



Colac Otway
SHIRE

UNSCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING

AGENDA

Wednesday 15 June 2022

at 2:30 PM

COPACC

95 - 97 Gellibrand Street, Colac



COLAC OTWAY SHIRE UNSCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 15 June 2022

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COLAC OTWAY SHIRE UNSCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING

NOTICE is hereby given that the next **UNSCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING OF THE COLAC OTWAY SHIRE COUNCIL** will be held at COPACC on Wednesday 15 June 2022 at 2:30 PM.

AGENDA

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING

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

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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: This Council meeting will be live streamed and recorded. This includes the public participation sections of the meetings. However, matters identified as confidential items in the Agenda will not be live streamed or recorded.

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. Audio 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 will be permitted without specific approval by resolution of the relevant Council Meeting.

This meeting will be livestreamed to the public via Council's YouTube channel (search Colac Otway Shire Council at www.youtube.com).

The sole purpose of the Unscheduled Council meeting is to consider the following agenda item:

- Deans Creek Growth Area Strategic Planning Project - Investment Fast-track Fund.

5 QUESTION TIME

Please note that as this is an Unscheduled Council meeting, only questions pertaining to this agenda will be responded to. A maximum of 15 minutes is allowed for question time at Unscheduled Council meetings. Question time is not a forum for public debate or statements.

6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A Councillor who has declared a conflict of interest, must leave the meeting and remain outside the room while the matter is being considered, or any vote is taken.

Item: 7.1

Deans Creek Growth Area Strategic Planning Project - Investment Fast-track Fund

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

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's authorisation for the Chief Executive Officer to enter a funding agreement with the Victorian Government to progress strategic land use planning in the Deans Creek Growth Corridor and to ensure that Council's financial contribution is committed.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has recognised the importance of opening new urban growth areas in Colac through a range of strategic plans, including the Colac 2050 Growth Plan and the Council Plan 2021-25.

Council allocated \$225,000 in the adopted Budget 2021-22 and foreshadowed a further allocation in the adopted budget commentary and accompanying media statements. Council also indicated that additional funding would be pursued through government grants.

Council was successful in securing \$150,000 through the Streamlining for Growth program and this agreement has been executed.

A second funding application has been successful and the Victorian Government has announced that it will commit \$425,000 through the Investment Fast-Track Fund towards the Deans Creek Growth Corridor Plan project. Council needs to commit \$75,000 in addition to the \$225,000 already in the 2021-22 budget before it can meet the funding agreement requirement of contributing a total of \$300,000 to this project.

This report has been prepared to enable Council to consider formalising a financial commitment that would enable the funding agreement to be entered.

If Council commits the additional \$75,000 it will result in total external funding of \$575,000 by leveraging a total Council-contribution of \$300,000.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Notes that the funding application to the Streamlining for Growth program has been successful and has secured \$150,000 from the Victorian Government for the Deans Creek Growth Corridor Plan.***
- 2. Notes that a separate funding application to the Investment Fast-Track Fund has been successful and a further \$425,000 is offered by the Victorian Government for the Deans Creek Growth Corridor Plan, subject to Council committing \$300,000 of its own funding as a co-contribution to a total project budget of \$875,000.***
- 3. Pre-allocates \$75,000 in the Budget 2022-23 towards the Deans Creek Growth Corridor Plan project, which is additional to the \$225,000 it has already allocated in the Budget 2021-22.***
- 4. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to accept the funding offered by the Victorian Government through the Investment Fast-Track Fund and enter the funding agreement on its behalf.***

4. KEY INFORMATION

Council has recognised the importance of opening new urban growth areas in Colac through a range of strategic plans, including the Colac 2050 Growth Plan and the Council Plan 2021-25.

Council recognised that progressing this work would require a substantial financial investment to undertake technical studies and strategic planning work. Council planned to make its allocations to this work over two years, being 2021-22 and 2022-23, and to source the other required funding through government grants and private investment.

Council allocated \$225,000 in the adopted Budget 2021-22 and foreshadowed the remaining allocation (expected to be a further \$225,000) in the adopted budget commentary and accompanying media statements.

