



# Alpine Shire

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**M10 – 1 October 2019**

**Bright Council Chambers**

**7:00pm**



The next **Ordinary Meeting** of the **Alpine Shire Council** was held in Council Chambers, Great Alpine Road, Bright on **1 October 2019** and commenced at **7:00pm**.

## **PRESENT**

### **COUNCILLORS**

Cr Ron Janas - Mayor

Cr Sarah Nicholas - Deputy Mayor

Cr Kitty Knappstein - Councillor

Cr Daryl Pearce - Councillor

Cr Peter Roper - Councillor

Cr John Forsyth – Councillor

Cr Tony Keeble – Councillor

### **OFFICERS**

Mr Charlie Bird - Chief Executive Officer

Ms Nathalie Cooke - Director Corporate

Mr William Jeremy - Director Assets

### **APOLOGIES**

Nil



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## **1 RECORDING AND LIVESTREAMING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS**

*The CEO will read the following statement:*

All council meetings are filmed with both video and audio being recorded.

Video is focused on a specific area however audio from the entire room is captured.

By speaking during question time, or at any time during the meeting, you consent to your voice and any comments you make being recorded.

In common with all narrative during council meetings verbal responses to congratulations, obituaries and question time will not be recorded in the written minutes.

The reasoning behind recording council meetings is of course to hold us more accountable and improve transparency of council's decision making to our community.

The full meeting is being streamed live on Council's YouTube channel which is "Alpine Shire Council" and will also be available on the YouTube channel shortly after this meeting.

## **2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS, AND RECOGNITION OF ALL PEOPLE**

*The CEO will read the following statement:*

The Alpine Shire Council acknowledges the traditional owners of the land we are now on.

We also acknowledge those people who have contributed to the rich fabric of our community and strive to make wise decisions that will improve the quality of life for all.

## **3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

### **3.1 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING – M9 – 10 SEPTEMBER 2019**

*Cr Nicholas*

*Cr Forsyth*

*That the minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting M9 held on 10 September 2019 as circulated be confirmed.*

*Carried*

## **4 APOLOGIES**

Nil

## **5 OBITUARIES / CONGRATULATIONS**

Refer to Alpine Shire Council's website [www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au](http://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au) for its YouTube live-streaming recording for responses to questions.



## 6 DECLARATIONS BY COUNCILLORS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil

## 7 MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

That Council considers an item of urgent business.

*Cr Pearce*

*Cr Roper*

*That Council:*

*Allows a delegation of Bright business people led by Jason Reid to submit an event application for an event to be held in the Bright CBD during the period 7-10 November 2019 which is complementary to the Bright Iconic Rod Run event, for evaluation by Council, with the risk management plan to be assessed by the Risk Assessment Panel.*

*Carried*

*Cr Pearce called for a division.*

*For: Cr Roper, Cr Forsyth, Cr Nicholas, Cr Pearce*

*Against: Cr Janas, Cr Keeble, Cr Knappstein*

The motion was carried.

## 8 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Questions on Notice will be limited to two questions per person.

Questions on Notice can be written or from the floor.

Refer to Alpine Shire Council's website [www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au](http://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au); for its YouTube live-streaming recording for responses to questions.



## **9 PRESENTATION OF REPORTS BY OFFICERS**

### **9.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER – CHARLIE BIRD**

#### **9.1.1 Contracts approved by the CEO**

*Cr Forsyth*

*Cr Nicholas*

*That the Contracts approved by the CEO be noted.*

Contract No:	CQ19044	Process:	Request for Quotation
Title:	Supply of 40mm crushed rock for Alpine Shire's annual Gravel re-sheeting program		
Tenderer:	Indigo Shire Council		
\$ (excl. GST):	\$86,400		

*Carried*



## 9.2 DIRECTOR ASSETS – WILLIAM JEREMY

### 9.2.1 Supply and Delivery of Steel Drum Roller

File Number: AS.0082.00

#### **INTRODUCTION**

This report relates to the award of a Contract for the supply and delivery of a 12.5 tonne steel drum roller.

*Cr Keeble*

*Cr Nicholas*

*That Council awards a Contract for the supply and delivery of a CAT CS66B Tier 4 12.5 tonne steel drum roller to Williams Adams for the lump sum price of \$154,000+GST.*

*Carried*

#### **BACKGROUND**

Council currently operates a steel drum roller which is used for routine maintenance of roads and to support the annual gravel re-sheeting program. The frequency of breakdowns and the maintenance costs have both been increasing over recent years, and it has become challenging to source replacement parts for the machine. Replacement of the machine is recommended while the trade-in value is still good.

Quotes were sought from three separate manufacturers through the Local Government Procurement Service provided by Municipal Association of Victoria Procurement. Three conforming and one non-conforming quotes were received.

#### **EVALUATION**

The evaluation panel consisted of the Director Assets, Manager Asset Maintenance, Civil Works Coordinator and the Depot Operations Officer.

The quotes were evaluated according to the following key selection criteria:

- Cost
- Suitability
- Previous Performance
- Capacity to Deliver
- Social
- Environment

Through this evaluation process it was determined that the non-conforming quote received from Williams Adams based on the supply and delivery of a CAT CS66B Tier 4 roller best met the selection criteria.



## **ISSUES**

The CAT CS66B roller is an overseas model that has not yet been released in Australia, and is currently only available for sale as a demonstration model. The machine that has been quoted has recorded 9 hours of usage. The CAT CS66B roller has an engine which meets the United States Tier 4 emissions standards, which imposes significantly more stringent restrictions on the emission of particulates and nitrogen oxides than older models. The three conforming quotes were all based on the supply of a machine meeting the less stringent Tier 3 emissions standard.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Quotes were sought and evaluated in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy. This recommendation is consistent with the following Strategic Objective of the Council Plan:

- Infrastructure and open space that our community is proud of.

## **FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Council's 2019/20 budget includes an allocation of \$160,000 for the purchase of a replacement roller. The proposed purchase is within this budget allocation.

## **CONSULTATION**

Input was sought from external contractors and from internal staff to assist in the preparation of the specification, and the subsequent evaluation of the quotes received.

## **CONCLUSION**

Following a comprehensive assessment process, the quote from Williams Adams for the supply of a CAT CS66B 12.5 tonne steel drum roller is deemed to present the best value for Council.

## **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Under Section 80C of the *Local Government Act 1989*, the following officers declare that they have no interests to disclose in providing this report.

- Director Assets
- Manager Asset Maintenance
- Civil Works Coordinator
- Depot Operations Officer

## **ATTACHMENT(S)**

- Nil





### **9.3 DIRECTOR CORPORATE – NATHALIE COOKE**

#### **9.3.1 Alpine Shire Council Annual Report 2018/19**

File Number: 900.01

##### **INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this report is to present Council's 2018/19 Annual Report for consideration by Council.

*Cr Keeble*

*Cr Forsyth*

*That in accordance with section 134 (1) of the Local Government Act 1989, Council consider the Alpine Shire Council 2018/19 Annual Report.*

*Carried*

##### **BACKGROUND**

Council's 2018/19 Annual Report (the "Report") has been prepared in accordance with requirements of the *Local Government Act 1989* and includes a report on the operations of the Council, an audited performance statement, and audited financial statements.

*The Financial Statements and Performance Statement included in the report have been approved in principle by Council, audited, endorsed by Audit Committee, and certified by two Councillors authorised by Council. In addition the Report will be submitted to the Minister for Local Government by the legislated date of 30 September, and the final Report must now be considered by Council.*

*The Report includes the following sections:*

- *Performance Report*
- *Governance Report*
- *Grants and Funding*
- *Financial Report.*

##### **PERFORMANCE REPORT**

This section of the Report provides an overview of progress of the strategic themes outlined in the 2017-2021 Council Plan. This is the second year of reporting against this Council Plan. Key achievements include:

##### **A high performing organisation**

- Council adopted the Mount Buffalo Business Case Assessment Report which provides an assessment of seven key concepts to reinvigorate Mount Buffalo. The assessment recommends a \$2 million café in the front rooms of the Mount Buffalo Chalet.



- Council advocated strongly for investment for this concept leading up to the State Government election and will continue to advocate strongly on behalf of the community.
- Council published its online Project Dashboard in July 2018, enabling the community and other stakeholders to view and track the progress of current capital works projects across the Alpine Shire.

### **A responsible and sustainable organisation**

- Improving how Council delivers customer service to the community continues to be a priority for Council. In 2018/19 we launched our digital transformation project which will deliver a new website and Customer Request Management system in 2019/20. This will significantly improve the experience for customers and enhance the delivery of effective, efficient and timely customer service to the community.

### **Incredible places for our community and visitors**

- In 2018/19 we exceeded the delivery of our adopted capital works program by delivering on our commitments, whilst also securing additional funding to deliver more outcomes for our community (\$13.4 million expenditure vs \$11.8 million budgeted). Key deliverables included:
  - Completion of the 5-year, \$4.85m Roads to Recovery program;
  - Completion of the \$3.74m Alpine Events Park, Bright;
  - Completion of the \$3.3m Alpine Better Places - Myrtleford project;
  - Completion of the \$467k Myrtleford Library Upgrade project;
  - Completion of the \$650k McNamara Netball and Tennis Facilities project in Myrtleford; and
  - Completion of stage 2 of the \$195k Dinner Plain Mountain Bike trails project.

### **Infrastructure and open space that our community is proud of**

- Council's Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) was endorsed by Council at the Council Meeting held on 7 August 2018.
- A successful audit of the MEMP was completed on 25 September 2018.

### **Highly utilised and well managed community facilities**

- A satisfaction survey conducted across branch library patrons showed that 95.4% of respondents were satisfied with their library service.
- Council completed the upgrade of the Myrtleford Library, providing the opportunity to present a modern and welcoming space that better meets the needs of library user groups.
- Contracts were awarded for the transport and disposal of waste, and the operation of the Council's three transfer stations.



### **A well planned and safe community**

- Council completed the Local Laws review, with the Community Local Law 2019 being adopted by Council at its April 2019 Council meeting. The Law came into effect from 1 July 2019 and replaces the previous Local Laws 2-7, and removes a large amount of duplication compared to the previous Laws.

### **A thriving and connected community**

- A total of 131 events were delivered across the Shire throughout the financial year.
- Visitation data reports for the calendar year of 2018 shows continued growth in visitors to the Alpine Shire, with visitor expenditure reaching \$336m, up 29% on the previous year.

### **GOVERNANCE REPORT**

This section of the Report contains required statutory information including:

- Council's role and administrative details;
- How Council obtains best value for ratepayers;
- Council documents available for public inspection;
- Council's compliance to relevant Acts;
- An overview of Council's local laws.

### **GRANTS AND FUNDING**

This section of the Report provides an overview of Grants awarded by Council through its community grants and tourism festival and events funding programs.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

This section of the Report contains the audited Financial and Standard Statements, Audit Certificate, Performance Statement and Independent Auditor's Report.

#### **Council's Financial Performance**

Council ended the 2018/19 year with a surplus of \$2.4m, which was \$1.3m less than the \$3.7m surplus projected in the 2018/19 Annual Budget (the "Budget"), which was primarily due to the reclassification of capital expenditure to operating expenditure

#### **1. Income**

Council received more income than expected in 2018/19. In total Council received \$31.6m in income which was \$3.6m favourable to the Budget projection of \$28m. This income result can be further illustrated across the following categories:

##### *1.1 Rates and charges*

Council received total rates and charges of \$17.9m which was \$0.1m unfavourable to Budget due to a discount in income from AGL Rates in Lieu for 2018/19 as a result of



reduced electricity generation. This unfavourable result was partially offset by continuing supplementary development in the Shire.

### *1.2 Grant income*

Council received total grant income (both operating and capital) of \$9.3m which was \$2.8m favourable to Budget. Major contributors to this result included:

- Early receipt of half of the 2019/20 Victorian Grants Commission grant, being an unbudgeted payment of \$1.9m;
- Unbudgeted grants including:
  - \$0.2m in additional rates valuation grants received due to the centralisation of valuations;
  - \$0.8m Roads Reconstruction grant.

These gains were partially offset by grants which had been budgeted for 2018/19 but which were received in late 2017/18 which included:

- \$0.5m for the Alpine Better Places Myrtle Street project.

### *1.3 Contributions monetary*

Council received \$1.0m in monetary contributions, \$0.2m favourable to Budget due to higher than expected developer contributions.

### *1.4 Contributions non-monetary*

Council received \$0.6m in non-monetary contributions, \$0.4m favourable to Budget due to higher than expected development activity in the Shire.

### *1.5 Other income*

Other income was \$1.0m which was \$0.1m favourable to Budget due to higher than expected interest earned on investments as a result of cash balances that were higher than budgeted.

## **2. Expenses**

Overall expenses were \$29.2m which was \$4.9m higher than Budget. This result was primarily due to asset write-downs of \$3.4m, higher than expected landfill rehabilitation expenses of \$1.0m, and increased materials and service expenses; but offset by savings in employee costs and materials and services. In further detail:

### *2.1 Assets written-off / impaired*

\$0.1m was written down in relation to the revaluation of assets held for sale.

### *2.2 Employee costs*

Employee costs of \$7.4m were lower than Budget by \$0.7m (and also slightly lower than 2017/18 costs) due to the impact of vacant positions, the majority of which are expected to be filled.



### *2.3 Materials and services*

Materials and services were \$1.8m greater than budgeted. Influencing this result was \$2.3m of project expenditure originally classified as capital expenditure in the Budget, but since re-classified as operating expenditure. This project expenditure included:

- \$0.3m of works to restore storm-damaged assets;
- \$1.0m of works for the Alpine Better Places Myrtle Street project that related to outdoor furniture and landscaping which are asset categories not capitalised under Council's revised asset capitalisation approach;
- \$0.3m of works for of the Alpine Events Park project that related to outdoor furniture, landscaping and demolition which are asset categories not capitalised under Council's revised asset capitalisation approach;
- \$0.2m of works for the Myrtleford Library Upgrade and McNamara Reserve Netball and Tennis Facilities projects that related to outdoor furniture and landscaping which are asset categories not capitalised under Council's revised asset capitalisation approach.

### *2.4 Depreciation*

Depreciation was \$4.4m which was \$0.3m favourable to Budget due to the timing of certain Council assets that were fully depreciated in 17/18 but not reflected in the 18/19 Budget.

### *2.5 Landfill rehabilitation expense*

Landfill rehabilitation expenses of \$1.0m were \$0.8m unfavourable to Budget due to an increase in the provision for future expected landfill rehabilitation and monitoring expenses for the Porepunkah and Myrtleford landfill sites. This is also due to changes in assumptions around discount factors in the net present cost assessment.

### *2.6 Net loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment*

Council made an overall loss of \$3.3m which was \$3.2m higher than Budget, primarily due to a continuing review of the valuation of Council's waste, parks and open spaces assets classes which resulted in selected assets being written-down and reclassified as non-capital expenses.

## **Performance Statement**

The Performance Statement provides an overview of Council progress against key performance indicators. The Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF) provides the basis for these indicators to enable a uniform Performance Statement across all Victorian councils.

The majority of indicators were consistent with last year with only minor movements.

Satisfaction with Council Decisions reduced slightly compared to the previous year down from 60 to 59, while Satisfaction with Sealed Local Roads increased from 60 to 64.



There was a significant improvement in follow-ups on critical and major non-compliance notifications in Food Safety from 33% to 83%. Food safety will continue to be a focus for the Environmental Health team during 2019.

Generally the financial indicators show that Council is financially sustainable and that services are being delivered within expected parameters.

Workforce turnover increased from 7% to 14%, which is consistent with the sector average of 15%.

### **ISSUES**

There have been no material variations to the Report since the Financial Statements were approved in principle by Council. The auditors provided recommendations for minor adjustments only.

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Council has prepared its 2018/19 Annual Report in line with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

### **CONSULTATION**

The Report will be made available on Council's website on Tuesday 1 October 2019. Printed hard copies will also be available at the following customer service locations:

- Alpine Shire Council, Great Alpine Road, Bright;
- Mount Beauty Library, Lakeside Avenue, Mount Beauty; and
- Myrtleford Library, Standish Street, Myrtleford.

### **CONCLUSION**

The 2018/19 Annual Report shows that Council is financially sustainable and that Council services are being delivered within expected parameters.

Council ended the 2018/19 year with a surplus of \$2.4 million, which is less than that predicted in the 2018/19 Annual Budget. The lower surplus result is largely attributed to a large asset write-down and revaluation initiative due to a revised asset capitalisation method.

### **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Under Section 80C of the *Local Government Act 1989*, the following officers declare that they have no interests to disclose in providing this report.

- Director Corporate
- Manager Corporate
- Accountant
- Governance Officer

### **ATTACHMENT(S)**

- 8.3.1 Alpine Shire Council 2018/19 Annual Report



### 9.3.2 Audit Committee Meeting No. 2019/20-2, 10 September 2019

File Number: 0900.06

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of the report is to present the minutes and recommendations of the Audit Committee meeting held on 10 September 2019.

Key items presented to and considered by the Committee at this meeting included:

- 2018/19 Annual Financial Report (Draft)
- 2018/19 Annual Performance Statement (Draft)
- VAGO Closing Report for the year ending 30 June 2019 (Draft)
- VAGO Final Management Letter for the year ending 30 June 2019 (Draft)

*Cr Keeble*

*Cr Forsyth*

*That Council receive and note the minutes of the 10 September 2019 Audit Committee Meeting No.2019/20-2.*

*Carried*

#### **BACKGROUND**

Council's Audit Committee is established under section 139 of the *Local Government Act 1989*. The Committee's Charter requires it to report to Council its activities, issues and related recommendations. This report relates to Audit Committee Meeting No. 2019/20-2 held on 10 September 2019.

#### **ISSUES**

##### **External Auditor**

The Audit Committee held a teleconference with Nathan Barber, Principal, RSD Audit Pty Ltd to discuss the 2018/19 year-end financial audit results, the Performance Statement and closing report. In addition, the Committee and the Auditor discussed matters relating to audit findings including valuation of assets, provision of doubtful debts and the satisfactory resolution of four previous management letter items.

##### **2018/2019 Annual Financial and Performance Statements**

Each year Council is required to prepare an Annual Financial Report containing financial statements that are audited according to Australian Accounting Standards.

The Financial Statements show Council's financial performance, financial position, and cash flows against the previous year and comprise a balance sheet and statements of income, changes in equity, cash flows and capital works.

The Annual Performance Statement is a specific requirement of section 131 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, and is generated from indicators and measures from the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework. It consists of six sustainable



capacity indicators, 12 service performance indicators, and 12 financial performance indicators – all of which are subject to audit.

The Committee noted and endorsed in principle the draft 2018/19 Annual Financial Statement and Performance Statement subject to minor adjustments and corrections.

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Council complies with the following sections of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Section 136: Requires Council to implement the principles of sound financial management.

Section 139: Requires Council to have an Audit Committee and act within the guidelines made by the Minister for Audit Committees.

This recommendation is consistent with the following Strategic Objective in the Council Plan 2017-2021:

- A responsible and sustainable organisation.

### **CONCLUSION**

The Audit Committee, being satisfied with the advice of the External Auditor and the detail provided in the Draft Financial and Performance Statements, submits the minutes of its 10 September 2019 Meeting No. 2019/20-2 to Council for noting.

### **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Under Section 80C of the *Local Government Act 1989*, the following officers declare that they have no interests to disclose in providing this report.

- Director Corporate
- Manager Corporate
- Health, Safety and Risk Officer

### **ATTACHMENT(S)**

- 8.3.2 Audit Committee Meeting No. 2019/20-2 Minutes 10 September 2019





### 9.3.3 Revocation of Best Value Policy

File Number: Policy Register

#### INTRODUCTION

Council is in the process of undertaking a holistic review of its policies.

