



Date: Tuesday, 24 January 2017
Time: 3pm
Location: Council Chambers, Serpentine

MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting

24 January 2017

**MINUTES OF LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, SERPENTINE
ON TUESDAY, 24 JANUARY 2017 AT 3PM**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Lynne Habner (A/Manager Executive & Commercial Services), Sharon Morrison (Director Corporate Services), Ian McLauchlan (Director Operations), Wendy Gladman (Director Community Wellbeing), Phil Pinyon (Chief Executive Officer)

1 OPENING PRAYER

“Almighty God, we humbly beseech thee to bless this Council, direct and prosper its deliberations towards the true welfare of your people of the Shire of Loddon.”

2 APOLOGIES

Nil

3 PREVIOUS MINUTES**3.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

File Number: 02/01/001

Author: Lynne Habner, A/Manager Executive and Commercial Services

Authoriser: Phil Pinyon, Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council confirm:

1. The minutes of the Council Briefing of 13 December 2016
2. The minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 13 December 2016

REPORT

Seeking approval of the unconfirmed minutes of the previous meetings.

RESOLUTION 2017/1

Moved: Cr Geoff Curnow

Seconded: Cr Cheryl McKinnon

That Council confirm:

1. The minutes of the Council Briefing of 13 December 2016
2. The minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 13 December 2016

CARRIED

4 REVIEW OF ACTION SHEET

4.1 REVIEW OF ACTIONS

File Number: 02/01/002

Author: Lynne Habner, A/Manager Executive and Commercial Services

Authoriser: Phil Pinyon, Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: 1. Action sheet

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the action sheet.

REPORT

Refer attachment.

RESOLUTION 2017/2

Moved: Cr Cheryl McKinnon

Seconded: Cr Colleen Condliffe

That Council receive and note the action sheet.

CARRIED

5 MAYORAL REPORT**5.1 MAYORAL REPORT**

File Number: 02/01/001

Author: Lynne Habner, A/Manager Executive and Commercial Services

Authoriser: Phil Pinyon, Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Mayoral Report

REPORT

The Mayor will present a report at the meeting.

Cr Beattie

Murray Darling Association	
23/1/17: Region 3 meeting at Loddon Shire Council	
Rail Freight Alliance	
<p>Section 86 Committees: 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</p>	
Recreation Strategy Implementation Steering Committee	
Other Council activities	
DATE	Activity
18/12/16	Attended Mrs Edna Bell's 100 th Birthday
14/12/16	Attended Project Control Group dinner at Mooroopna
17/12/16	Attended Bendigo Health Gala dinner in the new hospital
22/12/16	Attended staff breakup at Wedderburn
22/12/16	Discussed development of new Council Plan with Steven Tighe, Consultant

25/12/17	Christmas in Melbourne
23/1/17	Attended Murray Darling Basin Association meeting at Loddon
24/1/17	Council meeting Serpentine

RESOLUTION 2017/3

Moved: Cr Gavan Holt

Seconded: Cr Geoff Curnow

That Council receive and note the Mayoral Report

CARRIED

UNCONFIRMED

6 COUNCILLORS' REPORT**6.1 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS****File Number:** 02/01/001**Author:** Lynne Habner, A/Manager Executive and Commercial Services**Authoriser:** Phil Pinyon, Chief Executive Officer**Attachments:** Nil**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receive and note the Councillors' reports

REPORT

Each Councillor will present a report at the meeting.

Cr Condliffe

Calder Highway Improvement Committee	
Section 86 Committees: 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	
Australia Day Committee	
Loddon Youth Committee	
Healthy Minds Network	
Other Council activities	
DATE	Activity
13/12/16	Inglewood Community Resource Centre meeting
14/12/16	St Mary's Primary School final assembly and awards

15/12/16	Inglewood state school awards
15/12/16	Carols at Bridgewater swimming hole
16/12/16	Inglewood Lions Club Christmas breakup
18/12/16	Inglewood Lions Community Christmas breakup at Inglewood recreation reserve
20/12/16	Dingee Bush Nursing Centre Christmas breakup
22/12/16	Loddon Shire Christmas breakup Wedderburn
11/1/17	Meeting at Bridgewater railway station regarding a new business
17/1/17	Dingee Bush Nursing Centre meeting
24/1/17	Council meeting, Serpentine

Cr Curnow**Loddon Mallee Waste Resource Recovery Group**

Section 86 Committees: Eddington Community Centre Committee of Management, Kingower Development and Tourism Committee Inc.

Municipal Emergency Management Plan Committee and Municipal Fire Prevention Committee**Other Council activities**

DATE	Activity
22/12/16	Council plan discussion with Stephen Tighe, consultant
22/12/16	Christmas lunch for councillors and staff
24/1/17	Council meeting Serpentine

Cr Holt

Municipal Association of Victoria	
Section 86 Committees: 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.	
Audit Committee	
Other Council activities	
DATE	Activity
19/12/16	Attended meeting between Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water officers and Council staff to receive an update on the progress of the South West Loddon Pipeline Project
22/12/16	Met with Steven Tighe, Council's consultant to assist in renewing the Council Plan, to discuss various matters relating to the new Plan
22/12/16	Attended Council's Christmas lunch given to staff in appreciation of their work throughout the year
13/1/17	Attended Rural Councils Victoria executive meeting in Melbourne, where Cr Rob Gersch was re-elected Chairman and I was re-elected as Vice Chairman
16/1/17	Met with Geoff Burnside of Turf Engineering to discuss various aspects of Council's Procurement Policy

Cr McKinnon

North Central Goldfields Regional Library
Section 86 Committees: Dinglee 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	
DATE	Activity
14/12/16	Christmas lunch with East Loddon RSL members at the Dingee Hotel
15/12/16	Walk through inspection of Janiember Park building site with works proceeding very well
16/12/16	Presented Loddon Shire awards at East Loddon College final assembly, also attended by Jacinta Allan, Damian Drum and Sharman Stone
	Met with GLC CEO Chris Kelly at Bendigo Library
17/12/16	Attended Pyramid Hill swimming pool's 50 th birthday celebrations, along with Mr Phil Pinyon, his wife Deb, and Allan Stobaus, which was greatly supported by the community, and saw the unveiling of a commemorative plaque in honour of the occasion
22/12/16	Attended a council planning session with Steven Tighe in Wedderburn, but was unable to stay for the staff and councillor Christmas lunch
24/1/17	CVGA Finance and Audit Committee phone meeting
24/1/17	first Council meeting for 2017

RESOLUTION 2017/4

Moved: Cr Geoff Curnow
 Seconded: Cr Cheryl McKinnon

That Council receive and note the Councillors' reports

CARRIED

7 DECISION REPORTS

7.1 ALLSTONE QUARRIES- PLANNING PERMIT AMENDMENT 3302.3

File Number: 3302.3

Author: Alexandra Jefferies, Planning Officer

Authoriser: Glenn Harvey, Manager Development and Compliance

Attachments:

1. Attachment 1
2. Attachment 2
3. Attachment 3
4. Attachment 4
5. Attachment 5
6. Attachment 6
7. Attachment 7
8. Attachment 8
9. Attachment 9

RECOMMENDATION

That Council grant amendment 3302.3 (subject to draft conditions listed in Attachment 1) to allow:

1. The extension of the existing Allstone Quarries extraction area for works above the water table;
2. The removal of native vegetation;
3. Extension of hours of sale to 24 hours 7 days a week.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Planning permit 3302 for the 'development and use of the land for a quarry and associated processing plant was approved on the 11 December 2000.

Planning permit amendment '3302.1' was approved on 11 December 2006 to allow 24 hour operation on site.

(Please note that there is no such amendment as 3302.2; this numbering sequence has been missed in an administrative error.)

BACKGROUND

Amendment 3302.3 seeks to approve the expansion of the extraction area at the Allstone Quarry (ASQ) site. The proposal includes endorsing the variation to Work Plan WA1007, allow the expansion of the extraction area, extend the hours of sale to 24 hours, 7 days and approve the removal of 13.007 ha of native vegetation.

Subject Site and Locality

The subject site, Crown Allotment 1 & 2 Section 25 Parish of Woodstock, is a rectangular parcel of land measuring approximately 254 ha. The subject site is located on the Wimmera Highway 7 km

from the Loddon Shire's eastern boundary. The site is within the Farming Zone and is partly covered by the Salinity Management Overlay.

Adjoining land is also within the Farming Zone and is used for agricultural purposes. Significant land uses include two dwellings that are within 2km of the subject site's North-Eastern corner, and the Boyds Road Hazledene broiler farm located approximately 2km to the south of the site.

Quarrying of the site is currently being undertaken along the northern (rear) boundary of the site. This activity is approved under planning permit 3302.1 and the approved version of the Works Plan WA 1007. ASQ is nearing the maximum limit of the current extraction area and therefore seeking approval to extend the extraction area.

Proposal

The amendment proposes several stages of expansion, including the rehabilitation of the site. In its entirety, the expansion will result in the staged quarrying of 247 ha of the 259 ha site.

The amendment also seeks to extend the 'hours of sale' to allow materials to be transported from the site 24 hours, 7 days a week. Currently these operations are limited to between 6 am and 6 pm. The crushing and processing of material on site is currently allowed to operate 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

The extension of the extraction area will require approval of 13.007 ha of native vegetation to be removed; this consists of 128 scattered trees and 3.979 ha of remnant vegetation patches.

As a part of the Works Plan Approval process, a Biodiversity offset report, which calculates the required amount of offset to be provided, has been submitted to and assessed by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

The Biodiversity offset report determines that the proposed removal is within the 'moderate' risk based pathway and will require a general offset amount of 0.685 general units to be gained within the North Central Catchment district or within the Loddon Shire Council municipal boundaries.

Loddon Planning Scheme

The site is within the 35.07 Farming Zone, the purpose of which 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 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 use and development of land for an Earth and Resource Industry is a section 2 use and therefore requires a planning permit.

