



Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council

Thursday 25 July 2024

4.00pm

Yass High School
Grampian Street, Yass

Table of Contents

Prayer	3
1. Apologies	3
2. Declaration of Interest/Disclosures	3
3. Confirmation of Minutes	4
4. Mayoral Minute.....	4
6. Reports to Council	4
6.1 Yass Valley Development Control Plan 2024 - Post Exhibition	4
6.2 Planning Proposal - 3047 and 3071 Barton Highway Murrumbateman.....	4
6.3 Development Application No. DA230239 - Serviced Apartments, Keirs Road, Murrumbateman	5
6.4 Development Application No. DA240068 - Additions to Indoor Recreation Facility (Indoor Swimming Pool), 16 Hope Street, Yass	6
6.5 Yass Pool Redevelopment Project Committee	6
6.6 35 Links Road, Yass - Retaining Wall	7
6.7 Yass Water Treatment Plant Upgrade - Implementation	7
6.8 Morton Low-Level Reservoir Repair - Options Study.....	8
6.9 Revotes and Carry Forwards from 2023/24 to 2024/25FY	8
6.10 Investment Report - June 2024.....	8
6.11 Review of Investment Policy	9
6.12 2024 Yass High School Youth Forum.....	9
6.13 Get NSW Active Grant Program 2024/25	10
6.14 Tender Evaluation Report - Electrical and Telemetry Upgrade of Five Water and Wastewater Sites	10
6.15 Tender Evaluation Report - Yass River Bridge Upgrade YVC.IA.37.2023	11
7. Notice of Motion	11
7.1 Notice of Motion - Full Quarterly Budget Review.....	11
7.2 Notice of Motion - Community Halls and Rates	11
8. Questions with Notice.....	13
8.1 Questions With Notice - Crago Mill Precinct, Yass Water Treatment Plant, Loans, Finacial Support & Grants Officer	13
8.2 Question With Notice - Communications Policies	15
9. Minutes and Recommendations of Council Committees.....	15
9.1 Minutes of the Murrumbateman Recreation Ground Focus Group held on 6 June 2024	15
9.2 Minutes of the Economic Development Advisory Committee held on 20 June 2024	16
9.3 Minutes of the Murrumbateman Playground Project Committee held on 11 July	

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 25 July 2024

2024	17
9.4 Minutes of the Sustainability Advisory Committee held on 9 July 2024	18
9. Confidential Matters.....	18
10.1 Tender Evaluation Report - Yass River Bridge Upgrade YVC.IA.37.2023.	19
10.2 Tender Evaluation Report - Electrical and Telemetry Upgrade of Five Water and Wastewater Sites	20

Open Forum

Presentations to Council – Items on the Meeting Agenda

Item 6.3 - Development Application No DA230239 – Service Apartments, Keirs Lane, Murrumbateman

- Ken Helm
- Lach Haskins

Item 6.4 Development Application No SA240068 – Additions to Indoor Recreation Facility (Indoor Swimming Pool), 16 Hope Street, Yass

- Ross Webster

Item 6.5 Yass Pool Redevelopment Project Committee

- Donna Wullaert
- Deborah Donaldson

Item 6.6 -35 Links Road, Yass – Retaining Wall

- Joachim Berger

Item 6.13 Get NSW Active Grant Program 2024/25

- Stuart Atkins

Item 7.2 Notice of Motion - Community Halls and Rates

- Greg Martin
- Stuart Atkins

Item 7.1 Minutes of the Murrumbateman Recreation Ground Focus Group

- David Lewis

Council Meeting - The Mayor declared the meeting open at 5.25pm

Present

Councillors Allan McGrath, Mayor, in the chair, Jim Abbey, Kristin Butler, Adrian Cameron, Jasmin Jones, Cayla Pothan, Mike Reid and Kim Turner.

Also present were the Chief Executive Officer – Chris Berry, Director of Planning & Environment – Julie Rogers, Director of Infrastructure & Assets – Nathan Cooke, Director of Corporate & Community – Lynette Safranek and acting Manager Media & Communications – Robyn Zwar.

Acknowledgement of Country

Prayer

1. Apologies

RESOLVED that apologies be received from Councillor Burgess and leave of absence be granted.

(Turner/Abbey) 149

2. Declaration of Interest/Disclosures

Nil

3. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 27 June 2024 covered by resolution numbers 131-150 inclusive, copies of which had been circulated to all Councillors, be taken as read and confirmed.

