

LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL

Notice of an Ordinary Meeting of the Loddon Shire Council to be held in the Council Chambers,
Serpentine on Monday 25 November 2013 at 3.30pm.

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1. APOLOGIES

Nil

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

2.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

SUMMARY

Seeking approval of the unconfirmed minutes of the previous Council Forum and Meetings.

Author: John McLinden - Chief Executive Officer

File No: 02/01/001

Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council confirm:

1. *the minutes of the Council Forum of 28 October 2013*
2. *the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 28 October 2013*
3. *the minutes of the Special Council Meeting of 28 October 2013*

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 Council receive and note the Action Sheet.

3. **INWARDS CORRESPONDENCE**

SUMMARY

Relevant correspondence received by Council since previous meeting.

Author: John McLinden - Chief Executive Officer

Council Plan ref: Strategic enabler: Transparent communication

File No: various

Attachment: Copies of inwards correspondence

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Inwards Correspondence.

Date	From	Subject
28/10/13	Worksafe Victoria	Fireworks Displays

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 Council receive and note the Mayoral Report.

4.2 COUNCILLORS' REPORT

SUMMARY

Approval of Councillors' Reports.

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

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Councillors' Report.

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
Council Plan ref:	Core business 8: Compliance
File No:	02/01/001
Attachment:	Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. receive and note the 'Document for Signing and Sealing' report*
- 2. endorse the use of the seal on the documents listed*

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Nil

BACKGROUND

N/A

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Contract 295 Quarrying and Production of 20mm Crushed Rock between Loddon Shire Council and Allstone Quarries

Contract 302 Cleaning Services – Wedderburn Office and Wedderburn Depot, between Loddon Shire Council and TJS Services

Contract 301 Cleaning Services – Serpentine Office, Serpentine, between Loddon Shire Council and TJS Services

Contract 287 Management and Operation of Loddon Shire Public Swimming Pools, between Loddon Shire Council and Unified Community Sports and Leisure

5.2 CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

SUMMARY

Report advising that Council will be reimbursed for its contribution to the 2013 ALGA referendum campaign.

Author	John McLinden, Chief Executive Officer
Council Plan ref:	Core business 10: Advocacy and partnerships
File no:	17/02/003
Attachment:	Letters from the Australian Local Government Association and the Municipal Association of Victoria

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the report on constitutional recognition of local government.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council has had various discussions about the campaign for the referendum on Constitutional Recognition of Local Government, between March and July 2013.

BACKGROUND

The timing of the 2013 federal election meant that it was not possible to proceed with a referendum on the constitutional recognition of local government. Council will recall that Loddon Shire contributed to a national fund to support the “yes” case for the constitutional recognition of local government. Council contributed the amount of \$6,724.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Although the referendum did not proceed, the Australian Local Government Association had engaged a consulting firm to assist with the development of a campaign and had undertaken significant expenditure. The Australian Local Government Association has returned the unspent portion of funds to the state authorities and in turn, the Municipal Association of Victoria has passed on those funds to each of the contributing municipalities. Council has at this time received 47.7% of its funds back.

The Honourable Warren Truss has recently advised the Australian Local Government Association that funds held by the Association provided by the federal government for the referendum campaign can be used to fully reimburse local government’s contribution towards the “yes” campaign. This means that the Loddon Shire will not be out of pocket as a result of its decision to contribute to the “yes” campaign for the recognition of local government referendum.

COSTS/BENEFITS

Nil.

RISK ANALYSIS

Nil.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Nil.

5.3 ANNUAL LEAVE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

SUMMARY

Report requests annual leave for the Chief Executive Officer.

Author	John McLinden, Chief Executive Officer
Council Plan ref:	Core business 8: Compliance
File no:	02/04/001
Attachment:	Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. *grant the Chief Executive Officer annual leave from Monday 13 January 2014 to Friday 24 January 2014 inclusive.*
2. *appoint Mr Ian McLauchlan, Director Operations, as Acting CEO for the period*

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Nil

BACKGROUND

Nil

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The Chief Executive Officer wishes to apply for annual leave to be taken from Monday 13 January 2014 to Friday 24 January 2014 inclusive.

It is proposed that Mr Ian McLauchlan, Director Operations, be appointed as Acting Chief Executive Officer during the Chief Executive Officer's absence.

COSTS/BENEFITS

Nil

RISK ANALYSIS

Nil

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Nil

5.4 COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE 2014

SUMMARY

Report seeking further consideration of the 2014 Council meeting schedule.

Author	John McLinden, Chief Executive Officer
Council Plan ref:	Core business 8: Compliance
File no:	02/04/001
Attachment:	Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council reconsider the Council meeting schedule for 2013/14.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

October 2013.