The subject site is partly covered by 44.02 Salinity Management Overlay; the purpose of which is:

- *To implement the State Planning Policy Framework and the Local Planning Policy Framework, including the Municipal Strategic Statement and local planning policies.*
- *To identify areas subject to saline ground water discharge or high ground water recharge.*
- *To facilitate the stabilisation of areas affected by salinity.*
- *To encourage revegetation of areas which contribute to salinity.*
- *To encourage development to be undertaken in a manner which brings about a reduction in salinity recharge.*

- *To ensure development is compatible with site capability and the retention of vegetation, and complies with the objectives of any salinity management plan for the area.*
- *To prevent damage to buildings and infrastructure from saline discharge and high water table*

The removal of native vegetation and the development of buildings and works require a planning permit under the SMO.

Provision 52.17 Native vegetation must also be considered, the purpose of which is:

To ensure permitted clearing of native vegetation results in no net loss in the contribution made by native vegetation to Victoria's biodiversity. This is achieved through the following approach:

- *Avoid the removal of native vegetation that makes a significant contribution to Victoria's biodiversity.*
- *Minimise impacts on Victoria's biodiversity from the removal of native vegetation.*
- *Where native vegetation is permitted to be removed, ensure that an offset is provided in a manner that makes a contribution to Victoria's biodiversity that is equivalent to the contribution made by the native vegetation to be removed.*
- *To manage native vegetation to minimise land and water degradation.*
- *To manage native vegetation near buildings to reduce the threat to life and property from bushfire.*

All native vegetation removal not listed in the table of exemptions under 52.17-7 requires planning approval.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Notice and referral

Notice of the application was sent via mail on 4 October 2016 to surrounding land owners. The application received a total of 6 objections; three of which were petition style objections (Attachments 2, 3 and 4) containing a total of 20 signatures and three objections from individual land holders (Attachments 5, 6 and 9) (any objections received after the creation date of this report have not been included as attachments). The grounds of objection were based upon the negative effects that quarrying below the water table would have on surrounding farming practices and livelihoods; mainly the possible degradation of water quality and depletion of supply.

A letter was also addressed to the Councillors detailing the concerns of the objectors (Attachment 7).

The application was referred to VicRoads under Section 52 of the Planning and Environment Act as the Wimmera Highway is a Road Zone Category 1. VicRoads does not object to the proposal subject to permit conditions. These will be included within the permit should the amendment be approved.

Consideration and Assessment

Land within the Farming Zone (FZ) should be protected and conserved for the purpose of productive agricultural uses. It should be ensured that non-agricultural uses approved within the FZ do not adversely affect the ability of the surrounding land to be used for agriculture. The current use of the land by ASQ for quarrying purposes is not within the definition of agriculture; therefore it is vital to assess the proposal and ensure that the proposed expansion of the quarry will not negatively affect those agricultural uses being undertaken on the surrounding sites.

Originally Work Plan WA1007 was applied and granted in 2000 along with planning permit 3002. The current extraction area is approximately 22 ha in size at a depth of 15 m.

The application proposes that several stages of the expansion will occur over a significant amount of time. Due to this method of expansion it is reasonable to conclude the impact on the surrounding properties and the agricultural uses should not be subject to a greater impact than what is currently occurring. Possible impacts include noise, blasting vibrations and dust. With the enforcement of Work Plan 1007 and regulation inspections and visits from the Inspector of Mines (Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources) it is considered that the impacts of the proposal can be managed to a reasonable level and therefore is considered to be appropriate.

Objections

The objections received by the Planning Department primarily relate to the effects of the quarrying operation breaching the water table. The specific concerns included:

- The loss of water supply to surrounding bores as a result of the excess water ASQ would be required to remove
- The contamination of water in the aquifer affecting the quality of water that is used for surrounding domestic dwellings
- The appropriate management of the excess water at the quarry's current depth to ensure there is no inconvenience to neighbouring properties

In order to eliminate confusion regarding the depth of the expansion to below the water table, Timothy Bird, Managing Director of ASQ provided a letter dated 1 November 2016 (Attachment 8) which states no works below the water table will occur without further amendments to the Work Plan and the planning permit. Further to this, planning permit condition No. 5 of '3302- Amended' states that:

"No excavation shall breach the water table below the quarry site without further written approval of the Responsible Authority"

The Responsible Authority referred to in this condition is the Loddon Shire Council; this permit condition is proposed to remain on the planning permit, prohibiting works below the water table.

Conclusion

Amendment 3302.3 to endorse the variations made to Work Plan WA1007, allow the staged expansion of the ASQ extraction area, the extension of hours of sales to 24 hours/7 days and the removal of 13.007 ha of native vegetation has been considered and assessed against the Loddon Shire Council planning scheme, State Planning Policy and all objections received have been duly considered.

Currently the site has an extraction area that is nearing its resource limit, and the proposed expansion of extraction area is considered to be appropriate. The staged method of the expansion, the implementation of the Work Plan, enforcement of the planning permit and ongoing future communication between the community and relevant authorities contribute to the conclusion that potential issues of noise, dust and blasting vibrations can be managed and contained to an acceptable level.

The impact of the proposed quarry expansion on the ability of the surrounding land to be used for agriculture is a significant consideration. The quarry has operated for a number of years with minimal impact (that have been brought to Council's attention) on the surrounding agricultural uses. It is considered that the proposed individual stages of the expansion will not reasonably increase the level of impact that the use currently has.

It is clear that issues surrounding the water table are of considerable concern to the community and the agricultural production that currently occurs on surrounding land. The current amendment does not seek to perform works below the water table and permission to do so is not being granted under amendment 3302.3.

COST/BENEFITS

The Loddon Shire municipal area will benefit from the expansion of the ASQ site by continuing the provision of jobs and significant investment into the Shire. The ASQ site is considered to be of significant economic benefit to the shire.

RISK ANALYSIS

Failure to process planning applications in a timely manner or rigorously assess an application is considered to pose the following risks:

- a) Loss of opportunities and creation of barriers for substantial economic growth and development within the Shire
- b) Proliferation of incompatible and inappropriate land uses within the Shire
- c) Council's reputation as a regulatory authority
- d) Lack of consistent infrastructure and service provision or regulatory enforcement pressures
- e) Lack of protection of zones to accommodate intended activities or reduction of surrounding property amenity.

The risks considered to be most relevant to application 3302.3 include the loss opportunities or creation of barriers for economic growth in the Shire (a) and the lack of protection of zones to accommodate intended land use activities (e).

The matters set out in Section 60 of the *Planning environment Act 1987* require significant economic or social effects which the responsible authority considers the development may have, be considered during assessment. The industry that ASQ undertakes is considered to significantly boost the economy of the Loddon Shire Council; the loss of this industry does pose a negative risk to the overall economy of the Shire.

The protection of the Farming Zone must also be closely considered. Quarrying of the land requires planning approval as it not an agricultural use. If undertaken on an appropriate site, the use and development of land within the Farming Zone is considered to be appropriate. When considering the physical location of the subject site, characteristics of the surrounding land and its current use as a quarry, the site has been determined to be appropriate and is not considered to place agricultural uses at significant risk.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The Manager of Development and Compliance and a Council Planning Officer attended two consultation/engagement meetings regarding amendment 3302.3.

The first meeting on the 28 October 2016 held by Timothy Bird on at the ASQ site included a representative from Goulburn Murray Water, 'Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources' and a private hydrologist (ASQ), as well as a number of objectors. During this meeting there was much discussion surrounding current and past testing that has/is being undertaken in order to identify the viability and outcomes of ASQ undertaking works below the water table in the future. Unfortunately this meeting led to confusion regarding the water table issue amongst all parties.

An objector meeting was held on the 17 November 2016 by Council officers in order to provide full clarification on what amendment 3022.3 is seeking to approve. The meeting also aimed to discuss and develop possible outcomes with concerned community members. The outcomes of the meeting are as follows:

- a. A clearer permit condition will be included to restrict the proposed works to levels 1 meter above the water table, which specifically states the permission of 'Loddon Shire Council' is required to breach the water table rather than the term 'Responsible Authority'.
- b. The cross section on the plans be clearly and boldly marked stating that no permission has been given to breach the water table by Loddon Shire Council.
- c. Ensure that future planning amendments applied for are advertised to a wider radius of adjoining property owner to ensure full community inclusion.
- d. The application be put forward for a Councillor decision at the January meeting.

RESOLUTION 2017/5

Moved: Cr Gavan Holt

Seconded: Cr Cheryl McKinnon

That Council grant amendment 3302.3 (subject to draft conditions listed in Attachment 1) to allow:

1. The extension of the existing Allstone Quarries extraction area for works above the water table;
2. The removal of native vegetation;
3. Extension of hours of sale to 24 hours 7 days a week.

CARRIED

UNCONFIRMED

7.2 REVIEW OF RESERVES POLICY

File Number: 18/01/001

Author: Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services

Authoriser: Sharon Morrison, Director Corporate Services

Attachments: 1. Reserves Policy v5

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the Reserves Policy v5.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

REVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The last approved version of the Reserves Policy (version 4) was in July 2016.

Council was provided with an overview of the proposed changes to the Reserves Policy at the forum held on 6 December 2016.

BACKGROUND

The purpose of the Reserves Policy is to allow Council to use funds in line with the purposes outlined in the policy.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The policy defines the specified purpose of each reserve and the conditions around the movements in and out of each reserve.

Since version 3 was adopted in 2015 there has been a slight change to the wording for the Little Lake Boort Water Reserve to allow for the transfer to the reserve to read "proceeds from the sale of temporary water rights *and unexpended amounts from the annual expenditure budget.*"

These unexpended amounts were already transferred to the reserve but it was not formally written into the policy.

