



Colac Otway

SHIRE

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**Wednesday 26 October 2022**

**at 4:00 PM**

**The Project Space**

**2-4 Noel Street, Apollo Bay**

**Next Council Meeting: 09 November 2022**



# COLAC OTWAY SHIRE COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 26 October 2022

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## **COLAC OTWAY SHIRE COUNCIL MEETING**

MINUTES of the **COUNCIL MEETING OF THE COLAC OTWAY SHIRE COUNCIL** held at The Project Space on Wednesday 26 October 2022 at 4:00 PM.

### **MINUTES**

#### **1 DECLARATION OF OPENING OF MEETING**

##### **OPENING PRAYER**

*Almighty God, we seek your blessing and guidance in our deliberations on behalf of the people of the Colac Otway Shire. Enable this Council's decisions to be those that contribute to the true welfare and betterment of our community.*

**AMEN**

#### **2 PRESENT**

Cr Kate Hanson (Mayor)  
Cr Graham Costin (Deputy Mayor)  
Cr Jamie Bell  
Cr Stephen Hart  
Cr Chris Potter  
Cr Margaret White

Anne Howard, Chief Executive Officer  
Andrew Tenni, General Manager Corporate Services  
Heath Chasemore, General Manager Infrastructure and Operations  
Ian Seuren, General Manager Community and Economy  
Marlo Emmitt, Manager Communications and Governance  
Lyndal McLean, Governance Coordinator

#### **3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

Cr Joe McCracken - Leave of absence (Council Resolution 24 August 2022)

#### **4 WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

Colac Otway Shire acknowledges the original custodians and law makers of this land, their elders past, present and emerging and welcomes any descendants here today.

## **RECORDING AND PUBLICATION OF MEETINGS**

Please note: All Council meetings are live streamed and recorded when the meeting is held either at COPACC or online. This includes the public participation sections of the meetings. When meetings are held in other locations, Council will endeavour to make an audio recording of the meeting for community access. Matters identified as confidential items in the Agenda will not be live streamed or recorded regardless of venue or mode.

By participating in open Council meetings, individuals consent to the use and disclosure of the information they share at the meeting (including any personal and/or sensitive information).

As soon as practicable following each open Council meeting, the live stream recording will be accessible on Council's website. Recordings are also taken to facilitate the preparation of the minutes of open Council meetings and to ensure their accuracy. Live stream and audio recordings will be retained by Council for a period of four years.

As stated in the Governance Rules, other than an official Council recording, no video or audio recording of proceedings of Council Meetings is permitted without specific approval by resolution of the relevant Council Meeting.

This meeting was livestreamed to the public via Council's YouTube channel (search Colac Otway Shire Council at [www.youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)).

## **5        QUESTION TIME**

A maximum of 30 minutes is allowed for question time. To ensure that each member of the gallery has the opportunity to ask questions, it may be necessary to allow a maximum of two questions from each person in the first instance. Question time is not a forum for public debate or statements.

### **QUESTIONS RECEIVED IN WRITING PRIOR TO THE MEETING**

**Dr Sean Mulcahy, Rainbow Local Government**

- 1. Noting that Colac Otway Shire Council is one of only eight Councils that do not fly the rainbow flag on the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersex discrimination and Transphobia, will the review of the Flag Protocol Policy to be undertaken this year will include consideration of flying the rainbow flag on IDAHOBIT (as the responses on this question have differed from the April to September Council meetings)?**

***Response from Chief Executive Officer***

I understand that when a similar public question was asked at a Council meeting in April we indicated our intention to undertake a Flag Policy review in 2022. This has not been possible due to other priorities arising and therefore our more recent response of September indicated that we will commence this year with a discussion with Councillors about the scope of the review and hope to conclude the matter in the New Year. Councillors and officers are aware that IDAHOBIT is celebrated in May and we will keep this in mind as we do this work.

**James Judd**

1. Has the Colac Otway Shire Council done any work to make sure all its fire security methods will be in place for prompt action prior to the upcoming fire season, as with the rain of recent times we could have a very big and long fire season ahead? It does not even have to be hot or very dry to be a bad fire period.

***Response from General Manager Infrastructure and Operations***

Council's annual Fire Prevention and Engagement program begins the first week of November and continues through to February. The program sees fire prevention inspections across the whole of the municipality within all townships as required by legislation.

Council is also assisting Fire agencies in not only promoting the new national fire danger rating system and proactively working with the Fire agencies in distributing education material to help property owners choose appropriate landscape materials to reduce their bushfire risk.

