

LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL

Notice of an Ordinary Meeting of the Loddon Shire Council to be held in the Council Chambers, Serpentine, on Monday 27 February 2012 at 3.30pm.

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1. **APOLOGIES**

Nil

2. **PREVIOUS MINUTES**

2.1 **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

SUMMARY

Approval of the Forum Minutes of 23 January 2012.

Approval of Ordinary Minutes of 23 January 2012.

Author: John McLinden - Chief Executive Officer

File No: 02/01/001

Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That the:

1. *minutes of the Council Forum of 23 January 2012 be confirmed*
2. *minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 23 January 2012 be confirmed*

2.2 **REVIEW OF ACTION SHEET**

SUMMARY

Approval of Action Sheet.

Author: John McLinden - Chief Executive Officer

File No: 02/01/001

Attachment: 2.2 Action Sheet

RECOMMENDATION

That the Action Sheet be received and noted.

3. **INWARDS CORRESPONDENCE**

Nil.

4. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

4.1 MAYORAL REPORT

SUMMARY

Approval of the Mayoral Report.

Author: John McLinden – Chief Executive Officer
File No: 02/01/001
Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That the Mayoral Report be received and noted.

4.2 COUNCILLORS' REPORT

SUMMARY

Approval of Councillors' Reports

Author: John McLinden – Chief Executive Officer
File No: 02/01/001
Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That the Councillors' Reports be received and noted.



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5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

5.1 DOCUMENTS FOR SIGNING AND SEALING

SUMMARY

This report provides Council with a list of documents signed and sealed during the month.

Author: John McLinden - Chief Executive Officer
File No: 02/01/001
Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That:

- 1. the 'Document for Signing and Sealing' report be received and noted*
- 2. Council endorse the use of the seal on the documents listed*

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Nil

BACKGROUND

N/A

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Deed of grant between The State of Victoria and Loddon Shire Council for funds for the Bridgewater Riverside Picnic Reserve

5.2 STRATEGIC DOCUMENT, POLICY AND PROCEDURE FRAMEWORK

SUMMARY

This report seeks Council approval of a framework for the development and management of Council's strategic documents, policies and procedures

Author: John McLinden - Chief Executive Officer

File No:

Attachment: Draft Strategic Document, Policy and Procedure Framework

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the Strategic Document, Policy and Procedure Framework.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Nil

BACKGROUND

Council has a significant volume of formal documentation that assists Council's compliance and decision making processes and documents important organisational information and systems.

A complete review of these formal documents was commenced in 2011.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Prior to reviewing Loddon Shire Council's strategic documents, policies and procedures, a framework was first developed to ensure that this suite of documents will be developed and managed consistently and effectively across the organisation.

The Strategic Document, Policy and Procedure Framework defines the types of documents and details the requirements for their development, approval, accessibility, control and review.

Council adoption of this framework will enable it to become the basis for the future review of existing strategic documents, policies and procedures and development of new formal documentation.

5.3 MURRAY DARLING BASIN PLAN

SUMMARY

Author: John McLinden - Chief Executive Officer
File No:
Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse its participation in the joint Murray River Group of Councils submission process on the draft Murray Darling Basin Plan.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

October 2010 – Murray Darling Basin Plan

November 2010 – Murray Darling Basin Plan

December 2010 – Murray Darling Basin Plan Guide – Submissions

December 2011 – Murray Darling Basin Plan

BACKGROUND

In 2010, the Murray Darling Basin Authority released a guide to the Murray Darling Basin Plan, and was roundly criticised for its content and the consultation process. The federal government acted to resolve wide-spread community discontent by restructuring the Murray Darling Basin Authority and withdrawing the guide to the plan. Mr Craig Knowles was appointed as Chair of the Murray Darling Basin Authority and was charged with developing a new consultation process and a draft plan. This plan was released in November 2011 and is open for public comment until 16 April 2012.

