

MINUTES of the Ordinary Meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council held in the Municipal Chambers, Civic Centre, Roberts Avenue Horsham on 16 April, 2018 at 5.30pm.

PRESENT: Cr Pam Clarke, Mayor; Cr Alethea Gulvin, Cr Josh Koenig, Cr Les Power, Cr David Grimble, Cr Mark Radford.

ALSO IN

ATTENDANCE: Sunil Bhalla, Chief Executive; Graeme Harrison, Director Corporate Services; Angela Murphy, Director Planning & Economic; Kevin O'Brien, Director Community Services; John Martin, Director Technical Services; Fiona Kelly, Executive Assistant.

1. Reading of prayer and the acknowledgement of country statement

The Prayer and Acknowledge of Country Statement were read by the Chairman, Cr P Clarke.

2. Welcome to distinguished guests or persons in the public gallery

Chairman, Cr Clarke welcomed those in attendance to the Council Meeting.

The Mayor advised the gallery that the Council meeting will be recorded to maintain an audio archive.

David Bowe	Cheryl Linke	Kath Dumesny
Daina Oliver, WMT	Jess Black, ABC Radio	

3. Apologies and request for Leave of Absence

Apology received from Cr John Robinson for today's Council meeting.

Moved Cr Radford, Seconded Cr Gulvin that the apology from Cr Robinson be received.

CARRIED

4. Confirmation of minutes and signing thereof

Moved Cr Gulvin, seconded Cr Power that the Minutes emanating from the Ordinary Meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council held in the Municipal Chambers, Civic Centre, Horsham at 5.30pm on 3 April, 2018 be adopted.

CARRIED

5. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest Sec 79, Local Government Act, 1989 (As Amended)

Cr Radford declared a Conflict of Interest, under Section 79(2)(C) at Item No. 10.2.1 (in open Council). Cr Radford is a member of the ACE Ride Committee.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

NIL

7. OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE MOTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

NIL

7.2 RECEPTION AND READING OF PETITIONS, MEMORIALS, JOINT LETTERS AND DEPUTATIONS

NIL

7.3 MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

NIL

7.4 COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

NIL

7.5 ORDERS OF THE DAY

NIL

8. OTHER REPORTS

8.1 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS – RECORD OF MEETINGS

Council Briefing meeting held on Monday 9 April, 2018 at 5.00pm in the Reception Room.

Council Budget meeting held on Tuesday 10 April, 2018 at 5.00pm in the Reception Room.

Refer to **Appendix “8.1A”**.

Recommendation

That Council note the Assembly of Councillors’ – Record of Meetings.

Moved Cr Radford, Seconded Cr Koenig that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

8.2 SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

NIL

8.3 INWARD CORRESPONDENCE

NIL

8.4 COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES

- 8.4.1 Western Highway Action Committee (WHAC) held on Friday 23 February, 2018 at 10am at the Pyrenees Shire Council Chambers, 5 Lawrence Street, Beaufort.**
- 8.4.2 Local Fire Prevention Committee held on Tuesday 6 March, 2018 at 10.30am in the Reception Room.**
- 8.4.3 RoadSafe Wimmera Inc held on Monday 9 April, 2018 at 7pm at the Kaniva Shire Hall, 15 Baker Street, Kaniva.**

Refer to **Appendix "8.4A"** for copy of minutes.

Moved Cr Power, Seconded Cr Gulvin that the Council Committee Minutes be received.

CARRIED

9. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cr Gulvin

- 4 April – Horsham Recreation Reserve Committee meeting. Discussed the poor condition of the flooring in the footy clubrooms. There is money in the budget to assist with re-flooring and they hope this can be replaced before the September grand final. They were very happy with funds allocated to them through community grants.
- Council briefing meetings.
- Cr Gulvin received a phone call on Saturday about the Youth Strategy survey and was pleased to provide personal views, opinions and thoughts. Also discussed further education for youth through Fed Uni.

Cr Koenig

No reports.

Cr Grimble

- Cr Grimble talked about the Fire Prevention Committee and the media release issued by GWMWater around water pressure increases for Horsham and Haven customers. This has been an issue in the past for fire brigades and permits.
- Cr Grimble had a question for Mr Martin about the Local Advisory Fire Prevention Committee minutes in regard to Mark Francisco and when the trees along Reservoir Rd to Winfields Rd will be addressed. Mr Martin responded advising that this matter will be followed up.