2. Has the defined benefits superannuation scheme now ceased to exist or is the Colac Otway Shire Council still subject to making periodically payments to top up this scheme that ceased to accept new members prior to the turn of this century? When the last call on this Council was for a very large amount that was a significant portion of Council's surplus for 2021-2022 financial year that was paid after raiding staff benefits reserve funds by Council. If still in operation, when is the next review due to be done since it is a few years since the last one?

***Response from General Manager Corporate Services***

Yes, Council makes employer contributions to the Defined Benefit category of the Fund at rates determined by the Trustee on the advice of the Fund Actuary.

Currently there are enough funds in the defined benefits super. It is unlikely that there would be a call in the next twelve months.

As at June 2021 the actuarial investigation is satisfactory and the fund is in a sound financial position.

3. What was the total length of footpaths replaced in the 2021-22 financial year? Plus, what was that as a portion of the total constructed footpaths in this Shire, since no works were done in Queen Street Colac outside a Council run outlet that Council had confirmed would be done in this period?

***Response from General Manager Infrastructure and Operations***

Council renewed 775m of concrete footpaths in the 2021-22 financial year, which is about 0.5 percent of the total length of the constructed footpaths in the Shire.

4. Are any of the amounts proposed to be allocated to the Colac Otway Shire Council prior to the last Federal election now on the list of allocations that the current Federal Government has listed among allocations it will deny or call back if already paid? Should any be on this list, how much is this Shire now required to return from existing funds? Plus, what impact will this have on proposed Council works in the 2022-23 financial year if proposed funds unavailable, since very large amounts were promised towards costs of works to be done in the future.

***Response from General Manager Corporate Services***

Council is unaware of the Federal Government making any changes to its announced commitments to Colac Otway Shire.

5. When will the Colac Otway Shire Council revert to direct contact with people face to face, not rely on online systems as these are very much subject to being hacked by criminal elements as has been proven in recent times with many secure systems hacked and much private details stolen.

***Response from General Manager Corporate Services***

Council will continue to communicate and engage with people through a variety of channels, including face to face.

**Jason Schram**

1. At the Council Meeting 16 September 2020 the Council passed a motion as per the minutes for item 10.11 That Council: Instruct officers to prepare a report that will be brought back to a future council meeting no later than May 2021 with options and opportunities to improve the camping area at Meredith Park with the view to implementing new guidelines, enforceable regulations, better management and camp ground improvements within the reserve and consider future management options. As it is over a year past May 2021 and the report was to be made public, has this work as per the unanimous vote of Council been carried out? If not why? And when will it be done?

***Response from General Manager Community and Economy***

Officers have undertaken a review of Meredith Park and its role as a free camping ground and public open space. Consultation has been carried out with the Lake Colac Coordinating Committee along with key agencies including the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and Parks Victoria. A number of briefing sessions have been held with Councillors particularly about the future management options for the Park, which is a key issue to resolve before determining other aspects such as amended regulations and facility improvements. Further work is currently being undertaken before presenting a report to a Council meeting.

## QUESTIONS RECEIVED VERBALLY AT THE MEETING

### Tony Webber

1. Have the Councillors seen the two short films on the effects of seismic testing, both locally and in New Zealand?

#### *Response from the Mayor*

You're asking a Councillor specifically?

Well, all of you. They are quite dramatic. I suggest maybe that you do have a look at them. They only run for a couple of minutes.

#### *Response from the Mayor*

Thank you. If you want to send them through to Council, a link, that would be great.

2. The second question is again on seismic testing and the community thanks the Council for not supporting seismic testing because the damage it does to the fishing industry and to the environment. The question is: would the Council ask other coastal Councils that are affected by seismic testing, including the two in South Australia, which are Mount Gambier and Limestone Coast Councils, to do a similar non-support of seismic testing.

#### *Response from the Chief Executive Officer*

Thank you for your question. It has actually been a matter that's been raised with us already. That advocacy to other councils is actually beyond what the Council's position is at this time so it's not a matter Council has yet considered. But I would encourage any organisation that feels passionately about the matter of seismic testing not to wait for Colac Otway Shire Council but to take action and reach out to those Councils directly and I think that that would be a really effective thing to do.

### Tim Cobb

1. In 2003 the Shire commissioned a Heritage Study of Colac Otway Shire which listed many of the significant buildings. In the 20 years since then a number of omissions have been identified and this can be unfortunate and costly, like the historic Marengo Beacon that wasn't on the list and got demolished. I know that the Apollo Bay Historical Society and others including myself asked the Shire to investigate updating that study more than 12 months ago, but I haven't heard any commitment as to when that will happen and what the way is to get new buildings or new old buildings onto that list?

