

OFFICIAL



Mansfield Shire Council Meeting

Wednesday 12 February 2025 5:00 pm
Mansfield Council Office

Notice and Agenda of meeting livestreamed via the
[Mansfield Shire Council website](#)
Commencing at 5pm

Our aspiration for our Shire and its community

We live, work and play in an inclusive, dynamic and prosperous place where
community spirit is strong and people are empowered to engage in issues that
affect their lives.

Councillors

Cr Steve Rabie (Mayor)
Cr James Tehan (Deputy Mayor)
Cr Tim Berenyi
Cr Bonnie Clark
Cr Mandy Treasure

Officers

Kirsten Alexander, Chief Executive Officer
Melissa Crane, General Manager Investment & Planning
Janique Snyder, Executive Manager People, Communications & Governance
Ari Croxford-Demasi, Executive Manager Capital Works & Operations
Nola Cleeland, Executive Manager Community Health & Wellbeing

Order of Business

1. Opening of the meeting

The Mayor, who chairs the meeting, will formally open the meeting and welcome all present.

2. Present

Where a meeting is held virtually, Councillors will confirm that they can see and hear each other.

3. Apologies

Where a Councillor is not present, their absence is noted in the Minutes of the meeting.

4. Statement of commitment

The Council affirms its commitment to ensuring its behaviour meets the standards set by the Model Councillor Code of Conduct.

5. Acknowledgement of Country

The Council affirms its recognition of the Taungurung people being traditional custodians of this area, and pays respect to their Elders past and present.

6. Disclosure of conflicts of interest

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, a Councillor must declare any Conflicts of Interest pursuant to sections 126 and 127 Act in any items on this Agenda.

Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to any items listed on this Agenda must declare a Conflict of Interest regarding the specific item.

7. Confirmation of minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting are placed before Council to confirm the accuracy and completeness of the record.

8. Representations

Council receives or presents acknowledgements to the general public. Deputations may also be heard by members of the general public who have made submission on any matter or requested to address the Council. Council may also receive petitions from residents and ratepayers on various issues. Any petitions received since the previous Council meeting are tabled at the meeting and the matter referred to the appropriate Council officer for consideration.

9. Notices of Motion

A Motion is a request (Notice of Motion) that may be made by a Councillor for an issue not listed on the Agenda to be discussed at a Council meeting and for a decision to be made.

10. Mayor's report

The Mayor provides a report on their activities.

11. Reports from council appointed representatives

Councillors appointed by Council to external committees will provide an update where relevant.

12. Public question time

Councillors will respond to questions from the community that have been received in writing, by midday on the Monday prior to the Council meeting. A form is provided on Council's website.

13. Officer reports

13.1 Council considers a report from the Chief Executive Officer on the current operations, activities and projects undertaken with each department over the past month

13.2-13.4 Officer reports are presented to the Council, where required.

14. Council resolutions report

Council reviews the outstanding actions arising from resolutions from previous Council meetings.

15. Advisory and Special Committee reports

Council considers reports from Advisory Committees that Councillors represent Council on.

16. Authorisation of sealing of documents

Any documents that are required to be endorsed by the Chief Executive Officer under delegated authority and sealed by the Council are presented to the Council.

17. Closure of meeting to members of the public

Whilst all Council meetings are open to members of the public, Council has the power under the Local Government Act 2020 to close its meeting to the general public in certain circumstances which are noted where appropriate on the Council Agenda. Where this occurs, members of the public are excluded from the meeting while the matter is being discussed.

18. Presentation of confidential reports

19. Reopen meeting to members of the public

The Mayor will reopen the meeting to members of the public.

20. Close of meeting

The Mayor will formally close the meeting and thank all present for attending.

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Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting

2. Present

The Chair will call on each Councillor and ask them to confirm verbally that they can see all Councillors and hear the proceedings:

- Councillor Berenyi
- Councillor Clark
- Councillor Tehan
- Councillor Treasure

Councillors will respond to their name with: *“I can hear the proceedings and see all Councillors and Council officers”*.

The Chair will ask each Councillor to confirm by raising their hand that they could all hear each statement of the councillors.

Councillors will raise their hand to acknowledge they can hear each other.

3. Apologies

The Chair will call on the CEO for any apologies.

4. Statement of commitment

The Chair will read the statement and call on each Councillor to confirm their commitment:

“As Councillors of Mansfield Shire we are committed to ensuring our behaviour meets the standards set by the Model Councillor Code of Conduct. We will, at all times, faithfully represent and uphold the trust placed in us by the community.”

5. Acknowledgement of Country

The Deputy Mayor will recite Council’s Acknowledgement of Country:

“Our meeting is being held on the traditional lands of the Taungurung people. We wish to acknowledge them as the traditional custodians and pay our respects to their Elders past and present. We extend that respect to all members of our community.”

6. Disclosure of conflicts of interest

The Chair will call on each Councillor in turn and ask them to declare whether they have any conflicts of interest in relation to any agenda items:

- Councillor Berenyi
- Councillor Clark
- Councillor Tehan
- Councillor Treasure

7. Confirmation of minutes

Recommendation

THAT the Minutes of the Mansfield Shire Council meeting held on 10 December 2024 be confirmed as an accurate record.

8. Representations

9. Notices of motion

Nil

10. Mayor's report

Mayor Steve Rabie will present the monthly Mayor's report to the Council as follows:

Firstly, I'd like to congratulate everyone involved in our Australia Day event and Citizenship Award ceremony. It's really the moment we celebrate some of the most important things to our community. We recognised the incredible contributions of community members and groups who have contributed to making Mansfield Shire the best community in the world. I was grateful for the opportunity to acknowledge the unwavering commitment and significant contribution made by many of our community members who were nominated or recipients of one of the prestigious awards. Presiding over the Citizenship Ceremony was also a highlight for me personally as we welcomed 5 residents who joined our Australian family. Each of them brings unique skills and cultural perspectives that will continue to enrich our community.

The Christmas and New Year period is always incredibly busy in Mansfield and this year we saw a massive amount of visitors. Not only was the High Street packed, but there was a lot of activity around other attractions. Locally, this is a pressure on our systems – our roads and services are overwhelmed when we have peak visitation. At the same time, these big tourism moments provide a valuable boost to our local businesses and economy.

At Council, the lead up to Christmas was also a busy time. We went to the Community Christmas Picnic twice after the first one was washed out. Thanks to everyone involved in responding quickly to a rescheduled event – especially the MAD Orchestra and Mansfield Community Chorus. It was such a success and an important community moment to bring everyone together to celebrate Christmas.

As we head into the new year, conversations have already commenced in relation to the development of our 2025-26 budget. In developing the budget, we look at what funds will be required to continue our operations and maintain and renew our assets, as well as considering submissions from the community. As always, we are asking and we are listening. To date, 112 submissions have been received.

Tell us what's most important to you by going to engage.mansfield.vic.gov.au/2025-26-budget.

*Cr Steve Rabie
Mayor*

Recommendation

THAT COUNCIL receive the Mayor's report for the period 11 December 2024 to 4 February 2025.

11. Reports from council appointed representatives

Councillors appointed by Council to external committees will provide a verbal update where relevant.

Committee	Responsible Councillor(s)
Australia Day Awards Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Mayor Cr Steve Rabie ▶ Cr James Tehan ▶ Cr Mandy Treasure
Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance (GMCA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Cr Tim Berenyi
Hume Regional Local Government Network (HRLGN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Mayor Cr Steve Rabie
Mansfield Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Mayor Cr Steve Rabie ▶ Cr Mandy Treasure
Mansfield Shire CEO Employment Matters Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Mayor Cr Steve Rabie ▶ Cr James Tehan ▶ Cr Bonnie Clark
Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Mayor Cr Steve Rabie ▶ Substitute – Deputy Mayor Cr James Tehan
North East Local Government Waste and Recovery Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Cr Tim Berenyi
Rural Councils Victoria (RCV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Cr James Tehan
Taungurung-Local Government Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Mayor Cr Steve Rabie

Recommendation

THAT COUNCIL note the verbal reports provided by Councillors in relation to their representation on external Committees

12. Public question time

Council welcomes questions from the community. A question must be submitted by midday on the Monday prior to the Council meeting. The [‘ask a question’ form](#) is available from Council's website.

