

**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL - MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT SERPENTINE – MONDAY 23 APRIL 2012**

The meeting commenced at 3.30pm with the Prayer.

Present

Cr Geoff Curnow (Mayor)
Cr Neil Beattie
Cr Christine Brooke
Cr Allen Brownbill
Cr Gavan Holt

In Attendance

Mr John McLinden, Chief Executive Officer
Mr Bryan McEwan, Director Economy and Community
Mr Ian McLauchlan, Director of Operations
Mrs Jude Holt, Director Corporate Services

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1. **APOLOGIES**

Nil

2. **PREVIOUS MINUTES**

2.1 **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

SUMMARY

Approval of the Forum Minutes of 23 April 2012.

Approval of Ordinary Minutes of 23 April 2012.

Approval of the Forum Minutes of 18 May 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 April 2012 be confirmed*
2. *minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 23 April 2012 be confirmed*
3. *minutes of the Council Forum of 18 May 2012 be confirmed.*

MOTION

Moved: Cr Holt

Seconded: Cr Beattie

That the:

1. minutes of the Council Forum of 23 April 2012 be confirmed
2. minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 23 April 2012 be confirmed
3. minutes of the Council Forum of 18 May 2012 be confirmed.

Carried

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.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brownbill

Seconded: Cr Brooke

That the Action Sheet be received and noted.

Carried

UNCONFIRMED

3. INWARDS CORRESPONDENCE

SUMMARY

Author: John McLinden - Chief Executive Officer

File No:

Attachment: Copies of inwards correspondence

RECOMMENDATION

That the Inwards Correspondence be received and noted.

Date	Signatory	Subject
12/4/12	Peter Walsh MLA, Minister for Water	Goulburn-Murray Irrigation District update
10/5/12	Peter Walsh MLA, Minister for Water	Constitutional Recognition of Local Government

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brooke

Seconded: Cr Holt

That Council:

1. write to the Minister for Water expressing its disappointment with the position on Recognition of Local Government outlined in his letter, and write a similar letter to the Minister for Local Government
2. write to the Municipal Association of Victoria advising that it has received advice from the Minister which was contrary to the position supported by local government.

Carried

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.

Calder Highway Improvement Committee	
Nil	
Municipal Fire Management Plan	
1/5/12: Municipal Fire Management Plan is now in draft form to be presented at the June Council meeting	
Central Murray Region Waste Management Group	
7/5/12: Day of planning for next 12 months	
Other Council Activities	
24/4/12	North Central LLEN Annual meeting at Charlton
25/4/12	ANZAC service at Bridgewater at 6.00am
	ANZAC service at Inglewood at 11.00am
26/4/12	MAV workshop at Bendigo – discussion about the future of local government
27/4/12	Rural Living Exhibition Launch and attended the Exhibition
28/4/12	Newbridge Reserve – opening of All Stone Quarries netball courts by the Hon. Damian Drum
1/5/12	Municipal Fire Management Plan Meeting followed by a Municipal Emergency Management Plan Meeting
3/5/12	Triennial meeting of Laanecoorie Loddon River Recreation Reserve
7/5/12	Planning meeting of CMRWGM at Kerang

8/5/12	Visited Wedderburn Men's Shed
10/5/12	Launch by Damian Drum of the Healthy Minds Network Strategic Plan, Bridgewater
11/5/12	Wedderburn Community Centre for handover of \$50,000 funding for centre
14/5/12	Wedderburn Community Centre for presentation of certificates to community volunteers
15/5/12	Bridgewater Primary School to unveil a plaque for the "Recognition of the Building Education Revolution"
16/5/12	Rural Councils Victoria Regional Forum and dinner at Melbourne
18/5/12	Loddon Shire Council Forum at Wedderburn
23/5/12	Southern Loddon Tourism Meeting at Tarnagulla
26/5/12	Loddon Valley/North Central Interleague match at Boort
28/5/12	May Loddon Shire Council Meeting at Serpentine

MOTION

Moved: Cr Holt

Seconded: Cr Brooke

That the Mayoral Report be received and noted.

Carried

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.

Cr Brooke

North Central Goldfields Regional Library	
27/4/12	Library Board Meeting
30/4/12	Inspection of relocation premises during redevelopment
Loddon Youth Committee	
Nil Report	
Recreation Strategy Implementation Steering Committee	
Nil	
Nature Tourism Steering Committee	
Nil	
Other Council Activities	
25/4/12	ANZAC day Pyramid Hill
29/4/12	Regional Living Expo
1/5/12	NCCMA Board meeting
1/5/12	City of Bendigo – Civic Reception for Bishop Tomlinson, new Bishop of Sandhurst
14/5/12	Meeting with Committee of Pyramid Hill Neighbourhood House re their accommodation issues
24/5/12	Dingee's Biggest Morning Tea
24/5/12	Chaired meeting re NCCMA Regional Catchment Strategy

28/5/12	Council meeting, Serpentine
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Cr Brownbill

Municipal Association of Victoria	
Nil Report	
Municipal Association of Victoria Strategic Environment Advisory Group	
Nil Report	
Municipal Emergency Management Plan Committee	
Healthy Minds Network	
Nil Report	
Other Council Activities	
25/4/12	Anzac Day Tarnagulla
28-29/4/12	Councillor Development Weekend, Yarra Glen
1/5/12	MEMPC Wedderburn
3/5/12	Lannecoorie River Reserve Committee
10/5/12	Launch of Loddon Healthy Minds Strategic Plan and web page by MLC Damian Drum at Bridgewater
11/5/12	MAV Regional Meeting Bendigo
17/5/12	MAV State Council, Melbourne
18/5/12	Budget Council Forum, Wedderburn

Cr Beattie

Murray Darling Association	
Nil Report	
Boort Aerodrome Committee	
Nil Report	
Little Lake Boort Management	

Other Council Activities	
25/4/12	Attended Anzac Day Boort
1/5/12	Attended Boort tourism meeting
7/5/12	Attended Boort Development Committee meeting
11/5/12	On site at the new boardwalk building on Lake Boort
18/5/12	Attended Council Forum for Budget at Wedderburn
23/5/12	Attended meeting with CEO and Director Corporate Services and the Boort Park Committee
26/5/12	Attended inter-league game between North Central and Loddon Valley leagues

Cr Holt

Municipal Association of Victoria (substitute)	
Nil	
Calder Highway Improvement Committee	
Nil	
Australia Day Committee	
Nil	
Audit Committee	
Nil	
Other Council Activities	
DATE	Activity
24/4/12	Attended meeting of Wedderburn Community Bank Steering Committee
25/4/12	Attended ANZAC day Service at Korong Vale
25/4/12	Attended ANZAC day Service at Wedderburn
27/4/12	Attended meeting of Wedderburn Community House Board
28/4/12	Attended Wedderburn vs Wycheproof winter sport day at Wycheproof

29/4/12	Attended working bee at Wedderburn Harness Racing Club
5/5/12	Attended Wedderburn vs Donald winter sports day at Wedderburn
8/5/12	Attended meeting of Wedderburn Community Centre Committee
	Attended meeting of Wedderburn Community Bank Steering Committee
9/5/12	Attended working bee at Wedderburn Harness Racing Club
11/5/12	Present at Wedderburn Community Centre for announcement by Peter Walsh MLA of \$50,000 grant to centre to assist with its education and training program
18/5/12	Attended Council budget forum at Wedderburn
21/5/12	Chaired Donaldson Park Committee of Management meeting
22/5/12	Attended meeting of Wedderburn Community Bank Steering Committee
23/5/12	Attended meeting of Wedderburn Development /Community Plan Committee
25/5/12	Attended meeting of Wedderburn Community House Board
26/5/12	Attended inter-league football/netball matches between the North Central and Loddon Valley leagues. The day generated great interest as it involved 9 clubs from across Loddon Shire
27/5/12	Participated in street walk to attract pledges of support from Wedderburn Community Bank

MOTION

Moved: Cr Holt

Seconded: Cr Brooke

That the Councillors' Reports be received and noted.

Carried

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 between Loddon Shire Council and Global Contracting Pty Ltd for Contract 224, Flood Damage Road Rehabilitation Program

Section 173 Agreement between Loddon Shire Council and Vince Pino for Lot 1 on TP 392352N being the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume 6967 Folio 394

Transfer of land Volume 11340 Folio 727, Treloar Street Serpentine, between Loddon Shire Council and Scotts Agencies Pty Ltd

MOTION

Moved: Cr Beattie

Seconded: Cr Brooke

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

Carried

5.2 NORTH CENTRAL TRADE TRAINING CENTRE

SUMMARY

This report seeks approval to appoint a representative to the School Councils School Community Reference Group for the North Central Trade Training Centre.

Author: John McLinden - Chief Executive Officer

File No:

Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council appoint Mrs Christine Coombes, Economic Development Officer, to be Council's representative on the School Councils School Community Reference Group for the North Central Trade Training Centre.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Nil

BACKGROUND

In December 2011 the North Central Trade Training Centre was announced and has received in-principle funding of \$6.99 million for Round 4 of the Trade Training Centre In-schools Program. This was a significant announcement and gives this region great hope of the establishment of a comprehensive trade training centre providing students with the skills necessary to get real jobs needed by our local economies.

