

LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL

Notice of an Ordinary Meeting of the Loddon Shire Council to be held in the Council Chambers, Serpentine on Tuesday 23 February 2016 at 3pm.

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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

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 27 January 2016*
2. *the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 27 January 2016*
3. *The minutes of the Council Forum of 9 February 2016*

2.2 REVIEW OF ACTION SHEET

SUMMARY

Approval of Action Sheet.

Author: John McLinden - 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: John McLinden, 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: John McLinden, 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 REVIEW OF RATES POLICY

SUMMARY

This report seeks Council's approval of the Rates Policy v2.

Author	Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services
Council Plan ref:	Core business 8: Compliance
File no:	18/01/001
Attachment:	Rates Policy

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the Rates Policy v2.

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 approved the Rates Policy v1 on 23 July 2012.

Council was provided with an overview of the Rates Policy v2 at the Council Forum held on 9 February 2016.

BACKGROUND

The Rates Policy sets the principles for Council to levy and collect rates due on properties in the Shire.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The current version of the policy was adopted on 23 July 2012, and was due for renewal by 23 July 2015.

The Rates Policy addresses important aspects of rate collection including:

- rating strategy
- rebates
- interest
- payment of rates
- recovery of rates due
- payment arrangements
- debt collection services
- rent orders
- recovery of rates through sale of property

- exemption or waiver of rates
- rate deferral
- incorrect rate/charge
- classification.

Council staff have reviewed the policy and have made some amendments.

These amendments include wording around the introduction of two legislated changes. These are:

- introduction of the Fire Services Property Levy in 2013/14
- introduction of the Local Government Amendments (Fair Go Rates) Act 2015.

Other amendments are around the clarification and formal identification of issues that have arisen since the last version was adopted. These include incorrect rate/charge adjustments and classification as follows:

- Incorrect rate/charge adjustments – If a ratepayer believes that a rate or charge has been incorrectly raised on a property, the ratepayer must provide documentation (if available) to Council in order to establish that this rate/charge is incorrect. If the charge has been raised continuously for a number of years and is proven to be incorrect, Council will refund any excess charges up to three years retrospectively.
- Classification - The classification of a property may be reassessed on sale of that property where the use of the land has changed.

COSTS/BENEFITS

There are no direct costs associated with the adoption of this policy.

RISK ANALYSIS

It is a Council function to levy and collect rates from property owners within the Shire. This policy outlines the principles within this process and application of the policy along with supporting procedures and other supporting documents, should help minimise risks.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The document has been subject to the normal approval process of Management Executive Group, Management and Leadership Group and Council Forum prior to presentation in the Council Meeting Agenda.

4.2 FINANCE REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 JANUARY 2016

SUMMARY

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

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. *receives and notes the 'Finance report for the period ending 31 January 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

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PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council is provided with Finance Reports on a monthly basis.

BACKGROUND

The Finance Report for the period ended 31 January 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.

4.3 BENDIGO REGION TOURISM DESTINATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement of the Bendigo Region Tourism Destination Management Plan that was presented at the 2015 December Council Forum.

Author	Robyn Vella, Manager Tourism
Council Plan ref:	Strategic Platform 5: Grow and diversify our economy
File no:	16/07/004
Attachment:	Bendigo Region Tourism Destination Management Plan

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the Bendigo Region Tourism Destination Management Plan.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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No

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

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PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The Bendigo Region Tourism Destination Management Plan was presented at the 2015 Council Forum, outlining the framework for the Plan, product strengths and opportunities, visitation trends, market segments, Loddon tourism projects, governance structure, visitor information services and event strategy/management.

BACKGROUND

Bendigo Regional Tourism is a peak regional tourism body, formed in 2013, as an initiative of the City of Greater Bendigo, Mount Alexander Shire, Central Goldfields Shire, and Loddon Shire Councils. In 2015 Bendigo Regional Tourism commissioned the development of the Bendigo Region Tourism Destination Management Plan which provides a strategic approach to growing tourism in the Bendigo region over the next five years. The key outcomes of the Destination Management Plan include:

- a set of strategic objectives which respond to the key issues and opportunities identified
- 16 priority projects
- a suite of destination development opportunities
- a range of initiatives to strengthen governance and collaboration across the region.

The Destination Management Plan was funded by the state government and Bendigo Regional Tourism.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

In 2015 Bendigo Regional Tourism engaged a consultancy business Urban Enterprise to carry out the study and examine Bendigo and the hinterland region (Loddon, Central Goldfields and Mount Alexander) to enhance tourism yield and provide a strategic approach to visitation growth of the region.

The Destination Management Plan is a key tourism strategy for the Bendigo region for the next five years.

The Destination Management Plan:

- provides an overarching strategic Destination Management Plan for Bendigo Regional Tourism that defines clear directions and actions highlighting investment (both hard and soft) opportunities
- articulates the current market perceptions of the region (recognising the diversity and maturity of product) across the broader region and Shires
- identifies the triggers of visitation to the region, including marketing strategies and their relative importance and effectiveness
- clearly identifies perceived gaps in the current product and experience offered within the region. Quantifies jobs and potential jobs growth in the tourism industry across the region
- prioritises product development opportunities based on target market appeal, economic viability (investment appeal - be it private or public), and the potential to increase visitation, extend length of stay and improve the quality of the visitor experience
- identifies and prepares relevant material and information that will be critical to private sector investment decisions making for priority product development opportunities
- responds to projected trends over the next five years
- identifies how member councils (including Loddon Shire Council) of Bendigo Regional Tourism can work together with their individual and collective marketing, visitor services and digital strategies
- follows best practice Destination Management models as identified by Australian Regional Tourism Network.

A visitor market evaluation was completed, which looked at levels and trends of visitation, yield and expenditure for each shire.

The Plan identifies 16 priority projects to facilitate growth in the tourism industry. These projects present an opportunity to provide strategic support, prioritise resources and focus public sector support on the projects that can elevate the region.