The Best Value Policy was originally developed in 2000 to demonstrate and report on how Council gives effect to Best Value Principles, as outlined in the *Local Government Act 1989*.

As the annual Council Plan and Annual Report together address the *Local Government Act 1989* requirements in relation to Best Value Principles, the Best Value Policy is redundant and should be revoked.

*Cr Nicholas*

*Cr Keeble*

*That Council Revoke Alpine Shire Council Best Value Policy No. 29, adopted 22 August 2000.*

*Carried*

#### BACKGROUND

In 1999 the Victorian Government introduced the *Local Government (Best Value Principles) Act 1999*, which replaced compulsory tendering requirements within the *Local Government Act 1989* with an obligation to ensure that Councils seek the best value in providing services.

The objective in implementing best value was to ensure councils were accountable to their own communities for the provision of services.

Council conducts reviews of its operations in accordance with the principles of Best Value to ensure the continuous improvement of services to the community. These reviews are reported annually to the community in Council's Annual Report.

The Best Value Policy was developed in 2000 as a response to requirements outlined in the *Local Government Act* in relation to Best Value Principles.

In order to meet the Best Value Principles contained within the Act Council must:

- meet quality and cost standards
- be responsive to the needs of the community and provide services that are accessible
- achieve continuous improvement in relation to our services
- regularly consult with the community in relation to our services
- report regularly on our achievements against these principles

The Best Value Policy was developed in 2000 in response to these requirements.



## ISSUES

Councils who have achieved the implementation of Best Value with the greatest benefit have done so by incorporating the Best Value principles into the broader operational framework. Doing so ensures the principles are implemented consistently and effectively, and as such provides a mechanism for councils to consistently improve services. Achieving Best Value requires an ongoing process of review and improvement.

Best Value principles are formally addressed within other Council mechanisms; therefore a standalone Best Value Policy is no longer required.

Below is a table detailing how Best Value principles are embedded within Council:

Document	Best Value principle	How the principle adds value to the process
Community Vision 2030	Consult with the community	A key focus is to encourage all plans to be developed in consultation with the local community and other stakeholders.
	Be responsive to community needs	As the documentation of the Council's longer term vision for the community, the vision reflects the current and proposed future community and user needs.
Council Plan	Consult with the community	Strategic indicators linked to Council Plan Strategic objectives) The Council Plan documents the scope or services as agreed in consultation with the community, Councillors and staff.
	Be responsive to community needs	The Council Plan documents Council's understanding of the community's needs and expectations. The Council Plan documents the mechanisms by which Council will plan for and manage changing community and user needs.
	Reporting Performance	Quarterly public reporting against strategic indicators for service provision.
Strategic Resource Plan	Quality and cost standards	In considering appropriate resources to achieve objectives, Council assesses the value for money in the service delivery, taking into account affordability an accessibility of services.
Annual Budget	Consult with the community	Formal public consultation processes and amendment of draft budget in response to community feedback.



	Be responsive to community needs	Forward planning of future budget requirements and allocation of project and service review to the project pipeline for current, or future, Council Plan terms.
Business Planning	Consult with the community	Specific plans developed in consultation with affected stakeholder groups.
	Be responsive to community needs	Services delivered reflect the needs of the general community and service users, within the resources available.
	Quality and cost standards	Budgetary management and performance standards address service quality and service costs.
	Be accessible	Barriers to accessibility to services identified and barriers addressed through action.
	Continuous improvement	Strategies employed to continuously improve the delivery of services within the resources available. Hours of operation, services offered and service delivery reviewed periodically and in response to community use and feedback.
Procurement Policy	Quality and cost standards	Council seeks to maximise value in all purchasing activities. Factors such as quality, quantity, risk, timeliness and cost on a whole of contract and whole of asset life basis is considered to achieve the optimal combination.
Capital Works Dashboard	Reporting Performance	Reporting to the community on specific project status and budget.
Project Pipeline	Be responsive to community needs	Recording of community requests and prioritisation in line with Council Plan timeframes.
Annual Report	Reporting Performance	Section in the Annual Report, dedicated to reporting against Best Value principles. Performance Statement reporting detail service level achievement.
Other Regular Community Engagement	Consult with the community	Stakeholder group meetings and direct communication.
	Reporting Performance	Regular media releases, social media management, public notices, attending community forums, newsletters, stakeholder group meetings, digital dashboards.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The policy has been reviewed in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989*.

This recommendation is consistent with the following Strategic Objective in the Council Plan 2017-2021:

- A responsible and sustainable organisation.

**CONSULTATION**

The revocation of this policy has been consulted with the relevant Council officers.

**CONCLUSION**

The review of the Best Value Policy is now complete and should now be revoked.

**DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Under Section 80C of the *Local Government Act 1989*, the following officers declare that they have no interests to disclose in providing this report.

- Director Corporate
- Manager Corporate
- Health, Safety and Risk Officer

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

- Nil



### 9.3.4 Annual Review of the Domestic Animal Management Plan

#### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is for Council to note the changes to the Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) arising from the normal annual review, and to note the progress in implementing the DAMP in 2018/19.

Under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* (the Act), Council is required to have a DAMP. The current DAMP was adopted by Council on 3 October 2017 and expires in October 2021.

*Cr Pearce*

*Cr Knappstein*

*That Council:*

- 1. Note the changes to the Domestic Animal Management Plan arising from the annual review; and*
- 2. Note the progress against the objectives and actions of the Domestic Animal Management Plan in 2018/19.*

*Carried*

#### BACKGROUND

The DAMP is required to be reviewed on an annual basis, with progress against the targets of the DAMP reported in Council's Annual Report. The DAMP documents and provides guidance on the following matters:

- Training of Authorised Officers
- Domestic Animal statistics and data
- Registration and identification of domestic animals
- Dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs
- Local Laws relating to domestic animals
- Education / promotion activities
- Domestic animal businesses

#### ISSUES

##### *DAMP Review*

The DAMP required updating to address the following matters:

- Removal of reference to various Local Laws, to be replaced with reference to the Community Local Law 2019;
- Updating of actions to note where they have been completed;
- Updating staff skills matrix due to the appointment of a new Ranger in 2019; and
- Minor text updates / editing for clarity.



### ***Progress against targets***

For 2018/19, the majority of key targets were met. However, a software system error resulted in incomplete animal registration renewals being sent out in March. This in turn meant that the target of 95% of animal registrations being renewed by 1 June was not met; however progress is currently being made to make up this target.

Other key areas of progress for Council to note are:

- Participation in 'desex your pet month' in 2018 and 2019, where Council partnered with local vets to provide discounted desexing and microchipping of animals, provided they are registered with the Shire. This was a very popular initiative which we plan to continue with in following years.
- Very high rehoming statistics (particularly for dogs), with a low proportion of animals transferred to RSPCA or euthanised. Only 5 domestic cats were euthanised in the period, due to being unsuitable to rehome. 92% of animals collected by Local Laws Officers were returned to their owner or rehomed.

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

This recommendation is consistent with the following Strategic Objective in the Council Plan 2017-2021:

- A well planned and safe community.

### **FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

The ongoing implementation of the DAMP will not affect current financial and resource arrangements for the Local Laws department.

### **CONSULTATION**

Consultation has been undertaken with internal Council departments as applicable. The changes to the DAMP are minor in nature and do not require external consultation.

### **CONCLUSION**

The updates to the DAMP are appropriate at the half way point of the lifespan of the Plan. This report also provides an overview of progress in implementing the key measures of the Plan.

### **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Under Section 80C of the *Local Government Act 1989*, the following officers declare that they have no interests to disclose in providing this report.

- Director Corporate
- Manager Building and Amenity
- Local Laws Officer

### **ATTACHMENT(S)**

- 8.3.4 Alpine Shire Council Domestic Animal Management Plan (Review 2019).



### 9.3.5 Fraud and Corruption Control Policy

File Number: Policy Register

#### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to present to Council the 2019 review of the Fraud and Corruption Control Policy No.91 and seek Council's adoption of the revised policy.

*Cr Nicholas*

*Cr Knappstein*

*That Council:*

- 1. Revoke Alpine Shire Council Fraud and Corruption Control Policy No.91, Version 1.0, 6 August 2013.*
- 2. Adopt Alpine Shire Council Fraud and Corruption Control Policy No.91, Version 2.0.*
- 3. Sign and seal Alpine Shire Council Fraud and Corruption Control Policy No.91, Version 2.0 at the appropriate stage of this meeting.*

*Carried*

#### BACKGROUND

The current Fraud and Corruption Control Policy was approved in August 2013. Council had commenced a review of this policy as part of a holistic policy review however held off finalising the review until the outcome of two recent fraud control reviews was known.

#### ISSUES

##### **Council Fraud Control Review 2019**

Crowe Horwath recently completed a review of Council's fraud controls. The review noted Council's Fraud and Corruption Control Policy but made no recommendations for changes to the policy.

The review did however recommend that Council undertake regular fraud and corruption control training for councillors and employees.

##### **VAGO Report on Fraud and Corruption Control - Local Government**

The Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO) tabled in June 2019 its Report on Fraud and Corruption Control - Local Government. VAGO examined whether local councils' fraud and corruption controls are well designed and operating as intended. It made no recommendations in relation to local councils' fraud policies but also recommended regular fraud and corruption control training.

##### **Policy review**

The content has been reviewed for compliance with relevant legislation and has been benchmarked against other local government fraud and corruption control policies.



The review did not result in any change to the intent of the policy, that is Council is committed to the prevention, mitigation, deterrence, detection and investigation of all forms of fraud and corruption.

The content of the policy however has been expanded to clearly articulate Council's position in relation to:

- its expectations around ethical behaviour
- the integration of risk management practices to areas of the organisation vulnerable to fraud and corruption exposures, including the use of internal controls to mitigate those risks
- the reporting of suspected and actual incidents of fraudulent or corrupt conduct.

The review has also articulated training and awareness requirements and provided improved clarity around the responsibilities of various roles/positions within Council including that of councillors.

Finally, the policy has been transferred to Council's new policy template.

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

This recommendation is in accordance with the following Strategic Objective of the Council Plan 2017-2021:

- A responsible and sustainable organisation.

### **CONSULTATION**

The current policy has been reviewed by the Health, Safety and Risk Officer and the Director Corporate in consultation with the Audit Committee.

### **CONCLUSION**

The review of the Fraud and Corruption Control Policy is now complete. While there is no change to the intent of the policy the review has provided an opportunity to expand, improve and clearly articulate Council's position on fraud and corruption and its expectations of ethical behaviour.

### **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Under Section 80C of the *Local Government Act 1989*, the following officers declare that they have no interests to disclose in providing this report.

- Director Corporate
- Manager Corporate
- Health, Safety and Risk Officer

### **ATTACHMENT(S)**

- 8.3.5 Alpine Shire Council Fraud and Corruption Control Policy No.91, Version 2.0





### 9.3.6 Planning Application 5.2019.33.1 Use and Development of Land for Clay

#### Extraction

Application number:	5.2019.33.1
Proposal:	Use and Development of Land for Clay Extraction
Applicant's name:	Alpine Shire Council
Owner's name:	Myrtleford Gravel Pty Ltd
Address:	55 Merri Meadows Lane, Merriang South
Land size:	103.9ha
Current use and development:	Extraction area (Borrow Pit) is currently a cleared area sown to pasture. Some of the surrounding area has previously been used for stone extraction.
Site features:	Cleared pasture area with gradual undulations located on the edge the valley floor that and begins rising to the west. The extraction area will be located between 220m and 300m from the Buffalo River located to the east.
Why is a permit required?	A planning permit is required: - to use and develop the land for stone extraction pursuant to Clause 35.07-1 and Clause 35.07-4 respectively of the Farming Zone - to use and develop land for earth and energy resources industry pursuant to Clause 52.08-1 of Clause 52.08 Earth and Energy Resources Industry
Zoning:	Farming Zone (FZ)
Overlays:	Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO)
Restrictive covenants on the title?	None
Date received:	5 March 2019
Statutory days:	211
Planner:	Sam Porter

*Cr Nicholas*

*Cr Forsyth*

*That a Notice of Decision to grant a planning permit be issued for the use and development of the land for clay extraction in accordance with the conditions outlined in Attachment (a) and for the following reasons:*

- 1. The proposed use and development is consistent with the relevant provisions of the Planning Policy Framework and Local Planning Policy Framework.*



2. *The proposal is consistent with the purpose and decision guidelines of Clause 35.07 Farming Zone as the proposed use and development would not adversely affect the use of the land and nearby land for agriculture, and would result in the land being rehabilitated and returned to agriculture.*
3. *The proposal has adequately addressed the purpose of Clause 52.08 Earth and Energy Resources Industry.*
4. *With appropriate conditions imposed, the amenity of the surrounding area and haulage route will be able to be managed and protected.*

*Carried*

The application is generally consistent with the general decision guidelines of Clause 65.

**PROPOSAL**

Alpine Shire Council is the applicant and is proposing to source suitable clay to be used as capping material at its former landfill sites in order to meet Environment Protection Agency (EPA) remediation requirements. The proposal consists of a 65m long by 65m wide pit plus a 1 in 4 batter beyond this area and will be an average of 1.5m deep. The total amount of clay to be removed is 10,000m<sup>3</sup> and is proposed to be removed in two stages with rehabilitation completed after each stage.

Once the clay is stockpiled it would be carted off site via Merri Meadows Rd and Merriang South Rd out to the Buffalo River Rd and then to the appropriate landfill site at either Myrtleford or Porepunkah. The haulage vehicles to be used are a truck and "quad dog" capable of carrying up to 50t. per trip. Truck movements are proposed to be Monday to Friday from 7am to 6pm, and will exclude school bus transit times along Merriang South Rd.

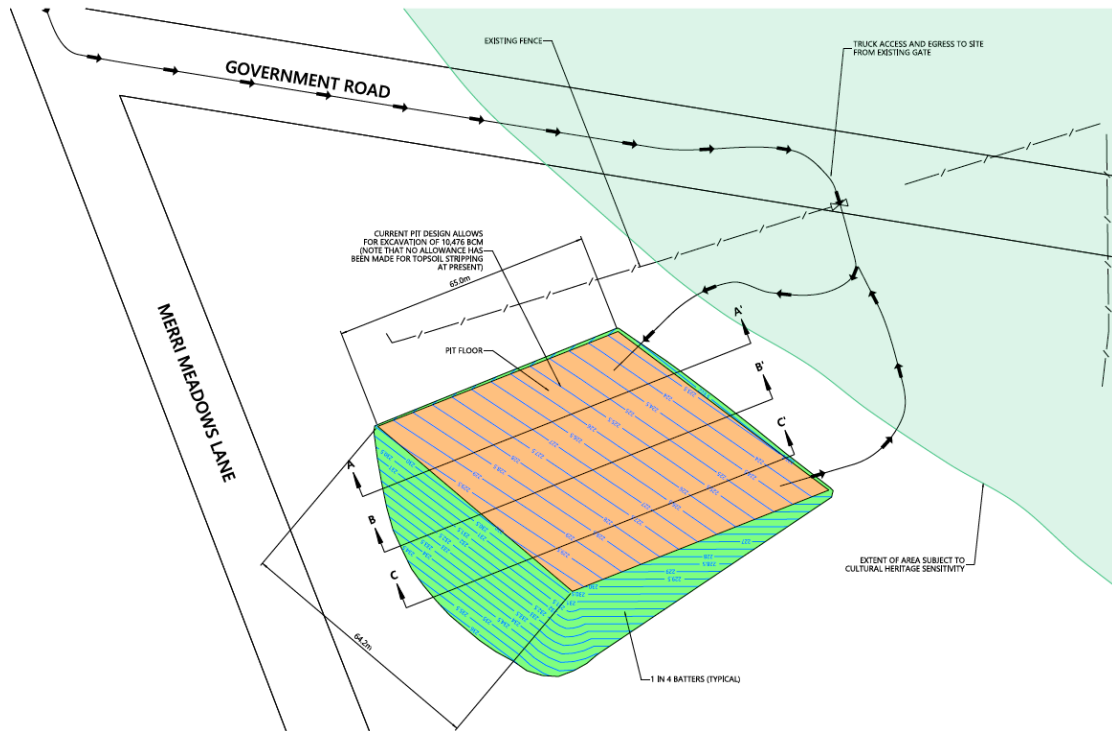
In order to minimise the overall impact of the truck movements on the road and better manage amenity impacts, like dust, it is proposed to condense the overall truck activity so that there is a maximum of 16 truckloads moved per day (totalling 32 truck movements).

The clay is proposed to be removed in two stages each requiring 5,000m<sup>3</sup> of clay, weather permitting and in line with the truck movements above, each of the two stages is expected to be hauled from the site in a five week period.

The applicant has agreed to a permit expiry condition of 31 December 2021. Should further time or volume of clay be required after this expiry condition, a further planning permit would be required with full notifications.



The proposed burrow pit is shown below in Figure 1.



**Figure 1: Development layout.**

## SUBJECT LAND AND SURROUNDS

The subject land is a Farming zone lot 103.9ha in size and made up of three parts due to two unmade government roads intersecting the property. The easterly boundary abuts the Buffalo River and consequently the eastern portion of the site is representative of river flat farmland. The westerly half of the property is made up of steeply vegetated hillside that isn't readily accessible. The proposed area for the clay extraction is located centrally to the southern end and is positioned on a raised foothill area clear of the road reserves, as identified in Figure 2.

The prevailing land use in the surrounding area is agriculture, along with associated houses and shedding. To the north, east and south the land is predominately used for grazing, while a vineyard is positioned to the west and further west and south-west beyond this area is an HVP softwood plantation.

The northern cleared half of the subject land has historically been used for an Earth Resources Work Authority for Gravel and Stone extraction. Evidence of this use and only partial rehabilitation along with the surrounding site context can be seen in Figure 2.



**Figure 2: Subject land and Excavation Area.**

### **PUBLIC NOTIFICATION**

The application was advertised in accordance with Section 52 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. Notice of the application was sent to 39 surrounding landholders and occupiers. The surrounding land owners in this instance also included the land parcel along the haulage route up to the intersection with the Buffalo River Road. Three objections were received. The reasons for objecting are as follows:

- Traffic
- Noise
- Dust
- Use of prime farm land
- Hours of operation
- Excessive rate payer transportation costs



## PLANNING FORUM

A planning forum was held to discuss the application on 22 August 2019 at the Alpine Shire Council, Bright Offices. All three objectors participated in the meeting along with two Councillors and Council officers. Following the meeting a draft planning permit was circulated to all the parties. This communication resulted in two objectors been comfortable with the proposal and one objection being formally withdrawn in writing.

## REFERRALS

Referrals / Notice	Advice / Response / Conditions
Section 55 referrals:	Goulburn Murray Water - no objection subject to conditions Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources - no objection and no planning permit
Internal / external referrals:	Department of Environment Land Water and Planning - no objection and no planning permit conditions required Council's Development Engineer has no objection subject to conditions.

## PLANNING ASSESSMENT AND RESPONSE TO GROUNDS OF OBJECTION

All applicable policy and decision guidelines can be found in Attachment (b).

### Planning Policy Framework and Local Planning Policy Framework

The Planning Policy Framework (PPF) and Local Planning Policy Framework (LPPF) give support to the proposal. Clause 14.03-1S Resource Exploration and Extraction and Clause 14.03-1R Resource Exploration and Extraction - Hume encourage the exploration and extraction of natural resources in accordance with acceptable environmental standards. With regard to quarrying, clearly defined buffers between extractive activities and sensitive land uses must be established and maintained.