(Reid/Cameron) 152

FOR: Councillors J Abbey, K Butler, A Cameron, J Jones, A McGrath, C Pothan, M Reid and K Turner

AGAINST: Nil

4. Mayoral Minute

6. Reports to Council

6.1 YASS VALLEY DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN 2024 - POST EXHIBITION

SUMMARY

The report details the outcome of the exhibition of the *Yass Valley Development Control Plan 2024* and recommends that it be adopted.

RESOLVED that :

- 1. The report on the exhibition of the Yass Valley Development Control Plan, 2024 and the assessment of the submissions received in response to that exhibition be noted.***
- 2. The Yass Valley Council Development Control Plan 2024 be adopted with a commencement date of 1 August 2024***
- 3. The policies as listed in Table 1 of this report be repealed upon the commencement of the Yass Valley Development Control Plan 2024 on 1 August 2024***
- 4. A review of the Yass Valley Development Control Plan 2024 be undertaken in 18 months from the date of commencement to ensure that it is fit for purpose.***

(Jones/Reid) 149

FOR: Councillors J Abbey, K Butler, A Cameron, J Jones, A McGrath, C Pothan, M Reid and K Turner

AGAINST: Nil

6.2 PLANNING PROPOSAL - 3047 AND 3071 BARTON HIGHWAY MURRUMBATEMAN

SUMMARY

To present a report on a draft Planning Proposal to amend *Yass Valley Local Environmental Plan 2013* to reduce the minimum lot size for land at 3047 and 3071 Barton Highway Murrumbateman from 2ha to 1ha.

RESOLVED that :

- 1. The draft planning proposal for 3047 and 3071 Barton Highway, Murrumbateman (PP2024-1167) be endorsed subject to amendments being made to the planning proposal incorporating pedestrian connection to Scrubby Lane (subject to ability to acquire neighbouring land to enable the connection to occur) and provision being made for a category 3 playground.***
- 2. The draft Planning Proposal be forwarded to the Minister for Planning & Public Spaces to request a Gateway determination pursuant to s3.34 Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979.***

(Jones/Butler) 150

FOR: Councillors J Abbey, K Butler, J Jones, A McGrath, C Pothan, M Reid and K Turner

AGAINST: Councillor A Cameron

6.3 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION NO. DA230239 - SERVICED APARTMENTS, KEIRS ROAD, MURRUMBATEMAN

SUMMARY

To present the assessment of Development Application No DA230239 for two serviced apartments (tourist and visitor accommodation) at Lot 2 DP 797830, Keirs Road, Murrumbateman. The application attracted five objections and relevant concerns can be addressed by conditions. Approval is recommended.

MOTION

That conditional Development Consent be issued for Development Application No DA230239 for two serviced apartments at Lot 2 DP 797830, Keirs Road, Murrumbateman, including conditions relating to:

- Landscape buffer and additional fencing to be provided***
- A plan of management to be prepared and implemented in operation, and which must be provided to guests***
- Signage in condition 89 to include contact details of the business***

(Jones/Butler) 151

FOR: Councillors K Butler, C Pothan and J Jones

AGAINST: Councillors J Abbey, A Cameron, A McGrath, M Reid and K Turner

MOTION LOST

RESOLVED that Development Application No DA230239 be refused on the following grounds:

- Inappropriate use of RU1 zoned land,***
- Unacceptable adverse effect on surrounding primary producers,***

- *Not compatible with the primary producer zone projective of RU1, and*
- *The development presents an unacceptable land use conflict with the adjoining/nearby agricultural uses including a vineyard and extensive grazing.*

(Turner/Abbey) 152

FOR: Councillors J Abbey, A Cameron, A McGrath, M Reid and K Turner

AGAINST: Councillors K Butler, C Pothan and J Jones

6.4 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION NO. DA240068 - ADDITIONS TO INDOOR RECREATION FACILITY (INDOOR SWIMMING POOL), 16 HOPE STREET, YASS

SUMMARY

To present the assessment of Development Application No DA240068 for additions to an indoor recreation facility including the construction of an indoor swimming pool at 16 Hope Street, Yass. The application attracted five submissions. Approval is recommended.