BACKGROUND

Council, at its October meeting, discussed the schedule of Council meetings for 2014 and debated a proposal to change the meeting days. Whilst Council resolved to retain the status quo (holding meetings on the fourth Monday of each month), discussions continued immediately after the Council meeting on ways to improve the effectiveness of Council meetings.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The Chief Executive Officer has canvassed all councillors seeking to understand which arrangements best suit each councillor. There was consensus that meetings should be held on Mondays or Tuesdays if possible, Wednesdays if necessary, but not Thursdays or Fridays. There is strong support for meetings to be held on Tuesdays, but not all councillors can commit to the second, third or fourth Tuesdays of the month. This leaves the first Tuesday of the month or the fourth Monday of the month as the two most viable options.

If Council moves to the first Tuesday of the month, it is suggested that no meeting be held in January as it is likely there will be little business to transact due to the Christmas/New Year shutdown. This option has the disadvantage of Council conducting only eleven ordinary meetings per year.

Regardless of which option Council chooses, it is suggested that the Chief Executive Officer should develop an improved Council meeting structure which more precisely defines the purpose of the Council forum meetings held immediately prior to the Council meetings, and the CEO should consider developing a series of briefing meetings.

COSTS/BENEFITS

Nil

RISK ANALYSIS

Nil

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

All councillors have been consulted.

6. DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES' REPORTS

6.1 FINANCE REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 OCTOBER 2013

SUMMARY

This report provides Council with financial information for the period ending 31 October 2013.

Author:	James Rendell - Manager Financial Services
Council Plan ref:	Strategic Enabler: Sound financial management protocols
File no:	8/06/001
Attachment:	6.1

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. *Receives and notes the "Finance Report for the period ending 31 October 2013"*
2. *Approves budget revisions included in the report for internal reporting purposes only.*

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council is provided with Finance Reports on a monthly basis.

BACKGROUND

The Finance Report for the period ended 31 October 2013 includes standard monthly information about budget variations, cash, investments, interest, debtors and creditors, and provides a comparison of year-to-date actual results to year-to-date budget (by dollars and percentage) and total budget (by percentage).

The information is in the format provided in the 2013/14 Budget, and includes operating results, capital expenditure and funding sources. It also provides a focus report.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Nil

COSTS/BENEFITS

The benefit to Council and the community is that accurate and regular financial reporting is being disclosed.

Provision of financial reports on at least a quarterly basis is a requirement of the Local Government Act.

RISK ANALYSIS

The provision of regular and accurate finance reports to Council minimises the risk of Council not delivering projects within the approved budget.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

There has been considerable consultation internally with respective managers in understanding their budget responsibilities and keeping within budgetary constraints.

External engagement with the community was undertaken during the submission period of the budget, and regular reporting provides a mechanism of monitoring the financial outcomes of Council against that expectation.

6.2 SUPPLEMENTARY VALUATIONS

SUMMARY

This report provides Council with supplementary valuations that have been undertaken since August 2013, and seeks approval to have them included in Council's rate book for the 2013/14 rating year.

Author	Julie Ritchie, Revenue Collector
Council Plan ref:	Strategic enabler: Sound financial management protocols
File no:	08/06/001
Attachment:	Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approves the Supplementary Valuations of rateable and non-rateable properties in respect of the 2013/14 financial year, as returned by the Shire Valuer, LG Valuations Pty Ltd, and endorses them being incorporated into the Register of Rateable and Non Rateable Properties and Rate Book for 2013/14.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council is provided with Supplementary Valuation Reports periodically.

BACKGROUND

Each year Council makes a number of additions, subtractions and alterations to the valuations contained in the annual rate book. These changes arise from various sources including:

- Splitting of parcels into new rateable assessments
- Development of vacant or unproductive land (urban and rural)
- Consolidation of separate rateable assessments into one assessment
- Re-assessment of property valuations arising from objections to the initial valuation
- Additions and cancellations of Licences (Grazing and Water Frontages)
- Change of use
- Covenant on Title
- Area amendment
- Change of Australian Valuation Property Classification Code (AVPCC)
- Supplementary Valuation Correction.

