

Moorabool
Shire Council

AGENDA

Ordinary Council Meeting Wednesday, 7 February 2024

I hereby give notice that an Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on:

Date: Wednesday, 7 February 2024

Time: 6.00pm

**Location: Council Chambers, 15 Stead Street, Ballan &
Online**

**Derek Madden
Chief Executive Officer**

Order Of Business

1	Opening of Meeting and Prayer.....	5
2	Acknowledgement of Country.....	5
3	Recording of Meeting.....	5
4	Present.....	5
5	Apologies.....	5
6	Confirmation of Minutes.....	5
7	Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest.....	5
8	Public Question Time.....	6
9	Petitions.....	7
	Nil	
10	Presentations/Deputations.....	7
11	Community Planning and Development Reports.....	8
	11.1 Planning Scheme Amendment C103Moor Hopetoun Park North – Authorisation.....	8
12	Community Strengthening Reports.....	15
	12.1 Community Asset Committees - Reports.....	15
13	Customer and Corporate Services Reports.....	16
	13.1 Consideration of Intent to Seek a Rate Cap Variation for 2024/25.....	16
14	Other Reports.....	19
	Nil	
15	Notices of Motion.....	19
	Nil	
16	Notices of Rescission.....	19
	Nil	
17	Mayor’s Report.....	20
	17.1 Mayor's Report.....	20
18	Councillors’ Reports.....	21
19	Urgent Business.....	21
20	Closed Session of the Meeting to the Public.....	21
	Nil	
21	Meeting Closure.....	21

1 OPENING OF MEETING AND PRAYER

Almighty God be with us as we work for the people of the Shire of Moorabool. Grant us wisdom that we may care for the Shire as true stewards of your creation. May we be aware of the great responsibilities placed upon us. Help us to be just in all our dealings and may our work prosper for the good of all. Amen.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we are meeting. I pay my respects to their Elders, past and present, and the Aboriginal Elders of other communities who may be here today.

3 RECORDING OF MEETING

In accordance with Moorabool Shire Council's Meeting Procedure Local Law, the Council will be recording this meeting. The following organisations have also been granted permission to make an audio recording:

- The Moorabool News; and
- The Star Weekly

4 PRESENT

5 APOLOGIES

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting - Wednesday 6 December 2023

Special Council Meeting - Wednesday 20 December 2023

7 DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Conflict of interest laws are prescribed under the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) and in the Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020 (the Regulations). Managing conflicts of interest is about ensuring the integrity and transparency of decision-making.

The conflict of interest provisions under the Act have been simplified so that they are more easily understood and more easily applied. The new conflict of interest provisions are designed to ensure relevant persons proactively consider a broader range of interests and consider those interests from the viewpoint of an impartial, fair-minded person.

Section 126 of the Act states that a Councillor has a conflict of interest if they have a general conflict of interest or a material conflict of interest. These are explained below:

- A Councillor has a general conflict of interest in a matter if an impartial, fair-minded person would consider that the member's private interests could result in them acting in a manner that is contrary to their public duty as a Councillor.
- A Councillor has a material conflict of interest in a matter if an affected person would gain a benefit or suffer a loss depending on the outcome of the matter.

A relevant person with a conflict of interest must disclose the interest in accordance with Council's Governance Rules and not participate in the decision-making process on the matter. This means the relevant person must exclude themselves from any discussion or vote on the matter at any Council meeting, delegated committee meeting, community asset committee meeting or, if a Councillor, any other meeting conducted under the auspices of the Council. The relevant person must also exclude themselves from any action in relation to the matter, including an action taken to implement a council decision, for example, issuing a planning permit.

8 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The aim of Public Question Time is to provide an opportunity for the public to ask general questions at Council Meetings requiring routine responses. Public Question Time is conducted in accordance with section 3.7.1 of the Council's Governance Rules.

