



Council Meeting

Draft Minutes

Tuesday, 26 March 2024

**Council Chamber - Civic Centre
and via Videoconference**

Information for Councillors and the community

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Yarra Ranges Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri and other Kulin Nations as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of these lands and waterways.

We pay our respects to all Elders, past, present, and emerging, who have been, and always will be, integral to the story of our region.

We proudly share custodianship to care for Country together.



COUNCIL VISION

Whether you live here or visit, you will see how much we care for country, how inclusive and connected our communities are, and how sustainable balanced growth makes this the best place in the world.

VALUE OF HISTORY

We acknowledge that history shapes our identities, engages us as citizens, creates inclusive communities, is part of our economic well-being, teaches us to think critically and creatively, inspires leaders and is the foundation of our future generations.

COUNCILLOR COMMITMENT

We'll be truthful, represent the community's needs, be positive and responsive and always strive to do better.

OUR COUNCILLORS

Billanook Ward: Tim Heenan

Chandler Ward: David Eastham

Chirnside Ward: Richard Higgins

Lyster Ward: Johanna Skelton

Melba Ward: Sophie Todorov

O'Shannassy Ward: Jim Child

Ryrie Ward: Fiona McAllister

Streeton Ward: Andrew Fullagar

Walling Ward: Len Cox

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER & DIRECTORS

Chief Executive Officer, Tammi Rose

Director Built Environment & Infrastructure,
Hjalmar Philipp

Director Communities, Leanne Hurst

Director Corporate Services, Andrew Hilson

Director Planning and Sustainable Futures,
Kath McClusky

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- making a verbal submission for up to 5 minutes on matters not listed on the agenda.
- submitting a question.
- speaking for up to 5 minutes to a specific item on the agenda. For planning applications and policy issues, the Chair will invite one person to speak on behalf of any objectors and one person to speak on behalf of the applicant. For other matters on the agenda, only one person will be invited to address Council, unless

there are opposing views. At the discretion of the Chair, additional speakers may be invited for items of large interest.

- speaking for up to 5 minutes to a petition to be presented at a meeting.

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YARRA RANGES COUNCIL

**MINUTES FOR THE 600TH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 26 MARCH 2024
COMMENCING AT 7.02 PM COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC CENTRE AND VIA
VIDEOCONFERENCE**

1 COUNCIL MEETING OPENED

Councillor Sophie Todorov (Mayor) declared the meeting open.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Mayor then read the Acknowledgement of Country, and welcomed all present.

3 INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillors

Councillor Sophie Todorov (Mayor)

Councillor David Eastham (Deputy Mayor)

Councillor Jim Child

Councillor Andrew Fullagar

Councillor Fiona McAllister

Councillor Richard Higgins

Councillor Johanna Skelton

Councillor Len Cox OAM

Officers

Tammi Rose, Chief Executive Officer

Hjalmar Philipp, Director Built Environment & Infrastructure

Andrew Hilson, Director Corporate Services

Leanne Hurst, Director Communities

Nathan Islip, Acting Director Planning & Sustainable Futures

4 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

An apology for this meeting was received from Councillor Tim Heenan.

Vale Beryl Aryes**The Mayor read the following statement:**

Beryl Elsie Ayres was the mother of our highly respected Indigenous Advisory Committee Chairperson, Lea Jones.

Born on 17 May 1928, Beryl passed away peacefully on Saturday, 24 February 2024, aged 95 years. Beryl was an extraordinary community-minded person who dedicated her life to her family and her community. Beryl's life was one of great achievement driven by her passion for family, community, and sport, and her lifetime of sporting achievement is astonishing.

Beryl's won numerous State and local champions over the last 40 years and was awarded Life Membership of the Healesville Bowling Club in 1996.

In 2023 the newly renovated bowling club was named The Beryl Ayres Pavilion. Beryl was made a Life member of the Healesville Tennis Club in the late 1960s after joining the Club in 1948. She served as Secretary of the Tennis Club from 1970-1972 and as President from 1973-1975. Beryl was the Ladies Singles Tennis Club Champion from 1966 to 1971.

Beryl was awarded the Lance Newton Memorial Trophy in the mid-1980s for her outstanding contribution to tennis in the Upper Yarra District Tennis Association, Beryl also won several Golf and Tennis Championships. During her younger years, Beryl even pulled on a football jumper when Women's football was unheard of.

