



AGENDA

Ordinary Council Meeting

22 February 2023

Shire of Victoria Plains
Council Chambers, Calingiri
AND
via E-Meeting Protocol

Commencing – 2.00pm

DISCLAIMER:

The recommendations contained in this document are officers' recommendations only and should not be acted upon until Council has resolved to adopt those recommendations.

The resolutions of Council should be confirmed by perusing the minutes of the Council meeting at which these recommendations were considered. Resolutions are not considered final until the minutes of the meeting are confirmed or advised in writing by the CEO or authorised person.

Members of the public should also note that they act at their own risk if they enact any resolution prior to receiving official written notification of Council's decision.

Recording of Meeting

Members of the public are advised that meetings of Council are audio recorded to assist with ensuring an accurate record of the meeting is provided for the formal minutes of the meeting. In terms of the Privacy Act 1998 this may involve the recording of personal information provided at the meeting. The provision of any information that is recorded is voluntary, however if any person does not wish to be recorded they should not address or request to address the meeting. By remaining in this meeting, you consent to the recording of the meeting.

You are not permitted to record this meeting with any recording device, unless you have the express authorisation of the Council of the Shire of Victoria Plains.

E – Disclaimer

It is the Presiding Member's responsibility to preserve order in the meeting and this can be more difficult in an eMeeting. Therefore, each Council Member must consistently and respectfully follow the Local Government's Meeting Procedures Local Law, any additional eMeeting guidance provided by the Local Government and support the Presiding Member in their conduct of the eMeeting.

The pace of an eMeeting should be slow and orderly. The following practices will help avoid confusion and support effective eMeetings:

Speak clearly and slowly, as connections may be distorted or delayed;

Always state your name to indicate to the Presiding Member that you wish to speak. Restate your name if the Presiding Member has not heard you at first;

In debate, only speak after the Presiding Member has acknowledged you. Then state your name, so that others know who is speaking;

Follow the Presiding Member's directions and rulings;

If you are unclear about what is happening in an eMeeting, immediately state your name to draw the Presiding Member's attention and enable you to then seek clarification from the Presiding Member;

Avoid looking for opportunities to call Points of Order; instead, politely and respectfully gain the Presiding Member's attention and explain any deviation from your Meeting Procedures, the Local Government Act or any other relevant matter.

Commonly-used abbreviations

AAS / AASB	Australian Accounting Standard / Australian Accounting Standards Board
BF Act	Bush Fire Act 1954
BFB	Bush fire brigade
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CDO	Community Development Officer
DBCA	Dept of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
DFES	Dept of Fire and Emergency Services
DPLH	Dept of Planning, Lands and Heritage
DWER	Dept of Water and Environmental Regulation
EHO	Environmental Health Officer
EFT	Electronic Funds Transfer
FAM	Finance and Administration Manager
JSCDL	Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation
LEMA	Local Emergency Management Arrangements
LEMC	Local Emergency Management Committee
LG Act	Local Government Act 1995
LGGC	WA Local Government Grant Commission
LPP	Local Planning Policy
LPS	Local Planning Scheme
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRWA	Main Roads WA
NNTT	National Native Title Tribunal
OAG	Office of Auditor General
OCM	Ordinary Council Meeting
PTA	Public Transport Authority
RRG	Regional Roads Group
RTR	Roads to Recovery
SAT	State Administrative Tribunal
SEMC	State Emergency Management Committee
SGC	Superannuation Guarantee Contribution
SJAA	St John Ambulance Association
SWALSC	South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council
WAEC	WA Electoral Commission
WALGA	WA Local Government Association
WSM	Works and Services Manager
WSFN	Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
HCWA	Heritage Council of Western Australia
WAPC	Western Australian Planning Commission
WDC	Wheatbelt Development Commission

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AGENDA

Ordinary Meeting of the Victoria Plains Shire Council
To be Held in the Calingiri Shire Chambers and via E-meeting Protocol
on 22 February 2023 commencing at 2.00pm

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

1.1 Opening

1.2 Announcements by Shire President

2. REMOTE ATTENDANCE BY ELECTED MEMBERS

THAT:

- Under regulation 14C (2)(b) of the Admin Regulations, the Shire President can approve Elected Member attendance by electronic means;
- In doing so, under r.14C (5) the Shire President must have regard as to whether the location that the Elected Member intends to attend the meeting, and the equipment intended to be used to attend the meeting, are suitable;
- Electronic means includes, as per r.14CA(2) by telephone or video conference;
- Suitable equipment would include an electronic device that can hold a Teams meeting, and perhaps, the use of headphones;
- In accordance with r.14CA (5) the Elected Member must declare that they are able to maintain confidentiality during the meeting. Under r.14CA(7), the declaration by the Elected Member is recorded in the minutes of the meeting;
- Summarily, according to Departmental guidance, a suitable location is one that is quiet and private e.g. a private room in your house. If there are other people at the location at the time of the meeting, an Elected Member may be required to close a door and wear headphones.

Approval to Attend and Declaration of Confidentiality

THAT:

Cr _____ has been approved to attend the _____ by electronic means as approved by the Shire President and that a declaration has been received regarding confidentiality and other requirements as noted in Section 2 herewith.

3. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Members present

Staff attending

Approved leave of absence

Visitors

Members of the public

4. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Refer – Local Government Act, Regulations, Code of Conduct, and Declaration Forms in Councillor folders.

Type	Item	Person / Details
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4.1	Financial	.
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4.2	Proximity	
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4.3	Impartiality	
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PUBLIC AGENDA

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Refer – Local Government Act, Regulations, Local Law and Submission Form & Guidelines circulated.

5.1 Public Questions With Notice

Public Question Time was opened to the floor at

Public Question Time – Ordinary Council Meeting –

5.2 Public Questions Without Notice

Public question time closed at

6. PRESENTATIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

6.1 Presentations

6.2 Deputations

7. APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

PUBLIC AGENDA

8. MINUTES OF MEETINGS**8.1 Confirmation of Council Meeting Minutes**

Officer Recommendation

Moved:

Seconded:

That the Minutes of the following meetings:

- *Ordinary Council Meeting held 14 December 2022*

as circulated, be **CONFIRMED** as a true and correct record,**For / Against**

PUBLIC AGENDA

9. REPORTS REQUIRING DECISION**9.1 Accounts for Endorsement – December 2022**

File reference	F1.8.4
Report date	17 January 2023
Applicant/proponent	Nil
Officer disclosure of interest	Nil
Previous meeting references	Nil
Prepared by	Glenn Deocampo – Coordinator Financial Services
Senior Officer	Colin Ashe – Manager of Finance and Administration
Authorised by	Sean Fletcher – Chief Executive Officer
Attachments	
Attachment 1	Page 2 List of Payments – December 2022

PURPOSE

This Item presents the attached List of Accounts Paid, paid under delegated authority, for December 2022.