Clause 13.05-1S Noise seeks to "[e]nsure that development is not prejudiced and community amenity is not reduced by noise emissions, using a range of building design, urban design and land use separation techniques as appropriate to the land use functions and character of the area". EPA Noise in Regional Victoria (NIRV) guideline should be considered in the assessment of an application where noise from industry may affect sensitive land uses.

Clause 13.06-1S Air Quality Management seeks to "(e)nsure, wherever possible, that there is suitable separation between land uses that reduce air amenity and sensitive land uses". State Environment Protection Policy (Air Quality Management) and Recommended Buffer Distances for Industrial Residual Air Emissions (Environment Protection Authority, 1990) should be considered in decision making.

Clause 14.01-1S Protection of Agricultural Land aims to preserve and protect productive farmland.



The proposed use and development of the land for clay extraction is considered to be an appropriate use of the site taking into account the above policy considerations. The site contains a resource that is able to be extracted easily and efficiently over a short time frame with the end result being the rehabilitation of the land so that the area can continue to be used for agriculture. In doing so, the amenity and environment of the surrounding area is able to be acceptably protected through the use proposed planning conditions that will require, drainage plans, dust mitigation plans, rehabilitation plans and a traffic management plan.

It is important to understand that the proposal, if approved, is both limited to 10,000m<sup>3</sup> of clay to be removed from the site and that this is to occur before 31 December 2021.

In addition to the excavation works required to stockpile the clay onsite and respreading the topsoil for remediation the haulage will extend for two burss of approximately five weeks over the life of this permit. The summary of this is that the activity onsite is expected to extend for a total of four months over the two year life of the proposed approval.

Overall it is considered that the proposed use and development of the site has both State and local planning policy support.

### **Zoning**

The subject land is located in the Farming Zone. A planning permit is required for the use and development of the land for clay extraction. The use and development is consistent with the Farming Zone purpose and decision guidelines as:

- with emissions of noise and dust from the extraction area will be kept at levels as recommended by EPA guidelines and these can form appropriate conditions as part of any approval. The extraction area (borrow pit) is buffered over 400m from the nearest dwelling that is located on the eastern side of the Buffalo River. The proposed borrow pit area contains not only generous buffers to surrounding residential uses but the pit itself has been carefully selected to ensure appropriate separation to watercourses, vegetation, road reserves and cultural heritage areas.
- the amenity impacts of dust and noise from the haulage proposed to occur along Merri Meadows Lane and Merriang South Rd will be protected via a Dust Mitigation Plan and Traffic Impact Assessment. The dust mitigation plan will need to ensure no adverse impact on surrounding residents along the haulage route. It is expected that this plan will contain traffic speed restrictions and watering requirements (but not limited to) along Merri Meadows lane that is currently unsealed. The relatively short timeframes of the project will also give the applicant the ability to select a seasonal more appropriate time so as provide greater ease of compliance with dust mitigation.
- the number of vehicle movements, the amount of material to be removed from the site, and the timeframe within which to undertake the works are interrelated, with the development proposed to be completed within a two year window. Vehicle movements are proposed to be condensed into the shortest possible



period so as to minimise impact on the residents along the haulage route. Based on the expected capacity of a contractor undertaking the works combined with the round trip times for unloading, 16 loads per day is considered the maximum movements per day. As a result this level of increase of heavy vehicles upon the surrounding road network requires the preparation of a Traffic Impact Assessment in order to assess safety. The surrounding road network currently services a high level of heavy vehicle movements as a result of the softwood plantation land owners (HVP) also using these roads for haulage. This current heavy vehicle usage on the road network isn't adversely impacting agriculture in the surrounding area; therefore, it is considered that the proposed additional traffic as a result of this proposal from an agricultural perspective won't be of detriment.

- no vegetation removal is proposed therefore the proposal will not have an impact on the biodiversity of the area.

### **Overlay**

The site is subject to the Bushfire Management Overlay however there is no permit requirement for the use and development under the overlay provisions.

### **Clause 52.08 Earth and Energy Resources Industry**

A planning permit is required to use and develop land for the earth and energy resources industry under this clause. Clay extraction is a use associated with this industry. The clause has a purpose but no decision guidelines for stone extraction. The proposal is considered to be consistent with the relevant clause purpose as:

- the land would be used and developed for the extraction of earth and energy resources in accordance with acceptable environmental standards.
- the proposal would be consistent with other legislation governing stone extraction. In this instance the Code of Practice for Small Quarries (Code) is applicable.

### **Code of Practice for Small Quarries**

The Code applies to small-scale quarries that are less than five hectares in area and less than five metres in depth where no blasting or no native vegetation clearance is proposed. A small quarry meeting these requirements is exempt from the Work Plan requirements of the Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990 (MRSD Act) and must comply with the Code.

A small quarry operator must hold a Work Authority under the MRSD Act. The Work Authority will specify that the operator is bound by the requirements of the Code.

The Code sets out objectives, requirements and recommended practice for issues such as control of noxious weeds, drainage and erosion control, noise, dust control, visual management, rehabilitation, and community relations.

A condition of any approval issued will require the permit operator to comply with the Code.



## **Response to Grounds of Objection**

### **Traffic**

- Council's Development Engineer has reviewed the application and the proposal of 16 trucks per day (totalling 32 movements), Monday to Friday, 7am to 6pm avoiding school bus periods (see proposed condition 16). The Development Engineer's finding was that conditional consent to the proposal based on the current road network combined with the already held traffic count data was appropriate. Given the existing conditions a Traffic Impact Assessment Report must be completed by a suitable qualified person prior to the use commencing. Such a report in this instance is likely to outline a range of traffic management measure (but not limited to) that will be require for heavy vehicle haulage to occur. Once Council's Development Engineer approves this report a further condition stipulates that all its requirements must be met for the duration of the proposal. Overall from a traffic perspective Council is satisfied that the additional movements on existing road networks are acceptable.

### **Noise**

- Noise from the proposal based on the clay material to be extracted will be largely that of just machinery and transport vehicle noise. The proposed hours of operation of 7am to 6pm combined with the buffers to surrounding residents is expect to deliver compliant noise levels with the EPA Guideline - Noise in Regional Victoria (NIRV). A condition will be included on any permit issued to ensure that these levels remain complaint.

### **Dust**

- As discussed, a dust mitigation plan will be required to be submitted to Council for approval which outlines measures that will be undertaken to ensure that dust is acceptable managed. The plan must also outline under what circumstance the use will cease due to an inability to comply with the plan. A further condition will require that the applicant/site manager must notify and communicate with the surrounding residents of the proposed activity timeframes.

### **Hours of operation**

- The hours of operation are considered to be reasonable and have been determined via a number of factors. The haulage will only occur Monday to Friday as the recipient sites are public facilities and maintaining opening hours on weekends is necessary. Following consultation with the surrounding residents, the trucks are to avoid movements on Merriang South Rd during school bus transit times. A 7am to 6pm window will allow appropriate latitude for the trucks to avoid these school bus periods whilst still ensuring 16 trucks per day is achievable rather than elongating the development's haulage timeframe.

### **Enforcement**

- Council's Planning Department will be responsible for the enforcement of planning permit conditions. All the proposed conditions are drafted in a way so that the applicant is clear on requirements and so that, should a dispute or issue arise, the conditions able to be enforced.





- Additional concern was raised over the lack of remediation that has occurred on the subject land as a result of its former gravel extraction use that held a Work Authority via Earth Resources. The proposed borrow area is located in a different part of the property and is unrelated to the former land use. Council's Planning Department has raised the remediation concern with Earth Resources who enforce and hold bonds for rehabilitation works on Work Authority areas.

### **Use of Farmland**

- The use of Farming zone land for an earth resource extraction is a discretionary use. With all amenity impacts able to be managed by proposed conditions the remaining consideration is the impact on the subject land itself. The proposed borrow pit area targets a higher rise area on the ground, once this area is removed the initially stripped away top soil will be replaced and sown back to pasture. The remaining slight depression will not affect the medium or long term agricultural capacity of the land. A rehabilitation plan will form a conditional requirement of any permit issued to ensure an acceptable rehabilitation outcome is reached.

### **CONCLUSION**

The application is considered to be consistent with the Alpine Planning Scheme and should be approved for the following reasons:

- The proposed development is generally consistent with the relevant provisions of the Planning Policy Framework and Local Planning Policy Framework.
- The proposal is consistent with the purpose and decision guidelines of Clause 35.07 Farming Zone as the proposed use and development would not adversely affect the use of the land and nearby land for agriculture, and would result in the land being rehabilitated and returned to agriculture.
- The proposal has adequately addressed the purpose of Clause 52.08 Earth and Energy Resources Industry.
- With appropriate conditions imposed, the surrounding amenity of the rural area and traffic movements will be able to be managed and protected.

### **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Under Section 80C of the *Local Government Act 1989*, the following officers declare that they have no interests to disclose in providing this report.

- Director Corporate
- Planning Coordinator

### **ATTACHMENT(S)**

- (a) Conditions
- (b) Policy and decision guidelines



## **ATTACHMENT (A)**

### GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. The layout of the site and the size of the proposed use and works must be generally in accordance with the endorsed plans which form part of this permit. The endorsed plans must not be altered or modified (whether or not to comply with any statute statutory rule or local law or for any other reason) without the consent of the responsible authority.

### ENGINEERING CONDITIONS

2. Prior to commencement of use, a properly prepared drainage discharge plan with computations as necessary must be submitted to, and approved by, Alpine Shire Council. When approved, the plans will be endorsed and will then form part of the permit. The plans must be drawn to scale with dimensions.

The information and plan must include:

- a) details of how the extraction area and internal access road are to be drained and runoff controlled and treated.
- b) measures to control stormwater discharge quality from the site and protect Buffalo River. Including the expected discharge quality emanating from the development and design calculation summaries of the treatment elements.

Prior to commencement of use, the drainage detailed in the approved Drainage Discharge Plan must be constructed to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

3. Appropriate measures must be implemented throughout the development to ensure and/or minimise mud, crushed rock or other debris being carried onto public roads or from the subject land, to the satisfaction of the Alpine Shire Council.

### TRAFFIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

4. Prior to commencement of use, the applicant shall provide details of the timeframe for the use and expected daily truck movements.

Unless it is demonstrated the traffic volume on Merriang South Rd will not be increased by more than 10%, a Traffic Impact Assessment Report is to be provided in accordance with the requirements of the Infrastructure Design Manual to the satisfaction of Alpine Shire Council.

### TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT WORKS

5. Prior to commencement of use the applicant or owner must construct any traffic management works identified by Council Officers or contained within relevant Traffic Impact Assessment Reports, to the satisfaction of Alpine Shire Council. The cost of such works shall be fully met by the applicant.
6. As a minimum Trucks Entering signage is to be placed on Merriang South Road during extraction periods in accordance with relevant standards.



7. The operator and or contract manager must notify the surrounding residents of all pending operations timeframes and make available an individual's name and contact phone number to be used for any follow up enquiries.
8. The operator and or contract manager must keep a register of any complaints by the public concerning the operations and the register must be made available to the Responsible Authority on request.
9. The use and development hereby approved must be undertaken in accordance with the Code of Practice for Small Quarries (2010).
10. No works (including stockpiling, drainage works and the like) must occur within any areas of Cultural Heritage Sensitivity.
11. Noise levels emanating from the development must not exceed those required to be met under State Environment Protection Policy (EPA Guideline – NIRV).

#### DUST MITIGATION PLAN CONDITION

12. Prior to the use and development commencing, a Dust Mitigation Plan (DMP) must be prepared by a suitably qualified person and submitted to the Responsible Authority for approval. The DMP must detail, but not be limited to, a risk management strategy addressing measures to reduce air emissions to acceptable levels at nearby sensitive locations and to address the potential for nuisance dust off-site including details of the following:
  - a. how activities which generate dust on site will be managed to minimise dust emissions;
  - b. the circumstances in which extraction activities will cease on site due to weather conditions that will result in visible dust being discharged beyond the boundaries of the premises;
  - c. how dust will be monitored, following the receipt of complaints at locations to be determined in consultation with the Responsible Authority.
  - d. contingency measures to deal with any elevated dust conditions or upset conditions.

Once approved, the DMP will be endorsed and will form part of this permit.

The use and development must at all times be conducted in accordance with the DMP to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

#### HOURS OF OPERATION

13. The use must only occur between the following hours:
  - Monday to Friday 7am to 6pm



#### TRUCK MOVEMENTS

14. The number of trucks accessing the site is limited to 16 per day (32 movements total) day unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Responsible Authority.
15. All trucks must be covered to minimise dust generation from the load, prior to leaving the site.
16. No truck movements may occur along Merriang South Road during school bus run operation hours between hours 8:10am - 8:40am and 3:50 pm - 4:20pm on any school day.

#### REHABILITATION CONDITIONS

17. Prior to commencement of works, a Rehabilitation Plan for the entire site must be submitted to the Responsible Authority for approval. The Rehabilitation Plan must include, but not be limited to:
  - a. existing conditions and vegetation (e.g. windrows and road plantings);
  - b. objective of the end use (i.e. agricultural);
  - c. progressive rehabilitation methodology of disturbed areas;
  - d. staging and timing of rehabilitation (must all be done within permit expiration timeframe); and
  - e. species and planting densities.

When approved, the Rehabilitation Plan will be endorsed as evidence of its approval.

18. The use and development must be undertaken in accordance with the approved Rehabilitation Plan to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

#### GOULBURN-MURRAY WATER CONDITIONS

19. All construction and ongoing activities must be in accordance with sediment control principles outlined in EPA Publication 275, Construction Techniques for Sediment Pollution Control (May 1991).
20. No works may be carried out within 30 metres of any waterways and any drainage lines.
21. All stockpiled topsoil must be stored within a bunded or silt trapped area located at least 30 metres from any waterways and drainage lines.
22. Stormwater unaffected by the extraction operations must be diverted around the extraction site as unconcentrated overland flow so as not to cause any erosion, channelling or discharge of sediment off-site.
23. At the completion of the extraction activities, the site must be rehabilitated to prevent erosion and sediment transport off-site.
24. If groundwater is to be dewatered or taken from the site a licence to take and use water must be obtained from Goulburn Murray Water.

#### EXPIRY CONDITION

25. This permit will expire on the 31 December 2021.

**ATTACHMENT (B)****Planning Policy Framework**

The Planning Policy Framework (PPF) provides relevant direction to the proposal at the following clauses:

Clause 11.01 Settlement

Clause 11.01-1R Settlement - Hume

Clause 13.05 Noise

Clause 13.06 Air Quality

Clause 13.07 Amenity and Safety

Clause 14.01 Agriculture

Clause 14.03-1S Resource Exploration and Extraction

Clause 14.03-1R Resource Exploration and Extraction - Hume

Clause 17.01 Employment

Clause 17.04 Tourism

Clause 18 Transport

**Local Planning Policy Framework**

Applicable local planning policy can be found in the Local Planning Policy Framework (LPPF) section as follows:

Clause 21.05-3 Agriculture

Clause 21.07-11 Rural Precincts

Clause 22.03-2 Agriculture

**Zone**

The subject land is zoned Farming Zone pursuant to the Alpine Planning Scheme. The purpose of the zone and applicable decision guidelines can be found at the following link: [http://planning-schemes.delwp.vic.gov.au/schemes/vpps/35\\_07.pdf](http://planning-schemes.delwp.vic.gov.au/schemes/vpps/35_07.pdf)

**Overlays**

The site is subject to the Bushfire Management Overlay however the proposed use and development does not trigger the need for a planning permit under the overlay provisions.

**Provisions that Require, Enable or Exempt a Permit**

Clause 52.08 Earth and Energy Resources Industry

**General Provisions**

Clause 65 Decision Guidelines



## 10 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS

### INTRODUCTION

Section 80A of the *Local Government Act 1989* requires a written record of Assemblies of Councillors to be reported at an ordinary meeting of the Council and to be incorporated in the minutes of the Council meeting.

*Cr Pearce*

*Cr Keeble*

*That the summary of the Assemblies of Councillor for September 2019 be received.*

*Carried*

### BACKGROUND

The written records of the assemblies held during the previous month are summarised below. Detailed assembly records can be found in Attachment 9.0 to this report.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>
10 September	Briefing Session
17 September	Local Government Rating System Review – Wodonga

### ATTACHMENT(S)

- 9.0 Assemblies of Councillors – September 2019



**11 GENERAL BUSINESS**

**12 MOTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN GIVEN**

**13 RECEPTION AND READING OF PETITIONS**



## 14 DOCUMENTS FOR SEALING

*Cr Pearce*

*Cr Nicholas*

*That the following documents be signed and sealed.*

1. *Alpine Shire Council Contract No CT19043 in favour of MomentumOne Shared Services Pty Ltd for the provision of labour hire and accompanying technology solutions.*
2. *Section 173 Agreement – Scott Richard Hovenga & Julie Ann Hovenga & Goulburn Murray Water.*  
*Lot 8 on Lodged Plan 127843 Volume 9327 Folio 613. Condition 14 of Planning Permit 2018.141.1 for the construction of a dwelling. The Agreement covers wastewater requirements from Goulburn Murray Water.*
3. *Section 173 Agreement – Darryl and Nicole Farmer and Goulburn Murray Water.*  
*Crown Allotments 8, 8B, 9A, 9B and 9C, Section Q, Parish of Bright. Volume 9481 Folio 492; Volume 6504 Folio 647; Volume 6382 Folio 364; Volume 8504 Folio 203. Condition 16 of Planning Permit 2017.151.1 for a re-subdivision at 62 Dunstan Track, Bright. The Agreement covers wastewater management requirements from Goulburn Murray Water.*
4. *Section 173 Agreement – Mark Brown and Belinda Rees*  
*Crown Allotment 24 Section 8. Volume 7720 Folio 133. Condition 30 of Planning Permit 2019.22.1 for a two lot subdivision of land at 38 Dredge Hole Lane, Harrietville. The Agreement provides for Bushfire Management Overlay provisions.*
5. *Alpine Shire Council Fraud and Corruption Control Policy No.91, Version 2.0.*
6. *Section 173 Agreement – Goulburn Murray Water and Casey Laurence Healy and Rebecca Anne Carne*  
*Lot 1 on Lodged Plan 142190. Volume 9578 Folio 306. Condition 21 of Planning Permit 2017.32.2 for buildings and works for the construction of a dwelling and associated outbuildings. The Agreement satisfies Goulburn Murray Water wastewater management conditions.*





