

**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL - MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, SERPENTINE – WEDNESDAY 27 JANUARY 2016**

The meeting commenced at 3.00pm with the Prayer.

**Present**

Cr Neil Beattie (Mayor)  
Cr Colleen Condliffe  
Cr Geoff Curnow  
Cr Gavan Holt  
Cr Cheryl McKinnon

**In attendance**

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

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UNCONFIRMED

**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 15 December 2015*
2. *the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 15 December 2015*
3. *the minutes of the Council Forum of 12 January 2015*

**MOTION**

**Moved: Cr Curnow**

**Seconded: Cr Condliffe**

That Council confirm:

1. The minutes of the Council Briefing of 15 December 2015
2. The minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 15 December 2015 as amended
3. The minutes of the Council Forum of 12 January 2015

**Carried**

In relation to Item 4.5 of the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 15 December 2015, Cr Curnow requested that they be amended to reflect his request that staff look at the adequacy of Laanecoorie-Newbridge Road and place any necessary improvements on the rolling program.

**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.*

**MOTION**

**Moved: Cr Condliffe**

**Seconded: Cr Holt**

That Council receive and note the Action Sheet.

**Carried**

UNCONFIRMED

### 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.*

##### Cr Beattie

<b>Murray Darling Association</b>	
<b>Rail Freight Alliance</b>	
<b>Section 86 Committees:</b> Boort Aerodrome Committee of Management, Boort Development Committee Inc., Boort Memorial Hall Committee of Management, Boort Resource Information Centre Committee Inc., Boort Tourism Committee Inc., Korong Vale Mechanics Hall Committee of Management, Korong Vale Sports Centre Committee of Management, Little Lake Boort Management Committee Inc., Yando Public Hall Committee of Management	
<b>Recreation Strategy Implementation Steering Committee</b>	
<b>Other Council activities</b>	
<b>DATE</b>	<b>Activity</b>
15.12.15	Attended Boort Secondary College awards night
16.12.15	Attended GMW connections review at Wedderburn office ad Boort Memorial Hall
18.12.15	Attended Geoff Allison's funeral

20.12.15	Attended Inglewood Lions Club Christmas Party
23.12.15	Attended Loddon Shire end of year Christmas break up
12.1.16	Attended forum at Wedderburn
18.1.16	Attended GMW connections forum at Wedderburn Office
19.1.16	Loddon Shire turned 21
23.1.16	Attended and welcomed skiers at Bridgewater Masters. Interview with Star FM.
26.1.16	Attended Australia Day celebrations at Boort. John Piccoli Citizen of the Year.
27.1.16	Council Serpentine

**MOTION**

**Moved: Cr Holt**

**Seconded: Cr Curnow**

That Council receive and note the Mayoral Report.

**Carried**

**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.*

**Cr Condliffe**

<b>Calder Highway Improvement Committee</b>	
<b>Section 86 Committees:</b> Bridgewater Memorial Hall Committee of Management, Bridgewater on Loddon Development Committee of Management, Campbells Forest Hall Committee of Management, Inglewood Community Sports Centre Committee of Management, Inglewood Riding Club, Inglewood Lions Community Elderly Persons Units Committee of Management, Inglewood Town Hall Committee of Management, Inglewood Reservoir Committee of Management	
16.12.15 BOLD Meeting Bridgewater	
<b>Australia Day Committee</b>	
<b>Loddon Youth Committee</b>	
<b>Healthy Minds Network</b>	
<b>Other Council activities</b>	
<b>DATE</b>	<b>Activity</b>
16.12.15	East Loddon P12 assembly
20.12.15	Inglewood Lions Club Christmas break up

22.12.15	Inglewood & Districts Community Bank meeting
23.12.15	Loddon Shire Christmas break up, Calivil
7.1.16	Inglewood & Districts Community Bank meeting
19.1.16	Forum in Wedderburn
25.1.16	Meeting with Australia Ambassador in Bridgewater
26.1.16	Breakfast in Bridgewater for Australia Day with Guest Speaker Laura Anderson
26.1.16	Australia Day Inglewood Swimming Carnival with Guest Speaker Betty Kinsinger
26.1.16	Salisbury West Landcare Celebration Australia Day
27.1.16	Council meeting Serpentine

**Cr Holt**

<b>Municipal Association of Victoria</b>	
<b>Section 86 Committees:</b> Donaldson Park Committee of Management, Wedderburn Community Centre Committee of Management, Wedderburn Engine Park Committee of Management, Wedderburn Mechanics Institute Hall Committee of Management, Wedderburn Tourism Inc.	
<b>Audit Committee</b>	
<b>Other Council activities</b>	
<b>DATE</b>	<b>Activity</b>
23.12.15	Attended Loddon Shire staff break up function at Calivil
12.1.16	Attended Council forum at Wedderburn
20.1.16	Attended meeting of Wedderburn Lions Club to discuss the Wedderburn Streetscape Project, in particular the issue of the removal of the Soldiers Memorial Park fence



26.1.16	Attended Australia Day service at Soldiers Memorial Park in Wedderburn with about 160 people in attendance
27.1.16	Attended a site meeting between Council and proponents of the Yemaya Arts and Music Festival at Fernihurst and objection to the proposal

**Cr McKinnon**

**North Central Goldfields Regional Library**


**Section 86 Committees:** Dingee Progress Association, East Loddon Community Centre Committee of Management, Mitiamo Municipal Recreation Reserve Committee of Management, Pyramid Hill Memorial Hall Committee of Management, Pyramid Hill Swimming Pool Committee of Management, Serpentine Bowls and Tennis Pavilion and Reserve Committee of Management

**Nature Tourism Advisory Team**

**Other Council activities**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>Activity</b>
16.12.15	ELC end of year assembly
17.12.15	GMW Connections discussion with Neil and CEO at Wedderburn
17.12.15	Pyramid Hill community meeting to discuss Regional Arts Victoria Small Town Transformation grant
18.12.15	Pyramid Hill Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch
23.12.15	Loddon Shire staff Christmas break up at Calivil
12.1.16	Council forum in Wedderburn
15.1.16	Met with GLC CEO and John McLinden to discuss mobile library service
18.1.16	GMW connections update meeting in Mayor and CEO in Wedderburn with Primary Agency who are consulting on the project
26.1.16	Australia Day Breakfast at Calivil and tea at Pyramid Hill. Both events well supported, over 100 at each event.