The Mayor will read out the question and answer at the meeting.

13. Officer reports

13.1. Chief Executive Officer's report

File Number: E103

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer, Kirsten Alexander

Introduction

The Chief Executive Officer's report allows a short briefing to be provided to the Council on the current operations, tasks and projects undertaken within each department over the past month.

The Chief Executive Officer report will provide information relation to:

- ▶ Customer Service
- ▶ Governance
- ▶ Capital Works
- ▶ Statutory & Strategic Planning
- ▶ Building Services
- ▶ Regulatory Services
- ▶ Waste Services
- ▶ Property
- ▶ Field Services
- ▶ Community Health and Wellbeing
- ▶ Library Services
- ▶ Visitor Services (Tourism, Events, Youth, Economic Development and VIC)
- ▶ Communications
- ▶ Digital Transformation Project

Recommendation
THAT COUNCIL receive and note the Chief Executive Officer's report for the period 1 December 2024 to 31 January 2025.
Support Attachments
1. CEO Monthly Report - Dec 2024 & Jan 2025 [13.1.1.1 - 50 pages]

13.2. Investment and Planning

13.2.1. Grant Applications

File Number	E11914	Responsible Officer	Grants Officer/Customer Services and Admin Support, Kate Berg
Purpose			

The purpose of this report is to inform Councillors of the status of recent grant applications and to seek Council endorsement for:

- ▶ acceptance of grant funding for awarded grants
- ▶ submission of grants and the required funds for Council co-contribution.

All figures listed in this report are excluding GST.

Executive Summary

Under the *Administration of Grant Income 2020* Policy, grant applications for operational amounts over \$50,000 and capital amounts of over \$200,000, that are not included in the Annual Budget or Strategic Resource Plan, must be supported by a Council resolution. This report will detail grants where Council has been successful in obtaining a grant, and current grant applications that have not yet been announced.

Grant opportunities come up throughout the year, with some grant programs recurring and others being one-off funding programs. Council officers prioritise submissions for grants based on identified projects from within the Capital Works Program, the Council Plan or other Strategic Plans of Council.

The following principles are applied in this process:

- **Community Input:** Each year, the community submits their priorities and ideas for the proposed budget and the 10-year Capital Works Financial Plan. Council also considers the funds needed for operational and maintenance costs for the upkeep or renewal of assets.
- **Review and Alignment:** These submissions are reviewed to ensure they align with Council's long-term plans, including the Long-Term Financial Plan, the Asset Plan, and the strategic objectives outlined in the Council Plan (2021-2025).
- **Prioritisation:** Based on this review, high-priority objectives are identified and included in the budget. The budget for each project is developed using historical costings and quotations, factoring in CPI and inflation. The budget will also consider upcoming or recurrent grant opportunities when prioritising individual projects.
- **Securing Funding:** If Council is unable to completely satisfy the funding required for a project, additional funding will be sought through various funding bodies. Council will only apply for and accept external funding if it is consistent with the Community Vision and is aligned with long-term plans and available funding sources.

The nature of the grant system is opportunistic, and Council officers work hard to ensure that any application will meet the needs of the community both now and into the future. It is acknowledged that these opportunities may sometimes require re-prioritisation of projects, and corresponding budget allocations, depending on the opportunities available at that time.

Successfully Awarded Funding:

Council has been successfully awarded the following grants:

- Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts through their Growing Regions Program - Round 1 for the Lords Around the Ground package. The grant funding totalled \$1,410,000 with a proposed Council contribution of \$670,000. Councils' contribution is funded over the 2023-24 and 2024-25 financial years through the Capital Works budget allocations (with approved carry forward amounts).
- Australian Government's Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program – Stream 2 for the Station Precinct Activation Package – Stage One: Activities Project and Stage Two: Heritage Package.
Stage One grant funding totalled **\$7,703,000** with a Council contribution of **\$300,000**. Council's contribution is being funded through the 2023-24 Capital Works budget allocations (with approved carry forward).
Stage Two grant funding totalled **\$6,442,066** with a Council contribution of **\$200,000** and co-contribution from Mansfield Historical Society of **\$240,000** cash and **\$130,420** in-kind contribution as well as **\$60,000** of Victorian State Government funding from the Council Assistance Program. Council's contribution is being funded through 2023-24 Capital Works budget allocations (with approved carry forward amounts).
 - Department of Health and Aged Care – Play Our Way Program for the Mansfield Female Inclusive Rooms Project (FIR). This project will see the construction of unisex changerooms at the Mansfield Recreation Reserve with a total project cost of **\$1,325,272**. The grant funding totalled **\$1,280,772** with Council's contribution being **\$22,250**, which has been matched by funds from Mansfield Football Netball Club and Mansfield Junior Football Club making the total co-contribution \$44,500. Council's contribution is being funded through the 2024-25 Capital Works budget.
- TAC – Safer Local Roads and Streets Program. Council has been awarded \$2,000,000 for the development and delivery of road safety infrastructure projects on local roads within the Shire. This funding is paid in increments on the approval of submitted individual projects and funds are received on receipt of agreement from TAC. Approval and subsequent agreement have been received for the initial project submitted for the construction of a pedestrian bridge and shared user path on Greenvale Lane. The total funding for this project is \$592,000. No Council contribution is required for this funding.

Applications were submitted to the following programs:

Council has applied for grants in the following programs:

- Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry & Regions – Sports and Recreation Victoria's Country Football and Netball Program 2024-25 for the installation of lighting at Lords Reserve. The total project cost will be \$374,946. Council has requested the maximum funding available for the program of \$250,000 and will provide a co-contribution of

\$115,186 as well as \$9,760 of in-kind funds. The contribution will be funded through the 2023-24 Open Space Contribution fund.

- Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action New and Upgraded Dog Parks – Round 2 program for the Station Precinct new dog park. Total cost of the project will be \$400,000 with \$250,000 requested funding and a co-contribution from Council to the value of **\$150,000** budgeted in the Capital Works budget for the 2024-25 financial year.
- Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development & Communications Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program. Council submitted three separate applications to the program for the renewal/replacement of Bridges within Mansfield Shire, as follows.
 - The Lonergans Road bridge renewal project requested a total funding amount of \$1,706,311 and included a Council contribution of **\$426,578** bringing the total project cost to \$2,132,889.
 - The Graves Road culvert replacement requested a total funding amount of \$1,965,968 with a Council contribution of **\$491,492** bringing the total project cost to \$2,457,460.
 - The Hearn Road bridge replacement project requested \$1,703,634 of total funding with a **\$425,909** contribution from Council bringing the total project cost to \$2,129,543.
 - If all three applications are successful, the total amount of funding Council will receive from this program will be \$5,375,913, with a total Council contribution of **\$1,343,979**. Council’s contributions will be funded over three financial years, the first portion being through the Capital Works budget for 2024-25. The remainder of the contributions have been incorporated into the Capital Works 10-Year Plan forecasts for financial years 2025-26 and 2026-27. ***If the applications are successful, these contributions will be subject to Council approval of the respective budgets.***
- Victorian School Building Authority’s Building Blocks Grant Improvement – Early Learning Facility Upgrade Grant program for the construction of new amenities at the rear of the Mechanics Institute building home of the Mansfield Kindergarten. The total cost of the project is \$212,000 with the amount of funding requested being \$150,000 and Council’s co-contribution being **\$62,000**. Council’s contribution to this project has been incorporated into the Capital Works 10-Year Plan forecasts for financial year 2025-26. ***If the application is successful, the contribution will be subject to Council approval of the budget.***

Key Issues

A summary of the value of each grant and associated co-contributions is as follows:

Funding Awarded:

Provider	Grant	Project Title	Funding Awarded	Council Co-contribution	Other Contributions	Total Project Cost
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	Growing Regions Program - Round 1	Lords Around the Ground Package	\$1,410,000	\$670,000		\$2,080,000
Regional Development Vic	Regional Precincts and	Station Precinct	\$7,703,000	\$300,000		\$8,003,000

