

LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL

Notice of an Ordinary Meeting of the Loddon Shire Council to be held in the Council Chambers,
Serpentine on Monday 13 May 2013 at 8.30am.

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1. APOLOGIES

Nil

2. REPORTS TO COUNCIL

2.1 2013/2014 DRAFT BUDGET

SUMMARY

This report seeks Council's approval to advertise the 2013/2014 Draft Budget.

Author: James Rendell – Manager Financial Services

File No: 07/01/001

Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council, having considered the 2013/2014 Draft Budget resolves to:

1. *Advertise the Draft Budget in accordance with Section 129 of the Local Government Act 1989*
2. *Consider any submissions received in accordance with Section 223 of the Local Government Act, and formally adopt the Budget at an Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on Monday 24 June 2013 at 3:30pm in the Newbridge Hall, Newbridge.*
3. *Adopt the proportion of rates raised within the various valuation categories as follows:*

<i>Rural Production</i>	<i>70%</i>
<i>Residential, Commercial, and Other (General)</i>	<i>30%</i>
4. *Agree that the above distribution of rates raised demonstrates fairness and equity across the municipality*
5. *Implement a differential rate to be struck between categories of Rural Production and Residential, Commercial, & Other (General) as follows:*

<i>Rural Production</i>	<i>0.004283 Cents in the Dollar of Capital improved Value</i>
<i>Residential, Commercial, and Other (General)</i>	<i>0.004834 Cents in the Dollar of Capital improved Value</i>
6. *Apply a Municipal Charge of \$178 to all properties, except where an exemption has been granted for Single farm Enterprise under the Local Government Act 1989*
7. *Apply a Garbage Charge of \$201 per Residential Garbage Service (140 Litre Bin) and \$273 per Commercial Garbage Service (240 Litre Bin)*
8. *Apply a Kerbside Recycling Service Charge of \$76 per service (240 Litre Bin)*
9. *Apply GST to the applicable service charges in accordance with the relevant tax legislation.*

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council was presented with a 2013/2014 Draft Budget at a Council Forum on 23 April 2013.

BACKGROUND

The 2013/2014 Draft Budget has been prepared following discussions with Councillors and senior officers.

Council has once again used the Best Practice Guide, "Model Budget" to assist with developing the budget. An Executive Summary based on this model has been developed providing a detailed explanation of the major components of the budget.

A number of financial reports have also been developed outlining expected income and expenditure for all areas of the Council in 2013/2014, and comparing these to the projected actual results for 2012/2013.

The Draft Budget includes:

- The continuation of a strong cash position
- An increase in the Community Planning program
- Continuation of Council's Rating Strategy adopted in the 2008/2009 Budget
- Inclusion of projects and initiatives included in Council's various strategic plans
- Ongoing commitment to the federally funded Roads to Recovery Program
- Inclusion of works funded under the state government Local Roads Funding Program of \$1 million
- No new borrowings.

Council's rating strategy for 2013/2014 includes an increase of 5.5% on the 2012/2013 budgeted rate income and an increase in garbage and kerbside recycling charges of 7%.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Under Section 223 of the Local Government Act Council must allow a 28 day timeframe for submissions to be made regarding the 2013/2014 Draft Budget.

The Draft Budget will be advertised in the Loddon Times and Bendigo Advertiser on Wednesday 15 May 2013, and will be on public display until Wednesday 12 June 2013.

Council will receive submissions until close of business on Wednesday 12 June 2013.

It is proposed that Council consider the Draft Budget and any submissions received at an Ordinary Council Meeting to be held on Monday 24 June 2013 at 3:30pm in the Newbridge Hall, Newbridge.

COSTS/BENEFITS

The benefit to Council and the community is that a consultative budget process complies with the Local Government Act 1989 and provides a measure for accurate financial reporting.

RISK ANALYSIS

The risk to Council of not discussing and then advertising the annual budget is that it will not comply with requirements under the Local Government Act 1989.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The Local Government Act 1989 requires that the Draft Budget be available for public comment for a period of 28 days after Council advertisement. After the lapsing of 28 days all submissions received must be provided to Council when deliberating on adoption of the 2013/2014 Budget.

2.2 DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN

SUMMARY

The draft Council Plan is presented, seeking Council's resolution to advertise it for public comment.

Author: John McLinden, Chief Executive Officer

File No: 02/02/003

Attachment: Draft Council Plan 2013-2017

RECOMMENDATION

That the Loddon Shire Council Plan 2013- 2017 (as attached) is placed on public exhibition and that advertisements are placed in local papers inviting submissions on this plan pursuant to section 223 of the Local Government Act until Wednesday 12 June 2013.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Development of the draft Council Plan has been discussed at previous Council Forums in 2013.

BACKGROUND

Council has now met on two occasions and provided instruction to council officers and consultants for the preparation of a council plan to guide, at a high level, the activities of this municipality over the next four years. This plan has been prepared in accordance with section 125 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The plan provides seven strategic platforms which point to the key issues facing this municipality. The strategic platforms are:

- build a network of strong communities
- grow our population through appropriate development
- champion our agrifood enterprises
- make our towns liveable and memorable
- grow and diversify our economy
- support our transitioning townships
- connect with the next generation

It is suggested that by investing heavily in each of these platforms, Council will achieve its community vision of strong communities proud of their individual identities.

Council sees its role being one of delivering services that enhance the sustainability and liveability of our communities, and again by focusing Council resources on the seven strategic platforms above and detailed in the attached Council plan, Council believes that it will achieve this vision for its community.

The attached plan is now recommended to Council for exhibition.

COSTS/BENEFITS

The actions arising from the Council Plan will be considered in the appropriate budget cycle.

RISK ANALYSIS

There are compliance risks involved if Council fails to develop the Council Plan in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

There is a risk that if Council does not plan properly, and within the context of investing Council's limited resources, the effectiveness of the services provided to the community by Council will be reduced.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Section 125 of the *Local Government Act 1989* requires that Council place on exhibition its draft Council Plan and provide our community with the opportunity to have input into and provide feedback on the draft Council Plan.