**Cr Curnow**

<b>Loddon Mallee Waste Resource Recovery Group</b>	
<b>Section 86 Committees:</b> Eddington Community Centre Committee of Management, Kingower Development and Tourism Committee Inc.	
<b>Municipal Emergency Management Plan Committee and Municipal Fire Prevention Committee</b>	
<b>Other Council activities</b>	
<b>DATE</b>	<b>Activity</b>
18.12.15	MAV Emergency Management Committee Meeting – Melbourne
23.12.15	Council Christmas Dinner at Calivil
12.1.16	Council Forum at Wedderburn
25.1.16	Met with constituents at Newbridge
26.1.16	Australia Day Celebrations at Eddington (56), Tarnagulla (59) and Newbridge (90)
27.1.16	Loddon Shire Council Meeting at Serpentine – via Fernihurst

**MOTION**

**Moved: Cr McKinnon**

**Seconded: Cr Condliffe**

That Council receive and note the Councillors' Report.

**Carried**

**4. DECISION REPORTS**

**4.1 INQUIRY INTO THE AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION'S PRESENCE IN RURAL AUSTRALIA**

**SUMMARY**

Report on proposed inquiry into ABC regional service delivery.

Author	John McLinden, Chief Executive Officer
Council Plan ref:	Core business 1: Leadership
File no:	17/02/002
Attachment:	Letter from Senator McKenzie with attachments Draft submission to Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

**RECOMMENDATION**

*That Council write to the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee supporting the maintenance of locally produced programming on ABC radio.*

**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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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**

Senator Bridget McKenzie has introduced a Private Senator's Bill into the Australian Parliament seeking to have the workings of the ABC in regional areas referred to the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee for inquiry and reporting.

**ISSUES/DISCUSSION**

As Senator McKenzie points out in her correspondence to Council, "this inquiry provides an excellent opportunity for regional residents, community groups and journalists to outline their experiences and desires for ABC regional service delivery to both parliamentarians and the Australian public".

The programming of ABC radio generated from their regional office in Bendigo has a strong local following for their morning programs. The Loddon Shire, along with a number of other community groups and municipalities, has made strong use of this following. Loddon Shire has a strong relationship with Bendigo ABC and we have been able to use this medium to get our message to our community in a very effective way.

It appears that recent changes to the ABC have seen a retreat of regional production back to the capital cities. We are expecting to see less local content and more state-wide programming produced in future years.

The Loddon Shire should be concerned about any reduction of local content or any reduction in the ability of Council to use local ABC to get our message out to our community. It is suggested that Council may wish to write a brief submission to the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee pointing out the importance of local production in regional ABC radio and the important role that this plays in allowing community groups and local governments in getting their message to their community.

The Central Victorian community is all the better for having a locally produced ABC radio program.

**COSTS/BENEFITS**

No financial impacts to Council have been identified.

**RISK ANALYSIS**

Concerns for Council are outlined in the discussion.

**CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

Nil

**MOTION**

**Moved: Cr Condliffe**

**Seconded: Cr McKinnon**

That Council write to the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee supporting the maintenance of locally produced programming on ABC radio.

**Carried**

**4.2 FINANCE REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2015**

**SUMMARY**

This report provides Council with financial information for the period ending 31 December 2015.

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 December 2015

**RECOMMENDATION**

*That Council:*

1. *receives and notes the 'Finance Report for the period ending 31 December 2015'*
2. *approves budget revisions included in the report for internal reporting purposes only*

**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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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 December 2015 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**

Nil.

**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.

**MOTION**

**Moved: Cr Curnow**

**Seconded: Cr McKinnon**

That Council:

1. receives and notes the 'Finance Report for the period ending 31 December 2015'
2. approves budget revisions included in the report for internal reporting purposes only

**Carried**

**4.3 ADOPTION OF EVENT MANAGEMENT – A GUIDE FOR EVENT ORGANISERS**

**SUMMARY**

This report seeks Council's approval to adopt "Event Management – A guide for event organisers".

Author	Carol Canfield, Manager Organisational Development
Council Plan ref:	Core business 8: Compliance
File no:	16/03/002
Attachment:	Event Management – A guide for event organisers

**RECOMMENDATION**

*That Council adopts "Event Management – A guide for event organisers".*

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

<b>Officer name</b>	<b>Nature of interest</b>	<b>Reason for conflict</b>
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 an overview of "Event Management – A guide for event organisers" at the Council Forum held on 15 December 2015.

**BACKGROUND**

Council receives numerous requests from organisations and members of the public in respect to information required when running an event. This guide has been developed to be a valuable resource to those organisations when organising an event.

**ISSUES/DISCUSSION**

Organising an event can be a complex task. Council has a number of departments that are responsible for authorising approval for different elements of events.

The aim of the guide is to ensure events are properly assessed and that all applicable approvals are sought. It will assist event organisers to understand event requirements.

The guide provides:

- support for event organisers to successfully plan and manage events
- things that need to be considered when planning an event
- useful details, contact information and web links containing information
- useful ideas and templates that will assist in conducting events.

**COSTS/BENEFITS**

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

**RISK ANALYSIS**

Risk management is an integral part of responsible event management; this document aims to provide clear guidance on a number of aspects of organising events, and includes risk management.

**CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

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

Council also sought feedback and guidance from selected community groups during development of the document.

**MOTION**

**Moved: Cr McKinnon**

**Seconded: Cr Condliffe**

That Council adopts "Event Management – A guide for event organisers".

**Carried**



**4.4 BUSINESS CASE – SERVICE DELIVERY REVIEWS**

**SUMMARY**

This report seeks Council's endorsement of the business case for service delivery reviews and commencement of the service delivery review project.

Author	Jude Holt, Director Corporate Services
Council Plan ref:	Strategic enabler: Delivery of service excellence
File no:	02/05/001
Attachment:	Business Case – Service delivery reviews

**RECOMMENDATION**

*That Council endorses:*

1. *the Business case - Service delivery reviews*
2. *commencement of the service delivery review project under option 2: organisation-wide identification and prioritisation of all Council services.*

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

<b>Officer name</b>	<b>Nature of interest</b>	<b>Reason for conflict</b>
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 was provided with an overview of the Business case for service delivery reviews at the Council Forum held on 12 January 2016.

**BACKGROUND**

With the introduction of rate capping in Victoria in 2016/17, there is an awareness within Victorian councils that they must find ways of doing business better or differently in order to minimise the impact of less income over time.

Although the impact will be different for every council, and some councils will apply for a variation to the rate cap, every council will have some reduction in income, which must be addressed by a reduction in expenditure and/or an increase in income.

Service delivery reviews by their nature provide councils with evidence to support good decision making around the services that they must provide, services that they provide on an agency basis, and services that they choose to provide and assist in deciding whether they will continue to deliver those services in their current state or some altered state in the longer term.

To support the sector in how to approach service delivery reviews, the Municipal Association of Victoria has commenced the "MAV Step program – Service planning and community engagement", and the state government facilitated training courses across the state "Enhancing local government

service delivery” which were delivered by the University of Technology Sydney: Australian Centre for Excellence for Local Government.

Members of Council's Management Executive Group attended the training course held in Wedderburn to learn about the process, and prepare for the project should Council wish to proceed with service delivery reviews, and the Director Corporate Services has been attending the MAV Step Program meetings.

