial Park.

### 7.3.13 Sport and recreation facility improvements

Some of the key suggestions emanating from the community engagement activities undertaken include:

- improvements at some of the larger recreation reserves – Pioneer Park in Bright, Mount Beauty Recreation Reserve in Mount Beauty and McNamara Reserve in Myrtleford (which will be identified through master plans)
- aquatic improvements (which will be included in the Aquatics Option Analysis)
- play space improvements (which will be included in the play space review); and
- track / trail / path improvements (which will be included in the Footpath Strategy)
- projects that are the responsibility of another body, e.g. DELWP.

There are not sufficient resources available to undertake all of these works, and a process of justification needs to be undertaken to determine the feasibility of such developments. To assist with this prioritisation process, assessment tools will be developed as part of the implementation phase of the Sport and Recreation Plan.

Further, given that Alpine Shire is well serviced with sport and active recreation facilities, and much of Alpine Shire is within reasonably close proximity to the major centres of Wangaratta and Wodonga where regional single-purpose facilities are more likely to be developed due to their potential catchments in these centres, the focus for Alpine Shire Council should be on improving existing assets wherever possible, rather than the development of new facilities

## 8.0 Partners

### **To work in partnership with community organisations, government agencies and the private sector to facilitate sport and active recreation opportunities for the community.**

Sport and active recreation opportunities are delivered or facilitated by a diverse range of partners in Alpine Shire including Council; sport and active recreation clubs and organisations; Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning; Parks Victoria; Alpine Health; Gateway Health; Sport North East; State Sporting Associations; schools and the private sector. Collaborations between these different groups can ensure better health, social, economic and environmental outcomes are achieved and ensure that limited resources are maximised. These organisations can also help Alpine Shire achieve its health and wellbeing targets identified in the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan.

### 8.1 Sport and active recreation clubs

Sport and recreation clubs and organisations in Alpine Shire are typically run by volunteers (although some sports such as bowls, golf and football clubs may have paid administrators or maintenance staff) and provide opportunities for local residents to take part in competitions or activities. There are over 100 clubs and organisations in Alpine Shire. Of the 42 clubs and organisations who completed a survey or attended one of the workshops held, more than half (57%) believe that their membership levels will grow over the next five years. Just over one-third of clubs (36%) believe that their membership levels will remain the same and 7% believe that they will have a drop in numbers.

Clubs and organisations in Alpine Shire were significantly impacted by the bushfires and COVID-19 restrictions in 2020. During the bushfire period, many clubs ceased to offer their activities due to perceived personal safety risks; potential for property damage; poor air quality impacting people's health and ability to participate safely; and lack of people able to participate due to evacuations or fire-fighting duties.

COVID-19 restrictions also resulted in senior and junior sport being cancelled; loss of potential club revenue from membership fees, canteen fees, bar takings, gate takings, events and sponsorship (one club stated that it lost \$21,000); a slow or diminished return to activities (one organisation stated that it has lost half of its membership); the need for even more volunteers to ensure COVID-safe practices are implemented and adhered to; difficulties in attracting coaches; additional costs to ensure COVID-safe practices (e.g. hand sanitizer and extra cleaning) as well as ongoing costs (e.g. insurance) even though activities were not occurring; a decline in physical and mental health of regular participants due to activity being in recess; lack of community social connectedness activities as a result of games and social events not being held. As organised sport was essentially unavailable during COVID-19 restrictions, participation in active recreation pursuits such as walking and cycling soared and has continued to remain relatively high (although not at the peaks experienced). Some sports, such as golf, also experienced an increase in participation once some COVID physical activity restrictions were lifted and while other sports were still restricted.

Clubs and organisations are likely to feel the impact of bushfires and COVID-19 for some time and need to be supported as much as possible into the future to provide sport and active recreational opportunities for residents, who in turn, may be anxious about returning to activities which might be

subjected to continued shut downs and potentially pose a health risk if other participants attract COVID.

Clubs and organisations identified their top 10 challenges as:

1. Facilities / sports grounds - ageing facilities, facilities not meeting needs, regulations, standards or expectations (57%)
2. Volunteers - attracting and retaining volunteers for Committee of Management, working bees and running events / activities (43%)
3. Income generation - hard to access enough money through grants, sponsorship, fundraising, player fees (39%)
4. Participants - accessing enough players / participants to make up a team or to make a club or activity viable (32%)
5. Finances - cost of utilities, maintenance, insurance, affiliation, transport (32%)
6. Competition - competition from other sports or from other non-formal activities (e.g. cycling, weekend / shift work, electronic devices) (30%)
7. The cost of participating in our activity may be a barrier in terms of attracting more people (27%)
8. Events - running events / competitions / tournaments due to the time commitment required, costs to do so and COVID-19 restrictions / uncertainty (25%)
9. Time and distance - distances required by our club / organisation to travel to take part in competitions / events (25%)
10. Population changes – catering for an ageing community (23%).

The majority of clubs and organisations in Alpine Shire have plans to further develop their facilities (note that these plans may not have been endorsed by Alpine Shire and may be in the early stage of development by clubs). Some clubs and organisations operate facilities that are not within any management responsibility of Council and therefore do not require Council endorsement). These plans are included in the Background Report, however in summary their plans include:

- Improvement to club rooms / social facilities, e.g. McNamara Reserve in Myrtleford; Mount Beauty Golf Club; and Dederang Bowls Club.
- Additional storage, e.g. Mount Beauty Soccer Club, Mount Beauty Dragon Boat Club,
- Introduction of new competitions, e.g. softball at Porepunkah Panthers Baseball Club, women's horse riding clinics and competitions offered by Alpine Regional Horseman's Association, under 10's cricket competition at Ovens Valley United Cricket Club, school programs with Myrtleford Lawn Tennis Club; free self-defence classes for women from Takahashi-ha no Ryukyu - Shuri-Te Traditional Karate Do
- Installation of lighting, e.g. Myrtleford Savoy Soccer Club
- Safety improvements, e.g. North East Victorian Hang Gliding Club landing zone
- Additional shade, e.g. Mount Beauty Tennis Club
- Construction of new sport and recreation facilities, e.g. new tennis courts at Bright Tennis Club; C grade cricket oval at Dederang Recreation Reserve; new trails for Ovens Valley Horse Riders Association; indoor arena at Bright & District Pony Club
- Installation of heating and cooling, e.g. Gapsted Hall.

Clubs and organisations have also expressed their desire for more support from Alpine Shire Council and other relevant organisations such as Sport North East and State Sporting Associations. The type of support requested includes:

1. Information about grants that are available (79%)
2. Small grants for equipment or events (71%)
3. Assistance in preparing grants (62%)
4. Assistance with maintenance of facilities / sports grounds (57%)
5. Assistance with promotions through Shire publications and website (45%).

Some clubs and organisations also noted the need for the employment of a designated sport and recreation officer to work proactively with clubs, as well as regular meetings with Council staff.

### 8.3 DELWP and Parks Victoria

From a trails perspective, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) is responsible for the management of trails on State Government land and Parks Victoria is responsible for trails on Crown Land, e.g. Mount Buffalo and Alpine National Park. Alpine Shire Council has been appointed by DELWP as the manager for some trails located close to towns.

DELWP is also the landowner of a number of recreation reserves in Alpine Shire that are used by local sport and active recreation clubs and organisations. Alpine Shire Council, as the owner of a number of sport and active recreation reserves in the municipality, has an obligation to clubs and organisations that occupy these sites around issues such as safety and general maintenance of specific areas in accordance with agreements (e.g. fixing potholes on internal roads).

In the past Council has committed funds or staff resources to facilities that are not under any management responsibility of Council where there has been a clear community benefit and need, and where there are no other funding avenues available. Requests for support for asset upgrade by clubs and organisations outside of Council's responsibilities will continue to be assessed on a case-by-case basis where community benefit is clearly demonstrated.

Section 8.1, above, outlines some of the ways that Council can support clubs and organisations with information. These support activities can be extended to all clubs and organisations regardless of their facility land-status.

### 8.4 Alpine Health and Gateway Health

Alpine Health provides integrated Acute Health, Community Health and Community and Aged Residential Services for residents and visitors of the Alpine Shire, and has sites based in Bright, Mount Beauty and Myrtleford. Similarly, Gateway Health, with a site in Myrtleford, focuses on the provision of primary health and welfare services to people at highest risk of poor health outcomes. These organisations have offered community fitness programs such as tai chi, Nordic pole walking; and weight and strength training classes.

