

LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL

Notice of an Ordinary Meeting of the Loddon Shire Council to be held in the Council Chambers, Serpentine on Tuesday 26 April 2016 at 3pm.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. APOLOGIES	2
2. PREVIOUS MINUTES	2
2.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.....	2
2.2 REVIEW OF ACTION SHEET	2
3. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS	3
3.1 MAYORAL REPORT	3
3.2 COUNCILLORS' REPORT.....	3
4. DECISION REPORTS	4
4.1 SURRENDER OF PROPERTIES – BENDIGO DIOCESAN TRUST CORPORATION (ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF BENDIGO)	4
4.2 APPOINTMENT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBER	6
4.3 REVIEW OF COUNCIL PLAN 2013-2017.....	8
4.4 SEPTEMBER COUNCIL MEETING DATE	10
4.5 IMPACTS OF THE MURRAY DARLING BASIN PLAN ON THE GMID.....	12
4.6 FINANCE REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 MARCH 2016	14
4.7 FEES AND CHARGES FOR THE YEAR 1 JULY 2016 TO 30 JUNE 2017	16
4.8 EAST LODDON COMMUNITY CENTRE SECTION 86 COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT (ELCCCOM) REQUEST FOR ADDITION FINANCIAL SUPPORT	18
4.9 LODDON PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C36.....	21
5. INFORMATION REPORTS	25
5.1 INWARDS CORRESPONDENCE.....	25
5.2 LIBRARY SERVICES TO SMALL TOWNS: LIBRARY AGENCIES.....	26
6. COMPLIANCE REPORTS	28
6.1 DOCUMENTS FOR SIGNING AND SEALING	28
6.2 ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCIL.....	29
7. GENERAL BUSINESS.....	31
8. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS	31

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: Marg Allan, A/ Chief Executive Officer

Council Plan ref: Core business 8: Compliance

File No: 02/01/001

Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council confirm:

1. *the minutes of the Council Briefing of 22 March 2016*
2. *the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 22 March 2016*
3. *The minutes of the Council Forum of 12 April 2016*

2.2 REVIEW OF ACTION SHEET

SUMMARY

Approval of Action Sheet.

Author: Marg Allan, A/Chief Executive Officer

Council Plan ref: Core business 8: Compliance

File No: 02/01/001

Attachment: 2.2 Action Sheet

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Action Sheet.

3. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

3.1 MAYORAL REPORT

SUMMARY

Approval of the Mayoral Report.

Author: Marg Allan, A/Chief Executive Officer

Council Plan ref: Core business 1: Leadership

File No: 02/01/001

Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Mayoral Report.

3.2 COUNCILLORS' REPORT

SUMMARY

Approval of Councillors' Reports.

Author: Marg Allan, A/Chief Executive Officer

Council Plan ref: Core business 1: Leadership

File No: 02/01/001

Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Councillors' Report.

4. DECISION REPORTS

**4.1 SURRENDER OF PROPERTIES – BENDIGO DIOCESAN TRUST CORPORATION
(ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF BENDIGO)**

SUMMARY

The Bendigo Diocesan Trust Corporation (Anglican Diocese of Bendigo) is applying to transfer four unused parcels of land into Council's ownership and requesting that Council write off the current rate debt associated with the properties of \$687.15.

Author	Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services
Council Plan ref:	Strategic enabler: Sound financial management protocols
File no:	09/04/001
Attachment:	Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. *declines the request to transfer four unused parcels of land into Council's ownership from the Bendigo Diocesan Trust Corporation*
2. *does not write off the current rate debt of \$687.15*
3. *develops a policy regarding attempts to surrender ownership by ratepayers.*

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Are there any conflicts of interest for any council staff involved in writing this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report?

No

If yes, the following details identify the conflict of interest.

Officer name	Nature of interest	Reason for conflict
Click here to enter text.	Choose an item. If indirect, the type of indirect interest is: Choose an item.	[Explain the specific circumstances of this person's conflict of interest.]

[Refer to the Staff and Contractors Code of Conduct for definitions of conflict of interest.]

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Nil.

BACKGROUND

Correspondence was received on 16 March 2016 from the Bendigo Diocesan Trust Corporation (Anglican Diocese of Bendigo) regarding the surrender of four parcels of land into Council ownership.

The reason behind the request is that the properties currently incur a Fire Service Property Levy fixed charge and variable charge which the corporation no longer wishes to be liable for.

The corporation is also requesting that the current rates debt of \$687.15 be written off.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

All of the properties are vacant parcels of land with no improvements. Three of the properties are rural pieces of land and one is located in the township of Mitiamo.

The property details are listed below:

Property Number	Address	Capital Improved Value	Land Area	Outstanding Charges as at 30 March 2016
15400500	Boort – Fernihurst Road, Fernihurst	\$1,600	0.4119	\$239.40
25104360	Glossop Street, Mitiamo	\$6,000	0.2023	\$104.85
27300200	Mitiamo – Kow Swamp Road, Terrick Terrick	\$12,000	0.1754	\$107.65
11200150	Charlton – Boort Road, Wychitella	\$2,400	0.4047	\$235.25

Council does not have a policy that covers the surrender of land. This report recommends that a policy be developed for future attempts by landowners to surrender their land.