- (a) Question time will take place during the Council Meeting as provided for in the agenda.
- (b) Questions in writing in the form prescribed by the Chief Executive Officer will be accepted up to 5pm on the day before the Meeting.
- (c) A person must not submit more than two (2) individual questions at a meeting, inclusive of all parts and variants as interpreted by the Chairperson or other person authorised for this purpose by the Chairperson.
- (d) A question will only be read to the meeting if the Chairperson or other person authorised for this purpose by the Chairperson has determined that the:
 - (i) person directing the question is present in the gallery;
 - (ii) question does not relate to a confidential matter;
 - (iii) question does not relate to a matter in respect of which Council has no power to act;
 - (iv) question is not defamatory, indecent, abusive or objectionable in language or substance;
 - (v) question is not a repetition of a question already asked or answered (whether at the same or an earlier meeting); and
 - (vi) question is not asked to embarrass a Councillor, member of Council staff or member of the public.
- (e) Persons submitting questions must be present in the public gallery. If they are not present in the Gallery, the question will be held over to the next meeting only.
- (f) The Chief Executive Officer will read out each question and the Chairperson shall decide who will answer each question.

A Councillor or Council officer may:

- (i) immediately answer the question asked; or
- (ii) elect to have the question taken on notice until the next Ordinary meeting of Council; at which time the question must be answered and incorporated in the Agenda of the meeting under Public Question Time; or

- (iii) elect to submit a written answer to the person asking the question within 10 working days.

Responses to public questions answered at the meeting, will be general in nature, provided in good faith and should not exceed two minutes. These responses will be summarised in the minutes of the meeting.

9 PETITIONS

Nil

10 PRESENTATIONS/DEPUTATIONS

The Council has made provision in the business of the Ordinary Meetings of the Council for the making of presentations or deputations to Council in relation to matters presented on the agenda for Council consideration.

Persons wishing to make a presentation or deputation to Council on a matter included in the agenda shall inform Council prior to the meeting by contacting the Chief Executive Officer's office and registering their name and agenda item being spoken to.

At the meeting the Mayor will invite the persons wishing to make a presentation or delegation to address the Council on the agenda item.

The person making the presentation or deputation is to stand and address Council on the item.

No debate on the item is permitted between the person making the presentation or delegation and the Council.

A maximum of three minutes per presentation or delegation will be allocated. An extension of time may be granted at the discretion of the Mayor.

Councillors, through the Mayor, may ask the person making the presentation or delegation for clarification of matters presented.

The Mayor may direct that a member of the gallery ceases speaking if the above procedure is not followed.

11 COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

11.1 PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C103MOOR HOPETOUN PARK NORTH – AUTHORISATION

Author: Liam Prescott, Strategic Planner

Authoriser: Henry Bezuidenhout, Executive Manager Community Planning & Development

Attachments:

1. Amendment C103MOOR - Amendment Documentation (under separate cover)
2. Developer Contributions (under separate cover)

PURPOSE

The purpose of the report is for Council to resolve to seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit Amendment C103Moor, which provides for the rezoning of land in Hopetoun Park and the implementation of a Development Plan Overlay to guide a future residential development.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Bacchus Marsh Urban Growth Framework 2018 (UGF) identified an area of farmland within Hopetoun Park for further investigation for residential development.
- A proponent led amendment has been lodged providing strategic justification to support the rezoning of 62ha of land, which would support approximately 400 new lots.
- The amendment proposes planning controls and community infrastructure which will service a master planned community of 1,200 future residents and provide benefit to the existing residents of Hopetoun Park.
- To progress the amendment to public exhibition, Council will need to request authorisation to prepare and exhibit Amendment C103Moor from the Minister for Planning.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. **Apply to the Minister for Planning in accordance with Section 8A of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, for authorisation to prepare and exhibit Moorabool Planning Scheme Amendment C103Moor in accordance with Attachment 1.**
2. **Authorise the Executive Manager Community Planning and Development to make minor changes to the amendment documentation if required, where they do not alter the intent of the amendment.**
3. **Prepare a s173 agreement with the landowner(s), that captures the delivery of items generally in accordance with that outlined in Attachment 2, with the agreement required to be entered into prior to Council adoption of a final Amendment C103Moor.**