Beryl was awarded a lifetime membership of the Healesville Tennis Club where she undertook the role of secretary followed by two stints as president.

Living most of her life in Healesville, she was the much-loved wife of Tom (dec), loved Mum of Rob and Lea, and dearly loved Nan to Brad, Luke and Kane.

She was also the Great Nan to Boddy, Bryan, Xavier, Mason, Tiana, Noah, Braden, and Mackenzie. I am not sure how she had all that time for sport amongst that.

Yarra Ranges Council acknowledges her amazing contributions to this community.

Vale Beryl Aryes

Moved: Cr Todorov

Seconded: Cr Eastham

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held Tuesday 12 March 2024 as circulated, be confirmed.

The motion was Carried unanimously.

In accordance with Chapter 7, Rule 4, of the Governance Rules developed by Council in accordance with section 60 of the Local Government Act 2020.

There were no disclosures of conflicts of interest made for this meeting.

In accordance with Chapter 3, Rules 57 and 59, of the Governance Rules developed by Council in accordance with section 60 of the Local Government Act 2020.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

QUESTION 1

In accordance with Governance Rule 59.10, Wendy Wright read their Question to Council.

Wendy Wright of Lilydale asked;

My question relates to agenda, item 10.3 which talks about community panels and my question is, in 2021 only 183 Expression of Interests were received for nomination to “deliberative panels”. This is a tiny % of Yarra Ranges’ 160000 residents. How did council ensure there was no unintended bias (e.g. a lobby group advertising the process to its members) in the nominations?

How will council improve response volumes in 2024 to reduce the likelihood of biased self-selection and improve community trust in the process?

Andrew Hilson, Director Corporate Service

Thank you for your question, Wendy.

In 2021, the Council Plan deliberative panel consisted of 43 participants. To ensure there was a panel representative of our broad community Council engaged an external party to select the panel members. The development of the new Council Plan over the coming year proposes another deliberative panel to enable deep and meaningful discussion on specific topics for ‘deliberation’.

There will be a far-reaching communications campaign to raise awareness of the many ways for community members to contribute to the development of the next Council Plan, including becoming a participant on the deliberative panel. We will be advertising the opportunity for members of the public to get involved in the panel through our broad engagement activities, included but not limited to:

- Promoted on our Shaping Yarra Ranges Council Plan page that will be launched on Wednesday (we encourage anyone to put their hand up to get involved by visiting www.shaping.yarraranges.vic.gov.au from tomorrow).
- Promoted at our pop-ups through discussions and handouts (you can find our pop-up locations and dates on our Shaping page live from Wednesday www.shaping.yarraranges.vic.gov.au) also live from tomorrow.
- Local newspaper articles and ads
- At our community and stakeholder summit events; and
- In Council’s e-newsletter.

To ensure a balanced approach to the panel recruitment, Council has appointed an external consultant to lead the recruitment process. A neutral facilitator will lead the discussions and facilitate open sharing and learning from all participants.

QUESTION 2

Michelle de Lima of Lilydale asked;

In accordance with Governance Rule 59.10, Michelle de Lima read their Question to Council.

What is the current estimated cost per kilometre for Yarra Ranges Council to scope, design, remediate, repair, upgrade and or replace roads, footpaths and drainage infrastructure and provide ongoing monthly maintenance?

And the reason for the question is, we are submitting a budget submission, and I'd like accurate kilometre per cost please.

Hjalmar Philipp, Director Built Environment and Infrastructure

Thank you for your question, Michelle.

I'm sorry this is going to feel like a bit of a long answer.

There are significant differences between design, repair, upgrade and/or replacement jobs and also between the three asset classes mentioned (being roads, footpaths, and drainage).

The cost of any work on these assets is influenced by a number of factors, including objective, scope, current state of the asset, existing site conditions, and of course, market prices for labour and materials.

Drainage infrastructure in particular has the most variation amongst these three assets, given the objectives and scope of each infrastructure project can vary significantly.

So as a broad guide only, and with the qualifications noted above:

- The cost of new roads can vary from \$600,000 to \$2.0 M per km depending on rural or urban construction types, so it does vary depending on what you want to get out of the project.
- The cost of concrete footpaths ranges from \$120 to 250 per sqm depending on terrain.
- Installing drainage pipes is highly variable and depends on pipe size and earthworks. Amongst other things, as mentioned previously.