Since version 4 was adopted in 2016 there has been a further slight wording change within the policy detail which expands further on "Council will set aside funds in various reserves on an annual basis for future use. Amounts to be transferred to and from the various reserves will be decided during the annual budget process and at any other time by Council resolution" by adding the words "*For reserves listed at 3.2.2, transfers to and from these reserves may be approved by the Management Executive Group (MEG) as long as the movement fits within the specified purpose of the reserve. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) may decide that approval needs to be sought from Council.*"

This has been further clarified by the split of all reserves to sit within 2 categories. The first category covers movements approved only by Council, which require a Council decision for alterations to adopted budget. The second category covers movements approved by the CEO where it fits within the purpose of the reserve or by Council where the CEO determines, which will enable the budget to be revised without a Council decision as long as it fits within the purpose of the reserve. This change better reflects the way the reserves are currently being managed in the short term.

The policy has a review timeline of 2 years.

COST/BENEFITS

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

RISK ANALYSIS

The purpose of reserve accounting is to put aside funds in the current year for capital and other purchases to be made in future years.

This practice eliminates fluctuations in Council's annual budget for capital and large purchases, and provides more consistency in the level of rates required each year.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

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

RESOLUTION 2017/6

Moved: Cr Colleen Condliffe

Seconded: Cr Gavan Holt

That Council adopts the Reserves Policy v5.

CARRIED

7.3 REVIEW OF INVESTMENT POLICY

File Number: 06/02/004

Author: Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services

Authoriser: Sharon Morrison, Director Corporate Services

Attachments: 1. Investment Policy v3

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the Investment Policy v3.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The last approved version of the Investment Policy (version 2) was in 2012.

Council was provided with an overview of the proposed changes to the Investment Policy at the forum held on 6 December 2016.

BACKGROUND

The purpose of the Investment Policy is to set the principles for investment decisions by Loddon Shire Council.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The existing policy provided for investment of funds in accordance with section 143 of the Local Government Act 1989 (The Act) but did not go into any further detail around this and other sections Council is required to adhere to.

The updated policy includes:

- information around section 136 of The Act and the principles of sound management
- further detail around section 143 which outlines the principles by which Council may invest money
- requirements of the Local Government (Long Service Leave) Regulation 2012 and the linking of the associated policy to determine how Council will invest these funds
- classifications of authorised institutions and clarification around the requirement for the institutions to have a physical presence within the Shire for investment purposes
- general guidelines around periods of investment, maximum amounts per investment and the requirement to adhere with the Levels of Authority.

While benchmarking the policy against other Councils, one of the notable differences in those policies is the inclusion of a prohibition on investing in 'unethical' financial products. Given the limited options for investment in version three of the policy, ethical options are not considered to be a viable policy approach. Inclusion is therefore not recommended.

The policy has a review timeline of four years.

COST/BENEFITS

This policy continues with the direction that Council will only place funds with authorised institutions and those that have a physical presence within the Shire.

Therefore, although not a direct cost, there could be a cost associated with the adoption of this policy in relation to available investment rates within this direction.

RISK ANALYSIS

Any funds not required to fulfil short term operational commitments are considered surplus and should be invested to generate higher interest revenue. Criteria for investments should be set to achieve maximum return on investments which are of low risk and will therefore ensure the ongoing sustainability of Council funds.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

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

RESOLUTION 2017/7

Moved: Cr Gavan Holt

Seconded: Cr Colleen Condliffe

That Council adopts the Investment Policy v3.

CARRIED

7.4 ADOPTION OF RATING STRATEGY 2017-2021

File Number: 09/06/001

Author: Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services

Authoriser: Sharon Morrison, Director Corporate Services

Attachments: 1. Rating Strategy 2017-2021

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the Rating Strategy 2017-2021.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

This is the first time Council has developed a Rating Strategy which is a requirement of the Governance and Management Checklist in the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework.

Council was provided with an overview of the proposed Rating Strategy 2017-2021 (the Strategy) at the forum held on 6 December 2016.

BACKGROUND

Under the Local Government Act (1989) (The Act), a primary objective of all Victorian local governments is to ensure the equitable imposition of rates and charges (Section 3C(f)). The purpose of the Strategy is therefore to consider options available to Council under The Act and how Council's choices in applying these options contribute towards meeting an equitable rating strategy.

It is important to note that the focus of this strategy is very different to what is discussed in the Long Term Financial Plan/Annual Budget. In those documents the key concern is the total dollar amount of rates and municipal charges to be raised. This strategy focuses on how the total rates and charges amount is equitably distributed amongst Council's ratepayers.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The purpose of this document is to communicate our strategy for rating for properties in the Loddon Shire. The Strategy considers issues that exist within the current rating system, studies options available under existing legislation and determines a plan to implement changes, where necessary, to achieve a fair and equitable outcome, for all ratepayers.

The strategy outlines:

- the process Council undertakes each year in deciding the total rates and charges to be raised along with how it will be distributed amongst the ratepayers
- impact of the "Fair Go Rates System"
- the legislative framework
- rating charge types currently utilised by Council and the 2016/17 Budget rates
- valuation methodology and the valuation base used by Council in these calculations
- differential rating methods and Council's position
- fire services property levy on behalf of the state government

- supplementary rates and the impact on rates and charges
- who is eligible for rebates and concession and how it is applied
- what options ratepayers have for making rates and charges payments.

The Rating Strategy has a review timeline of 4 years.

COST/BENEFITS

This document will be used to guide Council in making decisions around the setting of rates and municipal charges and the equitable distribution of these charges for future Long Term Financial Plans (LTFP) and Annual Budgets.

RISK ANALYSIS

The principles of good governance require Council to provide ongoing or periodic monitoring and review of the impact of major decisions. It is essential that Council evaluates, on a regular basis, the legislative objectives to which it must have regard and those other objectives which Council determines are relevant.

Council is seeking to fully document its objectives and approach to the raising of rate revenue in line with its goal of providing transparency in its decision-making.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

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

RESOLUTION 2017/8

Moved: Cr Cheryl McKinnon

Seconded: Cr Geoff Curnow

That Council adopts the Rating Strategy 2017-2021.

CARRIED

7.5 FINANCE REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30 NOVEMBER 2016**File Number:** 08/06/001**Author:** Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services**Authoriser:** Sharon Morrison, Director Corporate Services**Attachments:** 1. Finance Report for the Period Ending 30 November 2016**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. *receives and notes the 'Finance report for the period ending 30 November 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 2016/17 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 2016/17.*

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council is provided with Finance Reports on a monthly basis with the exception of when changes to the Council meeting timetable resulted in the Council meeting occurring before the completion of the end of month finance procedures.

BACKGROUND

The Finance Report for the period ended 30 November 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 2016/17 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

Budgeted Surplus - Council's budgeted cash surplus has decreased by \$210K from \$360K to \$150K mainly due to a reduction in the income and partial expenditure within the change of scope for the new VicRoads Contract

Income Statement (Revenue) - Council's year to date (YTD) operating revenue is at 104% of YTD budget. Just over \$2.48M in debtors were raised in November. The main variance is grants revenue which is \$344K ahead of YTD budget.

Income Statement (Expenditure) - Council's operating expenditure is at 94% of YTD budget. Contractors are behind budget by \$215K due to a delay in commencing some major projects and the timing of invoices being received. Payments for this month totalled just over \$2.3M, compared to \$1.6M last month.

Capital Works - The revised budget for capital works is \$19.6M and is 12% complete. Expenditure is not at high as expected for this time of year with only 52% of YTD spent. Council is currently working towards measuring % practical completion. Asset types with major variations (10% or \$10K) include land and buildings, plant and equipment, road works, urban and road drainage and recreation, leisure and community facilities with many projects behind expected timing due to a decrease in activity as a result of the recent floods.

Balance Sheet - Council has an \$18.0M cash total with \$2.1M in general accounts. Debtors are nearly \$10.0M which is a decrease of \$2.6M since the last report. Sundry debtors total \$627K with invoices outstanding for 60 or more days relating to community wellbeing debtors and local community groups totalling approximately \$118K.

There were 39 supplementary valuations updated in November. The total rateable CIV at the end of November was \$1.84B which is an increase of \$818K.

This month also includes a detailed capital and major works report.

COST/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 2016/17.

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.

RESOLUTION 2017/9

Moved: Cr Geoff Curnow

Seconded: Cr Colleen Condliffe

That Council:

1. *receives and notes the 'Finance report for the period ending 30 November 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 2016/17 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 2016/17.*

CARRIED

UNCONFIRMED

7.6 BOORT LAKES CARAVAN PARK TRANSFER OF LEASE**File Number:** 13/09/015**Author:** Lynne Habner, A/Manager Executive and Commercial Services**Authoriser:** Phil Pinyon, Chief Executive Officer**Attachments:** Nil**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. agree to the transfer of the lease of the Boort Lakes Caravan Park, subject to successful negotiations between the current and prospective new lessees, and subject to approval by the Victorian State Government.
2. authorise the use of the Council seal on relevant documents related to the lease transfer.

Cr Neil Beattie declared a conflict of interest. The interest was an indirect interest due to his ownership of a cabin within the caravan park.

Cr Neil Beattie left the meeting at 3:44 pm.

Cr McKinnon took the Chair in the absence of the Mayor.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in writing this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council has not previously discussed this matter.

BACKGROUND

The Boort Lakes Caravan Park is situated on a Crown land reserve of which Council is landlord (as appointed through the state government) and the committee of management.

G & L McCracken have leased the caravan park from Council since September 2008, and in August 2016, entered into a new 21 year lease (initial term of 6 years, followed by further terms of 3 x 5 years) specifically to make the business more attractive and provide security of tenure to a new lessee, with the intention of negotiating a transfer of the new lease with a new operator.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The current lessees are in negotiations with Tim and Wendy James, who wish to become the new managers of Boort Lakes Caravan Park and transfer the lease to their name.

