

MINUTES Ordinary Council Meeting 27 April 2022 Shire of Victoria Plains Council Chambers, Calingiri AND via E-Meeting Protocol

Commencing – 2.02pm

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 | | | | | |
| ΡΤΑ | 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 | | | | | |

CONTENTS

| 1. | DE | CLARATION OF OPENING | .5 |
|-----|-----|--|----|
| 1.1 | | Opening | .5 |
| 1.2 | 2 | Announcements by Shire President | .5 |
| 2. | RE | CORD OF ATTENDANCE | .5 |
| 3. | DIS | CLOSURES OF INTEREST | .6 |
| 4. | PU | BLIC QUESTION TIME | .7 |
| 4.1 | | Public Questions With Notice | .7 |
| 4.2 | 2 | Public Questions Without Notice | .8 |
| 5. | PR | ESENTATIONS AND DEPUTATIONS | |
| 5.1 | | Presentations | .9 |
| 5.2 | | Deputations | .9 |
| 6. | APF | PLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE | .9 |
| 7. | MIN | IUTES OF MEETINGS | 10 |
| 7.1 | | Confirmation of Council Meeting Minutes | 10 |
| 8. | RE | PORTS REQUIRING DECISION | |
| 8.1 | | Accounts for Endorsement – March 2022 | |
| 8.2 | 2 | Monthly Financial Statements – March 2022 | |
| 8.3 | 3 | Compliance Audit Return 2021 | 15 |
| 8.4 | ļ | Annual Audit - Consideration of the Auditor's Report (Opinion), The Management L and the Annual Financial Report (Statements) for 2020-2021 | |
| 8.5 | 5 | Adoption of the 2020/2021 Annual Report and Setting of the Annual Meeting of Electronic Setting of the Annual Meeting of Electronic Setting Se | |
| 8.6 | 6 | Behanging Road Planned works | 43 |
| 8.7 | , | AgLime – Calingiri New Norcia Road Realignment | 45 |
| 8.8 | 3 | Wet Hire of Plant | |
| 9. | ME | MBER MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN | 48 |
| 10. | NE\ | W BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE REQUIRING DECISION | 48 |
| 11. | ME | ETING CLOSED TO PUBLIC | 49 |
| 11 | .1 | Matters for Which the Meeting May Be Closed — Matters Regarding the CEO and Special Gravel Payment | |
| 11 | .4 | Works – Outstanding Accounts | 50 |
| 11 | .2 | Notice of Motion –Withdrawal of CEO Request for Further Contract - Confidential | 52 |
| 11 | .3 | Notice of Motion – Legal Advice re CEO's Contract and Performance Appraisal - Confidential | 53 |
| 12. | CLC | DSURE OF MEETING | 54 |



MINUTES

Ordinary Meeting of the Victoria Plains Shire Council To be Held in the Calingiri Shire Chambers and via E-meeting Protocol on 27 April 2022 commencing at 2.02pm

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

1.1 Opening

The Meeting was declared open by the Presiding Member at 2.02pm.

1.2 Announcements by Shire President

The Shire President reminded Elected Members that the meeting was being recorded for the purposes of Minute Taking and uploading of the recording to the Shire Website for public viewing.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

| Members present | Cr P Bantock – Shire President |
|---------------------------|--|
| • | Cr N Clarke – Deputy Shire President |
| | Cr J Kelly |
| | Cr S Woods |
| | Cr G O'Brien |
| | Cr D Lovelock |
| Staff attending | Chief Executive Officer – Ms G Teede |
| | Governance Officer – Mr S Fletcher – via teleconference |
| | Works and Services Manager – Mr K Boase |
| | Community Emergency Services Manager – Mr N Parry |
| | Finance Consultant – RSM (Mr T Bates) - via teleconference |
| | Minute Taker – Mrs J Klobas |
| Approved leave of absence | N/A |
| Visitors | N/A |
| Members of the public | Mr M Palmer |
| · | Mr D Hall |
| | Mr G Bookham |
| | |

The Shire President noted that whilst Cr S Penn had requested to attend the Ordinary Council Meeting via E Meeting, as outlined under section *14A of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations*, a Council Motion is required for E Meeting attendance by Cr S Penn due to the Councillor being located more than 150km's from the meeting location.

2004-01 Councillor Motion / Council Resolution

Moved: Cr G O'Brien

Seconded: Cr D Lovelock

That Cr S Penn be allowed to attend the Council Meeting via E Meeting conference from the location of 9 Hastie Court, Kalgoorlie.

LOST For 2 / Against 4

Cr G O'Brien and Cr J Kelly voted for the motion. Cr P Bantock, Cr N Clarke, Cr D Lovelock and Cr Woods voted against the motion.

Cr S Penn was advised that she would be not be admitted to attend the Meeting via E Meeting Protocol at 2.08pm.

| 3. | DISCLOSU | RES OF INT | EREST |
|-----|------------------|----------------|--|
| | Refer – Local Go | overnment Act, | Regulations, Code of Conduct, and Declaration Forms in Councillor folders. |
| | Туре | ltem | Person / Details |
| 3.1 | Financial | | Nil |
| 3.2 | Proximity | | Cr N Clarke declared a proximity interest in "Item 8.7, AgLime – |
| 0.2 | , i communy | | Calingiri New Norcia Road Realignment' due to "adjoining properties". |
| 3.3 | Impartiality | 20B | Mr S Fletcher, Governance Officer, declared an impartiality interest in "Item 11.2 Notice of Motion –Withdrawal of CEO Request for Further Contract – Confidential" due to "Mr Fletcher is engaged by the CEO to provide support services that includes advice to Council". |
| | | | Mr S Fletcher, Governance Officer, declared an impartiality interest in " <i>Item 11.3 Notice of Motion – Legal Advice re CEO's</i> <i>Contract and Performance Appraisal - Confidential</i> due to " <i>Mr Fletcher is engaged by the CEO to provide support</i> <i>services that includes advice to Council</i> ". |

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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

4.1 **Public Questions With Notice**

Public Question Time was opened to the floor at 2.12pm.

Public Question Time – Ordinary Council Meeting – 23 March 2022

Cr S Woods - re Item 8.1 – Accounts for Endorsement (March 2022)

- Q5. Regarding Item 8.1 EFT10734 What is the date of the invoice for this payment. Question Taken on Notice.
- A5. 31 May 2021.

Cr J Kelly - re Item 8.1 – Accounts for Endorsement (March 2022)

- Q1 Regarding Item 8.1 EFT10734 Why is this account being paid 8 months later?
- A1. Question Taken on Notice.
- A1. The account was received by the Shire in February 2022 due to a clerical oversight from the Legal Firm providing the services.

Public Question Time – Special Council Meeting – 30 March 2022

Mr A Hall, Yerecoin.

- Q2. What impact does the starting or not starting of the road works have on the funding due to the shire?
- A2. Awaiting further information, Question Taken on Notice.
- A1. The WSM can advise that "Of the current grant funded works, only Behanging, Mogumber-Yarawindah and the Calingiri New Norcia realignment are outstanding. It is anticipated that both the Behanging and Mogumber-Yarawindah Roads will be completed this financial year, with the only outstanding grant funded works being the Calingiri New Norcia realignment, currently the Shire has sought a re-valuation prior to engaging the landholder in negotiations re purchase and finalisation of permits to begin works.

Grant funds are unlikely to be affected as the Shire will only be rolling over the one project. The increased renewal capital works, undertaken due to the flood event, will likely increase the availability of grant funding to the Shire.

Mr D Hall, Piawaning

- Q1. For the last two years, the Shire was in a deficit, will this occur again?
- A2. Question Taken on Notice.
- A1. The Finance Consultant (RSM) noted that "The Shire's closing surplus as presented in the Rate Setting Statement in the Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2021 was \$893,669. For 2020, the surplus was \$191,710.

The budget review as presented at this Council Meeting forecasts a deficit of \$209,463 at 30 June 2022 for the reasons outlined in the Agenda item.

Management will continue to monitor the budget closely and look for further potential savings.

4.2 Public Questions Without Notice

Mr D Hall, Piawaning

- Q1. What is the Shire Operating Surplus Ratio for the 2020/21 year?
- A1. The Operating Surplus has improved over the last two years as confirmed by the Finance Consultant, however an exact figure could be not be provided.

Mr G Bookham,

- Q1. What is the Shire Policy on native vegetation and road verges?
- A1. Road Verges are managed by the State Government.
- Q2. How many residents are able to vote in those wards?
- A2. The State Government is looking at amendments to Ward boundaries and indeed potentially there would be no wards as such.

Current boundaries are to be provided to Mr Bookham.

