



Ararat Rural City

AGENDA

COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 28 May 2024

To be held in the Council Chambers, Shire Offices
(Livestreamed)

Commencing at 6.00pm

Council:

Cr Bob Sanders (Mayor)

Cr Gwenda Allgood

Cr Jo Armstrong

Cr Rob Armstrong

Cr Peter Beales

Cr Henry Burridge

Cr Bill Waterston



Ararat Rural City

A recording of this meeting is being made for the purpose of verifying the accuracy of the minutes of the Council Meeting.

The recording is being streamed live via Facebook, to improve transparency between council and the community and give more people the opportunity to view what decisions are being made. You do not require a Facebook account to watch the live broadcast, simply enter www.facebook.com/araratruralcitycouncil into your address bar.

Recordings of Council Meetings (excluding closed sessions) are made available on Council's website.

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SECTION 1 – PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 LIVE STREAMING

Council is keen to engage with members of the community and live streams the formal Council Meetings to make them accessible. The stream is available to view on Council’s Facebook page from 6pm and on Council’s website following the Council Meeting.

1.2 TRADITIONAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT/OPENING PRAYER/COUNCILLORS PLEDGE

Traditional acknowledgement

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today, and pay our respects to their elders, past, present and emerging.

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, we humbly ask you to help us, as elected Councillors of the Ararat Rural City Council. Guide our deliberations. Prosper what is your will for us, to your honour and glory and for the welfare and benefit of the people whom we serve in the Ararat Rural City.

Councillors Pledge

We will faithfully and impartially carry out and exercise the functions, powers, authorities and discretions invested in us under the *Local Government Act 2020* and any other Act to the best of our skill and judgement.

1.3 APOLOGIES

RECOMMENDATION (if required)

That the apology of Cr be accepted.

1.4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 30 April 2024 be confirmed.

1.5 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

A Councillor who has a conflict of interest in a matter being considered at a *Council meeting* at which he or she:

- 1 is present must disclose that conflict of interest by explaining the nature of the conflict of interest to those present at the *Council meeting* immediately before the matter is considered; or
- 2 intends to be present must disclose that conflict of interest by providing to the *Chief Executive Officer* before the *Council meeting* commences a written notice:
 - (a) advising of the conflict of interest;
 - (b) explaining the nature of the conflict of interest; and
 - (c) detailing, if the nature of the conflict of interest involves a Councillor's relationship with or a gift from another person, the:
 - name of the other person;
 - nature of the relationship with that other person or the date of receipt, value and type of gift received from the other person; and
 - nature of that other person's interest in the matter,

and then immediately before the matter is considered at the meeting announcing to those present that he or she has a conflict of interest and that a written notice has been given to the *Chief Executive Officer* under this sub-Rule.

The Councillor must, in either event, leave the *Council meeting* immediately after giving the explanation or making the announcement (as the case may be) and not return to the meeting until after the matter has been disposed of.

SECTION 2 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

2.1 PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

- 1 Unless *Council* determines to consider it as an item of urgent business, no motion (other than a motion to receive the same) may be made on any petition, joint letter, memorial or other like application until the next *Council meeting* after that at which it has been presented.
- 2 It is incumbent on every Councillor presenting a petition or joint letter to acquaint himself or herself with the contents of that petition or joint letter, and to ascertain that it does not contain language disrespectful to *Council*.
- 3 Every Councillor presenting a petition or joint letter to *Council* must:
 - write or otherwise record his or her name at the beginning of the petition or joint letter; and
 - confine himself or herself to a statement of the persons from whom it comes, the number of signatories to it, the material matters expressed in it and the text of the prayer or request.
- 4 Every petition or joint letter presented to *Council* must be in *writing* (other than pencil), typing or printing, contain the request of the petitioners or signatories and be signed by at least 12 people.
- 5 Every petition or joint letter must be signed by the persons whose names are appended to it by their names or marks, and, except in cases of incapacity or sickness, by no one else and the address of every petitioner or signatory must be clearly stated.
- 6 Any signature appearing on a page which does not bear the text of the whole of the petition or request may not be considered by *Council*.
- 7 Every page of a petition or joint letter must be a single page of paper and not be posted, stapled, pinned or otherwise affixed or attached to any piece of paper other than another page of the petition or joint letter.
- 8 If a petition, joint letter, memorial or other like application relates to an operational matter, *Council* must refer it to the *Chief Executive Officer* for consideration.