Each of these health organisations, along with Alpine Shire Council and Sport North East, has formed a health promotion collective called Active Alpine Group. This group has undertaken research in the region and as a result, focuses on creating supportive environments in the community to make physical activity an easier choice. Some of the barriers to participation identified through local

research include cost, accessibility, lack of flexibility of clubs / organisations and lack of activation of spaces (e.g. pathways, shade, lighting, water bubblers).

Key priorities of this group are:

- Promote existing events, free, family-oriented activities and facilities
- Support development of a physical activity policy / strategy
- Support walking and cycling path connections / improvements
- Map existing informal recreation opportunities and multiple-use sporting facilities
- Support sports clubs and workplaces to build healthy environments.

Recent achievements of the collective include supporting the community to establish parkrun in Myrtleford; the promotion of Active April; and the development of a calendar of events. Active Alpine Group was successful in receiving two grants which will fund free exercise classes at Outdoor Fitness Equipment Stations in Alpine Shire. It plans to seek funding for further installation of equipment across more sites. The achievements of Active Alpine Group have come about due to a collaborative approach and the commitment of agencies to fund staff to work in the active living space.

#### 8.4 Sport North East and State Sporting Associations

Sport North East (SNE) is a regional sports assembly funded by Sport and Recreation Victoria to support sport and recreation clubs in north east Victoria. The type of support available includes: information, workshops, resources and policies around issues such as governance, grants, volunteer recruitment, programming and anti-social behaviours. The Sports Library offered by Sport North East from its base in Wangaratta could potentially be replicated (at a smaller level) in a town such as Mount Beauty in Alpine Shire. This would enable local residents to hire sports equipment such as yoga mats, netballs, hula hoops, boxercise equipment, cricket bats, tennis racquets, bocce sets, volleyball nets, etc for free.

State Sporting Associations (SSAs) are the pre-eminent governing bodies for specific sports in Victoria (e.g. Tennis Victoria). SSAs are funded by Sport and Recreation Victoria and fees from affiliated clubs in areas such as Alpine Shire. Their role is to establish the strategic direction of their sport and to assist clubs and leagues / associations to grow the sport through the provision of various resources.

Both SNE and SSAs have resources and knowledge to assist local clubs / organisations to grow participation; to improve their facilities; to be more sustainable; and to lead effectively through quality governance.

#### 8.5 Schools

From a sport and active recreation perspective, schools have a role in the promotion of healthy and active lifestyles to young people through the provision of physical education classes; organised sporting events (e.g. athletic events or inter-school sports); promotion of healthy eating via food sold in school canteens; providing opportunities for informal play during recess and lunch; and through participation in programs such as Walk to School Day. From a facility perspective, schools tend to provide grassed playing field(s); hard courts suitable for netball, basketball, tennis and other

activities such as downball; and playgrounds. Some will also provide extra facilities such as indoor sports courts.

Community access to school facilities, whilst encouraged by the State Government, is often decided upon by school councils and permission may change as council members change. Many schools also use community facilities managed by Alpine Shire Council such as ovals, courts, swimming pools and walking / cycling paths as part of their curriculum or events.

Feedback from consultations revealed that where shared school and community facilities are located on Department of Education and Training land, there is sometimes a lack of clarity around maintenance responsibilities, access, etc. Council currently has a MOU with Bright P-12 and has previously held one with Mount Beauty P-12 too.

Given the limited resources available by both Council and schools, greater access to school facilities by the community and to community facilities by schools can reduce duplication of facilities and maximise usage of existing assets.

## 8.6 Private sector

The private sector is increasingly becoming involved in the sport and active recreation sector in Alpine Shire, particularly in the area of health and wellbeing classes, e.g. yoga, pilates, dance, martial arts, personal training and boot camps. These organisations are generally not financially supported by Alpine Shire Council (as they are for-profit businesses), although like traditional sports clubs, they also help Alpine Shire Council to achieve its health and wellbeing targets and improve liveability.

Other private sector organisations such as HVP Plantations and AGL Hydro or Alpine Resorts Victoria provide spaces where physical activity occurs. HVP Plantations, for example, has provided land within its plantation for mountain bike riding and various water sports are carried out on The Pondage in Mount Beauty, which is part of AGL's suite of hydroelectric power stations throughout Victoria and NSW. A small section of the alpine region, which is managed by the Alpine Resorts Victoria, is also home to a variety of activities enjoyed by local residents, including snow skiing, snowboarding, snowshoe walking, hiking, mountain bike riding, fishing and other related activities.

## 8.7 Neighbouring Local Government Authorities

It is important to understand priorities and projects of neighbouring Local Government Authorities as what they may be developing could potentially impact works within Alpine Shire. The Rural City of Wangaratta, for example, has recently upgraded the Wangaratta Sports and Aquatic Centre. Works in neighbouring LGAs may negate the need to undertake certain works in towns within Alpine Shire. Conversely, works in Alpine Shire may have a broader catchment than just local residents, which in turn could help local facilities or activities become more sustainable. Partnership opportunities should be explored, particularly when considering the development of regional level facilities or activities / events that may appeal to a regional audience.



## 9.0 Processes

### **To provide a strategic framework to guide Council's decision making and investment in relation to sport and active recreation.**

#### 9.1 Tools, policies, strategies and procedures

Tools, policies, strategies and procedures can help to guide decision making, based on equitable and transparent principles. Currently Alpine Shire Council is guided by a variety of plans, strategies, policies and laws, including, but not limited to the following:

- Council Plan
- 2030 Community vision
- Asset management policy, strategy and plans, e.g. Open Space Maintenance Management Plan (2013-2017)
- Building and Facility Maintenance Policy
- Municipal road management plan
- Community engagement policy
- Community grants guidelines
- Event funding guidelines
- Local laws
- Various place-based reports, e.g. resilience plans, better places reports
- Strategies, e.g. Alpine Cycle Safety Strategy, Mount Beauty Footpath Strategy
- Master plans, e.g. Pioneer Park.

Through the preparation of this plan, some process gaps or process improvements have been identified. To improve future planning and investment decisions, several tools will be developed as part of the implementation phase of the plan.

##### 9.1.1 Community Directory

Whilst there is already a community directory on Alpine Shire's website, this directory needs to be updated to ensure that information is accurate. Many of the sport and active recreation contacts in the directory were updated as part of this project. Similarly, there needs to be more information provided about each organisation such as the venue they operate from, the type of programs / competitions they run and a link to their website and social media pages.

##### 9.1.2 Asset Database

Whilst Council has a list of its assets, the information provided is limited. As part of the development of this plan, a more comprehensive database of activities has been produced, incorporating information such as location, facilities, management, user groups, contact information, etc, as well as photos of each site. This has been produced in Excel format and will be able to be adapted for a variety of uses by Council staff.

##### 9.1.3 Other tools

Other tools that may need to be developed or reviewed in order to guide Alpine Shire in its fair and equitable provision and facilitation of sport and active recreation opportunities include:

- Developer Contributions Policy – a policy to guide developers in terms of sport and active recreation provision in new residential areas, e.g. shared paths, play spaces, parks, etc., or a designated percentage of development cost to the provision of such facilities.
- Club contributions to capital works policy – a policy which details the expected degree of contribution required from user groups for any major capital works or facility developments.
- Club subsidisation review – a review of subsidies provided to sport and active recreation organisations to assist with maintenance costs to ensure that this amount provides an adequate level of subsidisation and is tied into club efforts to increase participation.
- Agreements – formalised agreements or Memorandums of Understanding with partner bodies detailing roles and responsibilities in the delivery of sport and active recreation opportunities and a review of any existing agreements to ensure equitable access to facilities by sport and active recreation clubs / organisations.
- Master plans – plans to guide the future development of sport and active recreation sites in terms of facility developments, connections, roadways, landscaping, signage, etc.

#### 9.1.4 Action Plan

Once an assessment tool has been developed, each of the suggestions identified from community engagement will be assessed against weighted criteria aligned to the vision and planning principles contained within the plan, to develop a prioritised listing of actions.

#### 9.2 Implementation and evaluation

As responsibility for sport and active recreation crosses many areas within Alpine Shire Council it is important that a multi-disciplinary team is established to oversee and implement this plan. It is suggested that this group meets at least twice per year to monitor actions and that once per year all actions are reviewed and modified if needed. Ideally one officer will be given the responsibility of coordinating meetings. A new sport and active recreation plan should be developed in 2033.

# Budget Report Quarterly Review



For the period ending 31 December 2021



Finance Report – Quarterly Review

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## Finance Report – Quarterly Review

# Introduction

## Preparation of report

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an overview of quarterly results and an update on the forecast financial position for the year against budget, and it includes:

- Income Statement
- Departmental Summary
- Capital Works Summary
- Balance Sheet
- Dinner Plain Reserve
- Cash and Investments

Explanations are provided for variances greater than \$100,000.