In response to the guide to the plan, Council will recall that the Loddon Shire, along with other councils in the Murray River Group of Councils, joined forces with the City of Greater Shepparton to engage a consulting firm to assist us in our response. The Murray River Group of Councils has jointly decided to use its own resources for this second phase of consultation and is being supported by the use of a strategist employed by Shire of Campaspe. Council will be required to make a small contribution towards these costs.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The Murray River Group of Councils will be making a submission to the Murray Darling Basin Authority on the draft plan. In order to inform this submission, it is essential that each member council provides a concise picture of its community's aspirations and views. In order to achieve this, each council has agreed to undertake a community information session. Loddon Shire's was conducted on the evening of Monday 20 February 2012. At the time of writing this report the meeting had not been conducted, but a copy of the meeting notes will be tabled at the Council Meeting.

It is intended that Council use the feedback provided by our community at this meeting, along with a number of questionnaires and surveys being distributed, to inform the Murray Darling Basin Authority of our views via a joint submission with the Murray River Group of Councils.



Council should be aware that the Murray River Group has also joined forces with City of Greater Shepparton and the Shire of Strathbogie in relation to this campaign.

The Murray Darling Basin Authority is visiting Kerang on Tuesday 21 February. Again, at the time of writing, this meeting had not happened, but any outcomes from that meeting will also be tabled at the council meeting.

5.4 LOCAL GOVERNMENT INSPECTORATE AUDIT – PROGRESS REPORT

SUMMARY

Author: John McLinden - Chief Executive Officer
File No:
Attachment: LGI Compliance Loddon Council Action Plan Progress Report

RECOMMENDATION

That Council.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

December 2011 – In-camera: Local Government Investigations and Compliance Inspectorate – Compliance Audit.

BACKGROUND

The Local Government Investigations and Compliance Inspectorate undertook a compliance audit at the Loddon Shire from 5 to 9 September 2011. The final report was received by Loddon Shire on 28 November and contained a number of recommended actions.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

In order to ensure that Council meets its obligations to the Inspectorate, it is proposed that a quarterly reporting regime be established so that Council may measure progress against the required actions to achieve full compliance with the audit. This report is the first of those progress reports.

The attached schedule provides progress to date.



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6. DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES' REPORTS

6.1 FINANCE REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 JANUARY 2012

SUMMARY

This report provides Council with financial information for the period ending 31 January 2012.

Author: James Rendell - Manager Financial Services

File No: 10/02/001

Attachment: 6.1

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. *Receives and notes the "Finance Report for the period ending 31 January 2012"*
2. *Approves budget revisions included in the report for internal reporting purposes only.*

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council is provided with Finance Reports on a monthly basis.

BACKGROUND

The Finance Report for the period ended 31 January 2012 includes standard monthly information about budget variations, cash, investments, interest, debtors, and creditors, and provides a comparison of year-to-date budget to year-to-date actual results.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The Finance Report has been placed into the strategic document template for the first time this month. Council will note a change to the format, however, the content remains the same.



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7. DIRECTOR OPERATIONS' REPORTS

7.1 PLANNING APPLICATIONS CURRENTLY BEING PROCESSED

SUMMARY

Attachment 7.1 provides Council with a full list of planning applications currently under consideration and those planning permits issued between 1 and 31 January 2012.

Author: Tyson Sutton – Manager Planning and Local Laws
File No: 02/01/001
Attachment: 7.1 Planning Applications

RECOMMENDATION

That 'Planning Applications Currently Being Processed' report be received and noted.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Nil

BACKGROUND

Nil

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Nil



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7.2 2011 – 2012 CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM UPDATE

SUMMARY

Report outlines the progress to date for delivery of Councils 2011-2012 Annual Infrastructure Program

Author: David Fry
File No: 14/01/003
Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the 2011/2012 Annual Infrastructure Program update report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

At the June 2011 Council meeting Council adopted its Annual Infrastructure Program for 2011/2012.

BACKGROUND

This report outlines progress towards delivery of the 2011/2012 Annual Infrastructure Program as well as progress on remaining carry over projects from the 2010 /2011 financial year.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The following sections summarise both the number of projects programmed as well as progress within the individual activity areas comprising the 2011/12 Program.

Local Road Construction

13 Local Road Construction projects with an estimated cost of \$2,516,616.00. 6 of these projects have been completed or are under contract with a projected cost of \$1,094,185.00. 3 further projects have been priced by contractors and are currently being assessed with a projected cost of \$327,000.00. All other projects have been designed and are currently being prepared for contract.