Council approval is sought for the lease to be transferred to the new operators once a transaction has been successfully negotiated between the two parties.

Any transfer of lease will also require Victorian State Government approval.

The new operators are seeking a settlement date of 1 March 2017. This date would be subject to Council approval and consent from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

COST/BENEFITS

There are no costs to Council identified, except some minor legal costs for checking of documentation and liaison with the Victorian State Government.

Any obligations for monetary payments to Council will transfer with the lease to the new operators, and any payments outstanding to Council from the current lessees would need to be settled as part of the transfer transaction.

RISK ANALYSIS

It is considered that there is some risk to Council as a result of the recommendation in this report.

Council staff have made appropriate enquiries regarding the prospective new lessees in terms of capacity and capability, and have applied due diligence principles to these enquiries so as to manage any risk to Council. However, it is not possible to completely eliminate all potential risk scenarios regarding the future operation and management of the Boort Lakes Caravan Park.

Council staff have met with the prospective new lessees and are satisfied that they have significant business background and experience, including operating their own businesses, a strong work ethic and effective interpersonal skills to manage the caravan park.

In preparation for the transfer, the new operators should request an inspection to be conducted by Council's public health officer. Any resulting schedule of works may highlight obligations for both the lessee and for Council within its role as landlord. It should be noted that the transfer of lease would not be conditional upon completion of actions within the schedule of works, and actions may be completed over a period of time.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Council has been involved in discussions with the current lessees and the James' and respective legal representatives for the James' and Council.

RESOLUTION 2017/10

Moved: Cr Colleen Condliffe

Seconded: Cr Gavan Holt

That Council:

1. agree to the transfer of the lease of the Boort Lakes Caravan Park, subject to successful negotiations between the current and prospective new lessees, and subject to approval by the Victorian State Government.
2. authorise the use of the Council seal on relevant documents related to the lease transfer.

CARRIED

Cr Neil Beattie returned to the meeting at 3:51 pm and resumed the Chair.

7.7 SECTION 173 AGREEMENT NATIVE VEGETATION PROTECTION SAWERS FARMS**File Number:** 13/01/003**Author:** Carolyn Stephenson, Statutory / Strategic Planner**Authoriser:** Glenn Harvey, Manager Development and Compliance**Attachments:** Nil**RECOMMENDATION**

That the following document be executed under the Common Seal of the Council:

"CDH:MA:20160387 titled Loddon Shire Council and Sawers Property Pty Ltd Agreement Pursuant to Section 173 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 for the land in Certificate of Title Vol. 02694 Fol. 699 known as 308 Yando Swamp Road, Yando for the protection and management of an area of native vegetation by the owner."

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any council staff member involved in writing this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Nil

BACKGROUND

In August 2016, Sawers Farms were granted a planning permit to remove native vegetation from their property to facilitate farming activities. In accordance with the Loddon Planning Scheme and the requirements of the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning, the land owner was required to protect and manage an area of native vegetation to offset the vegetation removed.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

A Section 173 Agreement under the Planning and Environment Act is a legal agreement between the land owner and Council registered on the title. In this case the agreement requires that the land owner protect and manage an area of native vegetation (18.59ha) on their land south of Lake Leaghur. No vegetation can be removed from this land and any threatening activities must be managed eg. - stock removed and weeds controlled. The land owner must provide an annual report to Council and DELWP about the status of the vegetation and the management actions undertaken to protect it. The agreement has been reviewed by DELWP and Beck Legal on behalf of Council.

COST/BENEFITS

The cost of preparing and registering the agreement, and the cost of managing the site is met by the land owner. The benefit is that the area of native vegetation to offset the vegetation removed is protected and managed.

RISK ANALYSIS

Council must monitor the site to ensure that the agreement is complied with. Annual reporting by the owner will assist with this.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The land owner has been involved in the preparation of the agreement and the offset site was nominated by the land owner.

RESOLUTION 2017/11

Moved: Cr Gavan Holt

Seconded: Cr Cheryl McKinnon

That the following document be executed under the Common Seal of the Council:

“CDH:MA:20160387 titled Loddon Shire Council and Sawers Property Pty Ltd Agreement Pursuant to Section 173 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 for the land in Certificate of Title Vol. 02694 Fol. 699 known as 308 Yando Swamp Road, Yando for the protection and management of an area of native vegetation by the owner.”

CARRIED

UNCONFIRMED

7.8 PERMANENT CLOSURE OF NANKERVILLS ROAD, CAMPBELLS FOREST AND WILKINSONS ROAD, LEAGHUR

File Number: 14/01/002

Author: Indivar Dhakal, Assets Engineer

Authoriser: Graeme Smith, Design Engineer

Attachments:

1. Locality Map - Nankervills Rd, Campbells Forest
2. Locality Map - Wilkinsons Rd, Leaghur

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolve to advertise seeking public comment regarding the proposed permanent closure of:

1. Nankervills Road, Campbells Forest
2. Wilkinsons Road, Leaghur

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Nil

BACKGROUNDNankervills Road, Campbells Forest

The section of Nankervills Road at Campbells Forest located between Loddon Valley Highway and Campbells Rd is a 580 metre long road classified as rural formed. The adjacent property on both sides of the entirety of the aforementioned section is owned by the same owner. The owner has shown interest in leasing the road reserve through the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP). The road is gazetted as a public road in Council's road register, but the existing condition of the road is not suitable for vehicular movement.

Wilkinsons Road, Leaghur

The section of Wilkinsons Road at Leaghur located between Parkers Road and Frosts Lane is a 3.2 km long road classified as rural formed. The majority of the property adjacent to the aforementioned section of road is owned by Sawers Farms Pty Ltd., who have requested to lease the road reserve through DELWP. One parcel of property adjacent to the said road reserve is not owned by Sawers Farms which is accessed through Parkers Rd. The road is gazetted as a public road in Council's road register and is suitable for vehicular movement in dry weather only.

ISSUES/DISCUSSIONNankervills Road, Campbells Forest

This section of road acts as a shortcut from Campbells Road to Loddon Valley Highway at Campbells Forest and does not serve as a primary access to any property in the vicinity. In a recent site investigation, Council officers concluded that the road is deemed unsuitable and unsafe for any vehicular access in the aforementioned section. A creek crosses a section of the road which has a significant drop and has been magnified by the recent flood. Council's Operations

Department has endeavoured to make the creek safe for passage but in the process the natural flow of the creek has been obstructed.

The adjacent owner who owns property on both sides for the entirety of the road has indicated their willingness to lease the reserve if approved by the Council. The said creek is a declared waterway and the obstruction that has been created due to reactive maintenance is not in accordance with the best practise requirements of the North Central Catchment Management Authority.

Council officers in the past have received complaints about illegal fencing over this section of the road. Upon discussion with the adjacent property owner, the Council officers were informed that they fenced off the road to prevent drivers driving into the creek as it was a hazard. Officers advised the property owner that the fencing was illegal and were removed promptly.

Some community members of Campbells Forest have raised their concerns over the closure of the road to a member of the MEG and responsible Council officers. The major concern is the fire access to and from Campbells Road. Upon investigation, it was identified that Oswalds Road and/or Loddon Valley Highway are more appropriate for fire access. Under the existing condition of the road, no vehicle passage is suitable and safe through Nankervills Rd.

Historically, Council has only performed reactive maintenance on this section of road in accordance with the Road Management Plan.

Wilkinsons Road, Leaghur

This section of road is a linking road between Parkers Road and Frosts Lane in Leaghur and does not serve as a primary access to any of the properties in the vicinity. Majority of the parcels are owned by Sawers Farms Pty Ltd and is used by Sawers Farms during dry season only. The road is not deemed necessary for fire vehicle access as well. Sawers Farms applied for a lease in 2015 which was not granted as DELWP received objections to closure. However, Sawers Farms has managed to obtain consent from the nearby property owners which they have submitted to DELWP.

A site investigation by a Council Officer concluded that the road is only suitable for 4 wheel drive vehicles and farm vehicles during the dry season. The road has been maintained by Loddon Shire Council's Operations Department in accordance with Road Management Plan. Roadside vegetation and weed growth has made the road not suitable for normal vehicular access. Permanent closure of this road will raise no access issues to any property.

COST/BENEFITS

There is no additional cost associated with the proposed closures. However, Council will benefit by not having to maintain the road that does not serve as a primary access to any property. Council currently is undertaking the maintenance of the roads in accordance with the Road Management Plan and has carried out slashing for fire prevention. The reactive maintenance that Council has carried out in both sections of the road includes but not limited to reactive grading, grading with material, street sign replacement and slashing. If the proposed closure is approved, the roads will then be leased to the respective adjacent property owners who will then maintain the reserve in accordance with the relevant regulations.

In addition, Nankervills Road, if continued to be used as a road, needs a floodway or culvert installation for the crossover at the creek. This will require a capital investment by Council with future ongoing maintenance and renewal costs.

RISK ANALYSIS

Nankervills Road, Campbells Forest

It is considered that there are no significant risks associated with the proposed closure. However, there is a low risk that the adjacent owner may decline to lease the reserve - this is considered unlikely and the consequence is insignificant. The owner has shown strong interest in leasing the reserve as they own properties on both side of the road. The other risk as stated by some community members relates to fire vehicle access. The road is not suitable for any vehicle in its

present condition and Loddon Valley Highway and Oswalds Rd are more suitable fire access roads.

If the proposed road closure is not resolved, Council will need to invest in floodway or culvert infrastructure at the creek crossover which will also have ongoing maintenance and renewal funding responsibilities.