BACKGROUND

As per Local Government Act and Financial Management Regulations.

COMMENT

Each month Council is to be advised of payments made during the preceding month, the amount, payee, date and reason for payment.

Please note a serial column has been added to the payment listing for ease of referencing specific line payment queries raised by council.

CONSULTATION

None

STATUTORY CONTEXT

Local Government Act 1995 –

- s.6.8(2)(b) – expenditure is to be reported to the next ordinary meeting of Council

Local Government (Finance) Regulations 1996 –

- r.13 Payments for municipal fund or trust fund
 - (1) the Chief Executive Officer is to provide a list of accounts paid from the Municipal fund or Trust fund, a list of all accounts paid each month showing for each account paid –
 - a) The payee's name
 - b) The amount of the payment
 - c) The date of the payment
 - d) Sufficient information to identify the transaction
 - (2) the listing to be presented to the Council at the next ordinary meeting of Council after preparation.

CORPORATE CONTEXT

Delegations Register –

- 3.2 – Municipal Fund and Trust Fund – Payments from Bank Accounts
 - o CEO authorised, subject to conditions
 - o compliance with legislation and procedures
 - o Minimum of 2 signatories with varying level of authorisation

Strategic Business Plan/Corporate Business Plan

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES		WE KNOW WE ARE SUCCEEDING WHEN	
4. CIVIC LEADERSHIP			
4.3 Proactive and well governed Shire	External audits and reviews confirm compliance		
	We have sound financial management policies and attract external funding to help achieve our goals		
	Councilors attend training and feel supported in their role		
	Council is supported by a skilled team		

Strategic Priority 4.3 is relevant as part of sound financial management policies.

Policy Implications

Policy Manual –

- 3.1 Purchasing Framework

Other Corporate Document

- N/A

Risk Analysis

Consequence	Consequence Rating:	Likelihood Rating:	Risk Rating	Risk Acceptance/ Controls	Mitigation and Outcome
Compliance	Extreme (5) Non-compliance results in litigation, criminal charges or significant damages or penalties to Shire/Officers	Unlikely (2) The event could occur at some time	High (10)	Senior Management Team / CEO Risk acceptable with excellent controls, managed by senior management / executive and subject to monthly monitoring	Policies and processes including preparation by Finance staff and two-step process for payment will ensure that the residual risk is moderate.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All payments are in accordance Council's adopted budget.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Absolute Majority Required: No

Officer Recommendation

Moved Cr _____

Seconded Cr _____

That the payments made for December 2022 from the Municipal Bank Account/Trust Bank Account as per the attached listing and summarised below, be **ENDORSED**:

Payment type	References from – to	\$ Amount
Creditor EFT Payments**	11634 – 11715	664,989.61
Creditor Cheque Payments	12574	1,736.10
Direct Debit Payments**	DD13776-DD13809	22,018.81
Salaries & Wages EFT	PE 07/12/22, PE 21/12/22	111,539.35
Credit Card–Bendigo Bank-	DD13742.1	3,920.17
		972.57
Fuel Card – Wright Express	DD13741.1	317.00
		470.92
Trust Payments		0.00
	TOTAL	\$805,964.53

Local Spending	\$	%
Local Supplier	35,865.37	4.45
Payroll	111,539.35	13.84
Total	147,404.72	18.29

**includes salary and wages deductions, and SGC

For _____ / Against _____

9.2 Accounts for Endorsement – January 2023

File reference			F1.8.4
Report date			8 February 2023
Applicant/proponent			Nil
Officer disclosure of interest			Nil
Previous meeting references			Nil
Prepared by			Glenn Deocampo – Coordinator Financial Services
Senior Officer			Colin Ashe – Manager of Finance and Administration
Authorised by			Sean Fletcher – Chief Executive Officer
Attachments			
Attachment 1	Page	11	List of Payments – January 2023

PURPOSE

This Item presents the attached List of Accounts Paid, paid under delegated authority, for January 2023.

BACKGROUND

As per Local Government Act and Financial Management Regulations.

COMMENT

Each month Council is to be advised of payments made during the preceding month, the amount, payee, date and reason for payment.

Please note a serial column has been added to the payment listing for ease of referencing specific line payment queries raised by council.

CONSULTATION

None

STATUTORY CONTEXT

Local Government Act 1995 –

- s.6.8(2)(b) – expenditure is to be reported to the next ordinary meeting of Council

Local Government (Finance) Regulations 1996 –

- r.13 Payments for municipal fund or trust fund
 - (2) the Chief Executive Officer is to provide a list of accounts paid from the Municipal fund or Trust fund, a list of all accounts paid each month showing for each account paid –
 - e) The payee's name
 - f) The amount of the payment
 - g) The date of the payment
 - h) Sufficient information to identify the transaction
 - (2) the listing to be presented to the Council at the next ordinary meeting of Council after preparation.

CORPORATE CONTEXT

Delegations Register –

- 3.2 – Municipal Fund and Trust Fund – Payments from Bank Accounts
 - o CEO authorised, subject to conditions

- compliance with legislation and procedures
- Minimum of 2 signatories with varying level of authorisation

Strategic Business Plan/Corporate Business Plan

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES		WE KNOW WE ARE SUCCEEDING WHEN
4. CIVIC LEADERSHIP		
4.3 Proactive and well governed Shire	External audits and reviews confirm compliance	
	We have sound financial management policies and attract external funding to help achieve our goals	
	Councilors attend training and feel supported in their role	
	Council is supported by a skilled team	

Strategic Priority 4.3 is relevant as part of sound financial management policies.

