



Notice is given that an Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on:

Date: Tuesday, 23 April 2019
Time: 3pm
Location: Council Chambers, Serpentine

AGENDA

Ordinary Council Meeting

23 April 2019

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1 OPENING PRAYER

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

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

“The Loddon Shire Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we are gathered and pays its respects to their Elders both past and present.”

3 APOLOGIES

4 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

5 PREVIOUS MINUTES**5.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

File Number: 02/01/001

Author: Lynne Habner, 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 26 March 2019
2. The minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 26 March 2019
3. The minutes of the Council Forum of 9 April 2019

REPORT

Seeking approval of the unconfirmed minutes of the previous meetings.

6 REVIEW OF ACTION SHEET

6.1 REVIEW OF ACTIONS

File Number: 02/01/002
Author: Lynne Habner, 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.

Outstanding	Division: Committee: Officer:	Council	Date From: Date To:	Printed: Monday, 15 April 2019 9:38:29 AM
Action Sheets Report				

Outstanding actions from previous meetings

ACTION NUMBER	COUNCIL MEETING	REF	DIRECTORATE	OFFICER
9	28/5/12	9.2	Operations	Manager Technical Services

ACTION

That Council:

1. Develop a process for the identification and prioritisation of minor community infrastructure projects which will allow for a structured approach in providing in-principle or financial support for external funding applications.

COMMENTS

12/11/14: Action item has been amended following completion of the BRIC gymnasium development project utilising "Putting Local's First" funding. Elements of this action have been simplified to exclude those relating to the BRIC project and focusing now on the remaining action element being the development of operational guidelines for receiving, prioritising and applying for external funding in respect to minor community infrastructure projects.

11/6/2015: Manager Infrastructure has commenced development of a draft project identification template and scoping document along with associated prioritisation criteria and explanatory notes.

11/09/2015: Progress on development of assessment and prioritisation criteria for minor community Infrastructure projects has been delayed due to competing operational priorities. Delivery of this action item shall be raised with the Manager of Infrastructure as a matter of urgency.

11/02/2016: Matter has been raised with the responsible officer however no further progress has been made on development of the required process and guideline.

12/05/2016: Development of minor community infrastructure project assessment and prioritisation guidelines has been incorporated into the 2016/17 performance objectives of the new Manager Technical Services.

10/6/2016: No progress to date - will be considered with review of building assets

11/08/2016: Review of methodology for identification and prioritisation of community infrastructure projects has commenced. Consideration is currently being given to frameworks which have been adopted by other LGA's (i.e. City of Greater Bendigo Capital Investment Assessment Framework).

20/02/2017: Progress on developing community infrastructure project prioritisation guideline has been delayed due to competing priorities and resource constraints. Project is being handed over to the recently appointed Project/Contract Officer for further progression.

19/04/2017: The Manager Technical Services and Project/Contract Officer are working together to progress the establishment of an Assessment Framework based upon the 2017/18 projects.

13/07/2017: No further action has been taken due to staff resource constraints.

02/08/2017: No further action. Benchmarking with other neighbouring Councils will be undertaken subject to successful recruitment of Assets and Buildings Coordinator.

11/09/2017: New Assets and Building Co-ordinator has commenced and will prioritise as matter of urgency.

17/10/2017: Process for evaluation and prioritising of minor community projects is being developed and a draft is planned to be reported early in 2018.

14/11/2017: Work has commenced and is continuing in developing this process.

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06/12/2017: Manager Technical Services is developing project identification and prioritisation process.

10/01/2018: No further progress has been made since the last update due to competing priorities. Officers are currently working towards the development of Annual Infrastructure Program and the action will resume upon completion of Annual Infrastructure Program.

09/02/2018: Project identification and assessment flowchart is being developed and will be progressed as a priority following the development of the 2018 – 2019 Annual Infrastructure Program.

19/03/2018: Due to a recent staff departure, this action will be delayed.

03/05/2018: Recruitment of the Assets and Buildings Coordinator is in progress and the action will be progressed as a priority following the adoption of 2018-2019 Annual Infrastructure Program.

04/06/2018: Assets and Buildings Coordinator recruitment process is now complete and expected to start on 10 July 2018. This action will be addressed as a priority.

09/07/2018: Assets and Buildings Coordinator recruitment process is now complete and with the officer commencing on 10 July 2018. This action will be addressed as a priority.

03/08/2018: A workshop session has been scheduled for 13 August 2018 to engage Loddon Leaders and MEG in the process. The session will lay the foundation towards the development of the procedure.

14/09/2018: The planned workshop session took place on Monday 13 August 2018. The information and ideas from this session have been collated for consideration. Preparation on a documented procedure has commenced.

09/10/2018: The collated list drafted after discussions with the Loddon Leaders is now being rationalised and categorised towards formulation of the procedure.

15/11/2018: A draft procedure has been prepared by the Assets and Buildings Coordinator and is being reviewed by the Manager Technical Services. Upon completion, the draft will be forwarded to the Policy Review Group and subsequently to MEG and Council for adoption. It is expected to be presented to the Council Forum in March 2019 for discussion.

03/12/2018: The draft has been reviewed and is being finalised for the Policy Review Group to consider. It is expected to be presented to the Council Forum in March 2019 for discussion.

07/01/2019: Draft of Project Prioritisation and Identification procedure has been forwarded to Policy Review Group to consider. Once received back, it will then be forwarded to MEG for review.

11/02/2019: Draft Project Prioritisation and Identification procedure has been forwarded to Director Operations for review and MEG's consideration.

12/03/2019: MEG has reviewed the document and made a number of recommendations. Adjustments to the document are currently being made before representation to MEG. Once MEG has finalised the draft it can then be presented to Council.

10/04/2019: Following feedback from MEG the document has been updated and will be provided to MEG for agreement on the draft before it will be presented to Council at the next available Forum.

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ACTION NUMBER	COUNCIL MEETING	REF	DIRECTORATE	OFFICER
66	25/2/14	7.4	Operations	Manager Technical Services

ACTION
That Council look at the future needs of buildings under Council control but 'not currently covered by the Building Asset Management Plan and report to Council.

COMMENTS

8/4/14: All buildings identified within the shire are currently covered in the BAMP. Council have requested that the BAMP be reviewed in relation to the buildings that receive no financial support. A review of the BAMP is scheduled to be undertaken later this calendar year. At this time a review of all provisions will be undertaken with a subsequent report provided for Council consideration.

11/11/14: Review of the BAMP has been rescheduled to later this financial year due to commitments of staff in preparing the Road Asset Management and Stormwater Asset management Plans as a matter of priority. Preliminary discussions and consideration on service levels for various building categories has commenced however e.g. public toilets.

11/6/15: Review of the BAMP has been rescheduled following completion of the annual asset valuation data. It is expected that commencement of the BAMP review will occur following the completion of the Stormwater Asset Management Plan in September 2015.