BACKGROUND

Bacchus Marsh UGF and C81

Hopetoun Park North was identified for investigation as a residential growth area within the Bacchus Marsh Urban Growth Framework (UGF) prepared by Council in 2018. Amendment C81 updated the Moorabool Planning Scheme to support this investigation, including a strategy to:

‘encourage residential growth including community facilities/amenities within Hopetoun Park where it would facilitate improved connectivity between Hopetoun Park and the Western Freeway, to and from the west.’

The Hopetoun Park North precinct is indicated in Figure 1. The land is surrounded by the Western Freeway to the north, by the existing large lot residential development of Hopetoun Park to the south, and on the east and west sides by escarpments looking over the Bacchus Marsh Irrigation District and Pyrites Creek; and Djerriwarrh Creek.

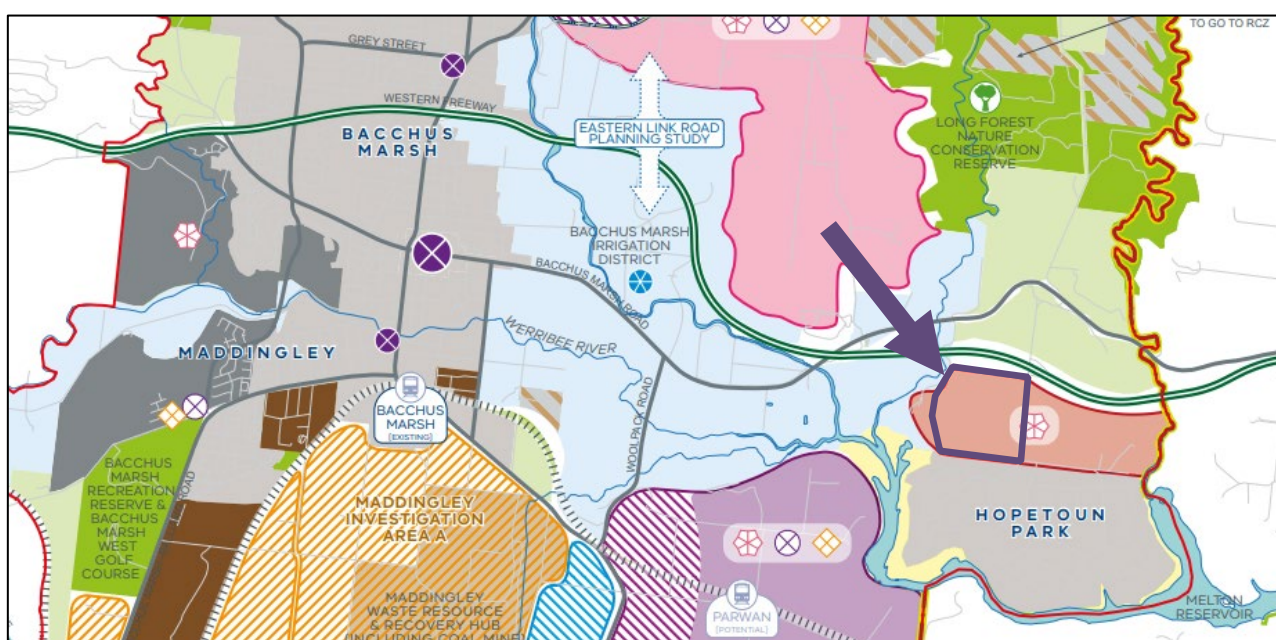


Figure 1: Extract from Plan 1, Urban Growth Framework (2018) edited to indicate site

Investigation of this area has now been completed, including preparation of multiple background reports relating to matters including stormwater, geology, flora and fauna, transport and open space. As a result, Amendment C103Moor has been prepared for authorisation and public exhibition.