Provider	Grant	Project Title	Funding Awarded	Council Co-contribution	Other Contributions	Total Project Cost
	Partnerships Program - Stream 2: Precinct Delivery	Activation Package - Stage One Activities				
Regional Development Vic	Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program - Stream 2: Precinct Delivery	Station Precinct Activation Package - Stage Two Heritage	\$6,442,066	\$200,000	\$430,420	\$7,072,486
Department of Health and Aged Care	Play Our Way Program	Mansfield Female Inclusive Rooms (FIR)	\$1,280,772	\$22,250	\$22,250	\$1,325,272
TAC	Safer Local Roads and Streets Program	Greenvale Lane – Pedestrian Bridge & Shared Path	\$592,000			\$592,000
Road Safety Victoria	Motorcycle Safety Levy Infrastructure Program	EOI – Project Scope on Eildon-Jamieson Rd & Barwite Rd	\$135,000			\$135,000
Total			\$17,562,838	\$1,192,250	\$452,670	\$19,207,758

Applications Submitted:

Provider	Grant	Project Title	Funding Requested	Council Co-contribution	Other contributions	Total Project Cost
Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry & Regions - Sports and Recreation Victoria	Country Football and Netball Program 2024-25	Lighting Up Lords Reserve	\$250,000	\$115,186	\$9,760	\$374,946
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)	New and Upgraded Dog Parks – Round 2	Station Precinct New Dog Park	\$250,000	\$150,000		\$400,000
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development & Communications (DITRDC)	Safer Local Road and Infrastructure Program.	Lonergans Bridge Renewal	\$1,706,311	\$426,578		\$2,132,889
	Safer Local Road and Infrastructure Program.	Graves Road culvert replacement	\$1,965,968	\$491,492		\$2,457,460
	Safer Local Road and Infrastructure Program.	Hearns Road bridge replacement	\$1,703,634	\$425,909		\$2,129,543

Provider	Grant	Project Title	Funding Requested	Council Co-contribution	Other contributions	Total Project Cost
Victorian School Building Authority - Building Blocks Grant Improvement	Early Learning Facility Upgrade Grant program	Mansfield Kindergarten – Amenities Block Mechanics Institute	\$150,000	\$62,000		\$212,000
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development & Communications (DITRDC)	Active Transport Fund	Construction of new footpath – Elvins Street	\$108,289	\$108,289		\$216,578
	Active Transport Fund	Design & Construction of new footpath - Ultimo Street	\$78,569	\$78,569		\$157,138
TOTAL			\$7,888,164	\$2,518,416	\$24,760	\$10,431,340

Council officers are seeking endorsement of the various contributions in accordance with the policy.

Preparing for submission:

Council is **preparing** the following submissions:

- Sport and Recreation Victoria’s (SRV) Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund – Round 2 for the Mansfield Learner Accessible Pool Scheme (LAPS). The maximum funding available for this stream is \$1,000,000 with a co-contribution ratio of \$3:\$1. Council has \$50,000 allocated to the project in the 2024-25 Capital Works budget and a further \$372,000 proposed to be included in the 2025-26 and 2026-27 Capital Works Plan, bringing the total co-contribution to \$422,000 (with approved carry forward amounts).
- Australian Government’s National Emergency Management Agency – Disaster Ready Fund Round 3 for the construction of the Mansfield Emergency Resilience Centre on the dedicated Mansfield Emergency Precinct Site. Projects through this grant must be over \$500,000 with 50% co-contribution (including in-kind contributions). This project has previously been estimated at approximately \$2,900,000. Council’s contribution is proposed to be funded with \$546,000 of already allocated funds through the 2024-25 Capital Works budget (including \$246,000 of approved carry forwards from 2023-24) and \$400,000 which is proposed to be incorporated into the 2025-26 Capital Works plan. Additional in-kind funds will be included as part of Council contribution in the way of land for the Emergency Management Precinct site, to the value of \$2,420,000.

Provider	Grant	Project Title	Funding Requested	Council Co-contribution	Other contributions	Total Project Cost
Sports Recreation Victoria	Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund – Round 2	Mansfield Learner Accessible Pool Scheme (LAPS)	\$1,294,000	\$422,000	\$10,000	\$1,726,000
Australian Government’s National Emergency Management Agency	Disaster Ready Fund – Round 3	Mansfield Emergency Resilience Centre	\$2,900,000	\$946,000	\$2,420,000	\$6,270,000
Total			\$4,194,000	\$1,368,000	\$2,420,000	\$7,996,000

Recommendation

THAT COUNCIL endorses the:

1. Acceptance of grant funding in the amount of \$1,410,000 from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts for the *Lords Around the Ground project* for the construction of a new pavilion at Lords Reserve.
2. Acceptance of grant funding in the amount of \$7,703,000 from Regional Development Victoria, through the Australian Government Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program – Stream 2 for the *Station Precinct Activation Package – Stage One activities project*.
3. Acceptance of grant funding in the amount of \$6,442,066 from Regional Development Victoria, through the Australian Government Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program – Stream 2 for the *Station Precinct Activation Package – Stage Two Heritage project*.
4. Acceptance of grant funding in the amount of \$1,280,772 from the Department of Health and Aged Care through their Play Out Way program for the *Mansfield Female Inclusive Rooms (FIR) project*.
5. Acceptance of grant funding in the amount of \$592,000 from the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) through their Safer Local Roads and Streets Program for *Greenvale Lane – Pedestrian bridge and shared path project*.
6. Acceptance of grant funding in the amount of \$135,000 from Road Safety Victoria's Motorcycle Safety Levy Infrastructure Program for the *project scope for Eildon-Jamieson Road and Barwite Road*.
7. Submission of the grant application to Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry & Regions – Sports and Recreation Victoria's Country Football and Netball Program 2024-25 for the installation of lighting at Lords Reserve and the required co-contribution funding of \$115,186.
8. Submission of the grant application to Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action New and Upgraded Dog Parks – Round 2 program for the construction of a new dog park at Station Precinct and the required co-contribution funding of \$150,000.
9. Submission of the grant application to Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development & Communications Safer Local Road and Infrastructure Program for the renewal of Lonergans Road bridge, Graves Road culvert replacement and Hearn's Road bridge replacements and the total required co-contribution funding of \$1,343,979.
10. Submission of the grant application to Victorian School Building Authority's Building Blocks Grant Improvement – Early Learning Facility Upgrade Grant program for the Mansfield Kindergarten amenities block and the required co-contribution funding of \$62,000.
11. Submission of the grant application to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development & Communications to the Active Transport Fund for the Construction of a new footpath along Elvins Street and the required co-contribution funding of \$108,289.
12. Submission of the grant application to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development & Communications to the Active Transport Fund for the design and construction of a new footpath along Ultimo Street and the required co-contribution

funding of \$78,569.

13. Preparation of grant application to submit to Sports and Recreation Victoria to the Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund – Round 2 for the Mansfield Learner Accessible Pool Scheme (LAPS) and the required co-contribution funding of \$422,000.
14. Preparation of grant application to submit to the Australian Government’s National Emergency Management Agency to the Disaster Ready Fund – Round 3 for the construction of the Mansfield Emergency Resilience Centre on the dedicated Mansfield Emergency Precinct Site, and the required co-contribution funding of \$946,000.

Support Attachments

Nil

Considerations and Implications of Recommendation

Sustainability Implications

Not Applicable

Community Engagement

Community Engagement has been undertaken in accordance with Council’s Community Engagement Policy as required for each grant application. Further engagement will be undertaken as part of the project delivery of each successful application.

Collaboration

Wherever possible, when preparing grant applications Council collaborates with local community groups and funding partners to maximise the potential benefits to the Mansfield Shire community.

Financial Impact

The co-contributions outlined in this report are either already included or proposed to be included in the Capital Works 10-Year Plan and will be submitted for Council approval (where necessary) to be incorporated into the respective budget years if funding is awarded.

The successful grant applications have resulted in an additional \$19,207,758 of capital investment into Mansfield Shire, with a co-contribution of ratepayer funds of \$1,192,250 (6%).

The submitted grant applications awaiting assessment, if successful, will result in a further \$10,431,350 of capital investment, with a co-contribution of ratepayer funds of \$2,518,416 (24%).

The total potential capital investment from the grant applications already announced and applications currently undergoing assessment amounts to \$29,639,108 with a co-contribution of \$3,710,666 (12.5%).