Policy Implications

Policy Manual –

- 3.1 Purchasing Framework

Other Corporate Document

- N/A

Risk Analysis

Consequence	Consequence Rating:	Likelihood Rating:	Risk Rating	Risk Acceptance/ Controls	Mitigation and Outcome
Compliance	Extreme (5) Non-compliance results in litigation, criminal charges or significant damages or penalties to Shire/Officers	Unlikely (2) The event could occur at some time	High (10)	Senior Management Team / CEO Risk acceptable with excellent controls, managed by senior management / executive and subject to monthly monitoring	Policies and processes including preparation by Finance staff and two-step process for payment will ensure that the residual risk is moderate.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All payments are in accordance Council's adopted budget.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Absolute Majority Required: No

Officer Recommendation

Moved Cr _____

Seconded Cr _____

That the payments made for January 2023 from the Municipal Bank Account/Trust Bank Account as per the attached listing and summarised below, be **ENDORSED**:

Payment type	References from – to	\$ Amount
Creditor EFT Payments**	11716 – 11783	313,160.02
Creditor Cheque Payments	12575- 12577	1,195.64
Direct Debit Payments**	DD13815-DD13835	33,104.93
Salaries & Wages EFT	PE 04/01/23, PE 21/01/23	100,465.37
Credit Card–Bendigo Bank-	DD13742.1	186.91
		2,140.02
		2,625.32
Fuel Card – Wright Express	DD13741.1	169.41
Trust Payments		0.00
TOTAL		\$453,047.62

Local Spending	\$	%
Local Supplier	33,479.85	7.39
Payroll	100,465.37	22.18
Total	133,945.22	29.57

**includes salary and wages deductions, and SGC

For _____ / Against _____

9.3 Monthly Financial Statements – December 2022

File reference			12.8.1
Report date			07 Feb 2023
Applicant/proponent			Shire of Victoria Plains
Officer disclosure of interest			Nil
Previous meeting references			Nil
Prepared by			Colin Ashe, MFA
Authorised by			Sean Fletcher, Temporary CEO
Attachments			
Attachment 1	Page	22	Monthly Financial Statements – 31 Dec 2022
Attachment 2	Page	53	Monochrome supporting information

PURPOSE

To receive the monthly financial statements for the period ending 31 Dec 2022.

BACKGROUND

Section 6.4 of the Local Government Act 1995 requires a Local Government to prepare financial reports.

The Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 34 & 35 set out the form and content of the financial reports which have been prepared for the periods as above and are presented to Council for approval.

COMMENT

The Dec 2022 Monthly Financial Statements are presented for consideration.

Explanations for the significant variances have been reported in Note 2 and this continues to reduce as the budget is further refined reaching a higher maturity level and the FY itself progresses.

Variances are still primarily due to a combination of budget phasings and timing of which the expectation is this will be further reduced post the budget review in Mar 23. The month of Dec 22 reflected an increase in payments due to the Christmas shutdown but also progress in both operating and capital expenditure as expected.

Accordingly, councils municipal bank account saw a further reduction and is still funding the Plant Replacement program pending loan funds being deposited. This aspect is still on track for a Mar 23 positive cashflow input.

As the 21-22 Financial Statements were finalised in this month, it was also a trigger to run depreciation on councils' assets.

A summary of the variances are as follows;

INCOME:

- a) The Fire Mitigation grant will be reduced from \$250,000 to \$38,500. This will have a neutral effect on the budget as expenditure will also reduce to the same amount. Councils' approval of the write off debtors for flood damage has also effected the revenue base.
- b) Other debtor write offs are now impacting the budget revenue as a negative cashflow as forecast in the various agenda items for this council approved action.
- c) Management will be seeking clarification on the feasibility of receiving budgeted income for the Diesel Fuel Rebate and Drumuster as part of the Mar 23 budget review but at this point is causing a negative revenue variance.

EXPENSE:

- d) Employee costs variance as predicted is reducing as the financial year progresses and some amendments will occur through the budget review.
- e) Interest expense will see some positive impact as the Plant Replacement loan budgeted will only incur loan interest in 2023-24.
- f) Insurance premiums have soared in 2022-23, significantly higher than budgeted for and will need to be accounted for as part of the budget review. Whilst note 2 indicates a misallocation which is correct, council should still expect a 35% variance.

Other activities of interest include;

- g) Capital Road Construction Infrastructure activity has yielded a total cumulative expenditure amount of \$535,777 which is behind expenditure expectations as there was some issues in securing tenders which has now been resolved. There is a high probability works can now be fast-tracked and finalised;

• Ag Lime Calingiri - New Norcia Road	\$13,035
• WSFN Mogumber - Yarawindah Road	\$370,893
• LRCI Old Plains Road Vegetation Control	\$97,817
• LRCI Piaw Wadd Road Vegetation Control	\$52,126

- h) The Prime Mover has been delivered and payment will occur in Feb 23 to complete all of the Plant Replacement program.
- i) There has been a net decrease of rate revenue in the order of \$99,688 due to a change in status of Monochorum (Benedictine Community of New Norcia) Property Assessment. Attachment 2 provides supporting documentation noting the following circumstances surrounding this issue:
 - Through the VG roll, this property had a change of status to rateable on 15 Jun 22 and accordingly a rate notice issued for \$82,690.28 including back rates.
 - This rate record was included in the 2022-23 budget, creating a rate assessment notice for \$72,135.36. The budget still included an ex-gratia amount as has been the previous status, in effect creating a double up of revenue.

- Monochorum (Benedictine Community of New Norcia) understandably questioned this as they had a total rate bill outstanding of \$154,825.64, in their view the ex-gratia status had not changed and of which they had made a (ex-gratia) payment already in 2021-22, prior to issue of this 'new' rate notice on the 15 June 22.
 - Rates Officers investigated the matter and consequently reversed all charges and penalty interest amounting to \$155,412.39.
 - The shire has invoiced and received what would have been the normal ex-gratia payment from Monochorum (Benedictine Community of New Norcia) of \$71,427.73 as budgeted.
 - Through a sub-division of the same property, the shire has raised additional rates \$44,502.58 not budgeted, to partial offset, but the difference \$110,909.81 (\$155,412.39 – \$44,502.58) has created an additional budget deficit.
 - Through other interim and back rates, this has been further clawed back to a net rate deficit as at 31 Dec 22 of \$99,688 (see note 10 of the financial statements).
- j) \$754,810 in the Municipal fund bank account.
- k) \$765,504 balance in Restricted Funding comprising \$420,324 for WSNF and \$345,180 for R2R.

CONSULTATIONRSM
CEO**STATUTORY CONTEXT**

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 –

- r.34 – financial activity statement required each month and details of what is to be included.

CORPORATE CONTEXTDelegations Register –
Section 3 – Financial Management**Strategic Business Plan/Corporate Business Plan**

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES		WE KNOW WE ARE SUCCEEDING WHEN	
4. CIVIC LEADERSHIP			
4.3 Proactive and well governed Shire	External audits and reviews confirm compliance		
	We have sound financial management policies and attract		

	external funding to help achieve our goals
	Councilors attend training and feel supported in their role
	Council is supported by a skilled team

Strategic Priority 4.3 is relevant as part of sound financial management policies.