11/09/15: Manager Policy & Strategy is finalising both the Urban Drainage Asset Management and Road Asset Management Plans. Following completion of these strategies focus shall be placed upon the revision of the Building Asset management Plan. Due to delays in progress with the development of the UDAMP and RAMP, work on the BAMP is now scheduled to commence in November 2015.

11/02/16: Draft RAMP and UDAMP have been prepared. Final review of draft documents is occurring in preparation for discussion with Council in March. Enquiries are being made with appropriately qualified consultants to gather necessary building asset data in preparation of commencement on the BAMP review later this year.

10/6/2016: Consultants are currently being interviewed regarding building asset system and data capture. Consultant should be engaged July/August with data capture due by end of 2016.

5/7/2016: Consultants from Assetic has been engaged to perform condition assessment of all the Council owned/managed buildings. Additionally, Assetic system has been purchased as a new corporate asset management system for building assets with future inclusion of roads and drainage assets.

11/08/2016: Register of buildings for inspection has been finalised and consultants will be commencing on site inspections and data capture by the end of August. It is expected that the data capture process could take up to 60 days after which time processing and analysis will commence to inform investment scenario modelling within the revised BAMP

31/08/2016: Building audits have now commenced. A total of 178 Council buildings have been identified for audit. In addition to data capture on structure details, inspections will also identify immediate works required where building element conditions are below service level intervention standards. These works will then form the basis of future building capital works programs and inform preparation of the future investment demand for the LTFP and BAMP.

4/10/16: Building audits are approximately 80% complete. It is anticipated that full audit details and population of the Asset Management System which has been procured, will be complete by the end of October 2016. Data modelling within the Asset Management package will then be used to inform development of the new draft Asset Management Plan.

10/11/16: Audit of Council buildings has been completed. Condition profiles for building stock are now being compiled to inform preparation of draft BAMP. It is anticipated

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that presentation of initial audit results to Council will occur in either December or January.

20/2/17: Post audit processing of building data has been slightly delayed due to resource constraints. Officers are in the process of finalising to produce renewal gap modelling prior to presentation of audit findings to Council. Outputs from audit process are also being utilised in the preparation of a building component of the 2017-2017 Annual Infrastructure Program.

20/03/2017: Preliminary modelling of long term investment requirements across the portfolio of Council buildings has now been completed. Summary report for Council is being prepared to convey initial findings however detailed analysis and adjustment is still required to take into consideration the current policies contained within the BAMP as well as preparation of various scenarios if service levels are changed. Scenario models will be presented to Council as part of developing the revised BAMP.

19/04/2017: First Draft of BAMP is expected in the first quarter of 2017/18.

13/07/2017: Due to delay in successful recruitment to the vacant position of Assets and Buildings Coordinator, it is very likely that the first draft of BAMP will be delayed.

02/08/2017: No further action.

11/09/2017: New Assets and Building Co-ordinator has commenced and will prioritise as matter of urgency.

17/10/2017: A draft of the Building Asset Management Plan is planned to be presented to Council December meeting.

14/11/2017: With the successful recruitment of Assets and Buildings Coordinator, revision of Council's Building Asset Management Plan is underway as per the recommendation of review undertaken in 2016/17. Financial information on Council owned buildings has been finalised and officers are currently working on the level of service for building assets. Once finalised, the data will be uploaded into the Asset Management system to identify Council's annual liability and renewal need and as such the draft BAMP will then be presented to Loddon Leaders and MEG for endorsement before presenting to Council for public comments.

06/12/2017: Draft preparation in progress.

10/01/2018: Preparation of draft BAMP is in progress.

09/02/2018: Council's Assets and Buildings Coordinator is currently working on the draft Building Asset Management Plan and Manager Technical Services and Director Operations will subsequently review the plan and then forward it to Loddon Leaders, MEG and with the intention of presenting it to Council at the May 2018 Forum .

19/03/2018: Due to a recent staff departure, this action will be delayed.

03/05/2018: Recruitment of the Assets and Buildings Coordinator is in progress and the action will be progressed as a priority.

04/06/2018: An update on progress of BAMP is being presented at the June 2018 Council forum.

09/07/2018: An update on the progress of BAMP was presented at the June 2018 Council forum. With the finalisation of recruitment of Assets and Buildings Coordinator, this action will be progressed as a priority.

03/08/2018: Newly recruited Assets and Buildings Coordinator has already started working on the draft BAMP and has engaged with the consultant to explore a number of different financial modellings. The project has been tasked to the Assets and Buildings Coordinator as a top priority.

14/09/2018: A draft of the BAMP has been completed and is now going through the editing process before presentation to Council.

09/10/2018: A draft of the BAMP has been circulated to the Loddon Leaders for review, with responses to be received by 2 November 2018.

15/11/2018: Comments received from the review by Loddon Leaders' is being collated. Once necessary changes are made, it will be forwarded to the Policy Review Group

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and then MEG for endorsement. It is expected to be presented to Council in February 2019.

03/12/2018: Comments received from the review by Loddon Leaders' are being collated. A paper is expected to be presented at the January or February 2019 Council Forum for preliminary discussion with the Council.

07/01/2019: The draft BAMP has been forwarded to the Policy Review Group for review and will then be provided to MEG for endorsement before being provided to Council. It is anticipated that it will be presented to Council at the March Forum.

11/02/2019: The draft BAMP has been forwarded to Director Operations for review and MEG's consideration for endorsement.

12/03/2019: MEG are in the process of reviewing the draft BAMP. Following MEG's review, it will be presented to Council for adoption.

10/04/2019: MEG has completed its review of the draft BAMP and the document is being prepared for presentation to Council for review at the May Council Forum.

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 25/09/2018	Habner, Lynne Pinyon, Phil	Decision Reports	Bridgewater Ski Club request
RESOLUTION 2018/141			
Moved: Cr Colleen Condliffe			
Seconded: Cr Neil Beattie			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Council request that the CEO develop a formal arrangement for the Bridgewater Ski Club to use the existing camp kitchen at the Bridgewater Caravan Park as a judging facility to assist in hosting water ski events, addressing the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the arrangement will incur payment by the Ski Club to be determined as reasonable compensation for the use of the existing camp kitchen within the caravan park, on an ad hoc or permanent basis, as the case may be (b) the terms of the arrangement will not restrict the viability of a future lease of the caravan park (c) that a new camp kitchen be built for the caravan park to the same or higher standard as the existing one, on a cost-neutral basis for Council and that it be completed by 30 September 2020 (d) that until a new camp kitchen is built, the arrangement is not for exclusive use by the Ski Club, enabling caravan park patrons to have reasonable access to the existing camp kitchen (e) that appropriate conditions be included with the arrangement that the Ski Club is accountable for ensuring that the caravan park managers/lessees and patrons are not disadvantaged by the presence of the Ski Club, its members or its associated events (f) that the arrangement may be reviewed by either party with appropriate notice given. 2. That Council undertakes to the Bridgewater Ski Club to use its best endeavours to have appropriate arrangements for the use of the existing camp 			

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kitchen as a judging facility in place in order for the Club to host the Disabled World Titles in 2021 at Bridgewater.