TABLE 16 BENDIGO REGION PRIORITY PROJECTS

Project	Sub-region
INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENABLING PROJECTS	
Maryborough Cultural Arts Precinct	Central Goldfields
Heathcote Town Centre Improvements	Heathcote
Bridgewater and Inglewood Township and Foreshore Improvements	Loddon
Harcourt Town Centre Improvements	Mount Alexander
EXPERIENTIAL PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT	
Bendigo Heritage Tourism Attractions and Positioning	Bendigo
Bendigo Night-Time Economy	Bendigo
Great Stupa Development	Bendigo
Maldon Visitor Information Centre	Mount Alexander
Castlemaine Diggings National Park Improvements	Mount Alexander
Winery Tourism Product Development and Marketing	Region-wide
Food Fossickers Network Development	Region-wide
Village Touring and Branding	Region-wide
Ride Goldfields	Region-wide
ACCOMMODATION DEVELOPMENT	
Bendigo High Quality Accommodation and Conferencing	Bendigo
Castlemaine Boutique Accommodation and Conference Centre	Mount Alexander
Maryborough Serviced Apartments and Function Centre	Central Goldfields

A suite of product development opportunities have been recommended for each shire, in line with the strategic direction. There are 12 recommended product development projects for Loddon broken into tier 1, 2, and 3. The tier 1 project is the Bridgewater and Inglewood township and foreshore improvements.

Regional Approach to Tourism

Findings in the report show there are a number of governance, visitor information servicing and digital initiatives that are required to progress the region over the next 5 years including:

- a review of the current regional approach to tourism governance in the Bendigo Region
- a regional visitor information services review
- a regional events strategy
- a regional tourism hero website that has a shared platform across the four local government areas.

COSTS/BENEFITS

The benefits to Loddon Shire are reduced duplication of effort by working with 3 local government areas, collaboration across Councils, marketing opportunities, additional funding (Bendigo Regional Tourism) and increase in bed-nights.

RISK ANALYSIS

Nil

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Urban Enterprise conducted consultation across the four local government areas with community workshops and sessions with relevant Council staff. The Loddon community workshop was conducted in June at Serpentine Council Chambers. This workshop was well attended by tourism committee delegates and industry representatives.

4.4. PLANNING APPLICATION 5154 – PLACE OF PUBLIC ASSEMBLY

SUMMARY

Presents Council with an assessment report and associated recommendation in relation to planning application 5154 which seeks to establish a place of public assembly at 15 Grant Street, Newbridge for the purposes of a biker charity group to hold open air meetings.

Author	Ian McLauchlan, Director Operations
Council Plan ref:	Core business 9: Regulation
File no:	13/02/001
Attachment:	Permit application and supporting documentation Objection

RECOMMENDATION

That Council refuse planning application 5154 on the following grounds:

1. *The proposed use and development will detrimentally affect the amenity of the area.*
2. *The proposed use is inconsistent with the purpose of the Township Zone in that it does not support the protection of the neighbourhood character of 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

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PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council has not previously discussed this matter.

BACKGROUND

Planning application No. 5154 seeks approval to use a parcel of land in Newbridge to host open air meetings twice a month for up to 20 people, usually between the hours of 10am and 4pm. The application also seeks approval for the placement of a sign identifying the place of assembly and the supporting organisation. The organisation that will be conducting the meetings is the Biker Charity Support Group.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Subject property and surrounding land

The subject property is located at 15 Grant St, Newbridge and is 0.27ha in size. The property currently supports a shed (that includes a toilet, shower and basin), small number of ancillary outbuildings (e.g. carport, gazebo, truck body) and is used to store a number of vehicles or small items of plant and equipment.

The property owner does not live on the site. The use is proposed to be undertaken outside the shed as the shed does not comply with the relevant Building Regulations to be recognised or used as a clubroom.

Subject Land: 15 Grant Street, Newbridge



The property is located within a primarily residential area, on the eastern side of the Newbridge Township. It is bounded by Urquart St and Grant St. The adjoining properties are developed with dwellings and are used for residential purposes either permanently or periodically.

Public Notification

Notice of the application was given to surrounding landowners resulting in two objections being received. Further to the objections received it is noted that the applicant, as part of the permit application, provided letters of support signed by six nearby residents. The grounds of objection are broadly summarised as follows:

- noise
- odour
- visual amenity impact
- waste management
- traffic
- appropriateness of use within a residential area.

Loddon Planning Scheme

The property is zoned Township. The proposed use is defined as a Place of Assembly. Within the Township Zone, a Place of Assembly is a Section 2 - Permit required use. No other zones or overlays apply to the property.

The purpose of the Township Zone is:

- To implement the State Planning Policy Framework and the Local Planning Policy Framework, including the Municipal Strategic Statement and local planning policies.
- To provide for residential development and a range of commercial, industrial and other uses in small towns.
- To encourage development that respects the neighbourhood character of the area.
- To implement neighbourhood character policy and adopted neighbourhood character guidelines.
- To allow educational, recreational, religious, community and a limited range of other non-residential uses to serve local community needs in appropriate locations.

Further to above, the following clauses of the State Planning Policy Framework and Local Planning Policy Framework are considered relevant to the consideration of this application.

- 11.03-6 Social Needs
 - Support the development and maintenance of communities with adequate and safe physical and social environments for their residents, through the appropriate location of uses and developments and quality of urban design.
- 15.05-1 Noise abatement
 - To assist the control of noise effects on sensitive land uses.

Assessment

Of relevance to this application are the Decision Guidelines of the Township Zone which require consideration of matters such as:

- protection and enhancement of the character of the town
- provision of utility services
- the effect that existing uses on adjoining or nearby land may have on the proposed use
- the scale and intensity of the use and development
- the safety, efficiency and amenity effects of traffic to be generated by the proposal

Whilst the proposed use will facilitate a recreational/social activity, on balance it is considered that the use is inconsistent with the purpose of the Township zone in that the nature of the meetings occurring in open air is likely to detrimentally impact upon the neighbourhood character and amenity of the area, being a predominately residential precinct. Such impact is contrary to Council's position of providing attractive towns as a means to encourage new residents to Loddon.

It is recognised that any impact on neighbourhood character and amenity will be temporary in nature given the sporadic and short term nature of the proposed open air meetings, however concern lies with the effect which this use may have on adjoining or nearby land and the quality and extent of infrastructure provided to accommodate the use.

It is also considered that adequate social and public infrastructure currently exists within the Township to accommodate the proposed use in a more appropriate location, as opposed to establishing a new use within a predominately residential precinct.

Although this group appear to be undertaking good work in the community, conduct of regular meetings involving up to 20 people and associated vehicles is considered to pose a risk to the amenity of the surrounding residential area. As the meetings are to be conducted in the open, noise cannot be attenuated. Vehicles accessing the property in large numbers are also likely to create dust given the current construction status of local roads servicing the property.