This report also recommends that Council does not take ownership of the properties for the following reasons:

1. Legal costs involved in transferring ownership of the land.
2. Council would be required to pay the future Fire Service Property Levy fixed and variable charges.
3. Council has recently tried to sell unused land assets. Taking on ownership of this land would add to that stock.
4. Council would become liable for maintenance of the vacant land which includes grass slashing and control of weeds if the properties were not suitable for resale.

COSTS/BENEFITS

Council would incur the following costs:

1. costs associated with the Fire Service Property Levy
2. maintenance costs
3. initial legal costs for transfer of land.

There are no identified benefits.

RISK ANALYSIS

Nil.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Nil.

4.2 APPOINTMENT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBER

SUMMARY

This report seeks Council's approval to appoint Mr Rod Baker as a member of the Audit Committee for the period 1 May 2016 to 30 April 2020.

Author	Jude Holt, Director Corporate Services
Council Plan ref:	Strategic enabler: Effective and efficient operating systems and procedures
File no:	06/02/003
Attachment:	Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council appoints Mr Rod Baker as member of the Audit Committee for the period 1 May 2016 to 30 April 2020.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Are there any conflicts of interest for any council staff involved in writing this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report?

No

If yes, the following details identify the conflict of interest.

Officer name	Nature of interest	Reason for conflict
Click here to enter text.	Choose an item. If indirect, the type of indirect interest is: Choose an item.	[Explain the specific circumstances of this person's conflict of interest.]

[Refer to the Staff and Contractors Code of Conduct for definitions of conflict of interest.]

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Nil

BACKGROUND

The terms of Audit Committee members are scheduled to expire on the basis of one member per annum.

Council's Audit Committee comprises four community members and one Councillor. Currently, Cr Gavan Holt is Councillor Representative of the Audit Committee.

The Audit Committee Charter outlines the terms of community members, and Mr Rod Baker's term ends on 30 April 2016.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The recruitment process for the vacant positions was undertaken with advertisements in the Bendigo Advertiser and Loddon Times and on Council's website.

The term of the vacancy is 1 May 2016 to 30 April 2020. Council received one response to the advertisement from Mr Rod Baker, a current member of the committee.

In accordance with the Audit Committee Charter:

"External independent persons will have senior business or financial management/reporting knowledge and experience, demonstrated commitment to local communities or be conversant with the financial and other reporting requirements.

The Mayor and Chief Executive Officer taking account of the experience of candidates and their likely ability to apply appropriate analytical and strategic management skills will undertake the evaluation of potential members, and a recommendation for appointment taken to Council.”

Mr Baker has been an enthusiastic and active contributor to the Audit Committee for the past four years. The Mayor, Cr Beattie, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Marg Allan, and Cr Holt, as Council representative of the Audit committee have all endorsed his reappointment to the committee.

The Chair of the Audit Committee, Mr Ken Belfrage, has supported this recommendation, and added that he also provides good community experience and knowledge to the committee.

COSTS/BENEFITS

There are no direct costs associated with this resolution.

The benefit is continuity of the current committee which works productively in its duties, and has local community representation.

RISK ANALYSIS

The annual expiry of terms of Audit Committee members reduces the risk of losing more than one community member at any given time, which assists in inducting new members onto the committee while maintaining experience in the committee's make up.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The Mayor, Cr Holt as Council representative of the Audit Committee, the Acting Chief Executive Officer, and Chair of the Audit Committee were consulted about the recommendation.

4.3 REVIEW OF COUNCIL PLAN 2013-2017

SUMMARY

Council is asked to consider the need for a review of the Council Plan 2013-2017

Author	Marg Allan, A/Chief Executive Officer
Council Plan ref:	Core business 3: Planning for future needs
File no:	02/02/03
Attachment:	Progress report on Council Plan

RECOMMENDATION

That Council, having reviewed the Loddon Shire Council Plan 2013-2017, has formed the opinion that a review of the Council Plan is not necessary at this time.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Are there any conflicts of interest for any council staff involved in writing this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report?

Choose an item.

If yes, the following details identify the conflict of interest.

Officer name	Nature of interest	Reason for conflict
Click here to enter text.	Choose an item. If indirect, the type of indirect interest is: Choose an item.	[Explain the specific circumstances of this person's conflict of interest.]

[Refer to the Staff and Contractors Code of Conduct for definitions of conflict of interest.]

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council previously considered the need for a review of the Council Plan at its March 2015 meeting. Councillors were again asked to consider the need for review of the Council Plan at the April 2016 Council Forum.

BACKGROUND

The Local Government Act requires a council to prepare a four-year council plan by June of the year immediately following a council general election. Council prepared its current Council Plan 2013-2017 with an adoption date of 24 June 2013.

The Local Government Act also requires a municipality to consider at least once each financial year if its council plan requires review. In 2013/14, Council decided not to review the council plan.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The requirement for a Council to consider if it should review its council plan at least annually stems from the need for Council to ensure its council plan remains relevant in a changing environment. Council undertook a thorough review of its mission, its overall direction and the strategies that it employs to deliver services that its community expects, when it developed the Council Plan in June 2013.