Site

The Amendment land is comprised of eight lots held by three landowners totalling 62ha. The northern site boundary is adjacent to publicly owned land associated with the Western Freeway. The eastern boundary is formed by Hopetoun Park Road, a Council owned road, with site access to be from this direction. The southern site boundary abuts low density residential properties within the existing Hopetoun Park estate. The western boundary winds along the top of the escarpment, with the natural break of slope forming the boundary of the amendment. The proponent holds the largest area of developable land (58 ha). The land is currently in the Farm Zone, with existing land uses being limited to cropping, and some grazing and equine activities. Two rural dwellings are located within the site. There are identified areas of remnant native vegetation, particularly around Hopetoun Park Road and areas of the escarpment. The boundary of Amendment C103Moor is illustrated in Figure 2.



Figure 2: Site boundary overlaid over 2023 Nearmap image

PROPOSAL

Amendment C103Moor proposes to amend the Moorabool Planning Scheme to allow for a future residential development in Hopetoun Park North. The Amendment proposes to:

- Rezone approximately 62ha of land from the Farm Zone (FZ) to the Neighbourhood Residential Zone (NRZ).
- Apply the Development Plan Overlay (DPO) to provide a framework for future development including subdivision, transport, landscaping, stormwater management and bushfire management requirements.
- Apply the Design and Development Overlay (DDO) to manage setbacks and siting requirements for future dwellings.
- Apply the Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO) to two identified conservation reserves.
- Remove the existing Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO) and DDO which relate to rural land uses.

Key Considerations Overview

In response to Council feedback and the challenges identified on site, a proposed masterplan has been prepared. The amendment is now at a point where the key issues have been resolved to the extent that the Amendment can be exhibited to the public. There may be emerging issues which are raised and resolved through the planning panel process. Council will have an opportunity to consider recommendations of the panel before deciding if the Amendment should be adopted.

The proposed future development would include:

- Approximately 400 lots, to be comprised of 1,500sqm lots around the periphery of the site, and 800sqm lots within.
- Significant native vegetation to be protected in reserves.
- Active open space, open space and escarpment reserves above 10% of net developable areas (NDA).
- Up to 6ha of conservation reserve.
- An area identified for local activity centre (future retail).
- Land for a kindergarten, community centre and Maternal Child Health Centre.
- A drainage reserve of approximately 0.9ha.
- A developer contributions offer.

A summary of the key considerations is provided below:

Concept Plan

The concept plan is contained within the Development Plan Overlay (**Attachment 1**) and will guide the preparation of a future Development Plan to be approved by Council. The concept plan has been reviewed by officers and relevant agencies and flows from the recommendations of a range of specialist background research contained in supporting reports. The background reports provide strategic justification for the Amendment and address the prerequisites contained in the Bacchus Marsh Urban Growth Framework, as well as the Strategic Assessment Guidelines (Planning Practice Note 46).

Zoning and Overlays

It is proposed to rezone the site to NRZ and apply a DDO controlling fencing, boundary setbacks and other neighbourhood character considerations. A DPO is also applied which will require that a Development Plan (a detailed masterplan) is approved by Council for the land prior to any planning permits being issued for subdivision. An ESO will be applied to two areas of vegetation identified in surveys as being *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC) listed vegetation. Zone and overlays schedules are included in **Attachment 1**.

Traffic

Hopetoun Park is accessed via a westbound off-ramp from the Western Freeway and via the Old Western Highway. The Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) has advised that a westbound on-ramp is not required. All travel to/from Bacchus Marsh, Ballarat and the west will continue to be via the Old Western Highway (as per current state). An upgrade to the intersection of Old Melbourne Road and Hopetoun Park Road will be required, along with a new roundabout at the intersection of the Western highway eastbound on-ramp and Hopetoun Park Road. Access to the future subdivision will be from the existing roundabout at the southeastern corner of the site, and

a new entry point north of the proposed active open space on the western side of Hopetoun Park Road.