Mr D Hall, Piawaning

- Q1. Are creditors owed \$560,000K
- A1. As at 31 March 2022 sundry payables total \$1,065,034.
- Q2. Is this amount payable within or outside of Terms of Payment.
- A1. Question Taken on Notice.

Mr M Palmer

- Q1. Are we \$200K in deficit?
- A1. The deficit as outlined in the recent budget mainly links back to the timing of funding following a large rain event late 2021, of which the Shire has applied to DFWAR for funding assistance due to significant damage to roads in the District. This is a lengthy process, and the figures provided in the budget reflected the possibility of Government funding not being received in by the end of the financial year, which would result in the budget being in a deficit.
- Q2. Are the 11 April 2022 Council Audit Minutes on the Shire Website?
- A2. Yes, they are. (<u>https://www.victoriaplains.wa.gov.au/council-meetings/audit-council-meeting/audit-committee-meeting-11-april-2022/390</u>)

Cr S Woods, Ordinary Council Meeting – 27 April 2022



- Q1. Regarding Item 8.7 "AgLime Calingiri New Norcia Road Realignment", how many hectares are in question re the Shire's negotiations with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) to identify an offset site
- A1. The Question was Taken on Notice by the Works & Services Manager.

Public question time closed at 2.25pm.

6. APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

N/A

7. **MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

7.1 **Confirmation of Council Meeting Minutes**

2204-02 **Officer Recommendation / Council Resolution**

Moved: Cr N Clarke

Seconded: Cr G O'Brien

That the Minutes of the following meeting:

Ordinary Council Meeting held 23 March 2022, with amendment to Item 8.2 to update the • Seconded from Cr G Woods to Cr S Woods and the Special Council Meeting of 30 March 2022, as circulated, be CONFIRMED as a true and correct record.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS DECISION OF COUNCIL

e ANIMO ANIM

8. REPORTS REQUIRING DECISION

8.1 Accounts for Endorsement – March 2022

| File reference | | | F1.8.4 |
|-----------------------------|------------|-------|---|
| Report date | | | 20 April 2022 |
| Applicant/prop | onent | | Nil |
| Officer disclos | ure of int | erest | Nil |
| Previous meeting references | | | Nil |
| Prepared by | | | Glenn Deocampo – Finance |
| Authorised by | | | Glenda Teede – CEO |
| Attachments | | | |
| ũ | | | Public schedule – in the Attachments to Agenda Restricted schedule – to councillors under separate cover |

PURPOSE

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

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
 - CEO authorised, subject to conditions

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

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All payments are in accordance Council's adopted budget.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Absolute Majority Required: No

2204-03 Officer Recommendation / Council Resolution

Moved: Cr D Lovelock

Seconded: Cr S Woods

That the payments made for March 2022 from the Municipal Bank Account/Trust Bank Account as per the attached listing and summarised below, and the Credit Card Reconciliations/Statements be endorsed:

February 2022

| -ebruary 2022 | | | | |
|---|--|---------------------|----------|--|
| Payment type | Ref | erences from – te | 2 | \$ Amount |
| Creditor EFT Payments** | | 10760 – 10860 | | 399,599.48 |
| Creditor Cheque Payments | | | | 0.00 |
| Direct Debit Payments** | DE | 013203-DD13302 | | 80,576.65 |
| Salaries & Wages EFT | PE 03/03/22 | , PE 16/03/22, PE | 30/03/22 | 148,433.63 |
| Fuel Card – Wright Express Credit Card–Bendigo Bank- | DD13257.1 DD13257.2 CEO DD13281.1 CESM Feb 2022 DD13281.2 CESM Jan 2022 | | | 1,989.89 8,387.88 964.09 1,673.41 |
| Trust Payments | $\mathbf{\nabla}$ | | | 0.00 |
| | | TOTAL | | |
| Local | Spending | \$ | % | |
| Local | Supplier | 77,694.56 | 12.11 | |
| Payro | bll | ll 148,433.63 23.13 | | |
| Total | | 226.128.19 | 35.24 | |

**includes salary and wages deductions, and SGC

CARRIED For 5 / Against 1

Cr Kelly voted against the motion.

Cr P Bantock, Cr N Clarke, Cr D Lovelock, Cr Woods and Cr G O'Brien voted for the motion.

8.2 Monthly Financial Statements – March 2022

| File reference | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|----|--|
| Report date | | | 20 April 2022 |
| Applicant/propone | ent | | Shire of Victoria Plains |
| Officer disclosure | of intere | st | Nil |
| Previous meeting references | | es | Nil |
| Prepared by | | | RSM – Travis Bate |
| Authorised by | | | Glenda Teede |
| Attachments | | | |
| Attachment 1 | Page | 13 | Monthly Financial Statements – 31 March 2022 |

PURPOSE

To receive the monthly financial statements for the period ending 31 March 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 March 2022 Monthly Financial Statements are presented for consideration.

Explanations for the significant variances have been reported in Note 2. Most variances for the month were classified as timing variances.

CONSULTATION

RSM CEO

STATUTORY CONTEXT

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 -

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

CORPORATE CONTEXT

None

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Absolute Majority Required: No

2204-04 Officer Recommendation / Council Resolution

Moved: Cr N Clarke

Seconded: Cr D Lovelock

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

CARRIED For 5 / Against 1

Cr J Kelly voted against the motion.

Cr P Bantock, Cr N Clarke, Cr D Lovelock, Cr Woods and Cr G O'Brien voted for the motion.



8.3 Compliance Audit Return 2021

| File reference | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|----|---|
| Report date | | | 13 April 2022 |
| Applicant/proponent | | | Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries |
| Officer disclosure of interest | | | Nil |
| Previous meeting references | | | Nil |
| Prepared by | | | Sean Fletcher, Governance Officer |
| Authorised by | | | Acting CEO |
| Attachments | | | |
| Attachment 1 Page 45 | | 45 | SoVP CAR 2021 |

PURPOSE

As per the Local Government (Audit) Regulations, the Audit Committee has reviewed the Compliance Audit Return 2021 which is now presented to Council for its consideration.

BACKGROUND

It is a requirement of all local governments to complete the Compliance Audit Return by 31 March for the preceding calendar year and submit it to the Department of Local Government, Sports and Cultural industries as part of its regulatory obligations.

The CAR is considered a key internal auditing tool. The questions examined change from year to year.

Once the CAR is reviewed by the Audit Committee, it is then submitted to Council for its consideration. It is then signed by the President and the CEO and then submitted to the Department along with a copy of the Council minutes.

The Audit Committee resolved in part at its meeting on 11 April 2022 the following:

That the Audit Committee in accordance with Regulation 14 of the *Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996* reports to Council it has made the following findings regarding the Compliance Audit Return 2021.

Note to the Audit Committee's part resolution: The findings are set out in the Audit Findings in the Comments Section of today's report to Council.

COMMENT

The Compliance Audit Return has been completed for the 2021 year and is submitted for review.

Audit Findings

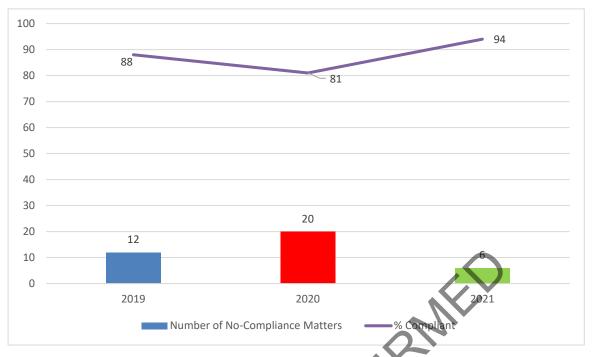
The Author reviewed the practices and procedures of the administration, as required under the CAR (Attachment 1). The following is a summary of the audit findings and suggested course of action for non-compliant actions regarding the CAR for 2021:

| Subject | Page | Question of Non- | Finding |
|--|-----------|------------------|---|
| | | Compliance | Matters of Non-Compliance |
| Commercial Enterprise | es by Loc | al Governmen | |
| 5 questions | 1/13 | N/A | SoVP did not undertake any such activity for 2021. This was the same for 2019 and 2020 |
| Delegation of Power o | r Duty | I | |
| 13 questions | 2/13 | | 2019 – 4 2020 – 0 2021 – 0 Section 5.46(3) and Admin Reg 19 requires all persons exercising a delegated power or duty under the Act keep, on all occasions, a written record in accordance with Admin Reg 19. The Departmental Guideline regarding Delegations states that: "This provision does not necessarily require the keeping of a register and other efficient record keeping practices would be sufficient. However, it is recommended that such systems provide for accessible accountability of the performance of these tasks." For Information Ideally, the CEO should report when their delegation is used to Council at the Monthly Briefing Session. This has been suggested for the last two years; |
| | | | Shire has improved its level of record registration |
| Disclosure of Interests | | | |
| 21 questions | 2/13 | | 2019 – 0 2020 – 4 2021 – 2 |
| Was an annual return in the prescribed form lodged by all relevant persons by 31 August | 3/13 | 5 | There seems some doubt re the annual return for one councillor was submitted by the due date |
| 2021? | | | For Information |