3. That Council authorise the CEO to sign and seal any documentation required to put the arrangement in place.

CARRIED

2/10/2018 2:24:34 PM - Lynne Habner
Council's lawyer has been requested to prepare draft documents to put arrangements in place, for consideration and discussion with the Ski Club. DELWP has also been requested to advise what permission needs to be obtained for the arrangements involving Crown land.

14/11/2018 2:40:41 PM - Lynne Habner
Draft documentation for agreement has been reviewed by staff and returned for further legal drafting. Awaiting second draft, which will be sent to ski club for consideration.

30/11/2018 11:19:45 AM - Lynne Habner
Revised draft agreements expected from lawyer next week, then they will be sent to Ski Club for consideration.

13/12/2018 10:44:00 AM - Lynne Habner
Draft Licence and MOU has been sent to Bridgewater Ski Club for consideration. The club is expected to provide a response to Council staff by early January.

13/02/2019 9:09:44 AM - Lynne Habner
Comments received from Ski Club on draft agreements 11 February 2019 - some small amendments will now be sent to lawyers for redrafting. Ski club has undertaken to design and build new camp kitchen subject to Council agreement.

8/03/2019 3:14:13 PM - Lynne Habner
Redrafted agreements have been sent back to Bridgewater Ski Club 1/3/19, and to DELWP for consideration of the draft licence agreement. Awaiting responses from both.

8/04/2019 2:49:23 PM - Lynne Habner
Discussions on draft agreements are continuing with DELWP and the ski club

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 26/02/2019	Gladman, Wendy Gladman, Wendy	Decision Reports	RE-OPENING PUBLIC ACCESS TO SPILLWAY RESERVE, LAANECOORIE
RESOLUTION 2019/34			
Moved: Cr Geoff Curnow			
Seconded: Cr Neil Beattie			
That Council:			
1. enter into an Occupation and Maintenance licence with Goulburn Murray Water for the Laanecoorie Spillway Reserve to allow the site to be re-opened for public access			
2. restrict the level of amenity provided at the site as provided in the report, namely:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there are currently no bins or public toilets at the site, with these items available at nearby Brownbill Reserve. It is suggested that this continues. • no other amenities, such as BBQs or shade structures are provided. • when existing seating infrastructure reaches end of life, the structures are to be decommissioned and only replaced if funding is sourced (such as 			

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Community Planning or other external funding).

- review the direct expense incurred annually to respond to activities related to maintaining the site as an open public space.

CARRIED

12/03/2019 11:06:28 PM - Wendy Gladman
Initial contact has been made with GMW with regard to the reopening of spillway reserve.

14/04/2019 1:06:46 PM - Wendy Gladman
This action item is still in progress. A draft agreement is currently being assessed by Council officers.

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 26/02/2019	Gladman, Wendy Gladman, Wendy	Decision Reports	FINALISATION OF CENTENARY OF ANZAC PROGRAM

RESOLUTION 2019/35

Moved: Cr Geoff Curnow
Seconded: Cr Colleen Condliffe

That Council provide \$9,848 to be shared equally (\$1,969.60) by the RSL sub-branch or Historical Society representing each area of Boort, East Loddon, Pyramid Hill, Inglewood and Wedderburn to undertake a nominated local commemorative or restorative pr

CARRIED

12/03/2019 11:09:05 PM - Wendy Gladman
A letter has been drafted advising local RSL's and Historical Societies of Councils decision, inviting project nomination and identification of the lead agency.

14/04/2019 1:07:26 PM - Wendy Gladman
This action item is still in progress. A letter has been forwarded to RSL and Historical Societies.

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Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 26/03/2019	Habner, Lynne Pinyon, Phil	New Item	Property in Pyramid Hill
<p>RESOLUTION 2019/67</p> <p>Moved: Cr Cheryl McKinnon Seconded: Cr Geoff Curnow</p> <p>That Council investigate the potential for Council to purchase and subdivide the land available for purchase in Pyramid Hill (being sold by Lipps Bulk Super Investments Pty Ltd), including the costs to Council for acquisition and development, and the availability of other vacant residential land in Pyramid Hill, and provide a report to a future Council meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p> <p><i>8/04/2019 2:48:00 PM - Lynne Habner</i> An initial report is being submitted to the April Council meeting.</p>			

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Actions completed since last meeting

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 11/12/2018	Morrison, Sharon Morrison, Sharon	Decision Reports	Management Agreement for 191-121 Godfrey Street Boort (known as Boort Resource and Information Centre)
RESOLUTION 2018/226			
Moved: Cr Gavan Holt			
Seconded: Cr Geoff Curnow			
That Council:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not endorse BRIC Inc.'s management agreement counter offer. 2. Agrees to offer the standard management agreement to BRIC Inc. 3. Authorises the CEO to counter sign the management agreement if returned within three months. 4. In the event that the standard management agreement is not signed by BRIC Inc within three months, consider the matter further with a view to putting in place alternative management arrangements. 			
CARRIED			
<p><i>7/01/2019 4:25:39 PM - Sharon Morrison</i> A standard management agreement has been forwarded to BRIC for their endorsement by 17 March 2019.</p> <p><i>11/02/2019 12:34:13 PM - Sharon Morrison</i> Awaiting a response to the management agreement from BRIC. Response is due by 17 March 2019.</p> <p><i>8/03/2019 10:48:32 AM - Sharon Morrison</i> Revised Target Date changed by: Morrison, Sharon From: 25 Dec 2018 To: 14 Mar 2019</p> <p><i>12/03/2019 3:53:17 PM - Sharon Morrison</i> Further discussions will be taking place with BRIC to clarify clauses in the Management Agreement.</p> <p><i>8/04/2019 2:19:59 PM - Sharon Morrison</i> Date for meeting with the Chair of BRIC is being established to finalise the management agreement.</p> <p><i>8/04/2019 3:03:46 PM - Sharon Morrison</i> Action completed by: Morrison, Sharon Time has been set for a meeting with the Chair of BRIC to finalise Management Agreement.</p>			

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Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 26/03/2019	Caserta, Deanne Morrison, Sharon	Decision Reports	Fees and charges for the year 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020
RESOLUTION 2019/53			
Moved: Cr Geoff Curnow Seconded: Cr Colleen Condliffe			
That Council:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. approves the Fees and Charges for the year 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 for the purposes of public exhibition with the draft budget documentation 2. implements the Fees and Charges from 1 July for items not subject to a notice period 3. implements the Fees and Charges from the end of the notice period for those items subject to a notice period 4. subject to the approval of the Director Corporate Services or Chief Executive Officer, make effective immediately any changes where the fees and charges are altered by legislation, and make amendment to the relevant Fees and Charges for the year 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020. 			
			CARRIED
<p><i>1/04/2019 3:43:27 PM - Deanne Caserta</i> Action completed by: Caserta, Deanne To go on display with Draft Budget during April - May 2019</p>			

