



CONFIRMED COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, 30 May 2023

6:00pm

Meeting held in person.

Community Room 1, Community Hub, Maryborough

and livestreamed on the internet.

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors:

Grace La Vella (Mayor)

Liesbeth Long

Geoff Lovett

Chris Meddows-Taylor

Gerard Murphy

Wayne Sproull

Anna de Villiers

Confirmed at the 27 June 2023 Council Meeting

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1. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING AND WELCOME

The Mayor commenced the meeting at 6pm, welcoming all present, with an acknowledgement of country and the Council Prayer.

PRESENT:

Councillors

Grace La Vella (Mayor

Anna De Villiers

Liesbeth Long

Geoff Lovett

Gerard Murphy

Chris Meddows-Taylor

Wayne Sproull

Officers

Chief Executive Officer Lucy Roffey

General Manager Assets Infrastructure and Planning Matthew Irving

General Manager Community Wellbeing Emma Little

General Manager Corporate Performance Mick Smith

2. APOLOGIES

Nil

3. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

4. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

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5. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETINGS

The following were presented for confirmation:

- Minutes of the Council Meeting 2 May 2023
- Minutes of the Special Council Meeting 16 May 2023

The Minutes were confirmed.

6. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Nil.

7. PETITIONS

Nil.

8. OFFICER REPORTS

8.1 April Finance Report

The purpose of this report is to advise Council on the financial performance for the year to date and how it is tracking against the adopted budget, noting any material differences.

MOTION

That Council:

1. receives and notes the attached Finance Report for the period to 30 April 2023; and
2. resolves to receive Financial Reports quarterly in the 2023/24 Financial Year.

Moved: Cr Lovett

Seconded: Cr Murphy

Carried

Crs Lovett, Murphy and Meddows-Taylor spoke on the motion.

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8.2 G1722-22 Maryborough Octagonal Pool Replacement

The purpose of this report is to present to Council, a recommendation to award contract G1722-22 Maryborough Octagonal Pool Replacement.

MOTION

That Council award contract G1722-22 Maryborough Octagonal Pool Replacement to SJ Weir Ballarat Pty Ltd for the total value of \$1,376,410.64 including GST and authorise the Chief Executive Officer to execute the contract under delegation.

Moved: Cr Sproull

Seconded: Cr de Villiers

Carried

Crs Sproull and Murphy spoke on the motion.

8.3 COUNCIL PLAN ACTION PROGRESS REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide the Council with an update on the status of the projects identified in the 2022-23 Action Plan.

MOTION

That Council noted the Council Plan Action Progress Report for Quarter 3.

Moved: Cr de Villiers

Seconded: Cr Meddows-Taylor

Carried

Crs de Villiers and Meddows-Taylor spoke on the motion.

9. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

10. URGENT BUSINESS

The following item of Urgent Business was brought by Cr Chris Meddows-Taylor.

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Urgent Business

If the agenda for a Council meeting makes provision for urgent business, business cannot be admitted as urgent business other than by resolution of Council and only then if it:

20.1 relates to or arises out of a matter which has arisen since distribution of the agenda; and

20.2 cannot safely or conveniently be deferred until the next Council meeting.

Rational for urgent business:

Since the agenda has been published, Council has been informed by Regional Development Victoria that there is no further funding for Go Goldfields in the Victorian State Budget for 2023/24. This issue cannot be deferred to the next Council Meeting as we need to engage with relevant Ministers prior to the end of the financial year to gain a commitment to funding for the 2023/24 financial year.

Motion Urgent Business: That Council accepts the issue of Go Goldfields Funding as Urgent Business as it has arisen since the distribution of the Agenda and cannot be deferred to the next Council Meeting.

The following item was proposed by Cr Meddows-Taylor as Urgent Business:

Go Goldfields Funding Cut from State Budget.

MOTION

That Council:

1. admit consideration of the implications of Go Goldfields Funding cut from State Government Budget be admitted as urgent business;
2. confirm that Go Goldfields is a high priority for Central Goldfields Shire Council to address entrenched social disadvantage through a partnered approach focused on early years;
3. communicate concern and disappointment that the State Government have not provided funding in the 2023/24 Budget for the continuation of Go Goldfields backbone;
4. write to the Victorian State Treasurer, Minister for Regional Development and the Member for Ripon as a matter of urgency requesting that funding be allocated to the Go Goldfields for the 2023/24 financial year with a commitment to exploring options for longer term funding to ensure the ongoing viability of the backbone; and

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5. engage the Go Goldfields Leadership Table, as partners in Every Child, Every Chance shared vision, to ensure a consistent and region wide advocacy message.

Moved: Cr Meddows-Taylor

Seconded: Cr Lovett

Carried

Crs Meddows-Taylor, Lovett, Long, Sproull and La Vella spoke on the motion.

BACKGROUND

Go Goldfields is a community-led partnership in the Central Goldfields Shire that had its origins in Council's "Gold Prospects" research study in 2008 which identified the social challenges and inequalities faced by the community. Go Goldfields received a commitment of funding by the Victorian Government in 2010 and was fully functioning by 2011.

Since then, Go Goldfields has gained recognition and support from government, community organisations, service providers, and residents. Its success and longevity can be attributed to the strong partnerships that have been established and the commitment of stakeholders to work together towards positive social change.

In 2020 the Go Goldfields Collaborative Table took a decision to focus on early childhood development and its critical role in shaping a child's future social and economic opportunities. In November 2020 Every Child, Every Chance initiative (ECEC) was launched. Through ECEC, the Go Goldfields backbone works closely with local early childhood services, health providers, educators, parents, and the broader community to ensure that Central Goldfields children have every opportunity to grow up safe, healthy and confident..