## **ISSUES/DISCUSSION**

### **Background**

A business case for service delivery reviews has been prepared and was presented to Council at the Forum held on 12 January 2016.

The business case outlines the project stages which include:

1. Identify, group and collect data on all services that Council currently delivers
2. Set review priorities, understanding the services that are needed by the Loddon Shire community and services that Council is required to deliver under legislation
3. Analyse services (service levels, delivery models, financial and other analysis, risk assessment)
4. Identify changes that are needed and develop options for change
5. Implement changes
6. Evaluate changes and drive continuous improvement.

In order to undertake step 2 – set review priorities, Council will be asked to provide guidance on what priorities should be applied to the services, from a selection from the following factors:

1. costs of services (based on the assumption that services which use a large proportion of the annual budget can potentially offer a higher proportion of financial savings)
2. services with a high proportion of staff or costs
3. where the service statements show there is a gap between satisfaction with the service and the importance of that service to the community
4. whether the service is statutory (especially if it is non-compliant) or non-statutory
5. the impact of the service on the organisation or the community
6. whether undertaking a particular service delivery review is of particular focus for elected Council.

The prioritisation process across each service will provide a valid list of services to target in the first round of reviews which, as per the business case, is 10 services.

The business case outlines the guiding principles for the project which are:

- engage and consult with a wide range of stakeholders throughout the review
- respond to the needs and wants of both the current and future community
- be transparent with all stakeholders about the proposed outcomes
- focus not just on economy and efficiency but also effective provision of services
- set targets for quality and costs and benchmark these against other organisations or standards
- measure and report regularly.

Communication internally and externally will be paramount during the project to ensure that Council receives open and honest feedback about current and future service delivery, and so that the community knows what the impact of a change will be to Council's long term sustainability.

### **The options**

The options outlined in the business case are:

- Option 1: Do nothing – continue current service delivery

- Option 2: Organisation-wide identification and prioritisation of all Council services
- Option 3: Review of certain individual services.

This report is recommending that Council proceed with Option 2: organisation-wide identification and prioritisation of all Council services to achieve the best outcome for the community.

The project will require a budget allocation to commence, which is primarily around the recruitment of a project manager to oversee the service delivery reviews. Ongoing costs include community engagement, specialist consultants, and meeting costs.

#### Project timing

The project is estimated to take a number of years, with many steps requiring months to complete.

The business case suggests that data on all services will be collected, and analysis, identification of changes required, and implementation of changes to the top 10 identified services will be undertaken between February 2016 and June 2019.

As this is a process not yet undertaken by Council, there will be learnings along the way, which will be conveyed to the steering committee during regular project progress meetings.

#### COSTS/BENEFITS

##### Financial

The overall intent of the project is to assist in keeping Council financially sustainable into the long term.

The business case estimates the cost of the project will be in the order of \$629,440 to \$659,440; however, further analysis of costs will be undertaken during the Project Plan phase should Council endorse the project.

It should be noted that not all of this amount is additional to the current budget; some of the costs identified relate to current staff members who will be engaged in the process. There may be some need to backfill those staff members which will be additional cost.

##### Social

A key objective of the project is to ensure that all services are appropriate, effective, and delivered efficiently.

It is not the intention of the project to deliver negative social impacts to the community, although certain individuals may not receive the same levels of service following implementation of changes.

##### Environmental

Council will undertake to improve its services in terms of environmental sustainability and in response to challenges presented by the impacts of climate change wherever possible.

#### RISK ANALYSIS

The business case outlines the risks associated with the project, which include financial, service, people, reputation, and management risks. The business case also outlines risk mitigation strategies for each of the identified risks.

#### CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

In preparing the business case, staff undertook training with a number of officers from other councils and extensive discussions were held during the training course about service delivery reviews across the sector.

The business case includes a section on stakeholder management. Should the project proceed stakeholder management has been identified as a critical process for the project.

**MOTION**

**Moved: Cr Curnow**

**Seconded: Cr McKinnon**

That Council endorses:

1. the Business case - Service delivery reviews
2. commencement of the service delivery review project under option 2: organisation-wide identification and prioritisation of all Council services.

**Carried**

UNCONFIRMED

**4.5 BRIDGEWATER FORESHORE REDEVELOPMENT**

**SUMMARY**

A request to council for funding to support the first stage of the Bridgewater Foreshore redevelopment project

Author	Bryan McEwan, Director Economy and Community
Council Plan ref:	Strategic Platform 5: Grow and diversify our economy
File no:	13/09/005
Attachment:	Media Release, the Honourable Daniel Andrews MP

**RECOMMENDATION**

*That Council:*

1. *support the completion of stage 1 of the Bridgewater Foreshore Redevelopment.*
2. *allocate \$100,000 from the 2015/16 surplus to the project.*

**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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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 Loddon River at Bridgewater has been identified as a significant natural tourism asset, however, it is recognised that it will require significant investment to realise its potential.

In recent times, a number of projects focussed around the river have resulted in significant improvements including the Bridgewater Caravan Park redevelopment, the adjacent foreshore area and a current project involving the refurbishment of the boat ramp at Peppercorn Lane.

A key priority within the current Council Plan (Strategic Platform 5):

*Build our tourism sector product, capability and promotion appropriate to the different range of products in the north and south of the shire.*

With a specific action:

*Complete foreshore redevelopment plans for the Boort Lakes and the Loddon River at Bridgewater.*

Responding to a potential funding opportunity, redevelopment plans for the foreshore at Bridgewater were completed in May 2015 (opinion of probable cost determined to be \$670,215), however, funding was not secured and the project did not proceed at the time.

### **ISSUES/DISCUSSION**

More recently (October 2015) council was approached by the state government to submit projects which could be funded under a recently created drought package.

After feedback from the state government, the foreshore at Bridgewater was nominated as being their preferred project and which was subsequently referred to in a state media release in November 2015 (as per attached).

The state government through Regional Development Victoria has confirmed that \$300,000 is available to the project; however, the grant is conditional in that it requires a contribution from council of \$100,000.

The project enables the completion of a first stage of a foreshore redevelopment project at Bridgewater and will be aimed at providing an attractive focal point adjacent to the bridge to encourage travellers and tourists to stop and enjoy views and experience the river.

The 'River arrival point' will create an arrival experience by creating visual impact and opening up the view to the river through:

- installation of tall sculptural markers,
- provide a shelter structure and scattered seating
- improved amenity
- providing a Wi-Fi connection point

The project will also enable casual visitors, tourists and local people to experience the river at the water's edge through the construction of accessible viewing platforms and other features to enhance the river and help build Bridgewater as a tourism drawcard.

Signage, retaining walls, fencing, paving and accessible design will also be considerations within the next stage of the project and will include improvements to walking paths, landscaping and tree planting.