YRC participated in a Victorian Auditor General Office Performance Audit in 2020/21 focussed on maintaining Local Roads. That exercise showed ongoing maintenance costs averaged from \$1.40 to \$3.00 per square depending on road type and conditions. Notably these prices have increased over the past 2 years as a result of significant cost increases associated with supply issues and construction industry demands.

The annual 2023/2024 maintenance budget for road, drainage and footpath maintenance is \$20.9 M plus a further \$6.7 M for capital renewals at an average expenditure of \$2.3 M per month across the municipality.

QUESTION 3

Michelle de Lima of Lilydale asked;

In accordance with Governance Rule 59.10, Michelle de Lima read their Question to Council.

Does Yarra Ranges Council consult with Traditional Owners if a planning permit is submitted to rezone rural land to residential zoned land, and or if there is a change to the planning scheme impacting on flora and fauna close to the Olinda Creek? If no, why not?

Nathan Islip, Acting Director Planning and Sustainable Futures

Thanks for your question, Michelle.

In response to your question, yes, Council consults with the Traditional Owners.

More specifically, Planning Permits and Planning Scheme Amendments, which may include that flora and fauna aspect to it, are two distinct processes and as such there are different ways we would engage with the Traditional Owners.

For Planning Permits where it is identified that development is considered to impact on an area of cultural heritage sensitivity then a Cultural Heritage Management Plan would be required, and that would be developed with engagement with Traditional Owners, generally this is done upfront. This is generally through the Registered Aboriginal Parties.

For a Planning Scheme amendment Council is required by the Planning and Environment Act 1987 to provide notice to anyone it considers to be materially affected by the amendment proposal – which may include Traditional Owners depending on the proposal.

QUESTION 4

Dean Hurlston of Chadstone asked;

What amount of waste enforcement costs in the current financial year 2023/24 has the Council included in its waste levies charged to residents? (if any)

[and]

What amount of revenue has council included in the current financial year 2023/24 from waste enforcement actions?

Leanne Hurst, Director Communities

Thank you for your questions, Dean.

No waste enforcement costs have been included in the 2023/2024 waste levies charges. These costs are not separately budgeted to the Council's overall enforcement costs.

Similarly, Council does not separately budget for revenue from waste enforcement actions currently. In the 2023/2024 financial year to date, no infringements under the Waste Provision of the Local Law have been issued.

In the previous two financial years there have been two infringements issued in the amount of \$300 each.

QUESTION 5

Karen Kestigian of Kallista asked;

From the Kallista Flood Watch Group. Does the proposed Storm Water Management Plan specifically relate to known flood plains? Kallista's floods are man-made, will our community be part of the Storm Water Management Plan?

Hjalmar Philipp, Director Built Environment and Infrastructure

The answer is yes, it will.

Thank you for your question, Karen.

The stormwater management plan considers how stormwater impacts the different areas of Yarra Ranges, including the Dandenong Ranges, known floodplains and areas inundated by stormwater in recent years and therefore will include Kallista.

The plan will outline how Council will manage stormwater and identify priority Actions for Council, along with advocacy priorities for the State Government.

We are currently working on the Draft Stormwater Management Plan, which we will be seeking to engage the community on later this year.

QUESTION 6

Laura Soppit of Lilydale asked;

The last council meeting it was talked about waste and landfill there was 93 page's on the meeting agenda plus copy's for visitors attending. I think it was a waste of paper why can't you just put the agenda up on the monitors.

Andrew Hilson, Director Corporate Service

Thank you for your question, Laura.

I'm pleased to know that you are as interested as we are in reducing paper waste.

Over recent years, Council has reduced its use of paper from approximately 4.8 million sheets of paper in 2009 to approximately 600,000 last financial year as we intentionally move towards minimising our use of paper.

There are, however, a number of people in our community that require printed materials or who have difficulty accessing or reading electronic documents. This is especially true for large documents like our Council meeting agendas. For this reason, we continue to provide a small number of printed copies of our agendas for community members attending the Council meetings. Any printed documents that are not needed at the end of Council meetings are securely recycled. We continue to look for ways to further reduce our environmental impacts.