SECTION 3 – REPORTS REQUIRING COUNCIL DECISION

3.1 DELEGATION FROM COUNCIL TO MEMBERS OF COUNCIL STAFF S6

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: GOVERNANCE AND RISK LEAD
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 15417

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider adoption of the revised Instrument of Delegation form Council to Members of Council Staff

DISCUSSION

Delegation to Council staff is necessary to enable Council to conduct business efficiently by enabling Council staff to make routine decisions under different Acts.

Various Acts, including the Local Government Act 2020, empower Council to delegate statutory functions, powers and duties. This report recommends that specific functions, powers and duties be delegated to identify staff positions in accordance with the attached S6 – Instrument of Delegation by Council to Members of Council Staff.

The instrument of Delegation has recently been updated to reflect staff changes.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

The key financial drivers align strongly with the thrust of the Council Plan 2021-2025, particularly the following:

6 Strong and Effective Governance

We will work hard to build models of governance that place delivering public value at the centre through effective financial management; well measured risk management; and implementation of effective community engagement practices.

Budget Implications

There are no budget implications arising from the review of the S6 Instrument of Delegation – Council to Members of Council Staff.

Policy/Relevant Law

The Council is required to keep a register of delegations and it must be made available for public inspection.

This report is presented to reflect the changes in legislation and staff.

The Council can amend or revoke any delegated power at any time. Council must review all delegations within a period of 12 months after a general election.

Sustainability Implications

There are no economic, social or environmental implications in relation to S6 Instrument of Delegation – Council to Members of Council Staff.

Risk Assessment

The amendment of the Instrument of Delegation form Council to Members of Council Staff ensures ongoing legislative compliance for Ararat Rural City Council.

It is essential that the Instrument of Delegation are kept up to date to ensure that the members of staff are properly empowered to undertake their roles.

The formal delegation of legislated powers, duties and functions via instruments of delegation, supported by consistent policies allows Council staff to perform day to day duties and make decisions that may otherwise need to be decided upon Council.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

The amendments of Instruments of Delegation from Council to Members of Council staff that been updated using the Maddocks Lawyers Delegation Service and RelianSys software.

The delegation service provides tow updates per year and mini updates as required when legislation changes.

Chief Executive Officer and relevant officers have reviewed then documents.

RECOMMENDATION

That:

In the exercise of the powers conferred by the legislation referred to in the attached instrument of delegation, Ararat Rural City Council (Council) resolve that:

1. There be delegated to the members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the offices or positions referred to in the attached Instrument of Delegation Council to Member of Council Staff (S6), the powers, duties and functions set out in that instrument, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument;
2. The instrument comes into force immediately the common seal of Council is affixed to the instrument
3. On the coming into force of the instrument all previous delegations to members of Council staff (other than the Chief Executive Officer) are revoked;
4. The duties and functions ser out in the instrument must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopts; and
5. The instrument be signed under the seal of the Council.

ATTACHMENTS

The Instrument of Delegation from Council to Members of Council Staff S6 is provided as Attachment 3.1

3.2 KINDERGARTEN & PRE-PREP INFRASTRUCTURE

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: STRATEGIC PROJECT LEAD
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 15419

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As part of the Victorian Government's *Best Start, Best Life* reforms, 4 Year Old Kindergarten will transition from 15 hours per week to a 30 hour per week Pre-Prep program. The Ararat Rural City is one of the first Local Government Areas to commence Pre-Prep in 2025. The 3 Year Old Kindergarten program will remain 15 hours per week.

This report seeks Council's endorsement of proposed kindergarten infrastructure priorities to support the implementation of Pre-Prep, within the context of the broader Ararat Rural City outlook and the available opportunities for support.

DISCUSSION

The Ararat Rural City has six sessional (standalone) kindergartens and three long day care (LDC) services. Most of these services are located in Ararat, with one sessional kindergarten located in Lake Bolac and one in Willaura. Only two LDCs are currently approved kindergarten providers. The sessional kindergartens are run by the Y Ballarat, while the LDCs are run by separate childcare businesses.