Legal and Risk Implications

Legal and financial risks are managed in accordance with the requirements of the Administration of Grant Income 2020 Policy, with careful consideration and prioritisation of grant opportunities to ensure that submissions for grants are based on identified projects from within

the Capital Works Program, the Council Plan or other Strategic Plans of Council.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not Applicable

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Not Applicable

Alignment to Council Plan

Applications have been submitted that align with the following Council Plan objectives:

Theme 1: Connected and Healthy Community Strategic Objective 1: The health and wellbeing of families and communities is maximised

Strategy 1.2 Connect, develop and support children and young people.

Strategy 1.3 Contribute to efforts that ensure essential community services exist locally.

Strategic Objective 2: Activities that promote connection and fitness of our people and visitors

Strategy 2.2 Create an environment where community and clubs can recreate, socialise and contribute to the health and wellbeing of the community

Theme 2: Vibrant Liveability Strategic Objective 3 Future focused: Intelligent land use and infrastructure

Strategy 3.3 Improve roads, drainage and footpaths

Strategic Objective 4 Clean and green: Waste and energy sustainability

Strategy 4.2 Adopt and promote energy options that are affordable, self sustaining & carbon positive

Governance - Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

The author of this report and officers providing advice in relation to this report do not have a conflict of interest to declare in this matter, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020.

13.2.2. Mansfield Social Soccer Licence Agreement

File Number	AG1239	Responsible Officer	Manager Planning & Environment. Maya Balvonova
Purpose			

To seek Council endorsement to enter into a 1-year licence agreement, with a further 2 terms of 2 years, with Mansfield Social Soccer Club for their priority use of the Mansfield Recreation Reserve facilities for four and a half (4.5) months each year.

Executive Summary

Mansfield Social Soccer brings together adults and teenagers for a fun and social game of soccer. The group includes regular players and casual attendees, creating an inclusive and accessible environment. They currently play on Wednesday evenings from 6:00PM to 7:30PM, with sessions held at College Park – Field 1 during summer and at Mansfield Recreation Reserve during winter, due to access to lighting. The Club has been operating for the past three years but does not have a formal licence agreement in place.

The proposed agreement aims to secure the Club's continued usage of the Mansfield Recreation Reserve, fostering a supportive environment for the club members.

Key Issues

Previously the Club has been paying for their ad hoc bookings as per Council's Fees and Charges Schedule but would like to secure a home playing field with lights on a permanent basis. Productive discussions have taken place with the Club, and the Club is aware they need to pay for the usage of the Mansfield Recreation Reserve in accordance with the requirements of Council's Property Leasing and Licencing Policy 2024. To secure their continued presence, they are exploring the possibility of entering into a 1-year licence agreement with a further 2 terms of 2 years.

The fee structure has been calculated based on the evaluation process used for calculation of fees for other sporting grounds resulting in an annual charge of \$1,452.50 (ex GST), prior to discount. In accordance with Council's Property Leasing and Licencing Policy 2024, the Club qualifies as a Category 3 group (community group run by volunteers), which would reduce their charges to being 5% of the total, resulting in a recommendation for a licence fee of \$544.69 (ex GST) to be paid annually.

Calculation Method for Mansfield Recreation Reserve

- ▶ Agreed area - 1.66ha (16,600m²)
- ▶ MSC Zoning PPRZ - Surrounded by GRZ1
- ▶ Current Municipal Valuation (VG) as at 2023/24 Levels CIV (Capital Improved Value)
- ▶ \$1,990,000 (ex GST) & SV (Site Value) \$1,240,000 (ex GST)
- ▶ Current Market Value: \$2,905,000 (ex GST) (based on \$175/m²)
- ▶ Current Market Return: 1% = \$29,050 (ex GST)
- ▶ Category 3 (sporting club without a liquor licence): 5%

- ▶ Annual Rental \$1452.50 (ex GST)
- ▶ Total Annual Rent: proportion of 4.5 months usage = \$544.69 (ex GST)

It is also proposed to apply an annual CPI increase, effective from the commencement date of 15 May 2025. The final licence agreement can be found in Attachment 1.

Recommendation

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Endorses the proposal to enter into a licence agreement for the use of the Mansfield Recreation Reserve facilities with the Mansfield Social Soccer Club for four and a half (4.5) months priority use with a further 2 terms of 2 years, with the commencement date on 15 May 2025.
2. Receives annual licence fees from the Mansfield Social Soccer Club of \$544.69 (ex GST).
3. Provides public notification of the intention to enter a licence agreement with the Mansfield Social Soccer Club.
4. Endorses the Chief Executive Officer executing the licence agreement on completion of the public notification process.

Support Attachments

Nil

Considerations and Implications of Recommendation

Sustainability Implications

Not Applicable

Community Engagement

Community Engagement will be undertaken in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy by placing a notice of intention to enter into a Licence agreement with the Mansfield District Soccer Association in the Mansfield Courier and on Council's website.

Collaboration

Not Applicable

Financial Impact

The new licence agreement will not adversely impact Council's current resourcing or operational budget. The revenue has been considered when reviewing existing and future budget allocations and negotiation of the agreement is supported by existing staff resources.

Legal and Risk Implications

The licence agreement has been drafted in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020. The intention to enter into a licence agreement with the Mansfield District Soccer Association will be advertised in the Mansfield Courier and on Council's website, in accordance with Section 115 of the Local Government Act 2020.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not Applicable

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Not Applicable

Alignment to Council Plan

The following strategies are relevant to this report:

Theme 1: Connected and Healthy Community

- ▶ Strategic Objective 2: Activities that promote connection and fitness of our people and visitors.
- ▶ Strategy 2.2: Create an environment where community and clubs can recreate, socialise, and contribute to the health and wellbeing of the community.

Theme 3: A Trusted, Effective and Efficient Council

- ▶ Strategic Objective 8: A consultative Council that represents and empowers its community.
- ▶ Strategy 8.1: Increase community trust in Council to make informed decisions with “no surprises.”

Governance - Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

The author of this report and officers providing advice in relation to this report do not have a conflict of interest to declare in this matter, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020.

13.3. People, Communications and Governance

13.3.1. Proposed Motion for the MAV State Council Meeting: Inquiry into local government funding and services

File Number	E364	Responsible Officer	Governance and Risk Officer, Chelsea Young
Purpose			

To seek Council’s endorsement for submission of a motion for consideration at the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council Meeting on 16 May 2025.

Executive Summary

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) is a membership association and the legislated peak body for local government in Victoria.

Mansfield Shire Council is a member of the MAV and participates in State Council meetings alongside 78 other Victorian councils represented by the MAV. Mansfield Shire Council is represented by Mayor Cr Steve Rabie.

The MAV State Council Meeting will be held on 16 May 2025. Motions from member councils on issues of state-wide significance to local government must be submitted online by 17 March 2025 and have been the subject of a Council resolution.

Proposed Motion: That the MAV:

- Supports the Economy and Infrastructure Committee Inquiry Recommendation 20 that the Victorian Government should not take money out of Commonwealth Government grants allocated to local councils, and
- Advocates to the State and Federal Governments to ensure such practices are addressed and that future funding allocations are fully directed towards local councils as intended by the Commonwealth Government.

If endorsed, this will be submitted for consideration of MAV member councils at the May 2025 State Council meeting.

Motion rationale: The Victorian Government proposed to deduct 9% (equating to \$176,000) of a \$2 million federal blackspot grant awarded to Mansfield Shire Council intended for a state and council road intersection project for the stated purpose of funding ‘internal department costs’, despite not managing or contributing financially to the project. The Victorian Government should not be allowed to take money out of Commonwealth Government grants allocated to local councils as it undermines the intended purpose of the funds and places an undue financial burden on local councils and their communities.