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 26/03/2019	Morrison, Sharon Morrison, Sharon	Decision Reports	Section 86 Committee Policy version 2 for adoption
RESOLUTION 2019/54			
Moved: Cr Colleen Condliffe Seconded: Cr Gavan Holt			
That Council adopts the Section 86 Committee of Management Policy version 2.			
			CARRIED
<p><i>8/04/2019 3:01:18 PM - Sharon Morrison</i> Action completed by: Morrison, Sharon Policy has been forwarded to section 86 committees.</p>			

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Council 26/03/2019	Morrison, Sharon Morrison, Sharon	Decision Reports	Volunteer Policy version 2 for adoption
<p>RESOLUTION 2019/55</p> <p>Moved: Cr Geoff Curnow Seconded: Cr Colleen Condliffe</p> <p>That Council adopts the Volunteer Policy version 2.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p> <p><i>8/04/2019 3:01:53 PM - Sharon Morrison</i> Action completed by: Morrison, Sharon Policy has been added to internet and circulated to staff.</p>			

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 26/03/2019	Morrison, Sharon Morrison, Sharon	Decision Reports	Rural Council Transformation Program
<p>RESOLUTION 2019/56</p> <p>Moved: Cr Colleen Condliffe Seconded: Cr Geoff Curnow</p> <p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notes that Loddon Shire Council is a participant in a grouping of councils that have made an application for funding under the Victorian Government Rural Councils Transformation Program (RCTP) for the following initiative: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) <i>Rural Councils Corporate Collaboration (RCCC)</i>, in conjunction with Buloke Shire Council, Central Goldfields Shire Council, Golden Plains Shire Council, Hindmarsh Shire Council, Pyrenees Shire Council, West Wimmera Shire Council, Yarriambiack Shire Council and Horsham Rural City Council (<i>lead council</i>) 2. Notes that for an RCTP application to be eligible for consideration, the following criteria must be met: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Submission of a joint business case by 31 March 2019. (b) Each council must pass an accompanying resolution committing to implement the business case, if approved for funding. The resolution must be lodged with Local Government Victoria by 30 April 2019. 3. Approves the submission of the business case by Horsham Rural City Council on behalf of Loddon Council. 			

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4. Notes there will be a need to approve, at the April Council meeting, implementation of the project(s) / initiative(s) within the submitted business case by Loddon Shire Council, subject to the application being approved for RCTP funding.

CARRIED

8/04/2019 3:03:00 PM - Sharon Morrison
Action completed by: Morrison, Sharon
Additional report to April meeting of Council regarding the business case.

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 26/03/2019	Caserta, Deanne Morrison, Sharon	Decision Reports	Finance Report for the period ending 28 February 2019
RESOLUTION 2019/57			
Moved: Cr Colleen Condliffe			
Seconded: Cr Gavan Holt			
That Council			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. receives and notes the Finance Report for the period ending 28 February 2019 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 2018/19 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 2018/19. 			
CARRIED			
<i>1/04/2019 3:42:22 PM - Deanne Caserta</i>			
Action completed by: Caserta, Deanne No further action required, mark as complete			

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Action Sheets Report			Printed: Monday, 15 April 2019 9:38:29 AM

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 26/03/2019	Morrison, Sharon Morrison, Sharon	Decision Reports	Nomination for North Central Local Learning and Employment Network
RESOLUTION 2019/58			
Moved: Cr Colleen Condliffe Seconded: Cr Geoff Curnow			
That Council ratify the nomination of Mayor, Councillor Cheryl McKinnon as Loddon Shire Council's delegate to the Board of Management for the North Central Local Learning and Employment Network.			
CARRIED			
<i>8/04/2019 3:02:21 PM - Sharon Morrison</i> Action completed by: Morrison, Sharon Nomination was forwarded to North Central LLEN.			

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 26/03/2019	Habner, Lynne Pinyon, Phil	Decision Reports	Crown land in Inglewood
RESOLUTION 2019/59			
Moved: Cr Colleen Condliffe Seconded: Cr Gavan Holt			
That Council resolves to:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. formally relinquish management of the land being Crown allotment 14A, Section 17, Township of Inglewood, and authorise the CEO to apply the Council seal to any related documentation necessary to achieve this objective 2. advise the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning of its decision. 			
CARRIED			
<i>29/03/2019 1:32:06 PM - Lynne Habner</i> Action completed by: Habner, Lynne Completed. The Department of Environment Land Water and Planning has been advised of Council's decision to relinquish management of the land, and to progress with consideration of selling the land.			

Outstanding	Division: Committee: Officer:	Council	Date From: Date To:
Action Sheets Report			Printed: Monday, 15 April 2019 9:38:29 AM

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 26/03/2019	Habner, Lynne Pinyon, Phil	Decision Reports	REGIONAL ECONOMIC GROWTH STRATEGY
RESOLUTION 2019/60			
Moved: Cr Gavan Holt Seconded: Cr Geoff Curnow			
That Council endorse the Loddon Campaspe Regional Economic Growth Strategy as a strategy designed to assist in focussing action and advocacy efforts on activities that will support the Loddon Campaspe's economy.			
CARRIED			
<i>29/03/2019 1:26:04 PM - Lynne Habner</i>			
Action completed by: Habner, Lynne Complete. Advice of Council's resolution was emailed to RDV on 29/3/19.			

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 26/03/2019	Morrison, Sharon Morrison, Sharon	Decision Reports	2019 National General Assembly of Local Government - Call for Motions
RESOLUTION 2019/61			
Moved: Cr Geoff Curnow Seconded: Cr Gavan Holt			
That Council note the opportunity to submit motions to the Australia Local Government Association National General Assembly in June 2019.			
CARRIED			
<i>8/04/2019 3:02:37 PM - Sharon Morrison</i>			
Action completed by: Morrison, Sharon No further action.			

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 26/03/2019	Gladman, Wendy Gladman, Wendy	New Item	Tamagulla Ward Strategic Fund

<p>Outstanding</p> <p>Action Sheets Report</p>	<p>Division: Committee: Council Officer:</p>	<p>Date From: Date To:</p> <p>Printed: Monday, 15 April 2019 9:38:29 AM</p>
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RESOLUTION 2019/65

Moved: Cr Geoff Curnow
 Seconded: Cr Colleen Condliffe

That Council:

- note the content of the report to the Council Briefing on 26 March 2019 titled Tarnagulla Ward strategic fund allocation which provides a background and summary of issues/discussion as follows:

“Background”

In mid-2003 Council implemented a Community Planning program. Commencing in the 2006/07 financial year, a strategic fund allocation was introduced as part of the overall available Community Plan funding.