46% complete 23% underway 31% to do

Local Road Amenity Program

2 Local Road Amenity projects with an estimated cost of \$109,800.00. 1 project is designed and is expected to commence this quarter. The other project will be completed in conjunction with an Urban Drainage project.

0% complete

Local Road Safety Program

3 Local Road Safety projects with an estimated cost of \$573,265.00. 1 project has been completed with a cost of \$226,938.00. The remaining 2 projects are under contract with a projected cost of \$212,938.00.

34% complete 66% underway

Local Road Gravel Re-Sheets

56 Local Gravel Re-Sheet projects with an estimated cost of \$1,614,528.00. 46 projects have been completed with a cost of \$1,210,836.00. The 10 incomplete projects are programed for completion with an estimated cost of \$184,000.00.

82% complete 18% to do

Local Road Shoulder Re-Sheets

20 Local Road Shoulder Re-Sheet projects with an estimated cost of \$691,629.00. All projects have been completed with a total projected cost of \$683,259.00.

100% complete

Local Bridges & Culverts

16 Local Bridge & Culvert projects with an estimated cost of \$571,365.00. 6 projects have been completed with a projected cost of \$239,000.00. The remaining projects are either designed with tender documentation being prepared or still in the design phase.

37.5% complete 62.5% to do

Township Street Improvements

19 Township Street Improvement projects with an estimated cost of \$819,129.00. 9 projects have been completed with a projected cost of \$344,362.00. The remaining projects are either designed with tender documentation being prepared or still in the design phase.

47% complete 53% to do

Urban Drainage Works

16 Urban Drainage projects with an estimated cost of \$1,218,141.00. 6 projects are either complete or underway with a current cost of \$289,000.00. The remaining projects are either designed with tender documentation being prepared or still being designed.

37.5% complete 62.5% to do

Reseal Works

26 Reseal projects with an estimated cost of \$834,000.00. All projects have been completed by the contractor.

100% complete

7.3 PYRAMID HILL FOOTBALL CLUB: INTEREST FREE LOAN

SUMMARY

Report seeks Council's approval to increase the interest free loan amount approved in August 2011 for the Pyramid Hill Football Club by \$5,000.

Author: Allan Stobaus – Manager Community and Recreation Development
File No: 07/02/001
Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approves the Pyramid Hill Football Club Inc. application for a \$5,000 increase to its existing Council interest free loan of \$44,707 to now be \$49,707. This loan is to be re-paid in one instalment of \$9,707 and four instalments of \$10,000.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

At its August 2011 meeting, Council approved an interest free loan application from the Pyramid Hill Football Club. This loan was for a total of \$44,707. The purpose of this loan was to assist with the repayment of a debtor owed to Council resulting from the Pyramid Hill Football Clubrooms extension project.

BACKGROUND

Council provides a pool of \$70,000 in the Reserves Improvement Reserve (known as the interest free loan scheme) which is made available to community groups to fund approved projects in the form of interest free loans.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Following consultation with the CFA and identification of specific fire fighting infrastructure required to complete the Mitchel Park pavilion project, it has been identified that the previous interest free loan, intended to fund this work, will not fully cover the full installation cost.

Accordingly the Pyramid Hill Football Club have now written to Council requesting that this loan amount be increased by \$5,000, this will result in the total loan amount being \$49,707.

These extra funds are required to install fire services to the building. This will ensure that the project is completed to the required standard to allow for a certificate of completion to be issued.

The club have agreed to repay the loan in one instalment of \$9,707 and four instalment of \$10,000.

7.4 ROAD NETWORK DEFECT RECTIFICATION COMPLIANCE SUMMARY REPORT

SUMMARY

Report provides a summary of Council's compliance against its Road Management Plan for the period of: Second Quarter 2011/2012 Financial Year.

Author: Steven Phillips
File No: 14/01/022
Attachment(s): Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the road network defect rectification compliance summary report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

At its ordinary meeting held on 23 January 2012, Council were presented with a report summarising road network defect rectification compliance against requirements specified within the Road Management Plan (RMP).