Key Issues

On 3 May 2023, the Legislative Council agreed to the following motion:

That this House requires the Economy and Infrastructure Committee to inquire into, consider and report, by 28 November 2024, on local government funding and service delivery in Victoria, including but not limited to -

- *the effects of cost shifting from the state and federal governments to local councils in an examination of vertical and horizontal fiscal imbalances;*
- *whether local councils are adequately delivering on their core service delivery objectives;*
- *the overall revenue structure of local government;*
- *whether the existing revenue structure is sustainable and appropriate or if alternative models of funding would be more sustainable and appropriate; and*
- *any other related matters.*

On 28 November 2024 the Chair of the Legislative Council Economy and Infrastructure Committee, Georgie Purcell MLC, tabled the final inquiry (refer Attachment 1) into Local Government funding and services report. The report includes 47 findings and 48 recommendations addressing the following key areas:

1. Local government in Victoria
2. The financial sustainability of local councils in Victoria
3. Rate capping
4. Grants
5. Cost shifting
6. Core services

MAV Strategic Relevance

The MAV Rules 2022 require motions be of strategic relevance to the MAV or of such significance to local government that they ought to be considered by State Council. Council's proposed motion does have great significance to local government as well as aligning with the MAV's Annual Plan major initiative 4.1 'Build a robust evidence base on the financial sustainability of Victorian councils' (strategic direction theme four).

Recommendation

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Endorse the following motion for submission to the MAV State Council Meeting on 16 May 2025:

That the MAV:

 1. Supports the Economy and Infrastructure Committee inquiry recommendation 20 that the Victorian Government should not take money out of Commonwealth Government grants allocated to local councils, and
 2. Advocates to the State and Federal Governments to ensure such practices are addressed and that future funding allocations are fully directed towards local councils as intended by the Commonwealth Government.
2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to make any minor changes to improve the wording of the motion and/or to update the motion relative to any changes to the issue that may have occurred between the Council Meeting and the date of lodgement with the MAV.

Support Attachments

1. Inquiry into local government funding and services [13.3.1.1 - 352 pages]

Considerations and Implications of Recommendation

Sustainability Implications

Not Applicable

Community Engagement

Not Applicable

Collaboration

Collaboration with other Councils will occur through the MAV State Council meeting.

Financial Impact

Funding removed by the Victorian Government from successful grant applications impacts on Council's ability to deliver essential infrastructure improvements, such as intersection improvements at identified road safety "Blackspots" where fatalities have occurred.

In the example referenced in this report, Council sought a contribution towards the necessary intersection improvements from the Victorian Government at the intersection of two local and State government roads (Dead Horse Lane and the Mansfield-Whitfield Road). The contribution was sought based on a 50/50 contribution for the cost of the works over and above the \$2,000,000 grant awarded by the Commonwealth Government. The Victorian Government refused to contribute any funding to the project and advised Council that \$176,000 would be removed from the grant funding for their internal department costs.

Legal and Risk Implications

Not Applicable.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not Applicable

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Not Applicable

Alignment to Council Plan

Theme 3: A Trusted, Effective and Efficient Council Strategic Objective 8 A consultative Council that represents and empowers its community
Strategy 8.2 Develop capacity and capability to advocate powerfully for the most important interests of the Mansfield community

Governance - Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

The author of this report and officers providing advice in relation to this report do not have a conflict of interest to declare in this matter, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020.

13.4. Executive Services Directorate

13.4.1. Advocacy Position on Albury Wodonga Hospital

File Number	E370	Responsible Officer	Chief Executive Officer, Kirsten Alexander
Purpose			

To confirm Council’s commitment to advocacy on the Albury Wodonga Hospital and to acknowledge, align and act on the unified advocacy position of all councils that represent the catchment of the Albury Wodonga Health system.

Executive Summary

Albury-Wodonga Health is the second largest regional health service in Victoria. It services a growing population of over 300,000 people in a surrounding catchment covering North East Victoria and the Southern Riverina in New South Wales.

The Albury-Wodonga region is currently served by two hospital campuses, with one hospital each located in Wodonga and Albury that are both operated by Albury Wodonga Health through the Victorian Health Department. The hospitals are facing significant challenges due to outdated infrastructure, limited capacity, and inefficiencies caused by the split-campus model.

The 2021 Conrad Gargett Masterplan identified the need for a new single-site hospital on a greenfield location as the preferred solution to these challenges. This recommendation was reinforced by a value management study.

Key Issues

Albury-Wodonga Health is a key health service provider serving a wide catchment including Mansfield Shire. Quality health services are a key determinant in enabling thriving and liveable communities.

The Albury-Wodonga region's healthcare infrastructure is at a critical juncture. Key issues identified with the current hospital infrastructure include:

- **Sub-standard Buildings:** Existing buildings at the Albury campus, constructed in 1994, do not meet current Australian Health Facility Guidelines (AusHFG) standards of design and construction (Albury Campus Redevelopment Masterplan Report. Prepared for NSW Health Infrastructure. Hassell, August 2023). Issues such as structural damage, inadequate fire safety measures, and non-compliance with modern building codes are prevalent. For instance, the Medical Ward 2 building has suffered significant structural damage due to reactive clay soils, leading to a high risk of collapse and consequent safety hazards.
- **Limited Capacity and Resources:** Both campuses are struggling with capacity issues. Albury Wodonga Health (AWH) has seen the same volume of emergency department (ED) patients as the Alfred Hospital in Melbourne, with over 68,000 ED presentations annually (Border Medical Association and Better Border Health). However, the current

infrastructure does not support this volume, leading to long wait times, delayed treatments, and compromised patient care.

- Inefficiencies of Split Campuses: Critical services are duplicated across the two sites, leading to increased operational costs and inefficiencies. For example, intensive care and paediatric services are located in Albury, while maternity services are in Wodonga. This separation necessitates frequent and risky patient transfers between campuses, impacting patient safety and care continuity.
- Community and Staff Concerns: There is significant community and medical staff support for a new hospital. The Border Medical Association and Better Border Health have been vocal advocates for a new single-site hospital, highlighting the risks associated with the current redevelopment plans and the need for a comprehensive solution. The current plans are seen as insufficient to address the long-term healthcare needs of the growing regional population.

On Monday 2 December 2024 Mayor Cr Steve Rabie and CEO, Kirsten Alexander, met with the Mayors and/or CEOs from councils across the Albury Wodonga catchment to share and confirm their respective Councils' positions, and to receive a presentation from the CEO (Bill Appleby) and Chair (Jonathan Green) of Albury Wodonga Health (AWH). Following the AWH presentation an agreement was made to draft a joint resolution for each council to consider.

A 6-page letter (attached) signed by more than 200 medical clinicians has pleaded for a tri-partite response with the aim of securing a new single hospital on a new site for Albury-Wodonga.

Recommendation

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Acknowledges that the current proposed redevelopment plan for Albury hospital continues to fall critically short of meeting the current and future health needs of the Albury Wodonga Regional Community;
2. Supports the development of a fully funded, new, single site hospital in a new central cross-border location, for the Albury Wodonga region, that meets the health points of care requirements as identified in the 2021 Albury Wodonga Health Clinical Services Plan;
3. Calls on the State Governments of Victoria and New South Wales to pause the current redevelopment plans for the Albury Hospital, and redirect efforts towards a fully funded, new single-site hospital in Albury or Wodonga;
4. Calls upon the Australian Government and the State Governments of Victoria and New South Wales to collaborate for the provision of a fully funded, health service that meets the current and future needs of all the regional communities within the catchment of Albury Wodonga Health;
5. Urgently seeks assurances from the New South Wales and Victorian State Governments to allay the fears of our community that the \$558 million investment allocated to the Albury Wodonga Health Service is committed regardless of the form the new hospital may take;
6. Urgently seeks commitment from the State Governments of Victoria and New South Wales to provide interim solutions to address the current, ongoing hospital capacity deficiencies, including but not limited to:
 - a. Additional beds (like modular wards) now that have operational staffing; and
 - b. Additional theatres now funded to operate effectively; and

- c. Capital and operational funding to meet the above short-term needs;
7. Authorises the CEO and Mayor to advocate for and communicate this position statement with the State Governments of Victoria and New South Wales, the Federal Government and with the Board of Albury-Wodonga Health;
8. Participate in any meeting requested of the regional Mayors with the Victorian and NSW Premiers, Health Ministers, Cross Border Commissioners and the Prime Minister, and Australian Government Health Minister.