| | | | The Department is aware of this matter |
|--|------|-----|--|
| On receipt of a primary or annual return, did the CEO, or the mayor/president, give written acknowledgment of having received the return? | 3/13 | 6 | There is no evidence in the respective registers that a letter of acknowledgement was issued by the CEO or President Action Letters to be drafted and issued ASAP |
| Disposal of Property | | | |
| 2 questions | 5/13 | N/A | No matters of non-compliance. |
| Elections | | I | |
| 3 questions | 6/13 | | 2019 – 0 2020 – 3 2021 – 0 |
| Finance | | | |
| 11 questions | 7/13 | Č | 2019 – 2 2020 – 6 2021 – 2 |
| Was the auditor's report for the financial year ended 30 June 2021 received by the local government by 31 December 2021? | 7/13 | 3 | The delay was due to the audit backlog experienced by the auditors and the OAG. The exit interview was held on 8 February 2022. The signed financial statements were required to be resubmitted to the OAG on 23 March 2022. The Audit Report (Opinion) and Management letter were then produced on 23 March 2022 and made available to the Shire on 30 March 2022 |
| | | | For Information President advised the OAG representative and the auditors at the exit meeting on 8 February 2022 that the delay for the second year running of the annual audit report was of concern |
| Was the auditor's report for the financial year ending 30 June received by the local government within 30 days of completion of the audit? | 7/13 | 7 | See Question 3 |

| Interveted Disputing of | | | |
|---|-----------|-------------|---|
| Integrated Planning ar | ia Report | ing | |
| 3 questions | 8/13 | N/A | Compliant |
| Local Government Em | ployees | | |
| 6 questions | 8/13 | | 2020 – 0 2021 – 1 |
| Did the CEO inform council of each | | 5 | The current Manager of Works and Services commenced on 29 November 2021 |
| proposal to employ or dismiss senior employee? | | | Action CEO to formally advise Council ASAP |
| Official Conduct | | | |
| | | | |
| 3 questions | 9/13 | | 2019 – 0 2020 – 2 2021 – 0 |
| Optional Questions | | | |
| 9 questions | 10/13 | | 2019 - 0 2020 - 3 2021 - 0 |
| Tenders for Providing | Goods ar | nd Services | |
| 24 questions | 11/13 | | 2019 – 4 2020 – 1 2021 – 1 |
| Did the local government comply with its current purchasing policy [adopted under F&G | 11/13 | | There were two (2) instances where the Shire did not obtain a quote or an engagement letter re legal services - this was deemed a moderate risk by the OAG |
| Reg 11A(1) & (3)] in | | | Information |
| relation to the supply of | | | Despite the purchasing policy allowing |
| goods or services where the | | | quotes from a single source re legal matters, the OAG wanted to see some testing of the |
| consideration under | | | market. CEO has agreed to undertake |
| the contract was, or | | | testing of the market as appropriate. |
| was expected to be, | | | |
| \$250,000 or less or worth \$250,000 or less? | | | |
| 2021 | | | |

Summary of Non-Compliance by Year



CONSULTATION

CEO Audit Committee – At its meeting on 23 March 2022

STATUTORY CONTEXT

Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996 -

- r.14 Compliance Audit Return to be reviewed by Audit Committee and report to Council;
- r.15 once considered by Council, the Return is to be signed by the President and CEO and lodged with the Department by 31 March.

CORPORATE CONTEXT

Strategic Community Plan

| Civicto better allocate scarce resources and effectively interact with theLeadershipcommunity | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 5.1 | Implement measures to improve relationship and communication between Council and community | Implementation of initiatives to better connect Council with the community and | | | | | |
| 5.2 | Improve elected member performance | associated matters. | | | | | |
| 5.3 | Develop an advocacy and lobbying capacity | | | | | | |
| 5.4 | Measures to improve organisational efficiency | | | | | | |

Corporate Business Plan

5.4.3 Maintain controls to promote a high level of legislative compliance throughout the organisation

Risk Management (Risk Governance Framework)

The CAR is a key mechanism regarding the compliance of the Shire. Failing to complete the CAR by the due date and failing to action the matters of non-compliance opens the Shire up to further risk regarding its operations and investigation by the Department of Local Government.

| Consequence | Consequence | Likelihood | Risk | Risk | Mitigation and |
|--|---|---|-----------------|---|--|
| | Rating: | Rating: | Rating | Acceptance/ | Outcome |
| | | | | Controls | |
| Non - compliance Not conducting CAR by 31 Mar. Not addressing actions of non- compliance | Extreme (5) Non- compliance results in litigation, criminal charges or significant damages or penalties to Shire/Officers | Likely (4) Probably occur in most circumstances At least once per year | Extreme (20) | CEO & Council (Audit Committee) 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 Adequate: Much | The CAR 2021 was completed by 31 March 2022. However, the Department requires the Audit Committee and Council to sign off on the CAR by the same date. The six matters of non compliance will be actioned ASAP The CEO to update the Audit Committee on progress of outstanding items. Councillors to observe statutory requirements regarding returns |
| | PJr | | | improved on previous two years. There is some scope for | The above will, over time, ensure that the risk is maintained as Low |
| | | | | further improvements | |

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS Nil

VOTING REQUIREMENTS No

2204-05 Audit Committee and Officer's Recommendation

Moved: Cr S Woods

Seconded: Cr G O'Brien

That Council in accordance with Regulation 15 of the *Local Government (Audit) Regulations* 1996 **ACCEPTS** the following findings by the Shire of Victoria Plains Audit Committee regarding the Compliance Audit Return 2021 (Attachment 1):

| Subject | Page | Question of Non- | Finding |
|-------------------------|-----------|------------------|--|
| | | Compliance | Matters of Non-Compliance |
| Commercial Enterprise | es by Loc | al Governmen | t |
| 5 questions | 1/13 | N/A | SoVP did not undertake any such activity for 2021. This was the same for 2019 and 2020 |
| Delegation of Power o | r Duty | I | |
| 13 questions | 2/13 | | 2019 – 4 2020 – 0 2021 – 0 Section 5.46(3) and Admin Reg 19 requires all persons exercising a delegated power or duty under the Act keep, on all occasions, a written record in accordance with Admin Reg 19. The Departmental Guideline regarding Delegations states that: "This provision does not necessarily require the keeping of a register and other efficient record keeping practices would be sufficient. However, it is recommended that such systems provide for accessible accountability of the performance of these tasks." For Information Ideally, the CEO should report when their delegation is used to Council at the Monthly Briefing Session. This has been suggested for the last two years; Shire has improved its level of record registration |
| Disclosure of Interests | S | | |
| 21 questions | 2/13 | | 2019 – 0 2020 – 4 |

| | | | 2021 – 2 |
|--|------|-------------|--|
| Was an annual return in the prescribed form lodged by all relevant persons by 31 August 2021? | | 5 | There seems some doubt re the annual return for one councillor was submitted by the due date For Information The Department is aware of this matter |
| On receipt of a primary or annual return, did the CEO, or the mayor/president, give written acknowledgment of having received the return. | 3/13 | 6 | There is no evidence in the respective registers that a letter of acknowledgement was issued by the CEO or President. Action Letters to be drafted and issued ASAP |
| Disposal of Property | | | |
| 2 questions | 5/13 | N/A | No matters of non-compliance. |
| Elections | | | |
| 3 questions | 6/13 | | 2019 – 0 2020 – 3 2021 – 0 |
| Finance | | | |
| 11 questions | 7/13 | C C C | 2019 – 2 2020 – 6 2021 – 2 |
| Was the auditor's report for the financial year ended 30 June 2021 received by the local government by 31 December 2021? | 7/13 | 3 | The delay was due to the audit backlog experienced by the auditors and the OAG. The exit interview was held on 8 February 2022. The signed financial statements were required to be resubmitted to the OAG on 23 March 2022. The Audit Report (Opinion) and Management letter were then produced on 23 March 2022 and made available to the Shire on 30 March 2022 For Information President advised the OAG representative |
| | | | and the auditors at the exit meeting on 8 February 2022 that the delay for the second year running of the annual audit report was of concern |
| Was the auditor's report for the financial year ending 30 June received by the local | 7/13 | 7 | See Question 3 |