Cr Power

- 6 April - Project Control Group meeting at Laharum football oval to have a look at the change rooms. Their facilities will be marvellous for all the user groups including cricket, football and tennis clubs.
- 9 April – Horsham Aquatic Centre committee meeting at the Aquatic Centre. The meeting was well attended. The committee were given a presentation on what the YMCA hope to achieve. They are working towards opening a 24/7 gym.
- 14 April –Cr Power visited the Ararat Olympic Pool to see what they have done with their pool since he was there 20 years ago. They have a splash pool in the middle of the lawn. It would be good if Horsham could build something like this.
- 14 April – Cr Power presented an award for the Blue Ribbon Foundation Spirit of Sport to a young Pimpinio boy.
- 16 April - Opening of the HRCC website, improving our communication. It was really well done. Congratulations to Sunil and staff for launching the site.

Cr Radford

- 12 April - MAV teleconference – Briefing on the recycling industry which is very topical at present. SKM were the speakers. It was interesting to note that there were 38 listening in. SKM have sites in Coolaroo, Mornington and Laverton. The paper recycling rate in Australia is 76%, and in 2017 Australia exported 1,473,000 tonnes of recycled paper, approximately 350,000 tonnes of the total export tonnage is mixed paper, which is now banned.
- Visited the new Church of Christ building. A lot of people attended the tour. Alan Anderson had the initial vision to build their church in this location. This will become a premier facility. Well done to the Church of Christ.
- Cr Radford has been watching the Commonwealth Games showing particular interest in the volleyball.
- Cr Radford noted the passing of Laurie Crouch at 99 years old. He was a lovely Horsham gentleman.
- Cr Radford encouraged the local community to attend the ANZAC Day commemorative service this year. This is a special day.

Cr Clarke

- Cr Clarke thanked everyone for the work they have done for the community.
- Most of what Cr Clarke has done in the past fortnight was administrative.
- Aboriginal Advisory Group meeting at the Kalkee Road Children's Hub. This is a terrific group of people. The group went on a tour of the building and could see the aboriginal culture in the facility. Joanne Clarke and Cr Clarke went through the fish trap which is only for children. It is an amazing looking glass.
- Tourism Advisory Committee meeting. They are a dynamic group.
- 13 April - Longerenong College Graduation Formal. Cr Clarke presented the community award. It was good to see the students presented with awards.
- 11 April - Hospital Ladies Auxiliary Autumn Fashion Parade which they have twice a year. Cr Clarke modelled again this year. They gave a cheque for \$65,000 to the hospital. Don McRae gives the group a wish list of things the hospital needs.
- Youth Strategy phone meeting.
- GWMWater and extra water pressure. This is a really good outcome for Horsham. Emergency services will now have enough water pressure.
- 16 April - Launch of the Council website, community map and the community directory. The website is very easy to navigate around.
- Church of Christ Open Day. It is an amazing facility. It won't only be used for church, but also for other functions. The space, technology, how the whole building works is fantastic.
- Laurie Crouch was the first swimmer for the swimming relay to raise funds for the new Aquatic Centre and Cr Clarke was the last swimmer.

Moved Cr Power, Seconded Cr Radford that the Councillors' Reports be received.

CARRIED

10. OFFICERS REPORTS

10.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE

No reports.

10.2 DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

Cr Radford declared a Conflict of Interest, pursuant to Section 79 of the Local Government Act, 1989 in respect of item 10.2.1 and left the Council Chamber at 5.55pm.

10.2.1 COMMUNITY GRANTS 2018/2019

S Surridge

File Ref: F20/A01/000006

Purpose

To present for adoption Council's proposed Community Grants for 2018/19 which will be included in the forthcoming budget.

Background

Council have annually allocated funding to support community and sporting groups in its municipality as part of its budget process. These funds cover both recurrent donations for sporting groups, halls, kindergartens, groups and events as well as grants for specific projects.

Applications for the 2018/19 Community Grants Program were invited in February, with a closing date of 28 February 2018.

Issues

Following the closing date (28 February 2018), applications have been considered by an interdepartmental working group of Council officers, Council's Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee, Executive Management Group and at a Council Briefing meeting.