Consideration of grounds of objection

Notice of the proposal was provided to surrounding residents and landowners. Two objections were received from the immediately adjoining land owners to the west. They objected to the proposal due to concerns about noise, odour, visual amenity, waste disposal, antisocial behaviour, appropriateness of the use within a residential area and traffic.

Copies of the objections are enclosed for Council consideration. Of the points raised therein, consideration has been primarily given to the potential amenity impacts which may be generated by the proposed land use and the appropriateness of siting this use within a predominately residential area.

A number of the items raised within the objection are considered to be reflective of the current dispute which is occurring between the applicant and the adjacent landowners. In assessing the application consideration has only been given to those elements which relate to planning grounds.

COSTS/BENEFITS

Determination of this application is not expected to have any cost implications upon Council nor will Council derive any direct benefit from the proposed land use.

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.

4.5 TEMPORARY STANDPIPE SUBSIDY ARRANGEMENTS

SUMMARY

Presents a summary of proposals received from both Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water and Coliban Water, facilitating either the transition of management responsibilities for, or a reduction of costs associated with water supplied via, the local standpipe and emergency water supply point networks.

Author	Ian McLauchlan, Director Operations
Council Plan ref:	Core business 2: Provision of wellbeing services
File no:	15/08/008
Attachment:	Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. *Accept Coliban Water's offer to waive all water usage and service fees associated with urban standpipes supplied by their reticulated networks, for a six month period commencing 1 February 2016.*
2. *Accept Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water's offer to accept management responsibilities for the two emergency supply points attached to the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline.*
3. *Modify the charge for water supplied via the primary standpipe network from \$5.00KL to \$1.65KL effective 1 February 2016.*
4. *Modify the charge for water supplied via the emergency water point network from \$3.00KL to \$1.65KL effective 1 February 2016.*
5. *Continue to negotiate with Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water and Coliban Water regarding the potential handover of standpipe and emergency water supply point facilities.*
6. *Decommission the Shelbourne standpipe facility, however maintain and fund the operation of both the bore pump and electrical supply infrastructure.*
7. *Complete a detailed analysis of remaining standpipe utilisation to identify opportunities for potential longer term asset rationalisation and associated service cost reduction.*

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council previously discussed both utilisation rates and the associated service charges for water supplied via the eight standpipe facilities located throughout the Shire in February 2014. Further discussion also occurred regarding the setting of water supply charges for these standpipe facilities during development of the 2015/16 Fees and Charges schedule.

BACKGROUND

Council have historically operated eight separate standpipe facilities across the Shire. These standpipe facilities are supplied from a mixture of both potable and non-potable water sources. The majority of these standpipes are connected to reticulated water supply systems owned and operated by Coliban Water (Coliban).

In 2015/16 a further 4 emergency water supply points were also established in response to observed drought conditions, increasing reliance on water carting and escalating cost of supply from potable reticulated networks. These emergency supply points operate with reduced infrastructure and have been connected to either the Grampians Wimmera Mallee (GWM) system or alternate raw water supply sources e.g. bore or Loddon River.

A full list of standpipe locations and associated water quality supplied is provided in table 1 below:

Table 1: Standpipe locations and water supply quality

Location	Water Quality	Supply Provider	Primary or Emergency Supply Point
Wedderburn	Potable	Coliban	Primary
Inglewood	Potable	Coliban	Primary
Bridgewater	Potable	Coliban	Primary
Tarnagulla	Potable	Coliban	Primary
Mitiamo	Non-potable	Coliban	Primary
Shelbourne	Non-potable	Bore	Primary
Pyramid Hill	Potable	Coliban	Primary
Bridgewater (Recreation Reserve)	Non-potable	Goulburn Murray Water(GMW)	Emergency
Emu Logan Road	Non-potable	Bore	Emergency
Yeungroon Woosang Road	Non-potable	GWM	Emergency
Borong Wedderburn Road	Non-potable	GWM	Emergency

Primary standpipe facilities currently operate on the AvData key system. Under the AvData system all accounts are electronically managed using real time telemetry from the standpipe sites. This provides for accurate monitoring of customer usage and streamlined account management and billing. Operating such a system does however incur additional infrastructure, technology and administration costs.

Emergency water supply points operate using a key and log book method, with Council officers periodically auditing water usage and preparing customer accounts based upon log book returns.

Over the past 8 months demand for water from a number of the above facilities has increased dramatically as a result of significantly lower than average rainfall. The lack of spring and summer rains has resulted in significant pressure being placed on local farmers to maintain water supplies for stock and on farm use. This pressure has further been compounded by the associated time requirements and financial cost associated with carting water.

This escalation in water carting activities also coincides with the release of the state governments Local Council Drought Response Package (the Package). As part of this package Loddon Shire was requested to examine opportunities for providing some form of financial relief for farmers currently reliant on water supplied from the standpipe network.

On 2 February 2016 the Chief Executive Officer met with the Managing Directors of Coliban Water (Coliban) and Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water (GWM), Mr Jeff Rigby and Mr Mark Williams. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss potential arrangements for the introduction of a subsidy program to offset the cost of water supplied from Council's standpipe network. Further, discussion was also had as to the possibility of standpipe facilities being handed over to the relevant water authority, being those which are already connected to reticulated pipeline systems.

At the conclusion of this meeting it was agreed that both water corporations would provide Council with an official proposal regarding both the mechanism for applying a subsidy for water supplied via standpipe facilities as well as their position regarding the ongoing management of these facilities.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

GWM have indicated that they are prepared to accept management responsibilities for the existing emergency water supply points connected to the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline. Further to the existing two supply points, additional supply points have also been earmarked as part of the proposed Loddon South West Pipeline project currently under investigation.

Upon control of these sites be handed over to GWM, both sites shall be retrofitted with an electronic customer usage and billing system consistent with other GMW sites. GWM have indicated that the charge which shall be applied for water obtained from these two sites will be \$2.29 per KL. This represents a saving of approximately \$0.70 from current charges applied by Council.

With GWM being responsible for the complete management of the water supply points, any further subsidy provided by the state government in the future may be easily administered and passed on to the customer through GWM's internal billing arrangements. All infrastructure currently located at the emergency water supply points would become the responsibility of GWM.

The above saving will however not be fully realised until such time that GWM take full control over these sites. It is therefore being recommended that the charge applied for water from the emergency supply points be reduced effective 1 February 2016 to \$1.65KL, in consideration of the proposal being put forward by Coliban as detailed below.