#### *Response from General Manager Community and Economy*

The review of The Heritage Study is certainly on our forward works plan for the Strategic Planning Department of Council. Unfortunately it hasn't been funded to date. There are a number of other priorities that our team are working on. In regards to some sites that you're aware of we would be happy to receive those and consider their heritage value and how they may be considered in terms of protection into the future.

*Response from the Chief Executive Officer*

Can I just supplement that response; just to let the community know that Council will be undertaking a formal review of the Planning Scheme. It's required to be done every four years and as part of that we're going to engage the community and ask what are you finding to be effective in the Planning Scheme and what might be missing, such as some updated heritage work. So I encourage everyone to keep an eye out for that review. That engagement will help Councillors and Council to consider a very long list of strategic work. But also understand from people like yourself, Mr Cobb, you know where those priorities might sit. So there's a process to help lift the profile of that Heritage work and that will be coming up.

2. My second question is looking at the annual report, it mentions on page 27 that the low level of satisfaction with Council that is found along the coast and has been for some time. I read that Council was going to investigate the low level of satisfaction and then maybe try and do something about it. Can you tell me what Council is going to do on that and when?

*Response from the Chief Executive Officer*

You know we are very aware about the ongoing dissatisfaction or low level of satisfaction that the coastal communities have expressed and of course that is of concern to Councillors and officers. In the Council Plan there is an action that seeks to help us understand what is contributing to that low level of satisfaction and we've started some conversations already trying to understand what sits behind that. There's more work to do so we don't have any specific actions at this time. There's also more work to do to understand what is really sitting behind that low satisfaction level.

**So there's no specific deadline?**

*Response from the Chief Executive Officer*

I think this will be work that will be ongoing for quite a while and we'll probably need more than one approach in action.

3. I've got one more little question, if I may, which is: there was a bit about trees - 2,500 trees and plants being planted. I just wondered where those are across the Shire?

*General Manager of Infrastructure and Operations*

I can take that question on notice and give you a bit more detail with some specific locations for those trees we'll be planting and I can follow up with you and give you the correct answer.

**Tony Webber**

3. We were planting trees this morning. Some of you might have seen us down along the Barham River at the end of Gambier Street, on the west end of Gambier Street. There's a pipe that goes into the river, but there's a section of it that's not joined to the road pipe. We're wondering if that's causing flooding? Maybe the Council staff could just have a look at that as there's about a foot where there's no pipe at all so water comes out and then just gradually flows into the open pipe at the other side. It could be a danger to someone in the dark [they] could fall into it. So could [you] just have a look at that, maybe on your way home you could call in and just have a quick look? Thank you.

*Response from General Manager Infrastructure and Operations*

I'll follow that one up.

*Response from the Mayor*

Excellent, we'll take that on notice. Thanks for your questions.

**6 PETITIONS / JOINT LETTERS**

Nil

**7 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Nil

**8 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

- Council meeting held on 28 September 2022.
- Unscheduled Council meeting held on 12 October 2022.

***RESOLUTION***

***MOVED Cr Stephen Hart, SECONDED Cr Margaret White***

***That Council confirm the minutes of the Council meeting held on 28 September 2022 and the minutes of the Unscheduled Council meeting held on 12 October 2022.***

***CARRIED 6 : 0***



### Item: 9.1

## Colac Otway Shire Annual Report 2021-22

<b>CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER</b>	Anne Howard
<b>MAYOR</b>	Councillor Kate Hanson
<b>DIVISION</b>	Executive
<b>ATTACHMENTS</b>	1. Annual Report 13 October Design draft - final [9.1.1 - 174 pages]

The Mayor presented Colac Otway Shire Council's Annual Report for 2021-22. The report describes Colac Otway Shire Council's performance over the 2021-22 financial year against the key objectives, strategies and priorities as outlined in the Council Plan 2021-25 and Budget 2021-22.