QUESTION 7

Timothy Lefel of Launching Place asked;

Under the freedom of information act 1982- I am asking the council how many dogs specifically are registered into the wards of council? And where the registration fees go to?

Leanne Hurst, Director Communities

Thank you for your question, Timothy.

We are pleased to let you know that we have 23,379 dogs registered across the municipality with the following breakdown.

- Chirnside Ward 2353
- Billanook Ward 2852
- Walling Ward 2085
- Melba Ward 2157
- Streeton Ward 2537
- Ryrie Ward 3109
- Chandler Ward 2729
- O'Shannassy Ward 2982
- Lyster Ward 2575

Under the Domestic Animals Act 1994 (DA Act), local councils are required to pay the Treasurer \$4.39 for every cat and dog registration and \$20 for every domestic animal business registration collected in each financial year (as at 1 July 2023).

QUESTION 8

Anonymous asked;

What criteria is necessary for use of satellite communication installed at Olinda footy club as it wasn't used in last storm outage?

When will yrc [Yarra Ranges Council] storm and flood plan be updated?

Leanne Hurst, Director Communities

Thank you for your questions.

The criteria used by Council to activate emergency management sites like the Olinda Pavilion includes:

- anticipated length of outage;
- numbers impacted by outage;
- ease of safe travel to alternative sites – including friends and family;
- availability and access to alternative Council sites already staffed; and
- availability and access to alternative community activated sites

Council is in discussions with the Olinda Sporting Club and other community members to discuss a partnership approach to the activation of the Olinda Pavilion during times of emergencies, and when safe to do so.

The Municipal Storm and Flood Emergency Plan has been prepared by the Yarra Ranges Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC). The Plan is reviewed approximately every 4 years and is due to be reviewed in 2024.

The review is led by Victoria State Emergency Service (ViCSES) as the control agency for storm and flood in Victoria and Council has a role to actively support the review of this plan.

Also related, we note Council is currently developing a Stormwater Management Plan that aligns with the Melbourne Water modelling program and we will be seeking feedback on this from the community later in the year.

QUESTION 9

Ellena Biggs of Millgrove asked;

We are currently lacking a Significant Tree Register for Warburton and surrounds. Is the Council going to implement one in the proposed Heritage Study to be undertaken for our area this year? Can you explain your reasoning?

Nathan Islip, Acting Director Planning and Sustainable Futures

Thank you for your question Ellena.

The Heritage Strategy will be an overarching document to guide a vision, objectives and future actions for all aspects of heritage. This includes trees, and the strategy will provide the principles and foundations for the nomination process but does not go into the specifics of individual trees.

A Significant Tree Register would sit outside of the Heritage Strategy and would identify a range of significant trees, only some of which would become considered for heritage protection. Council are not planning a Significant Tree Register at this point as the current controls in the Planning Scheme are very rigorous and provide good protection of trees with significance. This does not preclude community from developing their own Significant Tree Register and seeking protections through the relevant heritage bodies.

In addition, Council will be considering a draft Tree Canopy Strategy later this year which we anticipate will recommend developing an inventory of large habitat trees and culturally significant ones on council managed land in built up areas. Once again, some of these may constitute consideration for nomination under the Heritage Strategy principles and would be considered on an individual tree basis.

QUESTION 10

Joanne Ashley of Warburton asked;

March 6th, an extreme fire danger day when Warburton residents were told to enact their bushfire plan, Trail Fest took place in town. It went ahead despite the fact that the event staging ground was the Neighbourhood Safer Place. NSP's are on a register held by Council. The place where, should a fire go through, people can collect with relative safety. How is that possible when an event is using it as a staging ground? Why was this event not stopped as were all other council offices / events?

Leanne Hurst, Director Communities

Thank you for your question, Joanne

It is a requirement for all registered events held in Yarra Ranges to have a local event emergency management plan, which requires event organisers to work in consultation with local emergency services.

In relation to this event, Council staff contacted the event organisers prior to the event seeking details of the plans they had in place for the forecast Extreme Fire Danger Day (Saturday). The organisers were in contact with the local ParksVic ranger to explore event alternatives.