RESOLVED that :

1. *Conditional Development Consent be issued for Development Application No. DA240068 for additions to indoor recreation facility including construction of an indoor swimming pool) at 16 Hope Street, Yass.*
2. *The process for issuing a Development Control Order in relation to completion of stormwater drainage works associated with Development Consent DA220284 be commenced with a maximum of further six months for completion.*

(Butler/Pothan) 153

FOR: Councillors J Abbey, K Butler, A Cameron, J Jones, A McGrath, C Pothan, M Reid and K Turner

AGAINST: Nil

6.5 YASS POOL REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT COMMITTEE

SUMMARY

To approve the terms of reference and seek approval to release an Expression of Interest for a Project Committee to help advise Council on the redevelopment of the Olympic Yass Pool and supporting infrastructure and a Council led future heated pool development.

RESOLVED that :

1. *The terms of reference for the Yass Pool Redevelopment Project Committee be endorsed with the amendment to the Terms of Reference to include five community members made up of two swim club members, and three non-members.*
2. *An expression of interest be issued to fill the positions of the Yass Pool Redevelopment Project Committee.*

(Jones/Turner) 154

FOR: Councillors J Abbey, K Butler, A Cameron, J Jones, A McGrath, C Pothan, M Reid and K Turner

AGAINST: Nil

6.6 35 LINKS ROAD, YASS - RETAINING WALL

SUMMARY

To provide a report requested by Council in relation to a retaining wall at 35 Links Road, Yass.

RESOLVED that the report on 35 Links Road, Yass – Retaining Wall be deferred for consideration at a future Council meeting.

(Jones/Reid) 155

FOR: Councillors J Abbey, K Butler, A Cameron, J Jones, A McGrath, C Pothan, M Reid and K Turner

AGAINST: Nil

6.7 YASS WATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE - IMPLEMENTATION

SUMMARY

The Yass Water Treatment Plant Upgrade Project is a challenging and a very high priority project for Council. This report provides an update on progress following Council approval of the Final Business Case at the extraordinary Council Meeting on 9 May 2024.

RESOLVED that :

- 1. This updated report on the Yass Water Treatment Plant Upgrade Project including the approval of the Final Business Case by NSW Government be noted.***
- 2. The release of the remaining \$6.6M from the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF, formerly HAF) for implementation of Yass Water Treatment Plant Upgrade work was approved and included in the NSW State Budget on 18 June 2024 be noted.***
- 3. The expected release of \$13.55M from the NSW State Ad-hoc Election Commitment for the Yass WTP Upgrade Project and Reticulation Upgrade project be noted.***
- 4. The Chief Executive Officer be delegated to execute the Funding Deeds for HIF Fund and Ad-hoc Election Commitment Fund.***
- 5. Short-listing of Council's application to the National Water Grid Fund, June 2024 Round by the NSW Government and submission to the Australian Government be noted.***

(Pothan/Turner) 156

FOR: Councillors J Abbey, K Butler, A Cameron, J Jones, A McGrath, C Pothan, M Reid and K Turner

AGAINST: Nil

6.8 MORTON LOW-LEVEL RESERVOIR REPAIR - OPTIONS STUDY

SUMMARY

Morton Low level Reservoir is a key component of water infrastructure in the Yass Water Supply and is out of service due to safety and serviceability issues since 2020. This report informs options to restore functions of this water storage facility including repair and building a new reservoir for Council decision.

RESOLVED that :

- 1. A new reservoir with similar capacity (4.5ML) is the preferred option to be constructed in the vacant space available in the existing site with the existing reservoir to be demolished.**
- 2. Concept design including Review of Environmental Factors, community consultation, and site investigations for the construction of new reservoir be prepared.**

(Turner/Abbey) 157

FOR: Councillors J Abbey, K Butler, A Cameron, J Jones, A McGrath, C Pothan, M Reid and K Turner

AGAINST: Nil

6.9 REVOTES AND CARRY FORWARDS FROM 2023/24 TO 2024/25FY

SUMMARY

This report provides the proposed revotes and project costs to be carried forward 2023/24FY to the current 2024/25FY.

RESOLVED that :

- 1. The budgets detailed in this report as Revotes from 2023/24 to 2024/25FY be approved.**
- 2. The budgets detailed in this report as Carry Forward funds from 2023/24 to 2024/25FY be noted.**

(Abbey/Reid) 158

FOR: Councillors J Abbey, K Butler, A Cameron, J Jones, A McGrath, C Pothan, M Reid and K Turner

AGAINST: Nil

6.10 INVESTMENT REPORT - JUNE 2024

SUMMARY

In accordance with clause 212 *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*, this report provides a summary of Council's investments as of 30 June 2024. In accordance with paragraph (1) (b), it can be certified that the investments listed have been made in accordance with the Act, the Regulations and Council's Investment Policy.