The following table shows the number and type of changes to properties since August 2013 as a result of 28 Supplementary Valuations being processed:

Details	No	Site Value	CIV	NAV
Splits/Consolidations	19	(\$77,200)	(\$78,700)	(\$3,935)
Supplementary Valuation Correction	1	(\$5,000)	(\$84,000)	(\$4,200)
Improvements – Urban	4	0	\$5,267,000	\$510,850
Improvements - Rural	1	0	\$21,000	\$1,050
Change of AVPCC	3	0	0	0
Total	28	(\$82,200)	\$5,125,300	\$503,765

This table shows the change of valuations in total:

Valuation Type	Valuation Approved by Council at Ordinary Meeting held in August 2013	Supplementary Valuations	Current Valuation
Site Value	\$992,569,500	(\$82,200)	\$992,487,300
Capital Improved Value	\$1,603,773,500	\$5,125,300	\$1,608,898,800
NAV	\$82,208,156	\$503,765	\$82,711,921

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Earlier in the year a property was sent for a supplementary valuation after a licence was issued for an unused road. The valuation was returned with an increase of \$84,000 in the Capital Improved Valuation when in fact the valuation should not have been altered – just the licence noted. The error was identified and corrected.

The dramatic increase in the urban improvements is mainly due to the construction of a new mill in Bridgewater.

COSTS/BENEFITS

The benefit to Council is that an accurate representation of property valuations is reflected in Council's rating system and the distribution of rate notices for the year 2013/2014.

RISK ANALYSIS

Council's risk exposure is increased if the rating system does not reflect the valuation changes associated with supplementary valuations as Council will not be aware of the changes, which can alter the rate revenue in the current year and in future rating years.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Consultation with ratepayers and authorities that act on behalf of ratepayers occurs when a change to a property is required or occurs by virtue of a sale.

6.3 SECTION 86 COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT MEMBERSHIP DETAILS – EAST LODDON COMMUNITY CENTRE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

SUMMARY

This report seeks Council's approval of membership of the East Loddon Community Centre Committee of Management.

Author:	Jude Holt – Director Corporate Services
Council Plan ref:	Strategic Platform 1: Build a network of strong communities
File no:	02/01/019
Attachment:	Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council appoints the names provided in this report as members of the East Loddon Community Centre Section 86 committees of management, effective immediately, for the 2013/2014 reporting cycle.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Over the past year Council has approved committee membership of all Section 86 committees of management.

BACKGROUND

Council has also approved amended Instruments of Delegation for Section 86 committees of management. Included in the amended delegations is Clause 3.6 which outlines the requirement for nomination and appointment of committee members, which is as follows:

Members and Office Bearers of the Committee

At the Annual General Meeting each year nominations shall be called for proposed members of the committee. The committee must then elect from its proposed members the following office bearers:

- *President, who shall be Chairperson of the Committee*
- *Secretary*
- *Treasurer.*

The full list of proposed members must be forwarded to Council for formal appointment at an Ordinary Meeting of Council, in accordance with section 86(2). Until this formal appointment by Council occurs, the previous committee members will continue to hold office.

As contact has been made with committees, a form has been issued to them asking them to provide their current committee members' names and contact details.

Where delegations have organisation representatives (not community representatives), the names and details of the groups being represented are provided in the list.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Clause 3.3 Membership of the committee outlines Council's preferred composition of the committee specific to each delegation, and states that Council seeks to provide broad representation to the committees.

For community based committees, that is at least 6 community representatives.

For organisation based committees, each delegation has a list of organisations that are required to provide representatives for the committee.

East Loddon Community Centre is a community based committees with representation of at least 6 community representatives. The following is a list of nominated representatives for the committee, which exceeds the minimum requirement:

Name	Position
Geoff Thomas	President
Mark Phelan	Vice President
Leanne Welsh	Secretary
Pam Plant	Treasurer
Julie Beck	Committee member
Margaret Smith	Committee member
Faye Seppings	Committee member
June Dorman	Committee member
Rebecca Hodge	Committee member

COSTS/BENEFITS

The benefit of this project is that Council has an up to date and accurate record of current committee members to ensure that contact can be made, particularly where Council is requesting committees to comply with reporting requirements under the legislation.

RISK ANALYSIS

Section 86 Committees act for and on behalf of Council which creates a risk for Council should they ever act outside their delegated authority.

Under Section 86(2) of the Act, "Council may appoint members to a special committee and may at any time remove a member from a special committee".

Council's appointment of committee members, not only satisfies the legislation, but also provides Council with the opportunity to sight the list of committee members before formally appointing them as they are the people that will be operating the committees, and in effect, acting for and on behalf of Council over the course of the year.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Council has been advising committees in writing of the requirement to provide the list of committee members nominated at their Annual General Meeting, which requires Council approval.

7. DIRECTOR OPERATIONS' REPORTS

7.1 PLANNING APPLICATIONS CURRENTLY BEING PROCESSED

SUMMARY

Provides Council with an update on Planning applications currently under consideration and a register of planning permits issued between 16-10-2013 and 11-11-2013.