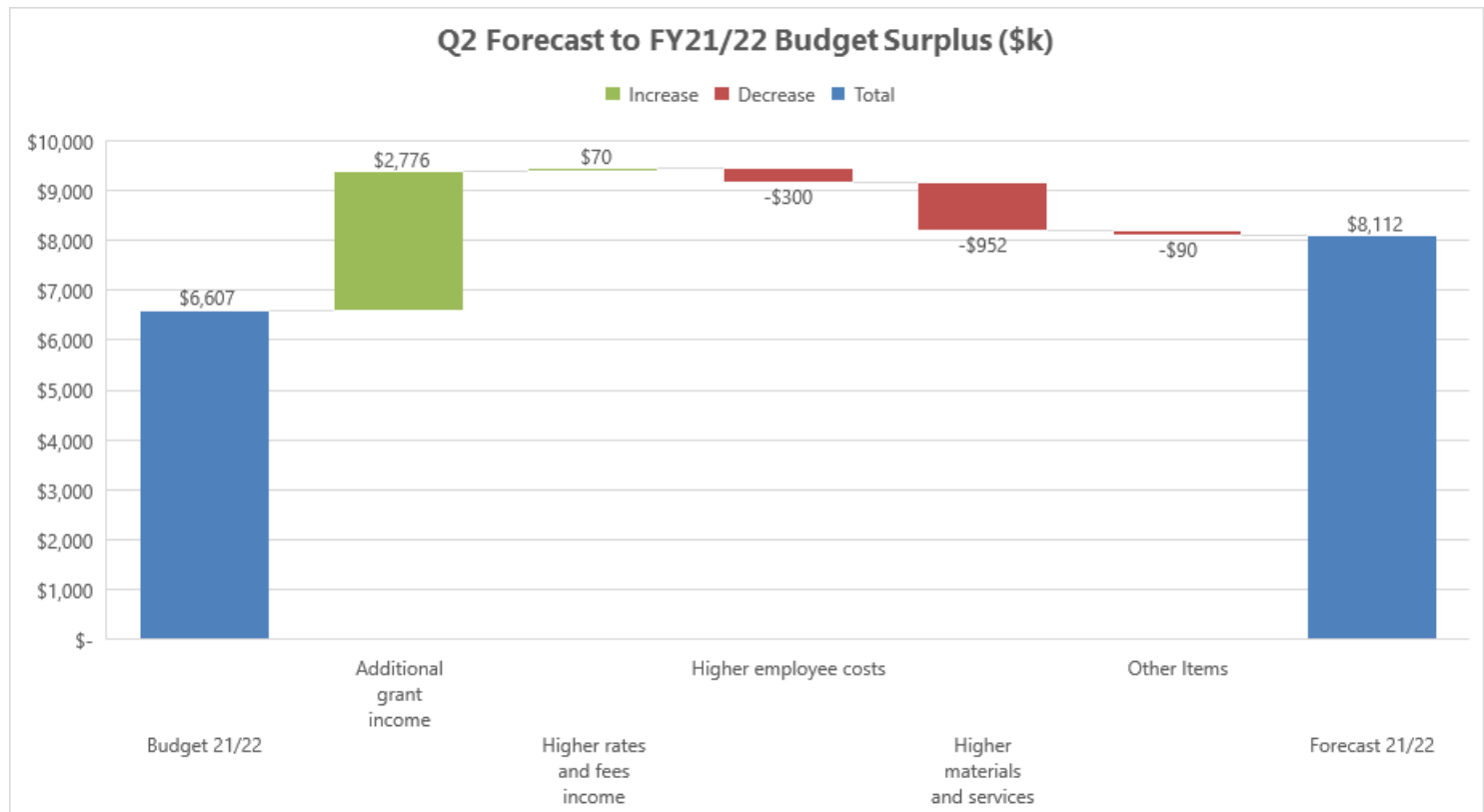
The report has been prepared as required under section 97 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and has not been audited. Explanations for budgets and variances have been provided by each department and reviewed by the Finance department.

It has been determined that Council is not required to complete a revised budget.

The report is presented to the Finance Committee, and to the Audit Committee and Council for noting.

## Summary

Council is forecasting a full year surplus of \$8.1m, which is \$1.5m higher than the budgeted surplus of \$6.6m.



Finance Report – Quarterly Review

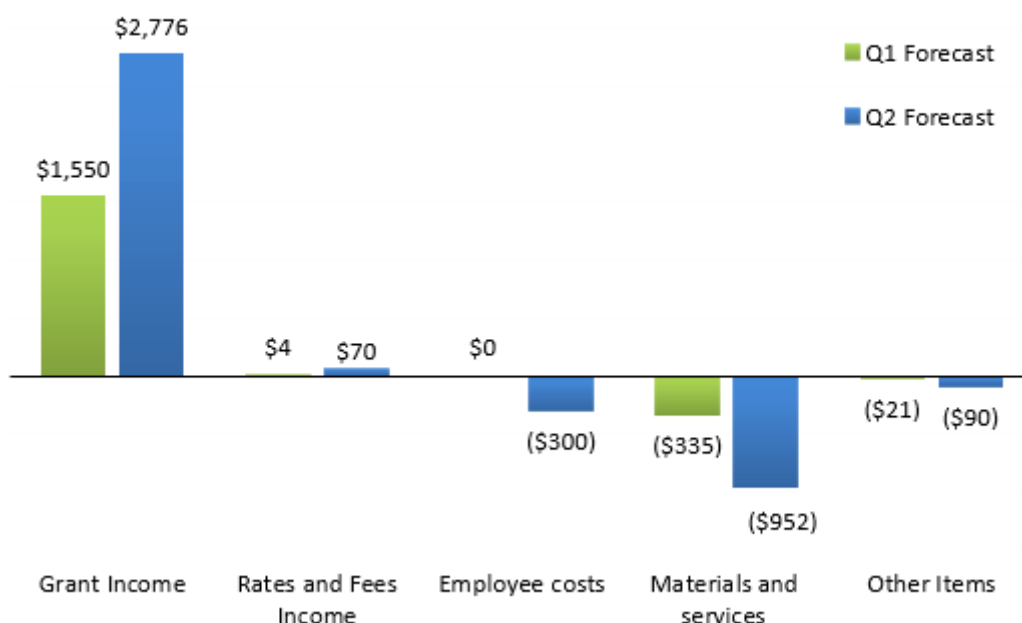
The major driver of the forecasted increase in the surplus is unanticipated and unbudgeted additional grant income of \$2.8m. The most significant items are for:

- Additional unbudgeted funding for the Bogong High Plains Road Blackspot project \$1.3m
- Additional Bushfire Recovery Funding of \$1m
- Reduction in the Dargo High Plains Road Upgrade Phase 1 of \$0.8m
- Restatement of Capital Works Grants by an additional \$0.7m
- Great Valley Trail Income of \$0.4m
- Additional funding opportunities for community events projects of \$0.3m
- Unbudgeted funding for new employees from Apprenticeship Support Australia \$0.1m

This increased income is partially offset by an increase in employee costs to comply with Council’s recently approved Enterprise Agreement 2020 (\$0.3m) as well as higher materials and services expenditure of \$1.0m. The most significant materials and services items include increased insurance premiums, higher IT subscription services, COVID related activities, higher than anticipated level of activity for infrastructure asset maintenance and various unbudgeted programs that are fully or partially funded by grants.

Comparison to Q1 Forecast

**Q1 to Q2 Forecast - Key Variances (\$k)**



The Q2 forecast surplus has increased from the Q1 forecast by \$0.3m primarily due to an increase in forecast Grant income of \$1.2m. This is partially offset by a forecast increase in Employee costs (\$0.3m), and a forecast increase in Materials & Services expenditure (\$0.6m).