A final list of proposed Community Grants has been developed for the consideration and approval of Council. **Appendix "10.2A"**.

Consultation/Communication

In line with previous practice, upon adoption of the Community Grants for 2018/19, it is proposed that groups be advised as soon as practicable to assist them in preparing for the implementation of their projects and budgets for the 2018/19 financial year.

Declarations of Interest

At all levels of the assessment process, those on assessment panels and at briefings were requested to declare any conflict of interest and to not discuss or vote on any particular applications where there may be a real or perceived conflict of interest. **Appendix "10.2B"** provides the details of the Conflict of Interest declarations.

In relation to the final proposed Community Grants recipients the following Conflicts of Interest remain:

1. Cr Robinson – has a family member with an indirect interest in the Taylors Lake Hall Committee, and as such has an indirect interest by close association, refer Section 78 (2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 1989*.
2. Cr Radford – is a member of the organising committee for the Arapiles Cycling Event and as such has an indirect interest because of conflicting duties, refer Section 78B (1)(a) of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Financial

The proposed allocation of \$365,539 represents a 2% increase on the previous year's allocation. Provision for this allocation will be included in Council's Draft 2018/19 Budget.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

The Horsham Rural City Council Community Grants Program Guideline links to the key priorities of the Health and Well-being Plan.

Recommendation

1. To allocate funding of \$365,539 in the 2018/19 Budget for approved community grants and donations and to advise all successful and unsuccessful grant applicants of the outcome of their submissions during April, 2018.
2. To approve the allocations to the various grant recipients as detailed in **Appendix "10.2A"** except for allocations to the Taylors Lake Hall and the Arapiles Cycling Event.
3. To approve the allocation to the Taylors Lake Hall.
4. To approve the allocation to the Arapiles Cycling Event.

Moved Cr Grimble, Seconded Cr Gulvin that Council -

1. **Allocate funding of \$365,539 in the 2018/19 Budget for approved community grants and donations and to advise all successful and unsuccessful grant applicants of the outcome of their submissions during April, 2018.**
2. **Approve the allocations to the various grant recipients as detailed in Appendix "10.2A".**

CARRIED

Cr Radford returned to the Council Chamber at 5.59pm.

10.2.2 AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING UPDATE

D McDonald

File Ref: F18/A13/000001

Purpose

To report outcomes of the Audit Committee meeting of 22 March 2018.

Background

The Horsham Rural City Council (HRCC) Audit Committee is an advisory committee of Council, whose objective is to provide appropriate advice and recommendations to Council on matters as listed in its Charter, in order to facilitate decision making by Council in relation to the discharge of its accountability requirements.

A copy of the minutes from the recent meeting of 22 March 2018, is attached as **Appendix "10.2C"**.

Topics covered in the meeting were:

- Draft 2018/19 Budget
- Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO) Performance Auditing – Security and Privacy of Surveillance Technologies in Public Places
- Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) WorkCare Self Insurance Scheme update
- A report on the progress against audit actions from past audits
- Final Strategic Internal Audit Plan 2017/18 to 2018/19
- Management of the Internal Audit Actions
- Update on the Local Government Act review
- MAV CEO – Fraud attempts in Local Government sector
- Financial Report (December 2017)
- Policies reviewed and adopted (1 July 2017 – 31 December 2017)
- Loan Borrowing Policy
- Strategic Risk Register report
- Insurance update
- Waste/Recycling update
- CEO Appointment
- A range of compliance matters

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

Council Plan Goal 4 – Governance and Business Excellence

Four-year outcomes – 4.2 Manage risk to the organisation and 4.4 Achieve high standards of organisational performance.

Provided for information of Council.

RECEIVED

10.3 DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC

10.3.1 DEVELOPMENT PLAN – 256 OLD HAMILTON ROAD, HORSHAM

A Murphy File Ref: 99/01/08646A

Purpose

To seek Council approval for the Development Plan for 256 Old Hamilton Road, Haven.

Background

This is the second development plan that has been proposed for 256 Old Hamilton Road. The original was considered by Council 7 August 2017. The original approved development is attached as **Appendix “10.3A”** layout is provided below.