Author: Amy Lanfranchi – Planning Officer

Council Plan ref: Strategic platform 2 - Grow our population through appropriate development

File no: 02/01/001

Attachment: 7.1(a) List of Active Planning Applications, 7.1(b) List of Applications Approved under Delegation

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the 'Planning Applications Currently Being Processed' report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council is provided with a monthly report identifying the status of planning applications currently under consideration or those permits which have been issued within the preceding month.

BACKGROUND

The Loddon Shires Planning Scheme sets out Councils objectives with regard to land use and development via the Municipal Strategic Statement and Local Policies, and specifies which uses and developments require planning approval via zones and overlays.

As the Responsible Authority it is Loddon Shire Councils duty to administer and enforce its planning scheme.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Attachments 7.1(a) and 7.1(b) provides Council with a full list of planning applications currently under consideration and those planning permits issued between 16-10-2013 and 11-11-2013.

COSTS/BENEFITS

Encouragement of appropriate development within the Shire is considered to offer a variety of benefits including population growth, economic diversity and development, infrastructure improvement or increased community and private services.

RISK ANALYSIS

Failure to process planning applications in a timely manner or undertake rigorous assessment of development or works proposals is considered to pose the following risks:

- Barrier to development and associated economic growth within the Shire
- Proliferation of incompatible land use development
- Council's reputation as a regulatory authority
- Infrastructure, service provision or regulatory and enforcement pressures
- Protection of zones to accommodate intended activities or reduction of surrounding property amenity

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Consultation and engagement with planning permit applicants is routinely conducted at the required periods throughout the assessment and permit approval process.

7.2 FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF WEDDERBURN SES UNIT

SUMMARY

Report provides Council with a number of recommendations regarding future financial support provided to the local Wedderburn SES unit following receipt of MAV advice and the SES request for matched funding under the Municipal Emergency Service Unit Subsidy agreement.

Author	Ian McLauchlan, Director Operations
Council Plan ref:	Core business 10: Advocacy and partnerships
File no:	13/01/003
Attachment:	MAV Position Paper – November 2011 VICSES request for Council contribution to Municipal Emergency Service Unit Subsidy

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. *Continue to support the Wedderburn SES through provision of a direct financial payment, capped in the amount of \$2,500 annually.*
2. *Continue to provide the local SES unit with access to an operations site within the Nardoo Court Industrial estate at no cost, including payment of associated building insurance, rates and fire services levy.*
3. *Respond to the SES request for matched funding in line with the above resolution.*

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council has not previously discussed this matter.

BACKGROUND

The Victorian State Emergency Service (VICSES) was formally established as a general emergency management agency in 1981 in conjunction with the passage of the Victoria State Emergency Service Act. On 1 November 2005, VICSES was made a statutory authority by the Victoria State Emergency Service Act 2005 (the Act). Throughout Victoria there are more than 5500 VICSES volunteers based at 150 municipal VICSES units.

In 1989 an agreement was struck between the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV), VICSES and Victorian Government which provided that local councils would match state government contributions. This agreement was called the Municipal Emergency Services Unit Subsidy.

With the recognition of the VICSES as a statutory authority the MAV have subsequently been advising councils that they are no longer obliged to honour this agreement and that funding of SES units should now be the responsibility of the state government, similar to arrangements provided for the CFA and Ambulance Victoria.

Many councils continue to provide support to their local SES units in various forms whilst others have embraced the MAV advice and are either in the process of phasing out, or have ceased all, financial support to the SES. As such the degree and nature of support offered by municipalities across Victoria to local VICSES units varies significantly.

It is widely believed that local government's relationship with VICSES should be the same as it is with other stand-alone agencies, such as the CFA and Ambulance Victoria, with local government not relied upon to fund local units beyond voluntarily providing grants and donations as it does to other local community service organisations. It is also agreed however that as yet state government funding for the SES has not been increased to the level which would enable this to occur, without detrimentally

impacting upon the agency’s ability to meet increasing pressures and demands for services across the State.

Council recently received correspondence from the VICSES requesting that matching funding in the amount of \$12,853, be provided under the Municipal Emergency Service Unit Subsidy 2013-2014 (see attached correspondence).

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The attached MAV position paper identifies numerous issues associated with the ongoing funding of the VICSES and the important role which this agency, its staff and volunteers play within the context of emergency management within Victoria.

Whilst it is agreed that funding of VICSES should be the sole responsibility of the state government, further work is required in relation to securing these arrangements. It was hoped that the Victorian Governments Emergency Management Reform White paper released in December 2012 would have addressed the issue of funding for VICSES and the relationship with councils. This however was not the case and the MAV continue to lobby on behalf of municipalities for reform in this area.