**7. Section 173 Agreement – Renato and Lili Pasqualotto**

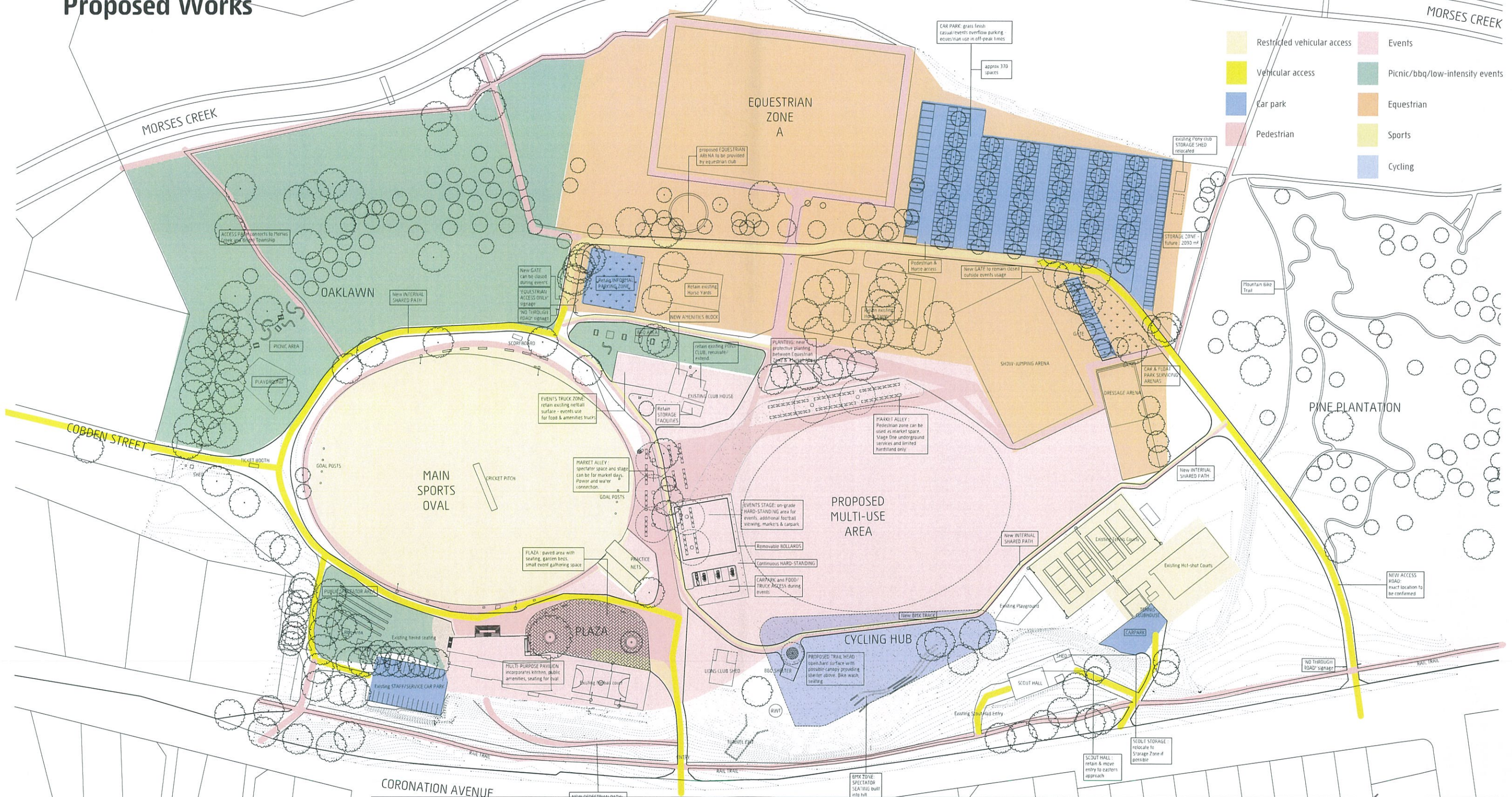
*Lot 3 Lodged Plan 221934 and Crown Allotment 5, Section Q1, Parish of Myrtleford. Volume 10014 Folio 944 Volume 8872 Folio 570. Condition 3 of Planning Permit 2018.105.1 for re-subdivision of land. The Agreement provides that Lot B will not be further subdivided so as to create an additional lot for an existing dwelling.*

*Carried*

There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 8:08p.m

.....  
Chairperson

# ALPINE EVENTS PARK Proposed Works



- |  |   |  |                               |  |                              |  |                                       |  |                    |
|--|---|--|-------------------------------|--|------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------|
|  | Bright and District Chamber of Commerce |  | Bright Wanderers Cricket Club |  | Bright Lions Club            |  | North East Victoria Hang Gliding Club |  | Bright Tennis Club |
|  | Alpine Cycling Club                     |  | Bright Pony Club              |  | HVP Plantations              |  | Bright Rod and Kustom Club            |  |                    |
|  | Bright United Football Netball Club     |  | Alpine Adult Riding Club      |  | Alpine Community Plantations |  | Bright Scout Group                    |  |                    |

GENERAL NOTES:  
1. ALL PROPOSED WORKS ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND OTHER RELEVANT AGENCIES.  
2. ALL PROPOSED WORKS ARE SUBJECT TO OBTAINING ALL NECESSARY PERMITS AND APPROVALS.  
3. ALL PROPOSED WORKS ARE SUBJECT TO OBTAINING ALL NECESSARY PERMITS AND APPROVALS.  
4. ALL PROPOSED WORKS ARE SUBJECT TO OBTAINING ALL NECESSARY PERMITS AND APPROVALS.

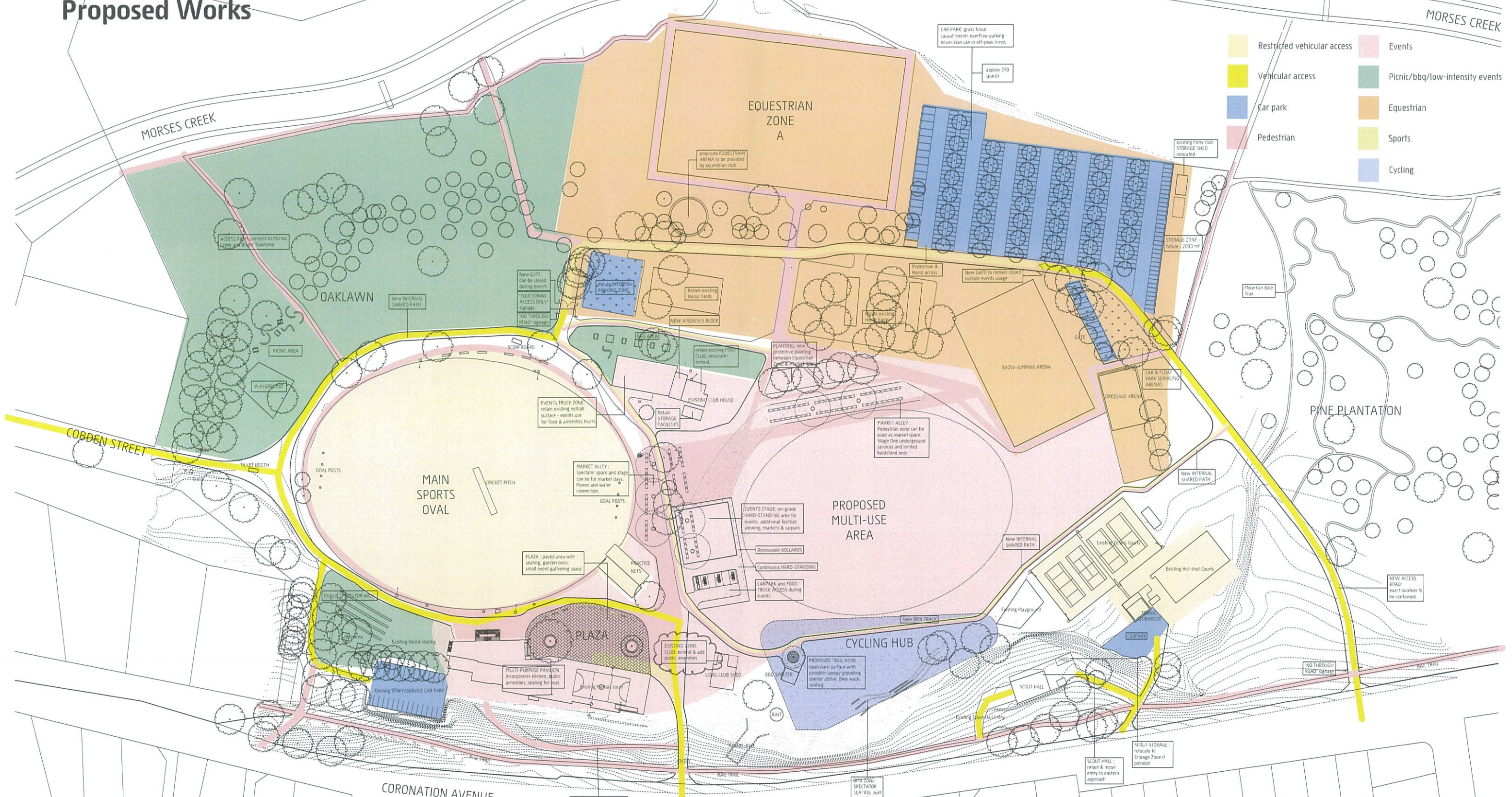
Rev	Date	Rev	Date

**Stage One  
Activity and Circulation**

Job Name: Alpine Events Park  
Job No: 1603  
Drawn: RA  
Checked: NG  
Scale: 1:1000 @A1  
Date: August 2016

**A 03**  
Rev: -

# ALPINE EVENTS PARK Proposed Works



- Restricted vehicular access
- Vehicular access
- Car park
- Pedestrian
- Events
- Picnic/bbq/low-intensity events
- Equestrian
- Sports
- Cycling

Bright and District Chamber of Commerce	Bright Wanderers Cricket Club	Bright Lions Club	North East Victoria Hang Gliding Club
Alpine Cycling Club	Bright Pony Club	HVP Plantations	Bright Pod and Kustom Club
Bright United Football Netball Club	Alpine Adult Riding Club	Alpine Community Plantations	Bright Scout Group

Rev	Date	Rev	Date

**Stage One**  
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**A 03**  
Rev: -



**ALPINE**  
SHIRE COUNCIL

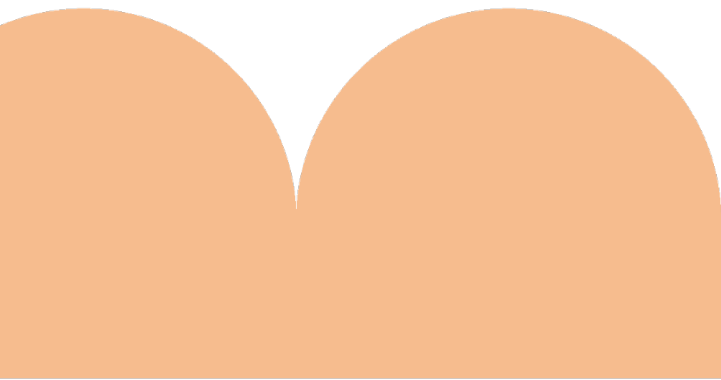


# Alpine Shire Council Myrtleford Resilience Plan

October 2019



projectura

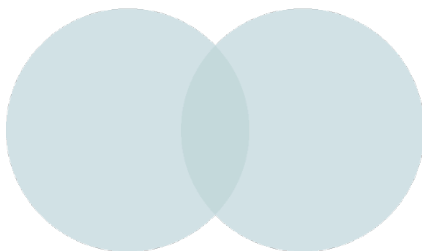
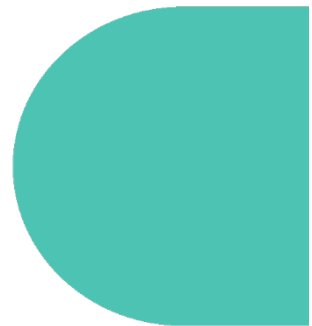


Myrtleford Resilience Plan

<b>Prepared for</b>	Alpine Shire Council
<b>Date</b>	October 2019
<b>Version</b>	FINAL
<b>Author</b>	Karina Bonnitca and Kirsty Beattie, Projectura



Funded by State Government Victoria



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Purpose**

The Myrtleford Resilience Plan aims to enhance the resilience of Myrtleford's community. The plan seeks to create or enhance the conditions for economic growth, building a resilient, diversified and sustainable community.

Alpine Shire Council led this project with funding from Regional Development Victoria. Projectura were engaged by Alpine Shire Council to work with the community to prepare the Plan.

The Plan aims to develop community capacity and resilience, build on key strengths of the community and environment to identify alternative industry, employment pathways and opportunities, identify skills development opportunities, and relieve the dependence of employment from existing big industry.

**The problem**

All towns and communities face challenges and changes that interrupt their planned progress. Change presents as major shifts at environmental, economic, and societal levels. Resilience is about a community's capacity to positively respond to change. Myrtleford has experienced several economic and natural disaster shocks over the past 40 years, including closure of the tobacco industry, recent production halts at major employer, bushfires, flooding and Council amalgamations.

**The impact**

The impact of these shocks can be seen through several indicators. Population growth has stalled, there are a number of retail vacancies in the town centre, the town is measured as relatively disadvantaged compared to the state, and the town's unemployment is high compared to the broader Alpine Shire.

**The vision**

The Myrtleford Resilience Plan ("The Plan") is designed to diversify the reliance on current industry and build the economic and social sustainability of Myrtleford.

Residents were clear that they want to be part of a community that embraces change, where people can thrive in work, life and play. This will be achieved by concentrating on the four resilience focus areas providing the framework for the Plan: land use and planning, accessing education and training, identity and experience and business and industry.

**Strengths**

While Myrtleford has faced shocks in the past, there is a strong sense of community, a cultural identity, well supported community facilities and services and an innovative industry profile. All of which creates a dynamic community that can respond to change.

**Developing the Plan**

In the first stage of the Plan development, Projectura partnered with the project team and community to create a shared understanding of the local environment, and a draft an outline of where the Plan will focus and why. The outputs from this stage were the Situational Analysis and Summary Situational Analysis.

In the second stage of the Plan development, Projectura worked with the project team and community to explore the main areas of concern, analyse opportunities, develop actionable projects, and to listen to feedback on the draft plan.



### Community input

The Plan is uniquely tailored to Myrtleford's needs as it was developed by the Myrtleford community. Over 180 Myrtleford residents and visitors contributed to the development of the Plan. The engagement aimed to: Gather a broad and deep understanding of Myrtleford's local environment; Refine resilience focus areas, and the strengths and challenges the community is facing; Analyse opportunities and develop actionable projects; and Test and receive feedback on The Plan.

Residents, visitors, community groups, service providers, and businesses provided input through a diverse range of community engagement activities. This included phone and face-to-face interviews, pop up stalls, youth pop ups, community workshops and an online survey.

### The Plan

This Plan documents the projects prioritised by the community during engagement activities. These projects align with the resilience focus areas and are categorised by time frame.

#### Quick wins

1. Town storytelling
2. Walk Myrtleford
3. Local training

#### Medium term

4. Transport
5. Build a business program
6. Embracing Myrtleford's food culture
7. Spaces for art, study and start-ups
8. Signage
9. RV Friendly Town

#### Long term

10. Tobacco Kiln Trail
11. Splash Park
12. Active in Myrtleford
13. Lake Buffalo activation

### Governance

Council will embed the projects into broader Council planning and take a partnership and leadership role in implementing, reviewing and evaluating the Plan with the Committee. For the implementation of the Plan to be successful, clear governance and executive oversight is required. Alpine Shire Council will remain responsible for governing the Myrtleford Resilience Plan. All sectors of the community have input into its implementation. The community, Council, local businesses, service providers, and community group will need to join forces in various capacities to deliver projects. Stakeholders will be brought together on a project-by-project delivery basis.

### Measuring success

Measures will be reviewed annually to determine the status of progress. This will be provided to Council to assist in community planning, budget development and community needs assessment.

Introduction

# The Plan

## Project summary

The Plan aims is to enhance the resilience of Myrtleford's community. The project seeks to create or enhance the conditions for economic growth, building a resilient, diversified and sustainable community.

The Plan includes the development and implementation of an Action Plan.

Projectura have been engaged by Alpine Shire Council to work with the community to prepare the Plan.

The Plan aims to:

- develop community capacity and resilience,
- build on key strengths of the community and environment to identify alternative industry, employment pathways and opportunities,
- identify skills development opportunities, and
- relieve the dependence of employment from existing big industry.

## Rationale

The tobacco industry was once a large source of employment for Myrtleford. The end of the tobacco industry for Myrtleford had a devastating effect on whole of community. It is clear after recent temporary closure of a business employing local community members the people and business community of Myrtleford are somewhat reliant on a pocket of large business employers. Any permanent closure of big business attached to Myrtleford, would be disastrous for the community.

Myrtleford has a strong working-class resident base built on a rich Italian heritage, agriculture and secondary services supporting the greater Alpine population. It is crucial for Myrtleford to have a clear direction for next stage of community and economic development to build resilience into the future and mitigate current workforce issues.



## Introduction

# What is resilience?

## Understanding resilience

All towns and communities face challenges and changes that interrupt the planned progress. Change presents as major shifts at environmental, economic, and societal levels. Resilience is about a community's capacity to positively respond to change.

100 Resilient Cities defines resilience as "the capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses and systems within a city to survive, adapt and grow no matter what kind of chronic stresses and acute shocks they experience". *100resilientcities.org*

Resilient towns:

- Use past experiences to inform future decisions.
- Recognise alternative ways to use resources.
- Develop well-conceived, constructed and managed systems.
- Have spare capacity, purposefully created to accommodate disruption.
- Are willing and able to adopt alternative strategies in response to changing circumstances.
- Prioritise broad consultation to create a sense of shared ownership in decision-making.
- Bring together a range of distinct systems and institutions.



## Introduction

## Strategic landscape

### Local

**Alpine Shire Council Plan incorporating the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan** is the key strategic document for Council and defines how Council will deliver high quality projects and services to the community, while prioritising health and wellbeing of the community.

**Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS)** is a concise statement of the key strategic planning, land use and development objectives for the municipality with related strategies and actions. The *Public Health and Wellbeing Plan Act (s.26)* requires the MPHWP to be consistent with the Municipal Strategic Statement prepared under *s.12A* of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

**Alpine Planning Scheme** provides a holistic policy basis for strategic decision making in the Shire, including State, Regional and Local policies. Both the MSS and MFP refer to Clause 21 of the Scheme for strategic guidance for Myrtleford.

**Myrtleford Framework Plan (MFP)** provided clarity on specific township issues and opportunities by bringing together information contained in Shire wide strategy documents. Released in 2010, key areas of consideration include planning and land use, infrastructure, character and open space, recreation and activity. The Plan identified issues around each of these areas, followed by recommendations.

### Regional

**Hume Regional Growth Plan** provides broad direction for regional land use and development for the municipalities of Alpine, Benalla, Greater Shepparton, Indigo, Mansfield, Moira, Murrindindi, Strathbogie, Towong, Wangaratta and Wodonga. Focus areas include regional economy, environment and heritage, regional infrastructure, delivering regional growth and future plans for key towns over the next 20-30 years.

**Ovens Murray Regional Priorities** were published in 2017 through Ovens Murray Regional Partnership, one of nine Partnerships across Victoria. The Partnership's priorities were education and skills, transport, digital innovation and inclusion, economic growth, climate change and renewable energy, local amenity and infrastructure, and health and wellbeing.

**Central Hume Primary Care Partnership (PCP) Strategic Plan 2018-2020** identified four priorities: prevention of chronic disease through healthy eating and active living, prevention of family violence and healthy relationships, addressing determinants of health, and effective and sustainable partnerships. The Central Hume PCP represents health and human service organisations across the Alpine, Benalla, Mansfield and Wangaratta areas.

### State

**Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2015-2019** uses an evidence-based approach to improve health and wellbeing by engaging communities and strengthening systems for health protection, health promotion and preventative healthcare. Key priorities include healthier eating and active living; tobacco-free living; reducing harmful alcohol and drug use; improving mental health; preventing violence and injury; improving sexual and reproductive health. The plan also identifies platforms to deliver health benefits, which include healthy and sustainable environments, place-based approaches and people-centred approaches.

Introduction

## Preparing this plan

### Stage 1

In the first stage of the Plan development, Projectura partnered with the project team and community to create a shared understanding of the local environment, and a draft an outline of where the Plan will focus and why. The outputs from this stage were the **Situational Analysis** and **Summary Situational Analysis**.