As indicated in the previous Report there are a number of outstanding defects. The following two tables show progress in completing these outstanding defects:

Table 1

Date Range: 1-July-2010 to 30-June-2011		
Report Date		District
3 January 2012	8 February 2012	
Number Not Completed	Number Not Completed	
5	2	Boort
0	0	Newbridge
40	0	Pyramid Hill
11	0	Wedderburn

Table 2

Date Range: 1-July-2011 to 30-Sep-2011		
Report Date		District
3 January 2012	8 February 2012	
Number Not Completed	Number Not Completed	
1	1	Boort
5	3	Newbridge
3	2	Pyramid Hill
0	0	Wedderburn

The outstanding defects still requiring completion are programed for rectification and are being maintained as safe, ether by signage or temporary repair.

BACKGROUND

This report provides Council with evidence of the Loddon Shire's performance against requirements specified within the Loddon Shire Road Management Plan.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The following Defect Compliance Summary Report outlines Councils compliance against requirements specified within the Road Management Plan. The report indicates compliance by percentage for each of Councils Road Patrol Areas.

Defect Compliance Summary Report

Report Date: 8-February-2012

Table 3

Date Range: 1-October-2012 to 31-December-2012

Number of Works Actions	Number Completed By Due Date	Number Completed After Due Date	Number Not Completed	Compliance %	District
5	5	0	0	100.0%	Boort
106	75	11	20	70.8%	Newbridge
98	56	26	16	57.1%	Pyramid Hill
93	88	4	1	94.6%	Wedderburn

DEFINITIONS

Number of Works Actions - Within the date range, count the defects that were due for action

Number Completed by Due Date - From those defects in Column A to be rectified, how many were rectified by the due date

Number Completed After Due Date - From those defects in Column A to be rectified, how many were rectified outside the due date

Number Not Completed - Column A - Column B - Column C

Compliance % - Column B Divided by Column A

District - Grouped By The AssetAsyst District

It is acknowledge that compliance for the 2nd Quarter of 2011/2012 is below the target of 100% of the defects repaired by due date.

For the 2nd Quarter of 2011/2012 as identified in Table 3 compliance with the Loddon Shire Road Management Plan has been made difficult due to; re-prioritising the outstanding defects with new defects as they arise, increased number of defects due to major flooding, available resources and prioritisation of defects with the Flood Restoration Program. All defects have been maintained as safe, ether by signage or temporary repair.

The focus for the next quarter is to eliminate all defects that are outstanding and complete current defects before the due date.

7.5 NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES

SUMMARY

Report recommends Council designate nominated places of last resort as identified within the townships of Boort, Pyramid Hill and Serpentine.

Author: Kim Isbister – Emergency Management Coordinator – Delegate LMRSFMPC
File No: 11/04/001
Attachment: Amended 2012 Loddon Shire Councils Municipal Neighbourhood Safer Places Plan

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. *Designate the following sites as a Neighbourhood Safer Place for the townships of Boort, Pyramid Hill & Serpentine.*
 - a) *Boort Recreation Reserve, (Oval Area Only)*
 - b) *Pyramid Hill Mitchel Park recreation Reserve, (Oval Area Only)*
 - c) *Serpentine Recreation Reserve, (Oval Area Only)*
2. *Adopt the Amended Loddon Shire Council Municipal Neighbourhood Safer Places Plan, 2012 which now includes the Designated NSP's at Boort, Pyramid Hill & Serpentine.*

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

At its ordinary meeting held on 23rd August 2010, Council adopted the Loddon Shire Council Neighbourhood Safer Places Plan (MNSPP) which contains the Council NSP Assessment Criteria.

Further, at its ordinary meeting on 11th September 2011, Council endorsed the NSP process and resolved to continue the process of identification and assessment of potential sites for NSP's and once identified report these back to Council for consideration.