The Council Plan is underpinned with a number of operational plans known as Directorate Plans, and these are reviewed annually.

Attached to this report is a progress report on achievement of actions required in the Council Plan. Council is currently completing Year 3 of the 4 year plan, where, out of 62 actions, 33 have been completed (including 6 that are ongoing), and 23 are in progress.

As seen from the progress report, a number of initiatives have been completed or are well under development, but there is also work still to be completed over the next year, that is the remaining life of the current Council Plan.

COSTS/BENEFITS

Costs of individual projects within the plan are included in the Budget for the relevant delivery years.

RISK ANALYSIS

No risks have been identified in relation to this recommendation.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Councillors were consulted about the need to review the plan.

4.4 SEPTEMBER COUNCIL MEETING DATE

SUMMARY

Seeking Council approval to change the date of the September 2016 Council meeting.

Author	Marg Allan, A/Chief Executive Officer
Council Plan ref:	Core business 1: Leadership
File no:	02/01/002
Attachment:	Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. *approves the change of date of the 27 September 2016 Council meeting to 13 September 2016*
2. *provides public notice of the amendments to the Council Meeting schedule and locations.*

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Are there any conflicts of interest for any council staff involved in writing this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report?

No

If yes, the following details identify the conflict of interest.

Officer name	Nature of interest	Reason for conflict
Click here to enter text.	Choose an item. If indirect, the type of indirect interest is: Choose an item.	[Explain the specific circumstances of this person's conflict of interest.]

[Refer to the Staff and Contractors Code of Conduct for definitions of conflict of interest.]

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

In October 2015, Council approved the 2016 Schedule of Council Meetings.

BACKGROUND

The Loddon Shire Council has traditionally conducted Council meetings on a monthly cycle.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Council's Election Period Policy places the following restrictions on decisions of Council during an election period:

3.1.1 Major policy decisions

The Council will not make any major policy decisions during the election period.

3.1.2 Inappropriate decisions

The Council will not make any inappropriate decisions during the election period, and will do this by implementing the following controls:

- The Chief Executive Officer will scrutinise content of Council agendas to ensure that:
 - only those matters that must be dealt with are on the agendas during the election period and all other matters are deferred until after Election Day.

- items that could potentially influence voters' intentions at the forthcoming election or could encourage candidates to use the item as part of their electioneering are not included on the agendas.
- Councillors will not move motions or raise matters at a meeting during the election period that could potentially influence voting at the election.

For the 2016 election, the election period is midnight Tuesday 20 September 2016 to 6.00pm Saturday 22 October 2016, and Election Day is 22 October 2016.

The current 2016 Council Meeting schedule has the September meeting falling on 27 September. It is proposed to change this meeting to fall prior to the commencement of the election period, so that it would fall on Tuesday 13 September 2016.

The venue for meetings held within the election period will change from the Council Chambers at Serpentine. Meetings in August, September and October will be held at the Council offices in Wedderburn. It is proposed that date and location of these meetings will be advertised in advance of the August meeting.

COSTS/BENEFITS

There are no costs associated with this recommendation. Benefits may be realised if certain decisions can be made by Council prior to the commencement of the election period.

RISK ANALYSIS

Nil

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Nil

4.5 IMPACTS OF THE MURRAY DARLING BASIN PLAN ON THE GMID

SUMMARY

Council is requested to make a financial contribution of \$5000 towards the development of a socio-economic study on the impacts of the Murray Darling Basin Plan on the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District.

Author	Marg Allan, A/Chief Executive Officer
Council Plan ref:	Strategic Platform 3: Champion our agrifood enterprises
File no:	15/03/015
Attachment:	Committee for Greater Shepparton submission to the Senate Select Committee Murray Darling Basin Plan

RECOMMENDATION

That Council contribute \$5000 towards the development of a socio-economic study on the impacts and outcomes within the GMID.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Are there any conflicts of interest for any council staff involved in writing this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report?

No

If yes, the following details identify the conflict of interest.

Officer name	Nature of interest	Reason for conflict
Click here to enter text.	Choose an item. If indirect, the type of indirect interest is: Choose an item.	[Explain the specific circumstances of this person's conflict of interest.]

[Refer to the Staff and Contractors Code of Conduct for definitions of conflict of interest.]

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council has previously resolved to make a submission to the mid-term review of Stage 2 of the Goulburn Murray Water Connections project.

In the submission, Council expresses concern about the need to complete the entire connections project to ensure the GMID receives the benefits of modernisation of the system irrigation system.

BACKGROUND

Council has been approached by GMID Water Leadership Forum. The group is chaired by Suzanna Sheed, State Member for Shepparton, and arose following a water summit organised by the Committee for Greater Shepparton.

The group focused on concerns about adverse impacts from the implementation of the Murray Darling Basin Plan on the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District. The Committee has made a submission to the Senate Select Committee Murray Darling Basin Plan outlining the serious detrimental effects on agricultural production in the GMID (attached).

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The Water Leadership Forum is now intending to undertake research on the socio-economic impacts to build an evidence base to enable more effective advocacy to government and the Murray Darling Basin Authority.