## Finance Report – Quarterly Review

## Income Statement

Year-end forecast against budget is as follows:

	Actual YTD December	Budget YTD December	Variance	Budget Full year	Forecast Full year	Variance	Ref
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
<b>Income</b>							
Rates and charges	9,864	9,844	20	19,687	19,753	66	0%
Statutory fees and fines	271	179	92	614	618	4	1%
User fees	529	523	6	1,101	1,008	(93)	-8%
Contributions - cash	534	327	207	668	668	-	0%
Contributions - non-monetary assets	-	-	-	430	430	-	0%
Grants - Operating (recurrent)	1,558	1,416	142	4,683	4,792	109	2%
Grants - Operating (non-recurrent)	1,383	96	1,287	256	1,606	1,350	527%
Grants - Capital (recurrent)	92	355	(263)	710	710	-	0%
Grants - Capital (non-recurrent)	2,220	4,433	(2,213)	8,195	9,512	1,317	16%
Other income	465	363	102	720	788	68	9%
<b>Total income</b>	<b>16,916</b>	<b>17,536</b>	<b>(620)</b>	<b>37,064</b>	<b>39,886</b>	<b>2,821</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>							
Employee costs	5,651	5,281	370	10,562	10,862	300	3%
Materials and services	5,334	6,115	(781)	13,974	14,926	952	7%
Depreciation	2,547	2,547	-	5,093	5,093	-	0%
Amortisation	-	-	-	28	28	-	0%
Landfill Rehabilitation	-	-	-	78	78	-	0%
Other expenses	241	363	(122)	714	779	65	9%
Net gain on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	(8)	-	(8)	8	8	-	0%
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>13,765</b>	<b>14,306</b>	<b>(541)</b>	<b>30,457</b>	<b>31,774</b>	<b>1,317</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>Surplus (deficit) for the year</b>	<b>3,151</b>	<b>3,230</b>	<b>(79)</b>	<b>6,607</b>	<b>8,112</b>	<b>1,505</b>	<b>23%</b>

## Income Statement – explanations of year end variances

Ref	Item	Explanation
1.	Grants - Operating (recurrent)	Higher than budget primarily due to increased funding for Maternal and Child Health Services and FreeZa Youth Series.
2.	Grants - Operating (non-recurrent)	Higher than budget primarily due to additional \$800k Bushfire Recovery funding variation to an existing grant and further Bushfire Recovery grant money received from Murray Public Health Network. Additionally, unbudgeted funds from Apprenticeship Support for new employees were received (\$115k) and unbudgeted fully funded programs for The GOAT and Prevention of Family Violence totalling \$140k are forecast.
3.	Grants - Capital (non-recurrent)	Higher than budget primarily due to unbudgeted Local Roads and Community Infrastructure income received (\$405k), higher than budgeted forecast income for Great Valley Trail project (\$370k), and fully funded unbudgeted Bogong High Plains Road Blackspot project, offset by a reduction in income for Dargo High Plains Road upgrade.

Finance Report – Quarterly Review
 

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Ref	Item	Explanation
4.	Employee costs	Higher than budget due to backpay of wages (\$0.3m) pursuant to Council's recently approved Enterprise Agreement
5.	Materials and Services	Various operational activities, the most significant of which include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COVID-19 related activities including the Outdoor Dining initiative and the Dinner Plain COVID-19 checkpoint (to be recouped) (\$145k)</li> <li>• increased insurance premiums (\$49k)</li> <li>• increased IT subscriptions (\$85k)</li> <li>• increased asset maintenance due to the unusual wet season and COVID-19 related service disruption (\$210k)</li> <li>• forecast unbudgeted Community Development programs that are either fully or partly funded by state/federal governments (\$171k)</li> </ul>



## Finance Report – Quarterly Review

## Departmental Summary

	Actual YTD December \$'000	Budget YTD December \$'000	Variance \$'000	Budget Full Year \$'000	Forecast Full Year \$'000	Variance \$'000	Ref
<b>Income</b>							
Asset Development	2,320	4,788	(2,468)	8,905	10,230	1,325	1
Asset Maintenance	54	104	(50)	207	209	2	
Planning and Amenity	370	280	90	864	880	16	
Bushfire Recovery	988	-	988	20	1,008	988	2
Corporate	10,229	9,905	324	21,718	21,826	108	3
Councillors and Executive	115	-	115	-	115	115	4
Economic and Community Development	512	226	286	517	836	319	5
Facilities	2,465	2,435	30	4,777	4,760	(17)	
Technology and Transformation	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>17,053</b>	<b>17,738</b>	<b>(685)</b>	<b>37,008</b>	<b>39,865</b>	<b>2,856</b>	
<b>Expenditure</b>							
Asset Development	4,974	8,704	(3,730)	17,177	18,584	1,407	6
Asset Maintenance	1,467	1,353	114	2,756	3,105	349	7
Planning and Amenity	89	220	(131)	704	738	34	
Bushfire Recovery	110	203	(93)	360	449	89	
Corporate	1,094	964	130	1,943	1,989	46	
Councillors and Executive	5,973	5,607	366	11,213	11,600	387	8
Economic and Community Development	742	837	(95)	1,658	1,963	305	9
Facilities	1,520	2,184	(664)	4,416	4,373	(43)	
Technology and Transformation	409	846	(437)	1,416	1,517	101	10
<b>Expenditure Total</b>	<b>16,378</b>	<b>20,918</b>	<b>(4,540)</b>	<b>41,643</b>	<b>44,318</b>	<b>2,675</b>	

## Departmental summary – explanations of year end variances

Ref	Item	Explanation
1.	Asset Development Income	Higher than budget primarily due to additional funding for the Great Valley Trail and Dinner Plain Activation, fully funded unbudgeted Bogong High Plains Road Blackspot project (\$1.3m) and a restatement of the budget by \$710k, offset by a reduction in income for the Dargo High Plains Road upgrade.
2.	Bushfire Recovery Income	Additional grant funding to provide Community Events and other bushfire recovery activities across the Alpine Shire.
3.	Corporate Income	Unbudgeted income from Momentum Shared Services Shareholder dividend and greater than expected supplementary rates.
4.	Councillors & Executive income	Unbudgeted income from Apprenticeship Support Australia for new employees.
5.	Economic and Community Development Income	Increased funding received for new initiatives, the most significant for enhanced Maternal & Child Health services and unbudgeted funding for the Prevention of Family Violence (\$65k). Supplementary unbudgeted funding for Key Worker Housing Pilot program, The Goat event, COVID Vaccination Ambassador program and FreeZa Youth Series program (\$177k).
6.	Asset Development Expenditure	Variations include the Great Valley Trail project (\$755k), and the fully funded Bogong High Plains Road Blackspot project (\$1.3m) which was not budgeted, offset by a forecast underspend on the Dargo High Plains Road Upgrade.

## Finance Report – Quarterly Review

Ref	Item	Explanation
7.	Asset Maintenance Expenditure	Unbudgeted expenditure mainly associated with GIS map updates (\$20k), increased drainage maintenance expenditure due to unusual wet season (\$70k), additional costs associated with due diligence for the new Myrtleford depot site (\$20k), unbudgeted costs associated with Myrtleford and Mount Beauty Swimming Pool maintenance (\$80k), increased costs for Porepunkah Transfer Station maintenance (\$30k), increased expenditure for bridge maintenance (\$30k), increased expenditure for various other maintenance programs (\$43k)
8.	Councillors and Executive Expenditure	Higher than budget due to backpay of wages (\$0.3m) to comply with recently approved Enterprise Agreement 2020
9.	Economic and Community Development Expenditure	Unbudgeted expenditure for Dinner Plain Covid-19 checkpoint and the Outdoor Dining recovery initiative, both fully funded by state government (funding of \$250k was received in the 2020/21 FY). There is also fully funded unbudgeted expenditure for the Key Worker Housing Pilot program and The Goat event totalling \$195k.
10.	Technology & Transformation	Forecast higher than budget to increased capital expenditure on hardware renewal (\$95k).

## Finance Report – Quarterly Review

## Capital Works Summary

The following table summarises all capital works projects where the forecast full year income or expenditure varies from the budgeted amount by \$100,000 or more.