BACKGROUND

Neighbourhood Safer Places (NSP), and the Municipal Neighbourhood Safer Places Plan (MNSPP), are direct consequences of the Black Saturday fires and the interim Recommendations' from the Bushfires Royal Commission. NSP's are legislated under the *Emergency Services Legislation Amendment Act 2009 (Vic) ('ESLA Act')* which amends the *Emergency Management Act 1986 (Vic) ('EM Act')* and the *Country Fire Authority Act 1958 (Vic) ('CFA Act')*

Councils under the 'ESLA Act 2009' are required to identify, certify, designate, establish and maintain Neighbourhood Safer Places within their Municipal district. Section one of the MNSPP, the flow chart, sets out the process to follow in establishing a NSP

In short this process includes:

1. Identification of potential sites by Council

2. Assessment by Council against Council's criteria
3. Assessment by CFA against CFA criteria
4. Designation by Council of the approved sites
5. Establishment and signage of site by Council
6. Annual review of existing and potential new sites by Council and CFA

Within the Council assessment criteria there is a need to ascertain ownership of the land being considered as a Potential NSP. If the land is owned by Council no further action in this regard is required, however If the potential NSP is on private land, or public land under the control of a Crown Land Manager (other than Council), Council can enter into arrangements which allow it to use the land as a potential NSP.

The sites being considered at Serpentine and Pyramid Hill are owned by the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) and managed by a Committee of Management "CoM". The Boort site is owned and managed by the Boort Park Committee of Management.

The following table gives an overview of the process being undertaken and current ownership and consent status for use of the sites as a NSP.

Potential NSP Site	Boort Recreation Reserve (Oval Only)	Pyramid Hill Mitchel Park (Oval Only)	Serpentine Recreation Reserve (Oval Only)
CFA Assessment	Yes Compliant	Yes Compliant	Yes Compliant
Council Assessment	Yes Compliant	Yes Compliant	Yes Compliant
Owner	Boort Park Committee of Management on Behalf of Board of Trustees	Department of Sustainability & Environment	Department of Sustainability & Environment
Managed By "CoM"	Boort Park Committee of Management	Mitchel Park Committee of Management	Serpentine Recreation Reserve Committee of Management
Consent to Designate Site as NSP by Owner of "CoM"	Yes Consent Granted <u>Conditions:</u> Shire: Install & Maintain NSP Signage. "CoM": maintain site as per CFA Dec 2010 Guidelines -Grasslands	Yes Consent Granted <u>Conditions:</u> Shire: Install & Maintain NSP Signage. "CoM": maintain site as per CFA Dec 2010 Guidelines -Grasslands	Yes Consent Granted <u>Conditions:</u> Shire: Install & Maintain NSP Signage. "CoM": maintain site as per CFA Dec 2010 Guidelines – Grasslands
Recommendation to Council to Designate Site as NSP	Designate	Designate	Designate

In addition to the nominated sites above, Council staff have been reviewing available options in Wedderburn, Inglewood, Bridgewater, Newbridge and Tarnagulla to identify sites which may be considered as potential NSP's within these areas, following the non-compliant assessment of

the most obvious locations (Council Reserves) in these areas during the initial assessment process.

To assist with this process Council staff and CFA have been consulting with other agencies, community members, volunteers and other Council departments to identify suitable sites.

Prior to nominating the identified sites for the formal assessment by the CFA, Council staff (EMC & MFMPO) and the CFA, Safety Officer have conducted a drive through inspection to narrow the number of sites down to the sites that had the best chance of meeting both the CFA and Councils guidelines. Once this potential site assessment process is complete Council staff will present further recommendations to Council for consideration.

To date the following sites have been assessed as compliant under CFA and Council Guidelines (as seen within the attached NSP plan assessment templates). Consequently it is recommended that:

1. Council Designate the following sites as a Neighbourhood Safer Place for the townships of Boort, Pyramid Hill & Serpentine. The potential sites have been assessed under the CFA and Council guidelines and found to be compliant under both assessment criteria.
 - a) Boort Recreation Reserve, (Oval Area Only)
 - b) Pyramid Hill Mitchel Park recreation Reserve, (Oval Area Only)
 - c) Serpentine Recreation Reserve, (Oval Area Only)
2. Council Adopt the Amended Loddon Shire Council 2012 Municipal Neighbourhood Safer Places Plan which now includes the nominated NSP's at Boort, Pyramid Hill & Serpentine.

7.6 IMPROVING LOCAL TOWNSHIP WATER QUALITY AND SECURITY OF SUPPLY

SUMMARY

Report provides Council with notification of recent discussions held with a group of local Inglewood residents concerning water quality & supply security issues as well as a request to access potential funding streams to assist in the development of a detailed water plan.