At this time, the structure of the Loddon Shire Council was five councillors divided into four wards – Boort Terrick and Wedderburn Wards each with one councillor and the Kooyoora Ward with two councillors.

The strategic fund commenced as an annual allocation of \$100K and was to deliver projects that provided strategic benefit to the Loddon Shire.

The allocation cycled through the four wards at \$100K per year, with the Kooyoora Ward receiving two allocations (based on having two councillors), with the last allocation in this format made in the 2010/11 financial year:

2006/07	Tarnagulla Ward	Tarnagulla streetscape
2007/08	Tarnagulla Ward	Newbridge streetscape
2008/09	Terrick Ward	Pyramid Hill Swimming Pool
2009/10	Wedderburn Ward	Wedderburn Hall
2010/11	Boort Ward	Boort Park lighting

In the 2011/12 financial year, for one year only, the strategic fund was increased to \$200K and was distributed as an additional allocation of \$40K per ward. A new Council structure was gazetted in this year, with the structure moving to the current format, five councillors divided into five wards; Boort, Inglewood, Tarnagulla, Terrick and Wedderburn each with one councillor.

From the 2012/13 financial year the strategic fund increased to and has remained at an annual allocation of \$500K.

The first full cycle of ward allocations was completed in the 2016/17 financial year:

2012/13	Inglewood Ward	Inglewood Town Hall
2013/14	Wedderburn Ward	Wedderburn streetscape
2014/15	Boort Ward	Boort Lake water
2015/16	Terrick Ward	Pyramid Hill streetscape
2016/17	Tarnagulla Ward	Allocation to be determined

<p>Outstanding</p> <p>Action Sheets Report</p>	<p>Division: Council</p> <p>Committee:</p> <p>Officer:</p>	<p>Date From:</p> <p>Date To:</p> <p>Printed: Monday, 15 April 2019 9:38:29 AM</p>
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The second cycle of ward allocations has commenced:

2017/18	Wedderburn Ward	Donaldson Park pavilion works
2018/19	Inglewood Ward	Allocation to be determined

With the proposed cycle for the duration being:

2019/20	Boort Ward	Allocation to be determined
2020/21	Terrick Ward	Allocation to be determined
2021/22	Tarnagulla Ward	Allocation to be determined

Issues/Discussion

At the March Council forum Cr Curnow discussed the challenges faced by the Tarnagulla Ward when considering proposed projects for the strategic fund allocation:

- The ward contains no larger township, as provided in other wards, but a collection of smaller communities.
- Newbridge sewerage and water has been identified as a major project in the ward, but the funding of this project is not considered to be a responsibility of Council. Council is continuing to advocate with the local water authority to secure this community priority.
- Some important, but smaller, local priorities could be supported with an allocation of funding from the strategic fund, and whilst providing direct benefit to communities within the ward would likely not be considered to be a major strategic initiative.

Were Council to consider endorsing (by exception for the Tarnagulla Ward) funding of multiple smaller projects, Cr Curnow has indicated that the first nominated project would be a \$40K allocation to support the re-pointing of brickwork in the Newbridge Hall."

2. take into consideration the challenges facing the Tarnagulla Ward in regard to the allocation of the 2016/17 strategic fund
3. by exception, allow the Tarnagulla Ward strategic fund to be used to deliver a number of smaller projects, with an initial \$40,000 allocation to support the re-pointing of brickwork in the Newbridge Hall
4. maintain the current intent of the strategic fund for all other ward allocations, which provides a \$500,000 allocation for a single identified project that provides strategic benefit to the municipality.

CARRIED

14/04/2019 1:08:57 PM - Wendy Gladman
 A journal transfer has been requested to allocate \$40K from the Strategic fund to a specific budget line item for Newbridge Hall repointing of brickwork. Council project liaison staff will contact the Newbridge Hall soon to initiate the project.

15/04/2019 9:32:18 AM - Wendy Gladman
 Action completed by: Coombes, Christine
 Action completed by journal transfer.

7 MAYORAL REPORT

7.1 MAYORAL REPORT

File Number: 02/01/001

Author: Lynne Habner, 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.

8 COUNCILLORS' REPORT

8.1 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

File Number: 02/01/001

Author: Lynne Habner, 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.

9 DECISION REPORTS**9.1 CHILD SAFE STANDARDS**

File Number: 03/01/001
Author: Sharon Morrison, Director Corporate Services
Authoriser: Phil Pinyon, Chief Executive Officer
Attachments: 1. Child Safe Standards Policy version 1
2. Child Safe Standards Framework version 1

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the Loddon Shire Council:

1. Child Safe Standards Framework version 1 and
2. Child Safe Standards Policy version 1.

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 considered draft documents at the Council Forum on 9 April 2019.

BACKGROUND

On 13 November 2013, the Victorian Parliament tabled the report of its Inquiry into the Handling of Child Abuse by Religious and Other Non-Government Organisations (the Betrayal of Trust Inquiry).

The report provided 15 recommendations, including the introduction of minimum standards for ensuring child-safe organisations. On 15 November 2016, legislation was passed to amend the Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005 in Victoria. This legislation gives the Commission for Children and Young People powers to oversee and enforce organisations' compliance with the standards. From 1 January 2017, Council was required to comply with the Child Safe Standards (the Standards).

Council adopted the Child Safe Standards Statement of Commitment on 28 November 2017.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

There are seven Child Safe Standards:

- Standard 1: Strategies to embed an organisational culture of child safety, including through effective leadership arrangements
- Standard 2: A child safe policy or statement of commitment to child safety
- Standard 3: A code of conduct that establishes clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children
- Standard 4: Screening, supervision, training and other human resources practices that reduce the risk of child abuse by new or existing personnel
- Standard 5: Processes for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse

- Standard 6: Strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse
- Standard 7: Strategies to promote the participation and empowerment of children

The Standards have been introduced to keep children safe from harm and abuse.

Child Safe Standard 1 requires strategies to embed an organisational culture of child safety, including through effective leadership arrangements. Adopting a Child Safe Standard Statement of Commitment demonstrated that Council is leading from the top and embedding a culture of child safety. The document set out Council's overall response to the Standards and lay the foundation for the review and development of other policies, procedures and forms.

The following documents represent the next layer in Council's response to the Standards:

- Child Safe Standards Framework (standard 2)
- Child Safe Standards Reporting Policy (standard 2)
- Child Safe Standards Code of Conduct Poster (standard 3)
- Child Safe Standards Reporting Procedure (standard 5)
- Child Safe Standards Incident Report Forum (standard 5 and 6)
- Child Safe Standards Internal Forum for Child Safe Officer (standard 5 and 6)

Only the Framework and Policy require Council approval under the Strategic Document Policy and Procedure Framework. The remaining documents can be approved by the Management Executive Group.