RESOLVED that the Investment & Borrowings Report for June 2024 be noted.

(Turner/Reid) 159

FOR: Councillors J Abbey, K Butler, A Cameron, J Jones, A McGrath, C Pothan, M Reid and K Turner

AGAINST: Nil

6.11 REVIEW OF INVESTMENT POLICY

SUMMARY

A review of Council's *Investment Policy* was undertaken to ensure we continue to provide a framework for the investment of Council funds that seeks to maximise earnings whilst having due consideration of the risk and security for that investment.

RESOLVED that the reviewed Investment Policy be adopted.

(Jones/Abbey) 160

FOR: Councillors J Abbey, K Butler, A Cameron, J Jones, A McGrath, C Pothan, M Reid and K Turner

AGAINST: Nil

6.12 2024 YASS HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH FORUM

SUMMARY

Council and Yass High School hosted a full-day consultation event on Monday 3 June 2024, involving approximately 150 students ranging from Year 7 to Year 11, representing communities from across the Yass Valley LGA.

RESOLVED that :

- 1. The Summary Report of the Yass Valley Youth Forum be noted.***
- 2. Staff consider the recommendations in the Yass Valley Youth Forum Report to determine how Council can assist and/or advocate for the Youth.***
- 3. Yass Valley Council acknowledges Yass High School has extensive positive programs aimed at youth already operating.***

(Jones/Pothan) 161

FOR: Councillors J Abbey, K Butler, A Cameron, J Jones, A McGrath, C Pothan, M Reid and K Turner

AGAINST: Nil

6.13 GET NSW ACTIVE GRANT PROGRAM 2024/25

SUMMARY

To advise Council of three grant offers received under the Get NSW Active grant program 2024/25.

RESOLVED that :

1. ***The Get NSW Active Grants be accepted for:***
 - a. ***Detail Design Yass Rail Trail - \$698,323***
 - b. ***Construction of the Bowning Active Circuit - \$1,308,121.20***
2. ***The 2024/25 Operational Plan and associated budget be updated to allow Yass Rail Trail and Bowning Active Circuit projects to progress.***
3. ***The \$50,000 grant for the Active Transport Strategy be accepted if the grant provider agrees to Council's co-contribution being reduced from \$51,048.20 to \$15,000 as provided for in the 2024/25 Operational Plan.***

(Reid/Pothan) 162

FOR: Councillors J Abbey, K Butler, A Cameron, J Jones, A McGrath, C Pothan, M Reid and K Turner

AGAINST: Nil

6.14 TENDER EVALUATION REPORT - ELECTRICAL AND TELEMETRY UPGRADE OF FIVE WATER AND WASTEWATER SITES

SUMMARY

This report provides advice on the tender evaluation for the Electrical and Telemetry Upgrade of Five Water and Wastewater Sites (YVC-IA-15-2024). Sites are Binalong Reservoir and Pump Station, Primary School Sewage Pump Station (SPS), Petit Street SPS, Willow Creek SPS and Bowning-Binalong Pump Station.

RESOLVED that this item is classified CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with Section 10A(2)(c, di and dii) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business, commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it and commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council. Discussion of the matter in an open meeting would be, on balance, contrary to the public interest

(Jones/Turner) 163

FOR: Councillors J Abbey, K Butler, A Cameron, J Jones, A McGrath, C Pothan, M Reid and K Turner

AGAINST: Nil

6.15 TENDER EVALUATION REPORT - YASS RIVER BRIDGE UPGRADE YVC.IA.37.2023

SUMMARY

This report provides advice and recommendations on the submissions received for the Yass River Bridge Upgrade YVC.IA.37.2023 tender.

RESOLVED that item be classified CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with Section 10A(2)(di) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed, prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied the information. Discussion of the matter in an open meeting would be, on balance, contrary to the public interest.

(Jones/Turner) 164

FOR: Councillors J Abbey, K Butler, A Cameron, J Jones, A McGrath, C Pothan, M Reid and K Turner

AGAINST: Nil

7. Notice of Motion

7.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - FULL QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW

Councillor Adrian Cameron has given notice that at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 25 July 2024, he will move the following motion.