The North Central Trade Training Centre will involve:

- the construction of a commercial kitchen
- hairdressing facilities
- allied health facilities
- an agricultural facility
- automotive workshop facilities
- a construction workshop and engineering workshop.

The Trade Training Centre will deliver qualifications in aged care, agriculture, allied health, automotive, building and construction, engineering, hairdressing and hospitality—skills which are in great demand in all businesses within our local economy.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Mr Kelvin Baird, Principal of the Charlton College has written to Council inviting representation on the School Councils School Community Reference Group (SCSCRG). The purpose of this group is to oversee the establishment and operation of the North Central Trade Training Centre and the cluster's operations generally.

The composition of the SCSCRG was recommended to include members of the Cluster Management Committee and other stakeholders. The Cluster Management Committee comprises seven school principals being Charlton College, Boort District School, Donald High School, St Arnaud Secondary College, Pyramid Hill P-10 College, Wedderburn P-12 College and Wycheproof P-12 College, a representative from the Grampians and Loddon Mallee region and the Executive Officer of the North Central LLEN. Other stakeholders are to include seven school council presidents and representatives from industry, further education and local government.

The success of the North Central Trade Training Centre is important to this municipality and falls within the operations of the Economy and Community Directorate. It is suggested that Council should appoint Mrs Christine Coombes, Economic Development Officer, to be Council's representative on the School Councils School Community Reference Group for the North Central Trade Training Centre.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brooke

Seconded: Cr Holt

That Council appoint Mrs Christine Coombes, Economic Development Officer, to be Council's representative on the School Councils School Community Reference Group for the North Central Trade Training Centre.

Carried

5.3 ANZAC DAY 2015

SUMMARY

This report seeks Council approval to prepare for the centenary of Anzac Day in 2015.

Author: John McLinden - Chief Executive Officer

File No:

Attachment: Letter from Operation Pilgrimage Group

RECOMMENDATION

That Council convene a meeting of RSL Clubs, Legacy and historical societies to discuss the formation of an Anzac day Centenary organising committee for the Loddon Shire.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Nil

BACKGROUND

Council has received correspondence from Operation Pilgrimage which proposes to commemorate and honour the sacrifice of Australian military personnel in the three years leading up to the centenary of Anzac Day, which is 25 April 2015. Operation Pilgrimage Group has assembled a tour which comprises portraits, citations and a biography of each of the 138 Victoria Cross recipients.

From the initial correspondence, it is not clear when this pilgrimage will be travelling through this part of Victoria.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Operation pilgrimage is requesting Council support in the form of financial sponsorship of any amount through the provision of a suitable venue for display of the exhibition, through physical support from the Council for the duration of the visit within Council's boundaries, and for Council to allocate a Council officer to act as exhibition liaison between Operation Pilgrimage and the many community groups in this district.

The Wedderburn and Mysia areas have a strong connection to the Victoria Cross medal. As is well known, Albert Jacka and Albert Borella of Wedderburn and Mysia respectively were both winners of the Victoria Cross in World War I.

A visit by this travelling exhibition will provide a great opportunity to highlight the service and sacrifice of people from this part of Victoria in winning the freedoms that every Australian enjoys today.

As the centenary of Anzac Day approaches there may be a number of activities planned across the municipality to honour the sacrifice of those who have gone before us. Council may wish to give consideration to the establishment of an Anzac Day Centenary Committee which could coordinate a number of activities including support for Operation Pilgrimage to mark the passing of the 100th anniversary of Anzac Day.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Beattie

Seconded: Cr Brooke

That Council convene a meeting of RSL Clubs, Legacy and historical societies to discuss the formation of an Anzac day Centenary organising committee for the Loddon Shire.

Carried

UNCONFIRMED

5.4 SMALL TOWNS POLICY

SUMMARY

This report seeks Council adoption of a Small Towns Policy.

Author: John McLinden - Chief Executive Officer

File No:

Attachment: Small Towns Policy

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the Small Towns Policy.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council considered the draft Small Towns Policy at the April Council Forum.

BACKGROUND

Council has recognised that recent demographic trends suggest that future population growth in this municipality will be dependent upon the creation of vibrant small towns and the support of rural living opportunities, particularly in the south of the Shire.

In response to this continuing trend, Council has developed a Small Towns Policy which sets out the support and the strategies by which Council will ensure that towns in the Loddon Shire are supported in appropriate ways so that each town may meet its full potential.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The attached policy provides a clear statement of Council's support for small communities and the level of support and the engagement Council will provide in assisting each community to reach its full potential. This policy is presented for adoption.

Councillors suggested some amendments to the policy for clarification.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Holt

Seconded: Cr Brooke

That Council adopt the Small Towns Policy as amended.

Carried

5.5 LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL 2011 FLOOD RECOVERY EVALUATION

SUMMARY

The report provides Council with an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Flood Recovery Committee and the flood recovery activities delivered across the Loddon Shire.

The report makes recommendations to the Shire in preparation for a future event.

Author: Brian Hinneberg, Flood Recovery Manager

File No:

Attachment: 2011 Flood Recovery Evaluation

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. *accepts the flood recovery evaluation report*
2. *adopts the recommendations.*

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

October and November 2011 – Flood recovery income from grants and donations.

January 2012 – Conclusion of the Loddon Flood Recovery Committee.

BACKGROUND

The Regional Emergency Management Committee, facilitated by Department of Human Services has developed an evaluation framework document to assist Council to evaluate the recovery efforts.

Loddon Shire Council undertook two surveys (internal and agencies) and one facilitated consultation session on 29 February 2012 in Serpentine. Department of Human Services assisted to arrange the data collection methods and participated in the documentation of the findings.

The Loddon Shire Council 2011 Flood Recovery Evaluation report forms the final part of the response to the 2011 February Flooding Event.

The evaluation report covers the recovery activities undertaken by agencies, departments and individuals within the Loddon region since the flood of 2011.

Each section of the report addresses three questions:

1. What went well?
2. What did not go well?
3. What lessons can we draw for the future?

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The report makes recommendations arising from recovery activities post the 2011 flood event.

Recommendations

1. Preparation and planning needs to be developed and practiced on a regular basis, at least annually for the wider organisation, more regularly for managers and deputies.
2. Develop and deliver community awareness programs for all hazards i.e. Fire-safe and Flood-safe programs.
3. Get recovery manager on the ground earlier.
4. Training of recovery centre staff and deputies to be conducted on a regular basis (x2 yearly).
5. Develop relief and recovery centre training and procedure manual.
6. Keep relief and recovery centre training and procedure manual up to date with information and relevant contact details.
7. Develop LSC "Critical Incident Management Team" to direct the organisation, should also include possible deputies or "acting" staff to cover absence or for events with a duration of greater than one shift.
8. Develop and implement Loddon Business Continuity Plan.
9. Identify acting staff or surge capacity to back-fill position according to Loddon Shire Business Continuity Plan.
10. Develop protocols for recalling staff from leave, postponement of leave during times of crisis to help with recovery efforts.
11. That the Loddon Emergency Management Plan Part 5 Response Arrangement, Section 5.4 Town Protection Plans (Fire), incorporate a Town Protection Plan (Flood) or Town Protection Plans for all hazards.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brooke

Seconded: Cr Brownbill

That Council:

1. accepts the flood recovery evaluation report
2. adopts the recommendations.

Carried

5.6 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 receive and note the Local Government Inspectorate Audit – Progress Report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

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

February 2012 – Local Government Inspectorate Audit progress report.

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, a quarterly reporting regime has been established so that Council may measure progress against the required actions to achieve full compliance with the audit. This report is the second of those progress reports.

The attached schedule provides progress to date.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Holt

Seconded: Cr Beattie

That Council receive and note the Local Government Inspectorate Audit – Progress Report.

Carried

6. DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES' REPORTS

6.1 FINANCE REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30 APRIL 2012

SUMMARY

This report provides Council with financial information for the period ending 30 April 2012.

Author: James Rendell - Manager Financial Services
File No: 05/04/001
Attachment: 6.1

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. *Receives and notes the Finance Report for the period ending 30 April 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 30 April 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

Nil

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brooke

Seconded: Cr Brownbill

That Council:

1. *Receives and notes the Finance Report for the period ending 30 April 2012*
2. *Approves budget revisions included in the report for internal reporting purposes only.*

Carried

6.2 FEES AND CHARGES FOR THE YEAR 1 JULY 2012 TO 30 JUNE 2013

SUMMARY

This report seeks Council's approval of the Fees and Charges for the Year 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013.

Author: Duncan Campbell, Financial Accountant
File No: 07/01/006
Attachment: 6.2

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. *Council approves Fees and Charges for the Year 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013*
2. *Fees and Charges are implemented from 1 July 2012 for items not subject to a notice period, and at the end of the notice period for those items subject to the same*
3. *Where fees and charges are subject to legislation, any changes become effective immediately, subject to approval by Director Corporate Services or Chief Executive Officer, and amendment to the Fees and Charges for the Year 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013.*

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

A draft schedule was submitted for scrutiny by Councillors at the Council Forum held on 23 April 2012.

BACKGROUND

Each year as part of the budget process a Fees and Charges Schedule is prepared and submitted for approval by Council.