| days of completion of | | | |
|--|-----------|-------------|---|
| the audit? | | • | |
| Integrated Planning an | id Report | ing | |
| 3 questions | 8/13 | N/A | Compliant |
| Local Government Em | ployees | 1 | |
| 6 questions | 8/13 | | 2020 – 0 2021 – 1 |
| Did the CEO inform council of each | | 5 | The current Manager of Works and Services commenced on 29 November 2021 |
| proposal to employ or dismiss senior employee? | | | Action CEO to formally advise Council ASAP |
| Official Conduct | | | |
| 3 questions | 9/13 | | 2019 – 0 2020 – 2 2021 – 0 |
| Optional Questions | | | |
| 9 questions | 10/13 | | 2019 – 0 2020 – 3 2021 – 0 |
| Tenders for Providing | Goods ar | nd Services | |
| 24 questions | 11/13 | | 2019 – 4 2020 – 1 2021 – 1 |
| Did the local government comply with its current purchasing policy [adopted under F&G | 11/13 | 1 | There were two (2) instances where the Shire did not obtain a quote or an engagement letter re legal services - this was deemed a moderate risk by the OAG |
| Reg 11A(1) & (3)] in relation to the supply of goods or services | | | Information Despite the purchasing policy allowing quotes from a single source re legal matters, |
| where the consideration under | | | the OAG wanted to see some testing of the market. CEO has agreed to undertake |
| the contract was, or was expected to be, \$250,000 or less or worth \$250,000 or less? | | | testing of the market as appropriate. |

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS DECISION OF COUNCIL

8.4 Annual Audit - Consideration of the Auditor's Report (Opinion), The Management Letter and the Annual Financial Report (Statements) for 2020-2021

| File reference | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|-----|--|
| Report date | | | 13 April 2022 |
| Applicant/propo | nent | | Audit Committee |
| Officer disclosur | re of interest | | Nil |
| Previous meeting references | | | Audit Committee Meeting 23 March 2022 |
| Prepared by | | | Sean Fletcher, Governance Officer |
| Authorised by | | | Acting CEO |
| Attachments | | | |
| Attachment 1 | Page | 121 | Independent Auditor's Report (Opinion) |
| Attachment 2 | Page | 12 | Management Letter with Responses from CEO - Confidential |
| Attachment 3 Page 124 | | 124 | Annual Financial Report (Statements) 2020-2021 |
| Attachment 4 Page 45 | | 45 | Report on Significant Matters |

PURPOSE

That Council accepts the Audit Committee's advice regarding the:

- 1. 2020/2021 Auditor's Report (Opinion) regarding its key findings;
- 2. The Management Letter with Responses from the CEO; and
- 3. 2020-2021 Annual Financial Report (Annual Financial Statements).

BACKGROUND

The Shire is required to receive the audited annual financial statements for the preceding financial year by 31 December each year. However, due to the change in auditors for 2020/2021, matters regarding the impact of COVID-19 and delays experienced with the Office of the Auditor General, the 2020-2021 Annual Audit exit meeting was not held until 8 February 2022. Subsequently, the Management Letter (the OAG's position is that this letter is a confidential item), the Independent Auditor's Report (Opinion) and the Annual Financial Statements were not ready and signed off until 23 March 2022. The Shire was then able to access these documents on 30 March 2022. The Auditor's Report and the Annual Financial Statements form part of the Shire's Annual Report.

With respect to the outcomes of the Annual Audit, the Audit Committee is required to assist the CEO regarding the following:

- 1. Significant Matters i.e. those matters of a significant adverse trend.
- 2. Material Matters re Risk Significant (Identified in the Auditor's Report and the Management Letter), Moderate and Minor Risks (identified in the Management Letter).

Under the *Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996*, the Audit Committee is required to oversee the implementation of the action plan the CEO will take regarding the improvements required for **significant matters** and any **material matters of risk (**In line with Departmental *Circular 16-2017*).

COMMENT

Auditor's Report (Attachment 1)

The Auditor General's delegate, states that in his opinion, that the 2020/2021 annual financial report is based on proper accounts and records and fairly represents the results of the operations of the Shire.

The Auditor General reports the following:

Significant Matters (Significant Adverse Trend)

- (i) In my opinion, the following material matters indicate significant adverse trends in the financial position of the Shire:
 - a. The Operating Surplus Ratio as reported in Note 34 of the annual financial report is below the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries' standard for the last three financial years.

<u>Comment</u>

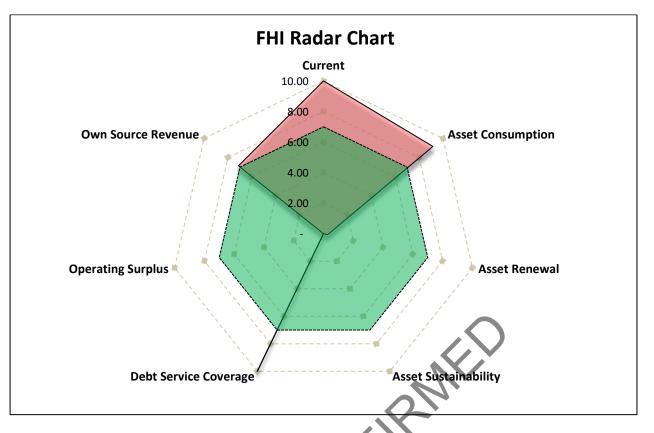
As the matter regarding the Operating Surplus Ratio has been a concern for at least three years or more, it is classified as a significant adverse trend.

As per *Local Government Operational Guidelines No18 – Financial Ratios* published by the Department in 2013, The Operating Surplus Ratio measure is described as follows:

A key indicator of a local government's financial performance is measured by the 'Operating Surplus Ratio'. If a local government consistently achieves a positive operating surplus ratio and has soundly based long term financial plans showing that it can continue to do so in future, having regard to asset management and the community's service level needs, then it is considered financially sustainable.

A positive ratio indicates the percentage of total own source revenue available to help fund proposed capital expenditure, transfer to cash reserves or to reduce debt. <u>A negative ratio indicates the percentage increase in total own source revenue (principally rates) that would have been required to achieve a break-even operating result</u>.

So, this ratio is a measure of a local government's ability to cover its operational costs and have revenues available for capital funding or other purposes. In terms of the Shire's seven ratios, the Operating Health Surplus Ratio is the one that is impacting most on the Shire's financial health. This is shown using the Department of Local Government's Financial Health Index (FHI):



The Shire's financial health based on all seven ratios is 59 (For the current list of the ratios and their score, see the Financial Ratios section in today's agenda item). A FHI of 70 and above indicates sound financial health.

A key solution to this problem, as provided in previous years, would be for the Shire to adhere to key parts of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework as outlined in the Strategic Resource Plan (Long Term Financial Plan and Asset Management Plan) as well as perhaps some other things such as improved financial work practices.

To this extent, Council recognised in setting the 2021/2022 Budget that by not following the upper end of the rate increases specified in the Shire's Long Term Financial Plan previously (7%), this has impacted on the Shire's ability to have cash that it can use to fund capital projects and put into its reserves. The Shire has been fortunate to receive key funding through the LRCI Program to help fund capital projects.

In terms of improved financial work practices, a range of factors can, and have been implemented. This includes reducing overheads through more realistic service delivery and provision of facilities, following up debtors more effectively, leasing key plant/borrowing funds at low interest rates, effective creditors practices including better purchasing management, selling off underperforming assets or those surplus to requirements.

Material Matters (Significant Risk)

As such, there were no matters of significant risk identified and reported.

Management Letter (Attachment 2)

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 significant risks. However, there are two moderate risks and one minor risk.

The CEO will report to the Audit Committee each quarter on the progress of addressing the moderate and minor risks as part of the regular report on managing the Shire's risks.

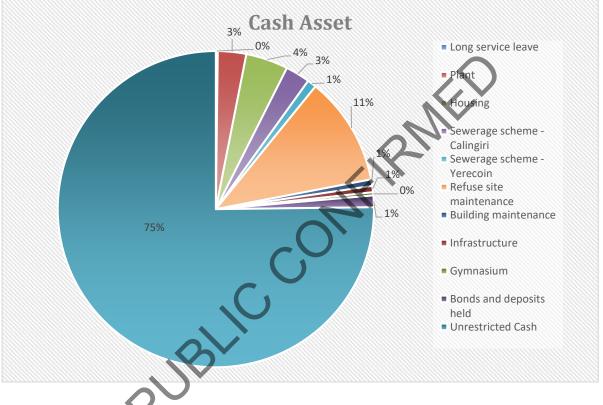
Annual Financial Report (Statements) 2020-2021 (Attachment 3)

In summary, the Annual Financial Statements include information confirming the following:

CASH

The Shire of Victoria Plains completed the financial year 2020/2021 with \$2.28 million in cash and cash equivalents, an increase of 55% from last financial year.