	Actual YTD December	Budget Full Year	Forecast Full Year	Variance		Ref
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%	
<b>Income</b>						
Great Valley Trail	100	1,260	1,630	370	29%	1
Dargo High Plains Road Upgrade Phase 1	-	1,200	400	(800)	-67%	2
Dinner Plain Activation Phase 2	150	-	150	150	100%	3
East Ovens Bridge	-	100	-	(100)	100%	4
Bogong High Plains Road Blackspot	-	-	1,257	1,257	100%	5
Snowy Creek Road Upgrade	-	110	-	(110)	100%	6
<b>Expenses</b>						
Great Valley Trail	2,250	1,700	2,455	755	44%	1
Dargo High Plains Road Upgrade Phase 1	190	1,200	400	(800)	-67%	2
Dinner Plain Activation Phase 2	1	-	150	150	100%	3
East Ovens Bridge	-	100	-	(100)	100%	4
Bogong High Plains Road Blackspot	6	-	1,257	1,257	100%	5
Dinner Plain Activation Phase 1	67	1,200	480	(720)	-60%	7
Dinner Plain Snowmaking Phase 3	14	-	150	150	100%	7
Combustible waste infrastructure upgrade	-	-	105	105	100%	8
Buckland Valley Road Upgrade	585	385	640	255	66%	9

## Capital works summary – explanation of variances

Ref	Item	Explanation
1.	Great Valley Trail Income and Expenditure	Progress on the Great Valley Trail construction works was slower in Q4 2020/21 than was anticipated at the time when the 2021/22 budget was finalised, due to a delay in securing Traditional Owner approval for the works. As a result, the expenditure planned will now occur during 2021/22, and the associated claims for grant funding income have also been deferred.
2.	Dargo High Plains Road Upgrade Phase 1 Income and Expenditure	Since the 2021/22 budget was finalised, the phasing of the Dargo construction works has been reassessed and works which were planned for delivery in 2021/22 have been deferred until 2022/23, along with the associated income.
3.	Dinner Plain Activation Phase 2 Income and Expenditure	Unbudgeted funding of \$500k received from state government but forecast expenditure is only expected to total \$150k
4.	East Ovens Bridge Income & Expenditure	Project is delayed by outstanding negotiations between Traditional Owner and Parks Victoria.
5.	Bogong High Plains Road Blackspot Income and Expenditure	Fully funded unbudgeted project which has commenced and is expected to be completed this financial year.
6.	Snowy Creek Road Upgrade Income	Funds for other projects were received and recognised in 2020/21. DELWP has agreed for Council to redirect those funds to this project. No further funding expected.

## Finance Report – Quarterly Review

Ref	Item	Explanation
7.	Dinner Plain Activation Phase 1 and Dinner Plain Snowmaking Expenditure	The phasing for delivery of the significant project works in Dinner Plain was reviewed after the finalisation of the 2021/22 budget, to take advantage of the economies of scale and sharing of mobilisation costs across the different components of these projects. It was originally intended to result in a total zero net impact, but the restricted availability of suitable contractors and a delayed component scope has altered this aim.
8.	Combustible waste infrastructure upgrade Expenditure	Unbudgeted expenditure required to achieve compliance with EPA legislative requirements
9.	Buckland Valley Road Upgrade Expenditure	Works that were originally planned to be delivered by DELWP on preparing the road for sealing have now been carried out by Council. There is sufficient external funding from Regional Roads Victoria and DELWP to cover the additional costs.

## Finance Report – Quarterly Review

## Balance Sheet

	Actual YTD December	Budget Full year	Forecast Full year	Variance	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
<b>Assets</b>					
<b>Current assets</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	574	1,568	1,625	57	4%
Trade and other receivables	10,849	2,552	2,604	52	2%
Financial assets	36,988	21,000	24,000	3,000	14%
Inventories	72	91	122	31	34%
Other assets	156	324	387	63	19%
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>48,639</b>	<b>25,535</b>	<b>28,738</b>	<b>3,203</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>					
Investment properties	3,775	3,260	3,775		
Investment in shared services	123	159	123	(36)	-23%
Property, infrastructure, plant & equipment	220,327	233,671	232,819	(852)	0%
Intangible assets	242	474	428	(46)	-10%
Inventories	30	-	-	-	0
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>224,497</b>	<b>237,564</b>	<b>237,145</b>	<b>(934)</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>273,136</b>	<b>263,099</b>	<b>265,883</b>	<b>2,784</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>					
<b>Current liabilities</b>					
Trade and other payables	2,111	2,414	2,723	309	13%
Trust funds and deposits	159	454	434	(20)	-4%
Provisions	2,340	3,249	3,317	68	2%
Income received in advance	17,859	33	834	801	2427%
Interest-bearing loans and borrowings	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>22,469</b>	<b>6,150</b>	<b>7,308</b>	<b>1,158</b>	<b>19%</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>					
Provisions	3,499	3,074	3,120	46	1%
Income received in advance	422	1,192	1,225	33	3%
Interest-bearing loans and borrowings	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>	<b>3,921</b>	<b>4,266</b>	<b>4,345</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>26,390</b>	<b>10,416</b>	<b>11,653</b>	<b>1,316</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>246,746</b>	<b>252,683</b>	<b>254,230</b>	<b>1,547</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Equity</b>					
Accumulated surplus	120,304	126,366	127,678	1,312	1%
Reserves	126,442	126,317	126,552	235	0%
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>246,746</b>	<b>252,683</b>	<b>254,230</b>	<b>1,547</b>	<b>1%</b>

## Finance Report – Quarterly Review

## Dinner Plain Reserve

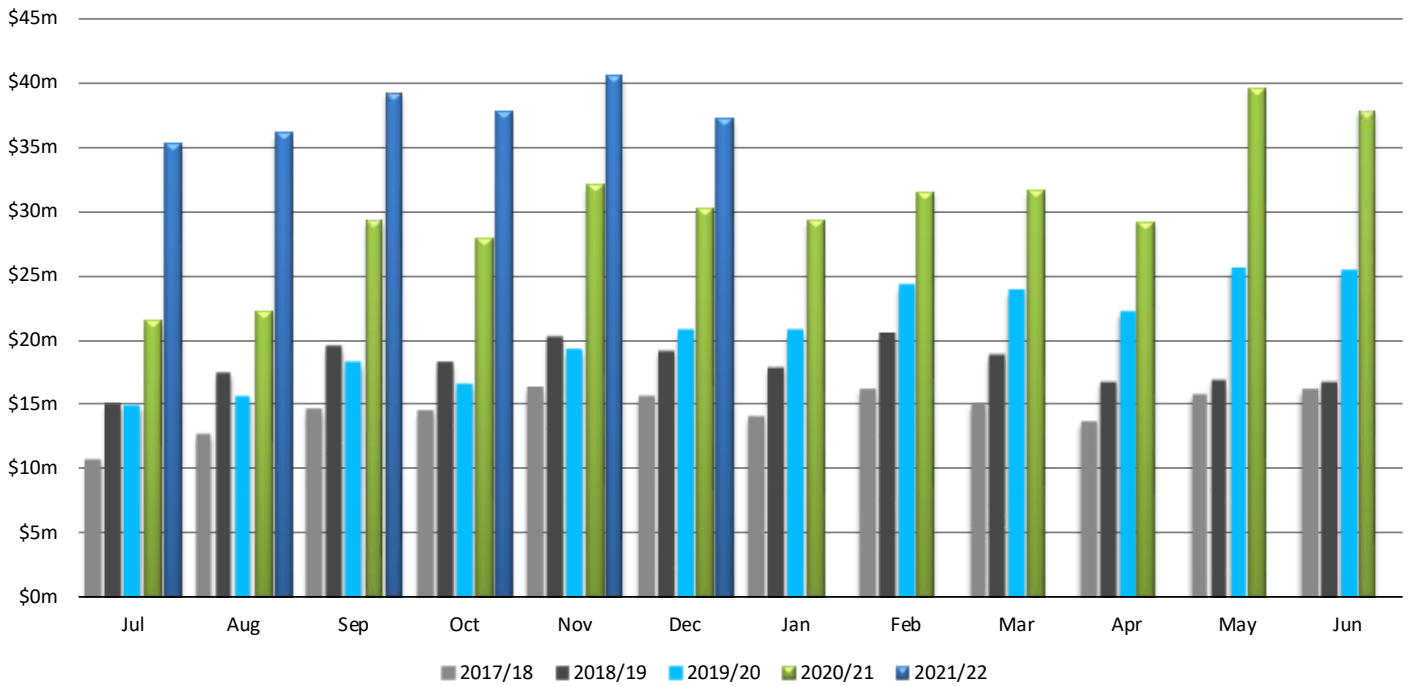
	Actual YTD December \$'000	Budget Full Year \$'000	Forecast Full Year \$'000	Variance	
				\$'000	%
Balance as at 1 July 2021	835	728	835	107	
Income	633	1,610	1,610	-	0%
Expenditure	660	2,661	1,811	(850)	-47%
Net	(26)	(1,051)	(201)	850	-423%
<b>Balance</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>(323)</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>957</b>	<b>151%</b>

The Dinner Plain Reserve is forecast to be \$634k by the end of 2021/22. This is \$957k higher than budgeted primarily due to a higher opening balance (lower expenditure on Dinner Plain Bus) and lower expenditure on the Dinner Plain Activation Project Phase 1 (\$720k) due to delays in contractor availability. This budget will be carried forward into FY2022/23.

Finance Report – Quarterly Review

# Cash and Investments

## Monthly Cash Balance



The cash balance was \$37.1m at the end of Q2, of which \$33.1m were invested in term deposits. This was \$0.7m lower than the 2020/21 FY end of year cash balance of \$37.8m. The main contributing factor to the reduction in the cash balance, was the increased capital works activity during the period.