Open Space Network

Local parks are located so that every dwelling will be within 400m of a local or district level park, in addition to nearby green spaces such as linear parks, conservation areas and drainage reserves. Shared paths are proposed around the escarpment, joining to the existing walking path, as well as alongside connector roads.

A neighbourhood activity centre will be the focal point for the open space network, comprised of active open space, a playground, retail and community services; connected to residents via the shared path network and Hopetoun Park Road. A key benefit of the central park location is the accessibility for existing Hopetoun Park South residents.

A shared path extension has been proposed, which (subject to DTP approval) would link to Cowans Lane via the Western Freeway reserve and allow the future option to link the Hopetoun Park shared path network to the Avenue of Honour/Bacchus Marsh, and the future Eastern Link Road shared path network.

Biodiversity

As part of the strategic justification of the Planning Scheme amendment, a biodiversity assessment was undertaken. This assessment identified the presence of high value native vegetation and fauna, including EPBC listed communities on the eastern side of Hopetoun Park Road, and several locations within the subject site. Two areas within the subject site are not suitable for development and have been identified for protection in conservation reserves with the application of the ESO.

Community Infrastructure and Contributions

The proponent has provided a Community Needs Assessment that considers the community infrastructure needs of approximately 1200 additional residents. The assessment included Kinder, Maternal Child Health Centre, as well as active and passive open space, netball, basketball, tennis and a pump track. The proposed developer contributions are included in **Attachment 2**.

In addition to works in kind, financial and land contributions towards infrastructure to be constructed by Council are proposed. An additional levy will be provided on a per lot basis, to cater for community infrastructure items at the discretion of Council. These may include library facilities, meeting rooms or increased provision offsite.

Next Steps

To progress the Planning Scheme Amendment for Hopetoun Park North, Council is required to seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit the amendment.

Following receipt of authorisation, a period of public exhibition will be undertaken, in accordance with the requirements of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and Ministerial Direction No. 15. Relevant residents, landowners and the wider community will be invited to make submissions to Council on the proposed amendment. A report will be brought to Council following public exhibition and Council will be able request a planning panel to consider any unresolved submissions.

COUNCIL PLAN

The Council Plan 2021-2025 provides as follows:

Strategic Objective 2: Liveable and thriving environments

Priority 2.1: Develop planning mechanisms to enhance liveability in the Shire

The proposal to seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit Amendment C103Moor is consistent with Council Plan Priority 2.1. Appropriate mechanisms are proposed to enhance liveability and provide community infrastructure to meet the needs of the growing community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As a privately initiated planning scheme amendment, the applicant is required to pay statutory fees in accordance with the planning and environment fees regulations. The applicant is also responsible for covering other costs associated with the amendment as allowed under the Planning and Environment Act, including advertising and panel costs. If the amendment is approved, dwellings and residents in Hopetoun Park will increase. Development contributions will provide partial contributions towards the expanded community infrastructure required, however partial funding for a kindergarten, MCH and community room will be required, along with ongoing maintenance costs for facilities and open space to be included in future budgets. State Government grant funding is available to Council for the construction of kindergarten facilities.

RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

Risk Identifier	Detail of Risk	Risk Rating	Control/s
Development contributions	Contributions are not secured prior to rezoning and therefore not provided or renegotiated.	Medium	Require contributions agreement to be finalised and signed before adopting the amendment.
Community awareness	This amendment will apply a DPO limiting advertising requirements of future permits, meaning the amendment exhibition stage is the only opportunity for the community to engage in the future land use and development proposal. If the community is not aware of the Planning Scheme Amendment exhibition, then they lose any opportunity to provide their views.	Medium	Extensive engagement with existing residents in Hopetoun Park, including letters to property owners and residents.

COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY

Level of Engagement	Stakeholder	Activities	Location	Date	Outcome
Consult	Individual property owners	Letters sent to individual owners within the Hopetoun Park north investigation precinct.	Hopetoun Park North	August 2022 and April 2023	Some owners met with Council officers to discuss their properties and development intentions.
Consult	Individual property owners and general community	Mail out, notification in gazette and Moorabool and Melton newspapers, Council HYS website.	Hopetoun Park North, Hopetoun Park South, Moorabool Shire	Approximately 40 business days from receipt of authorisation (Likely 2024)	Submissions will be reported to Council. Unresolved submissions can be referred to an independent Planning Panel.