The graph below shows \$1.715 million in unrestricted funds, and \$0.565 million in restricted funds held in various reserves. 29% of the unrestricted funds were placed in fixed term deposit account.



RESERVES

The Reserve accounts are created for specific purpose to fund the future projects. As at 30 June 2021, the Cash-Backed Reserves balance was \$538,866 against a budgeted closing balance of \$435,659. A transfer of funds Refuse Site maintenance reserve decreased the total funds by 5% compared from last financial year.

| Reserves | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2021 Actual | 2021 Budget | 2020 Actual |
| Opening Balance | 564,979 | 472,889 | 470,117 |
| Net Transfers | (26,113) | (37,230) | 94,863 |
| Closing Balance | 538,866 | 435,659 | 564,979 |

BORROWINGS

Council can raise funds for a specific project by way of borrowing. As at 30 June 2021, the total principal owing was \$306,547. These loans funded the Calingiri Sports Pavilion, Piawaning Water

Supply, and Calingiri Football Club (self- supporting loan). There were no new borrowings during the 2020/2021 financial year.

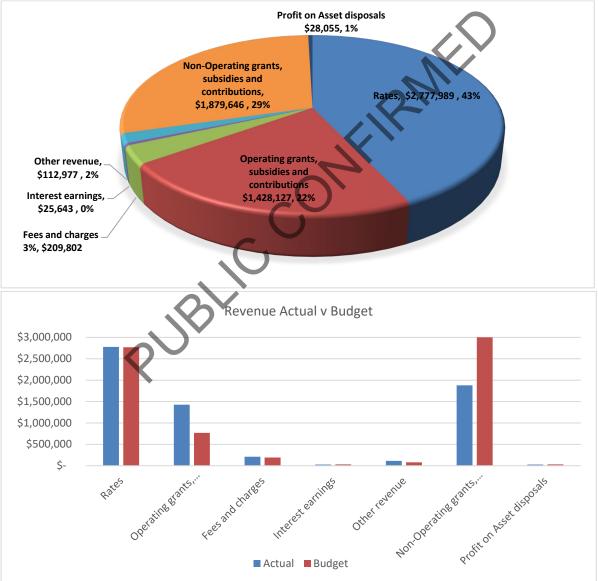
REVENUE AND EXPENSES

The Shire's total revenue for 2021 Financial Year was \$6.46 million and expenditure, \$7.36 million, resulted to a negative net result of \$894,406 against a deficit budget of \$62,359.

The net loss is mainly contributed by non-operating grants, subsidies and contributions being lower than the budget estimates, primarily related to deferment of capital projects and projects brought forward to the following financial year, and timing of revenue recognition associated with the implementation of revised accounting standards AASB 15 and 1004

The component of these revenue and expenses are illustrated in the following charts:

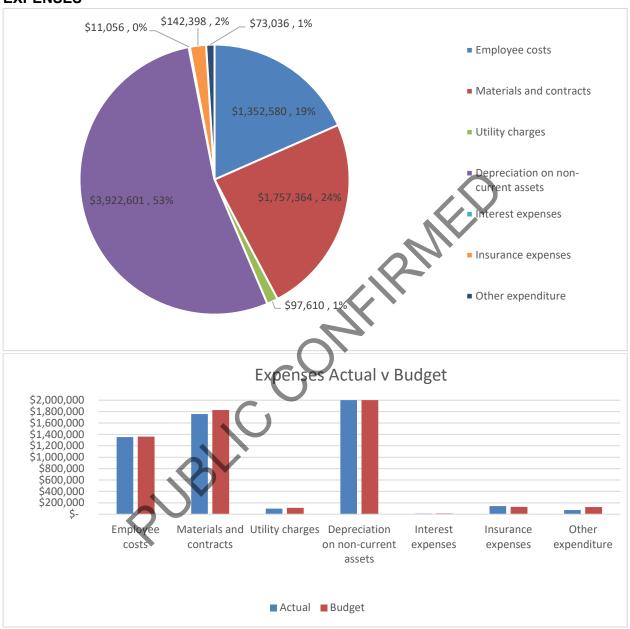
REVENUE



The graphs show the sources of Council's revenue for the year 2020/2021. The main components are as follows: Operating grants, subsidies and contributions 22%, and Non-operating grants 29%,

and major own source revenue Rate 43% and Fees and Charges 3%. The remaining 3% comes from other sources of revenue such interest, profit from disposal of assets and other revenue.

The total Rates noted in the graph includes Ex-Gratia rates of \$80,571. No rates discounts and waivers were offered by the Shire during the 2021 financial year.



EXPENSES

The graphs show Council's expenses for financial year 2020/2021. The three main components were made up of \$1.76 million (24%) materials and contracts costs, \$1.35 million (19%) employee costs, \$3.922 million (53%) depreciation of non-current assets with the remaining \$0.324 million (4%) are from interest, insurance and other expenditure.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

The Council budgeted \$4,242,500 for capital expenditure, \$293,902 was spent on Property, Plant and Equipment, and \$2,079,559 on Construction of Infrastructures.

A number of the capital projects are being carried forward to the next financial year (2021/2022), such as LRCIP funded projects.

\$1.956.978

869.724

Road infrastructure

Total road grants income received for the financial year amounted to \$2,558,562 as follows:

| ٠ | Grants Commission – Local Roads | \$ 552,263 |
|---|--|-------------|
| ٠ | Grant – Direct Road | \$ 132,995 |
| ٠ | Grant – Regional Road Group – Road Projects | \$ 278,481 |
| ٠ | Grant – Roads to Recovery | \$ 229,267 |
| • | Grant – Main Roads (Mogumber Yarawindah) | \$1,036,940 |
| • | Grant – Local Rural Community Infrastructure Program | \$ 328,616 |

Total road expenditure was \$2,826,702 excluding depreciation as follows:

- Roads Construction
- Road Maintenance

The major roads construction works were:

- Toodyay-Bindi Bindi Road
- Gillingarra- Glentromie Road
- Bolgart West Road
- Mogumber Yarrawindah
- Yerecoin Southeast Road

Major Plant

There were no items of major plant purchased during the 2021 financial year.

FAIR VALUE

The fair value of land, buildings and infrastructure and investment properties is determined at least every five years in accordance with the regulatory framework. This includes buildings and infrastructure items which were pre-existing improvements (i.e. vested improvements) on vested land acquired by the Shire.

MFIRM

At the end of each reporting period the valuation is reviewed and where appropriate the fair value is updated to reflect current market conditions. This process is considered in accordance with *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 17A (2)* which requires land, buildings and infrastructure, investment properties and vested improvements to be shown at fair value.

In reviewing the fair values of land, buildings and infrastructure at 30 June 2021, it was determined that the recorded vales reflected current market conditions. The next revaluation of Land and Buildings will be reflected in financial year 2021/2022.

NET SURPLUS / DEFICIT CARRIED FORWARD

The 2021 financial year has resulted in a net surplus carried forward of \$0.894 million against a balanced budget.

FINANCIAL RATIOS

The Department of Local Government emphasize the purpose of Financial Ratios which is "to provide users of annual financial reports with a clearer interpretation of performance and financial results of a local government". Financial Ratios are required to be reported in accordance with the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations. The Shires ratios for 2021 are:

| | 2021 Actual | DLGSCI Benchmark* |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Current Ratio | 1.96 | ≥ 1.00 |
| Asset Consumption Ratio | 0.68 | ≥ 0.50 |
| Asset Renewal Funding Ratio | 0.51 | ≥ 0.75 |
| Asset Sustainability Ratio | 0.50 | ≥ 0.90 |
| Debt Service Cover Ratio | 17.34 | ≥ 2.00 |
| Operating Surplus Ratio | (0.90) | ≥ 0.01 |
| Own Source Revenue Coverage Ratio | 0.42 | ≥ 0.40 |

*Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

OTHER COMMENTS – ANNUAL REPORT

With consideration of the Annual Financial Statements and the Auditor's Report, these can now proceed as part of the Shire's 2020-2021 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 2020-2021 Annual Financial Statements, presented to that meeting.