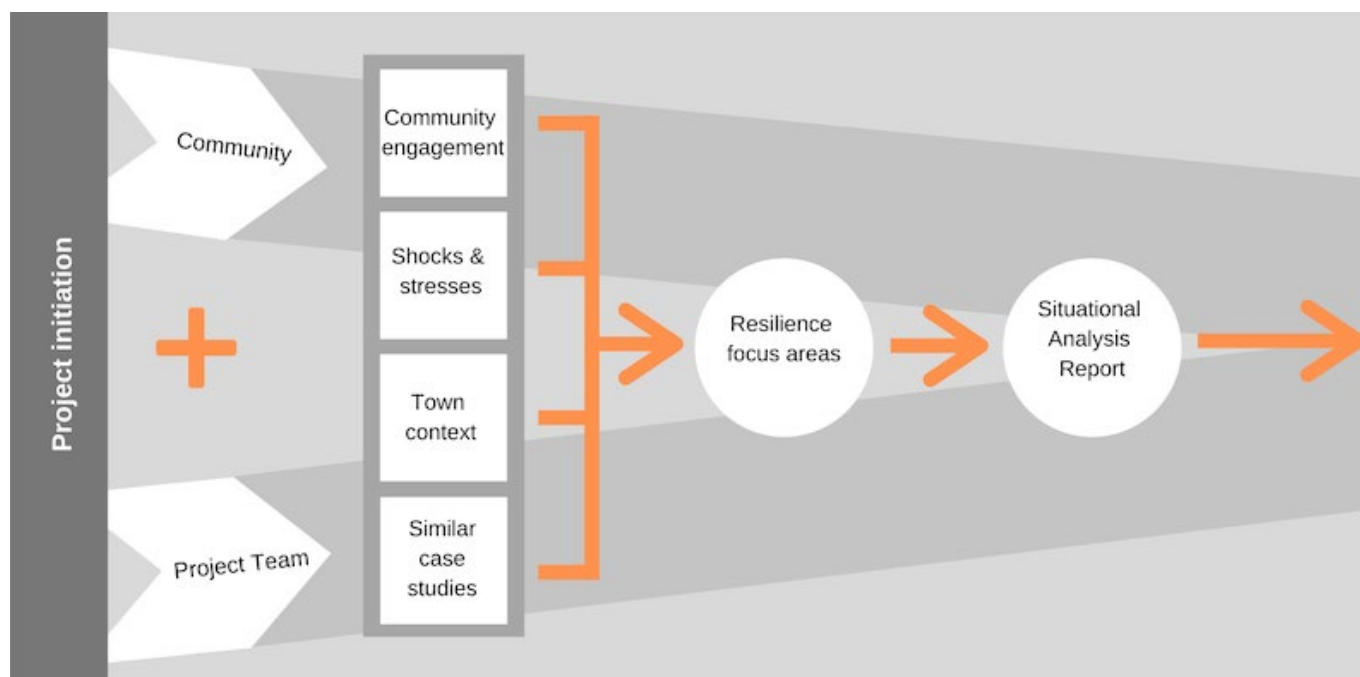


Figure 1. Stage 1 approach

Introduction

**Stage 2**

In the second stage of the Plan development, Projectura worked with the project team and community to explore the main areas of concern, analyse opportunities, and develop actionable projects.

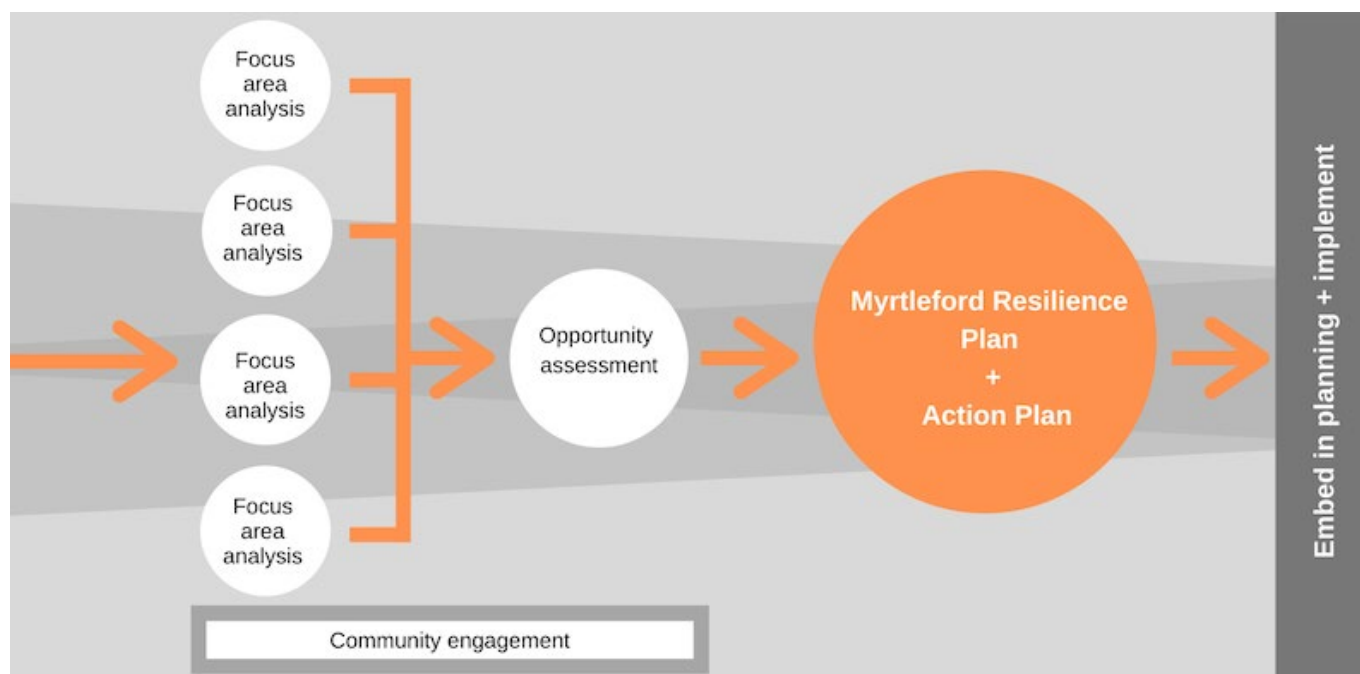


Figure 2. Stage 2 approach

## Introduction

## Community engagement

### A plan for everyone

Over 195 Myrtleford residents and visitors contributed to the development of the Plan. The engagement aimed to:

- Gather a broad and deep understanding of Myrtleford's local environment.
- Refine resilience focus areas, and the strengths and challenges the community is facing.
- Analyse opportunities and develop actionable projects.
- Test and receive feedback on The Plan.

Further community engagement will take place to allow the community to review The Plan and provide feedback.

Table 1. Community engagement outline

Method	Date	Summary	Participation
<b>Stage 1</b>			
Telephone interviews.	1 – 15 Mar 2019.	Telephone interviews with community leaders from business, health, education and the community.	18 interviews. 8 business, 4 community, 3 health/education, 3 other.
Cundy Park Skate Pop Up: Hard copy survey.	9 Mar 2019.	Face to face survey with visitors to the Cundy Park Skate Competition during the Myrtleford Festival.	26 young people completed the survey.
Street pop up.	9 Mar 2019.	Open street stall during the Myrtleford Festival.	35 residents (estimated). 2 Facilitators.
<b>Stage 2</b>			
Community workshops (2).	30 Apr 2019. (3.30pm and 6pm)	Two community workshops to review situational analysis and identify opportunities and projects.	22 participants.
Council staff interviews.	16 Apr 2019.	Interviews with Council staff to gain information on previous and past projects in Myrtleford.	5 officers.
Online survey	29 Apr – 18 May 2019	The survey was available online through Council's website.	77 responses.
Draft drop-in session	14 Oct 2019	A drop-in session to 'unpack' the Draft and allow everyone an opportunity to provide feedback.	15 participants

Introduction

Myrtleford is a tight knit, friendly town with strong community spirit.

Myrtleford is situated in a beautiful geographic region among rivers, lakes and mountains.

There is a rich Italian heritage in the Myrtleford community.

There is a lack of farming diversity in the town, which presents a challenge of land use.

Transport is a major challenge for Myrtleford residents.

Finding employment in the town is an ongoing concern.

Tourism is an opportunity for Myrtleford due to its proximity to natural assets, its rich heritage and the popularity of food tourism.

The development of Lake Buffalo to promote tourism, support businesses and enhance the lifestyle of Myrtleford is well supported by community.

Access to education and training is seen as important to retaining young people in Myrtleford.





## History

# The journey so far

Located on the Ovens River, 240kms north-east of Melbourne and 260 kms south-west of Canberra, Myrtleford is situated in the Hume Region and is bordered within an hour of Wangaratta, Benalla, Albury/Wodonga, Beechworth and Bright.

Myrtleford is the largest town within Alpine Shire. Home to 12,639 people the Shire contributed \$0.58 billion to the Gross Regional Product. 1,237 local businesses offered 5,326 local jobs. The largest industry is accommodation and food services (NIEIR 2018, ABS ERP 2017).

Proximity to Wangaratta and the snow fields offers residents the best of both worlds; close to services, retail and the natural environment, providing people with a variety of opportunities for employment.

The Alpine Shire has evolved to become an aspirational destination to live, work and play. A mecca for outdoor adventure with all the comforts that come with being a tourism destination. Residents choose to live here without personal compromise making Alpine Shire the ultimate lifestyle destination.

Victoria's mountainous North-Eastern region has been the home of Pangerang, Minjambuta, Duduroa, and Jaitmathang people for tens of thousands of years.

Europeans began settling in the North-East from 1824. Hume and Hovell had explored the area prior, searching for new grazing lands. Sheep and cattle farming became the area's main industry. In the 1850s, gold was discovered in Beechworth and in the Ovens Valley. The local population temporarily boomed, including thousands of Chinese migrants.

Chinese miners and European settler established industries after the gold rush, including tobacco farming. In the 1920s, Italians began migrating to the North-East, marking the beginning of Myrtleford's Italian culture and involvement in tobacco cultivation. Between 1947 and 1971, the Bonegilla Migrant Reception Centre received over 300,000 non-British European migrants, making the North-East one of Australia's biggest migration hubs.

Today, Myrtleford's Italian heritage remains strong. LaFiera Italian Festival is held annually and Club Savoy, initially created as a meeting group for Italian women, has become a strong community organisation and meeting place. According to the 2016 Australian census, 20.3% of residents listed their heritage as Italian, with 8.7% of Myrtleford resident who speak Italian at home.

The completion of the Alpine Better Places Project in Myrtleford recently has refurbished Myrtle Street and Jubilee Park, making Myrtleford more attractive to visitors. 2019 saw the Myrtleford Library refurbished with funding from the Victorian Government's Living Libraries Infrastructure Program.

Our current situation

### Myrtleford tobacco industry timeline



Strengths and challenges

## Strengths

### Ovens River and beautiful natural assets

Myrtleford is located on the Ovens River, along the Great Alpine Road between Wangaratta and Bright in beautiful north-east Victoria.

The district is popular for cycling, with breathtaking views and fresh air.

Myrtleford is close to Mount Buffalo National Park. People camping on Mount Buffalo are likely to spend money in on food and camping gear.

Lake Buffalo is located 20 minutes' drive from Myrtleford, is beautiful and enjoyable for fishing, water skiing and recreation.

### Built assets

Residents spoke highly of the broad range of community facilities they can access which support community groups, sporting endeavours, recreation and celebrations.

Community groups have access to spaces including the Neighbourhood Centre and rooms at Myrtleford P12. Availability of spaces like these are key to community groups maintaining low running costs, and inclusive participation.

Myrtleford is an attractive destination along the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail, a conduit between Wangaratta to Bright. The 5.6km Ovens River walking/cycling trail starts in the township.

The business centre, Myrtle Street and Jubilee Park were upgraded in 2018 under the Alpine Better Places Project program. Retail and hospitality business owners reported that business improved following the upgrade.

The Myrtleford Library has been completely refurbished in the last twelve months with funding from the Victorian State Government's Living Libraries Infrastructure Program.

### Sense of community

Myrtleford's locals love their community. During engagement sessions, 'community' was the number one response to the question 'what do you love about Myrtleford?'

A sense of community is fostered through community events, festivals and celebrations including the Farmers Market, Myrtleford Festival and La Fiera.

Myrtleford business owners support one another rather than thinking in terms of competition. A culture of support between businesses is conducive to business growth and community resilience.

Myrtleford's community organisations are strong, connected and well supported by local businesses.

The New University of the Third Age (U3A) has proven popular, with approximately 130 members. By connecting retired people in Myrtleford, U3A is bolstering Myrtleford's community; providing preventative health outcomes and skills sharing.

All three of Myrtleford's schools place value on school community as well as the broader Myrtleford community.

### Service centre

Myrtleford is a service centre for the Alpine region, with larger stores including Coles and Target Country attracting people from across Alpine Shire.

Myrtleford is well positioned between tourist centres in Alpine Shire. Some visitors described using Myrtleford as a 'base' to explore the wider area.

## Strengths and challenges

### **Cultural identity**

The legacy of the tobacco industry is reflected through the town's strong Italian ancestry and culture.

Visitors to the area can see tobacco kilns prominently from the Great Alpine Road as they drive towards Myrtleford.

Club Savoy is an active community organisation of 2500 members.

La Fiera brings the community together over six days to celebrate Myrtleford's Italian heritage through art, sport, music, culture and food. In 2019, La Fiera is running a Young Ambassador Scheme to develop community leadership skills in young people aged 16-30 years.

The Myrtleford Festival is one of Victoria's oldest rural community festivals, celebrating its 59<sup>th</sup> year in 2019. The Festival brings the community together, strengthening ties and boosting the economy.

### **Industry innovation**

Hops is a growing industry in the area, with Rostrevor Hops Gardens employing approximately 170 staff. A \$35 million expansion is currently underway at Buffalo River creating an additional 20 full time and 130 casual jobs in the area.

Cellar door and farm gate businesses are being established in Myrtleford and surrounds. These businesses are adding diversity to Myrtleford's appeal.

Gapstead Wines received funding through the Wine Growth Fund to develop a digitally responsive and multilingual website and engagement app, helping to boost the region's profile and grow its export markets.

Strengths and challenges

## Challenges

Myrtleford, like all towns, has experienced major shocks disrupting the planned course of the town. These are game changers, and the community continues to experience the impacts from these shocks.

Shocks, whilst often painful, are opportunities for people and communities to think differently about practices and solutions towards their future. Acknowledging the lessons these shocks have shown, we will take steps to sow the seeds of future economic prosperity, facilitating a local community and economy to build resilience. The acute shocks identified for Myrtleford are listed below.



**Closure of the tobacco industry.**



**Recent production halts at major employer.**



**Bushfires 2009.**



**Flooding 1974, 1993, 1998, 2010 and 2016.**



**1994 Council amalgamations.**

Strengths and challenges



**Reliance on single industry.**

Myrtleford's Carter Holt Harvey site employs 170 people FTE (207 people). Approximately 70% of those employees live in Myrtleford.



**Small farming crop identification.**

Tobacco was grown on small farms, with an average size of 20 hectares. Grapes, hops, vegetables, and grasses have become replacement crops; however, none are as profitable as tobacco.



**Relative disadvantage.**

Across Australia, 83 percent of towns and suburbs are more socio-economically advantaged than Myrtleford.



**Stormwater infrastructure**

Myrtleford has ageing stormwater infrastructure that may impact on further residential development and development at the catchment area of Happy Valley and Ovens River.



**Ageing population.**

Myrtleford has a median age of 50 years, and a high proportion of people who live by themselves, fully own their home, have a disability, and volunteer. Also, relatively low income levels.



**Low education.**

Residents have relatively low education levels, with higher levels of no qualification, low rates of Year 12 completion, and the highest level of schooling is comparatively low.



**No recent population growth.**

In the five years to 2006, Myrtleford's population grew by 13 percent. Since 2006, coinciding with the cessation of the tobacco industry, the population has plateaued.



**Proximity to tourism towns.**

Residents believe that Myrtleford's proximity to Bright and Beechworth means visitors are less inclined to stop.



**Public transport.**

Myrtleford has limited public transport, restricting resident's ability to access to work, education and training.

Capacity and resources

## Myrtleford's capacity

### Our people

Unless otherwise stated, the data listed in this section has been sourced from the ABS Census 2016 data.

Myrtleford has a **population** of 3,193 people. Of this, the **gender** mix is 51.6% females and 48.4% males.

The **median age** of Myrtleford's population is 50 years. In 2016, Myrtleford's **age composition** consisted of:

- 21.0% people under 19 years (Alpine: 21.2%; Victoria: 24.3%);
- 51.6% people aged between 20 and 64 years (Alpine: 54.4%; Victoria: 60.2%); and
- 27.4% people over 65 years (Alpine: 24.4%; Victoria: 15.6%).

The **largest age group** was 55 to 59 years, making up 8.3% of Myrtleford's population. The percentage of over 65s in both Myrtleford and Alpine Shire is significantly higher than Victoria as a whole. Regional Victoria's over 65 population is 20.4%. Further, 5.0% percent of Myrtleford's population is aged over 85 years.

16.0% of Myrtleford's population was **born overseas** (Alpine: 13.7%; Victoria: 28.3%). In Myrtleford, the most common countries for people born overseas are Italy (5.7%), United Kingdom (2.9%) and New Zealand (1.6%). Myrtleford's percentage of community members born in Italy is much higher than both Alpine Shire (2.3%) and Victoria (1.2%).

Myrtleford residents have varied **qualifications**, including:

- 9.4% completed Bachelor or Higher Degree (Alpine: 15.4%; Victoria 24.3%);
- 6.8% completed Advanced Diploma or Diploma (Alpine Shire: 9.5%; Victoria: 9.2%);
- 22.4% have a vocational qualification (Alpine 22.4%; Victoria 16.9%); and
- 48.6% have no qualification (Alpine: 39.7; Victoria: 39.6%).

The **highest level of schooling** for Myrtleford residents is:

- 9.3% Year 8 or below (Alpine 6.3%; Victoria 5.6%);
- 9.0% Year 9 or equivalent (Alpine 7.3%; Victoria 5.8%);
- 20.6% Year 10 or equivalent (Alpine 19.8%; Victoria 13.2%);
- 17.9% Year 11 or equivalent (Alpine 16.7%; Victoria 11.6%);
- 30.4% Year 12 or equivalent (Alpine 38.1%; Victoria 54.4%); and
- 1.0% did not go to school (Alpine 0.4%; Victoria 1.1%).

Current **education institution attendance** is:

- 1.2% attend pre-school (Alpine 1.3%; Victoria 1.6%);
- 7.4% attend primary school (Alpine 7.4%; Victoria 7.9%);
- 5.9% attend secondary school (Alpine 5.8%; Victoria 6.1%);
- 1.4% attend TAFE (Alpine 1.4%; Victoria 1.7%);
- 1.3% attend university (Alpine 1.3%; Victoria 5.5); and
- 74.4% don't attend an educational institution (Alpine 72.7%; Victoria 69.1%).



## Capacity and resources

A large number of Myrtleford residents' people **did not complete year 12** (57.8%) compared to the Alpine Shire (51.8%), and Victoria (36.2%).

There were 1,351 people who reported being in the **labour force** in the week before Census night in Myrtleford (State Suburbs). ABS Census 2016 data shows that:

- 53.9% work full time (Alpine: 52.6%; Victoria: 57%).
- 38.7% work part time (Alpine: 41.4%; Victoria: 34.6%).
- 5.2% unemployed (Alpine: 3.8%; Victoria: 6.6%),

In Alpine Shire, 88.1% of people **live and work in the area**; 11.9% work in the area but live outside.