The new proposal is to create a lot of approximately 5500 square metres to the south of the existing dwelling, as shown in **Appendix “10.3B”**. At the time of the original development plan there had been no proposal to create any additional allotments. Prior to the consideration of the new proposal Council officers sought clarification from the applicant that there were no plans to create any additional lots.

Issues

The Horsham Planning Scheme contains several Schedules to the Development Plan Overlay including Schedule 1 – Low Density Residential Development Plan (DPO1). Clause 43.04 of the Horsham Planning Scheme states that the purpose of the Development Plan Overlay is:

- To implement the State Planning Policy Framework and the Local Planning Policy Framework, including the Municipal Strategic Statement and local planning policies.
- To identify areas which require the form and conditions of future use and development to be shown on a development plan before a permit can be granted to use or develop the land.
- To exempt an application from notice and review if it is generally in accordance with a development plan.

Clause 43.04-1 of the Horsham Planning Scheme states that a permit must not be granted to use or subdivide land, construct a building or construct or carry out works until a development plan has been prepared to the satisfaction of the responsible authority. This does not apply if a schedule to this overlay specifically states that a permit may be granted before a development plan has been prepared to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

Under Clause 1.0 of DPO1 it states that a development plan is required to be submitted with any application to subdivide land into two or more lots. As the Schedule does not specifically state that a permit for subdivision of land into two or more lots may be granted before a development plan has been prepared, the responsible authority must first decide that the development plan has been prepared to its satisfaction. There is nothing in the Schedule that states that a Development Plan cannot be considered prior to the submission of an application.

A development plan has been received demonstrating how the subject site is to be divided so as to create lots for rural living. It is anticipated that the Development Plan will be similar or identical to any future application for subdivision.

The Development Plan Overlay Schedule 1 – Low Density Residential Development Plan requires that the plan must include the following:

The Development Plan will:

- Include a site analysis which illustrates the proposed subdivision and identifies areas within which it will be appropriate to construct a dwellings and outbuildings on each lot;
- The extent of constraint upon the location of buildings will depend upon environmental factors affecting the land;
- Identify any sites of conservation, heritage or archaeological significance and the means by which they will be managed;
- Provide appropriate arrangements for the provision and funding of necessary physical infrastructure including drainage works which may include the provision of wetland areas to filter storm water;
- Identify the staging and anticipated timing of development;
- Provide an overall scheme of landscaping and any necessary arrangements for the preservation or regeneration of existing vegetation;
- Provide suitable linkages between the site and road, public, bicycle and pedestrian transport facilities to urban areas;
- Provide a Soil and Water Report which demonstrates the capacity of the site to dispose of effluent if reticulated sewer is not available;
- Identify proposed water supplies, storages and systems required for firefighting purposes, and
- Incorporate any requirements of Wimmera Mallee Water in relation to the provision of dams.

The documents accompanying the Development plan addressed the requirements of the overlay. A copy of the response to the requirements of Clause 3.0 of Schedule 1 to the Development Plan Overlay is attached as **Appendix “10.3C”**.

It is considered that the proposed development plan adequately addresses the requirements of Clause 3.0 of Schedule 1 to the Development Plan Overlay.

The proposed development plan is for a two lot subdivision. The proposed lot sizes are 5500 square metres and 4.7 hectares. The size of these lots create the potential for further subdivision in the future.

Consultation

An application under any provision of the Horsham Planning Scheme which is generally in accordance with an approved development plan is exempt from the notice requirements of Section 52(1)(a), (b) and (d), the decision requirements of Section 64(1), (2) and (3) and the review rights of Section 82(1) of the Act.

Previous development plans have been notified to adjoining owners at the request of Council. This application has not been for the following reasons:

- The location of the proposed lot is located within the parent parcel, therefore the only neighbour to the new lot will be the existing owner of the subject site. In this case it is a family member.
- The land is separated from properties on the western side of Old Hamilton Road by an approximately 60 metre wide road reserve. An area of approximately 30 metres of this road reserve is vegetated by remnant native vegetation.

Conclusion

It is considered that the future Horsham South Structure Plan will address the inadequacies of the existing Development Plan Overlay Schedule 1 – Low Density Residential Development Plan as it will provide direction for the future subdivision in the Haven area.

It is considered on balance that the proposed development plan provides for consistency with previous approvals by Council for other development plans and therefore should be recommended for approval.