An approach has been made to various impacted municipalities seeking a financial contribution of between \$5000 and \$10,000 towards the project cost of \$60,000. Should the funding request be oversubscribed, councils will only be charged a proportion share to the total cost.

COSTS/BENEFITS

The proposed report is consistent with the advocacy work Council is undertaking seeking confirmation that the Connections Project will be implemented in its entirety and that farm enterprises maintain and increase their productive capacity. Evidence regarding the socio-economic impacts should provide sound information for Council and other authorities regarding the impacts on communities and individuals in the GMID.

RISK ANALYSIS

No risks have been identified.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The Murray River Group of Councils has considered this matter and is supporting the project with a financial contribution.

4.6 FINANCE REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 MARCH 2016

SUMMARY

This report provides Council with financial information for the period ending 31 March 2016.

Author	Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services
Council Plan ref:	Strategic enabler: Sound financial management protocols
File no:	08/06/001
Attachment:	Finance Report for Period Ending 31 March 2016

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. *receives and notes the 'Finance report for the period ending 31 March 2016'*
2. *approves budget revisions included in the report for internal reporting purposes only*
3. *approves the supplementary valuations of rateable and non-rateable properties in respect of the 2015/16 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 2015/16.*

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Are there any conflicts of interest for any council staff involved in writing this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report?

No

If yes, the following details identify the conflict of interest.

Officer name	Nature of interest	Reason for conflict
Click here to enter text.	Choose an item. If indirect, the type of indirect interest is: Choose an item.	[Explain the specific circumstances of this person's conflict of interest.]

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council is provided with Finance Reports on a monthly basis.

BACKGROUND

The Finance Report for the period ended 31 March 2016 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 revised budget (by percentage).

The information is in the format provided in the 2015/16 Budget, and includes operating results, capital expenditure and funding sources.

This Finance Report also includes supplementary valuations. 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 corrections.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

This month a capital and major projects variance report has been included. This gives explanation notes for capital expenditure and some major projects included as operating expenditure and is designed to provide Council with progress information on these works.

COSTS/BENEFITS

The benefit to Council and the community is that accurate and regular financial reporting is being disclosed, along with an accurate representation of property valuations being reflected in Council's rating system and the distribution of rate notices for the year 2015/16.

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. Council's risk exposure is also 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

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

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.

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.

4.7 FEES AND CHARGES FOR THE YEAR 1 JULY 2016 TO 30 JUNE 2017

SUMMARY

This report seeks Council's approval of the Fees and Charges for the year 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017.

Author	Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services
Council Plan ref:	Core business 6: Financial stability
File no:	07/01/006
Attachment:	Fees and Charges for the year 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. *approves the Fees and Charges for the year 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017*
2. *implements the Fees and Charges from 1 July for items not subject to a notice period, and at the end of the notice period for those items subject to the same*
3. *make effective immediately any changes where the fees and charged are altered by legislation, subject to the approval of the Director Corporate Services or Chief Executive Officer, and make amendment to the relevant Fees and Charges for the year 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017.*

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Are there any conflicts of interest for any council staff involved in writing this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report?

No

If yes, the following details identify the conflict of interest.

Officer name	Nature of interest	Reason for conflict
Click here to enter text.	Choose an item. If indirect, the type of indirect interest is: Choose an item.	[Explain the specific circumstances of this person's conflict of interest.]

[Refer to the Staff and Contractors Code of Conduct for definitions of conflict of interest.]

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

A draft schedule was submitted for consideration at the Council Forum held on 12 April 2016.

BACKGROUND

Each year, as a 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 notice period of 60 days. Notification will be forwarded to tenants as soon as practicable after approval by Council.

Since presentation of the schedule at the Council Forum there have been minor changes in the area of home care, which include:

- seven minor rounding adjustments, which now allow for charges to be raised that are under one full hour
- addition of a section titled "Home support program", with the rates the same as the existing aged care services charges

- additions to allow for hourly charges to be raised relating to property modifications, respite care weekend duties, emergency respite and emergency respite weekend duties.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The approach to the 2016/17 schedule was to review fees and charges in line with the Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP), which included an indexation of 2.5% to discretionary charges.

COSTS/BENEFITS

The schedule will raise an equitable contribution of revenue towards the cost of service.

RISK ANALYSIS

There is a minor risk of avoidance of payment by customers.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The recommendations in the report have been considered in detail by the Management Executive Group and Council.

4.8 EAST LODDON COMMUNITY CENTRE SECTION 86 COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT (ELCCCOM) REQUEST FOR ADDITION FINANCIAL SUPPORT

SUMMARY

At its March 2016 Ordinary Meeting Council was presented with a letter from the ELCCCOM. This letter requested an increase in funding to assist with the payment of power bills. This report summarises options that may assist the ELCCCOM to meet these costs.