COST/BENEFITS

Some additional costs are involved in responding to the requirements of the Standards. These costs include training, additional Working with Children Checks, and staff time to develop and review documentation to ensure compliance with the Standards. These costs have been included in the operating budget.

The benefits of adopting the Child Safe Standards Framework and Policy include demonstrating leadership in keeping children safe from harm and abuse and complying with legal requirements.

RISK ANALYSIS

Penalties for failure to disclose abuse to police carry a maximum penalty of 3 years imprisonment. Penalties for failure to protect a child carry a maximum penalty of 5 years imprisonment. By adopting the Child Safe Standards Framework and Policy, Council is increasing awareness of the Standards and reducing the risk of non-compliance with the Child Wellbeing and Safety Act.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The documents have been developed with input from staff and have been through all other relevant procedures for approval of documents.



CHILD SAFE STANDARDS REPORTING POLICY

DOCUMENT TYPE:	Council policy
DOCUMENT STATUS:	Draft
POLICY OWNER POSITION:	Manager Organisation Development
INTERNAL COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT:	Consultative Committee
APPROVED BY:	Council
DATE ADOPTED:	Click here to enter date of approval
VERSION NUMBER:	1
REVIEW DATE:	28/02/2020
DATE RESCINDED:	Click here to enter a date.
RELATED STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS, POLICIES OR PROCEDURES:	Child Safe Standards Framework Staff, Volunteer and Contractor Code of Conduct Councillor Code of Conduct Working with Children Check Policy Discipline Policy Managing Misconduct Procedure Privacy Policy
RELATED LEGISLATION:	Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 (Vic) Working with Children Act 2005 (Vic) Child Wellbeing and Safety Amendment Act 2015 (Vic) Child Wellbeing and Safety Amendment Oversight and Enforcement of Child Safe Standards Act 2016 (Vic) Child Wellbeing and Safety Amendment Act Child Safe Standards) Regulations 2015 (Vic) The Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic) The Commission for Children and Young People Act 2012 (Vic) Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic) Failure to Protect a Child from Sexual Abuse 2015 (Vic) Failure to Disclose Child Sexual Abuse 2015 (Vic) Grooming Offence 2014 (Vic)
EVIDENCE OF APPROVAL:	

Signed by Chief Executive Officer

FILE LOCATION: Document1

Policy documents are amended from time to time, therefore you should not rely on a printed copy being the current version. Please consult the policies on the Loddon Shire website (Council Policies) or Intranet (Organisational Policies) to ensure that the version you are using is up to date.

This document is available in alternative formats (e.g. larger font) if requested.



CHILD SAFE STANDARDS REPORTING POLICY

1 PURPOSE

This policy has been developed to support the implementation of Loddon Shire Council (Council) Child Safe Standards Framework and ensure compliance with the Victorian Child Safe Standards that came into effect 1 January 2017.

2 SCOPE

This policy applies to all councillors, staff, volunteers and contractors engaged by Council irrespective of their involvement in child related duties.

Staff with mandatory reporting responsibilities will need to defer to the Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 (CYFA) and the Family Law Act 2005 (FLA) to undertake their duties

3 POLICY

3.1 Commitment to child safety

In response to the Betrayal of Trust Inquiry, the Victorian Government introduced compulsory minimum Child Safe Standards that apply to organisations including local government that provide services for children.

Loddon Shire Council has a zero tolerance for any form of child abuse and is committed to the safety, wellbeing and empowerment of children. Council will create and maintain a child safe organisation where protecting children and preventing and responding to child abuse is embedded in everyday thinking and practices.

3.2 Responsibilities

When you are working on behalf of Loddon Shire Council, you are required to fulfil your responsibilities to protecting children.

The table below outlines specific responsibilities of all Council representatives. Please note that unless otherwise stipulated in this policy, a child is a person under the age of 18 years

Whom	Responsibility
All Loddon Shire Council representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to a child safe organisation.
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate leadership in child safe practices. Ensure organisational resources and requirements are in place for implementation of the framework and related policies. Ensure councillors have access to relevant policies and training.
Management Executive Group (MEG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure implementation of Council's Child Safe Standards Framework within the organisation. Ensure child protection measures are implemented within their areas of responsibility should they have individuals in positions whose activities interact with children. They may delegate their responsibilities to managers and coordinators



CHILD SAFE STANDARDS REPORTING POLICY

Whom	Responsibility
Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure relevant policies are implemented in their work areas and all their employees, volunteers and contractors have access to them. Ensure all their employees, volunteers and contractors have access to child safe training and induction. Ensure a workplace culture of transparency and continuous improvement in relation to child safety.
Organisational Development Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain relevant policies and procedures and ensure their implementation. Ensure that Child Safe Standards training is provided. Ensure the recruitment process, position descriptions and induction of all staff support Council's commitment to ensuring a child safe organisation. Records are maintained and stored with the appropriate level of security.
Loddon Shire Council appointed Child Safe Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide advice and support to management, employees and volunteers about what they need to do if they need to report suspected abuse. Engage the assistance of expert advice as required when the nature of the child safety issues are beyond experience, knowledge or qualifications. Ensure relevant authorities are notified. Retain child safe records for reporting purposes. Support children and representatives where incidents or suspected cases of abuse have been reported to them. Records are maintained and stores with the appropriate level of security
Early Years Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the event of an incident occurring within the Early Years Team, notify the relevant authority first and then Council's Child Safe Officer of the incident. Submit an internal report. Follow up with support where appropriate.
All Loddon Shire Councillors, employees and volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the legislation and legal obligations to report. Participate in training and education programs. Obtain and maintain a valid Working With Childrens Check as required for your role. Work within the provisions of Council's Child Safe Standards Framework and related policies and procedures.
Contractors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to the safety and protection of children. Work within the provisions of Council's Child Safe Standards Framework and related policies and procedures. Provide evidence of a valid Working With Childrens Check as required for the task being completed, or if requested by Council.

3.3 Legislative responsibilities

All Council councillors, employees, volunteers and contractors are responsible for the care and protection of children and reporting information about child abuse. Everyone in the organisation must have a shared understanding of child safety and their responsibilities in keeping children safe from abuse.

In relation to any issue of protecting children, Council representatives need to ensure that they comply with Council's privacy policy and discuss with the Child Safe Officer and/or the Organisational Development Department how to maintain levels of information security and confidentiality for all parties involved.



CHILD SAFE STANDARDS REPORTING POLICY

Council takes its legal and reporting responsibilities seriously, including the following obligations.

3.3.1 Responsibility to protect

When a representative of the Council forms a reasonable belief that a child has been harmed or is at risk, they have a duty of care to take action to protect the safety and wellbeing of that child. It is a moral obligation and everyone has a responsibility to protect children.