Council has been working with the local kindergarten and childcare providers, and the Department of Education to support the transition from 4 Year Old Kindergarten to Pre-Prep. This includes the development of an updated Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan (KISP) and an Early Childhood Education Workforce Plan. Both plans are currently in progress and will be finalised in due course. As part of this work, Council has advocated for new and improved infrastructure to prepare for and support the roll out of Pre-Prep and the Best Start, Best Life reforms in the Ararat Rural City.

The Department of Education have informed Council that the draft KISP modelling indicates that the Ararat Rural City municipality has sufficient places to meet their estimated level of demand for Kindergarten and Pre-Prep in the short-medium term, and therefore that new infrastructure to increase capacity is not required. This modelling would be reviewed if there was an event or change that resulted in a loss of places, and grant funding for new infrastructure may be considered if that occurred. The Department of Education has recommended the Building Blocks – Improvement and Inclusion Grants to support the refurbishment of existing facilities without the requirement to increase the number of places. An additional allocation of \$19 million was announced for this grant program in the 2024-25 Victorian Budget.

Population Growth

The Ararat Rural City Council is expecting the population to grow beyond the rate used in the Department of Education's KISP modelling. Driven by years of chronic workforce and housing shortages, Council have undertaken bold new approaches to overcome housing market failure, support local jobs and transform its community and economy. Council has partnered with local philanthropists, reputable and capable property developers and businesses to rapidly increase supply of suitable, sustainable, safe and affordable housing. With the bottleneck of housing shortages being addressed, local major employers can have greater confidence and are currently actively recruiting to fill job vacancies. Council is also continuing to work with the Wyndham Community and Education Centre and other partners to job match potential new settlers with local employers.

These efforts by Council to address the major challenges for this region will result in population growth, more families and more demand for kindergarten places in the future.

Proposed Kindergarten Infrastructure Priorities and Actions

The priorities in the table below are proposed based on need and benefits, and the likely opportunities for support. The kindergarten services that are not listed in the table below will continue to be engaged, monitored and supported, where possible.

#	Need & Opportunities	Proposed Actions
1	Ararat North Kindercare	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Licensed for 60 places but the facilities require upgrades to support and provide quality learning environments for this many students and their educators. Co-located Facilitated Playgroup, upgrades would benefit multiple users Already co-located within the Ararat North Primary School, supporting school transition There are major employers within the Ararat North Primary School Zone with growing workforce needs, including Ararat Meat Exports, East Grampians Health Service, Gason and the Hopkins Correctional Centre. Multiple housing development projects also within the School Zone at Ironbark Lane and in areas north and east of Ararat. Upgrades to the learning environments should be eligible for the Building Blocks – Improvement and Inclusion Grants 	<p>Council will work with the Y Ballarat to advocate for the Department of Education (landlord) to undertake facility upgrades at Ararat North Kindercare</p>
2	Ararat Early Learning Centre	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They have a very high demand for places. Their Kindergarten and Pre-Prep programs are already full for 2025 and they have no room to take more students without reducing long day care places, which already has waitlists They are one of only two providers of kindergarten in Ararat that can offer childcare before and after kindergarten, an essential service for some families due to employment or other necessary activities. The Ararat Early Learning Centre are ineligible to apply for any Building Blocks grants to build more infrastructure. 	<p>Council will continue to work with the Ararat Early Learning Centre to find alternative solutions to their kindergarten infrastructure needs.</p>
3	Carey Street Kindergarten	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aged facility, originally constructed 55 years ago in 1969. A full replacement with support from a Building Blocks – Capacity Building Grant would provide a better longer term investment than a partial building refurbishment with an Improvement Grant. Carey Street Kindergarten is located in the Ararat Primary School Zone. Many families take into account their child’s future primary school when choosing a kindergarten. There are major employers within the Ararat Primary School Zone with growing workforce needs, including AME Systems, Gorrinn Village and major circular economy initiatives on the near horizon Green Hill Lakes Estate, a major housing development with 160 lots, the Ararat East Development Zone and multiple smaller infill housing developments are located within the Ararat Primary School Zone. Carey Street Kindergarten is located on a large, Council managed site of approx. 4,400m² and therefore has land capacity to potentially increase the building footprint and offer more places in Ararat to meet future demand. Building Blocks – Capacity Building Grant currently still open. It offers a Modular Kindergarten Facility stream, which has no mandatory cash co-contribution requirements. 	<p>Council will work with the Y Ballarat to seek a Building Blocks – Capacity Building Grant to replace the existing facilities at Carey Street Kindergarten</p>