Author	Allan Stobaus, Manager Community Support
Council Plan ref:	Strategic Platform 6: Support our transitioning townships
File no:	02/01/019
Attachment:	NIL

RECOMMENDATION

That Council request the Manager Community Support to assist the East Loddon Community Centre Committee of Management to review option 2 and 3 in an attempt to reduce the difference between available funds and centre running costs:

- *transfer to Council procured energy supplier and audit/implement energy saving initiatives*
- *review user hire charges and available alternative funding through Council's Community Grants program.*

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Are there any conflicts of interest for any council staff involved in writing this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report?

No

If yes, the following details identify the conflict of interest.

Officer name	Nature of interest	Reason for conflict
Click here to enter text.	Choose an item. If indirect, the type of indirect interest is: Choose an item.	[Explain the specific circumstances of this person's conflict of interest.]

[Refer to the Staff and Contractors Code of Conduct for definitions of conflict of interest.]

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

At its March 2016 Ordinary Meeting Council was presented with a letter from the East Loddon Community Centre Section 86 Committee of Management (ELCCCOM). This letter requested an increase in funding to assist with the payment of power bills.

Council discussed the letter and resolved that Council Officers provide a report on how to address this request for funding at its April 2016 Ordinary Meeting.

BACKGROUND

The letter received from the ELCCCOM provided the following information:

- the East Loddon Community Centre (ELCC) annual power bill is approximately \$800, with Council contributing an annual hall allocation of \$462 per annum thus leaving a short fall of approximately \$340 per annum
- the centre is run entirely by volunteers and that several other not for profit organisations use the centre

- the Committee has limited fundraising options and to ensure accessibility charges to other users are kept to a minimum
- the Committee requests additional funding of \$340 from Council. This would result in an annual allocation of \$802.

The Public Hall and Reserve Allocation Policy provides an annual funding allocation that supports public halls, indoor stadiums, and active reserves within Loddon Shire Council. Allocations are provided to assist Committees of Management with the costs associated with ongoing operating and maintenance costs.

Allocations to public halls are based on a hierarchy formula and are categorised as follows;

2A: Hall

Major facility in a highly populated area (2015/16 allocation \$2,265.00).

2B: Hall

Main facility in a medium populated area (2015/16 allocation \$951.00).

2C: Hall

Main facility in a low populated area OR secondary facility (2015/16 allocation \$467.00).

Note: Allocations are increased annually in line with CPI

The ELCC is categorised as a 2C Hall.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

A financial summary of the ELCCCOM financial year has been received from the ELCCCOM. This summary identified both income and expenditure items for the 2014/15 financial year in table 1 below.

Table 1: Income and expenditure summary East Loddon Community Centre COM;

Description	Amount
Interest on bank account balance	\$ 0.14
Centre/Room Hire	\$580.00
LSC Annual Allocation	\$462.00
Total Income	\$1,042.14
Momentum Energy Bills (Electricity)	\$ 899.53
Maintenance	\$1,270.00
Total Expenditure	\$2,169.53

Hire charges received from five organisations that used the facility ranged from \$10 - \$270

Three possible solutions have been identified that may assist the ELCCCOM to address the issues they have with paying electricity bills. A summary of these are as follows:

1. The ELCCCOM has requested that the annual allocation amount as received from Council be increased. This would mean that the ELCC status would be changed from a category 2C "Main facility in a low populated area OR secondary facility in a highly populated area" to a 2B "Main facility in a highly populated area". Based on 2015/16 allocation amounts this would result in an increased allocation from \$467 2C to \$961 2B.
A review of the existing categorisation of the ELCC as a category 2C is justified under the existing criteria and is consistent with the categorisation of similar facilities throughout the municipality.

2. Council participates in an MAV procurement program that purchases power from energy providers in bulk. This program currently results in Council receiving a reduced price in regard to power usage. Council has the capacity to include Council owned buildings in this program. This would enable ELCC to be included in this program and be charged for power usage at a reduced rate.

An audit of energy saving initiatives, such as the installation of energy efficient lighting, the use of energy efficient appliances as well as the adoption of more energy efficient practices may contribute to a reduction in the overall power consumption.

3. The COM has the opportunity to review the fees it charges for room hire at the facility to obtain more income. On the face of it, increasing the hire fees would seem to be an appropriate strategy, with some users paying a nominal amount to hire the facility. The COM do, however, state in their letter and have re-affirmed in discussions that “increasing the nominal cost that we charge for use of the facility would likely discourage its use by community groups”.

A small contribution towards room hire is made by the East Loddon Community News. Most of the newsletters in Loddon apply for and generally receive an allocation from Council’s Community Grants Scheme. The East Loddon Community News has not applied to this scheme for several years and the opportunity exists for them to make an application to the scheme in 2016/2017. It is appropriate that a room hire component can be included as a component of the grant submission. This would allow the newsletter to make a greater contribution in regard to room hire at the ELCC.

The East Loddon P-12 School, in addition to the room hire fees paid, have undertaken some important maintenance works to the facility through the school’s VCAL program, thus making a significant in-kind contribution.

COSTS/BENEFITS

Increasing the ELCC annual allocation from 2B to 2C would result in a \$467 (plus an annual CPI) increase to Council. Fifteen other facilities are currently categorised as 2C and receive the same allocation as the ELCC. To re-categorise all sixteen existing 2C facilities to a 2B category would result in an increase to the existing budget of \$7,904 annually based on 2015/16 allocation amounts.