Officers pursued external funding through two Victorian Government funding programs:

- i. the Streamlining for Growth program, managed by the Victoria Planning Authority (VPA); and
- ii. the Investment Fast-Track Fund (IFF) managed by Regional Development Victoria (RDV).

Council was successful in securing \$150,000 through the Streamlining for Growth program. This funding agreement has been executed as it did not have a minimum Council-cash commitment that exceeded what Council had already committed through its Budget 2021-22.

The Victorian Government has announced that it will commit \$425,000 through the IFF towards the Deans Creek project. The funding agreement requires Council to commit a total of \$300,000 in addition to the VPA grant of \$150,000 to bring the total project budget to \$875,000. Council needs to commit \$75,000 in addition to the \$225,000 already in the 2021-22 budget.

There is an urgency to the commitment of the additional funds as the funding agreement needs to be formally executed in the next week and can't wait for the adoption of the final Budget 2022-23. This report has been prepared to enable Council to consider formalising a financial commitment that would enable the funding agreement to be entered.

5. CONSIDERATIONS

Overarching Governance Principles (s(9)(2) LGA 2020)

The proposal to progress the Deans Creek Growth Corridor Plan is important to achieving best outcomes for the municipal community as the work will facilitate the orderly and timely progression of making land available for residential development in the Shire's largest town. The strategic work will ensure that future community needs are considered in conjunction with protection of the natural environment.

The Colac 2050 Growth Plan and Council Plan 2021-25 were developed in consultation with the community. The opportunity for Council to secure significant financial support from the Victorian Government demonstrates collaboration with other levels of government and supports Council's financial viability.

Policies and Relevant Law (s(9)(2)(a) LGA 2020)

The work will be undertaken in the context of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

Environmental and Sustainability Implications (s(9)(2)(c) LGA 2020)

The Deans Creek Growth Corridor Plan will be informed by a number of technical studies that will ensure that the natural environment and cultural values are integrated into the strategic land use planning.

Community Engagement (s56 LGA 2020 and Council's Community Engagement Policy)

The community has been engaged in the development of the strategic work that underpins the proposed project. A Community Engagement Plan will be developed for this project to ensure that further engagement provides awareness and opportunities for community input, in addition to any statutory processes that require exhibition.

Public Transparency (s58 LGA 2020)

The announcements of the VPA and IFF funding are referred to on relevant websites of the Victorian Government. Council's allocation to the project in 2021-22, including reference to future allocations, is also public information.

Alignment to Plans and Strategies

This project facilitates outcomes identified in Colac 2050 Growth Plan, which is a long-term strategic plan of Council.

Alignment to Council Plan 2021-2025:

Theme 1: Strong and Resilient Economy

Objective: Affordable and available housing will support our growing community and economy

Financial Management (s101 *Local Government Act 2020*)

Council needs to make a further allocation of \$75,000 to enable the offer of funding to be accepted. If the recommendation is supported this will result in a total project budget of \$875,000 of which Council contributes \$300,000 and the Victorian Government contributes a total of \$575,000.

Service Performance (s106 *Local Government Act 2020*)

Not applicable.

Risk Assessment

Officers have reviewed the funding agreement, including deliverables. The project is considered to be feasible. Risks identified include ability to access required skills and professional input from the market. Project management governance will be used to deliver the project and this will include ongoing risk assessment and mitigation through the project life.

Communication/Implementation

Officers will advise RDV of Council's decision.

Human Rights Charter

No issues relating to the Human Rights Charter have been identified.

Officer General or Material Interest

No officer declared an interest under the *Local Government Act 2020* in the preparation of this report.

Options**Option 1 – Commit the funds required and authorise the Chief Executive Officer to enter the funding agreement**

This option is recommended by officers as it is consistent with Council's intentions when it adopted the Budget 2021-22. The funding offered by the Victorian Government is significant and unlikely to be sourced elsewhere.

Option 2 – Decide to not commit the funds required or authorise the Chief Executive Officer to enter the funding agreement

This option is not recommended by officers as it would result in a significantly reduced project scope and may inhibit the ability to progress the key growth corridor in Colac.