This effectively represents a subsidy provided by Council, however given the relatively new nature of the standpipe infrastructure combined with the pending transition to GWM control, minimal risk is considered to exist with respect to future infrastructure renewal demands. Council may wish to calculate and claim through the Package, any loss of revenue for the interim operation of these sites at the above reduced rate.

Coliban have also responded with an offer to subsidise the cost of water supplied from site attached to their reticulated networks, however are not prepared to accept management responsibility for these sites at this time.

Coliban's proposal is to establish an interim agreement which will be applied retrospectively from 1 February 2016 for an initial period of six (6) months. At the end of this six month period the agreement can be reviewed and either extended, abandoned or replaced with other arrangements. The agreement may also be reviewed and amended at any time subject to changes in the 'drought affected' status of local townships.

Under the agreement Coliban are prepared to waive all charges applied to Loddon Shire Council in respect of water supplies to its primary standpipes (where applicable), with such cost savings then to be passed on to users via a reduction in the applicable standpipe fee.

Based upon a recent operating cost analysis for the primary standpipes (averaged across all sites), the exclusion of Coliban service and volumetric charges (plus consequential reduction in AvData administration costs) results in a potential operational saving of \$3.34KL. This provides the

opportunity to reduce the applicable standpipe fee from \$5.00KL to \$1.65KL. Reintroduction of service and volumetric charges would require this discount to be reviewed.

Coliban have estimated that by waiving service and volumetric charges, the corporation is forgoing approximately \$30,000 in revenue. Coliban have further indicated to the Department of Environment Water Land and Planning (administrator of the drought response package) that they will not be seeking reimbursement for such lost revenue.

It is noted that the charge that would be applied by GWM for supplies from emergency supply points is higher than that which would be applicable to the primary standpipes (Coliban supplied). Accordingly it is being proposed that both systems be brought into alignment with respect to pricing for the next 6 months. This arrangement may be brought into effect until such time that these sites are officially handed across to GWM.

Through the AvData system, differential pricing can be applied however at this time it is being recommended that all standpipes have the average charge rate applied. Should the status of specific areas within the Shire no longer be recognised as 'drought affected' consideration may be given to applying differential rates, given Coliban's indication that charges would revert back to normal in such circumstances.

Council will retain control over three standpipe or emergency water supply locations being Shelbourne (SP), Bridgewater Recreation Reserve (EWS) and Emu Logan Road (EWS). Further to the above agreements the following action is proposed in relation to those sites which will remain under the control of Council:

Shelbourne: It is proposed that all standpipe and AvData system infrastructure be removed from this location. Utilisation of this site is minimal and it is considered that Council's investment in required infrastructure is no longer viable. It is however proposed that Council continue to maintain the bore pump and power service required to supply the nearby fire dam, so as to maintain a secure emergency water supply point.

Emu Logan Road: It is proposed that this site be maintained as an emergency water supply point however that the charge for supply be temporarily reduced in line with the above cost adjustments. Supply from this bore is again marginal both in terms of capacity and usage. A review of the applicable charge or retention of this site may be undertaken as part of a broader standpipe assessment.

Bridgewater Recreation Reserve: It is proposed that this Emergency Water Supply point be maintained. Currently the system operates under agreement with the Recreation Reserve Committee of Management (CoM). As the system is supplied from the Loddon River, and given the presence of the formal Bridgewater Standpipe nearby, it is expected that utilisation of this site will decrease if the cost subsidy was to be implemented. Accordingly it is proposed that the cost for this site also be reduced in line with the above recommendation and be subject to further review into the future.

COSTS/BENEFITS

Access to reduced cost water supplies will greatly assist struggling farmers within the drought affected areas of the Shire. Whilst costs associated with transportation of water cannot be avoided, the reduction in water charges from the standpipes will significantly reduce the financial burden upon already incurred by struggling landowners.

The above temporary cost subsidy is expected to have cost implications for both Coliban and Council. As identified above, Coliban have estimated that they are likely to forgo up to \$30,000 of revenue over the coming 6 months. At this point Coliban have indicated that they are not intending to seek reimbursement for this cost through the Package.

A reduction in cost for remaining standpipes and emergency water supply points which shall remain under the control of Council will have an effect on expected income from these facilities. Such income is earmarked to cover routine maintenance, administration and capital renewal works for these sites. Given the temporary nature of the proposed subsidy and the low volumes of water being taken from these specific locations, the overall impact of this upon Council is however expected to be limited.

RISK ANALYSIS

Agreeing to implementation of the temporary standpipe and emergency water supply subsidy may result in Council receiving slightly less revenue for a number of sites. Such revenue is typically utilised on repairs and maintenance of the site infrastructure. The reduced income may require increased investment on Councils behalf towards such infrastructure, however given the current condition of assets on site this risk is expected to be minimal in the short term.

Failure to reach agreement and pass on, in some form, subsidy assistance to landowners accessing the standpipe and emergency water supply network poses a political and economic risk for the Shire both in terms of local advocacy and representation of landowners, as well as the financial pressure being placed upon a key economic industry within the municipality.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Consultation on this issue has occurred over a significant period of time with local community and agricultural sector representatives as well as water supply authorities and state government.

5. INFORMATION REPORTS

5.1 PROGRESS REPORT ON PROJECTS WITHIN THE COUNCIL PLAN 2013-2017

SUMMARY

A report on progress of actions within the current Council Plan 2013-2017

Author	John McLinden, Chief Executive Officer
Council Plan ref:	Core business 3: Planning for future needs
File no:	02/02/003
Attachment:	Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the report on progress against the Council Plan.

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

Progress was last reported to Council in March 2015.

BACKGROUND

Council has agreed to receive regular updates on progress against its Council Plan.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

This report provides a series of snapshots which provide Council with a clear understanding of progress against each of the key projects contained within Council's four year plan.

COSTS/BENEFITS

No costs and benefits are identified for this progress report.

RISK ANALYSIS

No risks are associated with this report.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Nil required.

STRATEGIC PLATFORM 1 BUILD A NETWORK OF STRONG COMMUNITIES

OBJECTIVE: Support our townships in preserving their individuality whilst leveraging their collective strength.