In addition to moral obligations, a Council representative who has the power/responsibility to remove a substantial risk that a child may become the victim of abuse by a person associated with the Council, must act to reduce that risk. If they fail to do so, it is a criminal offence under Section 49C Crimes Act 1958 (Vic).

Council is legally bound to take all reasonable care to prevent the abuse of a child or young person by a person associated with Council while the child is under the care, supervision or authority of Council in its services or programs.

3.3.2 Responsibility to disclose

This section specifically refers to sexual offences against children under the age of 16 years.

All adults in the state of Victoria, hence all Council representatives who have any reasonable belief that a sexual offence has been committed by another adult over 18 years against a child under the age of 16 years **must** report that belief to police. It is a criminal offence to fail to report.

This must be reported as soon as possible unless there is a reasonable excuse or an exemption applies.

A reasonable excuse may include a fear for the immediate safety of the victim or another person as a result of the disclosure, or the information has already been disclosed to the police. It does not include a perceived interest such as reputation, legal liability or financial status.

An exemption applies in limited circumstances.

3.3.3 Grooming offence

It is also criminal offence for an adult over 18 years to target communication, including by words or online, with a child under the age of 16 or their parents/caregivers with the intention of facilitating the child's engagement in or involvement in a sexual offence with that person or another person over the age of 18 years. This is called grooming.

3.3.4 Responsibility for mandatory reporting

Everyone has a moral responsibility to report concerns about child abuse. Under Section 182(1) of the Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 (as amended in 2011) certain professionals including nurses, midwives, teachers including early childhood teachers, principals and police are legally bound to make a report to Child Protection Services when they have concerns of child abuse and the child is in need of protection.

To meet Early Year Services' quality assurance and compliance requirements, kindergarten and childcare staff will work within the Early Years Child Protection Procedure.

Any incident or suspected abuse of a child involving a Council representative will result in Council reporting it to the Commission for Children and Young People within three days of Council becoming aware.



CHILD SAFE STANDARDS REPORTING POLICY

For more information on mandatory reporting refer to the Child Safe Standards Framework.

3.4 Breaches of the policy

Breaches of this policy may lead to action in accordance with Council's Discipline Policy and Managing Misconduct Procedure, which may result in termination of employment and/or referral to Victoria Police. Similarly, contractors and volunteers will face equivalent sanctions for breach of this policy.

3.5 Child Safe Standards Framework

Council has developed a Child Safe Standards Framework to respond to the Department of Health and Human Services Child Safe Standards. The framework sets out the commitment to working towards an organisational wide approach of embedding child safety across the Child Safe Standards.

4 DEFINITIONS OF TERMS OR ABBREVIATIONS USED

Term	Definition
Child	A person under the age of 18 years. Note there are specific provisions of this policy that refer to children under the age of 16 years.
Child abuse	Any act committed against a child involving: physical violence, sexual offences, serious emotional or psychological abuse and serious neglect.
Child related work	Work within one or more occupational fields defined in the Act where the contact with children is direct, unsupervised, and part of a person's duties, not incidental to their work.
Child protection	Means any responsible measure or activity undertaken to safeguard children from harm.
Child safe organisation	In the context of the child safe standards, a child safe organisation is one that meets the standards by proactively taking measures to protect children from abuse.
Council representatives	Refers to all Loddon Shire Councillors, employees, volunteers and contractors.
Disclosure	Requires any adult who holds a reasonable belief that a sexual offence has been committed in Victoria by an adult against a child (aged under 16) to disclose that information to Victoria Police or Child Protection. Applies to everyone in the community, not just mandated professionals.
Mandatory reporting	Certain professions are legally required to make a report to Child Protection Services. They are mandated to report through the course of their work if they form the belief on reasonable grounds that a child is in need of protection. It is a criminal offence not to report. Mandated reporters are registered medical practitioners, midwives, nurses, anyone registered as a teacher under the Education, Training and Reform Act 2006 or teachers granted permission to teach under that Act, principals of government or non-government schools and members of the police force.



CHILD SAFE STANDARDS REPORTING POLICY

Reasonable belief	A reasonable belief or a belief on reasonable grounds is not the same as having proof, but it is more than mere rumour or speculation. A 'reasonable belief' is formed if a reasonable person in the same position would have formed the belief on the same grounds.
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5 HUMAN RIGHTS STATEMENT

It is considered that this policy does not impact negatively on any rights identified in the Charter of Human Rights Act. Loddon Shire Council is committed to consultation and cooperation between management and employees. The Council will formally involve elected employee Health and Safety Representatives in any workplace change that may affect the health and safety of any of its employees.

6 REVIEW

The Manager Organisation Development will review this policy for any necessary amendments no later than 1 year after adoption of this current version in conjunction with the review of the Child Safe Standards Framework.

LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL

CHILD SAFE STANDARDS FRAMEWORK



DOCUMENT INFORMATION

DOCUMENT TYPE:	Strategic document
DOCUMENT STATUS:	Draft
POLICY OWNER POSITION:	Manager Organisation Development
INTERNAL COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT:	Choose an item.
APPROVED BY:	Council
DATE ADOPTED:	Click here to enter date of approval
VERSION NUMBER:	Choose an item.
REVIEW DATE:	Click here to enter a date.
DATE RESCINDED:	Click here to enter a date.
RELATED STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS, POLICIES OR PROCEDURES:	Child Safe Standards and Reporting Policy Staff, Volunteer and Contractor Code of Conduct Councillor Code of Conduct Loddon Shire Council Child Safe Standards Code of Conduct Working with Children Check Policy Discipline Policy
RELATED LEGISLATION:	Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 (Vic) Working with Children Act 2005 (Vic) Child Wellbeing and Safe Amendment Act 2015 (Vic) Child Wellbeing and Safe Amendment Oversight and Enforcement of Child Safe Standards Act 2016 (Vic) Child Wellbeing and Safe Amendment Act Child Safe Standards) Regulations 2015 (Vic) The Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic) The Commission for Children and Young People Act 2012 (Vic) Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic) Failure to Protect a Child From Sexual Abuse 2015 (Vic) Failure to Disclose Child Sexual Abuse 2015 (Vic) Grooming Offence 2014 (Vic)
EVIDENCE OF APPROVAL:	<hr/> Signed by Chief Executive Officer

FILE LOCATION:

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1 PURPOSE

The purpose of the Child Safe Standards Framework is to:

- underpin a culture of child safety by setting out a framework for effective leadership
- establish clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children
- reduce the risk of child abuse and or exploitation by new or existing Loddon Shire Council councillors, employees, volunteers and contractors
- outline processes for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse
- promote strategies to encourage participation and empowerment of children.

For the purpose of this framework the term “Council representatives” refers to all councillors, employees, volunteers and contractors .The following diagram illustrates Council’s approach to ensuring a safe environment for all children within the municipality.