The opportunity to include the ELCC in Councils power program through MAV will reduce the amount that they pay for power and has the potential to reduce the financial impost in regard to this.

The opportunity to work with its current user group and review existing hire fees and energy usage practices may potentially have a significant impact in regard to the ELCCCOM ability to cover the costs associated with its electricity bills.

RISK ANALYSIS

The risk associated with re-categorising the ELCC from a 2C to a 2B Hall is the creation of precedent and an expectation that all other 2C category halls would be eligible for an increased allocation.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Consultation has been undertaken with internal staff and with the ELCCCOM in regard to the content of this report.

4.9 LODDON PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C36

SUMMARY

Advises Council of the Victorian Minister for Planning's recent decision to approve Amendment C36 for the Loddon Planning Scheme. Before granting this approval, numerous changes were required to be made to the Amendment, in the form of excluding elements of the Rural Living and Rural Activity rezone proposal. Gazettal of the amendment subsequently occurred on 14 April 2016.

Author	Ian McLauchlan, Director Operations
Council Plan ref:	Strategic Platform 2: Grow our population through appropriate development
File no:	13/01/003
Attachment:	Notification of Ministerial approval Approved rezoning maps

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. *Receive and note the Ministers decision to approve amendment C36 with changes.*
2. *Notify the owners of all land affected by the proposed rezoning, including those who were initially but not subsequently included, of the outcome of the Ministers decision and subsequent effect upon their land.*
3. *Pursuant to Section 40(1) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 (the Act), lodge the above amendment and explanatory report with the relevant authorities.*
4. *Incorporate this amendment in the planning scheme without delay.*
5. *Pursuant to section 36(2) of the Act, give notice of approval of the amendment by publishing a notice in a newspaper generally circulating in the area.*

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Are there any conflicts of interest for any council staff involved in writing this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report?

No

If yes, the following details identify the conflict of interest.

Officer name	Nature of interest	Reason for conflict
Click here to enter text.	Choose an item. If indirect, the type of indirect interest is: Choose an item.	N.A

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

In August 2014 Council resolved to adopt amendment C36 to the Loddon Planning Scheme subject to the changes recommended by an independent panel.

BACKGROUND

Loddon Planning Scheme Amendment C36 (the Amendment) was exhibited between 6 February 2014 and 6 March 2014 resulting in fourteen submissions, ten of which sought changes to the exhibited proposal. Council resolved that it did not support all of the requests for alterations and referred the Amendment to an independent panel for consideration.

A hearing by the Ministerial appointed Planning Panel (the Panel) was conducted on 29 and 30 May 2014. They heard presentations from the Loddon Shire, Neil McHugh, Reginald Holt and Paul Bishop. The Panel also considered all written submissions.

The Panel recommended that the Amendment be adopted, subject to five recommendations. The report of the Panel was received 8 July 2014 with all of their recommendations subsequently supported by Council.

Required changes to the Amendment documentation were made. Pursuant to section 31 of the Planning and Environment Act, in September 2014 the adopted Amendment (including all prescribed information) was submitted for Ministerial approval via the Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure (the Department).

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

On 30 March 2016 Council received notification from the Department that Ministerial approval of the Amendment had been granted (see attached), however a number of changes to the proposal have been made to achieve this.

Changes made to the Amendment in order to secure Ministerial approval included:

- removal of all land identified for rezoning to Rural Activity Zone
- reduction in the quantity of land identified for rezoning to Rural Living
- minor corrections/changes to clauses 21.02, 21.04 and 22.05 in accordance with the Panel's recommendation and subsequent endorsement by Council.

Subsequent consultation with the Department identified that the primary consideration in both the exclusion of the Rural Activity Zone and reduction in the quantity of land rezoned to Rural Living, was associated with a change in state government policy direction. Department representatives identified that many of the areas being put forward for rezoning, were relatively isolated from existing services and social infrastructure.

Accordingly those areas identified for rezoning to Rural Activity Zone, to recognise current land use practices in the area, have not been approved. A list of these areas is provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Rural Activity rezoning approval status

Locality	Precinct	Current Zone	Proposed Zone	Area (ha)	Approved
Kingower	Nyanaghul Road	FZ	RAZ	636.4	No
	Kingower Brenanah Road	FZ	RAZ	62.8	No

Consideration for rezoning to Rural Living was only given to those areas which were seen as being in reasonable proximity to existing townships. This position was also supported by the Departments view that ample supply of available Rural Living Zone land currently exists within the Shire. As such only 44% (1800 of 4100 Hectares) of the total quantity of the land proposed for rezoning to Rural Living was approved.