Loddon Shire has historically provided financial support to the operation of the Wedderburn SES through the combination of both a direct cash payment and free access to an operational depot located within the Nardoo Court industrial precinct.

Table 1 below identifies the cash payments which Council have made to the Wedderburn SES unit over the past 6 years as well as the associated grant provided by VICSES under the Municipal Emergency Service Unit Subsidy.

Table 1: Municipal Emergency Service Unit Subsidy Payments to Wedderburn SES

Year	VICSES Grant Amount (\$)	Loddon Shire Co-Payment Amount (\$)
2008-09	5390	5390
2009-10	11674	5764
2010-11	11936	6956
2011-12	12234	7253
2012-13	12539	7253
2013-14	12853	7924

As seen above, Council’s financial contribution in terms of cash payments has for some time been below the grant amount provided by the VICSES. Council have however provided further financial support to the Wedderburn SES unit in the form of access to a dedicated operations site within the Nardoo Court Industrial estate at no cost. An estimate of the value of this support for 2013-2014 is provided below.

Property Location	Capital Improved Value	Rates & Charges	Annual Insurance Cost	Estimated Commercial Annual Rental Income	Estimated Total Annual Support Value
2 Nardoo Court, Wedderburn	\$184,000	\$1,288	\$395	\$8,400	\$10,083

The combination of the two support elements identified above, result in approximately \$18,000 in support being provided to the Wedderburn SES unit. As such it is considered appropriate that future cash payments be reduced to \$2,500, bringing the level of support provided by Council in line with the VICSES grant.

Further, it is being proposed that this cash contribution be capped at the above amount annually as it is believed that the provision of access to the operational depot at no cost and the associated exemption from cost increases such as rental, rates and charges adequately accounts for any CPI adjustment.

In the event of further funding reform by the state government, it is envisaged that the above support arrangements for the local SES will be reviewed with subsequent recommendations being made to Council as to an appropriate level of continuing support for this emergency management agency.

COSTS/BENEFITS

The average annual cost to Council over the past 5 years in supporting the local Wedderburn SES unit has been approximately \$15,230. Historically the cash payment made to the local SES unit has been indexed annually. As such unless Council's contribution to the SES is capped, these costs shall continue to increase.

Opportunity and auxiliary operational costs are also incurred by Council in support of the local SES through the provision of access to, and associated insurance of, a designated operational depot facility in the Nardoo Court industrial precinct.

Maintaining a SES presence within Loddon Shire is however considered to offer benefit to the local and wider Loddon community in terms of:

- Potential improvement in response times to emergency events or accidents
- Opportunity to maintain and capitalise on volunteers local knowledge
- Provision and access to important emergency response capabilities and equipment
- Representation of a key emergency management agency within the Shire.

RISK ANALYSIS

The VICSES plays a crucial role in the response to emergency events or incidents across the State. The vast majority of SES staff are volunteers, and as such local branches more often than not are run by local community members.

In the event that the local Wedderburn SES unit is unable to secure adequate funding for facilities, equipment and training, it is possible that the capacity of volunteers to respond in emergency situations will be reduced. This risk predominantly vets with the state government and VICSES, however also has consequences for the wider Loddon Community.

Council maintains an element of risk in the provision of free access to an operational depot within the Nardoo Court industrial precinct. Primarily this risk relates to the requirement to maintain infrastructure on this site in an appropriate condition. It is highly likely that in the event that major capital renewal works upon the SES operations depot become necessary, Council shall be called upon as the landlord to undertake the necessary repairs/improvements.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Council have previously received written advice from the MAV regarding the historical cost sharing agreement with the SES inclusive of advice that Council is no longer obligated to provide such payments. As such any decision to financially support local branches of the SES rests with individual Councils.

Each year the SES writes to Council requesting that the funding contributions being provided to local units is matched. A number of Councils within Victoria are progressively reducing the amount of funding provided to local SES units with the aim of ceasing any financial assistance in line with the MAV Advice. As such VICSES is aware that no guarantee of municipal funding is provided.

7.3 ROAD NETWORK DEFECT RECTIFICATION COMPLIANCE SUMMARY REPORT

SUMMARY

Provides a summary of Loddon Shire's compliance against its Road Management Plan for the period 1 July 2013 to 30 September 2013, being the First Quarter of the 2013 - 2014 Financial Year.

Author	Steven Phillips, Manager Works
Council Plan ref:	Core business 5: Providing quality infrastructure
File no:	14/01/022
Attachment:	Nil

RECOMMENDATION

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

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

This is the first report for 2013 - 2014 financial year presented to Council summarising road network defect rectification compliance against requirements specified within the Loddon Shire Road Management Plan.