## RECOMMENDATION

*That Council:*

- 1. Notes the Mayor's verbal report on the implementation of the Council Plan 2021-2025.*
- 2. Receives and notes the Colac Otway Shire Council's Annual Report 2021-22 (refer Attachment 1).*
- 3. Approves the Manager Governance and Communications making any editorial and/or formatting and graphic design changes to the attached version, prior to publication of the final designed copy.*
- 4. Notes that the final designed copy will be published on Council's website and a copy made available in Council's Customer Service Centres.*

## RESOLUTION

*MOVED Cr Graham Costin, SECONDED Cr Stephen Hart*

*That Council:*

- 1. Notes the Mayor's verbal report on the implementation of the Council Plan 2021-2025.*

2. *Receives and notes the Colac Otway Shire Council's Annual Report 2021-22 (refer Attachment 1).*
3. *Receives and notes the Sustainability Report tabled at this meeting, and requests the inclusion of glass, household and organic waste to landfill data and incorporation of the updated Sustainability Report into the Annual Report*
4. *Approves the Manager Governance and Communications making any editorial and/or formatting and graphic design changes to the attached version, prior to publication of the final designed copy.*
5. *Notes that the final designed copy will be published on Council's website and a copy made available in Council's Customer Service Centres.*

**CARRIED 6 : 0**



### Item: 9.2

## Contract 1953 Cleaning Services Extension

OFFICER	Cameron Duthie
GENERAL MANAGER	Heath Chasemore
DIVISION	Infrastructure and Operations
ATTACHMENTS	Nil

## RECOMMENDATION

*That Council:*

1. *Notes that Contract 1953 – Cleaning Services awarded by Council on 23 October 2019 enables Council to extend the contract twice by one year for each extension.*
2. *Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to execute extensions to Contract 1953 – Cleaning Services.*
3. *Notes that the Chief Executive Officer will provide a contract performance summary at a Councillor Briefing session prior to executing any contract extension.*
4. *Notes that Contract 1953 – Cleaning Services cannot be extended past 23 November 2024 and Council will need to undertake a procurement process prior to any new contract being established.*

## RESOLUTION

*MOVED Cr Chris Potter, SECONDED Cr Jamie Bell*

*That Council:*

1. *Notes that Contract 1953 – Cleaning Services awarded by Council on 23 October 2019 enables Council to extend the contract twice by one year for each extension.*
2. *Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to execute extensions to Contract 1953 – Cleaning Services having taken into account the contractor's performance over the preceding period.*

3. *Notes that the Chief Executive Officer will provide a contract performance summary at a Councillor Briefing session prior to executing any contract extension.*
4. *Notes that Contract 1953 – Cleaning Services cannot be extended past 23 November 2024 and Council will need to undertake a procurement process prior to any new contract being established.*
5. *Requires a procurement plan to be presented to a Councillor briefing session by the end of March 2023 that includes the following:*

  - a. *Discussions with Councillors at a subsequent briefing session later in 2023 to confirm objectives and key specification requirements for a future cleaning contract; and*
  - b. *A timeline that enables a new contract to be awarded no later than the end of May 2024.*

**CARRIED 6 : 0**



Item: 9.3

## Resolution to form the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee

**OFFICER** Scott Hilditch

**GENERAL MANAGER** Heath Chasemore

**DIVISION** Infrastructure and Operations

**ATTACHMENTS** Nil

### **RESOLUTION**

*MOVED Cr Chris Potter, SECONDED Cr Jamie Bell*

*That Council:*

1. *Dissolves the existing Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) established under section 21(3)-(5) of the Emergency Management Act 1986.*
2. *Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to establish a new MEMPC in accordance with Part 6, Section 59 of the Emergency Management Act 2013 as amended on 1 December 2020.*

**CARRIED 6 : 0**



Item: 9.4

## Scheduling of Submissions Committee Meeting - Apollo Bay, Marengo, Skenes Creek Community Infrastructure Plan

OFFICER	Doug McNeill
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER	Anne Howard
DIVISION	Executive
ATTACHMENTS	Nil

### RECOMMENDATION

*That Council schedules a meeting of the Submissions Committee to be held on Wednesday 16 November 2022, commencing at 4.00pm at The Project Space, 1-3 Nelson Street in Apollo Bay, to hear people who indicated they wished to speak in support of their written submission to the Apollo Bay, Skenes Creek and Marengo Community Infrastructure Plan.*

### RESOLUTION

*MOVED Cr Graham Costin, SECONDED Cr Stephen Hart*

*That Council schedules a meeting of the Submissions Committee to be held on Wednesday 16 November 2022, commencing at 4.00pm at The Project Space, 2-4 Noel Street in Apollo Bay, to hear people who indicate they wish to speak in support of their written submission to the Apollo Bay, Skenes Creek and Marengo Community Infrastructure Plan.*