Author: Ian McLauchlan – Director of Operations
File No: 15/03/009
Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Receive and note the report summarising recent discussions held with a group of Inglewood residents regarding the development of a water plan specifically addressing supply security and water quality issues for local Townships supplied from the Loddon River.*
- 2. Notify the group that any investigation or application for funding towards the development of such a plan is the responsibility of Coliban Water, and as such, whilst being supportive of their initiative, Council will not provide a financial contribution towards this project.*

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

During 2009 a group of Inglewood landowners requested that Council submit an application under the Strengthening Basin Communities program to develop a long term plan for improving the security and quality of water supplies within the Inglewood and Bridgewater Townships.

Subsequently, in July 2009 a report was presented to Council which provided a prioritised list of potential projects for which funding would be sought under the Federal Government's Strengthening Basin Communities Program.

One of the projects identified within this list related to improvement in security and quality of water supplies for all towns within Loddon Shire and was considered to address the requested action from the above group.

In considering the list provided it was identified that the highest priority project was the drought proofing of playing surfaces at recreation facilities. Consequently funding under this program for the water security and quality improvement project was not obtained.

It was further noted within the report that the project which encompassed the Inglewood / Bridgewater water supply project was principally a State Government responsibility and ordinarily council's role would be limited to advocacy. A successful application would therefore

be expected to require support from each of the relevant water authorities and, if funded, Council's role would likely have remained as advisory only.

BACKGROUND

As stated above the previous request received from the group of Inglewood residents was considered by Council and determined that Loddon Shire's involvement with the proposal would be limited to advocacy and advice only.

In August 2011 the same group of residents again approached Loddon Shire requesting that representatives attend a meeting along with other agencies to again discuss issues surrounding water quality and security for local townships supplied from the Loddon River and more specifically Inglewood and Bridgewater.

Three Council representatives attended this meeting namely, Mr Ian McLauchlan, Director Operations, Mr David Fry, Manager Infrastructure and Cr Allan Brownbill, Kooyoora Ward Councillor. The meeting was also attended by representatives from the committee of management for the Inglewood recreation reserve and reservoir, Coliban Water and Central Goldfields Shire.

At the conclusion of this meeting the resident group requested that Council lodge an application under either the Small Towns Water Quality Fund or the RDV planning for tomorrow grant, to fund the commissioning of a detailed study and development of a water quality and security improvement plan.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Key issues identified and discussed by attendees at the above meeting included:

1. Poor water quality for the Townships supplied from the Loddon River

It was contended that despite recent infrastructure improvements at the Bridgewater Treatment plant (i.e. installation of the new desalination plant), that water quality for the Townships of Bridgewater and Inglewood still remained poor.

A series of water quality testing data was presented by the group in support of this position. Upon review of this data it was noted that the expectation of the group with regard to water quality was above and beyond the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines as required to be met by Coliban Water.

2. Security of supply for the Townships supplied by the Loddon River

The recent impact of drought and reductions in water storage levels on the security of supply for local townships was also discussed. In response to recent water restrictions, the group identified and discussed a number of alternate water supply sources to the traditional reservoir and river configuration.

Options put forward included stormwater capture and reuse or supply augmentation from ground water control bores operating at nearby mining operations. It was noted that these options required further detailed analysis to determine their viability hence the proposal for development of a detailed quality and security water plan.

Given the primary issues being identified by the group related to management of water supply sources and reticulation networks for the townships of Bridgewater and Inglewood, and more broadly urban networks supplied by the Loddon River, the most appropriate agency to address these issues is considered to be Coliban Water.

Should Coliban Water identify that the option of stormwater capture and re-use could potentially offer a sustainable and financially viable option for the reduction in potable water use, it would be appropriate for Council to engage with Coliban water should they identify a proposal which requires an interface or reliance with Loddon Shire Infrastructure.

Accordingly, in response to the groups most recent request it is considered appropriate that development of any funding application under the nominated (or alternate) funding programs should be developed and lodged by Coliban Water as the responsible water authority and not Council.

This is particularly important as any funding application would need to be developed taking into consideration the long term planning already in place for water supply and distribution systems within the region. Given that Council does not have responsibility or control over wider water planning issues within the Shire, the ability to prepare an accurate and detailed application would be compromised.