Wilkinsons Road, Leaghur

There is no significant risk associated with the proposed closure. However, if the closure is not resolved, Council will have to maintain the road which does not serve as a primary access to any property.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Nankervills Road, Campbells Forest

There has been significant consultation within and outside the organisation regarding the proposed closure. Extensive internal discussion has been carried out within the Operations Directorate (especially within Technical Services and Operations). In addition, the adjacent owner has been consulted by Council officers in regards to the future prospect of leasing the road reserve. There has also been significant consultation and discussions with members of the Campbell's Forest community. North Central Catchment Management Authority have been advised of the emergency works carried out at the creek crossover and relevant permits will be obtained if any work needs to be carried out in future.

Wilkinsons Road, Leaghur

There has been significant discussion and consultation within the Technical Services Department and other relevant departments, and with DELWP regarding the existing condition and potential closure of the road.

Council officers have not engaged in consultation with the applicant (Sawers Farms Pty Ltd) or other property owner in the vicinity since the request was received by DELWP.

This report seeks Council's resolution for advertisement of the proposed closure of the roads to seek public comments which will include consultation with the broader community members. A further report will be provided to Council following the exhibition of the proposals.

RESOLUTION 2017/12

Moved: Cr Geoff Curnow

Seconded: Cr Cheryl McKinnon

That Council resolve to advertise seeking public comment regarding the proposed permanent closure of:

1. Nankervills Road, Campbells Forest
2. Wilkinsons Road, Leaghur

CARRIED

7.9 ROAD NAMING PROPOSAL FOR LANE OFF RIDGE STREET WEDDERBURN

File Number: 14/01/001

Author: Susan Smith, Administrative Assistant

Authoriser: Ian McLauchlan, Director Operations

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Name the unnamed laneway off Ridge Street Wedderburn as “Stables Lane” and advise the Registrar under the Geographic Place names Act 1998 of the proposed naming of this lane.
2. Advise the affected landowners of Council’s decision to name the lane “Stables Lane”.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in writing this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Nil

BACKGROUND

Council has received a request for an unnamed laneway to be named as identified by the red line in the map below:



This material may be of assistance to you but the Council and its employees do not guarantee that it is without flaw or is appropriate for your purpose and we disclaim all liability for any consequence which may arise from the use of this material.

Road Name Proposal - Stables Lane

Date: 26/10/2016



Several properties in Reef Street have rear access to this lane. The naming of this lane will also ensure that emergency services are able to locate properties in this area more precisely.

The recommendation to name this lane as "Stables Lane" reflects the historic land use of the area. Discussions with the local Councillor have identified another possible name being "Haebich Lane". Consultation with the Haebich family revealed that they briefly lived in Namarra Street and their property backed onto the lane. Council will need to determine the preferred name for the lane, but from an officer's perspective, Stables Lane is favoured.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The Registrar of Geographic Names provides guidelines for naming or proposing to name places and these guidelines provide a number of principles and procedures that apply to all cases of naming, renaming or changing the boundary of a feature, locality or road. The following link provides access to these guidelines:

http://www.dtpli.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/217702/FEB2013-GuidelinesGeoNamesSection_1.pdf

Guidelines provided by the Registrar of Geographic Names also make specific reference to naming and renaming roads as per the following link:

http://www.dtpli.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/217717/FEB2013_FINAL_GuidelinesGeoNamesSection_4.pdf

Council officers will follow these guidelines in processing this proposal.

COST/BENEFITS

The costs incurred by Council will be with the purchasing of the sign, materials to install the sign and labour associated with the erection of this process.

The naming of this lane will not only assist Council to locate customer concerns but also assist emergency services such as Ambulance, CFA and SES to locate properties more precisely if roads are named.

RISK ANALYSIS

Registrar of Geographic Place Names Principle 1(C) "Ensuring public safety" specifies that:

"Geographic names and boundaries must not risk public and operational safety for emergency response, or cause confusion for transport, communication and mail services. Many emergency response and other public services (such as mail) are determined by locality boundaries or road extents, and proposals must ensure that operations will not be adversely affected. For example, the boundary of a locality must be applied in a way that makes sense not only for the local community, but also for visitors. Similarly, the extent of a road name should ensure easy navigation for pedestrians and vehicles along the entire route from one end to the other."

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

As per the requirements specified in the above referenced principles and procedures, the road naming proposal was publicly advertised in the Loddon Times on 29 November 2016. A letter was also sent to adjacent landowners on the 18 November 2016 advising of the proposed naming of the unnamed laneway to Stables Lane.

Landowners were advised that any comments or objections regarding the proposal should be submitted in writing by Tuesday 20 December 2016 and contain sufficient details explaining the reason for objecting or supporting the proposed name. Residents were also informed all correspondence received shall be included with this formal report to be presented to Council for consideration. No formal submissions from the public were received regarding this road name proposal.

RESOLUTION 2017/13

Moved: Cr Gavan Holt

Seconded: Cr Geoff Curnow

That Council:

1. Name the unnamed laneway off Ridge Street Wedderburn as "Stables Lane" and advise the Registrar under the Geographic Place names Act 1998 of the proposed naming of this lane.
2. Advise the affected landowners of Council's decision to name the lane "Stables Lane".

CARRIED

UNCONFIRMED

7.10 ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR LANDFILL MASTER PLAN AND REVIEW OF WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

File Number: 15/05/011
Author: Steven Phillips, Manager Operations
Authoriser: Ian McLauchlan, Director Operations
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the following recommendations:

1. That \$15,400 is allocated for the development of master plans for the three remaining landfill sites (Boort, Pyramid Hill and Newbridge) from the Landfill Rehabilitation Reserve.
2. That \$7,700 is allocated for the review of the Loddon Shire Waste Management Strategy from the Landfill Rehabilitation Reserve.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There are no conflicts of interest for any Council staff member involved in writing this report, or involved in the subject matter of this report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

There has been no previous Council report on this matter.

BACKGROUND

There are six waste facility sites across the Loddon Shire. The location and type of these sites are in Table 1. Currently none of the sites have a master plan.

Table 1

Location	Type
Boort	Landfill
Pyramid Hill	Landfill
Inglewood	Transfer Station
Newbridge	Landfill
Wedderburn	Transfer Station
Dingee	Transfer Station

Master plans for the landfill sites will provide detailed information that will guide the management of those sites and allow the utilisation of the site to be maximised. This information will assist in informing the review of the Loddon Shire Waste Management Strategy.

The Loddon Shire Waste Management Strategy is now due for review.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

In order to maximise the management of the remaining landfill sites and inform the review of the Loddon Shire Waste Management Strategy with accurate information, it is necessary to engage a waste management specialist to develop master plans for each of the landfill sites. The development of the master plans will incorporate site visits and aerial survey data to accurately survey each site. Once each site has been surveyed, a plan can be developed including information such as cut and fill requirements, available fill on-site, life expectancy and final finish height levels. The master plans will also guide the future development of the sites to ensure there maximum utilisation of those facilities.

The Loddon Shire Waste Management Strategy is now due for review. Completing master plans for each of the landfills will provide accurate information that will inform the Strategy. Engaging a specialist to review the Waste Management Strategy will assist Council to develop the best possible direction for waste management within Loddon Shire.

The 2015/16 Financial Statements state: "The Landfill Rehabilitation Reserve was established to assist with the cost of rehabilitating Council's landfills. Council transfers to the reserve annually \$10 per kerbside collection levy. Council transfers from the reserve the cost of landfill rehabilitation". There is currently \$263,527 in the reserve. The information gained in the master plans and Strategy review will provide future guidance of the rehabilitation needs of the waste management sites.

COST/BENEFITS

The cost to Council is \$15,400 for the master plans for the three landfill sites. This includes site visits, aerial surveys and a documented master plan for each of the three sites. The benefit is accurate information that we would not otherwise be able to obtain, an expert opinion on maximising the utilisation of each of the sites and a documented plan that can guide the future development of each of the sites.

The cost to Council to have an outside organisation review the Waste Management Strategy is approximately \$7,700. The benefit is expert advice on how we manage waste within Loddon Shire and how we can deliver the service at an affordable cost.

RISK ANALYSIS

Indicative prices have been obtained for the proposed waste management specialist services and the engagement of a service provider will follow Council's procurement procedures. The provider will be required to provide a proposal detailing the particulars of the project along with referees.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

There has been no requirement for consultation or engagement with either internal or external stakeholders in the development of this report.

RESOLUTION 2017/14

Moved: Cr Cheryl McKinnon

Seconded: Cr Colleen Condliffe

That Council approve the following recommendations:

1. That \$15,400 is allocated for the development of master plans for the three remaining landfill sites (Boort, Pyramid Hill and Newbridge) from the Landfill Rehabilitation Reserve.
2. That \$7,700 is allocated for the review of the Loddon Shire Waste Management Strategy from the Landfill Rehabilitation Reserve.

CARRIED

7.11 ADVOCACY FOR THE CONTINUATION OF FUNDING FOR FIFTEEN HOUR KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS

File Number: 12/09/003
Author: Alycia O'Sullivan, Early Years Coordinator
Authoriser: Phil Pinyon, Chief Executive Officer
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council uses available avenues to continue to lobby for continuation of Commonwealth Government funding to support the provision of fifteen hours of kindergarten beyond 2017.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

A report to Council in May 2014 detailed the end of the National Partnership Agreement at the end of 2014 and the risk this posed to the ongoing funding to support the provision of fifteen hours of kindergarten.

BACKGROUND

In November 2008 the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), as part of its early childhood reforms, endorsed the national agenda of universal access to fifteen hours of kindergarten a week for four year-olds from 2013.

In early 2015, the Productivity Commission released its report into Childcare and Early Childhood Learning, which recommended continued Commonwealth investment in kindergarten programs. Importantly, the Productivity Commission recommended that Commonwealth funding for early childhood education and care was needed to help meet the cost of quality early learning per week in the year before school, as it is critical to childrens' social and intellectual development. The Commonwealth Government then went on to develop the Jobs for Families package, which includes federal funding to help meet the cost of providing fifteen hours of preschool in 2016 and 2017.