*CARRIED 6 : 0*



Item: 9.5

## Appointment of Audit and Risk Committee Chairperson

**OFFICER** Lyndal McLean

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER** Anne Howard

**DIVISION** Executive

**ATTACHMENTS** Nil

## RESOLUTION

*MOVED Cr Margaret White, SECONDED Cr Graham Costin*

*That Council appoints Brian Keane as the Chairperson of the Audit and Risk Committee for a period of 12 months, commencing on 2 December 2022.*

*CARRIED 6 : 0*



Item: 9.6

## Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Minutes - 10 August 2022

OFFICER	Lyndal McLean
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER	Anne Howard
DIVISION	Executive
ATTACHMENTS	1. 10 August 2022 Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Minutes [9.6.1 - 27 pages]

## RESOLUTION

*MOVED Cr Margaret White, SECONDED Cr Graham Costin*

*That Council receives for information the Colac Otway Shire Audit and Risk Committee minutes dated 10 August 2022.*

*CARRIED 6 : 0*



### Item: 9.7

## Report of Informal Meetings of Councillors

<b>OFFICER</b>	Lyndal Redford
<b>CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER</b>	Anne Howard
<b>DIVISION</b>	Executive
<b>ATTACHMENTS</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Informal Meeting of Councillors - Councillor Briefing - 21 September 2022 - CB 20220921 [9.7.1 - 2 pages]</li><li>2. Informal Meeting of Councillors - Council meeting preparation - 28 September 2022 - CM 20220928 [9.7.2 - 2 pages]</li><li>3. Informal Meeting of Councillors - Environment Strategy Workshop - 5 October 2022 - 20221005 [9.7.3 - 2 pages]</li><li>4. Informal Meeting of Councillors - Councillor Briefing - 5 October 2022 - CB 20221007 [9.7.4 - 2 pages]</li></ol>
<b>PURPOSE</b>	To report the Informal Meetings of Councillors

## REPORTING

*The Informal Meetings of Councillors are reported herewith.*

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. <i>Councillor Briefing</i>           | <i>21 September 2022</i> |
| 2. <i>Council Meeting Preparation</i>   | <i>28 September 2022</i> |
| 3. <i>Environment Strategy Workshop</i> | <i>05 October 2022</i>   |
| 4. <i>Councillor Briefing</i>           | <i>05 October 2022</i>   |

*The Colac Otway Shire Governance Rules does not require a Council decision.*

## CLOSED SESSION

### RESOLUTION

*MOVED Cr Chris Potter, SECONDED Cr Graham Costin*

*That pursuant to the provisions of Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2020, the meeting be closed to the public and Council move into Closed Session in order to deal with:*

SUBJECT	REASON	SECTION OF ACT
<i>Minutes of the Closed Session Council Meeting held on 28 September 2022</i>	This matter deals with confidential meeting information, being records of meetings closed to the public under section 66(2)(a).	Section 3(1)(h)
<i>Contract 2122 Port of Apollo Bay Breakwater Remediation Project Sheet Pile Wall</i>	This matter deals with Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.	Section 3(1)(a)

**CARRIED 6 : 0**

*The meeting adjourned at 4.48pm.*

*Closed Session commenced at 5.00pm.*

*The meeting re-opened to the public at 5.09pm.*

*The meeting was declared closed at 5.09pm*

**CONFIRMED AND SIGNED** at the meeting held on 23 November 2022.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Doe".

MAYOR

## Sustainability Report 2021-22

This year's Sustainability Report outlines Council's performance in relation to two key areas of environmental sustainability: Carbon Neutrality and Water Usage.

### COLAC OTWAY SHIRE CARBON NEUTRAL TARGET

In 2010, Council set an ambitious target to achieve carbon neutrality in 2020. Council has worked towards this goal over many years and through a range of initiatives reductions of 36% were achieved by the end of 2019-20. A comprehensive report outlining Council's work towards this goal was presented at the Council meeting in February 2022.

Council's ability to achieve carbon neutrality in 2020 was dependent on Council purchasing carbon offsets for the remaining emissions that resulted from Council's operations where they had not been fully avoided. Council achieved carbon neutrality for the 2020-21 year by offsetting a residential amount of 1,520 CO2-e tonnes, which were purchased in August 2022. This final volume of emissions which have been offset reflect the emissions boundary including Scope 1 and 2 emissions and were determined by Pangolin Associates who provided third party verification of Colac Otway Shire's greenhouse inventory. Emissions for 2021-22, the year that directly relates to this Annual Report, are still to be verified, but Council's emissions from various sources are detailed below.