VICTORIAN CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006

In developing this report to Council, the officer considered whether the subject matter raised any human rights issues. In particular, whether the scope of any human right established by the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities is in any way limited, restricted or interfered with by the recommendations contained in the report. It is considered that the subject matter does not raise any human rights issues.

OFFICER’S DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

Executive Manager – Henry Bezuidenhout

In providing this advice to Council as the Executive Manager, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

Author – Liam Prescott

In providing this advice to Council as the Author, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

CONCLUSION

Amendment C103Moor proposes to rezone approximately 62ha of land in Hopetoun Park and implement the DPO to provide a framework for a future residential development. At full development this will result in approximately 1,200 new residents joining the existing community of 860 residents in Hopetoun Park, supported by additional community facilities and services to be fully or partially funded through a development contributions agreement.

12 COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING REPORTS

12.1 COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEES - REPORTS

Author: Kaylene Bowker, Executive Assistant

Authoriser: Leigh McCallum, General Manager Community Strengthening

- Attachments:**
1. Minutes - Bacchus Marsh Public Hall CAC - 28 August 2023 (under separate cover)
 2. Minutes - Bacchus Marsh Public Hall CAC AGM - 23 October 2023 (under separate cover)
 3. Minutes - Blacksmith's Cottage & Forge CAC - 26 September 2023 (under separate cover)
 4. Minutes - Blacksmith's Cottage & Forge CAC AGM - 17 October 2023 (under separate cover)

PURPOSE

Community Asset Committees are established by Council under section 65 of the *Local Government Act 2020* to manage and maintain Community Assets within the municipal district. By Instrument of Delegation, Council may delegate to the committees such functions and powers of the Council that it deems appropriate, utilising provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020*. The Council cannot delegate those powers identified in section 11(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following Community Asset Committees present the following reports of the Committee Meetings for Council consideration.

Committee	Meeting Date
Bacchus Marsh Public Hall Community Asset Committee Meeting and AGM	28 August 2023 23 October 2023
Blacksmith's Cottage & Forge Community Asset Committee Meeting and AGM	26 September 2023 17 October 2023

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives the following Community Asset Committee Minutes:

1. Bacchus Marsh Public Hall CAC Minutes for meeting held on 28 August 2023 and AGM held on 23 October 2023.
2. Blacksmith's Cottage & Forge CAC Minutes for meeting held on 26 September 2023 and AGM held on 17 October 2023.

13 CUSTOMER AND CORPORATE SERVICES REPORTS

13.1 CONSIDERATION OF INTENT TO SEEK A RATE CAP VARIATION FOR 2024/25

Author: Steve Ivelja, Chief Financial Officer

Authoriser: David Jackson, Acting General Manager Customer and Corporate Services

Attachments: Nil

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to resolve the matter of whether it seeks to apply for a rate cap variation for the 2024/25 budgeting and planning cycle.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- For each of the last 7 financial years, Council elected to not apply for further rate cap variations. The decision to not apply for a rate cap variation reflects the Council's desire to work within the rate cap.
- There is a necessity for Council to resolve the matter of whether it plans to apply for a rate cap variation to enable adequate lead time for Officers to develop a project plan if necessary.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolves to not apply for a rate cap variation for the 2024/25 financial year.

BACKGROUND

For each of the last 7 financial years, Council has elected to not apply for a rate cap variation. The decision to not apply for a rate cap variation reflects the Council's desire to work within the established rate cap.

In late December 2023, the Minister for Local Government announced that the Fair Go Rates Cap for 2024/25 will be set at 2.75%. The decision on the rate cap for the 2024/25 financial year was guided by independent advice from the Essential Services Commission. Whilst the ESC recommended a rate cap as high as 3.4%, the Government set the rate cap 2.75% citing continuing pressure on Victorian household budgets as the main reason to lower the rate cap. It is noted that inflation in Australia is currently running at about 5.0%.