BACKGROUND

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

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

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

Date Imposed Works Action - Compliance Summary Report

Date Range: 01/07/2013 to 30/09/2013

Number of Works Actions	Number Completed By Due Date	Number Completed After Due Date	Number Not Completed	Compliance %	District
12	11	1	0	91.7%	Boort
12	11	1	0	91.7%	Newbridge
42	38	4	0	90.5%	Pyramid Hill
28	28	0	0	100.0%	Wedderburn

DEFINITIONS

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

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

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

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

Compliance % - Column B Divided by Column A

District - Grouped By The AssetAsyst District

During the 1st Quarter of 2013 - 2014, 93.4 % of all date imposed defects were completed before there due date. This is below the target of 100 % of date imposed defects repaired by due date. It is noted however that all defects have now been completed and there are no outstanding date imposed defects.

Achieving the target of 100 % of date imposed defects repaired by due date was made difficult due to high levels of staff turnover and wet weather during the first quarter of 2013 - 2014.

COSTS/BENEFITS

The benefits to the community in complying with the Road Management Plan are that it ensures a safe road network.

RISK ANALYSIS

Repairing 100 % of all date imposed defects before there due date limits Councils liability for any claims of damage made against Council. There have been no claims for damages against Loddon Shire as a result of a known defect this quarter.

The necessary steps to replace staff vacancies have been acted on and are currently underway. This has however been protracted due to the number of internal staff that have been successful in filling the vacant positions.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

No internal or external consultation is required in the formation of this report.

8. DIRECTOR ECONOMY AND COMMUNITY REPORTS

8.1 BENDIGO REGIONAL TOURISM

SUMMARY

A progress report on Bendigo Regional Tourism since the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on 21 September 2012

Author:	Robyn Vella Manager of Tourism
Council Plan ref:	Strategic platform 5 Grow and Diversify our Economy
File no:	16/07/003
Attachment:	Bendigo Regional Tourism Action Plan 2012/2013

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Bendigo Regional Tourism progress report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Nil

BACKGROUND

The Goldfields Region has been restructured resulting in the creation of two Goldfields region committees; Bendigo Regional Tourism and Ballarat Regional Tourism, including the creation of an administration and co-ordination body, the Goldfields Tourism Alliance.

Main benefits of the new structure include:

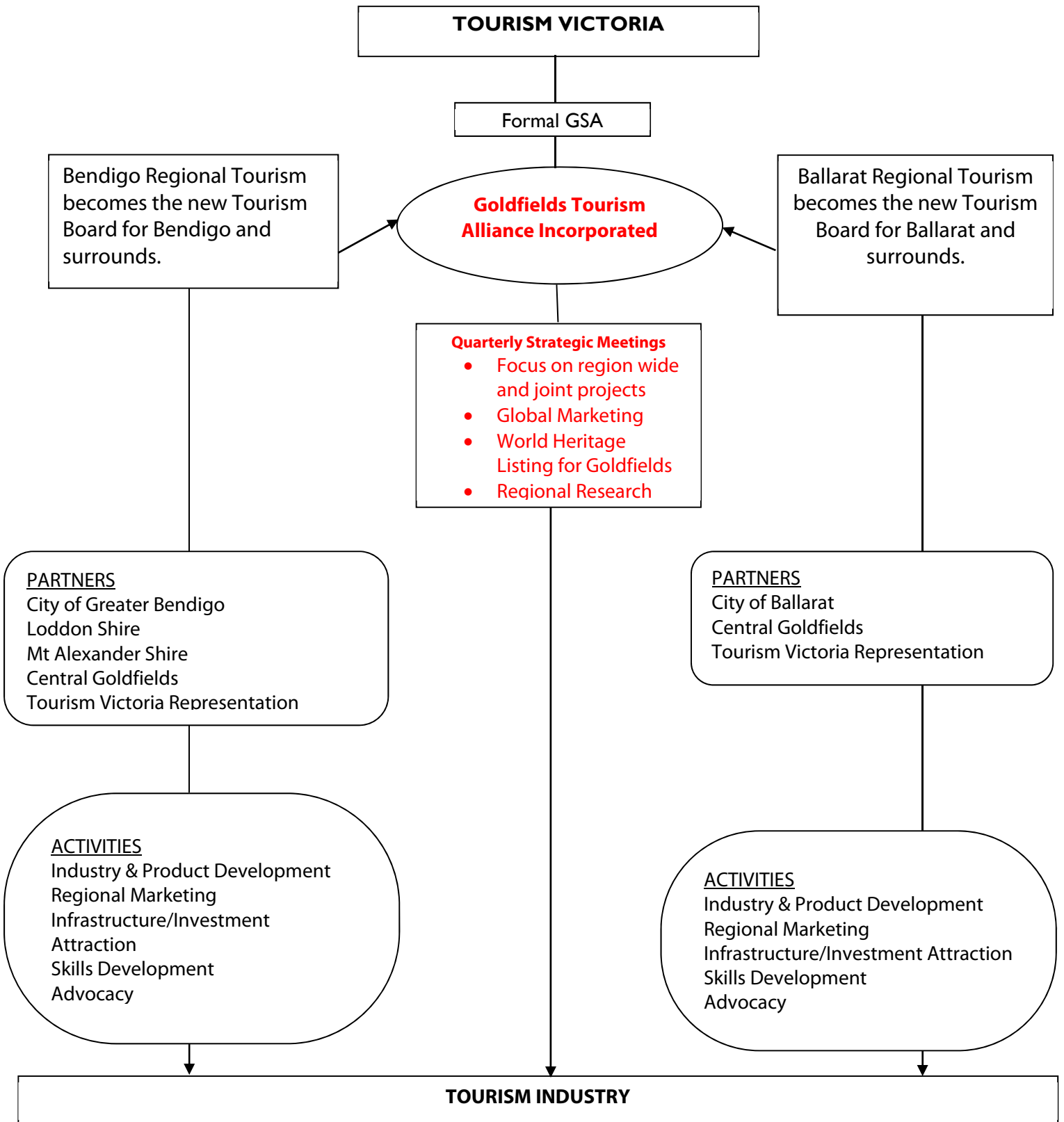
- Allows a level of autonomy for the two Tourism Boards.
- Recognises how the region is currently managed and operates along two separate corridors (Western and Calder Highways).
- Eliminates any duplication of resources.
- Provides a structure that allows access to funding from a range of Government Departments (Federal and State).
- Brings the Regional Tourism structure in line with how each region operates from an economic development perspective.
- Allows each region to fully develop its tourism industry.