### **COSTS/BENEFITS**

The project will require a commitment from council of \$100,000 which has not been provided for in the current budget.

The planning component of the project is identified within the council plan. The funding provided by the state will enable construction to commence.

### **RISK ANALYSIS**

Nil

### **CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

The redevelopment plans have been developed in consultation with the Bridgewater community through the Bridgewater on Loddon Development Committee, the managers of the Bridgewater Caravan Park, the Bridgewater Ski Club and the state government.

Further stakeholder consultation will be required to finalise construction plans.

Cr Curnow expressed his desire to see financial resources expended equitably across the shire.

**MOTION**

**Moved: Cr Condliffe**

**Seconded: Cr Holt**

That Council:

1. support the completion of stage 1 of the Bridgewater Foreshore Redevelopment.
2. allocate \$100,000 from the 2015/16 surplus to the project.

**Carried**

UNCONFIRMED

**4.6 PLANNING APPLICATION 5106**

**SUMMARY**

Planning application 5106 seeks approval for the use and development of land for an Arts, Music and Lifestyle Festival. It is recommended that the application be refused.

Author	Tyson Sutton, Manager Planning and Local Laws
Council Plan ref:	Core business 9: Regulation
File no:	13/02/004
Attachment:	Site Plan, Objections

**RECOMMENDATION**

*That Council resolve to refuse planning application 5106 on the following grounds:*

1. *The proposed use and development is inconsistent with the purpose of the Farming Zone.*
2. *Local infrastructure is insufficient to cater for the proposed use and development.*
3. *The proposed use and development is likely to result in the spread of a regionally controlled weed.*
4. *The propose use will detrimentally affect the amenity of the area through the generation of noise.*
5. *The proposed use will result in an adverse environmental impact on the Loddon River*

**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.

<b>Officer name</b>	<b>Nature of interest</b>	<b>Reason for conflict</b>
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 have not previously discussed this matter.

**BACKGROUND**

Planning application 5106 relates to land located on the Loddon West Road, Fernihurst. It is located to the south of Majors Line Road and west of the Loddon River. The land is located within the Farming Zone and is affected by the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay.

The application seeks approval for the use of land for an arts, lifestyle and music festival (Yemaya Festival). The proposal is defined "Place of assembly" by the Loddon Planning Scheme. In excess of 5000 people are expected to attend. Planning approval is required for use and development in accordance with the provisions of the Farming Zone and for buildings and works under the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay.

Notice of the application was given to surrounding landholders via mail, by advertisements in local newspapers and on Council's website. Notice was also given to Department of Environment,



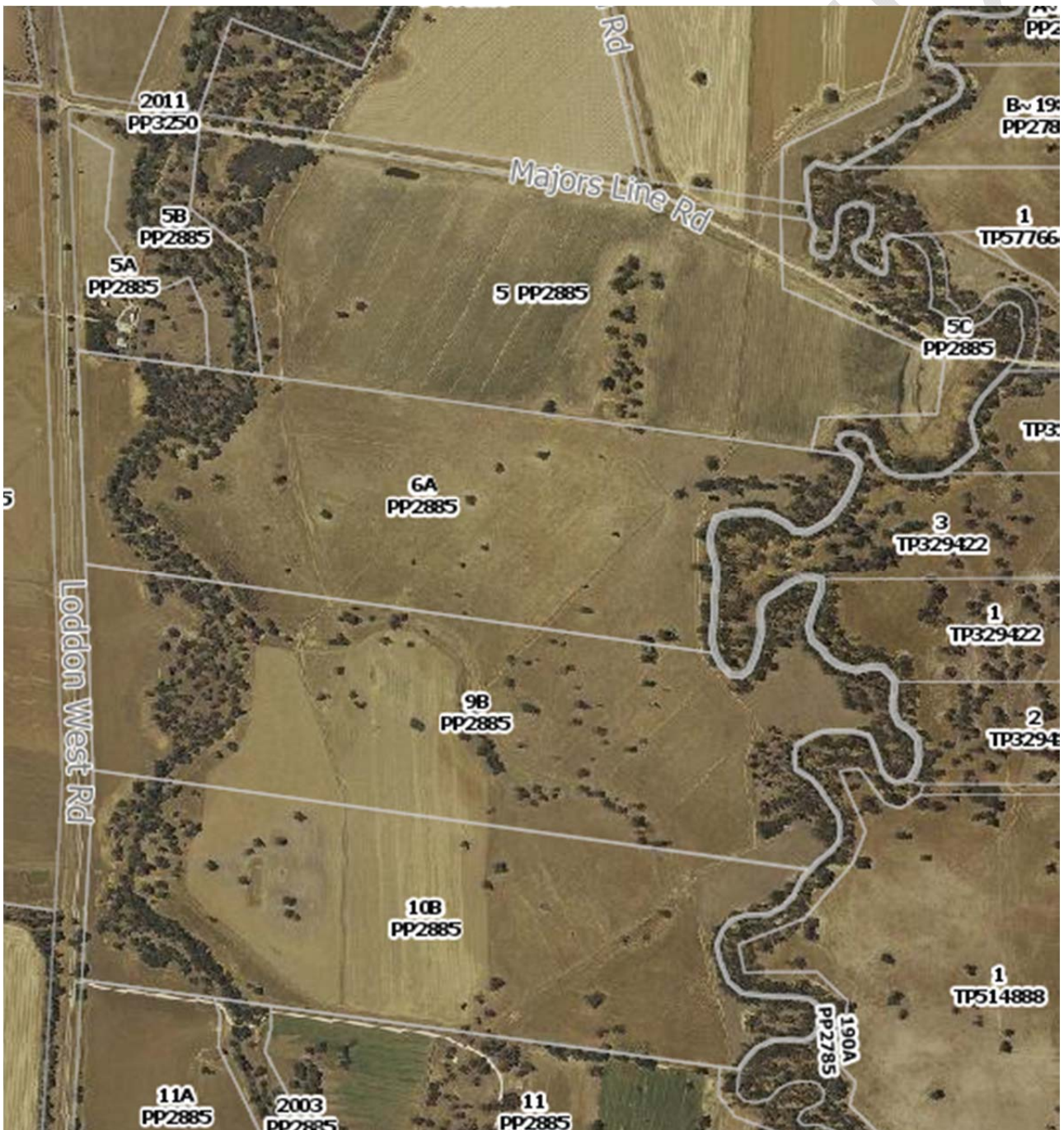
Land, Water and Planning, Department of Economic Development Jobs Training and Resources, Victoria Police and a number of internal Council departments. The application was referred to the North Central Catchment Management Authority.

The application has received five objections for residents.