4 Jack & Jill Kindergarten	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sub-optimal building layout results in underutilised areas, such as the small outdoor area on the Robson Lane side of the building, and the large storage areas. • Facility was built in 1985 and some features require updating, such as the kitchen and toilet areas. • Jack & Jill Kindergarten is located a short distance from the Ararat West Primary School. There are multiple major housing development projects are located within the Ararat West Primary School Zone, including Evans Park Estate and Omaroo Estate. • Building Blocks – Improvement and Inclusion Grants may not receive additional allocations of funding in future State Budgets, so there may not be opportunity to seek funding support for these refurbishments in the future. 	Council will work with the Y Ballarat to seek a Building Blocks – Improvement Grant to refurbish the facilities at Jack & Jill Kindergarten.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

4. DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING KEY ENABLING INFRASTRUCTURE

We will ensure that we plan, fund and develop new infrastructure in ways that delivers strong public value. Existing infrastructure will be managed, renewed, and maintained to ensure that it continues to serve identified public needs.

4.2 Work directly with asset users to manage and develop new and existing assets.

4.3 Deliver infrastructure outcomes that support economic growth, promote community wellbeing and safety, and align with Council’s financial sustainability.

Budget Implications

If the grant guidelines remain consistent with previous rounds, the Building Blocks – Improvement Grants program may require a co-contribution for grants over \$150,000, but there is no minimum co-contribution amount or ratio. The budget implications for Jack & Jill Kindergarten will be determined once an indicative scope of works is negotiated with the Y Ballarat and costed. The Building Blocks - Capacity Building Grant, Modular Kindergartens Stream does not have a mandatory cash co-contribution requirement and is therefore not expected to have budget implications.

Policy/Relevant Law

Not applicable

Sustainability Implications

If applications for funding are successful, the facility upgrades should be constructed to the latest standards and should result in improved energy and water efficiency.

Risk Assessment

If funding is awarded for the proposed projects, any potential construction activity will be scheduled around school terms to minimise disruptions to kindergarten and Pre-prep classes, where possible. Where this can not be avoided, Council will work closely with the Y Ballarat, the kindergarten teachers, families and communities to facilitate temporary alternative locations, if required.

The proposed initiatives will reduce the likelihood of children missing out on Kindergarten and Pre-Prep in the future when the population of the Ararat Rural City increases.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The proposed kindergarten facility upgrades will improve early years services in the municipality.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

Council will continue to work closely with the local kindergarten and childcare providers, and the Department of Education, to deliver early years services and infrastructure.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the proposed kindergarten infrastructure priorities and actions:

1. Council will work with the Y Ballarat to advocate for the Department of Education (landlord) to undertake facility upgrades at Ararat North Kindercare.
2. Council will continue to work with the Ararat Early Learning Centre to find alternative solutions to their kindergarten infrastructure needs.
3. Council will work with the Y Ballarat to seek a Building Blocks – Capacity Building Grant to replace the existing facilities at Carey Street Kindergarten.
4. Council will work with the Y Ballarat to seek a Building Blocks – Improvement Grant to refurbish the facilities at Jack & Jill Kindergarten.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments in relation to this item.

SECTION 4 – INFORMATION REPORTS

4.1 2023/2024 CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM – MAY 2024

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 15420

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council adopted its 2023/2024 Capital Works Program as a key element of the 2023/2024 Budget. The 2023/24 budget has a strong focus on infrastructure with a \$9.5 million investment in capital works.

Major works including the following:

- Stage one of Mount William Road construction,
- Urban gravel to seal road upgrades, and
- Maintaining and repairing rural and urban roads and drainage.

DISCUSSION

Council's 2023/2024 Capital Works Program continues to be substantially different to previous years, the program does not have a number of major road and bridge construction projects and will continue to undertake a "small targeted" capital works program.

The emphasis for 2023/2024 is on renewal and updating Council assets, undertaking a larger number of smaller projects of lower value to avoid the impacts of price volatility in the market. Using this approach will also provide opportunities to leverage in-house capability, support local employment and engagement of local contractors.