MOTION

That in the interest of transparency in the lead up to the Local Council Election in September 2024 Council resolves that:

- 1. A full quarterly budget review statement for the June quarter of the 2023/2024 Financial Year be tabled at the August 2024 Council meeting; and*
- 2. This review pays particular attention to a complete cash and investment report identifying external and internal restrictions balances, as well as the Council's position with regard to all Office of Local Government financial benchmarks.*

(Cameron/Pothan) 165

FOR: Councillors K Butler, A Cameron and J Jones

AGAINST: Councillors J Abbey, A McGrath, C Pothan, M Reid and K Turner

Motion LOST

7.2 NOTICE OF MOTION - COMMUNITY HALLS AND RATES

Councillor Jasmin Jones has given notice that at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 25 July 2024, she will move the following motion.

MOTION

That:

1. *A Village Hall & Community Group Rate Relief Donations Policy or amendment to the current Donation Policy be brought forward at the August 2024 meeting for consideration to address the need for rate relief of Not-For-Profit, volunteer run community Groups & Hall Associations.*
2. *The 2024-2025 policy to implement a 100% donation back of rates for Village Hall Associations and 75% donation back for membership-based Community Groups that meet the policy requirements.*
3. *In the instance of requests for assistance received to date, that:*
 - *Council draws from the 2024-25 rate income a 12-month-retrospective donation of 50% of the general rates for Bowning Hall Association and Gundaroo Hall Association, and 50% donation back to Yass Lawn Tennis Club, noting any reduction from the amended valuation.*
 - *Council investigates possible alternate categorisation of rating for Yass Lawn Tennis Club out of Business category if the provision of organisational structure and operation documentation satisfies Council's requirements under State legislation*

(Jones/Reid) 166

AMENDMENT

That :

1. **Community Halls**
 - ***A report be prepared for Council to consider an appropriate mechanism to offer a donation back to Community Hall Associations should any not obtain charity status which is rate exempt.***
 - ***All Community Hall Associations that register with Council their charity status within the 2024 calendar year be considered exempt of rates from July 2024.***
2. **Not-for-profit & Community Groups**
 - ***A report be prepared for Council to consider an appropriate method to offer a donation back of a percentage of the General Rates charged to volunteer run not-for-profit groups that provide community benefit.***
3. **Bowning Hall**
 - ***A 12 month retrospective donation of 50% of the 2023-24 rates bill be given back to Bowning Hall considering their difficulty in paying rates due to the ongoing excessive value given by the Value General.***

(Butler/Turner) 167

FOR: Councillors J Abbey, K Butler, A Cameron, J Jones, A McGrath, C Pothan and M Reid

AGAINST: K Turner

Foreshadowed Motion

That:

1. *Council no longer charge rates to Community Halls and Community Halls be reimbursed for any payments made in the last financial year*

2. *A full review of Council charges to all community run organisations be done after the Local Government Elections by a group comprising of Council Staff, Councillors and Community Groups with a draft policy to the new Council in time for the next financial year*

Cameron

The Amendment became the motion

RESOLVED that :

1. Community Halls

- *A report be prepared for Council to consider an appropriate method to offer a donation back to Community Hall Associations should any not obtain charity status which is rate exempt.*
- *All Community Hall Associations that register with Council their charity status within the 2024 calendar year be considered exempt of rates from July 2024.*

2. Not-for-profit & Community Groups

- *A report be prepared for Council to consider an appropriate method to offer a donation back of a percentage of the General Rates charged to volunteer run not-for-profit groups that provide community benefit.*

3. Bowning Hall

- *A 12 month retrospective donation of 50% of the 2023-24 rates bill be given back to Bowning Hall considering their difficulty in paying rates due to the ongoing excessive value given by the Value General.*

(Butler/Turner) 168

FOR: Councillors J Abbey, K Butler, A Cameron, J Jones, A McGrath, C Pothan, M Reid and K Turner

AGAINST: Nil

8. Questions with Notice

8.1 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE - CRAGO MILL PRECINCT, YASS WATER TREATMENT PLANT, LOANS, FINACIAL SUPPORT & GRANTS OFFICER

Questions

Councillor Kristin Butler submitted the following Questions with Notice:

1. *How will the Crago Mill \$50 million loan be repaid if a Special Rate Variation is not applied to this project?*
2. *Does Council have the lending capacity for another loan if the Water Treatment Plant grant is unsuccessful and if so, how will that be repaid?*
3. *How much land will need to be sold in order to offset the Crago cost, and for how long will that meet the repayments?*
4. *What grants has Council identified it will go after for funding the Crago Mill project?*
5. *Does Council have an experienced Grant Officer on payroll for grant applications now and in the future?*
6. *Does Council have a full-time Chief Financial Officer advising on how to meet repayments for the \$50M loan?*