## ISSUES/DISCUSSION

### **Subject site & locality**

The subject land is located on the eastern side of Loddon West Road, Fernihurst and is approximately 3.8 kilometres to the north of Borung-Hurstwood Road. The land is approximately 223.66 hectares in area and is of irregular shape. It is generally flat and is largely cleared of native vegetation. The Loddon River forms the eastern boundary of the land, Majors Line Road makes up the northern boundary. The Kinypanial Creek runs south to north through the property adjacent to the western boundary.



Subject Land

The land is predominantly used for a mixed farming enterprise with the surrounding land being used in a similar fashion.

### Public Notification

Notice of the application was given and five objections were received. The grounds of objection are broadly summarised as follows:

- Biosecurity
- Fire risk
- Antisocial behaviour
- Environmental impact
- Noise
- Insufficient infrastructure (roads, telecommunications)

The grounds raised in the objections will be addressed later in this report.

### Loddon Planning Scheme

The proposal is defined as “Place of Assembly” by the Loddon Planning Scheme. That is:

*Land where people congregate for religious or cultural activities, entertainment, or meetings.*

The subject land is located within the Farming Zone of the Loddon Planning Scheme. The purpose of the Farming Zone is as follows:

- 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 the use of land for agriculture.
- To encourage the retention of productive agricultural land.
- To ensure that non-agricultural uses, including dwellings, do not adversely affect the use of land for agriculture.
- To encourage the retention of employment and population to support rural communities.
- To encourage use and development of land based on comprehensive and sustainable land management practices and infrastructure provision.

The proposal is considered to be inconsistent with the purpose of the zone. It does not provide for the use of the land for agriculture and does not encourage the retention of productive agricultural land. The proposition will not encourage the retention of employment and population and is not based on comprehensive and sustainable land management practices.

The use is discretionary in the Farming Zone and therefore subject to planning approval.

Planning approval is required for buildings and works in accordance with the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay. The purpose of the overlay is as follows:

- To implement the State Planning Policy Framework and the Local Planning Policy Framework, including the Municipal Strategic Statement and local planning policies.
- To identify land in a flood storage or flood fringe area affected by the 1 in 100 year flood or any other area determined by the floodplain management authority.
- To ensure that development maintains the free passage and temporary storage of floodwaters, minimises flood damage, is compatible with the flood hazard and local drainage conditions and will not cause any significant rise in flood level or flow velocity.
- To reflect any declaration under Division 4 of Part 10 of the Water Act, 1989 where a declaration has been made.
- To protect water quality in accordance with the provisions of relevant State Environment Protection Policies, particularly in accordance with Clauses 33 and 35 of the State Environment Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria).
- To ensure that development maintains or improves river and wetland health, waterway protection and flood plain health.

The proposed development associated with the event is considered to be consistent with the purpose of the overlay. Given the temporary nature of structures, its short duration and the low probability of inundation during the event it is considered to satisfy the guidelines of the Land

Subject to Inundation Overlay. The North Central Catchment Management Authority have offered no objection to the application.

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

- 13.02-1 Floodplain management
  - To assist the protection of:
    - Life, property and community infrastructure from flood hazard.
    - The natural flood carrying capacity of rivers, streams and floodways.
    - The flood storage function of floodplains and waterways.
    - Floodplain areas of environmental significance or of importance to river health.
- 13.04-1 Noise abatement
  - To assist the control of noise effects on sensitive land uses.
- 13.04-2 Air quality
  - To assist the protection and improvement of air quality.
- 13.05 Bushfire
  - To assist to strengthen community resilience to bushfire.
- 14.01-1 Protection of agricultural land
  - To protect productive farmland which is of strategic significance in the local or regional context.
- 14.01-2 Sustainable agricultural land use
  - To encourage sustainable agricultural land use.
- 14.02-1 Catchment planning and management
  - To assist the protection and, where possible, restoration of catchments, waterways, water bodies, groundwater, and the marine environment.
- 14.02-2 Water quality
  - To protect water quality.
- 21.04-3 Land Management and Environment
  - To protect and enhance the condition of the natural resource base of the Shire to provide for the environmental and economic health of the Shire.
  - To prevent development within the floodplain that would compromise its flood carrying capacity, threaten water quality and would be compromised by flood activity.
- 22.02 Drainage and Flooding
  - To encourage use of drainage works and schemes that manage surface flows and minimise irrigation runoff to assist in the reduction of the salinisation of land.
  - To promote on-farm drainage re-use for effective nutrient management.
  - To ensure that drainage works and schemes are consistent with management plans for wetlands, streams and forests.
  - To ensure levee banks are constructed and maintained to a standard that provides for the appropriate and equitable flow and distribution of floodwaters.
  - To ensure that down stream impacts of levee banks are appropriately considered and managed.
  - To recognise the role of public and community-based organisations in the maintenance and development of existing flood protection levee banks.
  - To encourage the use of rain where it falls, particularly in groundwater recharge areas.
  - To ensure appropriate land use and development of flood plains.

### Assessment

Planning approval for the proposed event is required under the provisions of both the Farming Zone and the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay. While the proposal is considered to be acceptable in terms of the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay it is contrary to the purpose of the zone and will not result in positive planning outcomes.

The decision guidelines of the Farming Zone require the Responsible Authority to consider a number of factors in determining an application. These include:

- General issues
- Agricultural issues and the impacts from non-agricultural uses
- Dwelling issues
- Environmental issues
- Design and siting issues

The general issues require consideration of the planning policy frameworks, land capability, sustainable land management, site suitability, compatibility with surrounding land uses, existing infrastructure and existing services. The relevant provisions of the policy frameworks have been identified above. The proposal is considered to be contrary to Clauses 13.04-1, 14.01-1, 14.01-2, 14.02-2 and 21.04-3. It will not assist the control of noise effects on sensitive land uses, protect productive farmland, encourage sustainable agricultural land use, protect water quality or protect and enhance the condition of the natural resource base of the Shire. It will create excessive noise levels to the detriment of nearby residents and may result in damage to the waterway environment. The proposed use is likely to result in the spread of a regionally controlled weed.

The subject land is serviced by infrastructure that is considered insufficient to cater for the proposed event. Power, water and sewerage are not available to service the proposed use. Anecdotal evidence suggests that mobile phone coverage in the area is marginal and unlikely to cope with the anticipated volumes arising from the proposed event. Access is provided by the Loddon West Road and Majors Line Road. Loddon West Road is categorised as a Rural Sealed Collector road with a width of 8 metres. Current traffic volumes average 33 vehicles per day. Majors Line Road is classified Rural Gravel Access and has a width of 10 metres. Traffic volumes average 26 vehicles per day.

Local emergency services have limited capacity to support the proposed event. The Shire has a single ambulance based in Inglewood, limited Police presence and relies on a volunteer fire service.

The decision guidelines for Agricultural issues and the impacts from non-agricultural uses require consideration of the relationship between the proposal and agricultural production, impacts on productive capability, impact on adjoining and nearby agricultural pursuits, site capacity and agricultural quality. Given the limited duration of the event it is unlikely to have any significant ongoing effect on the ability of the land to sustain agricultural uses or on agricultural production in the area generally.