The capital works program has had an emphasis on the following areas:

- An enhanced road reseal program.
- Improvement to urban drainage.
- Upgrades to the footpath network.
- A major urban road gravel to seal program.
- Commencement of Mt William Road Reconstruction works.

Capital Works Budget Status:

As of 22 May, 2024, the capital works budget is 72% spent, below the expected monthly rate. This has slowed on other earlier months due to the two bushfires in the municipality in February which has put significant pressure on our workforce, causing priorities to shift towards areas of urgent need.

Ongoing Projects

- The Urban gravel to seal project has commenced with Young Street and Thomas Street now complete.
- Mt William Road reconstruction has commenced, with tree trimming and removal commencing and ground works following soon after, an updated resident notification of detours has been sent in the last week. The majority of works are expected to be complete by the end of financial year allowing us to meet funding obligations.

- Road resheeting has seen substantial progress with 109% of the budget expended
- OTTA seals to rural roads within the municipality will be completed before the end of financial year
- Council will be trialling the use of the TerraPave system on Warrayatkin Road from Warrak Road for a distance of one kilometre, these works will be undertaken in the first week of June. Terra Pave products are an environmentally safe, all-purpose liquid soil additive that is mixed with water and used to prevent base failure, dust pollution, soil erosion and increases soil strength and reduces permeability. This product is an alternative to the traditional stabilisation concrete lime and asphalt pavements which produce greenhouse gas and carbon dioxide. Terra Pave is non-petroleum-based and eco-friendly, evaporating only water during the curing process and emitting no volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Developed in conjunction with University of Texas, USA, Terra Pave has been used in more than 40 countries around the world, including Canada, Mongolia, Madagascar, countries within South America and Africa. The application has been designed for use in hot arid areas and will be interesting to see how it performs in a cooler climate.
- Small property capital projects has been fully expended with 121% of the budget expended.

	Budget	Committed/ Contracted	Expended	%	Notes
PROPERTY -CAPITAL					
Property Capital	\$400,000	\$69,700	\$414,449	121%	These works are made up of a series of smaller projects across the municipality.
					This amount does not include payments for the funded playground project completed in 2023.
					This budget has been fully expended.
Alexandra Oval Resurfacing			\$235,830		This was an unbudgeted project. Works on the Alexandra Oval are complete – users will have access to the facility from 1 April 2024.
Ararat Fitness Centre Stage 1	\$950,000		\$50,329	5%	This project has been halted due to age and compliance issues. Further information was provided at the April Council meeting.
TOTAL PROPERTY		\$69,700	\$690,428		
PLANT & EQUIPMENT					
Plant and Vehicles			\$346,146		These unbudgeted items include four new passenger vehicles and a new mower that was purchased at the start of the financial year.
Book stock - Library Book Replacement	\$40,000		\$31,217	78%	Quarter 4 payment is due in June 2024. This will be fully expended by the end of financial year.
TOTAL PLANT & EQUIPMENT			\$377,363		

<u>ROADS</u>					
Gravel Road Sheeting & Gravel Road Widening	\$2,800,000	\$597,858	\$2,441,141	107%	<p>The 23/24 Resheeting and Road Widening program is fully expended.</p> <p>The committed component of the budget is for OTTA Sealing of a number of rural roads that have consistent resheeting work undertaken on them. These works will be completed in May 2024.</p>
Reseal Program	\$1,000,000	\$77,396	\$773,855	85%	<p>Design works are complete for Rhymney Rd.</p> <p>Geotechnical Investigation and design works are nearing completion for the Buangor Ben Nevis Rd. This work is being completed with funding from LRCI and Council. These works will be completed as a part of the 24/25 capital works program.</p> <p>Road reseal program commenced in September 2023 and was completed in December 2023.</p> <p>Line Marking is expected to be completed before the end of financial year.</p> <p>This budget is expected to be underspent by the end of financial year with Rhymney Road works on hold due to cost estimates. This allocation will be redirected to other projects including Helendoite Road Bridge and McLellan Street reconstruction.</p>
Mt William Road	\$1,000,000	\$232,066	\$31,217	28%	<p>Work have commenced.</p> <p>The works have been set out, tree works completed and stabilising contractors engaged to commence in the second week of June 24, and stone ordered as part of the project.</p> <p>These works will be complete by the end of financial year in line with the Roads to Recovery funding.</p>
Urban Road Gravel to Seal	\$2,200,000	\$189,053	\$284,958	22%	<p>Designs are now ready to commence including Currajong Avenue/McLellan Street, Bailey Lane, Mulcahy Road & King Street, with quotations sought for works to be undertaken by external contractors for kerb and channel works.</p>