Generally the new schedule takes effect from the start of the financial year; however, included in the schedule are residential accommodation charges which require a minimum notification period to the tenant of 60 days. Notification will be forwarded to tenants as soon as practicable after approval by Council.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

This year's schedule shows a general increase of 3.1% on the previous schedule. The calculated figures are rounded to convenient amounts. The 3.1% increase is the CPI increase for Melbourne as advised in the data supplied by the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the year December 2011 on December 2012.

In addition to discretionary charges, various charges are levied on the basis of legislated changes. Those items are notified progressively through the year, via the Government Gazette, and direct advice from Victorian Government Departments, and will be incorporated into the published schedule as required.

Fees and Charges for the Year 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 has been included as Attachment 6.2.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Beattie

Seconded: Cr Brownbill

That:

1. Council approves Fees and Charges for the Year 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013
2. Fees and Charges are implemented from 1 July 2012 for items not subject to a notice period, and at the end of the notice period for those items subject to the same
3. Where fees and charges are subject to legislation, any changes become effective immediately, subject to approval by Director Corporate Services or Chief Executive Officer, and amendment to the Fees and Charges for the Year 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013.

Carried

UNCONFIRMED

6.3 SECTION 86 COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT AMENDED INSTRUMENT OF DELEGATION – KORONG VALE MECHANICS HALL

SUMMARY

This report seeks Council's approval of an amended Instrument of Delegation for Korong Vale Mechanics Hall Committee of Management.

Author: Jude Holt, Director Corporate Services
File No: 02/01/026
Attachment: 6.3

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approves the amended Instrument of Delegation for Korong Vale Mechanics Hall Committee of Management.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council approved amended Instruments of Delegation for the Boort Aerodrome Committee of Management and Boort Memorial Hall Committee of Management at the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 23 April 2012.

BACKGROUND

The Instrument of Delegation for the Korong Vale Mechanics Hall Committee of Management is presented to Council for approval.

The delegation has been amended to the format that Council approved at the Ordinary Meeting held on 23 April 2012.

The Instrument of Delegation is provided as Attachment 6.3.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Nil

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brooke

Seconded: Cr Holt

That Council approves the amended Instrument of Delegation for Korong Vale Mechanics Hall Committee of Management.

Carried

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 March 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

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brooke

Seconded: Cr Beattie

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

Carried

7.2 ROAD NETWORK DEFECT RECTIFICATION COMPLIANCE SUMMARY REPORT

SUMMARY

Report provides a summary of Council’s compliance against its Road Management Plan for the period 1st January 2012 to 31st March 2012, being the third Quarter of the 2011/2012 Financial Year.

Author: Daniel Lloyd – Acting Manager Works
 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 27 February 2012, Council were presented with a report summarising road network defect rectification compliance against requirements specified within the Loddon Shire Road Management Plan (RMP).

This report identified a number of outstanding defects. The tables below show progress in completion of these outstanding defects as at 9th May 2012:

Table 1 – Quarter 1

Date Range: 1 July 2011 to 30 Sep 2011		
Report Date		Patrol Areas
8 February 2012	9 May 2012	
Number Not Completed	Number Not Completed	
1	0	Boort
3	3	Newbridge
2	1	Pyramid Hill
0	0	Wedderburn

Table 2 – Quarter 2

Date Range: 1 Oct 2011 to 31 Dec 2011		
Report Date		Patrol Areas
8 February 2012	9 May 2012	
Number Not Completed	Number Not Completed	
0	0	Boort
20	18	Newbridge
16	16	Pyramid Hill
1	1	Wedderburn

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 above tables indicate there has been little improvement in the resolution of outstanding defects from previous quarters. Whilst staff monitor and maintain these defects as safe it has been requested and is expected that concerted effort will be made to resolve as many of these outstanding items as possible over the next 3 months.

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

Defect Compliance Summary Report

Report Date: 9 May 2012

Table 3 – Quarter 3

Date Range: 1 January 2012 to 31 March 2012

Number of Works Actions	Number Completed By Due Date	Number Completed After Due Date	Number Not Completed	Compliance %	Patrol Areas
7	7	0	0	100.0%	Boort
90	77	12	1	85.6%	Newbridge
170	152	15	3	89.4%	Pyramid hill
57	54	3	0	94.7%	Wedderburn

DEFINITIONS

Number of Works Actions - Within the date range, count the defects that were due/identified 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

Compliance for the 3rd Quarter of 2011/2012 is below the target of 100% of the defects repaired by due date. It is noted however that very few defects remain outstanding despite some being completed beyond the specified due date.

As previously reported to Council compliance with the Loddon Shire Road Management Plan over the past 18 months has been made difficult due to an increased number of defects being observed, requirements for ongoing defect prioritisation, availability of resources and demand in the Flood Restoration Program.

A major focus of the Works department for the next quarter is to eliminate all defects that are outstanding and complete current or new defects before the specified due date.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Beattie

Seconded: Cr Brooke

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

Carried

UNCONFIRMED

7.3 TOBACCO TEST PURCHASING PROGRAM UPDATE 2011/2012

SUMMARY

Report provides Council with an update on the Tobacco Test Purchasing activities for the 2011/2012 Financial Year as well as a summary of the observed results.

Author: Elizabeth M Garlick - Manager Environmental Health
File No: 12/02/001
Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the 2011/2012 Tobacco Test Purchasing Program report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

In June 2010 Council resolved to accept a funding offer from the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) to participate within the 2010 to 2012 Tobacco Test Purchasing program.

During its ordinary meeting held on 27th April 2011 a update report for the first year of the two year test purchasing program was presented to Council.

BACKGROUND

Loddon Shire Council signs an annual funding agreement with the MAV which provides approximately \$3,000 to cover the cost of Tobacco Education Activities undertaken by Council's Manager Environmental Health.

Further to this arrangement, in June 2010 Council resolved to accept an additional offer of funding (\$12,000 approx) to participate within the 2010-2012 MAV Tobacco Test Purchasing Program.

In the 2010/2011 financial year the Tobacco Test Purchasing Program was established. This Program resulted in two sales from 22 premises attended.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The Tobacco Test Purchasing Program was conducted in the same manner as that of the 2010/2011 program. The Test Purchasing was conducted on three days over the year, with the first two days being in the September/October 2011 school holidays and the third day falling in the April 2012 holidays.

The Test Purchasing was conducted by the Manager Environmental Health with the assistance of Test Purchasing Assistants less than 18 years and who resided within the municipality.

In total, 24 premises were entered by the Test Purchasing Assistants over the three days attempting to purchase cigarettes so as to determine whether the premises and its staff would comply with the requirements of the *Tobacco Act 1987*.

Of these, two separate premises sold cigarettes to the underage Test Purchase Assistants during the April school holidays. Neither premises had sold cigarettes to minors in the past.

Due to the sales being first offences for both premises, an official warning notice was issued to the proprietors of the offending premises, as well as the staff member responsible for selling the cigarettes to the minors.

The notice issued focused on educating the proprietors and staff of their obligations under the *Tobacco Act 1987*.

In both cases, the staff member responsible for selling the cigarettes gave their reason for selling as being "I thought they [Test Purchase Assistants] were over 18". At the time of the sales proof of age or identification was not requested.

The two premises that sold cigarettes to minors in the 2010/2011 Test Purchasing Program were also re-tested, with neither re-offending.

Premises that sell tobacco products will continue to be inspected for compliance with the *Tobacco Act 1987*, which will include an educational component regarding the sale of tobacco products to minors.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Holt

Seconded: Cr Beattie

That Council receive and note the 2011/2012 Tobacco Test Purchasing Program report.

Carried

7.4 ROADS TO RECOVERY REFERENCE EXPENDITURE EXEMPTION

SUMMARY

Report provides Council with notification that the Federal Government has approved an exemption from reference expenditure requirements under the 2009-2014 Roads to Recovery Program during the 2010/11 financial year.

Author: Ian McLauchlan – Director Operations
File No: 14/01/001
Attachment(s): Letter Dated 24 April 2012 – Roads to Recovery

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the advice from Department of Infrastructure and Transport exempting Loddon Shire Council from the conditions set out in Part 3 of the current Roads to Recovery funding conditions in respect of Council's own source expenditure for 2010/11.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Nil

BACKGROUND

Loddon Shire Council receives funding towards the maintenance and renewal of local roads via the Federal Governments Roads to Recovery (R2R) Program. This funding program does however require that Council maintain a consistent level of own source expenditure towards the maintenance and renewal of its local roads.

In the administration of the 2009-2014 R2R program it is expected that Council will maintain an average annual own source expenditure of \$1,589,968. In addition to this own source expenditure, the 2009-2014 R2R program provides for approximately \$1.62 Million each year over 5 years for road infrastructure and maintenance works.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Between September 2010 and January 2011 the Loddon Shire experienced three separate flood events with the most recent and most significant occurring on the 14 January 2011. Each of these flood events caused widespread damage across the Shire, in particular to the road and drainage network.

These events severely impacted upon Councils ability to complete both routine maintenance and programmed capital works due to access limitations, poor pavement conditions and resource depletion due to demands for emergency response works.

Accordingly, a large portion of Councils 2010-2011 capital works program was deferred resulting in an observed shortfall in Council's own source expenditure as per the R2R funding

guidelines. Council's own source expenditure in 2010/11 was \$1,466,715, approximately \$120,000 short of the required target.