SUCCESS INDICATORS:

1. Completion of suite of new community plans with consistent framework
2. Implement social media strategy
3. Facilitate a solution for childcare

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS: Community support policy
Social media policy

2013 – 2017 PRIORITIES:		KEY PROJECTS:	PROGRESS
1.1	Build unique brand identities for each of our communities based on their geography, history and personality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define each of our town brand identities and communicate these 	The establishment of town brand identities has been incorporated into the streetscape work being completed for four of our five major towns. This work is ongoing.
1.2	Use community planning to allow our communities to create their own futures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restructure community planning to focus on the longer term • Promote succession planning within communities 	Council received the consultant report at the January 2016 Council Forum, making recommendations for the restructure of community planning. No decision has been made on an approach for the longer term.
1.3	Build a spirit of connectivity and mutual support amongst the communities of Loddon Shire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct an annual event to bring community planning groups together to share 	Following presentation to the Council forum in October 2013 to hold a leadership event in place of business awards, community planning groups have been brought together through the community planning review, with workshops held over 3 consultations.
1.4	Leverage social media to better communicate with our residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a social media strategy and implement actions 	Complete Council's Social Media Strategy has been approved and implemented with Council's Facebook page now going live.
1.5	Promote a calendar of events across the region and support them	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and support events on new website 	Complete With the redesign of Council's website, much greater promotion and support of events occurs. This action is ongoing.

1.6	Drive improvement in life services including lobbying for assistance with childcare shortfall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify service needs and develop links with providers to source options for provision of childcare 	<p>Council has undertaken significant work in identifying the needs for the provision of childcare in our community and has worked with a consultant to develop a cost-effective model for small rural communities.</p> <p>Implementation of this model is awaiting guideline decisions from the Federal government.</p> <p>Council is ready to assist our community to implement this model but is unable to until the Federal government resolves its position in relation to the provision of childcare for isolated rural communities.</p>
1.7	Support volunteer organisations to remain active within the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the benefits of membership of a volunteer organisation List volunteer groups on website and provide contact details 	<p>Council has completed this action by undertaking a review of all of our volunteer groups and ensuring that their contact details are up-to-date and listed on the website.</p>

STRATEGIC PLATFORM 2

GROW OUR POPULATION THROUGH APPROPRIATE DEVELOPMENT

OBJECTIVE: Capitalise on the demand for lifestyle properties, without compromising premium agricultural land or our environment.

SUCCESS INDICATORS:

1. 10% increase in planning approvals for new residential housing
2. Reduce planning approval turn around for residential and business applications to 12 weeks
3. Complete register of significant planning achievements

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS:

Rural zones review
Settlement plan (in progress)
Loddon Shire Planning Scheme

2013 – 2017 PRIORITIES:		KEY PROJECTS:	PROGRESS
2.1	Implement planning strategies that accelerate growth in appropriate areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement Rural Zones Review 	Partially complete. Council has completed the planning scheme amendment which will implement Council's Rural Zones Review. This amendment is currently with the Minister and Council has met with the Minister to accelerate the approval of the Planning Scheme Amendment which will complete the implementation of the Rural Zones review.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and commence implementation of Settlement Strategy 	Work has commenced on the development of the Loddon Shire Settlement Strategy.
2.2	Adopt a pro-development attitude to planning and stimulate investment needed to service the community's changing housing requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridgewater residential subdivision 	Complete The Bridgewater residential subdivision has now been rezoned and the land is available for development. As the land is privately owned, further progress on this matter rests with the landowner. Council has set the environment to allow this development to occur.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement online planning application process for commercial development (SPEAR system) 	Completed
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Loddon Shire Settlement Strategy 	Work has commenced on the development of the Loddon Shire Settlement Strategy.
2.3	Improve our turnaround time on planning approvals for housing projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a planning application progress tracking system 	Complete An electronic tracking system for planning applications has been developed.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drive improvement in turnaround time by enforcing targets 	<p>There has been significant work done to improve the turnaround time for planning permits, still more work needs to be done. (Median number of days between receipt and planning decision at 30 June 2015 was 60, median number of days at 31 December 2015 was 56.)</p>
2.4	Attract investors to develop infrastructure and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and commence implementation of new Economic Development Strategy which incorporates investment attraction for essential infrastructure and services 	<p>Council has adopted an Economic Development Strategy in 2015, implementation of the strategy is ongoing.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify surplus council properties and market them 	<p>A number of surplus properties have been identified and reported to Council for disposal. Work continues on this project.</p>

STRATEGIC PLATFORM 3 CHAMPION OUR AGRIFOOD ENTERPRISES

OBJECTIVE: Be an advocate for our agrifood sector and ensure it is adequately resourced to remain the backbone of our shire's economy.

SUCCESS INDICATORS: 5% growth in agricultural sector average GDP

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS: Economic Development Strategy

2013 – 2017 PRIORITIES:		KEY PROJECTS:	PROGRESS
3.1	Remove the road blocks for new agrifood enterprises or expansion of existing ones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobby state government to remove barriers to agricultural value-adding 	Council is having ongoing discussions with the state government. A current project involves a collaborative project with adjacent councils to attract intensive agriculture to the region.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the Innovative Farming Project to help existing farmers understand expansion opportunities 	Council provided strong advocacy support for the Innovative Farming Project, developed as a response to the Murray Darling Basin Plan. The NCCMA is briefing Council on the project status in February.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the Northern Victorian Regional Transport Strategy 	Draft Loddon Campaspe Regional Transport Strategy has been developed and will be presented to Council for endorsement shortly. Council continues to support the Regional Transport Strategy and has the Director Operations on the steering committee.
3.2	Maintain planning protocols that protect prime agricultural land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider at next planning scheme review 	Completed , with Council endorsing the review in January. Next steps will be implementation of the amendments falling out from the recommendations of the review.
3.3	Engage with the agribusiness sector in a regular more formal way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage Agribusiness Development Officer 	Council has engaged an agribusiness development officer in 2015.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement agribusiness actions from new Economic Development Strategy 	Ongoing. For example, the Economic Development Strategy includes "discuss and develop investment opportunities in Loddon and promote the Loddon brand and its competitive advantages, particularly in affordable agricultural land for intensive farming." This is a key responsibility of the Agribusiness Officer.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen relationships with existing 'hero' agrifood businesses 	<p>With the agribusiness development officer now on staff, Council has made approaches to a number of large-scale agrifood businesses within the municipality and is developing better relationships with each of these organisations</p>
3.4	Continue to seek out agrifood value-adding opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage Agribusiness Development Officer 	<p>Council engaged an agribusiness development officer in 2015</p>

STRATEGIC PLATFORM 4 MAKE OUR TOWNS LIVEABLE AND MEMORABLE

- OBJECTIVE:** Improve the liveability of our main townships by making them attractive to existing residents, prospective residents and tourists.
- SUCCESS INDICATORS:**
1. Three new streetscape projects completed
 2. Completion of master plan for high use recreational amenities
- RELEVANT DOCUMENTS:** Loddon Shire Planning Scheme
Community Plans