A Memorandum of Understanding for Bendigo Regional Tourism was signed between City of Greater Bendigo, Mount Alexander, Central Goldfields and Loddon Shire Councils.

The purpose of Bendigo Regional Tourism is to provide leadership and support to the regional tourism industry.

The new Goldfields region structure comprises:

THE GOLDFIELDS STRUCTURE



Goldfields Tourism Alliance is an incorporated body that Tourism Victoria allocates funds for the Bendigo and Ballarat Regional Tourism Boards. Goldfields Tourism Alliance allocates funding to regional wide

projects based on an annual plan determined by the Goldfields Tourism Alliance and approved by Tourism Victoria.

Funding for Goldfields region wide projects would be administered by the Goldfields Tourism Alliance.

The Goldfields Tourism Alliance membership is as follows:

- 2 nominees from Ballarat Tourism
- 2 nominees from Bendigo Tourism
- 1 nominee jointly nominated by Bendigo, Ballarat and Tourism Victoria (Chair)
- 1 Tourism Victoria Senior Manager
- 1 Parks Victoria nominee

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The decisions around the new structure lead to the delay in the development and delivery of the Bendigo Regional Tourism Action Plan 2012/13. This action plan had to be developed by Bendigo Regional Tourism with final approval from Goldfields Tourism Alliance and Tourism Victoria before funding of \$190,000 was allocated. **A copy of the Bendigo Regional Tourism Action Plan 2012/13 is attached.**

The activities in the 2012/2013 Action Plan are to develop a Destination Plan, employ an experienced person for administration, provide industry development, support events, obtain video showcasing the region, support the Victorian Cultural guide and develop a Food and Wine app.

A Regional Tourism Development Officer has been employed on a 12 months contract and Lauren Mitchell will assist Bendigo Regional Tourism in delivering the 2012/2013 Bendigo Regional Tourism Action Plan. The position is based at the City of Greater Bendigo offices with coordinated days out into Loddon, Mount Alexander and Central Goldfields Council regions.

Currently Bendigo Regional Tourism is working on the creation of a Food and Wine smartphone app which will feature the latest technology to actively promote food and wine experiences across Central Victoria.

The smartphone app will contain

- Operator listings, stories and images
- Food and wine-themed touring itineraries
- Video footage telling the stories of local producers, the heritage, micro climate and landscape of the region
- Links to Google maps and operator websites
- Details of Farmer's Markets and events
- Details of cafes and restaurants using local produce

Delegates from Bendigo Regional Tourism are negotiating with Regional Development Victoria to provide funding for the development of a Bendigo Regional Tourism Destination Plan.