Council Emergency Management staff also raised the event with the Regional Emergency Management team (REMT) forum that was in place to monitor fire risks for that long weekend (9-11 March). Council officers' concerns were taken on board by REMT and consultation took place between emergency services agencies and land managers and with the event organisers. As a result, the event start/finish time were adjusted to earlier time and the course location shifted to reduce the risk to participants and event support crew.

We appreciate the concerns you have raised and note the Trailfest event staging location was adjacent to the Warburton Recreation Oval, along Yarra River Walk. This did not impede on the NSP site which is mapped within the Warburton Oval location. The location of the staging area ensured the oval was usable.

Cr McAllister requested that Council review its policy in relation to events held on Neighbourhood Safer Places, particularly on Extreme Fire Danger rating days.

SUBMISSIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Flooding in the Yarra Valley

Belinda Bernardini raised concerns regarding flooding in the Yarra Ranges and gave her beliefs on potential causes for consideration. She also requested confirmation regarding whether there have been any cloud seeding or geoengineering activities in Yarra Ranges Council.

9 PETITIONS

In accordance with Chapter 3, Rule 60, of the Governance Rules developed by Council in accordance with section 60 of the Local Government Act 2020.

9.1 Petition to Council

SUMMARY

The following petition be received:

General Petition

1. Request that Yarra Ranges Council amend the Warburton Urban Design Framework removing the relocation of the Warburton Tennis Club from its current location (3365 Warburton Highway, Warburton 3799 Victoria).

1005 valid signatures.

In accordance with Governance Rule 58, John Champion spoke in support of the recommendation included in the officer report.

Moved: Cr Child

Seconded: Cr McAllister

That the following General Petition be received and noted and referred to the appropriate officer.

1. *Request that Yarra Ranges Council amend the Warburton Urban Design Framework removing the relocation of the Warburton Tennis Club from its current location (3365 Warburton Highway, Warburton 3799 Victoria).*

The motion was Carried unanimously.

10 BUSINESS PAPER

10.1 Warburton Urban Design Framework - Post-Consultation and Consideration for Adoption

SUMMARY

An Urban Design Framework (UDF) is a placemaking tool that proposes a unified vision for the future of an activity centre that celebrates the local character while planning for future needs. It combines input from community and a range of technical disciplines to create an integrated plan and recommends a suite of individual projects that will each require further design and consultation after the UDF is adopted by Council.

Council resolved on 13 December 2022 to place the draft Warburton Urban Design Framework (UDF) on public exhibition between 16 December 2022 to 24 February 2023. Through the Warburton Place Plan process community described a range of difficulties being experienced in the centre arising primarily from its increased popularity with tourists. The Framework provides practical design solutions to the issues and opportunities identified with, and informed by, the community for the Warburton Place Plan (adopted by Council in 2021). The Warburton UDF reflects the actions in the Warburton Place Plan through design, development, and public realm projects. Not proceeding with the UDF would likely lead to a further deterioration in the amenity, safety and disorderly behaviours of visitors and leave a planning vacuum that would prevent prioritisation of projects for delivery.

The comprehensive engagement undertaken has resulted in extensive Community feedback with 335 written submissions composed of over 1,800 comments, which have been assessed and documented within this report. The relevant feedback has been utilised to inform edits and updates to develop a proposed final version of the Warburton Urban Design Framework.

On 28 November 2023 Council resolved to defer a decision on the Warburton Urban Design Framework until 26 March 2024 Council Meeting to allow for further Targeted Consultation with key community groups including the Warburton Tennis Club. These discussions have now occurred with relevant impacted community groups in accordance with the Council resolution. The discussions were valuable and constructive with the majority of those consulted indicating support for the intent and directions of the UDF if some further updates are made. The additional feedback is summarised in this report.

The conversations during Targeted Consultation were constructive and helped to understand and explain further the information that had been submitted during the original consultation process. This has made for a clearer way forward that further strengthened the UDF response to community feedback through edits and updates, while also strengthening community support for the UDF's proposed projects. This is a very positive acknowledgment of the value of Council working with community to achieve shared outcomes.

These include retention of the existing Warburton Tennis Courts, associated updates to the Warburton Recreation Reserve, reduced carparking at the Redwood Centre, and investigating a new model of Emergency Management Planning for assessing risks in the Warburton Highway corridor.