2013 – 2017 PRIORITIES:		KEY PROJECTS:	PROGRESS
4.1	Renew the streetscape in our major towns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wedderburn Streetscape Project 	The detailed Wedderburn Streetscape construction plans have been completed. Planning approval for the works is now being sought with a contractor also appointed, however works will not commence until all statutory approvals have been obtained.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop plans for Boort, Pyramid Hill, Bridgewater streetscape redevelopment 	Draft concept plans have been completed in December 2015. Next phase will involve finalisation and adoption of concepts, then development of detailed construction plans.
4.2	Enhance our overall amenities by offering improved, but rationalised facilities in line with financial resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inglewood Town Hall Hub Project 	Work on the Inglewood Town Hall hub project commenced in September 2015 and is progressing.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wedderburn Community Centre Redevelopment 	Complete Extension and redevelopment works have been completed. Requirement for ancillary damp proofing works have been identified and scheduled to be completed shortly.
4.3	Work with our business community to foster a customer service culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a self-diagnostic customer service template for businesses 	Complete Template is available on Council's website as a business tool, and has been marketed through local media.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate annual customer service training for businesses 	Council's Economic Development Department continues to deliver customer service training for our businesses.
4.4	Lift local hospitality capability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver local accommodation guide and promote through website 	Complete
4.5	Enforce a clean-up of our towns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct audit, identification and prioritisation of all unsightly properties in all major towns 	Complete A methodology to identify, prioritise and to respond to unsightly properties was prepared and presented to Council in 2015. Staff have now applied this tool to prioritise identified properties across the Shire following a detailed audit.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Systematically apply process for enforcement according to priority 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Enforcement action against top 10 prioritised unsightly or hazardous properties has commenced.</p>
4.6	Improve stormwater and wastewater management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement high priority works identified in township drainage strategies 	Ongoing
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop Stormwater Asset Management Plan 	A draft Urban Drainage Asset Management Plan (UDAMP) is to be presented to Council in March 2016.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner in Sewer Connections Project with Coliban Water and Department of Health to increase the number of properties connected to township sewer schemes 	The relationship with Coliban Water has been strengthened and there is an agreed approach to increasing the amount of connections to sewerage in sewered towns.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate opportunities to implement sewer extension schemes 	Lobbying with Coliban water regarding potential sewer extension or establishment schemes is still to occur. There have been a number of discussions regarding a sewer scheme for Newbridge however such works are not being actively pursued by Coliban Water at this time.
4.7	Improve the appearance and functionality of recreation and public spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a capital works program for parks and gardens facilities 	An ongoing capital works program for parks and gardens (P&G) facilities has been developed and has been funded for a second year in a row in 2015/16. Expansion of the P&G rolling program is continuing with a number of additional public space renewal or upgrades identified.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop master plans for all high use recreational facilities 	Master plans for all recreational facilities have now been completed , and will be reviewed in 12 months as many infrastructure items are now completed.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement a new recreation strategy 	Council adopted a revised recreation strategy in July 2015.
4.8	Take leadership in building infrastructure, amenities and services appropriate to town needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement a Stormwater Asset Management Plan 	A draft UDAMP is to be presented to Council in March 2016.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Council's Building Asset Management Plan and Road Asset Management Plan 	Council's Building Asset Management Plan (BAMP) review will commence in June but not likely to be completed until late 2016. Draft RAMP has now been prepared and will be discussed with Council shortly.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop assessment and prioritisation guidelines for each infrastructure category comprising Council's Annual Infrastructure Program 	Prioritisation and assessment guidelines have been developed for both the Amenity and Safety sub programs within Council's Local Road Construction Program. Remaining elements of the Annual Infrastructure Program require guidelines to be developed.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop long term Parks and Gardens and Buildings capital works programs 	Long term parks and gardens capital works program is under development. A number of projects have been identified across the shire and

			populated within the rolling program for consideration by Council during presentation of the Annual Infrastructure Program in April/May 2016.
4.9	Set the benchmark for recreational vehicle (RV) friendly towns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install dump points at three strategic locations across Loddon Shire 	Completed
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement action from the Loddon Shire Council Tourism Strategy 2011-2016 to establish Loddon as an RV Friendly Shire 	Completed

STRATEGIC PLATFORM 5 GROW AND DIVERSIFY OUR ECONOMY

- OBJECTIVE:** Attract investment that introduces new industries, presents opportunity for existing businesses and grows our working population.
- SUCCESS INDICATORS:**
1. Annual increase in employment
 2. Investment by at least two new industry projects evident in the Shire
- RELEVANT DOCUMENTS:** Economic Development Strategy
Tourism strategy and marketing plan

2013 – 2017 PRIORITIES:		KEY PROJECTS:	PROGRESS
5.1	Exploit our existing strengths and areas of competitive advantage to grow and diversify the economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a new Economic Development Strategy 	<p>Completed</p> <p>Council has adopted an Economic Development Strategy in 2015, implementation of the strategy is ongoing.</p>
5.2	Build our tourism sector product, capability and promotion appropriate to the different range of products in the north and south of the shire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete foreshore redevelopment plans for the Boort Lakes and the Loddon River at Bridgewater 	Plans for the development of the foreshore of Little Lake Boort have been abandoned and plans are currently under preparation for Bridgewater. The Bridgewater foreshore plans are being presented to Council in January 2016.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete construction of the Bridgewater Public Caravan Park 	Completed
5.3	Promote development of tourist accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List suitable accommodation venues on website 	Completed
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage investment in tourism accommodation 	Ongoing. Activities in the past year included an accommodation forum, a Loddon Valley network meeting including included accommodation operators, continuing to assist and encourage accommodation on farm or self-contained with vacant homes, and working with accommodation operators that live on the property to register with Airbnb (KurracaBurN Heights and Rostrata Country Farm stay have both registered).