Links to Council Plan

2.1 Sustaining the Economy – Cultivate Opportunities for the municipality to prosper and pursue possibilities for new development

Recommendation

That Council approves the proposed Development Plan for 256 Old Hamilton Road, Haven, prepared by Ferguson Perry Surveying titled “Development Plan Version 1, 256 Old Hamilton Road, Parish of Bungalally, Crown Allotment 24Q (Part)”, with Surveyors reference H014617 dated 17/11/17.

Moved Cr Radford, Seconded Cr Power that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

10.4 DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

No reports.

10.5 DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES

10.5.1 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2018

Phil Kuhne, John Martin, Anne Donovan File Ref: F16/A01/00001

Purpose

To provide a report to Council on the Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 (the Bill), currently under consideration in the Victorian Parliament.

Background

This report was requested at the Council meeting of 3 April 2018, and draws extensively on a discussion paper on this subject presented to a Councillor briefing meeting on 12 March 2018, which had been prepared by Wimmera Emergency Management Coordinator Phil Kuhne.

The www.legislation.vic.gov.au website lists the Bill as having passed the Legislative Assembly, and is currently in the Legislative Council. The Second Reading speech, by Special Minister of State, Gavin Jennings, provides a broad outline of the Government's intent with the new legislation, and is provided as **Appendix "10.5A"** to this report.

The Bill primarily amends the Emergency Management Act 2013, although there are also changes to parts of some related legislation, including the Country Fire Authority Act.

A focus of the Bill is to provide for modified integrated emergency management arrangements for Victoria, particularly at the regional and municipal levels, and provides statutory support to the "All Communities – All Emergencies" approach to emergency management 'before, during and after' emergencies.

When enacted there will be a staged implementation expected to take 18 months to two years beginning at the State level followed by regional and the municipal levels.

Existing legislative arrangements, including the SES auditing of municipal emergency management plans, will continue to apply until the new legislation is in place. In Horsham's case, the MEM Plan was audited, successfully, in March 2017 and would not be due for a further audit until March 2020, by which time the new arrangements are anticipated to be in place.

The legislation will primarily change and provide guidance on emergency management planning and governance at each level with a focus on ensuring:

- Emergency management plans are aligned through the State, regional and municipal levels to ensure consistency.
- Emergency management plans address the key areas of mitigation, response and recovery.
- Emergency planning is collaborative and community focused

Issues

The main issues for Councils and our communities are summarised in this section.

- ***Council Staff Emergency Management Roles***

The Municipal Emergency Resource Officer (MERO) position will cease to exist. Instead, there will be a position known as Municipal Emergency Management Officer (MEMO). The role of the new position will be:

- To be the main point of contact in Council for liaising with agencies in relation to emergency management activities in general,
- Coordinating emergency management activities internally within Council relating to mitigation, response and recovery.

The Municipal Recovery Manager (MRM) position will be recognised in legislation and will be required to be formally appointed by Council. This position currently exists, but the Bill proposes formalisation of the role, to include the following functions:

- Coordinating, in consultation with agencies, the resources of the municipal council and the community for the purposes of recovery,
- Liaising with any municipal emergency management officer appointed for the municipal district in relation to the use of the municipal council's resources for the purposes of recovery,
- Assisting any municipal emergency management officer appointed for the municipal district with planning and preparing for recovery.

It is not yet clear if formalisation of this role will add to the level of accountability attached to the role.

- ***Fire Management Planning Committees***

Councils currently are required to have a Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee. This committee's role (under the CFA Act) currently includes:

- Planning the burning or clearing of firebreaks,
- Advising the appropriate authorities as to the existence of and steps to be taken for the removal of fire hazards within the area.

- Advising the Council in the preparation of its municipal fire prevention plan.
- Recommending to the appropriate authorities any action which the committee deems necessary or expedient to be taken for reducing the risk of an outbreak of fire or for suppressing any fire which may occur within the area.
- Advising the fire prevention officer concerning the removal of fire hazards.

Under the Bill, this committee will cease to exist with its functions absorbed into the new Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) function, as described below.

Council also currently operates a Local Advisory Fire Prevention Committee (LAFPC), which is no longer a legislated committee. The two committees have provided an effective pathway for Group Officers (through the MFMPC) and Brigade Captains (through the LAFPC) to directly interact with Council on relevant matters.