It should also be noted that applications under the funding programs nominated by the resident group require dollar for dollar funding contributions. Consequently it is considered most appropriate that any funding contribution for development of a water plan should also be provided by the responsible water authority as opposed to Council.

It is therefore recommended that a response be provided to the group of Inglewood residents indicating that whilst Council commend their initiative, the principal authority responsible for the development of the requested water plan and if required securing of funding to achieve this is Coliban Water.



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8. DIRECTOR ECONOMY AND COMMUNITY REPORTS

8.1 LODDON BUSINESS AND SERVICES DIRECTORY

SUMMARY

The creation of a shire wide business and services directory is proposed.

Author: Bryan McEwan
File No: 13/09/001
Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Loddon Business and Services Directory report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council has indicated that a business and services directory would be a useful addition to council information services and a useful resource for existing and new residents as well as visitors.

BACKGROUND

A number of business and services registers have been developed over time including web based registers such as the loddonalive.com.au and the Loddon corporate websites which remain active.

Registers have also been developed over time by individual communities such as Bridgewater on Loddon/Inglewood, Boort, Pyramid Hill, Wedderburn and others. The development of these registers has been through the efforts of largely volunteer organisations and individuals with financial and co-ordination assistance through a combination of government, community resource centres, community houses, local businesses (including Bendigo Bank) and service groups such as Rotary and Lions clubs.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

While a number of communities have developed their own directories, there is no single, central point of access for those seeking to access businesses or services within the Shire.

It is proposed that Loddon Shire Council commence the development of a new directory to replace the existing electronic business database on the Council website.

The directory will be created based on:

- Businesses
- Services (shire, hospitals, schools, halls etc.)

- Community/Volunteer groups (Development committees, Chambers of Commerce, Community planning groups etc.)
- Service groups (Lions, Rotary etc.)
- Community Centres (for example Wedderburn Community House, Inglewood Community and Resource Centre etc.)

While it is expected that the information available from the database will be relatively basic additional information may be included over time.

Information available will be inclusive of:

- Business/organisational name
- Phone/fax
- Address
- Email
- Web

To initiate the project, participation will be encouraged through both direct mail out and advertisements in relevant publications.

Inclusion will be voluntary and will not include individual/personal entries.

While we are seeking to create our own directory, it is not intended to replace community based directories, which can provide a great deal of additional information on local contacts, personal phone numbers and local attractions.

8.2 LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL EVENT 2012

SUMMARY

Loddon Shire Council to hold a gala evening in 2012 similar to the format of the excellence awards, to be held in May 2012..

Author: Christine Coombes
File No: 13/09/001
Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receive and note the update on the Loddon Shire Council Event for 2012.
2. To adopt the theme of "Proud Supporter of Australian Year of the Farmer".

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

April 2011, Council moved to hold a non-awards based event in 2012.

BACKGROUND

The 13th Loddon Powercor Excellence Awards were held at Wedderburn Mechanics Institute Hall on Friday May 27. Council have considered a number of options for the format of the event to be held on the alternate year to the Excellence Awards.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The focus of the 2012 gala evening would be to enable networking of community members and businesses from across the Loddon Shire.

Late May is the expected time to hold the event with the date to be confirmed upon confirmation of the high profile guest speaker/entertainer.

Suggested theme for the evening is to be "a proud supporter of Australian Year of the Farmer". Australian Year of the Farmer is a celebration of the vital role farmers play in feeding, clothing and sheltering us all. Australian Year of the Farmer is about celebrating and enriching the connections between rural and urban Australia. Loddon Shire may become a proud supporter by registering an event that supports the agricultural industry, this will also involve being able to use the Australian Year of the Farmer logo to support our event and have Loddon Shire's logo listed as a supporter of Australian Year of the Farmer.

Evening format:

- Pre-dinner networking
- Master of Ceremonies
 - Welcome by:
 - Mayor
 - Major Sponsor
- Entree
- Guest Speaker

- Main meal
- Entertainment
 - High Profile Speaker/Entertainer
- Dessert
- Photographic Presentation be run throughout the evening

The meal may showcase the produce of Loddon Shire with producers available on the evening for guests to network with. Menu items may include lamb, pork, beef, chicken, olives, olive oil and a further extensive array of local produce. If space permits local businesses may be invited to showcase their product with displays and tastings as a part of the pre-dinner networking.