Table 2: Status of Rural Living rezoning approvals

Locality	Precinct	Current Zone	Proposed Zone	Area (ha)	Approved
Wedderburn	Gregson Road / Clifden Lane	FZ	RLZ	231.5	Yes
	Josephine Drive	FZ	RLZ	564.2	Yes
	Wallaby Way	FZ	RLZ	332	Yes
	Bocca Flat	FZ	RLZ	94.4	Yes
	Woolshed Flat	FZ	RLZ	233.9	No
Inglewood	Inglewood Salisbury Road	FZ	RLZ	212.7	Yes

Locality	Precinct	Current Zone	Proposed Zone	Area (ha)	Approved
	Wehla Kingower Road (west)	FZ	RLZ	106.8	No
Brenanah	Kingower Wedderburn Road	FZ	RLZ	284.5	No
	Brenanah Wehla Road (west)	FZ	RLZ	126.5	No
Wehla	Logan Wehla Rheola Road	FZ	RLZ	273.7	No
Fentons Creek	Wheelhouse Road	FZ	RLZ	222.6	No
Tarnagulla	Tarnagulla Road	FZ	RLZ	26.5	Yes
Laanecoorie	Ramon Parade	FZ	RLZ	337.9	Yes
McIntyre	McIntyre township	FZ	RLZ	432.4	No
Moliagul	Chinamans Lane	FZ	RLZ	291.3	No
	Moliagul Drive / Mason Drive	FZ	RLZ	330.8	No

With respect to the rezoning of land to Rural Conservation Zone, all parcels identified in the final version of the Amendment have been approved. This takes into consideration the exclusion of a number of parcels identified within the Panel report.

All other zoning changes proposed within the Amendment have been approved. These changes include recognition of the Township Zone for Laanecoorie, Public Use Zone for various cemeteries and water supply infrastructure sites, Public Park and Recreation Zone for the Newbridge Recreation Reserve and Public Conservation and Resource Zone for land abutting the Loddon River corridor and state forest surrounding Tarnagulla.

The location of the approved rezoning may be seen attached within the Departmental maps accompanying the Amendment Gazettal.

Further to proposed rezoning, the Amendment also sees the introduction or strengthening of various policies with respect to the Farming Zone. Major impacts upon the Farming Zone as a result of the Amendment include:

- increase in minimum subdivision size
 - o within GMID 40 Hectares
 - o All other land 100 Hectares
- Preference that subdivisions not create additional lots
- documented excision policy
- increase in minimum lot size of as of right dwelling construction to 100 Hectares

Since the Amendment was submitted for Ministerial approval, further amendments to the Victorian Planning Provisions and the Loddon Planning Scheme have occurred. The most relevant of these in the context of the Amendment is the Ministerial Amendment VC103, which made significant changes to the use provisions within the rural zones.

In summary, VC103 resulted in a change from those uses which were not listed as either a section 1 or 2 use within the zone being prohibited, to only those uses explicitly detailed within section 3 being prohibited with all other uses either being as a right or discretionary. This amendment has had the effect of providing greater discretion and flexibility for Council and its officers to consider land use proposals within the Farming Zone.

COSTS/BENEFITS

The proposal will benefit the community by providing a clear expression of appropriate locations for a variety and land uses and provide a range of zoned land to provide for the wider community's needs.

RISK ANALYSIS

Failure to provide appropriately zoned land throughout the Shire may result in lost development opportunities.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Amendment C36 was exhibited between 6 February 2014 and 6 March 2014. Exhibition included:

- Publication in the Victorian Government Gazette
- Publication in the Bendigo Advertiser
- Publication in the Loddon Times
- Direct mail to prescribed ministers and surrounding landholders
- Copies of the Amendment and supporting documents being available at the Council Offices and on the Department of Planning and Community Development websites.

Submitters were given opportunity to present their position to an Independent Panel which conducted a hearing on 29 and 30 May 2014

5. INFORMATION REPORTS

5.1 INWARDS CORRESPONDENCE

SUMMARY

Relevant correspondence received by Council since previous meeting.

Author: Marg Allan – A/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
18/3/16	Biker Charity Support Group Inc.	Messages of support for BCSG Inc. planning permit application 5124

5.2 LIBRARY SERVICES TO SMALL TOWNS: LIBRARY AGENCIES

SUMMARY

Report to Council advising of the proposed new service delivery model.

Author	Marg Allan, A/Chief Executive Officer
Council Plan ref:	Strategic Platform 6: Support our transitioning townships
File no:	20/02/001
Attachment:	nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the report on the decision of the Goldfields Library Corporation Board for a new service delivery model.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Are there any conflicts of interest for any council staff involved in writing this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report?

No

If yes, the following details identify the conflict of interest.

Officer name	Nature of interest	Reason for conflict
Click here to enter text.	Choose an item. If indirect, the type of indirect interest is: Choose an item.	[Explain the specific circumstances of this person's conflict of interest.]

[Refer to the Staff and Contractors Code of Conduct for definitions of conflict of interest.]

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council has not formally discussed the proposed new business model.

BACKGROUND

In 2015, the Goldfields Library Corporation Board requested the development of a business case for a new service delivery model to replace the mobile library service, to provide best value, cost effective library services to small towns and remote communities. The current mobile library service delivery is not cost effective, has limited hours of operation, usage is declining, and the service is limited to collection and some internet access.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The new model of service delivery, Library Agencies, involves provision of services at a number of fixed sites, where the library would be part of existing community hubs, and the services would be delivered by external organisations. It is an opportunity to provide an improved level of service with additional opening hours and the delivery of programs.