Incomplete projects from the 2010/11 financial year have however been carried over into the 2011/12 works program with the vast majority now complete. Further, a large proportion of capital projects contained within the 2011/12 capital works program have also been completed.

This combined with the current level of local road maintenance works has resulted in Loddon Shire having already made up the required own source expenditure over a 2 year average.

In determining compliance with regard to own source expenditure, an allowance is provided within the R2R guidelines in that Council may take either a two or three year average to account for fluctuations in funding allocations or difficulties in completing capital works programs due to unforeseen circumstances, such as the recent floods.

Unfortunately, despite taking into consideration the previous two years expenditure (i.e. 2008/09 = \$1,483,085 and 2009/10 = \$1,555,520), required own source expenditure during 2010/11 was still not achieved.

Therefore in order to satisfy Council's obligations with respect to the R2R funding agreement an exemption from the requirement to achieve own source expenditure in any given year must be sought and may be granted providing that any observed shortfall is subsequently made up for during the following year and that sufficient grounds exist to satisfy the funding body, being the Department of Infrastructure and Transport, that an exemption is warranted.

Accordingly a request for exemption along with substantiating financial statements indicating that Loddon Shire has already made up the observed funding shortfall as part of its 2011/12 works program was provided to the Department on 27 January 2012. Own source expenditure during 2011/12 was approximately \$1.9 Million as at 27 January 2012.

Following consideration of the reasons outlined within this submission for the observed shortfall and demonstration that Loddon Shire's average reference expenditure over the current 2 year period being 2010/11 and 2011/12 complies with the funding guidelines, the department subsequently granted an exemption on 24 April 2012 (see attached letter).

With the granting of this exemption it is expected that Loddon Shire will now be eligible for further payments under the 2009-2014 R2R program during this and future financial years.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brownbill

Seconded: Cr Brooke

That Council receive and note the advice from Department of Infrastructure and Transport exempting Loddon Shire Council from the conditions set out in Part 3 of the current Roads to Recovery funding conditions in respect of Council's own source expenditure for 2010/11.

Carried

7.5 2012-13 ANNUAL INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS PROGRAM

SUMMARY

This report presents the proposed 2012/2013 Annual Infrastructure Works Program for Council review and adoption.

Author: David Fry – Manager Infrastructure
File No: 15/01/001
Attachments: 2012-2013 Annual Infrastructure Program

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the proposed 2012/2013 Annual Infrastructure Works Program.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

During the previous Council forum a preliminary draft of the proposed 2012-13 Capital Works Program was presented for consideration and discussion. Discussions around the proposed program identified a desire for consideration to be given for more amenity and township street improvement works within the urban areas of the Shire.

Accordingly the program structure and sub-program allocations have been revisited based upon observed network demand, revised funding availability and existing asset condition distributions.

BACKGROUND

The 2012/2013 infrastructure works program has been developed in accordance with the following financial requirements:

- Expenditure of Federal Government “Roads to Recovery” (R2R) funding of \$1.822m for 2012/2013 by 30th June 2013
- Expenditure of Council funds totalling a minimum of \$2.248m on road related infrastructure fulfilling R2R program requirements.
- Expenditure of Grants Commission funds tied to local roads totalling \$3.122m
- Expenditure of State Government funding tied to local roads totalling \$1m
- Expenditure of a \$352,000 grant from Regional Development Victoria (RDV) under the Local Roads to Markets Program (Tied to the upgrade of Bridgewater Raywood Road – Years 2 & 3 of a 3 year project).

Detailed project listings within the proposed 2012/2013 infrastructure program may be seen within attachment 1.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Following initial discussions with Council, officers identified a significant error in the budget available for use on the Capital Works Program in that the \$1 Million Country Roads funding

allocation have been duplicated in the expected income calculations. Accordingly the available funding for capital works was reduced by \$1 Million.

The reduction in the available budget along with the desire to revisit funding allocations between program components based upon current asset conditions and observed demand throughout the networks has resulted in a number of changes to the program as tabled during April.

The most significant change to the program presented at the April forum is a reduction in scale of proposed Local Gravel Re-sheets. In all other areas, except for the Amenity and Township Street Improvement sub-programs, there has been a more minor reduction in budget.

Adoption of this program will allow Council to undertake the following:

- **Local Gravel Road Resheets**

In accordance with Council's Road Asset Management Plan (RAMP) annual effort towards gravel resheeting on unsealed collector and access roads is expected to achieve rehabilitation of 3.33% of the network by area. This maintenance effort is based upon an expected asset life of 30 years.

Funding of \$1,195,000 within the 12/13 program will achieve rehabilitation of 3.03% or 41.6km of the RGA and RGC networks and will address all high and medium priority projects as well as some low priority projects. The proposed effort in gravel resheeting is below the optimum target effort but given the significant effort in gravel resheeting under the flood program and current asset condition distribution, is seen as appropriate.

- **Local Road Shoulder Resheets**

As per Council's RAMP annual effort towards gravel shoulder resheeting on sealed roads is expected to achieve rehabilitation of 3.33% of the network by area. This maintenance effort is again based upon an expected asset life of 30 years.

Funding of \$250,000 within the 12/13 program will achieve resheeting of approximately 1.16% or 23.70km of the shoulder network on sealed roads. All high and medium priority projects will be completed.

An effort below the target specified within the RAMP for this program category is considered appropriate given the limited number of outstanding shoulder resheet projects and funding demands across other program categories.

- **Reseals**

The reseal list for 2012/2013 has been prepared using 2010 Moloney condition reports, modified to exclude previously completed works and roads with less than 50 vehicles per day. Reseal works for those segments identified as having less than 50 Average Daily Traffic (ADT) volumes have been deferred from the 12/13 reseal program pending further investigation as per requirements specified within section 8.2.1 of Council's RAMP (see attachment 2 for deferred project listing).

Based upon the 18 year reseal interval specified within Council's RAMP approximately 5.56% of the sealed road network is expected to require treatment annually. The 2012/2013 budget allocation of \$542,000 will achieve resealing of approximately 2.57% or 23.69km of the sealed network. This effort is well below the optimum target effort but is seen as

appropriate as it addresses all the projects that fall within the appropriate condition rating requiring treatment.

- **Local Road Construction**

A total budget of \$1,755,500 has been distributed between the three sub-groups comprising the Local Road Construction program namely asset preservation, safety and amenity.

Funding priority has been given to asset preservation works on roads which have been identified as requiring significant historical maintenance effort as well as poor condition ratings confirmed via Moloney's inspections and subsequent field validation.

Councillors will note that in the list of asset preservation projects there are 3 sections of the Bridgewater Raywood Road that score higher than some of the projects proposed for this year. It is felt that with the already significant effort on other sections of the same road further works will significantly disadvantage the local residents and road users.

Asset Preservation:

A total of \$1,332,000 has been allocated towards 6 projects within the LRC asset preservation program namely:

1. Lyndhurst Street
2. Bridgewater Raywood Road x 2
3. Pyramid Yarraberb Road
4. Borung Hurstwood Road
5. Old St Arnaud Road

Bridgewater Raywood Road:

In addition to Council funds through R2R, additional funding for this project has been received via RDV's Local Roads to Market Program. This project is stage 2&3 of the current Roads to Market Funding and will be carried out at the same time as carry over works from the 2011/2012 program.

Lyndhurst Street:

This project is at the intersection of Lilly Street. It carries significant volumes of truck traffic to the flour mill. The intersection has been deteriorating badly and an Asphalt overlay is seen as the most appropriate treatment for this problem.

Old StArnaud Road:

This section of the Old StArnaud Road is the last remaining unsealed section. The proposed treatment for this road is to utilise the existing pavement and apply a top up layer prior to sealing. This is the same treatment used recently on the other unsealed section of this Road. With the current volume of traffic the existing pavement is deteriorating rapidly and if works are not done soon the project costs will increase due to the need to import additional pavement material.

Borong Hurstwood Road:

This section of the Borong Hurstwood Road is displaying significant failures as well as increased roughness. After rains, this section holds large sections of static water which is both dangerous to traffic as well as damaging to the pavement, causing further failures.

Pyramid Yarraberb Road:

This section of the Pyramid Yarraberb Road is the most in need of treatment of all the projects. It is displaying significant failures that are continuing to grow in size. This section adjoins a section currently under rehabilitation as part of the 2011/2012 Capital Works Program.

Safety:

The Safety Program includes jobs that under Asset Preservation assessment criteria may not be eligible for inclusion into the Works Program, but have safety issues that heighten their importance. The 4 projects in this year's Safety program all display a need for treatment related to safety rather than asset preservation.

Wedderburn Buckrabanyule Road:

A drop off in excess of 3 meters exists on both sides of this significant concrete structure and requires protection by guard rail. The section of road is a narrow seal and passing Vehicles come in close proximity to the edge of the structure.

Loddon River Road:

This project is the sealing of a short section of the Loddon River Road through an S bend to help prevent run off into trees and drains.

Malone Street, Boort and Hospital Street, Wedderburn:

Both of these projects relate to pedestrian and vehicular movements around Drop off and pick up points at the P12 Colleges in both towns. The works include the separation of pedestrians and vehicles, as well as the better delineation of traffic movements.