### Organisational Emissions for 2021-22

Total COS Greenhouse Emissions (CO2-e tonnes)

Year	Buildings	Gas	Lighting	Fleet	TOTAL
2010-11	1,999	311	1,181	2,114	5,605
2011-12	1,916	290	1,202	1,727	5,135
2012-13	1,879	323	1,182	1,698	5,082
2013-14	1,484	186	1,014	1,523	4,207
2014-15	1,356	3	872	1,530	3,761
2015-16	1,846	282	436	1,269	3,833
2016-17	1,881	478	412	1,560	4,331
2017-18	1,887	488	406	1,329	4,110
2018-19	1,747	470	406	1,263	3,886
2019-20	1,389	466	417	1,333	3,605
2020-21	0* (1,199)	451	0* (379)	1,324	1,775 (3,353)
<b>2021-22</b>	<b>0* (1,341)</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>0* (334)</b>	<b>1,342</b>	<b>1,806 (3,481)</b>

\*Numbers in brackets show emissions avoided by purchasing 100% Greenpower.

Organisational emissions have remained relatively steady since 2021-22, increasing by 1.7% since 2020-21. The impact of ongoing sustainability initiatives such as efficiency upgrades and solar installations are difficult to distinguish from COVID-19 lockdown related emission reductions. The effectiveness of these upgrades will become evident as Council facilities return to business as usual operation. For 2021-22, despite gradual reopening of facilities and return to work orders, consumption and emissions remained lower than pre-COVID-19 activity.

The above table reports total emissions as measured by Council's Environmental scorekeeper and includes some Scope 3 emissions for consistency as this has been Council's reporting approach for many years and provides comparison and trend data. Scope 3 emissions are those a company causes indirectly via its supply chain, eg. emissions from fleet used by a contractor, rather than Council's own plant or fleet. Carbon neutrality for an organisation only requires scope 1 and 2, with scope 3 emissions encouraged but not mandatory.

Council has included some but not all scope 3 emissions in its purchased offsets for 2020-21, which is why the purchased offsets for 1,520 CO2-e tonnes is lower than the total emissions of 1,775 CO2-e tonnes above which include more scope 3 emissions than required to achieve carbon neutrality.

## **Buildings**

Council's ongoing commitment to purchasing 100% Greenpower since 2020 continues to provide emissions-free electricity consumption for buildings. The 10.6% increase in consumption can be attributable to return to office arrangements following the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless there has been a decrease in electricity consumption since pre-pandemic activity, most likely reflecting the energy efficiency works conducted as part of the Local Government Energy Saver (LGES) program. This includes installation of HVAC units, LED lights, Building Management Systems (BMS) and solar systems.

## **Streetlights**

Greenpower is also purchased to provide emissions-free electricity for street and public lighting. Consumption has decreased by 13.5%, largely attributable to efficiency upgrades performed on 125 major road streetlights in February 2021.

## **Fleet**

Fleet and equipment related fuel emissions remained relatively steady, increasing by 1.3%. Diesel fuel consumption related to Council fleet has decreased by 8% whilst petrol consumption has increased by 5%. As Council moves to gradually electrify its fleet, hybrid rather than diesel vehicles are prioritised during fleet renewal. The remaining increase in fuel use is attributable to dredge and bulk (heavy plant and machinery) diesel, that has increased by 5% and 7% respectively.

## **WATER USAGE FOR COUNCIL FACILITIES**

Council's underlying water usage continues to reduce over time as water efficiency initiatives are implemented. The 2020-21 year was significantly lower than the normal trend due to the impacts of COVID-19 lockdowns and service disruptions which meant that much less water was needed at Bluewater Leisure Centre and the Colac Regional Saleyards.

Year	Water usage (kilolitres)
2011-12	95,498
2012-13	104,735
2013-14	99,908
2014-15	86,740
2015-16	93,900
2016-17	80,887
2017-18	92,787
2018-19	92,935
2019-20	91,058
2020-21	67,333
<b>2021-22</b>	<b>82,727</b>

The above table demonstrates that water use has increased in 2021-22 by 18.6% compared to the previous year, largely due to the reopening of several facilities and resurfacing of reserves conducted over the financial year. Sites significantly contributing to water use this financial year include Colac Botanic Gardens (33.4% of total water use) and Bluewater Leisure Centre (17.2% of total water use). Water use at Bluewater Leisure Centre significantly increased by 63.6% due to its reopening post COVID-19.