Policy Implications

Policy Manual –

- 3 Financial Management

Other Corporate Document

- N/A

Risk Analysis

Consequence	Consequence Rating:	Likelihood Rating:	Risk Rating	Risk Acceptance/ Controls	Mitigation and Outcome
Compliance	Extreme (5) Non-compliance results in litigation, criminal charges or significant damages or penalties to Shire/Officers	Unlikely (2) The event could occur at some time	High (10)	Senior Management Team / CEO Risk acceptable with excellent controls, managed by senior management / executive and subject to monthly monitoring	Policies and processes including preparation by Finance staff ensure that the residual risk is moderate.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Absolute Majority Required: No

Officer Recommendation

Moved Cr _____

Seconded Cr _____

That Council **RECEIVE** the 31 Dec 2022 Monthly Financial Reports as presented.

For ____ / Against ____

9.4 Monthly Financial Statements – January 2023

File reference			12.8.1
Report date			15 Feb 2023
Applicant/proponent			Shire of Victoria Plains
Officer disclosure of interest			Nil
Previous meeting references			Nil
Prepared by			Colin Ashe, MFA
Authorised by			Sean Fletcher, Temporary CEO
Attachments			
Attachment 1	Page	63	Monthly Financial Statements – 31 Jan 2023

PURPOSE

To receive the monthly financial statements for the period ending 31 Jan 2023.

BACKGROUND

Section 6.4 of the Local Government Act 1995 requires a Local Government to prepare financial reports.

The Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 34 & 35 set out the form and content of the financial reports which have been prepared for the periods as above and are presented to Council for approval.

COMMENT

The Jan 2023 Monthly Financial Statements are presented for consideration.

Explanations for the significant variances have been reported in Note 2 and this should be minimised once the Mar 23 budget review has been completed.

Finance staff continue to refine and mature budget vs actual allocations but does result in journals and therefore variances to correct transactions. The month of Jan 23 reflected this primarily in insurance premiums for workers compensation, debtor write offs and some timing differences in selling plant at auction.

Due to reduced tempo in Jan 23, as expected councils municipal bank account saw minimal reduction. Equally this also meant little progress in capital works from Dec 22 which financially assists cashflow.

As an example, the municipal bank account is still funding the Plant Replacement program pending loan funds being deposited, but this is not impacting cashflow as yet. This aspect is still on track for a Mar 23 positive cashflow input.

A summary of the variances are as follows;

INCOME:

- l) The Fire Mitigation grant will be reduced from \$250,000 to \$38,500. This will have a neutral effect on the budget as expenditure will also reduce to the same amount. Councils' approval of the write off debtors for flood damage has also affected the revenue base.
- m) Other debtor write offs are now impacting the budget revenue as a negative cashflow as forecast in the various agenda items for this council approved action.
- n) Other Revenue - Diesel Fuel Rebate and Drum muster will be reduced as part of the Mar 23 budget review to address this variance.

EXPENSE:

- o) Employee costs variance has increased slightly due the reallocation of workers compensation insurance premiums. Council should expect this variance to continue due to what has been the fluid nature of transition of contractors to employees and vice versa.
- p) Interest expense will see some positive impact as the Plant Replacement loan budgeted will only incur loan interest in 2023-24.
- q) Utility Charges – usually invoiced 3 or 4 monthly. Currently showing a positive variance but this will reduce in bulk once the next batch of invoices are received.

Other activities of interest include;

- r) Capital Road Construction Infrastructure activity has yielded a total cumulative expenditure amount of \$551,884 which is behind expenditure expectations. Whilst tender submissions have been received, as briefed to council, some jobs have been quoted significantly over the budget allocation. The management team will be meeting to find a solution to this. To summarise expenditure:
 - Ag Lime Calingiri - New Norcia Road \$14,235
 - WSNF Mogumber - Yarawindah Road \$370,893
 - LRCI Old Plains Road Vegetation Control \$97,817
 - LRCI Plaw Wadd Road Vegetation Control \$52,126
- s) The Plant Replacement program is now complete at a cost of \$803,892 against an original budget of \$1,010,000, saving \$206,108.
- t) Rates outstanding, the majority on instalments is \$409,888 of rates levied, \$3,156,461. This equates to 13% outstanding or a collection rate of 87%.
- u) \$651,692 in the Municipal fund bank account.
- v) \$766,131 balance in Restricted Funding comprising \$420,949 for WSNF and \$345,182 for R2R.

CONSULTATIONRSM
CEO**STATUTORY CONTEXT**

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 –

- r.34 – financial activity statement required each month and details of what is to be included.

CORPORATE CONTEXTDelegations Register –
Section 3 – Financial Management**Strategic Business Plan/Corporate Business Plan**

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES		WE KNOW WE ARE SUCCEEDING WHEN	
4. CIVIC LEADERSHIP			
4.3 Proactive and well governed Shire	External audits and reviews confirm compliance		
	We have sound financial management policies and attract external funding to help achieve our goals		
	Councilors attend training and feel supported in their role		
	Council is supported by a skilled team		

Strategic Priority 4.3 is relevant as part of sound financial management policies.

Policy ImplicationsPolicy Manual –
- 3 Financial Management**Other Corporate Document**

- N/A

Risk Analysis

Consequence	Consequence Rating:	Likelihood Rating:	Risk Rating	Risk Acceptance/ Controls	Mitigation and Outcome
Compliance	Extreme (5) Non-compliance results in litigation, criminal charges or significant damages or penalties to Shire/Officers	Unlikely (2) The event could occur at some time	High (10)	Senior Management Team / CEO Risk acceptable with excellent controls, managed by senior management / executive and subject to monthly monitoring	Policies and processes including preparation by Finance staff ensure that the residual risk is moderate.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Absolute Majority Required: No

Officer Recommendation

Moved Cr _____

Seconded Cr _____

That Council **RECEIVE** the 31 Jan 2023 Monthly Financial Reports as presented.

For _____ / Against _____

PUBLIC AGENDA

9.5 Annual Audit - Consideration of the Auditor's Report (Opinion), The Management Letter and the Annual Financial Report (Statements) for 2021-2022

File reference			12.2.1
Report date			07 Feb 2023
Applicant/proponent			Audit Committee
Officer disclosure of interest			NIL
Previous meeting references			N/A
Prepared by			Colin Ashe, MFA
Senior Officer			CEO
Attachments			
Attachment 1	Page	95	Independent Auditor's Report (Opinion)
Attachment 2	Page		Management Letter with Responses from MFA - Confidential
Attachment 3	Page	106	Annual Financial Report (Statements) 2021-2022
Attachment 4	Page	149	Report on Significant Matter

PURPOSE

That Council, adopts, accepts and notes the outcomes of Audit Committee meeting recommendations in regard to Audit Reports and Annual Financial Statements 2021-22.