STRATEGIC PLATFORM 6

SUPPORT OUR TRANSITIONING TOWNSHIPS

- OBJECTIVE:** Support small town communities to retain the best possible quality of life in the face of a declining population with increasing needs.
- SUCCESS INDICATORS:**
1. Maintain current population across all small town communities
 2. Maintain 65%+ overall satisfaction rating with small town communities
- RELEVANT DOCUMENTS:** Loddon Mallee South Regional Growth Plan

2013 – 2017 PRIORITIES:		KEY PROJECTS:	PROGRESS
6.1	Support initiatives that assist community members who may be isolated or at risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in the Red Cross Vulnerable People project and implement a Community Register of Vulnerable People 	Council continues to participate in the Red Cross Vulnerable Persons Project and a register of vulnerable persons is compiled in accordance with Council's obligations under the Emergency Management Framework.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and access funding for projects targeted at reducing isolation 	
6.2	Rationalise community facilities to provide less but better facilities and amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement Council's Building Asset Management Plan 	Council's current Building Asset Management Plan (BAMP) is being implemented when considering requests for building maintenance, renewal or upgrade. A number of projects have been delivered in accordance with the BAMP guideline utilising the annual budget allocation for this strategic document. A number of requests have also been refused at this time based upon current policies contained within the strategy. A review of the BAMP is expected to occur within 2016.
6.3	Ensure that residents of small towns have access to a set of basic services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define the basic service offer to very small towns 	Service level statements for small town still to be prepared. Such statements may also be significantly influenced by Council's Service Delivery Review project.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find cost-effective ways of delivering services to very small communities 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for improved transport to large towns 	Advocacy for improved transport services has occurred through the development of the Loddon Campaspe Regional Transport Strategy.

STRATEGIC PLATFORM 7 CONNECT WITH THE NEXT GENERATION

OBJECTIVE: Engage with youth to equip them for a positive future and keep our communities young, vibrant and energised.

SUCCESS INDICATORS:

1. Implement at least two new youth programs/initiatives
2. Improve work/school participation rate of 15 to 19 year olds, reducing percentage of disengaged youth to below 10%

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS: Loddon Shire Youth Strategy

2013 – 2017 PRIORITIES:		KEY PROJECTS:	PROGRESS
7.1	Identify the needs of young people and develop future leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renew Council's Youth Strategy 	Review of youth strategy has commenced.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the interest in a youth council 	A Youth Advisory Council has been established and operated throughout 2015. The Youth Advisory Council will continue to meet in 2016 and will continue to be supported by Council staff and youth department.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build a young professional leadership incubator 	Complete. There is insufficient mass to sustain a young professionals leadership network within Loddon Shire, so partnership arrangements have been made to promote the Bendigo Young Professionals Network, which has been welcoming and available for young professionals within Loddon Shire.
7.2	Create an arts and culture youth engagement program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain Kool Skools Program 	Council continues to maintain a Kool Skools program.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to facilitate and expand the range of Freeza events 	Council continues to renew the Freeza program with a new series of events proposed each year.
7.3	Support youth mentoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with businesses and Local Learning Employment Network to build part time job and work experience opportunities as well as more formal career pathways 	Council staff met with LLEN in 2015 – at the time LLEN was awaiting funding confirmation to determine its scope. Next meeting between Council staff and LLEN will be around March 2016.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage our youth to participate in volunteering 	Youth volunteerism is being actively promoted by Council staff during various Freeza or youth support events. No formal promotion program or mechanism of linking youth to specific organisations has been established at this time.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue Council's support for youth mentoring programs in partnership with secondary schools and the North Central Local Learning and Employment Network 	Council has maintained its support for the youth mentoring program in partnership with secondary schools and the Local Learning and Employment Network.

5.2 CHANGES TO MOBILE LIBRARY SCHEDULE

SUMMARY

Report advising changes to the Goldfields Library Corporation mobile library service affecting Loddon Shire locations.

Author	Lynne Habner, Executive Assistant
Council Plan ref:	Core business 2: Provision of wellbeing services
File no:	20/02/001
Attachment:	Letter from Goldfields Library Corporation

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the changes to the Goldfields Library Corporation mobile library schedule as of 1 April 2016, which will be communicated to customers from early March 2016.

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

Loddon Shire is a member of the Goldfields Library Corporation, and the mobile library provides services at various locations within the Shire.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The Goldfields Library Corporation has advised Council about changes to the mobile library schedule affecting the Bendigo and Loddon municipalities that will come into effect from 1 April 2016.

Following a review of usage patterns, changes have been made to services in Loddon Shire as follows:

- Mitiamo and Newbridge are removed from the schedule, having received, on average, less than 2 customers per week in the past twelve months
- as a result, Dingee and Tarnagulla will have the duration of their visits increased.

The revised schedule is detailed in the attachment to this report.

Goldfields Library Corporation has undertaken to develop a communications plan to inform customers of these changes from early March 2016.

COSTS/BENEFITS

No costs to Council have been identified as a result of this report.

RISK ANALYSIS

There may be a reputational risk to Council and Goldfields Library Corporation if the changes are not communicated adequately to customers.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Council staff have not consulted on this matter. The CEO 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:	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*

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

Section 173 Agreement between Loddon Shire Council and HA Poxon in relation to Parcel Plan TP91399 Lot 1

Section 173 Agreement between Loddon Shire Council and KC Poxon in relation to Parcel Plan TP659470 Lot 1

6.2 STRATEGIC RISKS REPORT

SUMMARY

This report provides Council with an update on actions in relation to identified strategic risks.

Author	Carol Canfield, Manager Organisational Development
Council Plan ref:	Core business 8: Compliance
File no:	08/07/006
Attachment:	Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Strategic Risks Report.

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 was provided with a Strategic Risks Report at the May 2015 Council Meeting and at the Council Forum held on 9 June 2015 Council were asked to consider what other strategic risks faced Council.

BACKGROUND

The Local Government Performance Reporting Framework has a requirement on Council to report its strategic business risks, their likelihood and consequence and risk minimisation strategies six-monthly.

Council had previously identified three strategic risks; at the Council Forum in June 2015 Council identified a further six risks. They are:

4. Council's high reliance on recurrent funding and specific purpose grants – this could lead to an impact on jobs at an organisation level and the community by way of service delivery
5. lack of community consultation on projects – this could lead to dissatisfaction with the outcome
6. increase in regulatory compliance for Section 86 Committees – this could lead to a reduction in volunteerism of Council functions
7. Council's current financial assistance model for committees managing facilities – this could impact the financial sustainability of community facilities in the long term
8. Council's current financial assistance model for communities managing facilities – this could lead to a reduction in volunteerism due to demand placed on volunteers
9. Change in weather patterns affecting dry land farmers – could lead to a reduction in the amount of rates collected by Council.