66.8% of employed persons drove to work (Alpine: 59.1% Victoria: 61.8%).

Myrtleford population forms 830 families. The **family composition** consists of:

- 33.5% couple family with children;
- 48.0% couple family with no children;
- 16.1% one parent families; and
- 2.0% other family.

Myrtleford has a high proportion of people **living by themselves** (Myrtleford: 33.4%; Alpine: 30.9%; Victoria: 24.7%).

12.6% of Myrtleford's population speak a **language** other than English at home; most of these speak Italian at home (8.7%, Alpine: 3.6%; Victoria 1.9%). Other languages spoken at home include Filipino/Tagalog (0.5%), Croatian (0.4%) and German (0.3%). 80.6% of Myrtleford's population speak only English at home.

**Ancestry** is primarily English (37.3% compared to Alpine: 40.1%; Victoria 29.9%), followed by Australia (34.8%, Alpine: 37.1%; Victoria 27.9%), and Italian (20.3%, Alpine: 9.6%; Victoria 6.0%).

8.4% of Myrtleford's population **needed daily assistance due to a severe or profound disability** (Alpine: 5.3%; Victoria: 5.1%). This increased with age, with:

- 25.4% people aged 80 to 84 years need assistance (Alpine: 18.5%; Victoria: 27.5%); and
- 59.2% people aged 84 and over need assistance (Alpine: 41.2%; Victoria: 47%).

According to the Crimes Statistics Agency, the number of **criminal offences** in Alpine Shire increased between 2017-2018. This spike follows a decrease in crime between the years 2014-2017.

## Capacity and resources

**Economic capital**

Myrtleford has a higher rate of **home ownership** compared to the shire and state. 68.8% of residents own or mortgage a house or other dwelling (Alpine: 66.5%; Victoria: 64.2%). Of these 42.8% people **fully own their home** (Alpine: 40.2%; Victoria: 30.7%), and 26% people **mortgage their home** (Alpine: 26.3% Victoria: 33.5%).

Myrtleford has a **lower concentration of private renters** (22.5%) compared to Victoria (27.5%), indicating a more settled area with mature families and empty-nesters. Myrtleford has a higher percentage of people renting social housing (2.7%) than Alpine Shire broadly (1.4%) and is similar to Victoria (2.8%).

The **weekly rental payments** for Myrtleford's renters are:

- 16.8% pay between \$1 and \$149;
- 20.5% pay \$150 to \$199;
- 28.1% pay \$200 to \$249;
- 22.2% pay \$250 to \$299;
- 9.7% pay \$300 to \$399;
- 0% pay \$400 or more; and
- 2.7% not stated.

Myrtleford's current population (2016) is 3,193 people. Since 2001 when the population was 2,823 people, the **population growth** has increased 13.1%. Most of that increase occurred between 2001 and 2006 (11.9%), and since 2006 growth has plateaued significantly (1.1% increase since 2006).

The Victoria in Future 2019 Population and Household Projections (DELWP) shows that Myrtleford is expected to increase to 4,843 people in 2036.

People living in Myrtleford have **relatively low incomes** when compared on all measures to Alpine Shire and Victorian medians:

- Median total personal income (weekly) \$506 (Alpine \$569; Victoria \$644).
- Median total family income (weekly) \$1,220 (Alpine \$1,322; Victoria \$1,715).
- Median total household income (weekly) \$902 (Alpine \$1,002; Victoria \$1,419).

32% of people living in Myrtleford have an individual **income less than \$400** per week.

Agriculture and timber production are the primary **economic drivers** of the community and these are supported by a growing tourism industry. A range of supportive businesses including light industrial, transport, service and retail contribute to the **economic diversity** of industry as well as the overall prosperity of the township.

The most recent ABS data available on the **number of businesses** is from 30 June 2018. At that time, in Myrtleford there were:

- 350 non-employing businesses;
- 129 businesses with 1-4 employees;
- 65 businesses with 5-19 employees; and
- 8 businesses with 20 or more employees.

**Employment diversity** is demonstrated by the industries people work in, including manufacturing, supermarket and grocery stores, hospitals and health, cafes and restaurants, aged care, and timber resawing and dressing.

## Capacity and resources

### Community capital

In 2016, Myrtleford's **SEIFA index score** was 935.8. This places Myrtleford in the 17th percentile of the index, meaning 83% of Australia's suburbs are more socio-economically advantaged. Myrtleford's SEIFA score compares poorly with nearby Bright (1007.6), broader Alpine Shire (994), Victoria (1010) and Australia (1001.9).

The Australian Bureau of Statistics monitors levels of **engagement in employment and education**. Engagement statistics complement employment figures, providing a more comprehensive overview of population activity. Myrtleford's percentage of fully engaged residents is similar to Alpine Shire and Victoria in the 15-24 years, 25-54 years, and 55-64 years age groups. However, Myrtleford's percentage of fully engaged residents aged 65 and over (1.9%) is significantly lower than both Alpine Shire (5.3%) and Victoria (5.1%). Explanations may include relatively earlier retirement in Myrtleford. Disengaged residents may present an opportunity for increasing participation in community volunteering.

Myrtleford has a relatively high level of **volunteerism**. 24.7% of Myrtleford's population volunteers (Alpine: 30.5%; Victoria: 19.2%).

Myrtleford has **access to services** and generally supports the Upper Ovens Valley communities with regard to access to goods and services. Myrtleford services the surrounding rural communities including Happy Valley, Buffalo River and Mudgegonga.

The primary **commercial and retail area** is located centrally adjacent to the Great Alpine Road and is abutted by residential area. An industrial area is located at the towns' west edge and another larger industrial area is located on the northern edge along Yackandandah Road.

The **health and aged care services** support the local as well as Shire wide ageing population. The relative flat topography, central location, pedestrian access and clean air make Myrtleford an ideal location for expanding aged care services and lifestyle choices.

Myrtleford has a taxi service and limited **public transport**.



## Capacity and resources

### Infrastructure and planning

Myrtleford is prone to **flooding**, with floodwater spilling from the Ovens River to the northern part of the floodplain around Selzers Lane at Ovens. Significant flooding occurred in 1974, 1993, 1998, 2010 and 2016. Myrtleford has undergone **flood mitigation** measures to prevent future flooding.

In 2006, 135 tobacco farmers in the Myrtleford area agreed to British American Tobacco's compensation package, terminating the farmer's growing contracts, and effectively **ending Australia's tobacco industry**. Tobacco farming has affected local soils and the localised **land contamination** and small farming lot size must be taken into consideration when planning for land uses and industries.

Myrtleford has potential for **increasing agricultural crops** in the area surrounding the township. The Alpine Shire Council Rural Land Strategy shows the hops industry presents opportunities, along with other industries that bring together tourism and agriculture. There is a lot that can be made of the transition to horticulture and the associated potential for farm gate sales and associated wineries and micro breweries, some for which could locate in town, given that there is considerable demand for this experience in Bright.

Alpine Shire is experiencing a shift in population composition resulting in the dispersal of the resident population into villages surrounding major townships. The **development** is evident around Bright into the villages of Porepunkah and Wandiligong. For Myrtleford, the development is occurring along the Buffalo River Road changing the role of the town from a gateway village to an affordable lifestyle community.

Alpine Shire acknowledged pressure over subdivisions and dwellings in the 2015 Council Rural Land Strategy. Potential for **land supply** exists around the Ovens River. Currently, much of the land adjoining the river near Myrtleford is underutilized; however, the land is flood prone and not suitable for development. Additionally, there are few public access points to the river..

There are 1,559 **dwellings** in Myrtleford

Alpine Shire Council's **Land Development Strategy** will address the future planning and expansion of Myrtleford (for residential, commercial and industrial land uses).

Australia is divided into five classes of **remoteness** on the basis of a measure of relative access to services. The remoteness structure ranges from: Major Cities of Australia, Inner Regional Australia, Outer Regional Australia, Remote Australia, and Very Remote Australia. Myrtleford is classified as Inner Regional Australia, contrasting to other key towns within Alpine Shire which are classified as Outer Regional Australia.



Capacity and resources

## Myrtleford's resources

### Natural resources

Located on the Ovens River flood plain, Myrtleford is rich in natural resources.

The town is characterised by the broad open Ovens Valley which is accentuated by the magnificent views to nearby Mount Buffalo and the forested hills rising to the immediate north and east. The open valley floor supports agriculture with rural living and limited agriculture occurring on the lower slopes of the surrounding hills.

The township primarily runs east – west along the valley floor with some residential areas prone to flooding from the Ovens River and Happy Valley Creek.

Mount Buffalo is located close to town, and nearby Lake Buffalo is a popular spot for fishing, picnicking and watersports.

The Ovens River is the main waterway flowing through Myrtleford. Happy Valley Creek, Barwidgee Creek, Ben Lund Gully and Nil Gully skirt the township.

### Employers

In 2018, ABS data stated there were 8 businesses with 20 or more employees in Myrtleford. Research and consultation indicate Myrtleford's **largest employers** are Carter Holt Harvey, Alpine Health, HVP plantations, Greenfreight, Rostrevor Hop Gardens, Coles, Marian College and Myrtleford P-12.

The ABS releases figures concerning whether people travel for work, however, this data looks at local government areas, not individual towns. In 2016, 88.1% of Alpine Shire residents **lived and worked in the area**. 11.9% of residents living in Alpine Shire **travelled to another local government area for work**, with Wangaratta the most popular destination at 4.8%.

Community-minded businesses offer Myrtleford opportunities for economic resilience. For example, the Australian Pumpkin Seed Company has developed a **social enterprise** business to improve the future of regional community farming and food security in the community. Social enterprises are described as 'identifying a social problem and creating a business to work towards fixing that problem in the community or wider world'.

## Capacity and resources

### Community resources

Myrtleford has a strong sense of community, along with well-established **community groups**. Most famously, the Myrtleford Savoy Ladies Group was established in 1983 to alleviate the sense of social isolation felt by many wives of tobacco farmers. Today, the network is still strong, and the facilities of Club Savoy are used most days by community interest groups and activities.

Other community groups include Myrtleford Men's Shed, Myrtleford Scout Group and the now popular U3A, providing educational, recreational and social programs to retired and semi-retired Myrtleford residents.

Alpine sports are popular with Myrtleford residents given the close proximity to the Mount Buffalo, Mount Hotham, Falls Creek and Dinner Plain **snow fields**.

Myrtleford is an attractive stop along the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail. Recent Federal Government funding was announced to extend the trail from Bright to Harrietteville with a long term vision to further extend into an epic trail atop Mount Hotham and Falls Creek.

Myrtleford is well placed to benefit from Tourism North East's strategic direction to be recognised as the State's premier bike destination.

Myrtleford locals come together in several key public spaces. The **Myrtleford Piazza** provides a space for people to congregate and is a central event venue for the town. Upon completion, the refurbished **Myrtleford Library** will include two meeting rooms, along with casual meeting spaces both outdoor and indoors. Myrtleford's cafés, restaurants and pubs play a key role for

community relationship building, especially **Club Savoy** who host a range of other community organisations and events. For young people, the **skatepark** is an important gathering place.

Organisations like U3A and health outreach programs, rely on accessible, affordable and flexible **spaces**. Myrtleford has function spaces, however, would benefit from having more spaces with better facilities and flexibility.

The town hosts a mix of large, medium and small **events**. Myrtleford enjoys three major **festivals** annually: The Myrtleford Festival, LaFiera Italian Festival and the Myrtleford Show. It is estimated events attract attendance of over 20,000 people each year.

Held over the March Labour Day long weekend, **Myrtleford Festival** has run since 1961 and is one of Victoria's longest running community festivals. The program includes the Festival Ball (coordinated by Myrtleford Lions Club), Market and Parade.

**La Fiera** is Myrtleford's annual Italian festival, celebrating art, music, sport, culture and food. In 2019, the festival is spread over six days, and will include pop-up glamping options for visitors. For the first time, the festival includes the Young Ambassador Scheme, developing community leadership skills in young people.



## Capacity and resources

**Education: primary/secondary**

Three **primary and secondary schools** service Myrtleford: St Mary's Primary School (Catholic), Marian College (secondary, Catholic) and Myrtleford P-12 College (government). Myrtleford students also attend schools in nearby towns such as Bright, Beechworth, Wangaratta and Albury. For example, some Myrtleford students attend The Scots School in Albury, travelling daily with Falls Creek Coaches.

According to data from the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority website My School, in 2018, **St Mary's Primary School** had a total enrolment of 153, with 17 teaching staff (12.1 FTE). St Mary's Primary School has an ICSEA (Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage) value of 1003, which is just above the average ICSEA value 1000.

**Marian College** is Myrtleford's secondary Catholic school, located adjacent to St Mary's. In 2018, Marian College's total enrolment was 177, with 22 teaching staff (18.4 FTE). VCE and VET subjects are available from Year 10, and VCE, VCAL and VET in Years 11 and 12. Marian College teaches Italian and has a biennial Italian Immersion program for students from Years 9 to 11. Marian College had an ICSEA value of 1022, indicating relative socio-educational disadvantage.

In 2018, **Myrtleford P-12 College** had a total enrolment of 345, with 37 teaching staff (31.7 FTE) according to the My School website. Commencing in 2009 with the merger of Myrtleford Primary School and Myrtleford Secondary College, Myrtleford P-12 College grew rapidly between 2013 and 2017, with enrolments increasing from 216 to 322. VCE, VCAL and VET programs are offered. Myrtleford P-12 has a higher proportion of students who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (4%) than both St Mary's (1%) and Marian College (1%). Myrtleford P-12 had an ICSEA value of 973, indicating relative socio-educational disadvantage.

All three of Myrtleford's schools **emphasise community value**, both within each school's community and in the broader Myrtleford community. Myrtleford's schools present both strengths and opportunities in building community resilience and civic minded future generations.

## Capacity and resources

### Education: tertiary

School leavers have limited options for further study in Myrtleford, with higher education opportunities available nearby in Albury, Wodonga and Wangaratta.

### Local pathways

**Alpine Institute** offers courses to Alpine Health staff and individuals seeking training within the health and community service sectors. In 2019, Alpine Institute offered five certificate courses in Health Administration. First aid and CPR courses are offered throughout the year.

**Myrtleford Neighbourhood Community Centre** offers training in computing, customer service, and marketing. In 2019, Wodonga TAFE announced a partnership with Myrtleford Neighbourhood Centre, offering support and advice to local businesses, employers and industry groups.

### Regional pathways

**Wodonga TAFE** offers certificates, diplomas, advanced diplomas, traineeships, apprenticeships and short courses in diverse streams, including agriculture, building design, education, hospitality, tourism and transport.

**LaTrobe University**, Albury-Wodonga Campus offers degree programs in law, business, health sciences, IT and engineering and social sciences. The campus specialises in research across freshwater ecology, resource management and ageing in regional communities.

**Charles Sturt University**, Albury campus offers degree programs in animal and veterinary sciences, business, environmental science, sports sciences, education and IT.

**The Centre**, Wangaratta is a community college focusing on adult education and service provision. Study areas include aged and community care, education and workplace training, agriculture and horticulture.

**Riverina Institute of TAFE** has multiple campuses. Albury campus offers certificates, diplomas and advanced diplomas in business management, beauty therapy, leadership and management, hairdressing and visual arts.

TAFE NSW's **National Environment Centre** is located in Thurgoona and specialises in civil construction, natural resource management, spatial information (GIS), and organic farming.

**GOTAFE** (Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE) has six campuses. GOTAFE Wangaratta offers courses in animal science, agriculture, horticulture and viticulture. GOTAFE Benalla teaches health, plumbing, building and outdoor recreation subjects.

**Albury Wodonga's Community College** offers courses in community services, education support, early childhood education and care, aged care and disability work. The College, established in the 1970's, is community owned and managed.





Vision

Vision

*Myrtleford is an adaptive community that embraces change where people can thrive in work, life and play.*

Resilience focus areas

## Overview of all resilience focus areas

The key directions provide the strategic framework for decision making and priority. They act as a guideline for prioritising actions and ensuring projects meet the needs of the community now and into the future.



Resilience focus areas

## Land use and planning

LU+P

Over many years there has been extensive research, planning, and trialing to find an alternative to tobacco. To date no industry has been identified providing similar benefits of the lucrative tobacco industry.

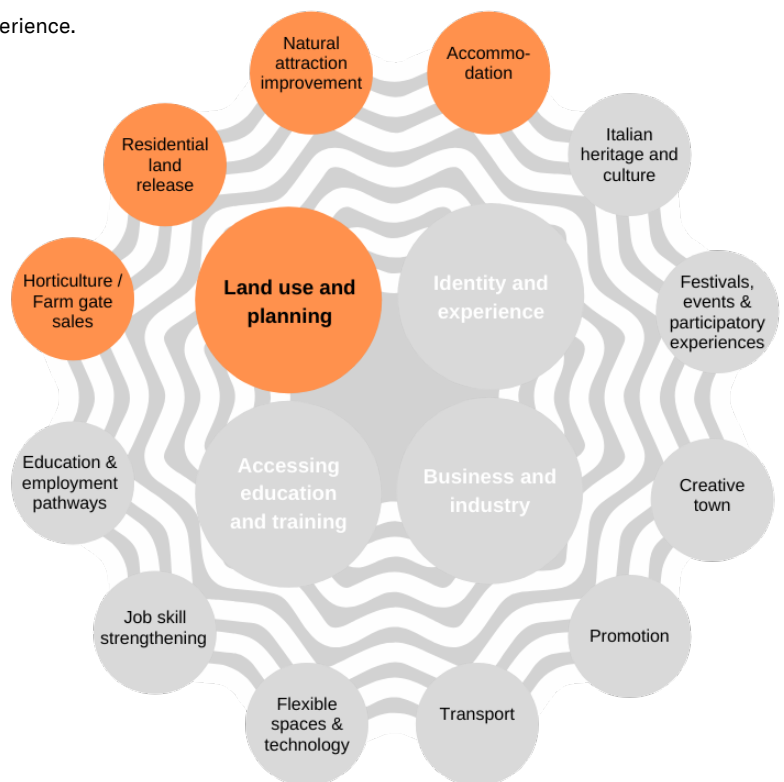
The small size of ex-tobacco farms presents two opportunities. They can be consolidated into larger farms which are more viable for certain crops. Alternately, smaller farms can begin growing specialist 'foodie' type crops, and where possible, operating as farm gate tourist attractions.

Land use and planning also relates to accommodation. Increasing holiday stay accommodation in town may push up rental prices, as demonstrated in other Alpine Shire townships.

Myrtleford provides opportunities for people to connect to the natural assets of the region. Cycling, walking, fishing and recreation are key reasons for people to visit and play. The Ovens River, Happy Valley Creek and Lake Buffalo are maintained, and investment occurs to ensure suitable and continued use.

### Objective

- Connect people to nature and surrounds.
- Leverage off natural assets to create a nature tourism experience.
- Identify infrastructure needs to support recreation uses.