**Strategic Driver****1. For those who live and visit-***Vision: To be connected, supported, and welcomed throughout all stages of life*

Initiatives 2021/22	Major Initiative 2021/22	Responsible Department	Progress to 31 December 2021
<b>Strategic Objective: 1.1 A community that is active, connected and supported</b>			
Deliver the annual Community Grants Program	No	Economic and Community Development	\$76,710 granted to Community Groups in August 2021.
<b>Strategic Objective: 1.2 Services and resources that enhance health and wellbeing</b>			
Develop and implement the Alpine Shire Council Access and Inclusion Plan - 2021-2025	Yes	Economic and Community Development	Council adopted the Alpine Shire Council Access and Inclusion Plan - 2021-2025 in Q2.
Develop Library Services Plan	No	Corporate	Library Services Plan will be completed in February 2022. This addresses VAGO Audit recommendations from 2019
Provide contemporary library services	No	Corporate	Continued to deliver comprehensive range of in-house programs and events including Storytime, Rhyme Time, VR space workshops, yoga and art. Promoted author talks during Support for Seniors Month. School holiday program continued within COVID safe restrictions.
Work with Alpine Health to advocate to State and Federal Government for funding	No	Economic and Community Development	Participate in discussions regarding Bright Hospital precinct.
Deliver Seniors Festival	No	Economic and Community Development	Seniors Festival in the Alpine Shire delivered throughout October 2021.
Provide Maternal and Child Health (MCH), Immunisation, and Supported Playgroups services	No	Economic and Community Development	MCH, Supported Playgroups and Immunisation clinics continue to be delivered to community.
INDICATOR Active library borrowers in municipality	N/A	Corporate	13.0% at Q2
INDICATOR Cost of library service per population	N/A	Corporate	Calculated at End of Financial Year (EOFY)
INDICATOR Participation in the Maternal Child Health service	N/A	Economic and Community Development	64% at Q2
INDICATOR Participation in supported playgroups	N/A	Economic and Community Development	Supported Playgroups delivered to vulnerable families either face to face or virtually during COVID lockdowns.

Initiatives 2021/22	Major Initiative 2021/22	Responsible Department	Progress to 31 December 2021
<b>Strategic Objective: 1.3 A caring community</b>			
Develop a Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) and implement actions and deliverables identified in the Plan	Yes	Bushfire Recovery	A Reflect RAP Designated Working Group was formed in October and met on several occasions in Q1 and Q2 to develop the RAP.
Undertake research, strategy development and advocacy to address housing affordability - 2021-2025	Yes	Economic and Community Development	Council continued to research potential solutions and advocate for support in Q1 and Q2 to address housing affordability and availability in Alpine Shire. Council is working Tourism North East to support their region-wide project to address housing affordability and availability for key workers in the tourism sector.
Undertake the Key Worker Housing Pilot Project - 2021-2022	Yes	Economic and Community Development	Key Worker Housing Pilot Project commenced delivery in Q2, which resulted in some houses being made available for key workers through long term rental arrangements.
Deliver services and programs to support Youth	No	Economic and Community Development	Commenced engagement for Youth Strategy. Delivered Youth Awards in Nov 2021. Delivered FReeZA youth events.
Deliver the Prevention of Family Violence funded project	No	Economic and Community Development	Collaborated with Alpine Health to deliver 16 Days of Activism initiatives 25 November – 10 December.
Gender Equality Action Plan assessment and implementation of Gender Equality Impact Assessments	No	Corporate	Commenced consultation on the Alpine Shire Council Gender Equality Action Plan and introduced the use of Gender Equality Impact Assessments for changes in service delivery.
<b>Strategic Objective: 1.4 Increasing healthy eating and active living</b>			
Support increased participation in physical activity through Community Grants Program	No	Economic and Community Development	Provided grants to nine community / sporting groups which support participation in physical activity.
Provide well maintained seasonal pools and sports centres.	No	Facilities	Provision of services for Bright Sports Centre and seasonal pools in Myrtleford and Mount Beauty contracted out to Belgravia Leisure for the start of the summer season 2021/2022. COVID delayed planned maintenance works leading to pool opening delays by 1 week.
INDICATOR Number of visits to aquatic facilities per head of population (Utilisation of aquatic facilities)	N/A	Facilities	Calculated at End of Financial Year (EOFY) and reported through Local Government Performance Reporting Framework.
<b>Strategic Objective: 1.5 Improving mental wellbeing</b>			
Accessible Council Meetings	No	Corporate	Council meetings have been livestreamed and recorded on YouTube.

Initiatives 2021/22	Major Initiative 2021/22	Responsible Department	Progress to 31 December 2021
Strategic Objective: 1.6 Preventing all forms of violence			
Deliver 16 Days of Activism	No	Economic and Community Development	Collaborate with Alpine Health to deliver 16 Days of Activism initiatives 25 November – 10 December.

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## Strategic Driver 2. For a thriving economy

*Vision: Ideas and industry thrive through a climate sensitive and diverse economy*

Initiatives 2021/22	Major Initiative 2021/22	Responsible Department	Progress to 31 December 2021
<b>Strategic Objective: 2.1 Diverse reasons to visit</b>			
Facilitate events on Council land over the year. Facilitate the annual Event Funding Program	Yes	Economic and Community Development	The ongoing uncertainty of COVID19 with ever changing restrictions impacting on events and event organisations fatigue had resulted in most events postponing or cancelling altogether.
Develop and implement Events Strategy	Yes	Economic and Community Development	Alpine Shire Council's Events Strategy 2021-2025 adopted by Council in Q2.
Implement Council Economic Development Strategy	Yes	Economic and Community Development	Marketing activity delivered to increase geographic and visitor dispersal. Businesses supported with Government funding and other initiatives such as Outdoor dining funding.
INDICATOR Number of permitted festivals and events in the Shire	N/A	Economic and Community Development	The ongoing uncertainty of COVID19 with ever changing restrictions impacting on events and event organisations fatigue had resulted in most events postponing or cancelling altogether.
INDICATOR Number of overnight and day trip visitors	N/A	Economic and Community Development	Visitation data is captured annually for the calendar year. Data will be collated for the 2021 calendar year and available for review, 31 March 2022.
<b>Strategic Objective: 2.2 Innovative and sustainable business development that supports year-round benefit</b>			
Continue to deliver small business workshops	No	Economic and Community Development	Business operator fatigue from the ever changing requirements of business as a result of COVID19 has impacted on business interest in attending workshops (online). Online delivery has been suspended at this point. There has been no in-person workshops because of COVID19 restrictions.
INDICATOR Number of small businesses and light industry in the Shire	N/A	Economic and Community Development	Calculated at End of Financial Year (EOFY)
<b>Strategic Objective: 2.3 Access to technology that meets our evolving needs</b>			
Develop a Telecommunications Strategy	Yes	Bushfire Recovery	On track for 21/22 completion. 1) Submission to Connecting Victoria NBN Co. Regional Co-investment Fund. 2) Assisted NBN Co. to develop an application under RCP2 to receive a technology upgrade for Alpine communities selected by State Government and NBN Co. 3) Appointed contractor to develop a strategy for Mobile and Internet telecommunications.

### Strategic Driver 3. For the bold protection of our future

*Vision: Our natural environment is protected and preserved*

Initiatives 2021/22	Major Initiative 2021/22	Responsible Department	Progress to 31 December 2021
<b>Strategic Objective: 3.1 Decisive leadership to address the impacts and causes of climate change</b>			
Implement Alpine Shire Council Climate Action Plan	Yes	Facilities	Climate Action Plan developed and adopted by Council in September 2021. Council has achieved a 75% reduction in Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions due to Power Purchase Agreements with 100% of Council's electricity coming from renewable sources.
Energy efficient street lighting	No	Asset Development	A survey of Council's street lighting has been completed as the first step in a project to replace and upgrade lighting infrastructure.
<b>INDICATOR</b> Net Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions -July 2023	N/A	Facilities	Calculated at End of Financial Year (EOFY)
<b>Strategic Objective: 3.2 Stewardship and care of our natural environment</b>			
Protect and enhance our waterways	No	Asset Maintenance	Council is a partner in the upper ovens platform and actively engaged with multiple active Landcare groups across the Shire.
Domestic Animal Management Plan	No	Planning and Amenity	The Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022 – 2026 has completed ready for Council adoption in Q3.
<b>Strategic Objective: 3.3 Responsible management of waste</b>			
Closed landfill risk assessment	No	Facilities	Risk mitigation measures have been identified and major works added to project pipeline for completion in Q3 & Q4 2021/22. Review of stockpile management has been completed and changes are underway.
Events Waste Management Plan Implementation	Yes	Facilities	The Events Waste Management Plan is being implemented for the larger events. Mobile water stations have been purchased and are in use. New waste wise event signage purchased for all bins and used at all events.
Myrtleford Landfill Rehabilitation	No	Asset Development	Procurement for construction commenced.
Porepunkah Landfill Rehabilitation	No	Asset Development	Final design drawings lodged with EPA for evaluation and approval.
Implement Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) collection service	Yes	Facilities	Engagement with DELWP regarding funding and planning for community education and procurement completed.
Implement a container deposit scheme and support local resident use of the program by 2023	Yes	Facilities	No progress to report in Q1 and Q2.