This has involved working with partners across five evidence-based, data driven priority areas:

- Healthy and Supported Pregnancies
- Confident and Connected Parents
- Safe and Thriving Children
- Valued Early Years Education and Care
- A Great Start to School for all Kids.

Go Goldfields, and the ECEC initiative, is informed by local families and research noting that any interventions to addressing disadvantage in the early years must

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embrace the perspective of families and that the social and service environment must be easy to navigate and support all families.

Go Goldfields backbone plays an integral role in ensuring state led programs and services in the early years are meeting the needs and demands of families on the ground. ECEC provides the framework, support, and connections to ensure investments in programs and resources are effectively dispersed, promoted, and coordinated – a challenging feat in a small rural shire with multiple changing fly in, fly out services and low physical presence and high need.

The backbone staffing for Go Goldfields refers to the team of professionals who provide the essential support and coordination needed to drive the strategic collaboration, advocacy and demonstration activities. The backbone staff play a crucial role in fostering collective impact and maintaining the momentum of Go Goldfields in the Central Goldfields Shire.

The backbone staffing has been funded to date by the State Government through Regional Development Victoria. The current grant agreement expires in 2023 and the recent State Budget did not include a new allocation to support the backbone. Since 2020 the Go Goldfields backbone has worked with our partners to develop and implement a plan to reduce developmental vulnerability of children in Central Goldfields. This has involved:

Place based Governance - The establishment of the Go Goldfields Leadership Table, that oversees, enables, and authorises activities of the backbone. The Leadership Table is capably led by an independent local chair. The membership includes executives from local and state government (DFFH, DH DE) service providers (MDHS, BDAC, Anglicare and CNV) and community leaders.

Engagement – Engagement with 574 community members and 45 stakeholders was a key foundation for the development of Every Child, Every Chance. The Nest and Go Goldfields role in governance groups spanning the priority areas ensure continuous and active engagement with families, services, community organisations and government.

Shared Strategic Vision – The Go Goldfields backbone led the development of Every Child, Every Chance shared vision. Logic mapping workshops captured input from community, researchers, local institutions, and practitioners working with children and families in Central Goldfields for each of the five priority areas. The facilitated workshops enabled a codesigned problem statement, vision, activity and resource mapping, and desired outcomes for each of the priority areas.

Service coordination and integration – Governance groups aligned to the 5 priority areas bring together a range of services and practitioners to collaborate and work toward the shared vision and outcomes for each area. Importantly, Go Goldfields backbone has provided a much-needed anchor in Central Goldfields for

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the range of activities, programs and services that support children and families - building alignment and increasing the value of and family access to these investments.

Demonstration Projects – Go Goldfields has led demonstration projects including:

The Nest – Go Goldfields took the lead on a partnership with central Goldfields Shire Council, Best Start, and Maryborough District Health Service to create an inclusive welcoming space for parents and carers from pregnancy to primary school. The Nest is staffed by facilitators and open from 10am to 4pm Monday to Friday. The Nest provides a safe space for families, peer support groups, warm referrals to local services and a welcoming place for parents and carers to feed, rest and connect. It is connected to Maternal Child Health and other vital local services for families.

Empowering Parents Empowering Communities - Go Goldfields is working with Murdoch Childrens Research Institute to embed the Empowering Parents, Empowered Communities in the Central Goldfields. The evidence-based program focuses on partnering with parents through the parenting journey rather than offering practitioner led advice. To establish the program an initial cohort of practitioner's train to become facilitators. They then facilitate the first Being a Parent courses (8-week program). Parents completing the course can opt to undertake training to become facilitators of the course. This model fosters community capacity building and increases authentic parenting conversations throughout the community as participation grows.

Partnership projects- Go Goldfields backbone is working in partnership with organisations leading on critical areas within Every Child, Every Chance initiative.

Education Engagement – Go Goldfields is working with school principals, early years education providers, parents and services to build a culture of attendance. This means directly working families with challenges getting children to school regularly and identifying options and supports right for them.

Kinder to School Transition Plan – Go Goldfields partnered with kinders, schools, early years services and Department of Education to develop of a whole of shire collaborative approach to early years transition. The Central Goldfields Transition Plan provides an annualised approach for local professionals across Central Goldfields to ensure consistent and informed transitions.

Kinder to School: A guide for families – Go Goldfields worked with the School Principals to develop a helpful guide for families with resources, information, and good questions to ask schools when making the transition.

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The guide was provided to every family in Central Goldfields with a child currently in 4-year-old kinder.

Goldfields Babes – Goldfields Babes is a new program operating out of the Nest aimed at facilitating social connections for expectant parents in Central Goldfields. The program was developed in partnership with Maternal Child Health, Bendigo Perinatal Emotional Health Clinic and Maryborough District Health Service.

Central Goldfields Early Years Infrastructure Master planning – Go Goldfields partnered with Council's Community Services branch to drive the development of the Masterplan. The Masterplan benefitted from the community engagement data collected early in Every Child, Every Chance initiative and learnings, research and new approaches to supporting families in the early years demonstrated through the initiative.

Advocacy – The Go Goldfields backbone has provided leadership, data and strategic input to ensure service provision that meets the needs of local children and families for a number of governments funded initiatives including the Infant Child and Families Well-being Hub currently under development for the Loddon region.

A system to monitor progress – The logic mapping process and governance of priority area groups lays the foundations for a system to monitor progress for Every Child, Every Chance related activities, projects, and investments. The monitoring framework is currently being finalised.

11. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Nil

12. MEETING CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 6:36 PM