Support Attachments

1. BMA Letter to the Prime Minister - October 2024 [13.4.1.1 - 6 pages]

Considerations and Implications of Recommendation

Sustainability Implications

Social/Community

- **Improved Access to Healthcare Services:** A new single-site hospital will provide centralised, accessible healthcare services, reducing the need for patient transfers and ensuring timely care.
- **Reduced Wait Times and Improved Patient Outcomes:** Modern facilities with increased capacity will help reduce wait times for surgeries and other treatments, leading to better patient outcomes.
- **Attraction and retention of skilled workforce:** An issue raised by the medical community is the difficulty in attracting and retaining suitable medical personnel. Modern facilities will enhance the prospect of retaining high calibre professional medical staff
- **Car parking challenges for patients and visitors:** Carparking at the current site is consistently raised as a concern. A new greenfield site can will provide an opportunity for adequate car parking access for staff, patients and visitors to be accommodated.

Environmental

- **Sustainable Design and Construction:** A new hospital can incorporate sustainable design and construction practices, reducing its environmental footprint and ensuring long-term sustainability.
- **Reduced Environmental Impact:** Building a new facility on a greenfield site offers the opportunity to design with environmental considerations from the ground up, avoiding the challenges of retrofitting outdated infrastructure.

Community Engagement

Not Applicable

Collaboration

The Mayor and CEO have attended workshops in collaboration with local councils across the Albury Wodonga Region.

Financial Impact

There are no material direct financial costs associated with a decision to advocate as proposed in this report apart from in-kind costs of advocacy already provided for within existing budgets and staff resources.

Legal and Risk Implications

There are no legislative implications of determining to take an advocacy view as proposed in this paper.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not Applicable

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Not Applicable

Alignment to Council Plan

Theme 1: Connected and Healthy Community Strategic Objective 1: The health and wellbeing of families and communities is maximised

Strategy 1.1 Embed health and wellbeing enablers and protections to reduce risks to our communities.

Strategy 1.3 Contribute to efforts that ensure essential community services exist locally.

Theme 3: A Trusted, Effective and Efficient Council Strategic Objective 8 A consultative Council that represents and empowers its community

Strategy 8.2 Develop capacity and capability to advocate powerfully for the most important interests of the Mansfield community

Governance - Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

The author of this report and officers providing advice in relation to this report do not have a conflict of interest to declare in this matter, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020.

13.4.2. Advocacy Position on Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund

File Number	E370	Responsible Officer	Chief Executive Officer, Kirsten Alexander
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Purpose

To confirm Mansfield Shire Council’s advocacy position regarding the Victorian Government’s new proposed Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF), which comes into effect on 1 July 2025.

Executive Summary

On Friday 13 December 2024, the Victorian Government announced that the Fire Services Property Levy (FSPL) will be replaced with the new Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) from 1 July 2025.

This ESVF is a significant increase over the existing levy (FSPL), particularly in the primary production (farming) areas, which could see an increase of around 3 times the existing levy. All ratepayers will incur this tax and in Mansfield Shire alone this could mean an additional \$2 million in property taxes. This is a significant burden for ratepayers on top of their existing rates and it is important to note that this new tax is being introduced alongside the recently implemented Vacant Residential Land Tax.

Councils will bear the brunt of this tax, not only in terms of the reputational impact of collecting additional money from ratepayers, but in the resource burden of collecting this tax on behalf of the state government. For smaller councils, such as Mansfield Shire, the proportion of resources required for rates collection is already high.

The responsibility for collecting the ESVF should lie with the State Revenue Office, which has the infrastructure and capacity to manage tax collection efficiently with a fair distribution of administrative burden across the state. It is considered that the reputational, resource and administrative burden should be borne by those who are choosing to implement the tax.

Mansfield Shire is a community with a high proportion of primary producers. In addition to Council taking a position on the facilitation of tax collection, there is a position to be taken on the distribution of the cost burden to community members. The new tax will see significant cost implications for primary producers. The increased tax is an excessive burden during the cost-of-living crisis, with implications for the economic health of the community overall.

Key Issues

This new property tax is a significant increase over the existing levy (FSPL), particularly in the primary production (farming) areas which will see an increase of around 3 times the existing levy. All ratepayers will incur this tax, and it is expected that over \$2m in total of additional property tax revenue will be raised for the State Government across Mansfield Shire, including Mt Buller collections.

A comparison between the ESVF and the existing FSPL based on the Median CIV for each category is attached to this report.

Advocacy is required to:

- ▶ Ask other rural councils to contribute to advocacy efforts on behalf of their communities
- ▶ Ensure small councils are not disproportionately affected by the administrative and reputational burden of tax collection through rates notices.

Cost to Mansfield Shire community

With a higher proportion of primary producers, the Mansfield Shire community will pay an extra \$2m in taxes. Mansfield Shire Council needs to consider the impact of a tax of this magnitude with already significant cost of living pressures currently affecting the community.

Cost to small councils

Because small rural councils have a smaller number of staff in rates and financial management positions, a greater proportion of the total staff number is required to facilitate the payment and collection of more than \$2m in additional tax from our community. The amount of tax, and the administrative burden of collecting this tax, is much higher for rural councils, where primary producers make up a greater percentage of ratepayers.

Cost to all Victorians

Costs will ultimately be passed down through the cost of food with the increased cost of operating primary production businesses. Therefore, the new tax will impact all Victorians. It is Council’s position that the tax will have a negative impact on the Victorian economy, with a disproportionate impact on rural communities.

Recommendation
<p>THAT COUNCIL:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Calls on the Victorian Government to review the new Emergency Services Volunteer Fund by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Reducing the tax burden proposed for primary producers b. Not shift the administrative, reputational and resource costs of the tax to local government by asking councils to act as tax collectors for the state government. 2. Notes the Mayor’s written correspondence to the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Municipal Association of Victoria, b. Rural Councils Victoria, and c. Victorian Local Government Association 3. Authorises the CEO and Mayor to advocate for and communicate this position statement.
Support Attachments
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Emergency Services Volunteers Fund Comparisons [13.4.2.1 - 1 page] 2. Letter from Mayor Rabie - Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund [13.4.2.2 - 1 page]

Considerations and Implications of Recommendation

Sustainability Implications

Not Applicable

Community Engagement

Not Applicable

Collaboration

Not Applicable

Financial Impact

The impact of a new Emergency Services Volunteer Fund using Council as the tax collection mechanism is not accounted for in the annual budget or long-term budget. There will be a significant cost implication in terms of administrative and resource cost. In addition, there will be a financial burden of paying more than \$2m in tax, which Council then has to recover from the community.

Legal and Risk Implications

Not Applicable

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not Applicable

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Not Applicable

Alignment to Council Plan

Theme 3: A Trusted, Effective and Efficient Council Strategic Objective 8 A consultative Council that represents and empowers its community

Strategy 8.2 Develop capacity and capability to advocate powerfully for the most important interests of the Mansfield community

Governance - Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

The author of this report and officers providing advice in relation to this report do not have a conflict of interest to declare in this matter, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020.

13.4.3. Quarterly Finance Report - 31 December 2024

File Number	E11863	Responsible Officer	Coordinator Financial Planning & Analysis, James Alcaniz Financial Accountant, Chintan Patel Financial Controller, Michael McCormack
Purpose			

This report provides information on Council’s financial performance against the 2024-25 Updated Budget for the period 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024.

Executive Summary

The financial statements and performance indicators (refer attachments) have been prepared for the period ended 31 December 2024. The Updated Budget figures include the carry forward amounts approved by Council at the 15 October 2024 Council meeting.

Based on the information provided by responsible officers and managers Council’s overall financial performance is in line with budget.

Each quarterly report will include financial projections for the rest of the financial year. The quarterly report is prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act), Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 (the Regulations), Better Practice Guides and the Australian Accounting Standards.

Key Issues

Income Statement (Attachment 1)

The Income Statement measures how well Council has performed from an operating nature. It reports revenues and expenditure from the activities and functions undertaken, with the net effect being a surplus or deficit. Capital expenditure is excluded from this statement, as it is reflected in the Balance Sheet.

Attachment 1 shows that Council generated \$31.262 million in revenue and \$11.974 million in expenses to 31 December 2024. This has resulted in an operating surplus of \$19.288 million for the six months ending 31 December 2024, which will reduce throughout the current financial year. Furthermore, as of 31 December 2024 Council has recognised the liability for unspent grant funding received of a total \$5.406 million in accordance with accounting standards AASB 15 and AASB 1058.