In accordance with Governance Rule 28, Nathan Islip, Acting Director Planning and Sustainable Futures, introduced the Warburton Urban Design Framework - Post-Consultation and Consideration for Adoption report to Councillors.

In accordance with Governance Rule 58, Christian Nielsen spoke in objection to the recommendation included in the officer report.

In accordance with Governance Rule 58, Jeffery Gill spoke in support of the recommendation included in the officer report.

Cr Child moved a motion alternate to that printed in the agenda.

Moved: Cr Child

Seconded: Cr Eastham

That Council

- 1. Adopt the Warburton Urban Design Framework in accordance with the Attachment 1 - Proposed Final Warburton Urban Design Framework - updated to ensure consistency by replacing the last three sentences on p54 under 'Preferred Character' with the words "The safety of traffic and vehicle movements will be monitored and assessed once a new turning circle has been delivered, and any further improvements to pedestrian safety, traffic and parking will be explored as needed".*
- 2. Note the findings from community consultation and subsequent targeted consultation, and the proposed changes shown in Attachment 2 - Marked Up Draft Warburton Urban Design Framework.*
- 3. Write to submitters to thank them for their engagement and advise them of the outcome of the Council Meeting.*
- 4. Request Officers, in collaboration with key authorities and the Warburton Emergency Planning Group, to investigate options for a Place-Based Emergency Assessment for Warburton and the associated highway corridor.*

The motion was Carried.

10.2 Biannual Structure Plan Action Update

SUMMARY

Over the last 13 years Council has adopted structure plans for its activity centres (Lilydale, Coldstream, Monbulk, Healesville, Mooroolbark) and an Urban Design Masterplan for Chirnside Park, which is similar in content to a structure plan.

All the structure plans underwent community consultation in their preparation to incorporate the communities' aspirations for their centre.

In 2022, a review of structure plan actions identified that many actions had been implemented or were out of date. Revised action lists for each centre were prepared and adopted by Council at the 13 December 2022 Council Meeting.

This report provides the first biannual update on the status of the actions within each structure plan, with the exception of the Lilydale Structure Plan. A new Structure Plan for Lilydale was only adopted in August 2022, and work on a number of actions have commenced.

Moved: Cr McAllister
Seconded: Cr Higgins

That Council note the progress of actions within the Coldstream, Monbulk, Healesville and Mooroolbark Structure Plans and Chirnside Park Masterplan.

The motion was Carried unanimously.

10.3 Community Engagement Plan for Council Plan

SUMMARY

By the end of October in the year following a Council election, each Council is required to develop a four-year strategy (the Council Plan) defining how it will work towards the Vision the Community set in 2020 for the Municipality, supported by a 10-year Asset and Financial Plan.

To ensure this process truly reflects what the breadth of the community want, a detailed engagement process is undertaken ahead of the Council elections to inform the development of these strategic documents.

This paper provides an overview of the various avenues of community engagement planned to draw in the diverse opinions of the Yarra Ranges' community. This information will then be used in the development of the 2025-2029 Council Plan and 10-year Financial and Asset plans.

Cr McAllister left the meeting at 9.02pm and returned to the meeting at 9.04pm prior to debate and a vote being taken.

In accordance with Governance Rule 58, Wendy Wright spoke in objection to the recommendation included in the officer report.

Moved: Cr McAllister

Seconded: Cr Skelton

That Council endorses the commencement of the proposed community engagement process to inform the development of the 2025-2029 Council Plan, and the 10-year Financial and 10-year Asset Management Plans.

The motion was Carried unanimously.

10.4 Draft Revised Community Engagement Policy for Consultation

SUMMARY

The current Community Engagement Policy (the Policy) was endorsed by Council on 27 April 2021.

Since the adoption of the Policy, the Community Engagement team has supported over 230 projects in line with the Policy. The lessons learned from these projects, general feedback from the community, internal focus groups and consultation with advisory groups, have informed the draft revised Community Engagement Policy.

The draft revised Policy meets Council's legislative requirement under Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 2020, 'A Council must adopt and maintain a community engagement policy.' It also strengthens Council's commitment to meaningful, transparent, and appropriate community engagement, and clarifies the roles and responsibilities of Council in seeking community input to inform decision-making.

Council officers are seeking endorsement of the draft revised Policy to be released for further feedback from the community.