Initiatives 2021/22	Major Initiative 2021/22	Responsible Department	Progress to 31 December 2021
INDICATOR Community satisfaction with waste management performance - Target 70	N/A	Facilities	2021 result: 68 (comparable to both Small Rural and State-wide averages).
INDICATOR Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill - Target increase	N/A	Facilities	38.2% at Q2 The Victorian State Government has a target of 80% diversion from landfill by 2030. A key initiative for Council to reduce waste to landfill will be the introduction of kerbside FOGO (Food Organics Garden Organics) collection.
Strategic Objective: 3.4 A community that is prepared for, can respond to, and recover from emergencies			
Maintain Council's Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP)	Yes	Asset Maintenance	Updated MEMP has been approved by the Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee.
Support Alpine Resilience Committee and Community Recovery Committee through delivery of resilience activities and initiatives.	No	Economic and Community Development	Work towards re-establishing Alpine Community Resilience Committee; support Community Recovery Committee to deliver community events which support community resilience, and recovery.
Strategic Objective: 3.5 Reducing the impact of climate change on health			
Work with local partners to support initiatives relating to climate change	No	Facilities	Working in partnership with Sustainable Upper Ovens to support their Community Climate Action Field Day.

## Strategic Driver 4. For the enjoyment and opportunities of our lifestyle

*Vision: The connection between people and place is strengthened*

Initiatives 2021/22	Major Initiative 2021/22	Responsible Department	Progress to 31 December 2021
<b>Strategic Objective: 4.1 Conservation and promotion of the distinct character across the Shire</b>			
Character and heritage of our townships and settlements respected and retained	No	Planning and Amenity	Planning permit applications considered in accordance with Alpine Planning Scheme
<b>Strategic Objective: 4.2 Planning and development that reflects the aspirations of the community</b>			
Bright Western Gateway Precinct Structure Plan	Yes	Planning and Amenity	The Stackey Gully Flooding and Drainage Strategy will be finalised in Q3. 21/22 The focus will remain on the residential development within this Precinct location.
Land Development Strategy	Yes	Planning and Amenity	Flood Modelling data and associated mapping was finalised by the North East Catchment Management Authority and mapping of land with fire risk rating of BAL 12.5 or above has been completed to inform next stage of Land Development Strategy development.
Develop the Alpine Shire Council Housing Affordability Strategy by 2023	Yes	Economic and Community Development	No progress in Q1 and Q2. Focus has been on delivering Key Worker Housing Pilot.
Planning Scheme Amendments	No	Planning and Amenity	Amendment C60 was approved / completed. A policy neutral rewrite of the Planning Policy Framework was submitted to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning requesting Ministerial approval without exhibition.
INDICATOR Council planning decisions upheld at VCAT	N/A	Planning and Amenity	100% at Q2
INDICATOR Planning applications decided within required timeframes - Target 70%	N/A	Planning and Amenity	Calculated at End of Financial Year (EOFY)
INDICATOR Time taken to decide planning applications - Target 60 days	N/A	Planning and Amenity	Calculated at End of Financial Year (EOFY)
<b>Strategic Objective: 4.3 Accessible parks that promote active and passive recreation</b>			
Develop and implement the Alpine Shire Council Active Alpine Sport and Recreation Plan - 2021-2025	Yes	Asset Development	Council adopted the Draft Alpine Shire Council Active Alpine Sport and Recreation Plan in Q2 and placed the plan on public exhibition.
Elm Leaf Beetle treatment and upper canopy works (High Risk areas)	No	Asset Maintenance	Annual Elm Leaf Beetle has been completed including updating the GIS location and relevant diameter measurements for each tree surveyed. Upper canopy works is underway based on risk and location.

Initiatives 2021/22	Major Initiative 2021/22	Responsible Department	Progress to 31 December 2021
Great Valley Trail	No	Asset Development	Trail is practically complete and open for public use. Minor works and signage will be conducted and installed in the next quarter with the trail formally complete by end Q3.
Maintenance of Council park, gardens and trails	No	Asset Maintenance	Council parks, gardens and trails maintained.
<b>Strategic Objective: 4.4 Diverse arts and cultural experience</b>			
Support delivery of arts and culture projects	No	Economic and Community Development	Deliver Youth Arts Festival; Fund Myrtleford Mosaic Tree of Life; Provide grants to four Community groups to deliver arts or culture projects.
<b>Strategic Objective: 4.5 Assets for our current and future needs</b>			
Adoption of Asset Plan	Yes	Asset Maintenance	Data gathering has commenced. Expectation of first draft delivered in Q3.
Dargo High Plains Road	Yes	Asset Development	Preliminary site establishment works have commenced. The road is open for the summer season. Work will continue through summer to utilise the opportunity to prepare for the major upgrades planned for Summer 22/23.
Dinner Plain activation	No	Asset Development	Contract awarded for construction of bus bay and bus shelters. Contract awarded for civil works for Phase 1. Contract awarded for Pump Track design. Contract awarded for Phase 2 detailed design. Contract awarded for Snow Making design.
Inspect and prioritise regular maintenance of its assets in engineering, civil infrastructure, open spaces, and building areas	No	Asset Maintenance	In accordance with relevant Asset Management Plan each asset class is inspected to prioritise renewal.
Mount Beauty Airport	Yes	Asset Development	Construction contract awarded and works commenced in late-November 2021.
Sealed local roads maintained to condition standards	No	Asset Maintenance	Maintenance of sealed roads schedule based on priority inspections and reported customer requests.
INDICATOR Community satisfaction with sealed local roads - Target 60	N/A	Corporate	63 in 2021 (significantly higher result than Small Rural and State-wide averages).



## Strategic Driver 5. For strong and informed leadership

*Vision: Collaborative, bold and evidence-based decision making*

Initiatives 2021/22	Major Initiative 2021/22	Responsible Department	Progress to 31 December 2021
<b>Strategic Objective: 5.1 Effective communication and engagement</b>			
Improve community engagement participation and access	No	Executive	Council continued to engage with the community on a range of projects including Alpine Better Places Harrietville. Council has increased the use of onsite signs for projects which include a QR code, providing a link to more information.
Finalise online customer portal and all customer request system optimisations	No	Technology and Transformation	Significant engagement with supplier. Online customer portal in progress and due to be delivered in Q3.
Upgrade core technology applications to improve customer experience	No	Technology and Transformation	Upgrade of core technology applications in progress. Awaiting funding outcome for new statutory planning and building system.
INDICATOR Community satisfaction with Council's community consultation and engagement performance - Target 60	N/A	Corporate	57 in 2021 (slightly higher result than Small Rural and State-wide averages)
<b>Strategic Objective: 5.2 A responsible, transparent and responsive organisation</b>			
Adopt Community Vision	No	Corporate	The Community Vision was adopted by Council in October 2021.
Adopt Council Plan	No	Corporate	The Council Plan was adopted by Council in October 2021. This quarterly report is the first report against the new Council Plan.
Local Government Act 2020 implementation	No	Corporate	All <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> requirements due by 31 December were achieved and in place by the due date. Asset Plan due June 2022.
Maintain transparent governance and decision making	No	Executive	Council continues to stream and record its Council meetings on YouTube. All agendas and minutes are available on the Council website. Progress against major initiatives is reported through the Project Dashboard available on the Council website.
Adoption of Financial Plan	Yes	Corporate	The Financial Plan was adopted by Council in October 2021.
Develop Gender Equality Action Plan	Yes	Corporate	Workplace Gender Audit completed and reported to Gender Equality Commission on 1st December 2021. Gender Equality Action Plan due 31 March 2022. Consultation sessions held with all staff in Q2 2021.
Develop Workforce Plan	Yes	Executive	Council adopted a Workforce Plan in December 2021, in line with the requirements of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> .