Income

Rates and charges accounts for 57.52% of the total year to date income for 2024-25. Rates and charges are recognised when the rates have been raised, not when the income has been received. An amount of \$17.981 million has been recognised as income for the six months ending 31 December 2024.

User charges account for 1.28% of the total year to date income to 31 December 2024 which equates to \$0.400 million. The majority of this relates to transfer station fees (\$216k), environmental health charges (\$114k), and statutory planning fees (\$125k).

Recurrent Operating Grants received for the year to date total \$5.316 million to 31 December 2024, including \$2.621 million from the Victorian Local Government Grants Commission (VLGCC) for general purpose grants and \$1.137 million for the local roads' grants. As identified in Council's 2023-24 Annual Report, the payment from the VLGCC for these Federal Assistance Grants was delayed and received in July this financial year, although normally paid in June. Under the Recurrent Operating Grants received as of 31 December 2024 Council has accrued a liability of \$0.843 million in accordance with accounting standards AASB 15 and AASB 1058.

Recurrent Operating Grants	2024-25 Updated Budget ('000s)	2024-25 YTD Actuals ('000s)	2024-25 Total Forecasts ('000s)	Carry Forward Funding (Y/N)
Financial Accounting Management - Income	2,865	2,621	2,865	N
Municipal Emergency Resourcing Program (MERP) - Income	60	60	60	N
Local Roads Operations - Income	1,148	1,137	1,232	N
School Crossing Supervision - Income	40	39	39	N
Tobacco & E-Cigarette Activity - Income	0	8	8	N
Financial Counsellor - Income	22	11	22	N
Integrated Family Services - Income	446	250	465	Y
Mansfield FreeZa Youth Events - Income	47	29	29	Y
Engage! Funded Project - Income	57	32	32	Y
Victorian Seniors Festival - Income	15	16	16	Y
Social Inclusion Action Group - Income	556	429	538	Y
Maternal & Child Health - Income	148	104	152	Y
Supported Playgroups - Income	115	80	111	Y
Maternal & Child Health - Enhanced Income	386	346	434	Y
Dads Group Grant - Income	32	15	32	Y
Mansfield Library - Income (GST Free)	137	137	137	N
Total Operational Grants - Recurrent	6,073	5,316	6,173	

Note: in the Quarterly Finance Report to 30 September 2024, the Updated Budget amount for Integrated Family Services was understated and has been amended to \$0.446 million (up from \$0.352 million due to the inclusion of approved carry forward funds).

Non-recurrent Operating Grants received year to date total \$2.208 million to 31 December 2024. This includes grant income carried forward from the prior year, as indicated in the table below, which will be expended during the year on the relevant projects and services.

Council has been successful in securing three new Grants during the quarter.

- ▶ Agile Regulations for Innovation and Streamlined Efficiency (ARISE) - \$50,000
- ▶ Ausnet Energy Resilience Community Fund - \$79,000

Under the Non-Recurrent Operating Grants received as of 31 December 2024 Council has accrued a liability of \$0.828 million in accordance with accounting standards AASB 15 and AASB 1058.

Non-Recurrent Operating Grants	2024-25 Updated Budget ('000s)	2024-25 YTD Actuals ('000s)	2024-25 Total Forecasts ('000s)	Carry Forward Funding (Y/N)
LNERCC - Shared Technology & Collaboration - Income	0	498	498	Y
Agile Regulations for Innovation and Streamlined Efficiency (ARISE) - Income	0	50	50	N
Resilience Benchmarking Project - Income	18	46	46	Y
Emergency Incident Support - Income	0	184	184	N
Ausnet Energy Resilience Community Fund - Income	0	0	79	N
Integrated Water Management - Income	70	152	152	Y
Goughs Bay Water-Sensitive Town Plan Feasibility Study - Income	73	73	73	Y
Ovens Murray Regional Partnership Integrated Transport Strategy Project - Income	0	90	90	N
FOGO Collections - Income	17	17	17	Y
Improvement and promotion of recycling services - Income	18	37	42	Y
Environmental Projects - Income	26	28	28	Y
Upper Catchment Tributaries Flood Study - Income	50	55	80	Y
Risk & Resilience Program (Mansfield Flood Study Program) - Income	58	122	122	Y
Mansfield Infrastructure Planning (Streamlining for Growth Program) - Income	95	109	109	Y
Youth Bushfire Recovery (Future Proof) - Income	273	305	305	Y
L2P Funded Programme - Income	41	21	41	N
Gough's Bay Boat Club Redevelopment Project - Income	199	199	205	Y
Vic Health Local Government Partnership - Income	122	94	54	Y
Central Registration & Enrolment Scheme (CRES) - Income	49	59	59	Y
Jumpstart - Income	11	2	2	Y
Tracks & Trail Upgrade Strategy - Income	36	36	36	Y
Australia Day Community Event - Income	8	12	15	N
Gravel Cycling Project - Income	0	20	20	Y
Total Non-Recurrent Operating Grants	1,164	2,208	2,306	

Recurrent Capital Grants received year to date total \$1.041 million to 31 December 2024. This includes the annual Roads to Recovery allocation received during Q1. This has been confirmed as the annual amount to be received until June 2029, which is less than anticipated in the 2024-25 Budget.

Under the Recurrent Capital Grants received as of 31 December 2024 Council has accrued a grant liability of \$0.653 million in accordance with accounting standards AASB 15 and AASB 1058.

Recurrent Capital Grants	2024-25 Updated Budget ('000s)	2024-25 YTD Actuals ('000s)	2024-25 Total Forecasts ('000s)	Carry Forward Funding (Y/N)
Roads to Recovery - Income	1,180	1,041	1,041	N
Total CAPITAL - Recurrent	1,180	1,041	1,041	

Non-recurrent Capital Grants received year to date total \$6.126 million to 31 December 2024. This includes grant income carried forward from the prior year, as indicated in the table below, which will be expended during the year on the relevant projects.

Council has been successful in obtaining grants that were not budgeted for, including the Flexible Local Transport Solution Program grant of \$210,000 and the Piries-Goughs Bay Road – Stage 1 grant of \$100,000. This pre-paid grant income was received during June 2024 and was also carried forward.

Council has also been successful in securing a new grant being the “Motorcycle Safety Improvement program” during the current quarter.

Under the Non-Recurrent Capital Grants received as of 31 December 2024 Council has accrued a grant liability of \$3.080 million in accordance with accounting standards AASB 15 and AASB 1058.

Non- recurrent Capital Grants	2024-25 Updated Budget ('000s)	2024-25 YTD Actuals ('000s)	2024-25 Total Forecast ('000s)	Carry Forward Funding (Y/N)
Local Government Infrastructure fund LRCI Phase 1 - Income	0	59	59	N
Local Government Infrastructure fund LRCI Phase 3 - Income	0	473	592	N
Local Government Infrastructure fund LRCI Phase 4 - Income	341	0	341	N
IMPACT Route - Income	9,130	5,224	9,170	Y
Flexible Local Transport Solution Program- Income	210	210	230	Y
Motorcycle Safety Improvement - Income	0	20	149	N
Piries Goughs Bay Rd- Stage 1- Income	100	100	100	Y
Lords Reserve Oval - Upgrade - Income	0	0	22	N
Howqua Inlet Boat Ramp Income	39	39	39	Y
Lords Reserve Pavilion Upgrade 2024-25 - Income	0	0	1,410	N
Total Non Recurrent Capital Grants	9,820	6,125	12,112	

As of 1 July 2024, total unearned grant revenue of \$6.870 million was carried forward from last financial year into this year. Council is committed to expending carry-forward funds during the current financial year and progress will be reported in each quarterly report.

As of 31 December 2024, Council has recognised the liability for unspent grant funding received of \$5.406 million in accordance with accounting standards AASB 15 and AASB 1058.

Expenses

Employee Costs of \$6.473 million have been incurred to 31 December 2024 and are currently \$0.079 million above budget is primarily due to the timing of payment of leave loading for all staff during the month of December as a lump sum of \$0.129 million. Secondly, due to the timing of grant funded activity in the Economic Development – Youth and Events area and additional Waste Management activity over the holiday period.