Environmental issues to be considered include the impact on natural features and resources, flora and fauna, protection of biodiversity and effluent disposal. Traffic volumes and pedestrian movements into and around the site are likely to result in the destruction of the limited grass coverage creating the opportunity for significant dust generation and may contribute to wind erosion. This impact would continue after the event until such time as grasses were able to re-establish on the site. Access to the Loddon River by participants will result in a localised increase in river turbidity with an accompanying local impact on in stream habitat values. This impact is considered highly probable if the event is accompanied by hot weather. Effluent disposal is not a significant issue as portable toilet facilities are proposed to be provided with all waste transported from the site.

Given the temporary nature of proposed development on the site, the design and siting issues identified in the Farming Zone are not considered to be significant considerations in the assessment of the proposal with the exception of the location of infrastructure and the need for traffic management measures. Road infrastructure has been discussed above and is considered to have limited capacity to cater to anticipated vehicle numbers. The proposed event will require substantial traffic management measures to be implemented to safely and efficiently cope with anticipated traffic volumes. Discussions with local members of Victoria Police have identified that they will need to import significant resources to manage traffic.

### **Consideration of grounds of objection**

- Biosecurity

The Department of Economic Development, Jobs Transport and Resources have advised that an assessment of the property determined that an infestation of the regionally controlled weed, Silverleaf Nightshade is present on the property. The department have advised that the festival has

a high likelihood of spreading the weed through the north central catchment area and other Victorian catchment areas. The risk of the spread of this weed is exacerbated by the high number of people anticipated to attend the proposed event.

- Fire risk

Due to the time of year for the proposed event, its location, the features of the site and current climatic conditions it is anticipated that fuel loads on the subject land will be relatively low at the time of the festival. The applicant has advised that there will be a total prohibition on fires within the camping area. Fires are to be provided by the operators near the main performance area and in fire drums at various locations throughout the site. As all fires on the site will be controlled by the operators and will be appropriately contained the risk of the proposal from fire is considered minimal.

- Antisocial behaviour

The behaviour of patrons at the event is unforeseeable but is unlikely to have any significant impact off the site. The applicant has indicated that no pass outs will be available during the event. Therefore people will generally not be able to come and go and will largely be restricted to the site for the duration of the festival.

- Environmental impact

The potential environmental impacts identified in submissions are the impacts on the Loddon River and the spread of Silverleaf Nightshade. These concerns have been addressed in the discussion of the application in relation to the provisions of the Farming Zone.

- Noise

Noise is likely to be a significant issue for surrounding residents. The proposed event is described by the applicant as an arts, music and lifestyle festival. A significant part of the entertainment comprises of a genre of electronic music known as Psytrance. Events of a similar nature have previously been conducted within the Shire (albeit illegally) and have resulted in a detrimental impact on surrounding residents through noise. Music from these types of events can generally be heard for several kilometres from the site. A previous event held on the site was reportedly heard up to 10 kilometres away.

- Insufficient infrastructure

The potential impacts on local infrastructure have been addressed in the discussion of the application in relation to the provisions of the Farming Zone.

### **COSTS/BENEFITS**

Nil

### **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.

**MOTION**

**Moved: Cr Curnow**

**Seconded: Cr Holt**

That Council resolve to refuse planning application 5106 on the following grounds:

1. The proposed use and development is inconsistent with the purpose of the Farming Zone.
2. Local infrastructure is insufficient to cater for the proposed use and development.
3. The proposed use and development is likely to result in the spread of a regionally controlled weed.
4. The propose use will detrimentally affect the amenity of the area through the generation of noise.
5. The proposed use will result in an adverse environmental impact on the Loddon River

**Carried**

UNCONFIRMED

**5. INFORMATION REPORTS**

**5.1 INWARDS CORRESPONDENCE**

**SUMMARY**

Relevant correspondence received by Council since previous meeting.

Author: John McLinden - Chief Executive Officer

Council Plan ref: Strategic enabler: Transparent communication

File No: various

Attachment: Copies of inwards correspondence

**RECOMMENDATION**

*That Council receives and notes the Inwards Correspondence.*

Date	From	Subject
14/12/15	John Hicks, CEO Buloke Shire Council	Rural Living Campaign update
16/12/15	The Hon Jaala Pulford MP, Minister for Agriculture	Drought Response Package
23/12/15	The Hon Jill Hennessy MP, Minister for Health and Ambulance Services	Letter addressed to Mr Darryl Arnott re reform of ambulance system
5/1/16	The Hon Lisa Neville MP, Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water	Existing legislation governing the provision of fire plugs

**MOTION**

**Moved: Cr Condliffe**

**Seconded: Cr Holt**

That Council receives and notes the Inwards Correspondence.

**Carried**

**5.2 NOTIFICATION OF KINDERGARTEN FUNDING**

**SUMMARY**

This report provides information outlining two separate funding announcements supporting Loddon Cluster kindergartens.

Author	Wendy Gladman, Director Community Wellbeing
Council Plan ref:	Core business 2: Provision of wellbeing services
File no:	12/09/003
Attachment:	Nil

**RECOMMENDATION**

*That Council receive and note the report outlining two funding announcements for Loddon Cluster Kindergartens.*

**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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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**

Two streams of funding for Kindergarten services have been announced by the State Government for the 2016 kindergarten year:

- funding to support kindergarten participation in drought affected areas
- changes to the small rural kindergarten funding calculation.

**ISSUES/DISCUSSION**

Drought Funding:

In November 2015 the State Government announced a range of support measures for drought affected families which included funding to support kindergarten participation. Two funding categories are available:

- Drought Kindergarten Fee Subsidy (Drought KFS)

This funding will be available to eligible families able to demonstrate financial hardship as a direct result of the drought. The fee subsidy will provide access to free kindergarten for 15 hours per week for children in the year before school (4 year old kindergarten program).

Evidence of eligibility includes:



- eligible for Commonwealth Farm Household Allowance or Drought Concessional Loan
- the kindergarten age child has older siblings eligible for financial support through the Back to School Program or the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund
- financial hardship as a direct result of the drought, supported by written evidence such as a statutory declaration or letter from an employer. This would include:
  - a change to employment status, including significant reduction in hours, unemployment, closure of small business, significant loss/reduction of seasonal employment opportunities
  - significant reduction in business profits for farmers and small business owners

The Drought KFS will support eligible individual families through direct fee relief, effectively providing free kindergarten. The Drought KFS provides \$1,386 per eligible child per annum (the same as the standard Kindergarten Fee Subsidy) and is paid directly to the kindergarten service. This is \$216.00 above the current Loddon kindergarten fee which further increases the funds available to support the kindergarten services.