7. *Why was TCorp not engaged as a potential lender for the Crago Mill project at an approximately 2.5% interest rate?*
8. *How long until the money for the Yass Dam Wall is paid off and was this a levy?*
9. *In regard to the accusation of insolvency, could you provide a statement in regard to the recent visit of the Department of Local Government and any statement in regard to external auditing of our 2024/25 budget?*

Response

The responses to the questions raised are as follows:

1. How will the Crago Mill \$50 million loan be repaid if a Special Rate Variation is not applied to this project?
Comment: An SRV is only applied to specific projects identified.
2. Does Council have the lending capacity for another loan if the Water Treatment Plant grant is unsuccessful and if so, how will that be repaid.
Comment: Yes, the WTP loan would be from the Water and Sewer Fund which is separate from the General Fund. There would be either an increase in water rates or a specific 'levy' on water for the term of the loan.
3. How much land will need to be sold in order to offset the Crago Mill cost, and for how long will that meet the repayments?
Comment: There is no set value of land sales. This is a way to raise funds to repay the loan sooner.
4. What grants has Council identified it will go after for funding the Crago Mill project?
Comment: The Federal Department of Infrastructure program, Regional Precincts & Partnerships Program (rPPP) has been identified and an application is being written at the present time. Staff will continue to identify grant funding throughout the project in an attempt to reduce the loan amount.
5. Does Council have an experienced Grant Officer on payroll for grant applications now and in the future?
Comment: Council has staff in every area that apply for grants. We also have a full time Community/ Grants Officer on staff who works on community events, as well as writing/assisting with community and infrastructure grants, as required.
6. Does Council have a full-time Chief Financial Officer advising on how to meet repayments for the \$50M loan.
Comment: Council has financial consultants (1 full time and 3 others who are called upon when needed) who are advising on all aspects of finance.
7. Why was TCorp not engaged as a potential lender for the Crago Mill project at an approximately 2.5% interest rate?
Comment: A discussion was held with TCorp when staff first started looking for a lender, but they advised that they were not interested in financing this project at the time.
8. How long until the money for the Yass Dam Wall is paid off and was this a levy?
Comment: Completion expected in 2032. No this was an increase in water rates not a levy.
9. In regard to the accusation of insolvency, could you provide a statement in regard to the recent visit of the Department of Local Government and any statement in regard to external auditing of our 2024/25 budget.

Comment: Council has had discussions recently with its External Auditors who have undertaken the 2023/24 interim audit and there have been no 'red flags' raised in regard to operating insolvent. The Executive Management Team met with the Office of Local Government recently and we were advised that they are reviewing not only Yass Valley but other rural Councils who are submitting deficit budgets. If the Office of Local Government was concerned the first sign would be an Improvement Notice and there was no indication of this during the meeting.

8.2 QUESTION WITH NOTICE - COMMUNICATIONS POLICIES

Question

Councillor Kristin Butler submitted the following Question with Notice:

Will Council Policies, including the Social Media Policy, Communications with the Media Policy and Community Engagement Strategy, be reviewed following the 2024 Local Government Elections? How are reviews undertaken?

Response

Following a Council Election, it is prudent to review all policies to determine if they remain fit for purpose.

A report is usually presented at an early meeting of the new Council outlining a review program for consideration.

The *Social Media Policy, Communications with the Media Policy and Community Engagement Strategy* will all be part of the program for the new Council.

Policies are usually reviewed by the relevant staff member and presented to Council for consideration.

Policies with only minor amendments or no amendments are presented for endorsement.

The revised policies with changes are placed on public exhibition for wider community comment.

If there are no significant amendments, the policies are adopted without being reported back to Council.

The policies attracting submissions seeking significant changes will be reported back to Council with or without further changes resulting from the submissions received. Council may wish to hold a forum with submitters prior to a report being presented to a Council meeting.

For policies needing a major overhaul, new policies or strategic plans, Council may wish to establish a working party to oversee their development.

9. Minutes and Recommendations of Council Committees

9.1 MINUTES OF THE MURRUMBATEMAN RECREATION GROUND FOCUS GROUP HELD ON 6 JUNE 2024

REPORT

The minutes of the Murrumbateman Recreation Ground Focus Group meeting held on 6 June 2024 are included in **Attachment A**.

From these minutes there are no items which covers a matter that:

- Requires expenditure not provided for in the current Operational Plan
- Involves a variation to a Council policy
- Is contrary to a previous decision or position of Council
- Relates to a matter which requires Council to form a view or adopt a position
- Deals with a matter of specific interest

Accordingly, the minutes are presented for information.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Murrumbateman Recreation Ground Focus Group meeting held on 6 June 2024 be noted.