BACKGROUND

The Shire received its audit report for the annual financial statements 2021-22 on the 16 Dec 22 and within the timeframe of 31 Dec 22 as set out in S7.9 of the Local Government Act 1995.

Under S7.12A (4) and (5) of the Local Government Act 1995, The Shire is required to:

- prepare a report addressing any matters identified as significant by the auditors,
- provide a copy of this report to the Minister within 3 months of receiving the audit report and;
- publish a copy of this report with 14 days after submission to the Minister.

With respect to the outcomes of the Annual Audit, the Audit Committee is required to assist the local government in carrying out the functions related to audits (Part 7 of the Act) and specifically, oversee the implementation of action required to be taken from S7.12A (Regulation 16 of the Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996).

COMMENT

Independent Auditor's Report (Attachment 1)

The Auditor General's delegate, states that in his opinion, the 2021/2022 annual financial report is

- based on proper accounts and records.
- presents fairly, in all material respects, the results of the operations of the Shire for the year ended 30 June 2022 and its financial position at the end of that period.
- in accordance with the Local Government Act 1995 (the Act) and, to the extent that they are not inconsistent with the Act, Australian Accounting Standards.

Management Report (Attachment 2)

The Auditor General reported the following:

Significant Matters

Finding:

The Shire has not performed an assessment to determine whether its infrastructure assets represent fair value.

Recommendation:

We recommend that the Shire consider implementing as part of the preparation of financial statements a formal robust process to determine whether indicators exist that would trigger a requirement to perform a formal revaluation of Infrastructure Assets.

This may entail obtaining relevant input from an independent valuer as to whether or not they consider there are any prevailing market factors which may indicate that the fair value of relevant assets are likely to have been impacted to any significant / material extent from the prior year.

Shire Management Comment:

The Shire completed a revaluation cycle on Property, Plant and Equipment during 2021-22 which the normal cycling being a revaluation of Infrastructure Assets in 2022-23. An impairment of assets (are the assets doing what they are meant to do) was also carried out and did not identify any deficiencies.

The Shire does acknowledge changes in the macro economic environment, such as inflation or weather events may impact on replacement costs and will ensure such factors are explicitly addressed in future assessments. A good example of this may be where flood damage has occurred on a road and as at 30 June, the value of that road in the asset register may not be correct at that point in time.

It should be noted that The Office of the Auditor General informally advised this was a finding across all local governments.

Action:

The Shire will include in its Accounting Policy to engage an independent valuer prior to the end of financial year to make an assessment if any prevailing market factors are likely to impact the value of shire assets materially. If that is found to be the case, then a desktop valuation of the impact is to be provided for inclusion in the Annual Financial Statements if possible, or if not, by way of note.

Full details on this policy to be completed prior to 31 May 2023.

Other Management Findings

As this document is confidential in nature as per the requirements of the Office of the Auditor General, further discussion is provided under confidential cover as part of Attachment 2. For the public record, there were no other significant risks. However, there was one (1) moderate risk and five (5) minor risks.

The MFA provided a status report to the Audit Committee as many of these findings have now been address and for those that have not, report each quarter on the progress.

A summary of the Shire's financial performance can be found in the Audit Committee agenda item and which will also form part of the Annual Report 2021-22

With consideration of the Annual Financial Statements and the Auditor's Report, these can now proceed as part of the Shire's 2021-2022 Annual Report. This means that once the Annual Report is accepted by Council, the Annual General Meeting of Electors can be set and the Annual Report, including the 2021-2022 Annual Financial Statements, presented to that meeting.

CONSULTATION

Sean Fletcher, CEO

Glenn Deocampo – Coordinator Financial Services

Travis Bate, RSM

STATUTORY CONTEXT

Local Government Act

5.53. Annual reports (in part)

- (1) The local government is to prepare an annual report for each financial year.
- (2) The annual report is to contain —
 - (f) the financial report for the financial year; and
 - (h) the auditor's report prepared under section 7.9(1) or 7.12AD(1) for the financial year.

6.4. Financial report

- (1) A local government is to prepare an annual financial report for the preceding financial year and such other financial reports as are prescribed.
- (2) The financial report is to —
 - (a) be prepared and presented in the manner and form prescribed; and
 - (b) contain the prescribed information.
- (3) By 30 September following each financial year or such extended time as the Minister allows, a local government is to submit to its auditor —
 - (a) the accounts of the local government, balanced up to the last day of the preceding financial year; and
 - (b) the annual financial report of the local government for the preceding financial year.

5.54. Acceptance of annual reports

- (1) Subject to subsection (2), the annual report for a financial year is to be accepted* by the local government no later than 31 December after that financial year.
** Absolute majority required.*
- (2) If the auditor's report is not available in time for the annual report for a financial year to be accepted by 31 December after that financial year, the annual report is to be accepted by the local government no later than 2 months after the auditor's report becomes available.

7.2. Audit

The accounts and annual financial report of a local government for each financial year are required to be audited by an auditor appointed by the local government.

7.12A. Duties of local government with respect to audits

- (4) A local government must —
- (a) prepare a report addressing any matters identified as significant by the auditor in the audit report, and stating what action the local government has taken or intends to take with respect to each of those matters; and
 - (b) give a copy of that report to the Minister within 3 months after the audit report is received by the local government.
- (5) Within 14 days after a local government gives a report to the Minister under subsection (4)(b), the CEO must publish a copy of the report on the local government's official website.

Audit Regulations**16 Functions of Audit Committee (in part)**

- (e) to support the auditor of the local government to conduct an audit and carry out the auditor's other duties under the Act in respect of the local government;
- (f) to oversee the implementation of any action that the local government —
- (i) is required to take by section 7.12A(3); and
 - (ii) has stated it has taken or intends to take in a report prepared under section 7.12A(4)(a); and
 - (iii) has accepted should be taken following receipt of a report of a review conducted under regulation 17(1); and
 - (iv) has accepted should be taken following receipt of a report of a review conducted under the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* regulation 5(2)(c).

CORPORATE CONTEXT

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES		WE KNOW WE ARE SUCCEEDING WHEN	
4. CIVIC LEADERSHIP			
4.3 Proactive and well governed Shire	External audits and reviews confirm compliance		
	We have sound financial management policies and attract external funding to help achieve our goals		
	Councilors attend training and feel supported in their role		
	Council is supported by a skilled team		

Strategic Priority 4.3 is relevant as part of sound financial management policies.