Amenity:

Like the Safety Program, The Amenity Program deals with projects that would not normally be considered under Asset Preservation assessment criteria. This type of project relates to the overall amenity of an area, and includes projects like dust suppression, parking issues and other visual amenity issues.

The majority of projects in this program relate to dust suppression in the dry, and sloppy pavement conditions in the wet.

Waitchie Street, Camp Lane and Camp Street:

Dust suppression

Serpentine Office/Toilet car park and Boort Hall / BRIC car park:

Dust suppression and poor pavement

King Street Boort:

Parking

Donaldson Park Entrance:

Visual amenity, car parking and traffic delineation

Playfair Street:

Visual amenity and pavement roughness

- **Township Street Improvements**

The type of work carried out in the Township Street Improvement Program includes footpath and kerb & channel installation and improvement works as well as projects that add to the amenity of the town.

\$630,000 worth of Township Street Improvement works have been identified for delivery during 2012/13.

The breakdown of the proposed Township Street Improvement program is as follows:

- Footpaths (4 projects)
- Kerb & Channel (5 projects)
- Combined Footpath and Kerb & Channel (1)

The majority of the proposed 12/13 Township Street Improvement allocation is aimed at addressing high priority kerb & channel and footpath renewal projects. There is however a number of new footpath and kerb & channel projects proposed. The footpath works are targeted to provide improved pedestrian access along strategic routes (that are well worn) and in most cases will address previous community requests. The new kerb & channel works are proposed to address drainage maintenance issues and vehicular parking and pedestrian movement issues.

- **Bridges & Culverts**

The 2012/2013 bridge & culverts program continues a focus towards addressing outstanding capital refurbishment tasks identified within level 2 bridge inspections as well as development of detailed engineering solutions for bridge replacement or refurbishment works required as part of maintaining the local road network.

All high priority capital refurbishment works identified within the Level 2 bridge inspection reports have been included within the rolling program for consideration.

Proposed work on bridges and culverts during 2012/2013 will require funding in the amount of \$267,000 and deliver 7 high priority projects from the rolling program.

- **Urban Drainage**

The 2012/2013 urban drainage program provides for the delivery of a number of high priority projects identified within the Pyramid Hill, Wedderburn and Boort townships.

A total of \$300,000 has been allocated for 5 urban drainage projects.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Holt

Seconded: Cr Beattie

That Council adopts the proposed 2012/2013 Annual Infrastructure Works Program.

Carried

7.6 RESULTS OF YORKSHIRE ROAD TRAFFIC COUNT

SUMMARY

Report provides Council with a summary of findings from recent traffic counts completed on Yorkshire Road and Boyds Road, Newbridge.

Author: Ian McLauchlan – Director Operations
File No: 14/01/001
Attachment(s): Yorkshire Road and Boyds Road Traffic Count Summary

Cr Curnow declared a conflict of interest. The nature of the interest is an indirect interest due to a family connection of adjoining land owner.

Cr Curnow left the meeting at 5.18pm.

Cr Beattie chaired the meeting in the absence of the Mayor.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Receive and note the traffic count data obtained for Yorkshire Road and Boyds Road, Newbridge.*
- 2. Instruct staff to continue monitoring for potential external funding sources to facilitate sealing Yorkshire Road.*

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

During its ordinary meeting in July 2010 Council requested that consideration be given to the preparation of a funding application under Regional Development Victoria's (RDV) Roads to Market (RTM) Program, for the sealing the western portion of Yorkshire road between the Bridgewater Maldon Road and the Scato Plus Composting Facility. In response to this request it was reported to Council that RDV had advised that the RTM program was no longer being continued.

In September 2011 Council requested that staff investigate alternative funding sources which may be available to upgrade Yorkshire Road to a sealed surface. As yet no other funding sources have been identified however Council's Economic Development Directorate continues to liaise with RDV with respect to potential grants for this project.

During its ordinary meeting In January 2012 Council considered a report identifying specific transport or road infrastructure conditions included within the planning permit issued for the mushroom composting facility located on Yorkshire Road, Newbridge (Action No. 2.2 24/10/11).

Following consideration of the above report Council requested that detailed traffic surveys be taken along Yorkshire road and this information be reported back to Council.

BACKGROUND

Yorkshire Road is approximately 17.4km in length and extends between the Bridgewater Maldon Road and the Calder Hwy. This road currently services 5 rural residential properties and 1 major rural industry being the Scato Plus Composting facility.

The road category standards for Yorkshire Road include approximately 7km section of Rural Gravel Access, 6km section of Rural Gravel Collector and a 4.4km section of sealed road.

As requested by Council, during the period between February and April 2012, a series of traffic surveys were conducted at strategic locations along Yorkshire Road and Boyds Road in an attempt to ascertain the average daily volume of traffic, the nature or class of these vehicles and specifically the number of vehicle movements associated with the Scato Plus Operation or the nearby Hazeldene’s facility.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Traffic counts were taken along both Yorkshire Road and Boyds Road at locations shown within the attached map for the periods indicated below:

Location No.	Road	Location	Period
1	Yorkshire Road	150m west of Boyds Road	22 February to 13 March
2	Yorkshire Road	400m east of Bridgewater Maldon Road	22 February to 13 March
3	Boyds Road	500m south of Yorkshire Road	24 March to 8 April
4	Boyds Road	1km north of the Wimmera Hwy	24 March to 8 April

Data obtained during the above traffic surveys has been summarised below:

Location No.	Survey Duration (Days)	Total Vehicle Movements (including Unclassified vehicles)	Peak 5 Day Average Vehicle Movements (VPD)	Peak 7 Day Average Vehicle Movement (VPD)	Daily Average % Commercial Vehicles (CV's)	Total No of CV's
1	20	1203	58.0	52.9	19.1	166
2	20	1610	82.3	66.1	51.5	601
3	15	227	18.2	14.4	16.7	33
4	15	820	63.2	57.7	19.7	141

Section 6.1.1 of Council’s Road Management Plan (RAMP) states that extension of the rural sealed road network will not generally be undertaken. However, when Annual Average Daily Traffic exceeds 100 vehicles per day a road may be considered for construction and sealing, subject to a detailed evaluation of the project including an analysis of current and future maintenance/renewal costs, other available routes and available funding.

Based upon the recent traffic surveys it would appear that the number of vehicle movements along the Yorkshire Road east of Boyds Road is well below the specified trigger for potential pavement upgrade i.e. sealing. Similarly, traffic volumes along Boyds itself are also observed to be well below the trigger for sealing.

It would appear that the majority of traffic accessing the Scato Plus facility utilises the section of Yorkshire road between the Bridgewater Maldon Road and the entrance to this facility. This view has been formed on the basis that the section of road in question appears to have a substantially higher average traffic count than other sections of Yorkshire Road heading east.

Despite a higher traffic count and significantly higher CV percentage, triggers for sealing this section of Yorkshire Road under the RAMP are still not being met. It is however noted that if funding for sealing works could be obtained externally to Council, that the section of Yorkshire Road between the Bridgewater Maldon Road and the Scato Plus Composting facility would most likely be recommended as the highest priority component of this road.

Accordingly projects involving the sealing of any section of Yorkshire road are not currently considered eligible for inclusion within the Annual Infrastructure Program. In the event that a significant portion of funding for such projects may be obtained externally (other than Roads to Recovery Funding), it is possible that sealing works may be recommended in the future.

Council staff will continue to monitor notifications from relevant state and federal government programs with respect to potential road improvement grants and also continue to liaise with RDV to ascertain the future of the RTM program or other available funding streams which could assist in the delivery of this project.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brownbill

Seconded: Cr Brooke

That Council:

1. Receive and note the traffic count data obtained for Yorkshire Road and Boyds Road, Newbridge.
2. Instruct staff to continue monitoring for potential external funding sources to facilitate sealing Yorkshire Road.

Carried

Cr Curnow returned to the meeting at 5. 31 pm and resumed the Chair.

7.7 VULNERABLE PEOPLE IN EMERGENCIES PROGRAM

SUMMARY

Report provides Council with notification of additional funding provided by the State Government to assist in the identification, registration and co-ordination of vulnerable people within the community during emergency events.

Author: Ian McLauchlan – Director Operations
File No: 11/01/001
Attachment(s): Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the report regarding allocation of an additional \$10,000 funding for Loddon Shire under the Vulnerable People in Emergencies Program.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Nil

BACKGROUND

Following the Bush Fire Royal Commission recommendations released in early 2011, funding was allocated to facilitate creation of 25 Emergency Management (Fire) Coordinator positions throughout rural and regional Victoria. The primary function of these roles was to assist local government in the implementation of the Victorian Bushfire Royal Commission Recommendations.

Loddon Shire Council in partnership with the Central Goldfields Shire Council was offered \$100,000 funding under the Municipal Fire and Emergency Management Resourcing Program to resource a joint Emergency Management Coordinator for this purpose. Initially this funding was for a 12 month period however following a review in December 2011 an additional allocation of \$200,000 was provided to extend the term of this resource for a further 2 years (i.e. until June 2014).

In addition to funding provided under the Municipal Fire and Emergency Management Resourcing Program, as part of the State Governments 2012-13 budget a further funding allocation across the state of \$8.3 Million was announced for the establishment of a Vulnerable People in Emergencies Program.