(Butler/Jones) 169

FOR: Councillors J Abbey, K Butler, A Cameron, J Jones, A McGrath, C Pothan, M Reid and K Turner

AGAINST: Nil

9.2 MINUTES OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON 20 JUNE 2024

REPORT

The minutes of the Economic Development Advisory Committee meeting held on 20 June 2024 are included in **Attachment A**.

From these minutes there are three items which covers a matter that:

- Requires expenditure not provided for in the current Operational Plan
- Involves a variation to a Council policy
- Is contrary to a previous decision or position of Council
- Relates to a matter which requires Council to form a view or adopt a position
- Deals with a matter of specific interest

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Economic Development Advisory Committee meeting held on 20 June 2024 be noted and the following recommendations be endorsed:

Item 4.1 State of the Regions Economic Update

1. That Council:

- ***Consider how YVC staffing is impacting on the vacancy rate.***
- ***Review spending levels on Economic Development & Tourism since December 2019.***
- ***Consider affordable housing to meet workforce needs, such as short-term accommodation to continue to generate tourism/events opportunities for Yass Valley and downsizing opportunities, as part of the Murrumbateman Masterplan.***
- ***The State of the Regional Economic Update be noted.***

Item 4.2 Development of an Interactive Tourism APP

- ***That Council consider an interactive touchscreen kiosk in the future.***

Item 4.3 Committee Priorities

- ***That the new Economic Development Advisory Committee consider priorities when the Committee is newly formed.***

(Jones/Reid) 170

FOR: Councillors J Abbey, K Butler, A Cameron, J Jones, A McGrath, C Pothan, M Reid and K Turner

AGAINST: Nil

9.3 MINUTES OF THE MURRUMBATEMAN PLAYGROUND PROJECT COMMITTEE HELD ON 11 JULY 2024

REPORT

The minutes of the Murrumbateman Playground Project Committee meeting held on 11 July 2024 are included in **Attachment A**. The playground concept designs considered at the meeting are included in **Attachment B**.

From these minutes there is one item which covers a matter that:

- Requires expenditure not provided for in the current Operational Plan
- Involves a variation to a Council policy
- Is contrary to a previous decision or position of Council
- Relates to a matter which requires Council to form a view or adopt a position
- Deals with a matter of specific interest

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Murrumbateman Playground Project Committee meeting held on 11 July 2024 be noted and the following recommendation be adopted:

Item 3.1 Playground Concept Designs

That Option 2 be the in principle recommended concept for adoption with the following changes/additions/omissions noted below, and that the adjusted concept be circulated to the committee via email for confirmation:

- ***Curvy paths behind Old School House from Concept 1***
- ***Retain heritage Orchard and exploring path through it from Concept 4***
- ***Incorporate shade over the toddlers' area, suggest moving toddlers area away from back of cottage as the shade sail would interfere with view of the Old School House - could put it closer to passive area where parents may be sitting picnicking.***
- ***Car park - south solution and reduce to half the size. Create a footpath to edge of car park nearest the park so children do not have to walk entire car park to exit their vehicles and get to park***
- ***Fencing down highway and off car park***
- ***Mark in bike parking***
- ***Keep existing pathway on new school side to assist people not using park to bypass the park and reduce waste of existing infrastructure***
- ***Delete path at Landcare in option 2 and create organic pathway from option 1 near Landcare***
- ***Keep all equipment on Southside to enhance supervision of children and heritage view to and from Old School House***
- ***Protect Land Care area from encroachment***
- ***Incorporate school bell back to the location***
- ***Consider safety aspect of surrounding the water well and septic***
- ***Clearly mark what is funded and what is unfunded in this first stage***
- ***Removal of railings at current car park be retained and used at the old school site if an appropriate space***

(Reid/Jones) 171

FOR: Councillors J Abbey, K Butler, A Cameron, J Jones, A McGrath, C Pothan, M Reid and K Turner

AGAINST: Nil

9.4 MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON 9 JULY 2024

REPORT

The minutes of the Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting held on 9 July 2024 are included in **Attachment A**.

From these minutes there are no items which covers a matter that:

- Requires expenditure not provided for in the current Operational Plan
- Involves a variation to a Council policy
- Is contrary to a previous decision or position of Council
- Relates to a matter which requires Council to form a view or adopt a position
- Deals with a matter of specific interest

Accordingly, the minutes are presented for information.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting held on 9 July 2024 be noted.