There have been four separate National Partnership Agreements on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education with the current Agreement due to expire in December 2017. Under the current Agreement, the Commonwealth Government provides about one-third of the funding for fifteen hours of kindergarten and the State contributing two-thirds. In addition to the funding from the Commonwealth and State Governments, the community and Local Government provide further funds through parent fees, fundraising and Council support to meet the government shortfall.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Fifteen hours of kindergarten has never been permanently funded, with the Commonwealth Government contribution committed only for short periods of time. This continual short term funding arrangement makes it difficult for kindergarten services and families to plan. With the current agreement ceasing in December 2017, and no formal commitment at this time for continued federal funding, there is increasing uncertainty about the cost and availability of kindergarten beyond 2017.

With the next federal budget due to be released in May 2017 it is timely to highlight this issue. Council may consider advocating to Federal Members of Parliament to raise community and Council concerns with their ministerial colleagues, party leaders, and through Parliamentary question time, encouraging them to specifically seek a solution to kindergarten funding uncertainty.

COST/BENEFITS

Nationally and internationally there is evidence linking kindergarten attendance to improved student results in numeracy, reading and spelling.

The Victorian and Commonwealth Governments have previously extolled the virtues of the delivery of fifteen hours of kindergarten, including:

- quality early childhood education programs improve childrens' learning, health and behaviour with positive impacts extending to adult life;
- early learning facilitates the transition to primary school and has a direct and positive effect on future educational, employment and health outcomes;
- children acquire basic skills for life and learning through engaging in quality play-based early learning programs;
- enables children and families to have access to a high quality development program;
- supports planning for integrated service systems;
- over the long term, early childhood education generates substantial cost savings through improved health and productivity and reduced expenditure on social services.

A 2010 study¹ found that focused investment in early childhood education represents the best and most economically efficient period of life for such an outlay - returning at least \$8 for every \$1 spent in higher wages, increased tax revenue, reduced school expenditure and reduced criminal justice expenditure.

Any reduction in funding will have a direct impact on the future delivery of kindergarten programs. The impacts will vary depending on the program model that is associated with any changes to funding, but could result in a return to a ten hour model or an increase in fees and fundraising to sustain a fifteen hour model.

It would be unlikely that preschool parents and committees could sustain an increase in fees and fundraising to supplement any shortfall in funding that supports the provision of a fifteen hour per week program.

RISK ANALYSIS

Risks associated with unconfirmed funding, a reduced program model or increased fee/fundraising targets include:

- uncertainty for families as they consider early childhood education and care arrangements for their children;
- employment uncertainty and a lack of job security for staff;
- poorer learning outcomes for children, with a potential for reduced kindergarten participation rates;
- Australia falling further behind our OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) counterparts in relation to early childhood education;
- the capacity of families to afford increased fees;
- the capacity of families and the wider community to support increased fundraising activities.

¹ Return on Investment: Cost vs. Benefits. Professor James J. Heckman, University of Chicago, 2010.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

In October 2016 the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) sent a letter to Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and relevant state and federal ministers urging the Commonwealth Government to enter into an enduring arrangement for funding with the Victorian Government to provide certainty for all Victorian families and Councils, ensuring children have access to 15 hours of kindergarten beyond 2017.

In November 2016 the Early Learning Association Australia (ELAA) sent a letter to Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham, Minister for Education and Training and has confirmed a meeting with the Minister in February in regards to the National Partnership Agreements on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education.

In anticipation of this report and to provide timely initial advocacy, a letter indicating the concerns faced by Loddon Kindergartens has been sent to the following government representatives:

- The Hon Bill Shorten MP – Leader of the Opposition
- The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP – Deputy Prime Minister
- Senator Nick Xenophon – Leader of the Nick Xenophon Team
- Senator Pauline Hanson – Leader of Pauline Hanson's One Nation
- Senator Richard Di Natale – Leader of the Australian Greens
- The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP - Prime Minister
- The Hon Simon Birmingham, MP - Minister for Education and Training
- The Hon Christian Porter - Minister for Social Services
- Lisa Chesters MP – Member for Bendigo
- Senator Bridget McKenzie – Senator for Victoria
- The Hon Damian Drum MP – Member for Murray

This topic has been raised with the Loddon Kindergarten Advisory Group (parent and staff representatives) and will be discussed with the incoming 2017 advisory group.

RESOLUTION 2017/15

Moved: Cr Gavan Holt

Seconded: Cr Cheryl McKinnon

That Council uses available avenues to continue to lobby for continuation of Commonwealth Government funding to support the provision of fifteen hours of kindergarten beyond 2017 and that representation be made to the Wedderburn Branch of the Liberal Party to support Council's position.

CARRIED

7.12 GENERAL VALUATION OF LAND 2018**File Number:** 09/01/001**Author:** Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services**Authoriser:** Sharon Morrison, Director Corporate Services**Attachments:** Nil**RECOMMENDATION**

That:

1. Council resolves to cause a general valuation to be made of the land described below at the prescribed date of 1 January 2018:
 - (a) all rateable land within the Loddon Shire
 - (b) all non-rateable leviable land within the Loddon Shire
 - (c) non-rateable leviable land for which the Loddon Shire is responsible for valuing not located within the municipal district.
2. The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to notify the Valuer-General and other relevant authorities in the prescribed form, as per Schedule 2 in the Valuation of Land Regulations 2014.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

27 January 2015.

BACKGROUND

Section 11 of the Valuation of Land Act 1960 states:

“For the purposes of the Local Government Act 1989, a valuation authority must:

- (a) cause a general valuation of rateable land within the relevant municipal district to be made as at 1 January in every even calendar year; and
- (b) before 30 April that year, cause a general valuation made in accordance with paragraph (a)
 - (i) to be returned to it;

Section 6(1) of the Valuation of Land Act 1960 states:

“A valuation authority proposing to make a general valuation must give not less than one month’s notice of the decision to cause the valuation to be made to:

- (c) every other rating authority interested in the valuation of land in the relevant municipal district; and*
- (d) in the case of a council general valuation or a collection agency valuation, the valuer-general.”*

Further, Section 7 of the Valuation of Land Regulations 2014 states:

“Notice given under Section 6(1) of the Act of a decision to cause a general valuation to be made must be given in the form in Schedule 2.”

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

In the past, authorities that have been notified are:

- Valuer-General Victoria
- State Revenue Office
- North Central Catchment Management Authority
- Buloke Shire
- Central Goldfields Shire
- City of Greater Bendigo
- Gannawarra Shire
- Mount Alexander Shire
- Northern Grampians Shire
- Shire of Campaspe
- Coliban Water
- Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water
- Goulburn Murray Water

It is intended to retain this list for the 2018 valuation.

COST/BENEFITS

There are no direct costs associated with this report.

RISK ANALYSIS

By resolving to undertake a general valuation, Council is complying with the legislative requirement outlined in the Valuation of Land Act 1960 and the Valuation of Land Regulations 2014.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Consultation will be limited to the Valuer-General Victoria and the rating authorities named in this report.

RESOLUTION 2017/16

Moved: Cr Geoff Curnow
Seconded: Cr Colleen Condliffe

That:

1. Council resolves to cause a general valuation to be made of the land described below at the prescribed date of 1 January 2018:
 - (a) all rateable land within the Loddon Shire
 - (b) all non-rateable leviable land within the Loddon Shire
 - (c) non-rateable leviable land for which the Loddon Shire is responsible for valuing not located within the municipal district.
2. The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to notify the Valuer-General and other relevant authorities in the prescribed form, as per Schedule 2 in the Valuation of Land Regulations 2014.

CARRIED

7.13 EXTENSION OF CONTRACT NO. 345 - MUNICIPAL VALUATION SERVICES**File Number:** 09/01/001**Author:** Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services**Authoriser:** Sharon Morrison, Director Corporate Services**Attachments:** Nil**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council, pursuant to clause 1.1 of the Annexure and clause 2.2.2 of the General Contract Conditions of Contract no. 345 – Municipal Valuation Services, extends the contract with LG Valuations Pty. Ltd for the 2018 revaluation.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

At the Ordinary Meeting held on 24 March 2015, Council awarded Contract No. 345 – Municipal Valuation Services to LG Valuation Services Pty. Ltd (LG).

BACKGROUND

As previously discussed with Council, a general valuation is required every even year. To give effect to this requirement of the Valuation of Land Act 1960, contractors have been used in the past to conduct the general valuation.

Council awarded Contract No. 345 – Municipal Valuation Services to LG at the In-Camera Meeting of Council held on 24 March 2015. This contract was to undertake the 2016 revaluation, and included options for the 2018 and 2020 revaluations.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Council now has the opportunity to offer the option of extending the contract for the 2018 revaluation. This is the first of two extensions allowable under Council's current Municipal Valuation Services contract.

Discussion about the performance of LG was included in the progress of 2016 revaluation report provided to Council at the Ordinary Meeting held on 22 March 2016. Reports on previous year valuations have also been provided to Council throughout the previous contract. The reports noted LG's timeliness in meeting the Valuation Best Practice Guidelines' milestone dates, their availability to answer queries from Council and property owners, and their willingness to contact Council to provide updates on the progress of the revaluation. This performance has continued to be of a high standard since the report considered on 22 March 2016.

Council has received contract prices for the 2018 revaluation from LG who are proposing to maintain all 2016 contract prices in 2018 with the only variation being changes to reflect the increase in the number of properties being valued within each category.

General valuation – rateable assessments portion of the contract represents the majority of the cost to Council. The contract rates are provided by property type, and include:

- residential
- rural
- commercial

- specialist
- non-rateable assessments.

The prices for the 2018 revaluation in this area have increased by 1.07%, representing the increase in the number of properties being valued.

All other amounts including prices for inquiries, appeals, other valuation services, and asset valuations for financial reports have been maintained at the 2016 contract prices.