- Financial hardship grants

A one-off financial hardship grant will be available to eligible kindergarten services able to demonstrate that their income and service delivery have been directly impacted by the drought.

Services applying for a financial hardship grant will need to provide evidence showing:

- the income of the service has been directly affected by the drought (i.e. reduced fundraising capacity or enrolments)
- the operation of the kindergarten will be impacted as a result of the reduced income (e.g. quality of service provision, ability to attract and retain staff, risks to viability)

The Financial Hardship Grant provides \$10,000 to eligible services, reducing the fundraising required by the parent body to support the operation of the kindergarten.

Small Rural Kindergarten funding

Kindergartens are classified and allocated per capita funding based on enrolment numbers. Services with enrolments of 14 and under are classified as Small Rural Kindergartens. Previously funding has been calculated on a per capita basis resulting in a significant impact on services with very low enrolment numbers.

In recognition of the challenges of low and fluctuating enrolments experienced by rural kindergarten services, the State Government has amended the funding model for Small Rural Kindergartens for the 2016 funded year.

The model provides:

- base funding for services with nine or fewer enrolments that includes a base per capita amount and a small rural grant payment
- indexation applied to the small rural grant for the first time.

Per capita funding

The new per capita funding model equates to a base level funding of \$57,756 for all Loddon services with 9 or fewer enrolments.

9 or fewer enrolments	New model	Funding based at the equivalent of 9 enrolments – small rural per capita rate	\$54,756
10 enrolments	Retained from existing model	Enrolment multiplied by small rural per capita rate	\$60,840

11-14 enrolments	Retained from existing model	Funding based at the equivalent of 15 enrolments – rural per capita rate	\$61,845
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Provision of Small Rural Grants

The Small Rural Grants program is provided on a base level funding model with the equivalent funding for 9 enrolments for those services with 9 or fewer enrolments. This equates to funding of \$12,300 for all Loddon services with 9 or fewer enrolments, with the amount reducing as enrolments increase up to a maximum of 14 enrolments. Small Rural Grants are in addition to the per capita funding.

Enrolment numbers	Small Rural Grant Funding
9 or fewer	\$12,300
10	\$10,250
11	\$8,713
12	\$7,688
13	\$6,663
14	\$6,150

Example: Small Rural Funding model variance

	Per capita funding using previous model	Per capita funding using new model	Small Rural Grant
4 enrolments	\$24,336	<b>\$54,756</b>	<b>\$12,300</b>
5 enrolments	\$30,420	<b>\$54,756</b>	<b>\$12,300</b>
6 enrolments	\$36,504	<b>\$54,756</b>	<b>\$12,300</b>
7 enrolments	\$42,588	<b>\$54,756</b>	<b>\$12,300</b>
8 enrolments	\$48,672	<b>\$54,756</b>	<b>\$12,300</b>

Using current enrolment figures, three of the five Loddon kindergarten services have enrolments of 9 or fewer and will benefit from the introduction of the base level Small Rural funding model.

These include Pyramid Hill with 4 enrolments and Inglewood and Wedderburn with 8 enrolments each. Further enrolments may be received prior to the calculation of the funding and it would then be adjusted accordingly.

**COSTS/BENEFITS**

The introduction of a Drought KFS will ensure that families impacted by the drought will be able to access kindergarten in the year before their child starts school without the added burden of a fee payment.

The implementation of a base funding rate equivalent to 9 enrolments provides a significant financial benefit to services with low enrolment numbers, reducing the shortfall between funding

and operational costs. As this shortfall is addressed by the parent body through fundraising activities any additional funding alleviates this impost.

### **RISK ANALYSIS**

The previous funding model posed a substantial risk to service viability and ongoing affordability. Parent committees who, when enrolments were small, were also small in number faced considerable fundraising targets.

Whilst this funding model somewhat alleviates this risk in 2016, it is yet to be confirmed that it will continue post this year.

### **CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

Preliminary consultation with each of the kindergarten committees supported the development of the operational budgets and the subsequent fundraising target for each service. Further work will now be undertaken to revise the budgets with the new funding model and the Drought KFS incorporated.

### **MOTION**

**Moved: Cr Condliffe**

**Seconded: Cr Holt**

That Council receive and note the report outlining two funding announcements for Loddon Cluster Kindergartens.

**Carried**

**5.3 OUTCOME OF QUALITY REVIEW – BOORT PRESCHOOL**

**SUMMARY**

This Report provides Council with details of the outcome of the National Quality Framework assessment conducted at Boort Preschool.

Author	Wendy Gladman, Director Community Wellbeing
Council Plan ref:	Core business 2: Provision of wellbeing services
File no:	12/09/003
Attachment:	Nil

**RECOMMENDATION**

*That Council receive and note the report detailing the outcomes of the National Quality Framework assessment conducted at Boort Preschool.*

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

<b>Officer name</b>	<b>Nature of interest</b>	<b>Reason for conflict</b>
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 report detailing the first quality review conducted at Boort Preschool was provided to Council on 22 July 2013. The report advised that the outcome of the review at that time was a rating of 'Working towards National Quality Standard'.

**BACKGROUND**

The National Quality Framework (NQF) requires approved services to undertake an assessment and rating visit periodically. As Boort received a rating of 'Working towards National Quality Standard' in 2013, the next scheduled assessment and rating occurred in a shorter timeframe than those services assessed as 'Meeting' or 'Exceeding' the National Quality Standard. During November 2015 two assessors visited the Boort Preschool to undertake the onsite component of the NQF assessment.

**ISSUES/DISCUSSION**

Correspondence received from the Department Education and Training (DET) in December 2015 has provided the final assessment and rating report and the Notice of Rating for the Boort Preschool service.

The Preschool was assessed against eighteen standards across seven quality areas within the prescribed rating levels:

- Significant Improvement Required
- Working towards National Quality Standard (NQS)
- Meeting NQS

- Exceeding NQS
- Excellent

If a service is rated below the NQS in any quality area, the overall rating will reflect the lowest quality rating.

Boort Preschool has achieved the following ratings:

Quality Area 1	Educational program and practice	Meeting NQS
Quality Area 2	Children's health and safety	Meeting NQS
Quality Area 3	Physical environment	Meeting NQS
Quality Area 4	Staffing arrangements	Meeting NQS
Quality Area 5	Relationships with children	Meeting NQS
Quality Area 6	Collaborative partnerships with families and communities	Meeting NQS
Quality Area 7	Leadership and service management	Meeting NQS
	<b>OVERALL RATING</b>	<b>Meeting NQS</b>

A Notice of Rating is provided for display at the service. The assessment and rating outcome is also published on the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) and My Child websites.

**COSTS/BENEFITS**

The Early Years team and staff at Boort Preschool now have the opportunity to reflect on the outcomes and findings from the assessment and rating cycle to assist in raising quality and driving continuous improvement at the service.