PROPOSAL

That Council resolve the matter of whether it seeks to apply for a rate cap variation for the 2024/25 budgeting and planning cycle.

COUNCIL PLAN

The Council Plan 2021-2025 provides as follows:

Strategic Objective 3: A Council that listens and adapts to the needs of our evolving communities

Priority 3.2: Align services to meet the needs of the community

The proposal is consistent with the Council Plan 2021 – 2025.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Depending on whether Council elects to apply for a rate cap variation for the 2024/25 year and beyond, there will a disparity in the level of funds it will have at its disposal to invest for the benefit of the community.

RISK & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES

The financial stability of Council is identified in Councils Strategic Risk profile. Based on Council rates being capped at 2.75% in 2024/25 and projected CPI for future years, Council has currently assessed its ongoing financial sustainability as a medium risk. Several controls are in place to manage the ongoing financial sustainability of Council.

Risk Identifier	Detail of Risk	Risk Rating	Control/s
Financial stability of Council	Limited funding or significant changes in funding sources limiting ability to deliver on Council's objectives.	Medium	Long term financial plan in place to document and review Council's financial position and assist with strategic management of Council's finances. Regular financial reporting to Audit & Risk Advisory Committee aligns with Council reporting. Adherence to financial metrics as identified by VAGO and the LGPRF. Focus on advocacy to support achievement of identified community needs. External audits of financial accounts undertaken on annual basis for annual Report and received an unqualified audit result. Service Review and Planning Policy and Framework implementation. Each service undertaking a review of their services every three to five years. Linking asset plans, community infrastructure plans and service plans to Council's Long-Term Financial Plan. Borrowing funds within a sound

Risk Identifier	Detail of Risk	Risk Rating	Control/s
			financial management framework as a mechanism to finance major projects, as it spreads the payments for such assets across the generations who benefit. Cost control and identifying opportunities to increase revenue streams. Applying for a rate cap variation where required.

COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION STRATEGY

The communication and consultation strategy are contingent upon Council’s decision as to whether it resolves to apply for a variation.

VICTORIAN CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES ACT 2006

In developing this report to Council, the officer considered whether the subject matter raised any human rights issues. In particular, whether the scope of any human right established by the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities is in any way limited, restricted or interfered with by the recommendations contained in the report. It is considered that the subject matter does not raise any human rights issues.

OFFICER’S DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

Acting General Manager – David Jackson

In providing this advice to Council as the General Manager, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

Author – Steven Ivelja

In providing this advice to Council as the Author, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

CONCLUSION

The rate cap for the 2024/25 financial year has been set 2.75%. In the context of the current economic environment, it is recommended that Council do not seek a rate cap variation over the established rate cap of 2.75%.

Council may need to consider or re-assess its position in future years especially where the continued maturity in Council’s Asset Management Systems indicate the existence of assets backlogs and/or insufficient funding to satisfy asset renewal demand.

Equally, if the Council wishes to expand or increase its levels of services and infrastructure beyond the constraints of the current strategic financial plan, it may need to consider the option of applying for a rate cap variation in future years, especially if external funding is not available.

14 OTHER REPORTS

Nil

15 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

16 NOTICES OF RESCISSION

Nil

17 MAYOR'S REPORT

17.1 MAYOR'S REPORT

Author: Dianne Elshaug, Co-ordinator CEOs Office

Authoriser: Derek Madden, Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: Nil

PURPOSE

To provide details to the community on the meetings and events attended by the Mayor since the last Ordinary Meeting of Council.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

That the Mayor's Report be tabled for consideration at the Ordinary Meeting of Council.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives the Mayor's Report.

18 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

19 URGENT BUSINESS

20 CLOSED SESSION OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

Nil

21 MEETING CLOSURE