Materials and Services costs of \$5.150 million have been incurred to 31 December 2024 and are currently \$1.142 million below the YTD Updated Budget. There are several projects, including those carried forward from 2023-24, that are expected to be completed before the end of the financial year, with an increased level of expenditure anticipated in the second half.

The Updated Budget figures include an increase of \$0.739 million in materials and contracts costs (\$12.743 million to \$13.482 million) based on the carry forward projects approved by Council on 15 October 2024.

Balance Sheet (Attachment 2)

The Balance Sheet is one of the main financial statements and reports Council’s assets, liabilities and equity at a given date, in this case 31 December 2024. Comparative figures have been provided as of 30 June 2024.

Council’s current assets have increased by \$8.575 million due to rates revenue which was recognised during July 2024. Assets have increased from \$17.223 million as of 30 June 2024 to \$25.798 million as of 31 December 2024. Cash and Investments have increased by \$1.892 million to a total of \$13.816 million.

Total liabilities have decreased by \$4.763 million since 30 June 2024 partly due to the transfer of unearned grant revenue of \$6.870 million, now appearing as revenue. Other reductions are due to the payment of various creditors (accounts payable). As of 31 December 2024, Council recognised the liability for unspent grant funding received of \$5.406 million in accordance with accounting standards AASB 15 and AASB 1058.

Capital Works Report

The Capital Works Finance Report measures how well council has performed from a capital nature. It reports revenues and expenditure from the capital projects, with the net effect being a surplus or (deficit). Generally net results are in deficit as grant agreements require council to contribute in terms of cash and in-kind contributions.

As of 31 December 2024, Under the Non-Recurrent Capital Grants received, council has accrued a grant liability of \$3.080 million and under the Recurrent Capital Grants received council has accrued a grant liability of \$0.653 million, in accordance with accounting standards AASB 15 and AASB 1058. Within the table below, the actual Capital grants received YTD to 31 December 2024 omit the accrued grant liability totalling \$3.733 million. Once added to the YTD actuals below, it would confirm a positive variance of \$0.243 million for total income.

Cash operating contribution income within the table below is negative due to a credit note associated with the Kidston Parade footpath project.

Employee costs are higher than the YTD budget due to timing of leave loading payments (as outlined above) and the increased resourcing required to support grant funded projects.

Materials & Contracts actual expenditure is below YTD budget due to changes in timing of projects towards completion. The net effect of variances within the Capital Finance report confirms a net positive position of \$0.926 million YTD to 31 December 2024.

Capital Finance Report	2024-25 Updated Budget ('000s)	2024-25 YTD Updated Budgets ('000s)	2024-25 YTD Actuals ('000s)	YTD Variance Updated Budget ('000s)	2024-25 Total Forecasts ('000s)
Capital					
Income					
Cash Operating Contributions	0	0	-10	-10	0

Capital Finance Report	2024-25 Updated Budget ('000s)	2024-25 YTD Updated Budgets ('000s)	2024-25 YTD Actuals ('000s)	YTD Variance Updated Budget ('000s)	2024-25 Total Forecasts ('000s)
Capital Grants - Non-Recurrent	9,820	5,914	3,045	-2,869	11,770
Capital Grants - Recurrent	1,180	1,180	388	-792	1,041
Sale of Assets	1,418	1,418	1,599	181	1,444
Total Income	12,417	8,512	5,022	-3,489	14,256
Expenditure					
Employee Costs	932	466	504	-39	932
Materials & Contracts	19,461	10,134	5,680	4,454	21,039
Total Expenditure	20,393	10,599	6,184	4,415	21,971

Surplus/(deficit) for the year	-7,976	-2,087	-1,162	926	-7,715
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Financial Performance Indicators (Attachment 3)

Working Capital Ratio YTD

The working capital ratio (WCR) compares current assets to current liabilities and is an indicator of Council’s capacity to meet its immediate debts when they fall due. A WCR of more than 1:1 (or 100%) is considered healthy.

Current WCR = 2.49 or (249%) as of 31 December 2024, as compared with 1.14 or (114%) as at the end of 2023-24 financial year.

The high working capital ratio includes rates income for the whole financial year. This revenue is booked in July and reported as a current asset (included in Receivables at \$11.066 million).

CEO Statement

Based on the analysis and review of the budget, actual year to date result and other known financial factors as at 31 December 2024, it is considered that a revised budget for the purposes of s95 of the Local Government Act 2020 is not required.

Recommendation
THAT COUNCIL notes the Quarterly Finance Report for the period 1 July 2024 – 31 December 2024.
Support Attachments
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Attachment 1 Comprehensive Income Statement Dec 2024 [13.4.3.1 - 1 page] Attachment 2 Balance Sheet Dec 2024 [13.4.3.2 - 1 page] Attachment 3 Financial Performance Indicators [13.4.3.3 - 1 page]

Considerations and Implications of Recommendation

Sustainability Implications

Not Applicable

Community Engagement

The 2024-25 Budget engagement process facilitated opportunities for community input to and feedback on Council's budget.

Collaboration

Not Applicable

Financial Impact

The financial reports attached provide the opportunity for regular monitoring of Council's financial position to ensure compliance with budgets.

Legal and Risk Implications

Financial Risk: Regular financial reporting is part of Council's financial strategy to ensure budgets are complied with and the short to medium term financial sustainability of Council is maintained.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not Applicable

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The content of the Quarterly report has been reviewed to ensure meaningful data is provided.

Alignment to Council Plan

Theme 3: A Trusted, Effective and Efficient Council

Strategic Objective 6: Council possesses in-house and outsourced capability to meet community expectations.

Strategy 6.1 Use and gain knowledge of our community to make good decisions

Strategic Objective 8: A consultative Council that represents and empowers its community.

Strategy 8.1 Increase community trust in Council to make informed decisions with "no surprises".

Governance - Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

The author of this report and officers providing advice in relation to this report do not have a conflict of interest to declare in this matter, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020.

14. Council Meeting Resolution Actions Status Register

This report presents to Council the Mansfield Shire Council Meeting Resolution Actions Status Register

Recommendation
THAT COUNCIL receive and note the Mansfield Shire Council Meeting Resolution Actions Status Register as at 31 January 2025.
Support Attachments
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mansfield Shire Council Action Register as at 31 January 2025 [14.1.1 - 5 pages] 2. CONFIDENTIAL Mansfield Shire Council Action Register as at 31 January 2025 [14.1.2 - 3 pages]

15. Advisory and Special Committee reports

15.1. Audit & Risk Committee Meeting Agenda & Minutes

The Agenda & Minutes of the Mansfield Shire Audit and Risk Committee, held 9 December 2024, are attached for the Councils information.

Recommendation
THAT COUNCIL receive the Agenda & Minutes of the Mansfield Shire Audit and Risk Committee meeting held 9 December 2024.
Support Attachments
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Minutes - 9 December 2024 [15.1.1 - 6 pages] 2. CONFIDENTIAL - Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Agenda - 9 December 2024 [15.1.2 - 60 pages]

16. Authorisation of sealing of documents

Nil

17. Closure of meeting to members of the public

Council has the power to close its meeting to the public in certain circumstances pursuant to the provisions of Section 66(2) of the Local Government Act 2020. The circumstances where a meeting can be closed to the public are:

- a) the meeting is to consider confidential information; or
- b) security reasons; or
- c) it is necessary to do so to enable the meeting to proceed in an orderly manner.

The definition of confidential information is provided in Section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Recommendation
THAT COUNCIL close the meeting to members of the public under Section 66(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020 to consider Confidential Reports in accordance with section 66(2) of the Local Government Act 2020 for reasons set out in section 18 below.

18. Confidential Reports

18.1. Sale of Portion of Road

Confidential

This report contains confidential information pursuant to the provisions of Section 66(2) of the Local Government Act 2020 under Section 3(a) - Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.

18.2. Energy Contract Procurement

Confidential

This report contains confidential information pursuant to the provisions of Section 66(2) of the Local Government Act 2020 under Section 3(g) - private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that:(i) relates to trade secrets; or (ii) if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage

18.3. CEO Employment Matters

Confidential

This report contains confidential information pursuant to the provisions of Section 66(2) of the Local Government Act 2020 under Section 3(f) - personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs.

19. Reopen meeting to members of the public

Recommendation
THAT COUNCIL reopen the meeting to members of the public.

20. Close of meeting