COST/BENEFITS

The revaluation of properties every two years is a legislative requirement of Council, therefore, the cost cannot be avoided. The direct financial cost to Council is engagement of the contractor to undertake the revaluation on behalf of Council.

There are indirect costs in contract management by the contract supervisor (Director Corporate Services), data provision to the contract valuer and maintenance and updating of the valuations section of the rating system by Council's Revenue Coordinator.

The benefits of the process are:

- maintaining current valuation information about properties in the Shire
- ensuring that the valuation data used in the annual budget is accurate and up to date.

There are indirect benefits in maintaining LG as Council's contractor which include:

- a sound knowledge of the value of properties in the Shire, particularly specialist properties and the various types of rural production properties
- a willingness by LG staff to consult with property owners about their concerns in a timely manner to ensure that any concern they have can be addressed quickly.

RISK ANALYSIS

The most significant risks relating to the revaluation process are:

1. Meeting milestone dates outlined in the 2018 Valuation Best Practice Guidelines

During the 2016 revaluation process, LG met most milestones outlined in the Valuation Best Practice Guidelines, and where the milestones were not met the delays were outside the control of LG.

2. Ensuring that objections to valuations are not excessive to maintain credibility of the revaluation process

During the 2016 revaluation process there were 26 objections in total. This number is a very small percentage of Council's total rateable properties.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

There has been no external consultation in relation to this report.

Internal consultation included a discussion with Council's Revenue Coordinator who has the main contact with LG's staff. Council's Revenue Coordinator has had a positive experience over the past revaluation period, and noted LG's professionalism, timeliness of information being returned, accessibility in relation to general enquiries, and general support.

RESOLUTION 2017/17

Moved: Cr Geoff Curnow

Seconded: Cr Gavan Holt

That Council, pursuant to clause 1.1 of the Annexure and clause 2.2.2 of the General Contract Conditions of Contract no. 345 – Municipal Valuation Services, extends the contract with LG Valuations Pty. Ltd for the 2018 revaluation.

CARRIED

UNCONFIRMED

7.14 FINANCE REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2016**File Number:** 08/06/001**Author:** Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services**Authoriser:** Sharon Morrison, Director Corporate Services**Attachments:** 1. Finance Report as at 31 December 2016**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. *receives and notes the 'Finance report for the period ending 31 December 2016'*
2. *approves budget revisions included in the report for internal reporting purposes only.*

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council is provided with Finance Reports on a monthly basis with the exception of when changes to the Council meeting timetable resulted in the Council meeting occurring before the completion of the end of month finance procedures.

BACKGROUND

The Finance Report for the period ended 31 December 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 2016/17 Budget, and includes operating results, capital expenditure and funding sources.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Budgeted Surplus - Council's budgeted cash surplus has decreased by \$50K from \$150K to \$101K mainly due to a reduction in the income and partial expenditure within the change of scope for the new VicRoads Contract

Income Statement (Revenue) - Council's year to date (YTD) operating revenue is at 97% of YTD budget. Just over \$250K in debtors were raised in December. The main variance is capital grants revenue which is \$350K behind YTD budget due to delays in a number of capital projects.

Income Statement (Expenditure) - Council's operating expenditure is at 102% of YTD budget. Labour is behind budget by \$300K due to a delay in some positions commencing. Materials and services are also \$233K behind due to delays in commencing some major projects and the timing of invoices being received. Payments for this month totalled just over \$2.55M, compared to \$2.3M last month.

Capital Works - The revised budget for capital works is \$19.6M and is 19% complete in financial terms (12% at the end of November) for the current financial year. Year to date expenditure is on track at 98% of what Council expected to spend by this time of the year. Council is currently working towards measuring % practical completion. Asset types with major variations (10% or \$10K) include land and buildings, road works, urban and road drainage and recreation, leisure and community facilities and footpaths with many projects behind expected timing due to a decrease in activity as a result of the recent floods.

Balance Sheet - Council has a \$15.2M cash total with \$0.5M in general accounts. Debtors are nearly \$9.6M which is a decrease of \$0.4M since the last report. Sundry debtors total \$498K with invoices outstanding for 60 or more days relating to community wellbeing debtors and local community groups totalling approximately \$144K.

There were no supplementary valuations updated in December. The total rateable CIV at the end of December remains at \$1.84B.

COST/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 2016/17.

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.

RESOLUTION 2017/18

Moved: Cr Cheryl McKinnon

Seconded: Cr Colleen Condliffe

That Council:

1. receives and notes the 'Finance report for the period ending 31 December 2016'
2. approves budget revisions included in the report for internal reporting purposes only.

CARRIED

7.15 SOUTH WEST LODDON PIPELINE PROJECT MINISTERIAL AMENDMENT**File Number:** 13/01/003**Author:** Alexandra Jefferies, Planning Officer**Authoriser:** Glenn Harvey, Manager Development and Compliance**Attachments:** 1. Letter of request-GMMWater**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council resolve to support Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water's request for a Ministerial Amendment to exempt the use and development of a minor utility installation and the removal of native vegetation from local planning approval during the implementation of the South West Loddon Pipeline Project.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

At the Council meeting held on the 13 December 2016, this issue was raised as general business by the CEO with Council providing in-principle support for the development of an incorporated document under Clause 52.03 of the Loddon Shire Planning Scheme in respect to the South West Loddon Pipeline Project.

BACKGROUND

In September of 2014, Loddon Shire Council made a formal request for Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water to investigate the viability of a pipeline network which would provide stock and domestic water supplies to the South-West area of the Shire.

The project has received State and Commonwealth funding and is expected to connect a significant number of properties to the GMMWater pipeline network. GMMWater has developed a design concept plan which has been developed by consulting with landowners and securing expressions of interest.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The amendment seeks to introduce a specific provision to Clause 52.03 and apply an incorporated document to provide for the exemption from planning requirements for the development of land for the South-West Pipeline project.

If approved, the amendment would result in the following outcomes:

- a) Consistency in the implementation process across the whole of the project area.
- b) A reduced reliance on local government resources and avoidance of repetition of the planning approval process across the two shires, being Loddon and Northern Grampians Shire.
- c) DELWP would become the main 'planning authority' for the project's implementation.
- d) A more facilitated and streamlined process for landowners who commit to the project.
- e) GMMWater have advised that an Environmental Management Plan will accompany the process in order to secure offsets and detail how the environmental issues will be handled during the pipeline project.

Removal of native vegetation in order to connect the pipeline on private land will still need to gain planning approval where required by the Loddon Shire Council Planning Scheme.

COST/BENEFITS

There are significant benefits in adopting the course of action recommended as outlined in this report.

RISK ANALYSIS

The securing of water to areas of the Shire that generally rely on local catchment run off will add significant security to the agricultural and domestic land uses that are currently occurring. In the event that Council did not support GMMWater's request for a Ministerial Amendment, the project implementation would be detrimentally affected.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Consultation has been undertaken by GMMWater with landholders, Loddon Shire Council, and Northern Grampians Shire. GMMWater has received a number of expressions of interests in the pipeline project. This consultation has guided the concept design and shown a high level of community support and interest in the project.

RESOLUTION 2017/19

Moved: Cr Gavan Holt
Seconded: Cr Colleen Condliffe

That Council resolve to support Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water's request for a Ministerial Amendment to exempt the use and development of a minor utility installation and the removal of native vegetation from local planning approval during the implementation of the South West Loddon Pipeline Project.

CARRIED

8 INFORMATION REPORTS

8.1 ASSESSMENT AND RATING RESULTS FOR BOORT, DINGEE AND PYRAMID HILL KINDERGARTENS

File Number: 12/09/003

Author: Paula Yorston, Manager Community Services

Authoriser: Phil Pinyon, Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the report detailing the outcomes of the National Quality Framework Assessments conducted at Boort, Dingee and Pyramid Hill Kindergartens.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Reports were presented to Council in 2013 following the previous round of assessment and rating visits for Boort, Dingee and Pyramid Hill Kindergartens. These reports detailed the ratings achieved by each service:

Boort Kindergarten: Working Towards National Quality Standard

Dingee Kindergarten: Meeting National Quality Standard

Pyramid Hill Kindergarten: Meeting National Quality Standard

BACKGROUND

The National Quality Framework aims to raise quality and drive continuous improvement in education and care services. All services approved under the Education and Care Services National Law are assessed and rated by their state or territory regulatory authority.

The National Quality Standard (NQS) is a key aspect of the National Quality Framework and sets a national benchmark for early childhood education. The NQS brings together seven quality areas (containing eighteen standards) that are important to outcomes for children. Assessment against these quality areas forms the basis of an overall rating.

The ratings are:

- Excellent rating, awarded by ACECQA (Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority)
- Exceeding National Quality Standard
- Meeting National Quality Standard
- Working towards National Quality Standard
- Significant Improvement Required

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Correspondence received from the Department Education and Training (DET) has advised that recent assessment and rating visits to kindergarten services in Boort, Dingee and Pyramid Hill have provided the following rating outcomes:

Boort Kindergarten has an improved overall rating: Meeting National Quality Standard

		2013	2016
Quality Area 1	Educational program and practice	Meeting NQS	Meeting NQS
Quality Area 2	Children's health and safety	Meeting NQS	Meeting NQS
Quality Area 3	Physical environment	Meeting NQS	Meeting NQS
Quality Area 4	Staffing arrangements	Working towards NQS	Meeting NQS
Quality Area 5	Relationships with children	Meeting NQS	Meeting NQS
Quality Area 6	Collaborative partnerships with families and communities	Exceeding NQS	Meeting NQS
Quality Area 7	Leadership and service management	Working towards NQS	Meeting NQS
This service is rated overall at:		Working towards NQS	Meeting NQS

Dingee Kindergarten has achieved the same overall assessment rating: Meeting National Quality Standard.