Moved: Cr Eastham

Seconded: Cr Fullagar

That Council approve the draft revised Community Engagement Policy to be released for community engagement.

The motion was Carried unanimously.

11 COUNCILLOR MOTIONS

In accordance with Chapter 3, Division 4, of the Governance Rules developed by Council in accordance with section 60 of the Local Government Act 2020.

There were no Councillor motions listed on the agenda for this meeting.

12 ITEMS THROUGH THE CHAIR

12.1 Municipal Association of Victoria Chairperson Training

Cr Skelton attended the Municipal Association of Victoria Chairperson Training on Friday 15 February 2024. Cr Skelton noted that a report has been distributed to Councillors.

12.2 Dandenong Ranges Open Studios Exhibition Launch

Cr Skelton attended the Dandenong Ranges Open Studios Exhibition Launch held at Burrinja Cultural Centre, Upwey on Thursday 14 March 2024. The exhibition features works from each of the 44 participating studios. Cr Skelton encouraged community to vote for their favourite piece in the People's Choice Award. Cr Fullagar also attended the Exhibition Launch.

12.3 Advocacy for Bus Route in Yarra Ranges

Cr McAllister requested greater advocacy from Council to Public Transport Victoria regarding the current services, particularly for Healesville residents. Cr McAllister highlighted one family's journey to and from school who go to extreme lengths to commute each day. She then highlighted the health and wellbeing impacts on the children.

12.4 Advocacy for Bus Route in Yarra Ranges

Cr Child concurred with comments made by Cr McAllister regarding the community in the Yarra Vally not being serviced adequately by current PTV services. Cr Child strongly supports advocacy in the space.

12.5 Celebrate Mooroolbark Festival

Cr Todorov attended the Celebrate Mooroolbark Festival held on Sunday 17 March 2024 and noted the large number of community members that attended the event. Cr Todorov acknowledged the volunteers that contributed to the success of the event.

12.6 Celebrate Mooroolbark Festival

Cr Higgins also attended the Celebrate Mooroolbark Festival held on Sunday 17 March 2024 and congratulated all involved in the organisation of the incredibly successful event.

12.7 Yarra Valley ECOSS

Cr Child attended the Environmental Volunteers Celebration, held at the Yarra Valley ECOSS, on behalf on the Mayor. Cr Child noted how well the event was attended and also the attendance of former Councillor and Upper Yarra Shire President, John Burst, at the event.

12.8 Vignette Book Launch

Cr Child attended the Vignette Book Launch held on Saturday 23 March 2024 at the Warburton Arts Centre. Cr Child noted the diverse background of each of the 12 young writers from the Yarra Valley, who with the support of Yarra Ranges Council grants funding were able to produce this the book. Cr Child thanked the officers that helped make the event a success and noted the positive change in culture at the Upper Yarra Secondary College.

13 REPORTS FROM DELEGATES

Cr Eastham

- Attended the Rural Advisory Committee on Tuesday 26 March 2024 at the Yarra Ranges Council Civic Centre.

14 DOCUMENTS FOR SIGNING AND SEALING

SUMMARY

It was requested that the following document be signed and sealed:

Creation of Easement – Deed of Release - Yarra Ranges Shire Council and Sacha Auden and Natalie Auden.

Creation of Easement (E1) for drainage purposes in favour of Yarra Ranges Shire Council, being part of land contained in Certificate of Title Volume 5370 Folio 866 and known as 27-29 Fernhill Road, Mount Evelyn 3796.

Moved: Cr Child
Seconded: Cr Higgins

That the following listed document be signed and sealed:

Creation of Easement – Deed of Release - Yarra Ranges Shire Council and Sacha Auden and Natalie Auden.

The motion was Carried unanimously.

15 INFORMAL MEETING OF COUNCILLORS

Moved: Cr Todorov

Seconded: Cr Higgins

That the records of the Informal Meetings of Councillors, copies of which are attached to the report, be received and noted.

The motion was Carried unanimously.

16 URGENT BUSINESS

There were no Urgent Business listed on the agenda for this meeting.

17 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

In accordance with section 66(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020.

There were no Confidential Items listed on the agenda for this meeting.

18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at: 9.38 pm.

Confirmed this day, Tuesday, 9 April 2024.

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Councillor Sophie Todorov (Mayor)