The likelihood and consequence of each risk has been assessed against Council's Risk Management Policy, which has resulted in the risk ratings attached to each risk.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Council's Strategic Risk Register currently has a total of nine risks identified; eight have been identified as MEDIUM risks and 1 a HIGH risk.

The HIGH risk is Risk 58 – A natural disaster event.

Below is the Strategic Risk Register Profile as well and the Risk Definition Legend:

Strategic Risk Register Profile

LIKELIHOOD \ CONSEQUENCE LEVEL	1 :	2 :	3 :	4 :	5 :
A: Almost certain	0	0	0	0	0
B: Likely	0	2	0	0	0
C: Possible	0	1	5	1	0
D: Unlikely	0	0	0	0	0
E: Rare	0	0	0	0	0

Risk Definition Legend

Risk Colour	Level	Description	Risk Count
	Low	Take reasonable steps to mitigate and monitor the risk. Institute permanent controls in the long term (may be administrative if hazard has low frequency, rare likelihood, and insignificant consequence).	0
	Medium	Take reasonable steps to mitigate the risk. Until elimination, substitution, or engineering controls can be implemented, institute administrative or personal protective equipment controls.	8
	High	Act immediately to mitigate the risk. Either eliminate, substitute, or implement engineering control measures.	1
	Very High	Act immediately to mitigate the risk. Either eliminate, substitute, or implement engineering control measures.	0

The following tables outline the risk mitigations strategies that have been identified in order to reduce or eliminate each of the nine risks, and their progress to date.

Risk 56: Reliance on ageing volunteers – could lead to a reduction in numbers and a requirement for Council to take over these roles – this risk has been assessed as a MEDIUM risk.

Three risk mitigation strategies (CAR's – Corrective Action Requests) have been identified to address these risks. They are:

CAR 1	Officer	Status
Volunteer section on the website	IT Assistant	COMPLETE
CAR 2	Officer	Status
Development of a Recreation Strategy, including addressing the volunteer shortage issue and strategies for succession	Manager Community and Recreation	COMPLETE
CAR 3	Officer	Status
Development of governance guidelines to support Section 86 Committees	Director Corporate Services	WORK IN PROGRESS AND ONGOING: For the purpose of this report this CAR is considered COMPLETE. A number of governance guideline information sheets have been developed and place on Council's website.

Risk 57: Council's workforce is ageing – could lead to a reduction in the long term knowledge due to retirement and resignations – this risk has been assessed as a MEDIUM risk.

Three risk mitigation strategies (CAR's – Corrective Action Requests) have been identified to address these risks. They are:

CAR 1	Officer	Status
Development of a Knowledge Management Strategy	Director Corporate Services	COMPLETE
CAR 2	Officer	Status
Development of a Workforce Strategy	Manager Organisational Development	WORK IN PROGRESS In preparation for this strategy Council's internal auditor undertook a review of Succession Planning and Workforce Development. The reported was provided to the November meeting of the Audit Committee. The strategy will now be developed using the report recommendations as guidance.
CAR 3	Officer	Status
Development of a Compliance Framework which includes monitoring compliance in all aspects of the organisation.	Jude Holt	NOT STARTED Although the framework has not been developed regular reports on compliance are being provided to Audit Committee and Council.

Risk 58: A natural disaster event - the impact of a natural disaster event on Council's ability to deliver services and projects – risk has been assessed as a HIGH risk.

Two risk mitigation strategies (CAR's – Corrective Action Requests) have been identified to address this risk they are:

CAR 1	Officer	Status
Development of an IT Disaster Plan	Manager Information	WORK IN PROGRESS A draft IT Disaster Recovery Plan has been developed and was subject to an internal audit review in mid-January. The recommendations from the review will be incorporated into the final document.
CAR 2	Officer	Status
Finalise and adopt the Business Continuity Plan	Manager Organisational Development	COMPLETE

Risk 75: Councils high reliance on recurrent funding and specific purpose grants – this could lead to an impact on jobs at an organisation level and the community by way of service delivery – this risk has been assessed as a MEDIUM risk.

Two risk mitigation strategies (CAR's – Corrective Action Requests) have been identified to date to address this risk.

CAR 1	Officer	Status
Adoption of a Government Engagement Stakeholder Policy	Director Corporate Services	COMPLETE
CAR 2	Officer	Status
Annually review the Long Term Financial Plan to ensure that only current ongoing funding is included in the plan	Manager Finance	COMPLETE

Risk 76: Lack of community consultation on projects – this could lead to dissatisfaction with the outcome – this risk has been assessed as a MEDIUM risk.

One risk mitigation strategy (CAR – Corrective Action Request) has been identified to date to address this risk it is:

CAR 1	Officer	Status
Development of a Project Management Framework	Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer	COMPLETE A Project Management Framework was adopted by Council on 24 November 2015.

Risk 77: Increase in regulatory compliance for Section 86 Committees – this could lead to a reduction in volunteerism of Council functions – this risk has been assessed as a MEDIUM risk.

One risk mitigation strategy (CAR – Corrective Action Request) has been identified to date to address this risk.

CAR 1	Officer	Status
Investigate options or other models for Section 86 Committees	Director Corporate Services	WORK IN PROGRESS

Risk 78: Council's current financial assistance model for committees managing facilities –this could impact the financial sustainability of community facilities in the long term – this risk has been assessed as a MEDIUM risk.

No risk mitigation strategies (CAR's – Corrective Action Requests) have been identified to date to address this risk.

Risk 79: Council's current financial assistance model for communities managing facilities – this could lead to a reduction in volunteerism due to demand placed on volunteers – this risk has been assessed as a MEDIUM risk.

No risk mitigation strategies (CAR's – Corrective Action Requests) have been identified to date to address this risk.

Risk 80: Change in weather patterns affecting dry land farmers – could lead to a reduction in the amount of rates collected by Council – this risk has been assessed as a MEDIUM risk.

One risk mitigation strategy (CAR – Corrective Action Request) has been identified to date to address this risk, it is:

CAR 1	Officer	Status
Advocate on behalf of the community for secure piped water.	Chief Executive Officer	WORK IN PROGRESS Council is currently working with Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water in securing piped water to communities and farmers in the Loddon Shire.

COSTS/BENEFITS

The benefit of identifying strategic risks is to prepare Council for their occurrence.

RISK ANALYSIS

The identification and monitoring of Council's strategic risks should reduce the impact of those risks should Council encounter them in the future.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The Council, with the assistance from the Management Executive Group, identified the strategic risks.

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 22 March at Serpentine commencing at 3pm.