Corporate Business Plan

4.3 e - Continue to meet compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements (Calendar, CAR, FMR, R17)

f. - Review financial and asset management policies and practices.

Risk Analysis

Consequence	Consequence Rating:	Likelihood Rating:	Risk Rating	Risk Acceptance/ Controls	Mitigation and Outcome
Compliance	Extreme (5) Non-compliance results in termination of services or imposed penalties to Shire/Officers	Unlikely (2) The event could occur at some time	High (10)	Senior Management Team / CEO Risk acceptable with excellent controls, managed by senior management / executive and subject to monitoring from CEO & Council (and Audit Committee)	Policies and processes including preparation by Finance staff ensure that the residual risk is moderate.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Ongoing strategies to address all the findings are set out in the body of this agenda item and management responses to Auditor's Management Report.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Absolute majority required: No

Officer Recommendation

Moved Cr _____

Seconded Cr _____

That Council, as **RECOMMENDED** by the Audit Committee and in accordance with:

- a. Section 7.2 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, **ADOPTS** the 2021/2022 Annual Financial Report including the Auditor's Report (Opinion) from the Office of the Auditor General as per Attachments 1 and 3.
- b. Section 7.12A of the *Local Government Act 1995*, **ACCEPTS** the CEO's Report in Attachment 4 and that this report is:
 - i. Submitted to the Minister within 3 months;
 - ii. Publishes this report on the Shire's website within 14 days after the report is given to the Minister.
- c. **NOTES** the Manager Finance and Administration response to the moderate and minor findings the Management Letter in Point 3 as the Action plan to implemented if not already in place.

For _____ / Against _____

9.6 Adoption of the 2021/2022 Annual Report and Setting of the Annual Meeting of Electors

File reference			94.1
Report date			15 February 2023
Applicant/proponent			CEO
Officer disclosure of interest			Nil
Previous meeting references			N/A
Prepared by			Sean Fletcher, CEO
Authorised by			CEO
Attachments			
Attachment 1	Page	143	Draft 2021/2022 Annual Report

PURPOSE

To accept the 2021/22 Annual Report and to convene the General Meeting of Electors.

BACKGROUND

An annual report for the previous financial year is required to be prepared and adopted by Council. Key components of the annual report include a report from the Shire President and the CEO, matters regarding the Strategic Community Plan and the Annual Financial Statements.

The Shire received its audit report for the 2021-2022 annual financial statements on 16 December 2022 and within the timeframe of 31 December as set out in s7.9 of the *Local Government Act 1995*. The Auditor's Report and the Annual Financial Statements form part of the Shire's Annual Report. The Audit Committee reviewed the Annual Financial Statements and presented these to Council at today's Council meeting for final consideration (Item 9.5).

Accordingly, the Annual Report is presented to Council today for its acceptance.

Once accepted by Council, the date to hold the general meeting of electors (often referred to as the Annual Meeting of Electors) can then be set.

COMMENT

A summary regarding the contents of the annual report is provided in the following table:

Section	Description
The District at a Glance	A general overview of the Shire of Victoria Plains
President's Address	The report is required to be provided by the Shire President re 2021/2022
Matters Regarding Council	This includes who was on Council during 2021/2022, matters regarding meetings, the previous elections, membership of committees and complaints. Meeting attendance figures have been included along with the training register for the elected members
CEO's Message	The CEO is required to provide a report
Financial Management Report	The Finance Manager's report provides a summary of the key financial activity for 2021-2022. This is, in effect, an overview of the annual financial statements.
Works and Services	This section sets out the key road funding sources, the major

	capital works undertaken, and the day to day operations undertaken
Environmental Health, Building and Planning Services Report (Local Planning Scheme)	This report includes an overview of the main regulatory functions of the Shire: health, building and land use planning
Other Staff Matters	An organisational chart has been included and matters regarding remuneration (number of officers that receive more than \$100,000 per year)
Other Matters of Governance	The Shire is required to be compliant regarding the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Interest Disclosures – 0; • National Competition Policy – the Shire did not privatise any activities in 2021/2022 and so consequently there were no obligations to report in this area impact of local laws; • Record Keeping Plan – confirmation that the Record Keeping Plan was reviewed; • Freedom of Information – there were 0 applications received • Disabilities Access and Inclusion Plan – the Plan is overdue for its five yearly review.
Shire Facilities	Lists the main shire provided facilities in each community and who best to contact in order to use them
Status of the Strategic Plan	No modifications were made to the Strategic Community Plan (SCP). The Measures of Success show that perhaps they were unrealistic. The new plan was adopted on 3 August 2022.
Status of the Corporate Plan	On balance, the Community Priority Area (PA) delivered a consistent result, despite concerns of staff resourcing issues may have impacted. The outcome for the Civic Leadership PA shows that governance, corporate planning and training of elected members is at required levels. However, the Economic, Environment and Infrastructure PAs have been impacted further by long standing and complex matters re water security, the delays in the provision of LRCI 3 Funding (although projects are now approved) and a lack of progress re AROC joint initiatives.
Matters for Next 12 Months	<p>Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the Disability and Access Inclusion Plan; • Support seniors activities; • Implement MOUs with local community organisations; • Re-establish the community grants scheme; • Undertake the local heritage survey. <p>Economic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrated progress towards securing a consistent supply of water across the Shire; • Active participation in the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network; • Deliver on the plant replacement schedule of \$1M; • Upgrade the Bolgart Caravan Park Ablution Block – LRCI 3 <p>Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver environmental health services; • Improve the sewerage scheme – Yerecoin – LRCI 2; • Reduce verge bushfire risk; • Undertake a review of the animal control program. <p>Civic Leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver quarterly reviews of the Shire Strategic Plan, and Corporate Business Plan; • Continue active participation at the Avon Midland Country Zone, AROC, Regional Road Group; • Continue improvements to its compliance regime and records; • Review of the Shire's IT capability. .
Capital Program	The Shire will continue the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network (WSFN) full projects under the WSFN including the Mogumber-Yarawindah Road Reconstruction Project.