CONSULTATION

Glenda Teede, CEO Glenn Deocampo – Coordinator Financial Services Travis Bate, RSM Audit Committee Meeting – 11 April 2022

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

- 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 Community Plan

| Civic Leaders | | ces and effectively interact with |
|------------------|--|--|
| 5.1 | Implement measures to improve relationship and communication between Council and community | Implementation of initiatives to better connect Council with the |
| 5.2 | Improve elected member performance | community and |
| 5.3 | Develop an advocacy and lobbying capacity | associated matters. |
| 5.4 | Measures to improve organisational efficiency | |

Corporate Business Plan

- 5.4.2 Maintain accountability and financial responsibility in accordance with Long Term Financial Plan
- 5.4.3 Maintain controls to promote a high level of legislative compliance throughout the organisation
- 5.4.4 Support and facilitate ongoing relevant training and capacity building for staff
- 5.4.5 Maximise operational efficiencies whilst maintaining appropriate controls.

| Consequence | Consequence | Likelihood | Risk | Risk | Mitigation and |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|
| | Rating: | Rating: | Rating | Acceptance/ | Outcome |
| | | | | Controls | |
| Non-compliance Not adhering to: 1. Recommendations in the Management Letter regarding moderate/minor risks 2. Not addressing OAG's Significant Adverse Trends through an appropriate Action Plan | High (4) Non-compliance results in termination of services or imposed penalties to Shire/Officers | Likely (4) The event will probably occur in most circumstances i.e. At least once per year The irony with improved controls is that additional non- compliant matters have come out of the woodwork. This is the subject of a further report to the Audit Committee in due course | High (16) This was previously an Extreme Rating | CEO & Council (and Audit Committee) Risk acceptable with adequate controls, managed by specific procedures and subject to semi-annual monitoring Adequate: Whilst some inadequacies have been identified; Processes (Controls) are in place, are being addressed / complied with and are subject to periodic review and testing. This includes: Updating the purchasing policy annually; Implementation after the last audit of the purchasing approval form | CEO (and by extension – senior staff) to ensure that: Staff adhere to the purchasing policy; Staff follow purchasing procedures; Audit Committee is advised regarding the Significant Adverse Trends Action Plan and other plans; Financial Systems Review and Reg 17 Review are completed by 30 June 2022 Councillors and Committee Members to ensure they comply with the Code of Conduct re keeping informed (understanding reports) and undertaking training and development. Also, must follow Integrated Planning. The above will, over time, ensure that the risk is maintained as Moderate/Low |

Risk Management (Risk Procedures)

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Ongoing strategies to address the Shire's Operating Surplus Ratio as set out in the body of this agenda item and as per the Auditor's Report.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Absolute majority required: No

2204-06 Audit Committee / Officer's Recommendation / Council Resolution

Moved: Cr G O'Brien

Seconded: Cr S Woods

That Council **NOTES** the following actions of the Audit Committee regarding Item 6.2 of the meeting held on 11 April 2022:

- REVIEWS the Shire of Victoria Plains Annual Financial Report (Statements) as set out in Attachment 3 and the Auditor's Report (Opinion) in Attachment 1 regarding other legal and regulatory requirements for 2020/2021 and consider the significant adverse trends in relation to the Shire of Victoria Plains Operating Surplus Ratio.
- 2. **ACCEPTS** the draft Report (Attachment 4) by the CEO to the Minister for Local Government regarding the significant adverse trend of the Shire's Operating Surplus Ratio and the suggested improvements required by Section 7.12A of the *Local Government Act 1995*.
- 3. **ASSISTS** the CEO regarding the Action Plain to address the Moderate and Minor Risks identified in the Shire's Management Letter as set out in Attachment 2.

Note: As per the Management Letter, these actions are to be completed by 30 June 2022.

- 4. That Council:
 - a. In accordance with Section 7.2 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, **ADOPTS** the 2020/2021 Annual Financial Report including the Auditor's Report (Opinion) from the Office of the Auditor General as per Attachments 3 and 4.
 - b. In accordance with Section 7.12A of the *Local Government Act* 1995, **ACCEPTS** the CEO's draft Report in Point 2 and that this report is:
 - i. Submitted to the Minister within 3 months;
 - ii. Put on the Shire's website within 14 days after the Report is given to the Minister.
 - c. **NOTES** the Action Plan in Point 3.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS DECISION OF COUNCIL

8.5 Adoption of the 2020/2021 Annual Report and Setting of the Annual Meeting of Electors

| File reference | | | |
|--------------------------------|------|----|-----------------------------------|
| Report date | | | 21 April 2022 |
| Applicant/propone | ent | | CEO |
| Officer disclosure of interest | | | Nil |
| Previous meeting references | | | N/A |
| Prepared by | | | Sean Fletcher, Governance Officer |
| Authorised by | | | Acting CEO |
| Attachments | | | |
| Attachment 1 | Page | 70 | Draft 2020/2021 Annual Report |

PURPOSE

To accept the 2020/21 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 is required to receive the audited annual financial statements for the preceding financial year by 31 December each year. However, due to the change in auditors for 2020/2021, matters regarding the impact of COVID-19 and delays experienced with the Office of the Auditor General, the 2020-2021 Annual Audit exit meeting was not held until 8 February 2022. Subsequently, the Management Letter (the OAG's position is that this letter is a confidential item), the Independent Auditor's Report (Opinion) and the Annual Financial Statements were not ready and signed off until 23 March 2022. The Shire was then able to access these documents on 30 March 2022. 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 8.4).

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 2020/2021 |
| Matters Regarding Council | This includes who was on Council during 2020/2021, 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 2020-2021. 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: Public Interest Disclosures – 0; National Competition Policy – the Shire did not privatise any activities in 2020/2021 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 was due for its five yearly review, but this did not happen |
| 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 the Shire is making inroads regarding applying the SCP with more success |
| Status of the Corporate Plan | The Shire is now tracking its strategic actions within the Corporate Business Plan with greater effect: 59% of projects were achieved or progressed to an acceptable level. 41% were impacted by issues beyond the Shire's control: COVID, lack of resources, changes to key staff |
| Matters for Next 12 Months | The Shire is required to report on the key actions expected to be undertaken for the next 12 months which include: The Shire will finalise the communications strategy/policy. |
| | • The Shire will continue to review its building assets. |
| | The Shire will revisit the Drum Muster Scheme. The Shire will continue the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network (WSFN) full projects under the WSFN: |
| | Mogumber-Yarawindah Road Reconstruction Project; |
| | Calingiri-New Norcia Road and Toodyay-Bindi Bindi Road Intersection Project. |
| | Continuation regarding the roll out of the new Local Government Act; |
| | • Continue active participation at the Zone, AROC, Regional Road Group; |
| | • Continue improvements to its compliance regime and records. |
| Capital Program | Confirmation of the Shire's capital works program as per the Manager of Works and Services report |
| 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 2020 - 2021 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

- CEO, Glenda Teede
- OCM Officer, Julie Klobas
- EHO Gordon Houston, Town Planner Joe Douglas, Yvette Hargreaves Records Management

RME

• Travis Bate, RSM

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

| Civic Leaders | | ces and effectively interact with |
|------------------|--|--|
| 5.1 | Implement measures to improve relationship and communication between Council and community | Implementation of initiatives to better connect Council with the |
| 5.2 | Improve elected member performance | community and |
| 5.3 | Develop an advocacy and lobbying capacity | associated matters. |
| 5.4 | Measures to improve organisational efficiency | |

Corporate Business Plan

- 5.4.2 Maintain accountability and financial responsibility in accordance with Long Term Financial Plan
- 5.4.3 Maintain controls to promote a high level of legislative compliance throughout the organisation
- 5.4.4 Support and facilitate ongoing relevant training and capacity building for staff 5.4.5 Maximise operational efficiencies whilst maintaining appropriate controls.

Risk Management (Risk Procedures)

| Consequence | Consequence | Likelihood | Risk | Risk | Mitigation and |
|--|--|--|--------------|--|---|
| | Rating: | Rating: | Rating | Acceptance/ | Outcome |
| | | | | Controls | |
| Non-compliance There are two main issues: 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, delays by the auditors and the OAG has seen the production of the Annual Report delayed | 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 |

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS Nil

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Absolute majority required: Yes (In part)

2204-07 Councillor Motion / Council Resolution

Moved: Cr S Woods

Seconded: Cr N Clarke

Seconded: Cr G O'Brien

That Council move out of standing orders under *section 8.8 and 8.10 of the Shire's Meeting Procedures 2018 at* 2.54pm.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS DECISION OF COUNCIL

2204-08 Officer's Recommendation / Council Resolution

Moved: Cr S Woods

That Council:

1. In accordance with Section 5.54(1) of the *Local Government Act* 1995 ACEPTS BY AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY the Shire of Victoria Plains 2020-2021 Annual Report as set out in Attachment 1.