This new program will support the registration of vulnerable people within communities who would be at risk in an emergency event. The program will be delivered in conjunction with the Red Cross and Department Human Services who will provide support to councils in identifying and registering the most vulnerable people in the state.

With respect to Loddon Shire and Central Goldfields Shire, an additional allocation of \$20,000 will be provided increasing total funding for the combined Emergency Management Resourcing and the Vulnerable People in Emergencies Programs to \$120,000.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

As per the previous funding provided under the Emergency Management Resourcing program it is expected that the additional funding for the Vulnerable People in Emergencies Program will be shared equally between Loddon Shire and Central Goldfields Shire.

Accordingly it is expected that \$10,000 will be made available to Council's Health and Community Care department to assist in the preparation of a detailed vulnerable persons/facilities register for the Shire.

Part 3 of the Emergency Management Manual Victoria identifies Victoria Police as the agency responsible for facilitating evacuations, however their function in this respect is dependent on Local Government Authorities having:

- within their Municipal Emergency Management Plans, identified and documented facilities where vulnerable persons are likely to be situated
- a list of those services/agencies that will be aware of vulnerable persons within the community.

These lists, including after-hours contact details, will need to be provided to Victoria Police upon compilation or updating to ensure Victoria Police has the best available information in the event an evacuation becomes necessary.

Investigations are underway as to the possibility of developing an additional module to accommodate this register within the recently purchased Municipal Emergency Coordination Centre software which aims to provide an IT system for council use in incident management, replacing the paper-based MECC system during an emergency.

Provision of an electronic register may also allow other responsible agencies to upload real-time information with respect to vulnerable people/facilities thus improving the accuracy and reliability of this important information for emergency response agencies.

It is anticipated that the formal program agreement will be issued to Loddon Shire shortly. At this time it is unclear as to whether this additional funding will continue into the 2013-2014 financial year.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Beattie

Seconded: Cr Brooke

That Council receive and note the report regarding allocation of an additional \$10,000 funding for Loddon Shire under the Vulnerable People in Emergencies Program.

Carried

7.8 EXEMPTION FOR ROAD MANAGERS TO UNDERTAKE VEGETATION REMOVAL FOR BUSFIRE PURPOSES

SUMMARY

A new exemption for road managers under the Victorian Planning Provisions was introduced in November 2011 providing for the removal of native vegetation for bushfire risk mitigation purposes. This report provides Council with a summary of this exemption as well as the status of Loddon Shire Councils acceptance of the terms contained within the associated agreement with Department Sustainability & Environment.

Author: Ian McLauchlan – Director Operations
File No: 11/01/001
Attachment: Correspondence from Department Sustainability & Environment
Agreement with DSE regarding vegetation removal exemption

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the summary report regarding the recent introduction of exemptions under the Victorian Planning Provisions for road managers with respect to removal of native vegetation for bushfire risk mitigation purposes.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Nil

BACKGROUND

In response to recommendations made by the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission an exemption was prepared under clause 52.17-6 of the Victoria Planning Provisions for road managers to remove native vegetation along roadsides without the requirement to obtain a planning permit.

Ultimately the intent of the exemption and associated agreement with DSE is to avoid the requirement to obtain a planning permit for the removal, destruction or lopping of vegetation to the minimum extent necessary should any of the following apply:

- The vegetation is to be removed, destroyed or lopped to reduce fuel loads on roadsides to minimise risk to life and property from bushfire of an existing public road managed by the relevant responsible road authority (as defined by the Road Management Act 2004) in accordance with the written agreement of the Secretary to the Department of Sustainability and Environment (as constituted under Part 2 of the Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987).

The first version of this agreement was presented to Loddon Shire early in 2011. Upon consideration of its contents Loddon Shire identified that the requirements being put forward by DSE were unreasonable and unworkable and as such refused to sign the agreement. In short the original agreement effectively resulted in no change to the process or requirements for obtaining DSE approval for proposed vegetation removal works other than separating this

process from the existing planning permit structure. Further, no exemption from the the requirement to provide associated offsets for removed vegetation was provided meaning that such offsets would still be required at Council's cost.

Many other Council's also refused to sign the agreement (as per advice received from the Municipal Association of Victoria). In response DSE embarked upon a more consultative process in an attempt to develop an agreement structure which would be acceptable for all parties.

In February 2012 the Department Sustainability & Environment again wrote to Council offering the opportunity to enter into a revised agreement to access the new Roadside Works for Bushfire Purposes Exemption under the Victorian Planning Provisions.

The exemption in question provides for a broad range of fire mitigation treatments to be undertaken on roadsides to reduce threats to life and property from bushfires. As mentioned above the exemption is subject to an agreement to ensure that supporting documentation is provided by road managers.

The new agreement has been developed collaboratively through the Local Government Native Vegetation Reference Group. The group included representatives from local government, the Country Fire Authority (CFA), the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV), VicRoads, the Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) and the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE).

In developing the agreement the group was guided by the following principles:

- Any new agreement should be simple and clear and enable road managers to undertake vegetation treatments on roadsides to reduce bushfire risk.
- State-wide consistency, in the risk assessment methodology used to assess bushfire risk by all road managers is preferable.
- The link between the risk assessment, determination of appropriate treatments and subsequent works should be transparent. This should be noted in a relevant plan which is part of an existing integrated approach to emergency management.
- Significant environmental impacts should remain part of the planning permit process to ensure that standard impact assessment is applied.

There are two key documents to support the use of the exemption by road managers. DSE has developed a guide to assist councils and VicRoads to understand how to implement this new exemption. In addition, Terramatrix Pty Ltd has developed the Road Bushfire Risk Assessment Guideline to assist road managers to undertake the risk assessment process.

The exemption incorporates a risk based approach that will ensure that native vegetation is removed in areas that pose the greatest bushfire risk to the community. Under the exemption, road managers will be required to:

- Undertake a roadside bushfire risk assessment using an agreed process, focusing on priority roads.

- Identify appropriate vegetation treatments for priority roads and record the results of this in a plan.

The roadside risk assessment process is based on the CFA Roadside Fire Management Guidelines. The guidelines have four relevant objectives including;

1. Prevent or reduce the risk of fires on roadsides
2. Reduce the risk of spread of fire from the road reserve
3. Manage safety of road users
4. Provide control lines.

The risk assessment process provides a systematic approach to decision making that incorporates defined standards and will achieve state-wide consistency for all road managers. Once the risk assessment process has been completed, road managers can then decide on what treatments will be implemented to reduce the risk of bushfire.

There are a range of factors that can influence the treatment selection at a particular site including cost/benefit of each treatment, amenity, the expected fire behaviour beyond the road reserve or environmental values present. The Road Bushfire Risk Assessment Guideline will describe in detail the process for selecting a treatment and includes a Road Bushfire Treatment Selection tool.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

As stated within the attached letter from DSE, the new exemption is intended to enable road managers to more effectively meet obligations with respect to bushfire risk reduction. When first presented to Council the original DSE agreement was considered unworkable and unreasonable.

The new agreement presented by DSE in February 2012 is considered to be much more realistic in terms of the process and requirements to facilitate vegetation removal. Loddon Shire is however yet to sign this new agreement pending the outcome of recent workshops being conducted by DSE to review and finalise the proposed risk assessment methodology and identify priority roads within the Shire.

Following finalisation of the risk assessment methodology it is expected that register of priority roads within Loddon Shire will be prepared through existing fire management planning processes. An assessment of these roads will then be required and a register of proposed works prepared for inclusion within Council's Municipal Fire Management Plan.

Whilst the agreement with DSE may be entered into at this time, it is considered prudent that this action be deferred until a register of priority roads is prepared. This will allow Council to better understand the implications and likely resource requirements to comply with the agreement whilst meeting obligations under relevant emergency management legislation.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brooke

Seconded: Cr Beattie

That Council receive and note the summary report regarding the recent introduction of exemptions under the Victorian Planning Provisions for road managers with respect to removal of native vegetation for bushfire risk mitigation purposes.

Carried

UNCONFIRMED

8. DIRECTOR ECONOMY AND COMMUNITY REPORTS

8.1 PROPOSED DJA DJA WURRUNG PEOPLES SETTLEMENT

SUMMARY

Four Native title claims were made by traditional owners, the Dja Dja Wurrung People, between 1999 and 2000. A significant proportion of the Loddon Shire is included within the claim area and a settlement agreement is currently being negotiated between the State government and the traditional owners.

Author: Bryan McEwan – Director Economy and Community
File No: 13/09/001
Attachment: 1: Map of proposed Dja Dja Wurrung recognition and settlement area (RSA)
2: Gunaikurnai Native Title Agreement FAQs

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. *Receive and note the Dja Dja Wurrung Peoples Settlement report*
2. *Write to the relevant authority with an invitation to brief Council on the project's progress.*

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council had previously requested further information on the Dja Dja Wurrung Native title claim.

BACKGROUND

Native title is the recognition in Australian law that some Indigenous people continue to hold rights to their lands and waters, derived from traditional laws and customs.

Aboriginal groups can apply to have Native Title rights recognised by the Federal Court, under the *Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993*.

In Victoria, native title has been found to exist on four occasions. The difficulty of achieving legal recognition of native title led to the Victoria state government to facilitate the development of an alternative system for recognising rights of Aboriginal traditional owners.