					<p>The OTTA seal has been completed on Elizabeth Street East, Thomas and Young Streets, Ararat.</p> <p>Planning works for the 24/25 program is currently being undertaken, with design quotation sought to provide works allocations for the up coming financial year.</p> <p>This budget is expected to be underspent with the works being completed costing significantly less than estimated.</p>
Major Patching		\$45,200	\$55,251		<p>This line item is unbudgeted.</p> <p>Major patching contractors have commenced works.</p> <p>Asphalting works have been completed at the Deneys Carpark.</p>
Footpath Renewal Program	\$400,000	\$6,900	\$512,576	130%	<p>Several footpath works have been completed this year within Ararat and rural townships.</p> <p>Works have recently been completed in McGibbony Street and Ford Street in Ararat and Walkerville & Wileman Street in Willaura.</p> <p>The committed works are for funded works on Tunnel Track in Pomonal.</p>
Urban Drainage Works	\$750,000	\$209,139	\$326,641	71%	<p>Works have been completed in Golf Links Road and are nearing completion in Thompson and Kneale Streets, Ararat.</p> <p>A number of small works are expected to be complete by the end of financial year.</p> <p>One significant project is also to be undertaken with connection of drainage from Queen Street to Cemetery Creek, with the tender having been approved in May 2024.</p>
TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE		\$1,096,373	\$4,425,639		
TOTAL CAPITAL WORKS		\$1,166,073	\$5,493,703		

There are also recreation facilities projects that were funded in the 2021/2022 budget that have extended beyond the single financial year. The committed expenditure includes contracts entered for construction of various elements of the projects. The table below provides a summary of these projects:

Capital Work Element	Committed expenditure	% complete	Notes
Gordon St Recreation Reserve	\$4,825,767	100%	<p>The pavilion has reached practical completion with an Occupancy Permit being provided in mid March 2024.</p> <p>Fencing of the soccer and AFL fields has commenced and concreting of the little athletics infrastructure has been completed. Seeding of the soccer pitch is the final works to be completed.</p> <p>The Ministerial opening for the redevelopment is to be held on Friday 21 June 2024.</p>
Buangor Recreation Reserve Kitchen Extension	\$53,590	20%	<p>The project has been out to the market and came in with a significant price difference between the cost plan and the pricing received from the tenderers.</p> <p>Funding opportunities are being looked at to progress this project further.</p>
Lake Bolac Golf Club Kitchen	\$179,864	91%	<p>Works were undertaken by Build Forth, from Ballarat, this project is complete.</p>

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

The key financial drivers align strongly with the thrust of the Council Plan 2021-2025, particularly the following:

- 4.1 Ensure that asset development and renewal during the planning period matches that identified in Council's Asset Plan 2021-2031.
- 4.2 Work directly with asset users to manage and develop new and existing assets.
- 4.3 Deliver infrastructure outcomes that support economic growth, promote community wellbeing and safety and align with Council's financial sustainability.
- 6.1 Deliver responsible budget outcomes, linked to strategy, that deliver value, innovation, and rating fairness.

Budget Implications

The 2023/2024 Capital Works Program represents a significant element of Council's 2023/2024 Budget. In the current civil construction market, it is essential that Council manages capital works expenditure carefully to ensure budget outcomes are met.

Policy/Relevant Law

The 2023/2024 Capital Works Program complies with the program funded in the 2023/2024 Budget.

Sustainability Implications

There are no environmental sustainability implications. Council is mindful of considering new innovative approaches to improve its sustainability and environmental footprint as a part of the Capital Works program.

Risk Assessment

The 2023/2024 Capital Works Program was developed as a mitigation of the financial risks associated with market volatility currently being experienced in the civil and building construction sectors.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Development of the 2023/2024 Capital Works Program represented an agile response to market conditions. A capacity to rework strategy based on a changing environment is a critical element in developing an innovative organisation.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

The 2023/2024 Capital Works Program has been developed as an element of the 2023/2024 Budget. There was extensive community engagement undertaken prior to adoption.