		2013	2016
Quality Area 1	Educational program and practice	Meeting NQS	Meeting NQS
Quality Area 2	Children's health and safety	Meeting NQS	Meeting NQS
Quality Area 3	Physical environment	Meeting NQS	Meeting NQS
Quality Area 4	Staffing arrangements	Meeting NQS	Meeting NQS
Quality Area 5	Relationships with children	Meeting NQS	Meeting NQS
Quality Area 6	Collaborative partnerships with families and communities	Exceeding NQS	Exceeding NQS
Quality Area 7	Leadership and service management	Meeting NQS	Meeting NQS
This service is rated overall at:		Meeting NQS	Meeting NQS

Pyramid Hill Kindergarten has achieved an improved overall rating: Exceeding National Quality Standard.

		2013	2016
Quality Area 1	Educational program and practice	Meeting NQS	Exceeding NQS
Quality Area 2	Children's health and safety	Meeting NQS	Meeting NQS
Quality Area 3	Physical environment	Meeting NQS	Exceeding NQS
Quality Area 4	Staffing arrangements	Meeting NQS	Exceeding NQS
Quality Area 5	Relationships with children	Meeting NQS	Exceeding NQS
Quality Area 6	Collaborative partnerships with families and communities	Meeting NQS	Exceeding NQS
Quality Area 7	Leadership and service management	Meeting NQS	Meeting NQS
This service is rated overall at:		Meeting NQS	Exceeding NQS

Under the National Law and Regulations, regulatory authorities may at any time reassess a service or any aspect or element of a service, but with the exception of extraordinary circumstances it is considered likely that Boort and Dingee Kindergartens will undergo the next assessment and rating process in the prescribed two year timeframe relevant to the overall rating received. With an Exceeding NQS rating, it is considered likely that Pyramid Hill will undergo the next assessment and rating process in the prescribed three year timeframe.

COST/BENEFITS

These assessments indicate that children attending Loddon Cluster Kindergartens receive a quality program which enhances their learning in the year prior to primary school. The work undertaken to satisfy the needs of the assessment and rating visit were undertaken within the existing budget.

RISK ANALYSIS

There are no risks associated with this report.

Should a service receive a rating of Significant Improvement Required in one or more of the seven quality areas, it is expected that the Regulatory Authority would take compliance action and commence working with the service to immediately address the issues which are posing an unacceptable risk to the safety, health or wellbeing of children being educated by the service.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The Notice of Rating is displayed in each centre and is published on the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) and My Child websites.

RESOLUTION 2017/20

Moved: Cr Colleen Condliffe

Seconded: Cr Cheryl McKinnon

That Council receive and note the report detailing the outcomes of the National Quality Framework Assessments conducted at Boort, Dingee and Pyramid Hill Kindergartens, and congratulate staff in achieving this result.

CARRIED

UNCONFIRMED

9 COMPLIANCE REPORTS

9.1 ROAD MANAGEMENT PLAN DEFECT RECTIFICATION COMPLIANCE REPORT

File Number: 14/01/022
Author: Steven Phillips, Manager Operations
Authoriser: Ian McLauchlan, Director Operations
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the road management plan defect rectification compliance report.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any council staff member involved in writing this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

This is the second report for the 2016 - 2017 financial year, summarising road network defect rectification compliance against requirements specified within the Loddon Shire Road Management Plan (RMP).

BACKGROUND

This report is produced quarterly and provides statistical data with respect to the Organisation's performance in managing the road network. Performance is measured through a comparison of actual defect rectification timeframes against requirements specified in the RMP.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Table 1 below provides a summary of the compliance against the schedule of road and street inspection regimes as set in the RMP.

Table 1: Inspection summary report

Quarter 2 (01/10/2016 – 31/12/2016)					
Number of scheduled inspections	Number completed by due date	Number completed after due date	Number not completed	Compliance	District
23	23	0	0	100%	Loddon Plains
25	25	0	0	100%	Loddon Goldfields

During the second quarter of 2016 – 2017, 100% of the programmed inspections were completed according to the schedule. This meets the target of 100% set in the RMP.

Table 2 below provides a summary of compliance of actual response times for rectification works of defects as detailed in the defect intervention levels and response timetables of the RMP.

Table 2: Defect rectification summary report

Quarter 2 (01/10/2016 – 31/12/2016)							
Number of ad hoc work actions	Number of inspected work actions	Total number of work actions	Number completed by due date	Number completed after due date	Number not completed	Compliance	District
197	431	628	623	5	0	99.5%	Loddon Plains
149	421	570	567	2	1	99.8%	Loddon Goldfields

The table above comprises a summary of defects that have been identified through both programmed inspections as undertaken by Surveillance Officers and works crews identifying and rectifying defects as they find them, known as adhoc work actions. During the second quarter of 2016 – 2017, 99.6% of all date imposed defects were completed before their due date. This is 0.4% short of the target of 100% set in the RMP. There is one outstanding work action to be completed. This work action will be completed as part of a training exercise in early 2017.

Table 3 below provides a summary of compliance against the unsealed road maintenance grading program. The maintenance grading program identifies each road segment by its road hierarchy and grading frequency as detailed in the RMP. The adhoc grading work actions are work actions that are either work requests from the community or works outside of the scheduled program.

Table 3: Maintenance grading program

Quarter 2 (01/10/2016 – 31/12/2016)							
Number of scheduled grading	Number of ad hoc grading	Total number of work actions	Number completed by due date	Number completed after due date	Number not completed	Compliance	District
279	78	357	356	1	0	99.7%	Loddon Plains
343	19	362	358	0	4	98.9%	Loddon Goldfields

The data in table 3 indicates that approximately 620km of unsealed road has been inspected for grading and graded if so required as per the intervention levels as detailed in the RMP for the second quarter of 2016 – 2017. There is no set level of compliance for the maintenance grading program in the RMP.

COST/BENEFITS

The year to date expenditure for the second quarter of 2016 – 2017 of the Local Road Maintenance Program is \$1,588,830. This is slightly under the expected expenditure for this period.

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

RISK ANALYSIS

Repairing 100% of all date imposed defects before their due date limits Council's liability for any claims for damage made against Council.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

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

RESOLUTION 2017/21

Moved: Cr Geoff Curnow
Seconded: Cr Colleen Condliffe

That Council receive and note the road management plan defect rectification compliance report.

CARRIED

10 GENERAL BUSINESS**10.1 FLOOD RECOVERY WORKS**

Cr Holt asked for progress with the program of works resulting from the recent floods.

Mr McLauchlan advised that some projects are being expedited, however the majority of the work will be the subject of a public tender process. Council must meet process requirements in accordance with funding bodies criteria.

10.2 PROCUREMENT POLICY

Cr Holt enquired about the requirements in the Procurement Policy to support local sustainability and obtain value for money, in relation to the purchase of mowing equipment. He referred to a previous Council discussion that staff would contact local suppliers when a tender arose in future.

Mr McLauchlan explained the procurement process for new mowers, and provision of servicing. He advised that staff prepare a detailed specification on mandatory requirements for equipment, and tenderers will be required to meet the specifications.

URGENT BUSINESS**RESOLUTION 2017/22**

Moved: Cr Colleen Condliffe

Seconded: Cr Gavan Holt

That the following item be treated as urgent business

CARRIED

10.3 KINDERGARTEN SERVICE DELIVERY**RESOLUTION 2017/23**

Moved: Cr Cheryl McKinnon

Seconded: Cr Geoff Curnow

That Council investigate the feasibility of kindergarten services being delivered by the Education Department within primary schools in the Loddon Shire, as per the MAV Model Development Report 2014.

.CARRIED

URGENT BUSINESS**RESOLUTION 2017/24**

Moved: Cr Gavan Holt
Seconded: Cr Colleen Condliffe

That the following items be treated as urgent business.

CARRIED

10.4 SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL**RESOLUTION 2017/25**

Moved: Cr Colleen Condliffe
Seconded: Cr Geoff Curnow

That a special meeting of Council be held on 14 February 2017 at 8.30am in Wedderburn to consider the revised Councillor Code of Conduct.

.CARRIED

10.5 PETITION ABOUT CLOSURE OF MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICES**RESOLUTION 2017/26**

Moved: Cr Colleen Condliffe
Seconded: Cr Cheryl McKinnon

That the petition tabled in relation to the closure of the mobile library service be received in accordance with clause 100 of Local Law No.1.

CARRIED

URGENT BUSINESS**RESOLUTION 2017/27**

Moved: Cr Gavan Holt

Seconded: Cr Colleen Condliffe

That the following item be treated as urgent business.

CARRIED

10.6 VALUATION SERVICES**RESOLUTION 2017/28**

Moved: Cr Geoff Curnow

Seconded: Cr Gavan Holt

That Council write to Rural Councils Victoria regarding the universal requirement under Section 11 of the Valuation of Land Act 1960 for valuations to be undertaken by Councils every two years, and seeking representations to be made to change the legislation to allow Councils to apply for this requirement to be waived where cogent arguments are presented.

CARRIED

UNCONFIRMED

11 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Closing of Meeting to the Public

RESOLUTION 2017/29

Moved: Cr Gavan Holt

Seconded: Cr Geoff Curnow

That the meeting be closed to the public at 5.22pm.

.CARRIED

RECOMMENDATION

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 89(2) of the Local Government Act 1989:

11.1 Review of confidential actions

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 89(2) - (h) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with Any other matter which the Council or special committee considers would prejudice the Council or any person.

11.2 Contract No 370 - Construction of Wedderburn Operation Centre Office

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 89(2) - (d) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with contractual matters.

RESOLUTION 2017/30

Moved: Cr Geoff Curnow

Seconded: Cr Gavan Holt

That the meeting be re-opened to the public at 5.29pm

.CARRIED

NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on 28 February 2017 at Serpentine commencing at 3pm.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 5.32pm.

Confirmed this.....day of..... 2017

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CHAIRPERSON

UNCONFIRMED