The **Victorian Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010** allows the government to make agreements with Aboriginal traditional owner groups to recognise their relationship to land, and provide for certain rights on Crown land and other benefits.

The Director Economy and Community has met with officers from the Department of Justice (DoJ) and the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) to discuss the native title claim by the traditional owners, as it relates to Loddon Shire. The intent of the meeting was to discuss:

1. the negotiation timeframes and milestones for the proposed settlement of the Dja Dja Wurrung native title claims as they relate to Loddon Shire region;
2. the content of native title settlements within the *Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010*;
3. the proposed Local Government Engagement Strategy that will be developed as part of the proposed settlement and the role Loddon Shire will play in the development as part of this process;
4. management arrangements within designated crown land reserves between Dja Dja Wurrung and Loddon Shire under the proposed native title claim;
5. economic development opportunities and the regional economy; and
6. the impact of current native title legal framework for access to waterways for adjoining freehold land-owners.

The attached map indicates the approximate area for which the Dja Dja Wurrung People would be recognised by the Victorian State as the exclusive Traditional Owners. The map also indicates that a significant proportion of the Loddon Shire is covered under the Dja Dja Wurrung claim.

The Dja Dja Wurrung's initial claim with the National Native Title Tribunal was lodged in July 2000.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The meeting with DoJ and DSE, while useful and constructive, the terms of the settlement are still being negotiated.

In terms of the Loddon Shire and the the proposed settlement, it was indicated that:

- Boundaries will be agreed with neighbouring Traditional Owner Groups before the Dja Dja Wurrung settlement can be finalised.
- The claims (once settled) would be binding with agreement that there would be no further native title claims.
- It is intended that the negotiated settlement of the claims be finalised by the end of 2012.
- Agreed areas of Crown land would be jointly managed with the Dja Dja Wurrung.
- Existing uses of Crown land reserves (for example, boating, timber harvesting, tourism etc.) will be recognised and protected.

Importantly, in finalising the agreement, further discussion will be required to clarify Council's ongoing relationship with the Dja Dja Wurrung.

The proposed Recognition and Settlement Agreement will include a commitment by the state and the Dja Dja Wurrung to develop a 'Local Government Engagement Strategy' that would include (but would not be limited to) the following:

1. recognition of the Dja Dja Wurrung as the Traditional Owners of the areas within the municipality;
2. fostering of ongoing consultation with Dja Dja Wurrung as the Traditional Owners;
3. inclusion of the Dja Dja Wurrung as the Traditional Owner representative on Local Government-convened committees;
4. provision for protection of cultural heritage, in accordance with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*;
5. education of the broader community about Dja Dja Wurrung customs, language and spirituality;
6. obtaining support for the development of cultural awareness strategies and projects (such as local histories, language preservation projects, monuments);
7. promotion of greater use of Dja Dja Wurrung names in place names where the local government is the naming authority; and
8. assistance with rezoning and other planning related applications.

It is proposed that a briefing to Council be organised as soon as practicable to enable a greater understanding of the proposed settlement (including the Local Government Engagement Strategy), how council can be more actively involved in the decision-making process and the ongoing relationship with the Dja Dja Wurrung.

Further information on what may be included in a successful agreement is included within the attachment 'Gunaikurnai Native Title Agreement FAQs', which outline key elements of the 2010 settlement of the Gunaikurnai claims.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brooke

Seconded: Cr Holt

That Council:

1. Receive and note the Dja Dja Wurrung Peoples Settlement report
2. Write to the relevant authority with an invitation to brief Council on the project's progress.

Carried

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brooke Seconded: Cr Beattie

That the following items be treated as urgent business.

Carried

9.1 CENTRAL MURRAY REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT GROUP – ANNUAL MEETING

SUMMARY

The Central Murray Regional Waste Management Group is seeking appointment of a Director on its Management Committee and nominations for Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson.

Author: John McLinden

File No:

Attachment: Letter from Central Murray Regional Waste Management Group

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. appoint Cr Geoff Curnow to be a Director on the Management Committee of the Central Murray Regional Waste Management Group*
- 2. confirm that Mr Darren Schultz, Buildings and Contracts Officer, is Loddon Shire's officer on the Central Murray Regional Waste Management Group Advisory Committee*
- 3. nominate Cr Curnow for the election of Deputy Chairperson for the Central Murray Regional Waste Management Group.*

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Nil.

BACKGROUND

The Central Murray Regional Waste Management Group assists with waste management in the region through the implementation of the Regional Waste Management Plan, to improve waste management and enhance the environment. The group works with councils and seeks grants from government to assist them with their waste management issues.

Loddon Shire Council is a member council of the group.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The annual meeting of the Central Murray Regional Waste Management Group will be held in Charlton on 18 June. This meeting will include the election of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson. Cr Geoff Curnow is the current Deputy Chairperson.

Loddon Shire has been asked to appoint a Councillor to be a Director on the Management Committee by the end of May, and to provide any preference for nomination for the election of a Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brooke

Seconded: Cr Holt

That Council:

1. appoint Cr Geoff Curnow to be a Director on the Management Committee of the Central Murray Regional Waste Management Group
2. confirm that Mr Darren Schultz, Buildings and Contracts Officer, is Loddon Shire's officer on the Central Murray Regional Waste Management Group Advisory Committee
3. nominate Cr Curnow for the election of Deputy Chairperson for the Central Murray Regional Waste Management Group.

Carried

9.2 BOORT RESOURCE & INFORMATION CENTRE GYMNASIUM PROJECT - REQUEST FOR COUNCIL LETTER OF SUPPORT

SUMMARY

The Boort Resource and Information Centre (BRIC) have requested a letter of support from Council with respect to a funding application being prepared under the State Governments "Putting Locals First Program" providing for a building extension to more adequately house existing gymnasium facilities.

Author: Allan Stobaus - Manager Community and Recreation Development
File No: 16/02/003
Attachments: Funding Guidelines for "Putting Locals First" Program

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Note the Boort Resource & Information Centre Request for a letter of support in relation to preparation of a funding application under the State Governments "Putting Locals First" program.*
- 2. Provide a letter of support to the Boort Resource Information Centre in relation to the proposed funding application for gymnasium extension works with clarification that Council may be submitting its own application(s) for higher priority projects within the Shire.*
- 3. Develop a process for the identification and prioritisation of minor community infrastructure projects which will allow for a structured approach in providing in-principal or financial support for external funding applications.*
- 4. Consider preparation of a funding application under the "Putting Local's First" program for one or more of the key strategic community infrastructure projects previously discussed with Council.*

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Nil

BACKGROUND

The Boort Resource and Information Centre (BRIC) have developed plans to extend their existing gymnasium. The proposed 65.7m² extension will increase the available floor area within the gymnasium by approximately 60% and will be used to accommodate extra activities and equipment.

This project has been identified by the Boort Community Planning Committee as the second highest priority project for 2012/13. The Loddon Shire Recreation Strategy Plan also identifies the need to develop community gymnasiums as a high priority.

Based upon the prepared concept design, it is expected that total construction cost for the extension will be in the order of \$126,000. In order to deliver this project BRIC are intending to apply for funding under the State Governments "Putting Locals First" Program. If successful, the BRIC and Boort Community Planning Committee also intend to make funding contributions to the project as shown below:

Proposed Expenditure	Amount confirmed	Status
BRIC	\$50,000	Confirmed
State govt (Putting Locals First)	\$46,000	Unconfirmed
LSC Community Planning	\$30,000	Unconfirmed
Total	\$126,000	

BRIC has requested a letter of support from Council for this project, this letter of support is to be included in an application to the State Governments "Putting Locals First" funding program.

Local councils and not for profit community groups can apply for these funds, however community groups are strongly advised to seek the support of their local Council, prior to submitting an application.

The Putting Locals First Program is designed to support the following:

- community infrastructure that is well planned, well designed and is a local priority
- local businesses to grow and generate job opportunities
- local peoples connections to resources, services and activities
- communities to take action on their own behalf
- LGAs and communities to undertake thorough planning processes.

The funding ratios for rural councils (i.e. Loddon Shire) are dependent on the value of the project as shown below:

Project Value	Funding Ratio (State / Council)
Projects up to \$300,000	\$3:\$1
Projects between \$300,000 and \$500,000	\$2:\$1

Projects will be assessed against the following criteria;

What will the project achieve? (Weighting = 30%)

The application demonstrates the extent to which the project:

- outlines a clear scope and objectives and strongly achieves at least one of the program's proposed outcome areas:
 - improved infrastructure, facilities and/or services
 - increased business and employment opportunities
 - improved community connections, *and*
 - communities taking action on their own behalf
- explains how the project benefits will be sustained once funding ceases.

Why is the project needed? (Weighting = 30%)

The application demonstrates the extent to which the project:

- Is strongly supported at a community level and consistent with local plans and shared priorities (for example through local plans and consultation forums;) and is consistent with the directions of Regional Strategic Plans
- Addresses an existing identified gap and/or issue, and
- Is supported by local knowledge and information demonstrating the challenges being confronted by the community such as drought, rapid economic change, population growth and/or decline.