Entertainment

Entertainment for the evening is still to be confirmed. Proposed entertainment is to have a Regional Agriculture Guest Speaker to be followed by a high profile guest speaker/entertainer with an agricultural background as the drawcard that will encourage community members to attend and satisfactorily entertain guests on the evening.

Sponsorship

Powercor have confirmed sponsorship for this event of \$2200 (inc GST) for 2012 and \$8800 towards the Excellence awards in 2013.

Further sponsorship will be sourced to assist with the cost of the evening in line with the theme of the evening and in accordance with Powercor's sponsorship contract.

Venue options for event

The preferred venue for the event would be the Serpentine Hall as it is in a central location to attract guests from all communities within the shire. The preferred venue was initially the Pyramid Hill Hall however as the hall will be undergoing renovations it would be unsatisfactory to hold the event at that location.

Guests

Invitations will be extended to all members of the community with written invitations to businesses, past winners of the excellence awards, community planning, progress, tourism, service and sporting organisations.

The evening will also be advertised via local newspapers, internet and email networks.

Transport to the event will be provided, the cost of transport will be subsidised, but will be in addition to the ticket price.

8.3 PROMOTIONAL STAND AT HARNESS RACING EVENTS

SUMMARY

Harness racing is making a comeback in Loddon with events planned in Boort and Wedderburn in 2012. It is suggested that a promotional stand be operated at both events and that marketing and promotional activities for these inaugural events be supported

Author: Bryan McEwan
File No: 13/09/001
Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. *Receive and note the report on the return of harness racing to Loddon*
2. *Approve the suggested support of the inaugural events*
3. *Consider a one-off payment of up to \$1,000 for the March event this year*

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council has previously indicated that with the impending re-introduction of harness racing to the Boort and Wedderburn, it may present an opportunity to market and promote these townships and the shire.

BACKGROUND

Events such as the Great Victorian Bike ride have demonstrated the marketing potential of large or significant events. Such events attract new groups of visitors, many of whom do not necessarily see themselves as 'tourists'; rather, the perception is that of being 'participants' who's primary focus is on the event rather than the town, district or shire that they visit.

With the reinstatement of harness racing into Boort (Sunday the 18th of March) and to Wedderburn later in 2012, the opportunity presents itself to tap into this new pool of sports tourists.

Harness racing itself is a local major event and is eligible for annual support through the Loddon Shire Event Support Scheme. A formal application for support was not made through the Event Support Scheme within the required timeframe. Council could consider a one-off payment of up to \$1,000 for the March event this year. Council should advise the Boort Harness Racing Club that future support would be contingent upon the club making an application to the Council Event Support Scheme in accordance with Council guidelines.

Support through the scheme consists of:

- preparation of the required recreation/community facilities to a standard that is acceptable to the community group, provided that the preparation does not entail any alteration to the facilities (this may include grounds preparation, the provision of signs and rubbish collection)

- support in the co-ordination of the event by the relevant Council Officer, this may include photocopying, assistance with preparing a submission to attain the event, visitor information, etc
- ensuring an appropriate Council official is available to conduct a public address presentations, etc
- additional requests by organisations will be referred to Council for consideration

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The return of the event to Loddon offers the opportunity to:

- promote the Shire to attendees, to build a better knowledge of the shire from a 'Live, work, visit and invest' perspective.
- celebrate the return of the event

It is proposed that Council:

- promote the Shire to attendees through a display booth at each of the Boort and Wedderburn events
- support the return of racing to Boort and Wedderburn with a \$1000 grant for each of the Boort and Wedderburn clubs for advertising and promotional activities, during their first year of operation
- encourage both the Boort and Wedderburn Harness Racing Clubs to apply for support through Council's Event Support Scheme

It is envisaged that the display booth have the purpose of promoting the Shire for tourism purposes, but also as an opportunity to promote the shire to new residents and potential new businesses.

The success of this trial may lead to the identification of sporting or other events which may lend themselves to similar promotional activities.

9. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

10. **CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

Closing of Meeting to the Public

RECOMMENDATION

That the meeting be closed to the public.

11. **NEXT MEETING**

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on Monday 26 March 2012 at Serpentine commencing at 3.30pm.