RECOMMENDATION

That

1. Council receive this information report.

4.2 COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025 YEAR 3 ACTION PLAN UPDATE (MAY 2024)

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO's OFFICE
REFERENCE: 15421

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council Plan 2021-2025 contains actions to be undertaken during the 2023/2024 (Year 3) financial year under the strategic objectives:

1. Growing our place
2. Building robust local economies
3. Preserving the environment
4. Developing and maintaining key enabling infrastructure
5. Enhancing community life; and
6. Strong and effective governance

The Council Plan 2021-2025 Year 3 Action Plan is presented to Council and highlights the actions identified against the strategic objectives.

DISCUSSION

This report outlines the actions to be undertaken for Year 3 of the Council Plan 2021-2025.

The Council Plan for 2023/2024 (Year 3) contains 73 actions, which is provided as Attachment 4.3.

Status	Number of items
Complete	16
In progress 0-50%	18
In progress 51-99%	23
Ongoing	16

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

- 1.1 Develop a new planning scheme for Ararat Rural City that is clear in its intention, supports growth and builds confidence and certainty around land use.
- 1.2 Support innovative housing models that work to overcome market failure and create the capacity to increase the population of Ararat Rural City.
- 1.3 Work with other levels of government, business, and not-for-for profits to develop programs to increase immigration to Ararat Rural City to grow our population.
- 2.1 Partner with Federation University Australia to deliver the Ararat Jobs and Technology Precinct.
- 2.2 Work with other levels of government, local business, and private investors to develop a business park within Ararat Rural City, focused on agricultural value adding and advanced manufacturing, potentially leveraging "behind the meter" power.
- 2.3 Engage with Grampians Tourism and local businesses to drive growth in high yield tourist outcomes.
- 3.1 Position Ararat Rural City Council as a prime mover in driving circular economy policy in waste management, including local processing and management of recyclables, and in use of renewable energy for Council purposes.
- 3.2 Develop innovative energy solutions utilising locally produced waste.

- 3.3 Partner with local organisations and scientific experts to develop an appropriate and pragmatic local government Environment Strategy, focused on the circular economy, emission reduction through renewable energy and management of Council assets.
- 4.1 Ensure that asset development and renewal during the planning period matches that identified in Council's Asset Plan 2021-2031.
- 4.2 Work directly with asset users to manage and develop new and existing assets.
- 4.3 Deliver infrastructure outcomes that support economic growth, promote community wellbeing and safety, and align with Council's financial sustainability.
- 5.1 Open up Council's arts and culture assets to greater community participation, ownership and engagement in decision-making. 5.2 Develop models of volunteering that recognise, support, and properly utilise the skills that community volunteers bring to community life.
- 5.3 Partner with community groups, not-for-profits, and traditional owner organisations to develop Ararat Rural City as a more inclusive and diverse community.
- 6.1 Deliver responsible budget outcomes, linked to strategy, that deliver value, innovation and rating fairness.
- 6.2 Ensure appropriate risk management is applied to Council and organisational decisions. Council's internal function is applied to areas of perceived risk.
- 6.3 Continuously improve Council's community engagement process and practices in line with deliberative engagement practices, while acknowledging the need for a range of different techniques to ensure effective engagement.

Budget Implications

Initiatives and projects listed in the Council Plan Action Plan have an allocation in the 2022/2023 Budget.

Policy/Relevant Law

The Local Government Performance Reporting Framework – Governance and Management Checklist No 17 – Council Plan Reporting - Report reviewing the performance of the Council against the Council Plan including the results in relation to the strategic indicators for the first six months of the financial year.

Where Council has a report, it must also provide details of the report, where Council has no report, it must provide a reason.

Sustainability Implications

None identified for this report.

Risk Assessment

Not meeting the requirements of the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework will result in negative feedback on the Know Your Council website, as well as receiving negative results in the Community Satisfaction Survey.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The list presented to Council shows the innovation and continuous improvement that Council is providing to both the organisation and the community.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

The Chief Executive Officer along with relevant officers have worked to ensure that Council Plan actions met expected milestones and timeframes where possible.

RECOMMENDATION

That

1. the Council Plan 2021-2025 Year 3 Action Plan Update Report be received.