2. 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. (Note: Further minor changes have been made as discussed with Council on 27 April 2022).
- 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.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS DECISION OF COUNCIL

Councillor Motion

Moved: Cr S Woods

Seconded: Cr J Kelly

1. 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 25 May 2022 commencing at 7.00 PM at Calingiri Sports Pavilion.

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 25 May 2022, and of the availability of the Shire's Report for the 2020/21 Financial Year, and will make the report available on the Shire's website within fourteen days.

Note: Cr Kelly withdrew as the Seconder. Motion lapsed accordingly.

2204-09 Foreshadowed Motion / Council Resolution

Moved: Cr G O'Brien

Seconded: Cr S Woods

- 1. 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 25 May 2022 commencing at 6.30 PM at the Calingiri Sports Pavilion.
- 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 25 May 2022, and of the availability of the Shire's Report for the 2020/21 Financial Year, and will make the report available on the Shire's website within fourteen days.

LOST For 2 / Against 4

Cr O'Brien and Cr S Woods voted for the motion. *Cr* P Bantock, Cr N Clarke, Cr D Lovelock and Cr J Kelly voted against the motion.

2204-10 Foreshadowed Motion / Council Resolution

Moved: Cr N Clarke

Seconded: Cr D Lovelock

- 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 25 May 2022 commencing at 6.00 PM at the Calingiri Sports Pavilion.
- 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 25th May 2022, and of the availability of the Shire's Report for the 2020/21 Financial Year, and will make the report available on the Shire's website within fourteen days.

CARRIED For 5 / Against 1

Cr Woods voted against the motion. *Cr* P Bantock, *Cr* N Clarke, *Cr* D Lovelock, *Cr* G O'Brien and *Cr* J Kelly voted for the motion.

2204-11 Councillor Motion / Council Resolution

Moved: Cr N Clarke

Seconded: Cr G O'Brien

That Council adjourn for afternoon tea at 3.11 pm and to reconvene at 3.31 pm.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS DECISION OF COUNCIL

2204-12 Councillor Motion / Council Resolution

Moved: Cr D Lovelock

That Council move back into Standing Orders at 3.32pm.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS DECISION OF COUNCIL

Seconded: Cr N Clarke

PUBLIC

8.6 Behanging Road – Planned works

| File reference | | |
|--------------------------------|---|--|
| Report date | 19/04/22 | |
| Applicant/proponent | | |
| Officer disclosure of interest | Nil | |
| Previous meeting references | | |
| Prepared by | Keith Boase, Manager works and Services | |
| Authorised by | | |
| Attachments | | |
| | | |

PURPOSE

The purpose of this item is to seek a council resolution to reconstruct Behanging Rd as a gravel surface from SLK 0.04 to SLK 4.37.

BACKGROUND

Behanging Rd from SLK 0.04 to SLK 4.37 is currently a highly degraded 4m bitumen seal with multiple surface and sub base failures. As part of the LRCIP funding the Shire received \$80,472 to reseal the 4.37km section.

COMMENT

Based on recent quotations to do final seals, a single pass 4m seal without reconstruction of the subbase would cost in excess of \$80,000. While a full 4m reseal would cost around \$110,000 plus reconstruction cost.

To reconstruct and seal Behanging Rd for the full 4.37km at 8m wide as per works done on West Bolgart would cost in the order of \$650,000. Reducing the seal width will decrease the overall cost however will require a significant contribution from Council funds to achieve this.

Using material available and some imported gravel the road can be reconstructed within the budgeted amount allowing an improved road with an unsealed surface.

The recommendation of this item is to reconstruct Behanging Rd from SLK 0.04 to 4.37 as a unsealed road in order to improve the current road surface.

CONSULTATION

Glenda Teede, Chief Executive Officer Allister Butcher – Rural Infrastructure

STATUTORY CONTEXT

CORPORATE CONTEXT Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funds for these works have been budgeted in Job # LRC003

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Absolute majority required: No

Officer Recommendation

That Council **RESOLVE** to reconstruct Behanging Rd from SLK 0.04 to 4.37 as an unsealed road in order to improve the quality of the current road surface.

2204-13 Officer Recommendation / Council Resolution

Moved: Cr D Lovelock

Seconded: Cr J Kelly

That Council **RESOLVE** to reconstruct Behanging Rd from SLK 0.04 to 4.37 as an unsealed road in order to improve the quality of the current road surface and to include a stakeholder notification process.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS DECISION OF COUNCIL

Reason for Variation

To include stakeholder notification of works as per the Shire's community engagement policy.

PUBLIC

Cr N Clarke declared a proximity interest in this item, due to "adjoining properties", departing Chambers at 3.38pm, and returning at 3.39pm.

8.7 AgLime – Calingiri New Norcia Road Realignment

| 12 April 2022 |
|--|
| Shire of Victoria Plains |
| Nil |
| Nil |
| Keith Boase Manager Works and Services |
| Acting CEO |
| |
| \frown |
| |

PURPOSE

The purpose of this item is to seek a resolution of Council in regard to the clearing permit for the AgLime – Calingiri New Norcia Road Realignment.

BACKGROUND

The realignment of the Calingiri New Norcia intersection has been on the Shires grants list for a number of years. For this project to continue, it is necessary to obtain a clearing permit. For a number of years, the Shire has been working through a clearing application so that the realignment works can be undertaken. As part of the application process, it was identified that an environmental offset would be required. A site has been identified at the intersection of Old Plains Road and Bolgart West Road. This site would require revegetation and fencing to make it suitable as an offset. There would also be a requirement that the Shire would have to manage this site in perpetuity to ensure its environmental biodiversity is retained.

During the process of assessing the suitability of the Shire's offset site with the Department of Water Environmental Regulations (DWER) and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) the Shire has been approached by DBCA that they may have an offset area that the Shire may be able to provide a contribution towards in lieu of providing Shire land as an offset.

There are two options available to the Shire regarding offsets to expedite the process of getting a clearing permit approved and allowing the project to continue.

COMMENT

Currently the Shire has two options by which to meet the offset arrangements required under the condition of the application for a clearing permit. These options are:

the Shire continue with the existing Old Plains offset site. The Old Plains site will require 3
years of short-term intensive rehabilitation work as outlined in the Shire of Victoria Plains
Revegetation Plan, as well as long term management by the Shire. The approval is

dependent on the Appeals Convenor and the Minister for the Environment dismissing most of the appeal grounds of the Wildflower Society's appeal.

2. the Shire should consider the DBCA offset site as it is cheaper and easier to manage in the long term. With some pressing the DBCA have indicated the acquisition cost could be in the order of \$2,000/ha. But this doesn't include the administration cost, survey fees (approx. \$20,000) and the valuation (approx. \$2,000). The Shire will need to confirm if a management cost component is required annually. There are several unknowns with this option at this point in time, but all in all it will likely be a lower cost option, than option 1, additionally it will be less of a financial risk and require less management by the Shire in the longer term.

Both options have their own advantages with option 1 expediating the process, however at a longer-term costs and with some degree of unknown risk, associated with revegetation works.

Option 2 will be a lower long term and ongoing cost with lesser risk, however, will likely take a CONFIRM longer period of time to gain the permit.

CONSULTATION Glenda Teede – Chief Executive Officer

Allister Butcher - Rural Infrastructure



FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The costs for this project are funded under Job # AG0001

VOTING REQUIREMENTS No

2204-14 **Officer Recommendation / Council Resolution**

Moved: Cr J Kelly

Seconded: Cr D Lovelock

That the Council **ENTER INTO** negotiations with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) to identify an offset site and all costings to be incurred throughout the process.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS DECISION OF COUNCIL

8.8 Wet Hire of Plant

| File reference | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Report date | 12 April 2022 |
| Applicant/proponent | Shire of Victoria Plains |
| Officer disclosure of interest | Nil |
| Previous meeting references | Nil |
| Prepared by | Keith Boase Manager Works and Services |
| Authorised by | Acting CEO |
| Attachments | |
| | |

PURPOSE

The purpose of this item to for Council to award a panel tender for Wet Hire of Plant.

BACKGROUND

The Shire utilises contractors for road maintenance and construction to assist internal staff as and when required for works thought the Shire.

COMMENT

A tender for Wet Hire of Plant was advertised on 12 March 2022 and closed on the 31 March 2022. The tender is for a two (2) year period from signing of the documentation by the Chief Executive Officer.

The list of equipment was extensive and included:

- Material Cartage
- Water Cartage
- Motor Grader
- Front End (Wheel) Loaders
- Rollers (Various)
- Excavator
- Bulldozer
- Skid Steer Loader
- Tractor Broom and post hole borer
- Prime Mover and Low Loader
- Tractor and attachments

Clarification was sought from all tenders to ensure no additional mobilisation and demobilisation would be required for staff, given the distance from some of the operators address. All Tenderers have advised they will house people within the region at no additional cost to that tendered.