	<p>The Shire will also progress the Calingiri-New Norcia Road and Toodyay-Bindi Bindi Road Intersection Project.</p> <p>The Shire will also deliver LRCI 3 projects worth \$762,824 including the Bolgart Caravan Park Toilet Block, Vegetation Improvements Projects, Improvements to Golf Course Road.</p> <p>The Plant Replacement is \$1M including Loader, Prime Mover, Vehicles – Utilities.</p>
Auditor's Report and Annual Financial Statements	Contains a copy of the letter from the Auditor General's delegate (Opinion) and the Audited and Signed annual financial statements

Conclusion

Should Council accept the 2021 - 2022 Annual Report, it will be in a position to set the date for the Annual General Meeting of Electors (general meeting of electors), and must be held with 56 days from acceptance. The Annual Report is presented to that meeting, which is also held open for general business raised by the community. The date of the meeting needs to allow enough time for the CEO to advertise the meeting and to also make copies of the annual report available.

The Shire is still required to observe COVID-19 when holding the Annual General Meeting re wearing of masks and one person per 2sqm.

CONSULTATION

- PA to the CEO
- Manager Finance and Administration
- Manager Works and Services
- Principal Building Surveyor

STATUTORY CONTEXT

Local Government Act

5.53. Annual reports

- (1) The local government is to prepare an annual report for each financial year.
- (2) The annual report is to contain —
 - (a) a report from the mayor or president; and
 - (b) a report from the CEO; and
 - [(c), (d) *deleted*]
 - (e) an overview of the plan for the future of the district made in accordance with section 5.56, including major initiatives that are proposed to commence or to continue in the next financial year; and
 - (f) the financial report for the financial year; and
 - (g) such information as may be prescribed in relation to the payments made to employees; and
 - (h) the auditor's report prepared under section 7.9(1) or 7.12AD(1) for the financial year; and
 - (ha) a matter on which a report must be made under section 29(2) of the *Disability Services Act 1993*; and

- (hb) details of entries made under section 5.121 during the financial year in the register of complaints, including —
 - (i) the number of complaints recorded in the register of complaints; and
 - (ii) how the recorded complaints were dealt with; and
 - (iii) any other details that the regulations may require;and
- (i) such other information as may be prescribed.

6.4. Financial report

- (1) A local government is to prepare an annual financial report for the preceding financial year and such other financial reports as are prescribed.
- (2) The financial report is to —
 - (a) be prepared and presented in the manner and form prescribed; and
 - (b) contain the prescribed information.
- (3) By 30 September following each financial year or such extended time as the Minister allows, a local government is to submit to its auditor —
 - (a) the accounts of the local government, balanced up to the last day of the preceding financial year; and
 - (b) the annual financial report of the local government for the preceding financial year.

5.54. Acceptance of annual reports

- (1) Subject to subsection (2), the annual report for a financial year is to be accepted* by the local government no later than 31 December after that financial year.
** Absolute majority required.*
- (2) If the auditor's report is not available in time for the annual report for a financial year to be accepted by 31 December after that financial year, the annual report is to be accepted by the local government no later than 2 months after the auditor's report becomes available.

5.55. Notice of annual reports

The CEO is to give local public notice of the availability of the annual report as soon as practicable after the report has been accepted by the local government.

5.55A. Publication of annual reports

The CEO is to publish the annual report on the local government's official website within 14 days after the report has been accepted by the local government.

5.27. Electors' general meetings

- (1) A general meeting of the electors of a district is to be held once every financial year.
- (2) A general meeting is to be held on a day selected by the local government but not more than 56 days after the local government accepts the annual report for the previous financial year.
- (3) The matters to be discussed at general electors' meetings are to be those prescribed.

CORPORATE CONTEXT

Strategic Community Plan

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES		WE KNOW WE ARE SUCCEEDING WHEN	
4. CIVIC LEADERSHIP			
4.1 Forward planning and implementation of plans to achieve community priorities	Performance against targets are regularly reported to the community		
	We attend meetings of key local and regional organisations to jointly plan for our community		
	Demonstrated progress towards achievement of the Corporate Business Plan		
4.2 Shire communication is regular, clear and transparent	Residents and community groups believe they are being listened to and fairly treated		
	Positive feedback through our customer survey		
	Council and Staff work closely with the community to successfully achieve projects or outcomes that deliver upon priorities		
4.3 Proactive and well governed Shire	External audits and reviews confirm compliance		

Corporate Business Plan

The Annual Report sets out feedback on the performance of the Shire in the previous financial year and those key projects anticipated for the next 12 months.

Risk Management (Risk Procedures)

Consequence	Consequence Rating:	Likelihood Rating:	Risk Rating	Risk Acceptance/ Controls	Mitigation and Outcome
Non-compliance There are two main issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failing to meet the required due dates; Failing to include all relevant information 	Major (4) Non-compliance results in termination of services or imposed penalties to Shire/Officers	Almost Certain (5) Expected to occur in most circumstances	Extreme (20)	CEO & Council (Risk only acceptable with excellent controls and all treatment plans to be explored and implemented where possible, managed by highest level of authority and subject to continuous monitoring Effective: The Shire has prepared the written annual report with the required content in required time frames. However,	CEO to ensure that Council is kept apprised of roadblocks that occur with regard to preparing the annual report. This has been done at Council Briefing Sessions. The above ensures that the risk is maintained as Low

				delays by the auditors and the OAG has seen the production of the Annual Report delayed	
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FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Absolute majority required: Yes (In part)

Officer's Recommendation

Moved Cr _____

Seconded Cr _____

That Council:

1. In accordance with Section 5.54(1) of the *Local Government Act 1995* **ACCEPTS BY AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY** the Shire of Victoria Plains 2021-2022 Annual Report as set out in Attachment 1.
2. In accordance with Section 5.27 of the *Local Government Act 1995* **CONVENES** a General Meeting of Electors (an Annual Meeting) of the Shire of Victoria Plains to be held on 22 March 2023 commencing at 6:00 PM at the Emergency Services Building.
3. **NOTES** that:
 1. The Shire of Victoria Plains Annual Report may be subject to further formatting and styling to be determined by the CEO prior to publication.
 2. In accordance with Sections 5.29 and 5.55 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, the CEO will give local public notice of the General Meeting of Electors to be held on 22 March 2023, and of the availability of the Shire's Report for the 2021/22 Financial Year, and will make the report available on the Shire's website within fourteen days.
 3. Further to Regulation 51 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, the Director General of the Department of Local Government, Sports and Cultural Industries will be provided with a copy of the Shire's Annual Report for the 2020/21 Financial Year, inclusive of the Annual Financial Report for the same period, and the associated Auditor's Report.

For _____ / Against _____

9.7 Rating Strategy 2023-2029

File reference	
Report date	15 February 2023
Applicant/proponent	N/A
Officer disclosure of interest	No interest to disclose
Previous meeting references	N/A
Prepared by	Niel Mitchell, Consultant
Authorised by	MFA, Colin Ashe
Attachments	
Attachment 1	Page 187 Proposed Rating Strategy 2023 to 2029

PURPOSE

For Council to consider a Rating Strategy for 2023 to 2029.