(Cameron/Reid) 172

FOR: Councillors J Abbey, K Butler, A Cameron, J Jones, A McGrath, C Pothan, M Reid and K Turner

AGAINST: Nil

9. Confidential Matters

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 10A of the Local Government Act, 1993 the following items on the agenda be classified as CONFIDENTIAL and considered in the Closed Meeting of Council in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act for the reasons as specified:

10.1 Tender Evaluation Report - Yass River Bridge Upgrade YVC.IA.37.2023.

Item 10.1 is confidential in accordance with section s10(A)(2)(di) of the Local Government Act because it contains commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it and discussion of the matter in an open meeting would be, on balance contrary to the public interest and discussion of the matter in an open meeting would be, on balance, contrary to the public interest.

10.2 Tender Evaluation Report - Electrical and Telemetry Upgrade of Five Water and Wastewater Sites

Item 10.2 is confidential in accordance with section s10(A)(2)(c) of the Local Government Act because it contains information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business and discussion of the matter in an open meeting would be, on balance contrary to the public interest, section s10(A)(2)(di) of the Local Government Act because it contains commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it and

discussion of the matter in an open meeting would be, on balance contrary to the public interest and section s10(A)(2)(dii) of the Local Government Act because it contains commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council and discussion of the matter in an open meeting would be, on balance contrary to the public interest and discussion of the matter in an open meeting would be, on balance, contrary to the public interest.

(Turner/Abbey) 173

FOR: Councillors J Abbey, K Butler, A Cameron, J Jones, A McGrath, C Pothan, M Reid and K Turner

AGAINST: Nil

Closed Council commenced at 7.46 pm.

RESOLVED that the meeting move into Open Council.

(Pothan/Reid) 173

FOR: Councillors J Abbey, K Butler, A Cameron, J Jones, A McGrath, C Pothan, M Reid and K Turner

AGAINST: Nil

Open Council resumed at 8.20 pm.

RESOLVED that the recommendations in Closed Council be adopted.

(Jones/Abbey) 174

FOR: Councillors J Abbey, K Butler, A Cameron, J Jones, A McGrath, C Pothan, M Reid and K Turner

AGAINST: Nil

10.1 TENDER EVALUATION REPORT - YASS RIVER BRIDGE UPGRADE YVC.IA.37.2023.

SUMMARY

This report provides advice and recommendations on the submissions received for the Yass River Bridge Upgrade YVC.IA.37.2023 tender.

RESOLVED that :

- 1. The tender submitted by Murray Constructions Pty Ltd under Contract YVC.IA.37.2023 for the replacement of Yass River Bridge on Greenwood Road be accepted for a total cost of \$2,755,412 (Ex GST).***
- 2. The remaining funding from the project budget allocation be utilised as a contingency allowance for latent conditions and/or for undertaking additional schedule of rates works.***

(Turner/Cameron) 175

FOR: Councillors J Abbey, K Butler, A Cameron, J Jones, A McGrath, C Pothan, M Reid and K Turner

AGAINST: Nil

10.2 TENDER EVALUATION REPORT - ELECTRICAL AND TELEMETRY UPGRADE OF FIVE WATER AND WASTEWATER SITES

SUMMARY

This report provides advice on the tender evaluation for the Electrical and Telemetry Upgrade of Five Water and Wastewater Sites (YVC-IA-15-2024). Sites are Binalong Reservoir and Pump Station, Primary School Sewage Pump Station (SPS), Petit Street SPS, Willow Creek SPS and Bowning-Binalong Pump Station.

RESOLVED that :

- 1. The tender submitted by Saunders Automation Pty Ltd for the Electrical and Telemetry Upgrade of Five Water and Wastewater Sites (YVC-IA-15-2024) be accepted for a total cost of \$1,091,661.90 (ex GST).***
- 2. A provisional sum of \$35,000 (ex GST) for additional items be allocated.***

(Turner/Reid) 176

FOR: Councillors J Abbey, K Butler, A Cameron, J Jones, A McGrath, C Pothan, M Reid and K Turner

AGAINST: Nil

RESOLVED that the recommendations in Closed Council be adopted.

(Jones/Abbey) 177

FOR: Councillors J Abbey, K Butler, A Cameron, J Jones, A McGrath, C Pothan, M Reid and K Turner

AGAINST: Nil

The meeting closed at 8.21pm