**RISK ANALYSIS**

Nil

**CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

Nil

**MOTION**

**Moved: Cr Curnow**

**Seconded: Cr McKinnon**

That Council receive and note the report detailing the outcomes of the National Quality Framework assessment conducted at Boort Preschool.

**Carried**

**5.4 PLANNING ACTIVITY REPORT**

**SUMMARY**

Provides Council with an update on planning applications currently under consideration and a register of planning permits issued between 13-10-2015 and 13-01-2016.

Author	Tyson Sutton, Manager Planning and Local Laws
Council Plan ref:	Strategic Platform 2: Grow our population through appropriate development
File no:	02/01/001
Attachment:	List of Active Planning Applications List of Applications Approved under Delegation

**RECOMMENDATION**

*That Council receive and note the monthly Planning Activity 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
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If yes, the following details identify the conflict of interest.

Officer name	Nature of interest	Reason for conflict
	If indirect, the type of indirect interest is:	[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 is provided with a monthly report identifying the status of planning applications currently under consideration or those permits which have been issued within the preceding month.

**BACKGROUND**

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

As the responsible Authority it is Loddon Shire Council's duty to administer and enforce its planning scheme.

**ISSUES/DISCUSSION**

The associated attachments provide Council with a full list of planning applications currently under consideration and those planning permits issued between 13-10-2015 and 13-01-2016.

**COSTS/BENEFITS**

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

**RISK ANALYSIS**

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

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

**CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

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

**MOTION**

**Moved: Cr Holt**

**Seconded: Cr McKinnon**

That Council receive and note the monthly Planning Activity Report.:

**Carried**

**6. COMPLIANCE REPORTS**

**6.1 DOCUMENTS FOR SIGNING AND SEALING**

<b>SUMMARY</b>	
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
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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 Boundary Bend Assets Pty Ltd in relation to Crown Allotment 16, Parish of Terrapee and Crown Allotment 16A, Parish of Terrapee

Contract 359 Annual Supply – Bituminous spray sealing works within the Loddon Shire between Boral Asphalt Pty Ltd and Loddon Shire Council

Contract 337 Infrastructure -Boort Park Clubrooms Upgrade between BP & RM Carboon Pty Ltd and Loddon Shire Council

Contract 352 Civil Construction – Albert Street Pyramid Hill between Doran Earthmoving and Loddon Shire Council



**MOTION**

**Moved: Cr Holt**

**Seconded: Cr McKinnon**

That Council:

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

**Carried**

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**6.2 SECTION 86 COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT MEMBERSHIP DETAILS-INGLEWOOD RIDING CLUB**

<b>SUMMARY</b>	
This report seeks Council's approval of the membership of Inglewood Riding Club Section 86 Committee of Management.	
Author	Jude Holt, Director Corporate Services
Council Plan ref:	Strategic Platform 1: Build a network of strong communities
File no:	02/01/049
Attachment:	Nil

**RECOMMENDATION**

*That Council appoints the names provided in this report as members of the Inglewood Riding Club Section 86 committee of management, effective immediately.*

**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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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 current list of committee members for Inglewood Riding Club Committee of Management on 28 July 2015.

**BACKGROUND**

Current Section 86 committee instruments of delegations include Clause 3.6 which outlines the requirement for nomination and appointment of committee members, which is as follows:

Members and Office Bearers of the Committee

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

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

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

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

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

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

**ISSUES/DISCUSSION**

Inglewood Riding Club is a community based committee with representation of at least 6 community representatives. The following is a list of nominated representatives for the committee which meets the minimum requirement:

Name	Position
Emma Donaldson	President
Leigh Howard	Secretary
Brie Williams	Treasurer
Celine Roberts	Committee Member
Susan Roberts	Committee Member
Michelle Murray	Committee Member

The current list does not meet Council’s minimum requirements. The committee will be communicated with about this, and asked to reassess whether they can provide an extra member to meet the minimum.

The Council representative for this committee is Cr Colleen Condliffe.

**COSTS/BENEFITS**

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

**RISK ANALYSIS**

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

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

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

**CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

Nil

<b><u>MOTION</u></b>	
<b>Moved: Cr Condliffe</b>	<b>Seconded: Cr McKinnon</b>
That Council appoints the names provided in this report as members of the Inglewood Riding Club Section 86 committee of management, effective immediately.	
<b>Carried</b>	

## 7. GENERAL BUSINESS

### MOTION

Moved: Cr Curnow

Seconded: Cr McKinnon

That the following items be treated as urgent business.

Carried

### 7.1 WATER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

### MOTION

Moved: Cr Holt

Seconded: Cr Condliffe

That Council extend the water assistance program for Wedderburn and Inglewood to 30 June 2016, with the program to be reviewed if the allocation is exhausted prior to this date.

Carried

### 7.2 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS CRITERIA

### MOTION

Moved: Cr Holt

Seconded: Cr Curnow

That Council investigates the criteria required for the awarding of Australia Day citizen and community services recipients. If such criteria exists the criteria is to be reviewed, if the criteria guidelines do not exist, procedural guidelines are to be adopted.

Carried

### 7.3 BOORT LAKES CARAVAN PARK TREE REMOVAL

### MOTION

Moved: Cr Beattie

Seconded: Cr Holt

That Council approve the removal of the large red gum tree in Boort Lakes Caravan Park.

Carried

**8. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

Closing of Meeting to the Public

**RECOMMENDATION**

*That the meeting be closed to the public.*

**MOTION**

**Moved: Cr Holt**

**Seconded: Cr Curnow**

That the meeting be closed to the public at 4.45 pm.

**Carried**

**8.1 REVIEW OF ACTION SHEET**

**MOTION**

**Moved: Cr Holt**

**Seconded: Cr McKinnon**

That Council receive and note the Action Sheet.

**Carried**

**8.2 CONTRACT 347 - RIDGE AND YELKA STREET WEDDERBURN**

**MOTION**

**Moved: Cr Holt**

**Seconded: Cr McKinnon**

That Council award Contract Number 347 – Civil construction in Ridge and Yelka Street Wedderburn to One Stop Civil for the lump sum price of 216,250 (Ex GST).

**Carried**

**8.3 SALE OF COUNCIL OWNED PROPERTY**

**MOTION**

**Moved: Cr Holt**

**Seconded: Cr Condliffe**

That Council enter into negotiations to sell Calder Highway Bridgewater (Lot 1 and 2 TP402638) to Semi Trailer Sales for \$50k subject to planning approval for the proposed development.

**Carried**

**MOTION**

**Moved: Cr Holt**

**Seconded: Cr Condliffe**

That the meeting be re-opened to the public at 5.45 pm.

**Carried**

**NEXT MEETING**

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on 23 February at Serpentine commencing at 3pm.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 5.49 pm.

Confirmed this.....day of..... 2016

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