The awarding of works will be to lowest priced Contractor for that item of plant as per availability, if not available the next lowest priced contractor on the list will be approached. In emergency situations eg; natural disaster, the awarding of work may be based on proximity and timing to starting of works

It is the recommendation of this report that the Tender is awarded as a panel tender with all tenderers included on the panel.

CONSULTATION

Glenda Teede CEO Allister Butcher

STATUTORY CONTEXT

Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1995

• Division 3 — Panels of pre-qualified suppliers

CORPORATE CONTEXT

None

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

None

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

To be allocated to relevant road maintenance/construction budgets.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Absolute Majority Required: No

2204-15 Officer Recommendation / Council Resolution

Mover: Cr J Kelly

Seconded: Cr S Woods

That the Council **AWARD** the Wet Hire of Plant 2022RI01 panel contract for a two-year period to:

- Platinum Hire
- Ringa Civil
- Riverhill Contracting
- AK Evans Group
- Vernice PTY LTD
- Marty Grant Bulldozing

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS DECISION OF COUNCIL

9. MEMBER MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Nil

10. NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE REQUIRING DECISION

Admitted by resolution of Council

Nil

11. MEETING CLOSED TO PUBLIC

11.1 Matters for Which the Meeting May Be Closed — Matters Regarding the CEO and a Special Gravel Payment.

| File reference | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Report date | | | 21 April 2022 |
| Applicant/proponent | | | Shire President |
| Officer disclosure | of interest | | Nil |
| Previous meeting references | | | Nil |
| Prepared by | | | Sean Fletcher, Governance Officer |
| Authorised by | | | Acting CEO |
| Attachments | | | |
| Attachment 1 | Page | | Nil |

PURPOSE

For Council to move "in camera" (behind closed doors) and consider matters regarding the CEO and a Special Gravel Payment.

BACKGROUND

Under section 5.23 (2)(a) of the Local Government Act, Council may close a meeting, or part of a meeting if it is dealing with a matter affecting an employee or employees.

COMMENT

Council to consider matters regarding the CEO as set out in confidential items 11.2 and 11.3 and a Special Gravel Payment as set out in Item 11.4.

CONSULTATION

CEO

STATUTORY CONTEXT As per the background to this item.

As per the background to this ite

CORPORATE CONTEXT N/A

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Absolute majority required: No

2204-16 Officer's Recommendation / Council Resolution

Moved: Cr G O'Brien

Seconded: Cr S Woods

That Council **CLOSE** the meeting under section 5.23 (2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 1995* to consider matters regarding the CEO and a Special Gravel Payment at 3.45pm.

CARRIED BY UNANMOUS DECISION OF COUNCIL

2204-17 Councillor Motion / Council Resolution

Moved: Cr P Bantock

Seconded: Cr S Woods

That item 11.4 be brought forward for consideration by Council.

CARRIED BY UNANMOUS DECISION OF COUNCIL

The CESM departed the meeting at 3.47pm and did not return. All other staff members remained in the meeting.

11.4 Works – Outstanding Accounts

| File reference | | |
|--|--------------------------|--|
| Report date | 31/03/22 | |
| Applicant/proponent | Shire of Victoria Plains | |
| Officer disclosure of interest | Nil | |
| Previous meeting references | 15 December 20221 | |
| Prepared by | Keith Boase | |
| Authorised by | Glenda Teede | |
| Attachments | | |
| | ζ | |
| VOTING REQUIREMENTS Absolute majority required: Yes | | |
| 2204-18 Procedural Motion / 0 | Council Resolution | |
| Moved: Cr D Lovelock | Seconded: Cr J Kelly | |

That the item be adjourned until the next meeting.

LOST For 2 / Against 4

Cr J Kelly and Cr D Lovelock voted for the motion.

Cr P Bantock, Cr N Clarke, Cr Woods and Cr G O'Brien voted against the motion.

2204-19 Audit Committee / Officer Recommendation / Council Resolution

Moved: Cr S Woods

Seconded: Cr D Lovelock

That Council **AUTHORISE**:

- A special payment to Seaport Holdings P/L for an amount of \$25,303.64 from Job MG9999;
- 2. A special payment to Wyening Mission Farm for an amount of \$17,300 from Job MG9999; and
- 3. A special payment to King Farming for an amount of \$3,960 from Job MG9999

CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY For 5 / Against 1

Cr J Kelly voted against the motion.

Cr P Bantock, Cr N Clarke, Cr D Lovelock, Cr Woods and Cr G O'Brien voted for the motion.

The WSM withdrew from the meeting at 4.04pm and did not return.

Remaining in Chambers: The CEO, Governance Officer and Minute Taker.

PUBLICOR

11.2 Notice of Motion –Withdrawal of CEO Request for Further Contract -Confidential

| File reference | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Report date | 21 April 2022 |
| Applicant/proponent | Shire President |
| Officer disclosure of interest | Impartial – Mr Fletcher is engaged by the CEO to provide support services that includes advice to Council |
| Previous meeting references | 19 Mar 2019: 1904-17; 29 May 2019: 1905-33 ; 23 March 2022 |
| Prepared by | Sean Fletcher, Governance Officer |
| Authorised by | CEO |
| Attachments | |

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Absolute majority required:

| | | C |
|--|--|---|
| | | |

2204-20 Officer Recommendation / Council Resolution

No

Moved: Cr P Bantock

That Council:

RECIEVES:

1. the CEO's updated written advice and accepts her withdrawal of request for a further contract with the Shire of Victoria Plains.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS DECISION OF COUNCIL

Seconded: Cr G O'Brien

2204-21 Councillor Motion / Council Resolution

Moved: Cr P Bantock

Seconded: Cr G O'Brien

- 2. Authorises the Shire President to write to the CEO to inform her of point 1 above.
- 3. Authorises the Shire President to seek quotes for a facilitator to guide Council through the process of CEO recruitment and present, at the latest, to the June 2022 Ordinary Council Meeting for consideration.
- 4. Authorises the Shire President to identify a suitable independent person/s to sit on the CEO selection panel as per *the Local Government Administration Amendment Regulations of 2021* and present to council for consideration
- 5. Select Sean Fletcher, as the Shire Officer, to provide Administrative support during this process.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS DECISION OF COUNCIL

The CEO, Minute Taker withdrew from the meeting at 4.21pm and did not return.

11.3 Notice of Motion – Legal Advice re CEO's Contract and Performance Appraisal - Confidential

| File reference | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Report date | 21 April 2022 |
| Applicant/proponent | Shire President |
| Officer disclosure of interest | Impartial – Mr Fletcher is engaged by the CEO to provide support services that includes advice to Council |
| Previous meeting references | 19 Mar 2019: 1904-17; 29 May 2019: 1905-33 ; 23 March 2022: 2203-13; 30 March 2022 (SCM): 2203-07 |
| Prepared by | Sean Fletcher, Governance Officer |
| Authorised by | Acting CEO |
| Attachments | |

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Absolute majority required:

2204-22 Councillor Recommendation / Motion / Resolution

No

Mover: Cr P Bantock

That Council:

- 1. CONSIDERS the written advice provided by Civic Legal regarding Agenda item 11.3.
- 2. **AUTHORISES** the Shire President to email Cr Penn the confidential legal advice regarding item 11.3, on the proviso the advice remains confidential, is destroyed once the matter is dealt with and is not passed on further.
- 3. **AUTHORISES** the Shire President to consult further with the performance review facilitator .

CARRIED For 5 / Against 1

Cr Kelly voted against the motion. Cr P Bantock, Cr N Clarke, Cr D Lovelock, Cr Woods and Cr G O'Brien voted for the motion.

2204-23 Councillor Motion / Council Resolution

Mover: Cr N Clarke

That Council **MOVE OUT** of confidential session at 6:15 pm.

CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS DECISION OF COUNCIL

The Shire President read aloud the Resolutions as resolved behind closed doors at 6:15 pm.

Seconded: Cr S Woods

Seconded: Cr J Kelly

During the item, Cr S Woods sought approval from the Presiding Member to leave the room for a restroom break at 4.29pm and returned at 4.32 pm.

Also during the item, the OCM Officer entered the meeting at 5:09pm to close down her laptop connection and withdrew from Chambers at 5:11pm.

12. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business, the Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 6:15pm

CERTIFICATION

These minutes were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on _____ 2022.

Signed

(Presiding member at the meeting which confirmed the minutes)

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

ate

PUBLICC