The model will consist of 9 service point locations with two levels of service:

- Level 1 service points at Boort, Elmore, Heathcote, Inglewood, Pyramid Hill and Wedderburn. These agencies will provide access to a collection of 800 to 1500 items and other collection related services, access to the internet and programs to support 21st century literacies such as early years literacy and digital literacy. It is expected these agencies will provide access for a minimum of 20 hours per week.

- Level 2 service points at Axedale, Dingee and Tarnagulla. These agencies will provide access to a collection of 500 to 1000 items and other collection related services only. It is expected that these agencies will provide access for a minimum of 5 hours per week.

The new model will also involve decommissioning and sale of the mobile library truck and trailer, scheduled to take place in the month before launch and opening of the library agencies.

The project is estimated to be completed in February 2017 with the launch and opening of the library agencies. A temporary project manager will be responsible for implementing the new model.

COSTS/BENEFITS

There will be a reduction in long term capital expenditure for the corporation, and a higher level of service for communities living in and around small towns. The new model will require an increased investment in IT equipment and some additional operating costs.

Currently Loddon Shire receives 14.5 hours of library service per week throughout the shire. Access to services is limited to the times the mobile library visits. The new agency model will enable approximately 100 hours of services through local community centres and meeting places.

Patrons will be able to access a wide range of material and order items from other libraries which will be available for collection when the agencies are open.

The changed service arrangements will also include library programs such as storytime and digital literacy.

RISK ANALYSIS

The Goldfields Library Corporation business case has undertaken a risk assessment of risks, which are generally rated medium and can be mitigated by ensuring timelines support the establishment of strong working relationships, good planning and effective project management that is appropriately resourced.

Two risks that may require input from Council relate to a lack of organisations interested in being a library agency in some locations; and organisations not having the infrastructure for the nominated service level. The mitigating action identified for these risks is to work closely with member councils.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The CEO of Loddon Shire and Cr McKinnon are both involved with Goldfields Library Corporation as members of the Board, and have been involved in discussions on this matter.

6. COMPLIANCE REPORTS

6.1 DOCUMENTS FOR SIGNING AND SEALING

SUMMARY	
This report provides Council with a list of documents signed and sealed during the month.	
Author:	Marg Allan – A/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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Are there any conflicts of interest for any council staff involved in writing this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report?

No

If yes, the following details identify the conflict of interest.

Officer name	Nature of interest	Reason for conflict
Click here to enter text.	Choose an item. If indirect, the type of indirect interest is: Choose an item.	[Explain the specific circumstances of this person's conflict of interest.]

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Nil

BACKGROUND

N/A

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation for Margaret Allan

Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation for Ian McLauchlan, Anthony Gibbins, Glenn Harvey and Carolyn Stephenson

Instrument of Delegation Marine Safety Act – members of staff

Instrument of Delegation – Members of Staff

Section 173 Agreement between Loddon Shire Council and DH and BA Peters for Crown Allotment 3 of Section 1 Township of Newbridge, Parish of Tarnagulla, 35 Lyons Street, Newbridge

6.2 ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCIL

SUMMARY

Report on assemblies of Council that have taken place for discussions about recruitment of a CEO.

Author	Lynne Habner, Executive Assistant
Council Plan ref:	Strategic enabler: Transparent communication
File no:	02/01/001
Attachment:	nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the report on assemblies of Council.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Are there any conflicts of interest for any council staff involved in writing this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report?

No

If yes, the following details identify the conflict of interest.

Officer name	Nature of interest	Reason for conflict
Click here to enter text.	Choose an item. If indirect, the type of indirect interest is: Choose an item.	[Explain the specific circumstances of this person's conflict of interest.]

[Refer to the Staff and Contractors Code of Conduct for definitions of conflict of interest.]

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Nil.

BACKGROUND

Section 80A of the Local Government Act 1989 sets out requirements to be observed by an assembly of Councillors, including the need to keep a written record of the names of all Councillors and members of Council staff attending; the matters considered; and any conflict of interest disclosures made by a Councillor attending. The written record of an assembly of Councillors must be reported at an ordinary meeting of the Council; and incorporated in the minutes of that Council meeting.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Three assemblies of Councillors were undertaken in March for the purposes of arranging the recruitment process for a CEO.

2/3/16

Present: Cr Neil Beattie, Cr Gavan Holt, Cr Cheryl McKinnon, Cr Geoff Curnow, John McLinden, Lynne Habner

To discuss CEO recruitment.

8/3/16

Present: Cr Neil Beattie, Cr Gavan Holt, Cr Cheryl McKinnon, Cr Geoff Curnow, Cr Colleen Condliffe, John McLinden, Lynne Habner

To discuss CEO recruitment.

22/3/16

Present: Cr Neil Beattie, Cr Gavan Holt, Cr Cheryl McKinnon, Cr Geoff Curnow, Marg Allan, Lynne Habner

To discuss CEO recruitment.

COSTS/BENEFITS

Nil.

RISK ANALYSIS

This report is to address the risk of non-compliance with legislation governing Council.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Nil.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

8. 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 24 May at Serpentine commencing at 3pm.