Bendigo Regional Tourism is designing a major event application to assist events that have potential in growth and increase visitor yield to the region.

Bendigo Regional Tourism is working with Dja Dja Wurrung and Bendigo Coach lines to establish Tanderrum Tours (indigenous culture tours) within our region. An application has been submitted to Regional Development Victoria Putting Locals First to obtain funding for a Business Plan, Feasibility Study and Market Research.

Bendigo Regional Tourism is working through the process to develop the 2013/2014 Bendigo Regional Tourism Action Plan for approval by Goldfields Tourism Alliance and Tourism Victoria for their 2013/2014 allocation of funding.

COSTS/BENEFITS

Currently the cost for Loddon Shire to be part of Bendigo Regional Tourism is \$8,000. This enables us to have 2 representatives on the committee (Manager Tourism, Director Economy and Community), and to directly contribute to regional tourism which in turn will benefit Loddon operators and assist in growing our local economy.

RISK ANALYSIS

The risk for Loddon Shire not contributing to Bendigo Regional Tourism is Moderate but to attract more visitors to our region and to further strengthen the tourism sector across Regional Victoria it is vital to strengthen partnerships with neighbouring Councils that has the rich gold history experiences.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The restructure of Goldfields and the signing of the Bendigo Regional Tourism Memorandum of Understanding attracted Regional publicity. Recently Bendigo Tourism businesses and volunteers participated in a familiarisation tour around Loddon Shire. Loddon Shire Tourism Manager spoke about the opportunities that Bendigo Regional Tourism will provide across the four Councils.

Loddon Shire Tourism Department is working with local producers who have a cedar door and farm gate to join the Bendigo Regional Tourism Food and Wine App

9. DIRECTOR COMMUNITY WELLBEING REPORTS

9.1 AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS CENTENARY 2014

SUMMARY

This report is to inform Council of the upcoming Australian Red Cross Centenary in 2014 and provide information on the opportunity to acknowledge the event.

Author:	Wendy Gladman, Director Community Wellbeing
Council Plan ref:	Strategic Platform 1: Build a network of strong communities
File no:	02/02/002
Attachment:	Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council acknowledge the Australian Red Cross Centenary 2014 by creating a Red Cross rose garden at Serpentine and invite local past and present Red Cross members to attend the official opening.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Nil

BACKGROUND

The Australian Red Cross has played an important role in local communities throughout Australia and in 2014 will celebrate its Centenary year. The Australian Branch of the British Red Cross Society formed in 1914 on the outbreak of the First World War.

Australian Red Cross has invited Council to use this opportunity to celebrate Red Cross contribution to our local communities by hosting an event or supporting an activity in 2014.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The Australian Red Cross is currently represented in Loddon by the Serpentine and District Red Cross Group. Other groups have operated throughout the municipality, but unfortunately have gone into recess.

Australian Red Cross has provided a number of activities that Council may wish to undertake to celebrate the centenary, including:

- sponsoring Red Cross Centenary street banners to be displayed in main streets
- planting Red Cross themed floral displays or the Red Cross rose in local gardens – perhaps ten roses to represent each decade of Red Cross Australia
- hosting an event to thank local Red Cross members and volunteers for their contribution to the community and help foster the new generation of humanitarians
- fly the Red Cross flag at Council offices throughout the year
- support local members in creating a Red Cross time capsule to bury in a local garden
- encourage members of the community to share their Red Cross stories though the Red Cross website from August 2013
- encourage local libraries to work with local members to create a Red Cross history display in the library

Of these options, the Serpentine Red Cross Group has indicated that local recognition could include:

- planting a Red Cross garden bed at Serpentine which will include ten roses to represent each decade of Red Cross Australia operations
- hosting local Red Cross members (past and present) to officially open the garden

COSTS/BENEFITS

There is no current budget to support this recommendation.

Estimated costs:

Garden Bed construction, planting and finishing (including installation of plaque)	\$1,500.00
Official Opening Function	\$ 400.00
Total Budget required	\$1,900.00

RISK ANALYSIS

This event provides council with the opportunity to acknowledge the contribution local Red Cross volunteers have made to the communities of Loddon, particularly the immediate and practical help provided during times of crisis.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Director Community Wellbeing conducted preliminary discussion with Serpentine Red Cross Group to ascertain their opinion of an appropriate local event.

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

11. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Closing of Meeting to the Public

RECOMMENDATION

That the meeting be closed to the public.

NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on 9 December at Serpentine commencing at 3.30pm.