Under the proposed new arrangements, the MEMPC may establish sub-committees. Hence it would be possible for these committees to be replicated, or the opportunity may exist for interaction with Council to be coordinated through the CFA's own committee structure with Brigades and Groups.

- ***Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC)***

There is currently a requirement for an MEMPC in each municipal area. The Bill proposes some changes to the structure and function of the committee, in particular:

- The Bill specifies that the chair of the Committee will be the Council CEO or his delegate. Previously this has typically been a Councillor.
- The committee is required to have the following representatives:
 - Police
 - Department of Health and Human Services
 - Ambulance Victoria
 - Country Fire Authority
 - State Emergency Service
 - Red Cross
 - One or more community representatives. Currently there are no community representatives on the committee.
- The committee may also have other representatives of agencies with a role in emergency management or critical infrastructure.

The key obligation of the MEMPC is preparation of a Municipal Emergency Management Plan for its municipality. Previously, this has been a responsibility of Council – hence the new Bill requires a greater involvement from the key agencies listed above. This is described further in the next section.

- ***Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMPlan)***

The preparation of a MEMPlan will be a shared responsibility between agencies through the MEMPC, with Council having a lead role in facilitating a MEMPC in its work to develop the plan.

There is a slightly changed emphasis to the plans, being on 'Mitigation, Response and Recovery', with 'Mitigation' being a replacement for the previous 'Preparation' phase of emergency planning.

There is a strong emphasis on community engagement and community emergency management planning. The MEMPlan is also required to align to State and Regional Planning. The State and Regional plans will need to be in place first, for the local plan to be developed. In the interim existing Plans will still be valid. A challenge of this new requirement will be adequately resourcing the required level of engagement with the community.

The Bill proposes that the SES will no longer audit the MEMPlans, instead, each MEMPC will prepare and submit a 'Statement of Assurance' that the Plan complies with the Act and is aligned to Regional And State plans. The MEMPlan will be submitted to the Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee for endorsement rather than Council.

Discussion

Changes in the new Bill which place a greater shared responsibility on emergency agencies in the preparation of MEMPlans are supported.

While there is a perceived loss of consultation through changes to the fire committee structure, the opportunity remains for a similar committee structure to exist, either through the MEMPC itself, or CFA's existing committee structure.

Implementation of the Bill will take some time after it is enacted, as a suite of Ministerial Guidelines will also need to be developed after enactment. Council officers, in particular Phil Kuhne, are likely to be participants in the process to develop these guidelines, thus providing a pathway for local concerns to be addressed during development of these guidelines.

Consultation/Communication

The Bill proposes some new requirements for community engagement in emergency management planning. Consideration will be required on how the engagement achieved through existing fire committees will occur under these new arrangements.

Financial

Horsham Rural City Council receives funding from the State Government to fund much of its emergency planning activities through the Wimmera Emergency Management Resource Sharing Partnership. This is pooled with the MERP funding received by our neighbouring Shires of Hindmarsh, West Wimmera and Yarriambiack under the Wimmera Emergency Management Resource Sharing Partnership. This Partnership provides an efficient means of emergency planning in our four-Council area.

This funding will expire at about the time the new Bill is likely to be enacted. Council should lobby for continuity in the Municipal Emergency Resourcing Program to ensure these new arrangements can be effectively implemented, in particular in relation to the additional community engagement and community emergency planning requirements.

Much of Council's response to emergency events is resourced by Council officers, who are taken off-line from their normal role to undertake emergency activities when events occur. This can lead to a significant disruption in the delivery of the regular Council programs, particularly in the initial period during and shortly after major events, until ongoing backfilling arrangements are able to be implemented. This is especially the case in the recovery area which can extend for prolonged periods after the initial event.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

The Council Plan states that Council has an ongoing commitment to:

Provide municipal emergency management services in accordance with Council's Municipal Emergency Management Plan and Emergency Recovery Plan

Provided for information of Council.

Moved Cr Grimble, Seconded Cr Gulvin that the report be received.

CARRIED

11. URGENT BUSINESS

NIL

The meeting closed at 6.11pm.



The Mayor, Cr P Clarke
Chairperson