ATTACHMENTS

The Council Plan 2021-2025 Year 3 Action Plan is provided as Attachment 4.2

SECTION 5 – COMMITTEE MINUTES/REPORTS

No committee Minutes/Reports received.

SECTION 6 – INFORMAL MEETINGS

6.1 COUNCIL BRIEFINGS

AUTHOR'S TITLE: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 13039074

OFFICER'S DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Governance Rules state that if there is a meeting of Councillors that:

1. is scheduled or planned for the purpose of discussing the business of *Council* or briefing Councillors;
2. is attended by at least one member of Council staff; and
3. is not a *Council meeting*, *Delegated Committee* meeting or *Community Asset Committee* meeting, the *Chief Executive Officer* must ensure that a summary of the matters discussed at the meeting are:
 - a. tabled at the next convenient *Council meeting*; and
 - b. recorded in the minutes of that *Council meeting*.

DISCUSSION

As a requirement of the Governance Rules, a summary of matters discussed at the Council Briefings held since the last Council Meeting are presented to Council and will be recorded in the minutes.

INFORMAL MEETINGS
Council Briefing held on 14 May 2024

Issues discussed at the briefing:

- 2024/2025 Budget – Detailed breakdown
- 2024/2025 Budget – Capital Works Program
- 2024/2025 Budget – Key Outcomes/Projects
- 2024/2025 Budget – Community Engagement
- Proposed Library Upgrade
- Possible Council apprenticeship program
- 2024/2025 efficiency projects
- Road Surface Trials
- Kindergarten Infrastructure and Pre-Prep Rollout
- 61 View Point Street Development
- Delegations
- Gordon Street Update
- Building and Planning Reports
- Business Occupancy Report
- Ownership of Ararat Mechanics Institute building

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

The report supports the strategic objective of the Council Plan 2021-2025:

- 6.3 Continuously improve Council’s community engagement process and practices in line with deliberative engagement practices, while acknowledging the need for a range of different techniques to ensure effective engagement.

Financial

There are no financial impacts for the receiving of Informal Meetings of Councillors.

Policy/Relevant Law

Reporting of Informal Meetings is in line with the requirements of the Governance Rules.

Risk Assessment

Following the requirements of the Governance Rules will ensure that Council meets its legislative requirements.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

A summary of matters discussed at the Council Briefings are presented for community information.

RECOMMENDATION

That

1. the Informal Meetings of Councillors Report be received.

ATTACHMENTS

The Summary of Council Briefings are provided as Attachment 6.1.

SECTION 7 – NOTICES OF MOTION

A notice of motion must be in writing signed by a Councillor and be lodged with or sent to the *Chief Executive Officer* no later than 12.00pm (noon) and at least six (6) days prior to the Council Meeting to allow sufficient time for the *Chief Executive Officer* to include the *notice of motion* in agenda papers for a *Council meeting*.

SECTION 8 – URGENT BUSINESS

Items cannot be admitted as urgent business other than by resolution of *Council* and only then if it:

- 1 relates to or arises out of a matter which has arisen since distribution of the *agenda*; and
- 2 cannot safely or conveniently be deferred until the next *Council meeting*.

SECTION 9 – CLOSE SESSION (CONFIDENTIAL)

In accordance with section 66(2)(a), 3(1) *Confidential Information* (a) of the Local Government Act 2020, the following agenda items are listed for consideration in the confidential section:

- Item 9.1 – Research and Development – Organic Waste Management
- Item 9.2 – Sale of Council owned land in Banfield Street, Ararat

CLOSURE OF COUNCIL MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

The Open Council Meeting will now be closed, but members of the public are welcome to rejoin the Council Meeting following the recommencement of the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That the meeting be closed to members of the public pursuant to section 66(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020 to consider confidential reports.

OPEN COUNCIL MEETING RECOMMENCEMENT

RECOMMENDATION

That the Open Council Meeting recommence.

Gallery invited to return to Council Chamber.

LIFTING OF CONFIDENTIALITY OF CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTIONS

RECOMMENDATION

That the:

1. Decision in relation to Confidential Agenda Item 9.1 be lifted on adoption of the motion
2. Report of Confidential Agenda Item 9.1 not be lifted on adoption of the motion; and
3. The confidentiality of the report and the decision in relation to Confidential Agenda Item 9.2 be lifted on the adoption of the motion