Resilience focus areas

## Accessing education and training



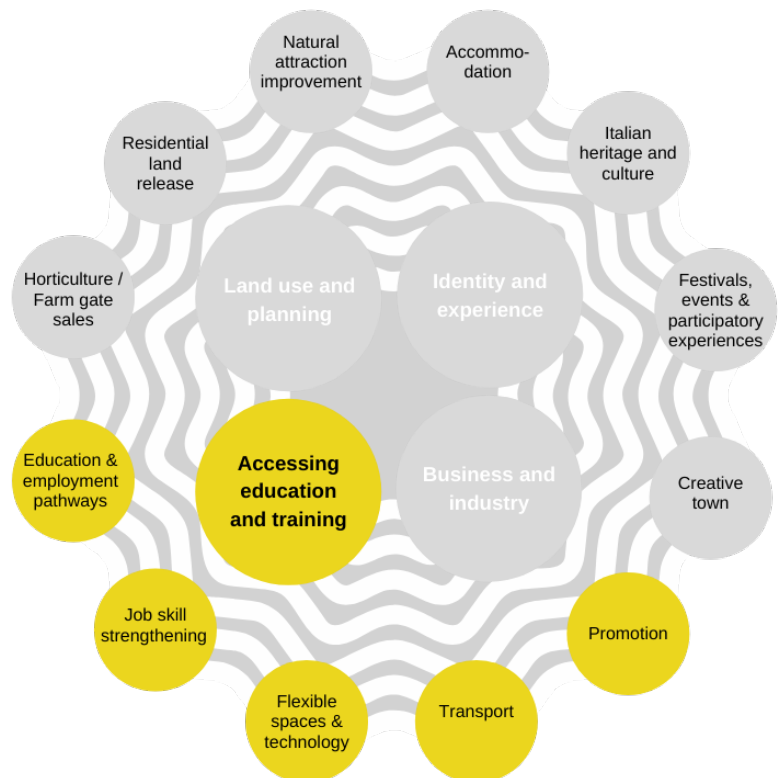
Many of Myrtleford’s young people are keen to stay in the town, and value Myrtleford’s strong community, but feel they have poor local education and job prospects.

Education options in Myrtleford can be improved by continuing to foster institutional relationships and developing spaces in support of online study.

Improving transport to education centres including Albury, Wodonga and Wangaratta is key to increasing educational outcomes. It also allows young people to consider remaining in Myrtleford while studying and working in the broader region.

### Objective

- Building the capacity of community groups to grow and prosper.
- Diversifying use of current buildings to improve community connection.
- Provide young people with opportunities to participate in education and employment.



Resilience focus areas

## Identity and experience



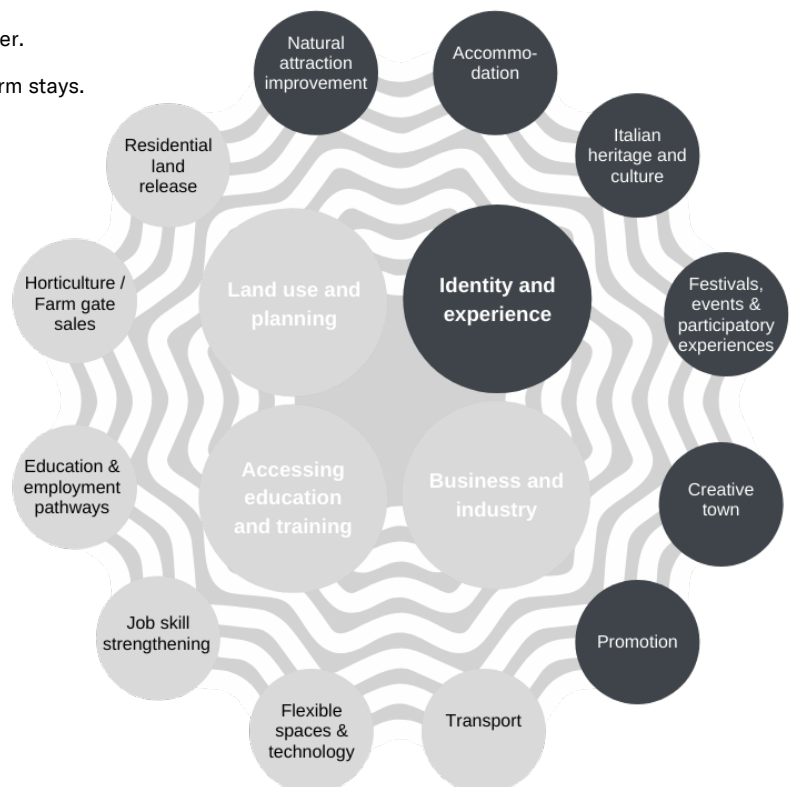
Myrtleford has a strong culture built on Aboriginal, Chinese, and Italian heritage. Residents shared a desire to strengthen Myrtleford’s identity and tourism industry. Ideas include improving Lake Buffalo (facilities upgrade, potential for camping, festivals), improving Ovens River for swimming and leisure, increasing cellar doors and breweries and improving road cycling. People see potential for Myrtleford to develop as a creative/artistic town and/or a foodie-type destination with specialty foods and increased fine dining.

Upgrades aimed at increasing visitation need to be supported by signage drawing attention to Myrtleford as a destination. In terms of circulating information, there’s potential in technologies, for example, interactive ‘what’s on’ screens in the main street.

Myrtleford is proud of its Italian culture and celebrates the heritage through festivals, events, community groups and businesses by incorporating it into their identity.

### Objective

- Create a tourism experience around local culture.
- Celebrate local culture and the skills the community can offer.
- Events and activities that bring the community together.
- Explore the potential of local farms, food trails and farm stays.



Resilience focus areas

## Business and industry



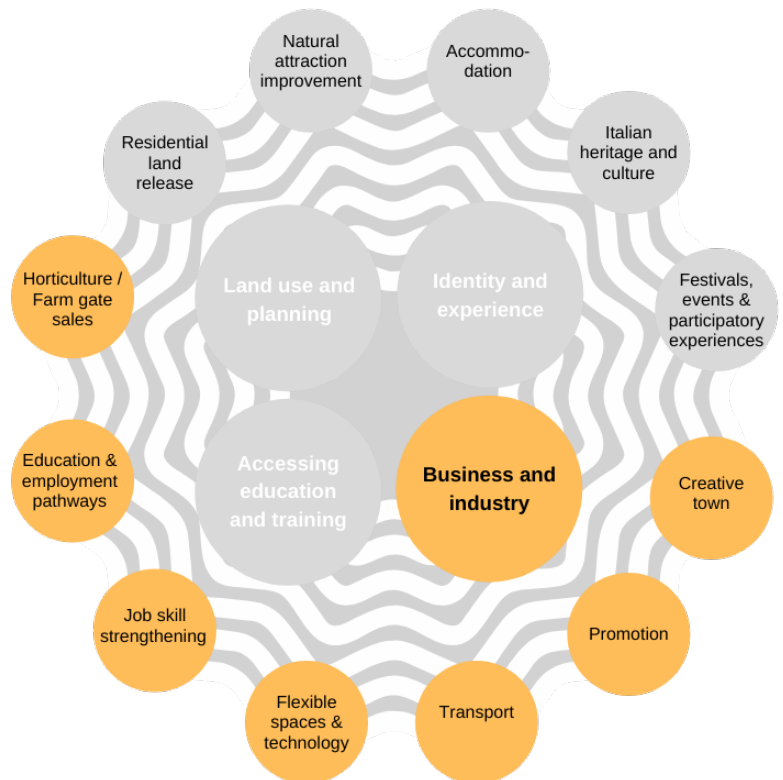
Myrtleford's economy is heavily reliant on a few major employers. The effects of recent production halts and the historical loss of the tobacco industry remains front of mind. A renewed focus on diversifying industry, business and employment is paramount.

Businesses are supported to try new opportunities and provide a culture of encouraging new ideas and attracting businesses opportunities to town.

Fostering community-wide innovation and creativity and making it easier to start a business in Myrtleford will support new businesses, population attraction, and employment.

### Objective

- Train locals and support new business development.
- Celebrate local business successes.
- Retain and attract diverse businesses and industry



Our projects

## Summary

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### QUICK WINS

- 1 Town storytelling
- 2 Walk Myrtleford
- 3 Local training

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### MEDIUM TERM

- 4 Transport
- 5 Build a business program
- 6 Embracing Myrtleford's food culture
- 7 Spaces for art, study and start-ups
- 8 Signage
- 9 RV Friendly Town

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### LONG TERM

- 10 Tobacco Kiln Trail
- 11 Splash Park
- 12 Active in Myrtleford
- 13 Lake Buffalo activation



Our projects

## Quick wins

A quick win is an improvement that is visible, has immediate benefit, and can be delivered in the short term. The quick win needs to be something stakeholders agree to and works towards the combined vision for the community.



### 1. Town storytelling

#### Description

Regular marketing and promotion to promote positive stories about Myrtleford, the community, food production and businesses.

#### Objective

To share good new stories about Myrtleford, the people and the businesses.

#### How

- Showcase new/emerging business and industries of Myrtleford in publications and online.
- Engage with pre-existing brands such as *Bright and Surrounds* and *Tourism North East* to use their platforms to promote Myrtleford.
- Promote the stories of local food producers to position Myrtleford as an area for food tourism.

#### Partners

Alpine Shire Council, Tourism North East, local eateries and businesses.



### 2. Walk Myrtleford

#### Description

Provide guided or self-guided walking tours around Myrtleford to educate and entertain visitors with the town's history including Italian migration, Aboriginal heritage, Chinese migration, the tobacco and hop growing industries.

#### Objective

To provide a cultural and historical experience for locals and visitors of Myrtleford and to celebrate the history of the town.

#### How

- Identify local hot spots (eg mosaic trail), historical sites and significant cultural places.
- Develop a self-guided walking tour brochure.
- Develop Alpine Ambassador program through Visitor Information Centre.
- Promotion of walking tours through a mini event and launch.

#### Partners

Myrtleford Heritage Society, Myrtleford Visitor Information Centre, Alpine Shire Council, Alpine Active Group.

Our projects

E+TB+I

### 3. Local training

#### Description

Developing opportunities for education and training in a local setting particularly for young people seeking employment or training in Myrtleford.

#### Objective

To provide the community with local education and training opportunities.

#### How

- Work with Wodonga TAFE and Myrtleford Neighbourhood House to establish accredited courses in Myrtleford supporting further education for school leavers.
- Partner with Myrtleford P-12 to understand ongoing education and training needs.

#### Partners

Wodonga TAFE, Myrtleford Neighbourhood House, Alpine Institute, and Myrtleford P-12.

Our projects

## Medium term

These actions mobilise the community and develop confidence to invest further in the community. Partnerships with key organisations, government and community groups will be required to deliver these projects.



### 4. Transport

#### Description

Establish community connections to enable young people and those with limited transport options access to education and training.

#### Objective

To facilitate education and training for residents of Myrtleford.

#### How

- Investigate shared transport options for students attending education and training in other towns.
- Work with education providers to quantify the transport need of Myrtleford residents who are accessing education & training.
- Provide a mechanism through a local organisation where people can register their interest for shared transport options.

#### Partners

Department of Transport (Vic), Wodonga TAFE, GOTAFE, Myrtleford Neighbourhood House and Myrtleford P-12.



### 5. Build a business program

#### Description

Encourage new and innovative industry to Myrtleford through a building business program that can help industries and people to develop their skills and learn how to operate a business.

#### Objective

To build the capacity of our entrepreneurial minded residents, and business owners and operators to establish and maintain thriving businesses.

#### How

- Alpine Shire Council and Wodonga TAFE to work together to establish an entrepreneur's (become your own boss) program.
- Develop a business program that consist of a series of workshops, guest speakers and training.
- Mentoring programs for business to business owners.
- Host Small Business Victoria mentors and workshops.
- Myrtleford Neighbourhood House to establish training program for small businesses (marketing, social media, bookkeeping, business planning) with support from Alpine Shire Council.
- Retail merchandising workshop for existing businesses.

#### Partners

Alpine Shire Council, Wodonga TAFE and Myrtleford Neighbourhood House.

Our projects



## 6. Embracing Myrtleford's food culture

### Description

Develop a Myrtleford food and drink experience which highlights the local offer and builds on Myrtleford's unique Italian heritage.

### Objective

To celebrate and showcase Myrtleford's food culture, local produce and Italian heritage.

### How

- Promotion of farmers market and the local produce Myrtleford has to offer to the region.
- Identification of site for cooking classes or demonstrations.
- Investigate opportunity for pop up shop/stall for produce or start-ups.
- Explore opportunities for introducing food trails, farm gate and farm stays.
- La Fiera Youth Ambassador Program.

### Partners

Chamber of Commerce, Myrtleford Farmers Market, businesses and eateries, Alpine Health, Alpine Shire Council.



## 7. Spaces for art, study and start-ups

### Description

Work with current facility managers to improve the accessibility of spaces for small businesses, artists and students.

### Objective

To attract small business owners, artists and students by improving connections with small business owners and creating networks.

### How

- Diversify use of spaces that can support local artists and shows (i.e. Memorial Hall).
- Partner with local library to promote facilities, services and spaces for students and businesses.
- Open day at Myrtleford Neighbourhood House to showcase services and spaces available.
- Investigate opportunity for discounted spaces for start up businesses.
- Identify gaps or opportunities for spaces that can support emerging businesses, artists and students.

### Partners

Alpine Shire Council, Myrtleford Neighbourhood House, Chamber of Commerce, Myrtleford Gallery, and relevant committees and facility managers.

Our projects



## 8. Signage

### Description

Use signage to promote key local destinations to people travelling through to increase the number of visitors stopping in Myrtleford.

### Objective

To provide wayfinding and information for residents, visitors and people passing through Myrtleford.

### How

- Engage relevant stakeholders (Vic Roads, Alpine Shire Council) to look at signage opportunities.
- Identify places of interest that will encourage visitors to spend time in Myrtleford.
- Develop signage to create connections to key places.

### Partners

Myrtleford Heritage Society, Myrtleford Information Centre and Alpine Shire Council.



## 9. RV Friendly Town

### Description

Council investigates making Myrtleford an RV friendly town by improving accessibility for recreation vehicles and caravans.

### Objective

To place Myrtleford in a good position to attract visitors and provide amenities for short stays or people passing through.

### How

- Promote the two existing dump points in Myrtleford at Adern's Caravan Park and Myrtleford Holiday Park.
- Using the CMCA "RV Friendly Town" guidelines, Council investigates and plans implementation of the criteria requirements to make Myrtleford a RV Friendly Town.

### Partners

Alpine Shire Council, Showgrounds Committee, Caravan and Motorhome Association.

Our projects

## Long term

These actions provide opportunities for investment and lead to real change, long lasting impact and community strengthening. Partnerships with key organisations, government and community groups will be required.



### 10. Tobacco Kiln Trail

#### Description

Develop a creative trail in the Ovens Valley by activating the old tobacco kilns with mural artwork or signage with historical story telling of the kilns and tobacco industry. The art will reflect the history and provide a story telling avenue.

#### Objective

To build on the identity of Myrtleford, the history of the tobacco industry and to create a point of difference for the township.

#### How

- Establish expression of interest of property owners of kilns who would want to participate in the trail.
- Identify Tobacco Kilns appropriate for signage and artwork.
- Establish project plan and funding opportunities.
- Develop signage or brief for artists.
- Install signage and/or artwork.

#### Partners

Alpine Shire Council, Chamber of Commerce, Property owners, local art groups and Regional Development Victoria.



### 11. Splash Park

#### Description

To build on the streetscape development and encourage people to stop in town, develop a splash park at central location in Myrtleford for residents and visitors to enjoy.

#### Objective

To create a place for residents to connect and socialise and to attract visitors to the town.

#### How

- Consultation with the community stakeholders on the best location for splash park.
- Council and the community to work together on the best options for a splash park.
- Develop a splash park plan that meets the community's needs and within Councils resources.
- Seek funding for splash park development.
- Install splash park.

#### Partners

Alpine Shire Council, community and funding bodies.

## Our projects



## 12. Active in Myrtleford

### Description

Creating active tourism in Myrtleford through investment in mountain bike trails, walking tracks and cycling infrastructure.

### Objective

To build on active tourism activities already present in the region and ensure the appropriate infrastructure is available to increase participation and attract events.

### How

- Identify and construct mountain bike trails within and around Myrtleford (ie. Reform Hill).
- Construct mountain bike trails linking Beechworth to Bright through Myrtleford. Develop a trail system suitable for mountain bikes for people to tour on MTB trails between Beechworth, Yackandandah and Bright.
- Continue to build on the rail trail network and identify opportunities for cycling linkages to other townships.

### Partners

Alpine Shire Council, DELWP, Parks Victoria, HVP, relevant land managers, Active Alpine Group, and Tourism North East.



## 13. Lake Buffalo activation

### Description

Promotion and activation of Lake Buffalo to encourage tourism to the area and offer reasons for visitors to stay and explore the region. Identifying infrastructure investment that supports usage and encourages participation and business opportunities.

### Objective

To encourage visitation and stays in Myrtleford and provide the community with a well-maintained recreation space with a variety of activities to participate in.

### How

- Partner with Goulburn Murray Water to identify appropriate infrastructure and services required as per their Land and On-Water Management Plan for Lake Buffalo.
- Promote Lake Buffalo as a destination.
- Identify gaps and opportunities for activation at Lake Buffalo such as potential for low impact camping sites, walking tracks, fishing events and activities.

### Partners

Alpine Shire Council, Goulburn Murray Water, North East Catchment Management Authority, Lake Buffalo Water Management Committee, Myrtleford Angling Club, Myrtleford Boat Club and DELWP.

Governance

## Administration

The Plan is uniquely tailored to Myrtleford's needs as it was developed by the Myrtleford community. Residents were clear that they want to be part of a community that adapts and grows with change, where people can thrive in work, life and play.

This Plan documents the projects prioritised by the community during engagement activities. These projects align with the resilience focus areas: **land use and planning**, **accessing education and training**, **identity and experience** and **business and industry**. Projects are categorised by time frame for completion being either a quick win or medium to long term.

### Governance

For the implementation of the Plan to be successful, clear governance and executive oversight is required. Alpine Shire Council will remain responsible for governing the Myrtleford Resilience Plan.

All sectors of the community have input into its implementation. The community, Council, local businesses, service providers, and community group will need to join forces in various capacities to deliver projects. Stakeholder will be brought together on a project-by-project delivery basis.

### Measuring success

Measures will be reviewed annually to determine the status of progress. This will be provided to Council to assist in community planning, budget development and community needs assessment.





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1 JULY - 30 SEPTEMBER 2019

# Q1 - Quarterly Report

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Presented to Ordinary Council Meeting  
12 November 2019

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## Strategic Objective 1: A high performing organisation

Initiative / Indicator	Major initiative?	Progress to 30 September 2019
<b>Strategy: Advocate for the community on key issues</b>		
Conduct advocacy to all levels of government, and to key groups within the North East and Hume region.	No	Council continues to advocate to all levels of government, and key organisations within the North East.
<b>Strategy: Build a skilled organisation with a positive culture</b>		
Provide mandatory and targeted training to staff	No	42 training opportunities were provided to staff during the first quarter of 2019/20, through a mix of group training sessions and individual learning opportunities. A total of 170 staff received training in Q1.
Staff turnover as a percentage of permanent staff numbers*	Indicator	Reported at end of financial year.
<b>Strategy: Communicate and engage with stakeholders</b>		
Council website refresh phase II	Yes	Council's new website was launched on 2 August 2019. Phase II has not yet commenced.
Community satisfaction with community consultation and engagement	Indicator	2019 Result = 56
<b>Strategy: Lead and govern with integrity</b>		
No initiatives in 2019/20		
Percentage of Council decisions made at meetings closed to the public*	Indicator	Q1 = 0%
Percentage of councillors in attendance at ordinary and special Council meetings*	Indicator	Q1 = 95%

## Strategic Objective 2: A responsible and sustainable organisation

Initiative / Indicator	Major initiative?	Progress to 30 September 2019
<b>Strategy: Balance financial, economic and community outcomes</b>		
No initiatives in 2019/20		
<b>Strategy: Identify and manage Council's risk</b>		
IT governance framework and IT risk controls	No	New overarching Protective Data Security Framework and Information Security policy are in development.
Review of Health and Safety systems	No	Not yet commenced.
Lost time injury frequency rate	Indicator	Data not available at time of writing report.
Overall financial sustainability risk rating	Indicator	Reported at end of financial year.
Percentage of planned hazard inspections undertaken	Indicator	100% workplace hazard inspections undertaken with one completed in Q1
<b>Strategy: Manage our financial resources sustainably</b>		
No initiatives in 2019/20		
Ability to pay debts: Non-current liabilities as a percentage of own source revenue*	Indicator	Reported at end of financial year.
Available revenue: Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit) as a percentage of underlying revenue*	Indicator	Reported at end of financial year.
Working capital: Current assets as a percentage of own source revenue*	Indicator	Reported at end of financial year.
<b>Strategy: Provide an excellent customer experience</b>		
Customer request management system	Yes	A preferred enterprise vendor has been selected for these systems, and contract negotiations are underway with implementation expected to commence in December 2019
Planning, Building and Local Laws system	Yes	
Property, Rates and Receipting system	Yes	
Community satisfaction with customer service provided	Indicator	2019 Result = 69

## **Software project**

The Business Systems Transformation project is well underway with a modern Council enterprise vendor having been chosen to implement new business systems across Council from December 2019 – December 2020. Alpine will implement these systems collaboratively with Indigo Shire Council and Towong Shire Council to strive for best practice in customer service delivery.