Initiatives 2021/22	Major Initiative 2021/22	Responsible Department	Progress to 31 December 2021
Invest in workforce to ensure skills, customer service, capital works, planning, and transferring delivery of certain activities in-house	No	Executive	Council continues to invest in its people, developing technical, interpersonal and leadership capabilities. Council is sponsoring two employees to undertake the Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Program and another employee to undertake the LGPro Executive Leadership Program.
INDICATOR Community satisfaction with Council's overall performance - Target 70	N/A	Corporate	62 in 2021 (slightly higher than Small Rural and State-wide averages)
INDICATOR Council decisions made at meetings closed to the public	N/A	Corporate	2.45% at Q2
INDICATOR Councillor attendance at Council meetings	N/A	Corporate	96% at Q2
INDICATOR Satisfaction with Council decisions	N/A	Corporate	56 in 2021 (same result as Small Rural and State-wide averages)
INDICATOR Working capital (current assets as percentage of current liabilities)	N/A	Corporate	Calculated at End of Financial Year (EOFY)
<b>Strategic Objective: 5.3 Bold leadership, strong partnerships and effective advocacy</b>			
Ensure membership of regional partnerships to progress the Alpine Shire	No	Executive	Council is a member of the Ovens and Murray Regional Partnership, it was pleasing to see the first upgraded V/Line train on the north east railway line in 2021. Council is also a member of the Hume Region Local Government Network.
Continue to sit with Tourism NE, part of Alpine Community recovery community and municipal recovery committee	No	Executive	Council's CEO is a director of the Tourism North East Board and a member of the Alpine Resorts Governance Reform in stakeholder reference group.
Maintain effective working relationship with Government funding bodies and MPs	No	Executive	Council's CEO and Mayor have been actively advocating to State and Federal Ministers and members of parliament on a range of issues in Q1 and Q2, including housing affordability and availability issues and the redevelopment of the Bright Hospital.



## Informal Meeting of Councillors

*In accordance with Chapter 8, section A1 of Council's [Governance Rules](#), the Chief Executive Officer must ensure that a summary of the matters discussed at an Informal meeting of Councillors is tabled at the next convenient Council meeting, and recorded in the minutes of that Council meeting.*

<b>Meeting Title:</b>	Affirmation of Office
<b>Date:</b>	25 January 2022
<b>Location:</b>	MS Teams - online
<b>Start Time:</b>	1.00pm
<b>Finish Time:</b>	1.15pm
<b>Chairperson:</b>	Charlie Bird, Chief Executive Officer

### Councillor and staff attendees:

Name	Position	Name	Position
Cr Sarah Nicholas	Mayor	Charlie Bird	Chief Executive Officer
Cr Katarina Hughes	Deputy Mayor	Alan Rees	A/ Director Assets
Cr John Forsyth	Councillor	Helen Havercroft	Director Corporate Performance
Cr Ron Janas	Councillor	Belinda Schultz	Governance Officer
Cr Tony Keeble	Councillor		
Cr Simon Kelley	Councillor		
Cr Kelli Prime	Councillor		

### Councillor and staff apologies:

Name	Position
N/A	

### 1. Conflict of interest disclosures

Disclosures of Conflicts of Interests must be made in accordance with Chapter 7, sections A3-A5 of Council's [Governance Rules](#), and recorded here.

N/A

### 2. Record of Councillors that have disclosed a conflict of interest leaving the meeting

N/A

### 3. Items

Item
<p>Following the extraordinary vacancy due to the resignation Councillor Charlie Vincent in December 2021, the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) conducted a countback of the formal ballot papers cast at the last general election held in October 2020.</p> <p>VEC held the countback on Wednesday 19 January 2022, with Simon Kelley officially declared elected on Thursday 20 January 2022.</p> <p>The <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> (LGA 2020) specifies that a person elected to be a Councillor is not capable of acting as a Councillor unless he or she has taken the oath or affirmation of office in the manner prescribed by the regulations.</p>



## Informal Meeting of Councillors

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<b>Meeting Title:</b>	Briefing Session
<b>Date:</b>	25 January 2022
<b>Location:</b>	MS Teams - online
<b>Start Time:</b>	2.00pm
<b>Finish Time:</b>	5.15pm
<b>Chairperson:</b>	Charlie Bird, Chief Executive Officer

### Councillor and staff attendees:

Name	Position	Name	Position
Cr Sarah Nicholas	Mayor	Charlie Bird	Chief Executive Officer
Cr Katarina Hughes	Deputy Mayor	Alan Rees	A/ Director Assets
Cr John Forsyth	Councillor	Helen Havercroft	Director Corporate Performance
Cr Ron Janas	Councillor		
Cr Tony Keeble	Councillor		
Cr Simon Kelley	Councillor		
Cr Kelli Prime	Councillor		

### Councillor and staff apologies:

Name	Position
Will Jeremy	Director Assets

### 1. Conflict of interest disclosures

Disclosures of Conflicts of Interests must be made in accordance with Chapter 7, sections A3-A5 of Council's [Governance Rules](#), and recorded here.

N/A

## 2. Record of Councillors that have disclosed a conflict of interest leaving the meeting

N/A

## 3. Items

Item
Councillor only time
Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners
Welcome and introduction to incoming Councillor Elect
Overview of 2022-23 Budget timelines
Overview of Local Government Performance Reporting
Councillor Appointment to Committees following vacancy
Collaborative Procurement Waste Services in region MoU
Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan
ICT System Host and Storage Renewal Project FY 2021-22
Capital Works Contract Awards
Stockman Project Update
Ordinary Council meeting agenda review
General Business
Lease of Hangars



## Informal Meeting of Councillors

*In accordance with Chapter 8, section A1 of Council's [Governance Rules](#), the Chief Executive Officer must ensure that a summary of the matters discussed at an Informal meeting of Councillors is tabled at the next convenient Council meeting, and recorded in the minutes of that Council meeting.*

**Meeting Title:** Briefing Session  
**Date:** 1 February 2022  
**Location:** MS Teams - online  
**Start Time:** 2.30pm  
**Finish Time:** 4.45pm  
**Chairperson:** Charlie Bird, Chief Executive Officer

### Councillor and staff attendees:

Name	Position	Name	Position
Cr Sarah Nicholas	Mayor	Charlie Bird	Chief Executive Officer
Cr Katarina Hughes	Deputy Mayor	Will Jeremy	Director Assets
Cr John Forsyth	Councillor	Helen Havercroft	Director Corporate Performance
Cr Ron Janas	Councillor		
Cr Tony Keeble	Councillor		
Cr Simon Kelley	Councillor		
Cr Kelli Prime	Councillor		

### Councillor and staff apologies:

Name	Position

### 1. Conflict of interest disclosures

Disclosures of Conflicts of Interests must be made in accordance with Chapter 7, sections A3-A5 of Council's [Governance Rules](#), and recorded here.

N/A

**2. Record of Councillors that have disclosed a conflict of interest leaving the meeting**

N/A

**3. Items**

<b>Item</b>
Councillor only time
Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners
Mobile and Internet Coverage – Project update
Short recess
Ordinary Council meeting agenda review
General Business
Short recess ahead of Ordinary Council Meeting to be held via Zoom





## Informal Meeting of Councillors

*In accordance with Chapter 8, section A1 of Council's [Governance Rules](#), the Chief Executive Officer must ensure that a summary of the matters discussed at an Informal meeting of Councillors is tabled at the next convenient Council meeting, and recorded in the minutes of that Council meeting.*

**Meeting Title:** Briefing Session  
**Date:** 15 February 2022  
**Location:** Bright Committee Room & MS Teams - online  
**Start Time:** 12.30pm  
**Finish Time:** 5.30pm  
**Chairperson:** Charlie Bird, Chief Executive Officer

### Councillor and staff attendees:

Name	Position	Name	Position
Cr Sarah Nicholas	Mayor	Charlie Bird	Chief Executive Officer
Cr Katarina Hughes	Deputy Mayor	Will Jeremy	Director Assets
Cr John Forsyth	Councillor	Helen Havercroft	Director Corporate Performance
Cr Ron Janas	Councillor		
Cr Simon Kelley	Councillor		
Cr Kelli Prime	Councillor		

### Councillor and staff apologies:

Name	Position
Cr Tony Keeble	Councillor

### 1. Conflict of interest disclosures

Disclosures of Conflicts of Interests must be made in accordance with Chapter 7, sections A3-A5 of Council's [Governance Rules](#), and recorded here.

N/A

**2. Record of Councillors that have disclosed a conflict of interest leaving the meeting**

N/A

**3. Items**

<b>Item</b>
Councillor only time
Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners
Planning Training
Social Housing Funding Opportunity
General Business