How will the project be delivered? (Weighting = 20%)

The application demonstrates the extent to which the project:

- is investment ready, supported by a clear approach and realistic time-frames
- is financially viable, based on sound cost estimates and represents value for money
- is based on plans consistent with the urban design charter incorporating principles of environmental sustainability and addresses universal/inclusive design while complying with relevant anti-discrimination legislation (infrastructure proposals only)
- sources materials and resources to deliver the project which strengthens the regional community and economy, and
- provides supporting documentation that is required by RDV (please see application form as the level of detail required is aligned to the amount of funding sought).

Who is involved? (Weighting = 20%)

The application demonstrates the extent to which the project:

- demonstrates a collaborative approach with a range of partners and indicates how they will contribute to the project, and
- demonstrates capacity to implement and/or source expertise to manage the project.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Recently Council discussed a list of proposed high priority strategic infrastructure projects throughout the Shire. This list was intended to identify those projects which should be put forward as local priorities when applying for external funding through various state and federal government grant schemes such as the Regional Growth Fund or Regional Development Australia Fund.

Whilst these projects are considered to represent the highest priority works throughout the Shire, periodically other community infrastructure projects are identified through such mechanisms as local community planning committees, committees of management or submissions from the general public. At present there is no formal assessment and prioritisation process for such projects with respect to applying for external grants.

The recent request from BRIC seeking support for their proposed gymnasium extension has highlighted this issue and in turn created a potential dilemma for Council in that it is not currently considered the highest priority community infrastructure project within the Shire.

Whilst the gymnasium extension is considered to have merit, in that it complies with recommended actions within Council's Recreation Strategy and has the support of the local Community Planning Committee, when considering whether or not to lend support to this project Council may wish to consider the implications for securing funding for other higher priority projects.

Accordingly, Council may consider lodging its own funding application under the "Putting Locals First" program for one or more of the community infrastructure projects previously discussed. Selection of such a project would be dependent on the scope, design status and budget of these works fitting within the stated funding guidelines.

A potential complicating factor with respect to selecting which project to support for potential funding through external grants, are the limitations often placed upon the amount of funds which may be sought and the associated budget contribution required by Council. In the case of the BRIC gymnasium project it has been indicated that the internal funding component will be met by the BRIC (\$50,000) and Boort Community Planning Group who wish to allocate \$30,000 in 2012/13 towards this project.

It is possible that this position may change pending adoption of Council's budget and proposed changes to the community planning allocation structure. Further, clarification as to why the BRIC are not intending to apply for the full funding offered in line with the 3:1 ratio, thus reducing the required community planning contribution, will be sought.

A possible solution to overcoming the problem of identifying which community infrastructure projects to support for particular funding streams could involve the breaking down of such projects into two distinct classifications, namely major and minor. It is expected that major community infrastructure projects, such as those previously discussed with Council, will take priority where potential and suitable funding streams are identified.

Where funding streams are identified which may be inappropriate for such projects i.e. smaller or project specific grant programs (e.g. Fishing Facility Grants), a prioritised list of minor infrastructure projects will enable a structured method of identifying and selecting those projects to be supported.

It is envisaged that this process may be integrated into the existing annual community planning structure whereby committees will be required to nominate proposed minor capital infrastructure projects which may require external funding. Further, where projects are identified through other mechanisms such as sport & recreation, committees of management or the general public, these projects may also be included for future consideration.

Maintaining a prioritised register of such projects across the Shire will greatly assist Council in determining which projects should receive support at any given time. Development of such a process would however be required to allow for the on-going identification and inclusion of additional projects throughout the year as the identification or announcement of funding opportunities can be sporadic.

Given that the funding requirements/conditions can vary significantly depending on the type and source of grant being sought, flexibility as to selecting appropriate projects based upon budget or scope of works will still be required. Selection should however be based upon relative priority against all other similar or eligible community infrastructure projects.

In summary, issues which need to be considered when determining whether a letter of support should be provided to the BRIC for proposed gymnasium extension works are as follows:

- The guidelines of the “Putting Locals First Program” require projects to be well planned and should be clearly identified as a local priority.
- A letter of support for this project from Council, indicating that this project is a local priority will ensure that an important assessment criterion is met by confirming that it is a local priority project.
- Council have a number of other projects that have previously been identified as possible applications to this fund.
- Council have no priority list for minor community infrastructure projects such as the gymnasium extension.
- The BRIC project may be in direct competition with other projects put forward for funding under this program.

Given the merit of the gymnasium extension project and providing that it is made clear where this project sits in relation to its relative priority against any other works put forward under the “Putting Locals First” program, it may be appropriate for Council to provide the requested letter of support.

It is however recommended that consideration be given to the development of formal project identification, assessment and prioritisation process for such minor community infrastructure projects in the future.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Beattie

Seconded: Cr Holt

That Council:

1. Note the Boort Resource & Information Centre request for a letter of support in relation to preparation of a funding application under the State Governments "Putting Locals First" program.
2. Provide a letter of support to the Boort Resource Information Centre in relation to the proposed funding application for gymnasium extension works with clarification that Council may be submitting its own application(s) for higher priority projects within the Shire.
3. Develop a process for the identification and prioritisation of minor community infrastructure projects which will allow for a structured approach in providing in-principal or financial support for external funding applications.
4. Consider preparation of a funding application under the "Putting Local's First" program for one or more of the key strategic community infrastructure projects previously discussed with Council.

Carried

UNCONFIDENTIAL

9.3 ST MARYS CHURCH KINGOWER

The St Marys Church at Kingower will be auctioned for sale on 2 June 2012. The Kingower community has approached Council to buy the church for future community use.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brooke **Seconded: Cr Beattie**

That Council advise the resident representing the Kingower community requesting Council purchase of the St Marys Church that Council intends to take no action.

Carried

9.4 INTERSECTION OF BENDIGO-MARYBOROUGH ROAD AND GRISOLD ROAD TO LAANECOORIE

Cr Brownbill had been approached by a resident about the need for a turn-off lane with improved visibility on this intersection.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brownbill **Seconded: Cr Holt**

That Council write to VicRoads requesting safety improvements to the turn-off to Laanecoorie on the Bendigo – Maryborough Road.

Carried

9.5 REGIONAL LIVING EXPO

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brownbill **Seconded: Cr Brooke**

That Council write to the Deputy Premier congratulating the state government on the success of the Regional Living Expo.

Carried

9.6 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR OF INTERNAL AUDIT COMMITTEE

At its May meeting, the Internal Audit Committee agreed to recommend to Council that Mr Ken Belfrage be appointed as Chair of the Committee to 30 April 2013.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Holt **Seconded: Cr Beattie**

That Council appoint Mr Ken Belfrage as Chair of the Internal Audit Committee to 30 April 2013.

Carried

10. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Closing of Meeting to the Public

RECOMMENDATION

That the meeting be closed to the public.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brooke Seconded: Cr Holt

That the meeting be closed to the public at 6.13pm.

Carried

10.1 REVIEW OF ACTION SHEET

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brooke Seconded: Cr Brownbill

That the Action Sheet be received and noted.

Carried

10.2 PLANNING AND LOCAL LAWS COMPLIANCE REPORT

MOTION

Moved: Cr Holt Seconded: Cr Brooke

That Council receives and notes the Planning and Local Laws Compliance Report.

Carried

10.3 CONTRACT NO 227 – PAVEMENT REHABILITATION ON DINGEE ROCHESTER ROAD BETWEEN CH6600 AND CH8865 METRES & ASSOCIATED DRAINAGE WORKS

MOTION

Moved: Cr Beattie

Seconded: Cr Brownbill

That Council award Contract No 227 – Pavement Rehabilitation on Dingee Rochester Road & Associated Drainage Works to RE Civil Pty Ltd for the sum of \$553,164.00.

Carried

10.4 CONTRACT NO 235 – RECONSTRUCTION OF OLD BOORT ROAD EAST FROM CH6076M TO CH7346M & ASSOCIATED DRAINAGE WORKS

MOTION

Moved: Cr Beattie

Seconded: Cr Brooke

That Council award Contract No 235 – Reconstruction of Old Boort Road East & Associated Drainage Works to Bitu-mill (Vic) Pty Ltd for the sum of \$293,380.00.

Carried

10.5 CONTRACT NUMBER 228 - NEWBRIDGE SPORTS PAVILION CONSTRUCTION

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brownbill

Seconded: Cr Brooke

That Council endorse the action of the CEO in awarding the tender for the construction of the Newbridge Recreation Reserve Pavilion to Gerard K House Pty Ltd for the Contract sum of \$1,817,767.63 (GST exclusive).

Carried

10.6 DINGEE BUSH NURSING HOSPITAL AMBULANCE ACCESS AND CAR PARK

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brownbill

Seconded: Cr Beattie

That Council:

1. Receive and note the report outlining current legal issues associated with delivery of the Dingee Bush Nursing hospital access and car park project.

2. Approve, if required, further legal action in respect of establishing Council's rights over the land immediately adjacent to the southern boundary of the Bush Nursing Hospital land, as being a public road for the purposes of the Local Government Act.

Carried

10.7 REOPENING OF MEETING TO PUBLIC

MOTION

Moved: Cr Beattie

Seconded: Cr Brownbill

That the meeting be reopened to the public at 6.36pm.

Carried

11. **NEXT MEETING**

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on Monday 25 June 2012 at Serpentine commencing at 3.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 6.37pm.

Confirmed this.....day of....., 2012

.....
Cr Geoff Curnow, Mayor