BACKGROUND

Over the past 4-5 years a number of reports have been prepared that indicated potential inconsistencies and uncertainties within the rating framework, although these comments were generally made as part of a broader document, rather than focussed on rating.

In September 2022, the Acting CEO authorised the preparation of a Rating Options Discussion Paper that–

- investigated statutory options and limitations
- made comparisons with the adjoining 7 local governments
- suggested possibilities for the Shire of Victoria Plains, and
- made recommendations.

The Rating Options Discussion Paper focussed on the 4 principal areas –

- gross rental value properties – within the townsites and relevant localities
- unimproved value properties – agricultural and mining
- Calingiri and Yerecoin sewerage schemes
- general waste and recycling services

The Manager Finance and Administration, in training Rates Officer and Rates Contractor met on-line with the consultant on 25 January 2023 to review the Discussion Paper. A wide range of matters were agreed to put forward to Council for direction in order to prepare a Rating Strategy.

Following this, a range of documentation were then located addressing the arrangements made in 1990 concerning the Yerecoin sewerage scheme.

The Rating Options, Rating Strategy and Yerecoin Sewerage Scheme Discussion Papers were all presented to Council for comment review and directions at the Briefing Session held on 13 February 2023.

The attached draft Rating Strategy for 2023 to 2029 collates the recommendations made and the directions given by Council.

COMMENT

The Options Discussion Paper provides all necessary detail (investigation, possibilities, current situation and comparisons), but as a very brief summary –

- GRV and UV rating revenue is considered to be consistent with the adjoining local governments
- both GRV and UV minimum rates are well below those of the region
 - o increase to be phased in over 5 years
- differential rating for mining (both rate/\$ and minimums) is suggested
- in the agricultural area, a change from UV to GRV valuation is suggested for those properties or portion of a property that has a commercial or industrial use that is not consistent with broadacre agriculture
 - o at the moment, these properties have an inequitable advantage over other commercial or industrial that are based in townsites, and
 - o are effectively are being subsidised by both agriculture and townsites
- for the Calingiri and Yerecoin sewerage schemes –
 - o a change from charge per connection to rate/\$ based on GRV for all rateable properties
 - o a minimum to apply to all rateable properties, whether developed or not
 - o a restructure of charges for non-rateable properties
- waste and recycling –
 - o both waste and recycling – parity of charge for first and any subsequent bins, as it costs the same to pick up regardless of whether it is an additional bin or not
 - o recycling only – increase to parity with waste charge, phased in over 5 years
 - o charges to apply to all townsite properties that have been developed, whether occupied or not

It is emphasised that even if the Rating Strategy is adopted, increases and all other matters in the Strategy are at Council's discretion (subject to statutory requirements), and should be considered in light of circumstances at the time. Despite this discretion that may be exercised, it is considered that adoption of the Rating Strategy will provide clear guidance to elected members, staff and ratepayers.

Some matters may take some time to resolved before being able to implement the Strategy, particularly the issues surrounding the Yerecoin Sewerage Scheme Deed.

If the Strategy is approved, implementation of differential rating is subject to the requirements of the Local Government Act, including local public notice of the intent to implement differential rating and allow a 6 week public comment period.

Rating Policy documents are to be developed to support the Rating Strategy if adopted.

CONSULTATION

Council Briefing Session 13 February 2023

Colin Ashe, Manager Finance and Administration

Sue Bryan, Training Rates Officer

Rhona Hawkins, Rate Officer (Contractor)

STATUTORY CONTEXT

There is no statutory requirement for a rating strategy.

Depending on the directions resolved by Council, implementation of recommendations and the draft strategy will require compliance with various section of the –

- Local Government Act 1995
- Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1911

CORPORATE CONTEXT

Strategic Community Plan / Corporate Business Plan

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES		WE KNOW WE ARE SUCCEEDING WHEN	
4. CIVIC LEADERSHIP			
4.1 Forward planning and implementation of plans to achieve community priorities		Performance against targets are regularly reported to the community	
		Demonstrated progress towards achievement of the Corporate Business Plan	
4.2 Shire communication is regular, clear and transparent		Residents and community groups believe they are being listened to and fairly treated	
		Council and Staff work closely with the community to successfully achieve projects or outcomes that deliver upon priorities	
		We have sound financial management policies and attract external funding to help achieve our goals	
		Council is supported by a skilled team	

Strategic Priority 4 is relevant across a number of spectrums as indicated.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Implementation costs, other than legal advice, are expected to be minimal, with most requiring only adjustments to be made to rates and charges codes etc, within the IT system.

Other costs expected include –

- with the IT provider to implement changes from sewerage charges per connection, to sewerage rates based on GRV,
- relating to change of basis of valuation from UV to GRV for commercial / industrial properties in the agricultural area
- advertising or any differential rate proposals, as required by the Local Government Act

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Absolute majority required: No

Officer Recommendation

Moved Cr _____

Seconded Cr _____

That Council **ADOPT** the draft Rating Strategy 2023 to 2029 as attached with any major changes to intent to be re-presented to council for endorsement.

For _____ / Against _____

Officer Recommendation

Moved Cr _____

Seconded Cr _____

That –

1. **LEGAL ADVICE** be sought as to –

- the continuing commitments and usefulness of the Yerecoin Sewerage Scheme deeds,
- the advisability and processes for cancellation of the caveats and the deed for each of the signatories, and

2. following receipt of the advice, the matter be **REFERRED** to Council for further direction.

For _____ / Against _____

Officer Recommendation

Moved Cr _____

Seconded Cr _____

That –

1. in relation to the Calingiri and Yerecoin Sewerage Schemes, Council **APPROVES** changing from flat charge per property or connection to –

- a rate per dollar for GRV rated properties, to apply to all rateable properties within the scheme area, including vacant land,
- flat charge per property based on number of connections for number of connections, and

2. both the rate/dollar and charge per connection to be implemented in accordance with the provisions of the Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act.

For _____ / Against _____

10. MEMBER MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN**11. NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE REQUIRING DECISION***Admitted by resolution of Council*

12. MEETING CLOSED TO PUBLIC

12.1 Matters for Which the Meeting May Be Closed

13. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business, the Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at

CERTIFICATION

These minutes were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on _____ 2023.

Signed _____ Date _____
(Presiding member at the meeting which confirmed the minutes)

Council Minutes are unconfirmed until they have been adopted at the following meeting of Council.

PUBLIC AGENDA