## **Financial audit**

Council received a strong endorsement from our auditors this year regarding the accuracy and quality of our annual financial and performance statements. VAGO certified the annual statements, with Council's Annual Report submitted to the Minister for Local Government by 30 September.

## **Challenges**

Working with two other Councils to structure a collaborative systems procurement and implementation project is challenging but achievable provided that all Councils share the vision and are fully committed to a successful shared outcome.

## Strategic Objective 3: Incredible places for our community and visitors

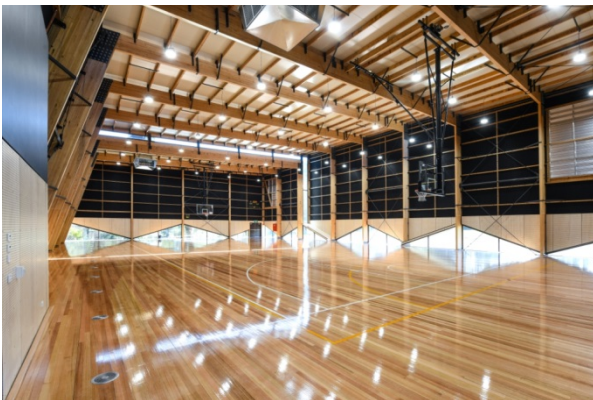
Initiative / Indicator	Major initiative?	Progress to 30 September 2019
<i>Strategy: Deliver Council's capital works program on time, to budget, and to the satisfaction of stakeholders</i>		
Buckland Bridge	Yes	Design is almost complete in readiness for tendering of the new bridge construction works in late 2019.
Great Valley Trail	Yes	Refinement of the alignment and planning approvals are currently underway with the aim of construction of Stage 1 occurring in early 2020.
Alpine Better Places - Harrietville	Yes	A shortage of resources has meant that this project is yet to commence. The aim is to tender the project management and design components in late 2019.
Alpine Better Places - Tawonga	Yes	This project will run concurrently with Alpine Better Places - Harrietville. The aim is to tender the project management and design components in late 2019.
Pebble Beach footpath extension to confluence	Yes	Ecological and cultural heritage investigations are complete and planning approvals are underway. Tendering will occur in late 2019, with construction occurring in early 2020.
Mount Beauty Skate Park upgrade	Yes	Tender documents are being prepared with the aim of construction occurring in early 2020.
Myrtleford Indoor Sports Stadium expansion	Yes	This project has now been successfully completed just in time for the new basketball season.
Gavan Street pedestrian crossings	Yes	Design is currently underway and construction is anticipated in early 2020.
Myrtleford Memorial Hall	No	Work has been undertaken to investigate the condition of the internal flooring as well as clear out the excess furniture in readiness for the renewal works in 2020.
Dinner Plain Toboggan and Ski Run	No	The Dinner Plain Village Design project is nearing completion which will inform the extent of safety improvements to be undertaken in these areas.
Centenary Park toilets	No	The works are ready to tender with construction to occur in early 2020.
Ratio of capital works program actually delivered compared to budgeted	Indicator	At this stage it is difficult to predict, however a shortage of resources may result in a lower than 100% delivery ratio this year.
<i>Strategy: Identify our community's infrastructure expectations</i>		
No initiatives in 2019/20		
Community access to our project pipeline	Indicator	The community has access to our project pipeline via Council's new website.

## Completion of the Myrtleford Indoor Sports Stadium Expansion (MISSE)

The state of the art Myrtleford Stadium Expansion was completed this quarter. The new \$2.6 million expansion was made possible through generous funding received from both the Myrtleford District Basketball Association (\$53,168) and the Victorian Government under their 2016-17 Better Indoor Stadiums Fund (\$1.3 million).

The project has delivered a multi-purpose indoor court with fully-compliant spring timber floor, an accessible change room, two ambulant toilets, a meeting space, unsealed parking, storage and an evaporative cooling system.

MISSE was designed using environmentally sustainable principles and extends the provision of sport and active recreation activities to all Myrtleford residents and visitors.



## Completion of the Tawonga Primary School Crossing Upgrade

The upgrade of the Tawonga Primary School Crossing was completed this quarter. The upgraded crossing includes a landscaped refuge and traffic calming measures to ensure improved safety for children and families crossing the Kiewa Valley Highway from the shared path to the school entry. The safer crossing, as well as the provision of a crossing supervisor, provides families with greater confidence in allowing their children to walk or ride to school.

The project was delivered within the \$60,000 budget and was wholly funded by VicRoads under the 2017-18 Building Our Regions – Small Scale Initiatives.





## Completion of the Ranch Road Drainage Upgrade

Drainage in Ranch Road Tawonga South was completed this quarter. This project has now diverted stormwater away from an open channel running through private property fronting the Kiewa Valley Highway. The stormwater is now directed to run in pits and pipes within the Ranch Road corridor, protecting the properties downstream from damaging stormwater flows.

The project was partly funded by VicRoads under the 2017-18 Building Our Regions – Small Scale Initiatives (\$40,000).



## Challenges

Ensuring that Council has enough project managers to successfully deliver the large capital works program is a challenge. Civil Engineers are proving particularly hard to attract, given the large projects currently underway in Melbourne and Sydney, which are offering attractive remuneration to engineers with project experience. Council has continued to try and recruit through recruitment agencies; however this has also been unsuccessful. Quotations from consultants have been sought to undertake external project management services to resource some remaining projects.

## Strategic Objective 4: Infrastructure and open space that our community is proud of

Initiative / Indicator	Major initiative?	Progress to 30 September 2019
<i>Strategy: Maintain Council's parks, trees and reserves</i>		
No initiatives in 2019/20		
<i>Strategy: Manage and maintain Council infrastructure</i>		
Deliver maintenance programs for civil infrastructure	No	Maintenance programs have commenced across the Shire
Undertake activities in accordance with Road Management Plan (RMP)	No	Activities continue to be delivered in line with the Road Management Plan.
Community satisfaction with sealed local roads*	Indicator	Sourced from LGPRF
<i>Strategy: Prepare for and assist in the response to emergency events</i>		
Undertake activities in accordance with Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP)	No	Commenced preparation in readiness for the coming summer fire readiness season.
Audit of the Municipal Emergency Management Plan	Indicator	0
<i>Strategy: Understand and plan for Council's asset renewal requirements</i>		
Asset management system	Yes	Not yet commenced
Chain of responsibility solutions	Yes	Not yet commenced

## Strategic Objective 5: Highly utilised and well managed community facilities

Initiative / Indicator	Major initiative?	Progress to 30 September 2019
<i>Strategy: Align services with community expectations</i>		
Kerbside organic waste collection survey	No	Survey has been undertaken. Results have been compiled and reviewed. A report on the results from the survey is being prepared for Council. Report expect later in the financial year
<i>Strategy: Deliver quality services for our community</i>		
Libraries RFID implementation	Yes	The RFQ process has been led by Benalla Council on behalf of all High Country Library network Councils. The RFQ is currently open.
Kerbside collection bins missed per 10,000 households*	Indicator	Q1 = 1.62
Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill*	Indicator	Q1 = 38.58%
<i>Strategy: Soundly operate and manage community facilities</i>		
Porepunkah landfill rehabilitation	Yes	Stage 2 works have been delayed due to delays in sourcing suitable capping material. Confirmation of stage 2 cap design currently being sought from EPA. Capping material has now been sourced. Once stage 2 design is approved works process will commence
E-waste infrastructure	Yes	Tender for construction of e-waste sheds at transfer stations completed. Plan for works to be completed March 2020
Operate Visitor Information Centres, seasonal pools and sports centres	No	Visitor Information Centres operating as normal. Preparations for outdoor pool season has been occurring during the off season including the engagement of pool coordinator to commence 7 October 2019
Deliver library programs to engage patrons	No	The September school holiday programs were successful and well-attended. Council has recently been notified of a successful funding application through the Be Connected program which will enable continuation of the popular adult digital literacy programs to library patrons.
Cost of indoor aquatic facilities per visit*	Indicator	Reported at end of financial year.

Initiative / Indicator	Major initiative?	Progress to 30 September 2019
Cost of outdoor aquatic facilities per visit*	Indicator	Reported at end of financial year.
Number of visits to aquatic facilities per head of municipal population*	Indicator	Q1 = 0.3 (noting that seasonal / outdoor pools were not open in Q1).
Cost of library services per visit*	Indicator	Reported at end of financial year.
Percentage of the population that are active library members*	Indicator	Reported at end of financial year. (Noting that the LGPRF measure for this has changed – it is now the average of the previous three years, rather than a yearly measure)

## Libraries

Library staff in Myrtleford launched a community-building initiative by reaching out to the Italian Leisure Group, a group of Italian elderly residents in Myrtleford, to invite them to hold regular sessions at the library.

Over the past few weeks the group has strengthened their sense of community and place by gathering to celebrate their Italian heritage together and have a bit of fun.

The group have used the Italian language collection at the library, researching and ordering in new items from other libraries, and gathering in the new meeting room for a variety of activities including screening Italian language films (making the most of Council's new subscription to Kanopy), accessing Google Earth to find the towns and houses in Italy where they grew up, and watching a comedic play starring the Italian Savoy Club Ladies about the life and times of Italian women growing tobacco in the Myrtleford region.

Library staff have been approached about creating similar programs for other elderly resident groups of Myrtleford.

## Strategic Objective 6: A well planned and safe community

Initiative / Indicator	Major initiative?	Progress to 30 September 2019
<i>Strategy: Enforce local laws, regulations and codes</i>		
Implement Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) initiatives	No	Participation in Desex you Pet Month with local vets (July). The Domestic Animal Management Plan was reviewed, for presentation to Council in October.
Domestic Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP) implementation	Yes	Recruited staff member to implement DWMP, commenced initial actions and set up ready for implementation commencing in Q2.
Issue permits and enforce compliance for building, local laws, and environmental health	No	Ongoing throughout the year.
Percentage of required food safety assessments undertaken*	Indicator	51% - This is effectively Q3 for food safety reporting which occurs over calendar years rather than financial years. (84 food assessments undertaken / 164 currently registered Class 1 and 2 food businesses). Stretrader not included as Department of Health reporting data not currently available.
<i>Strategy: Plan for and manage development to enhance liveability</i>		
Land Development Strategy	Yes	Detailed project plan being developed including coordination with Section 12B Planning Scheme Review and the Bright Western Gateway Precinct Structure Plan which has been funded by the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA). Review of current planning policy and background technical studies is ongoing. Briefs prepared for consultant studies.
Urban design principles - Bright	No	Funding provided from VPA Bright Western Gateway Precinct Structure Plan and initial liaison has taken place regarding project planning. This will be undertaken concurrently with the Land Development Strategy.
Issue permits and enforce compliance for statutory planning	No	The statutory planning team welcomed a new Planning Officer.
Percentage of planning applications processed within 60 statutory days*	Indicator	Q1 = 64% for regular decisions required within 60 days. (Q1 = 63% for all statutory decisions within required timeframes, including regular and VicSmart decisions).
Time taken to decide planning applications*	Indicator	Q1 = 50 days

## **Dinner Plain parking**

Council implemented a new parking permit system for Dinner Plain, as well as trialling new variable parking restriction areas within the village. Overall, feedback indicated that the changes were positive and well received by the majority of visitors, businesses and accommodation providers. Further fine tuning and changes will be implemented next season based on feedback from this year.

## **Domestic Animals**

Council participated in 'Desex your Pet Month' in July, in partnership with the local veterinarians in the Shire. This initiative involves the vets and Council providing a subsidy for desexing dogs and cats if they are registered in the Shire. This is the second year that Council has partnered with the two local vets in the Shire in this popular initiative.

## **Challenges**

For Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP), the majority of key targets were met. However, a system error resulted in incomplete animal registration renewals being sent out in April. This in turn meant that the target of 95% of animal registrations being renewed by 1 June was not met, however progress is currently being made to make up this target.

## Strategic Objective 7: A thriving and connected community

Initiative / Indicator	Major initiative?	Progress to 30 September 2019
<b>Strategy: Create socially connected and supported communities</b>		
Resilient Myrtleford	Yes	Plan is in draft form. The Plan will be presented to community in October and adoption by Council planned for Q2.
Deliver Maternal Child Health services	No	The service is being delivered, however staff vacancies continue to affect the ability to fully service programs.
Deliver Learner to Probationary (L2P) driving program	No	The service continues to be delivered successfully..
Participation in the Maternal Child Health service*	Indicator	Q1 = 100%
Percentage of people who volunteer in the community	Indicator	Reported at end of financial year.
<b>Strategies:</b> <i>Improve healthy eating and physical activity</i> <i>Stop family violence against women and children</i> <i>Reduce the incidence of alcohol and other drug related harm</i>		
Provide community programs from youth to seniors	No	Youth Awards were delivered in Q2. Seniors Festival, Children's Week, Walk to School and Resilience Month activities are in planning for delivery in Q2
<b>Strategy: Strengthen visitor attraction and experience</b>		
Alpine Events Strategy	Yes	This strategy will be delivered alongside the Economic Development Plan
Deliver destination marketing programs	No	Activity is being delivered as planned.
Number of permitted festivals and events in the Alpine Shire	Indicator	Reported at end of financial year.
Visitor numbers	Indicator	Reported at end of financial year.
<b>Strategy: Support and encourage investment and enterprise</b>		
Economic Development Strategy	Yes	This strategy will be delivered alongside the Land Development Plan
Deliver business support programs	No	Two small business training events were held in Q1. The Small Business Bus also visited the Alpine Shire.
Deliver grant funding programs	No	The Community Grant and Event Funding programs processes were undertaken in Q1. Council endorsing funds and projects and events to be funded at the August Council meeting.
Increase small business and light industry in the Shire	Indicator	Reported at end of financial year.

**RECORD OF ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILORS**

**Meeting Title:** Briefing Session  
**Date:** 24 September 2019  
**Location:** Committee Room, Bright Office  
**Start Time:** 3.00pm  
**Chairperson:** Cr Ron Janas, Mayor

**Councillor and staff attendees:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Cr Ron Janas	Mayor	Nathalie Cooke	A/ CEO
Cr Sarah Nicholas	Deputy Mayor		
Cr Tony Keeble	Councillor		
Cr Kitty Knappstein	Councillor		

**Councillor and staff apologies:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Cr John Forsyth	Councillor	Charlie Bird	Chief Executive Officer
Cr Daryl Pearce	Councillor	Will Jeremy	Director Assets
Cr Peter Roper	Councillor		

**1. Conflict of interest disclosures**

Nil

**2. Record of Councillors that have disclosed a conflict of interest leaving the assembly**

Nil

**3. Matters considered**

- Councillor only time
- Annual Report
- FOGO Update
- Land Development Strategy update
- Bright Township Western Gateway Precinct Structure Plan (PSP)
- Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda review



**RECORD OF ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILORS**

**Meeting Title:** Briefing Session  
**Date:** 1 October 2019  
**Location:** Committee Room, Bright Office  
**Start Time:** 4.30pm  
**Chairperson:** Cr Ron Janas, Mayor

**Councillor and staff attendees:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Cr Ron Janas	Mayor	Charlie Bird	Chief Executive Officer
Cr Sarah Nicholas	Deputy Mayor	Will Jeremy	Director Assets
Cr Tony Keeble	Councillor	Nathalie Cooke	Director Corporate
Cr Kitty Knappstein	Councillor		
Cr John Forsyth	Councillor		
Cr Daryl Pearce	Councillor		
Cr Peter Roper	Councillor		

**Councillor and staff apologies:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>

**1. Conflict of interest disclosures**

Nil

**2. Record of Councillors that have disclosed a conflict of interest leaving the assembly**

Nil

**3. Matters considered**

- Preparation discussion
- Meeting with Community Members to listen consider alternative proposal.
- Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda review

**RECORD OF ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILORS**

**Meeting Title:** Briefing Session  
**Date:** 15 October 2019  
**Location:** Committee Room, Bright Office  
**Start Time:** 4.30pm  
**Chairperson:** Cr Ron Janas, Mayor

**Councillor and staff attendees:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Cr Ron Janas	Mayor	Charlie Bird	Chief Executive Officer
Cr Sarah Nicholas	Deputy Mayor	Will Jeremy	Director Assets
Cr Tony Keeble	Councillor	Nathalie Cooke	Director Corporate
Cr Kitty Knappstein	Councillor		
Cr John Forsyth	Councillor		
Cr Daryl Pearce	Councillor		
Cr Peter Roper	Councillor		

**Councillor and staff apologies:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>

**1. Conflict of interest disclosures**

Nil

**2. Record of Councillors that have disclosed a conflict of interest leaving the assembly**

Nil

**3. Matters considered**

- Memorials Policy
- Alpine Community Plantation Update
- Dinner Plain Event Funding Report
- Better Approvals Project
- AGL Rates in Lieu (read only presentation)
- External Presentation : School Strike for Climate Organisers
- Climate Change Action scoping discussion
- Renewable Energy Opportunities
- Preparation discussion

**RECORD OF ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILORS**

**Meeting Title:** Briefing Session  
**Date:** 29 October 2019  
**Location:** Committee Room, Bright Office  
**Start Time:** 4.30pm  
**Chairperson:** Cr Ron Janas, Mayor

**Councillor and staff attendees:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Cr Ron Janas	Mayor	Charlie Bird	Chief Executive Officer
Cr Sarah Nicholas	Deputy Mayor	Will Jeremy	Director Assets
Cr Kitty Knappstein	Councillor	Nathalie Cooke	Director Corporate
Cr Peter Roper	Councillor		

**Councillor and staff apologies:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Cr John Forsyth	Councillor		
Cr Daryl Pearce	Councillor		
Cr Tony Keeble	Councillor		

**1. Conflict of interest disclosures**

Nil

**2. Record of Councillors that have disclosed a conflict of interest leaving the assembly**

Nil

**3. Matters considered**

- Councillor only time
- Resilient Myrtleford Strategy
- External Presentation DPRBOS
- Audit Committee Remuneration
- Business Systems Transformation Tender
- Memorials Policy
- Domestic Wastewater Management Plan update
- Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor process
- RDV Funding Opportunity
- Regional Airports Funding Program
- Q4 Finance Report
- Read only presentations: Guardrail Upgrades; Standish Street Renewal; Roberts Creek Bridge Network Upgrade; and Road Stabilisation and patching (2019/20).