2 LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Loddon Shire Council (Council) takes its legal and moral responsibilities seriously.

Council acknowledges it has legal responsibilities it must meet in relation to Child Safe Standards. These include the following:

- responsibility to protect
- responsibility to disclose
- responsibility for mandatory reporting.

The Child Safe Standards and Reporting Policy outlines these responsibilities. The Child Safe Reporting Procedure outlines situations, obligations and actions required in circumstances of known or suspected child abuse and or grooming offences.

3 ADDRESSING THE CHILD SAFE STANDARDS

3.1 Standard 1: Strategies to embed an organisational culture of child safety, including through effective leadership arrangements

Council is committed to building on existing systems to embed and improve on a culture of child safety as well as ensuring that this framework is implemented to demonstrate zero tolerance of child abuse.

Council will:

- assist leaders to create a culture that protects children from abuse
- review existing Council plans, policies and procedures to reflect the objectives of this framework and to ensure consistency of key messages
- ensure all Council representatives know and understand the organisation's commitment to child safety and the responsibilities they have to ensure children are protected from child abuse
- review reporting mechanisms
- ensure that the appropriate management and/or staff are aware of allegations and substantiated cases of abuse are responded to and allocated the resources needed
- require Council representatives to report any criminal charge or allegation against them.

3.2 Standard 2: A child safe policy or statement of commitment to child safety

Council has committed to having both a child safe standards and reporting policy and a public statement of commitment to child safety. Both documents underpin Council's overarching set of principles and commitment to ensuring child safety.

The statement of commitment includes:

- our commitment to the Child Safe Standards
- our commitment to children including the participation, empowerment and cultural safety of children from culturally and linguistically diverse background, children with disability and Aboriginal children
- our commitment to councillors, staff, volunteers and contractors
- our commitment to ensuring a child safe organisation through our operational processes such as recruitment, training and supervision and reporting.

The policy outlines Council's commitment to creating and maintain a child safe organisation where protecting children and preventing and responding to child abuse is embedded in everyday thinking and practices.

Full versions of Council's Child Safe Standards Statement of Commitment and Child Safe Standards and Reporting Policy can be downloaded from Council's website.

3.3 Standard 3: A code of conduct that establishes clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children

Council has established a Child Safe Standards Code of Conduct that outlines its expectations and appropriate behaviours in relation to children. All Council representatives are expected to comply with this code of conduct.

Breaches or failure to comply with this code of conduct or related policies and procedures will be dealt with under Council's Discipline Policy and Managing Misconduct Procedure, which may result in termination of employment and/or referral to Victoria Police. Similarly, contractors and volunteers will face equivalent sanctions for non-compliance.

A full version of the Child Safe Standards Code of Conduct can be downloaded from Council's intranet.

3.4 Standard 4: Screening, supervision, training and other human resources practices that reduce the risk of child abuse by new or existing personnel

Council, through its Organisational Development Department, is committed to ensuring that its human resource practices are in line with ensuring the safety and wellbeing for all children. This will be done through recruitment and selection processes, contract management, updating of relevant policies and procedures, and training.

3.4.1 Recruitment and selection practices

Council is committed to taking all reasonable steps to ensure that successful candidates will be able to provide a safe environment for children. The positions at Council that currently include working directly with children are maternal and child health nurses, kindergarten staff, child care workers, home care workers, youth workers, recreation workers, swimming pool life guards and attendants. Other successful candidates may have indirect or no contact with children.

When recruiting staff, Council will make all reasonable efforts to:

- confirming the applicant's Working with Children Check and National Police Check status and/or professional registration
- obtaining proof of personal identity and any professional or other qualifications
- obtaining references that address the applicant's suitability for the role and working with children
- informing the applicants of Council's requirement for disclosure of any active investigation, charge, conviction or other relevant finding
- ensuring all positions have clauses included in the position description in respect of this Framework
- regularly assessing organisational child safety training needs, through performance reviews and questionnaires to staff and volunteers.

All information will be treated in accordance with Council's Privacy Policy.

3.4.2 Contract management

Council representatives who engage contractors must ensure clauses specific to the Child Safe Standards and the Child Safe Code of Conduct are put into the contract agreement. This is to ensure contractors understand their obligations whilst representing Council.

3.4.3 Training

To ensure all staff understand their responsibility in relation to the Child Safe Standards Framework, Council will make Child Safe Standards training available.

3.5 Standard 5: Processes for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse

The process for responding to and reporting to suspected child abuse is documented in the Child Safe Standards Reporting Procedure.

3.5.1 Reporting allegations

Council takes all allegations of child abuse seriously and is committed to ensuring:

- all council representatives know of processes for reporting child abuse
- all reports are investigated
- records of reports of alleged abuse and safety concerns are documented appropriately
- all appropriate authorities are contacted where there is a reasonable belief that child abuse has occurred or the child is at risk.

3.5.2 Good faith reporting

Good faith reporting is when a Council representative makes a report in the case of suspected child abuse and it is made in a manner without malice and with reasonable cause. Generally when this is the case the law will protect those making the report from legal ramifications and prevent their name from being disclosed.

3.5.3 When and what to report

The Child Safe Standards Reporting Procedure outlines when, how and who to report to, if a Council representative observes or suspects a child is being or has been subjected to abuse, (physical, sexual, emotional psychological) and/or is being seriously neglected.

3.5.4 Maintaining records

The Child Safe Officer will maintain records of any child safety complaints, disclosures or breaches of the Child Safe Standards.

In case/s where there are records of breaches of the Child Safe Standards or where the allegation/s involves a Council representative, this information will also be managed by the Manager Organisational Development and dealt with according to Council's Discipline Policy and Managing Misconduct Procedure.

These records will be stored in accordance with security and privacy legislation and policy.

3.5.5 Personal records

Personal information resulting from the reporting of abuses will be handled according to privacy legislation and policy.

3.6 Standard 6: Strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse

Council is committed to identifying, assessing and taking steps to minimise child abuse and child exploitation in the delivery of Council programs and service through Council's policies, procedures and practices. In addition a periodic risk assessment will be completed to identify, assess and take steps to minimise risk. All risks will be listed with Council's Risk Register and will be reviewed annually.

3.7 Standard 7: Strategies to promote the participation and empowerment of children

Council supports the participation and empowerment of children and encourages them to express their views and feel comfortable about giving voice to the things that are important to them.

All Council representatives, when working with children, are to:

- actively encourage children to have their voice heard and express their views
- listen and act on any concern a child or young person or their parents/carers raise with us
- listen to suggestions that directly affect them
- demonstrate zero tolerance to child abuse.

In addition to this, staff who have regular contact with children and young people are to:

- give them age appropriate information about their rights, what to do if they feel unsafe and how to raise concerns or make complaints
- ensure that the physical environment is safe, warm and friendly
- be respectful, inclusive and welcoming of all children and families of all diversities and abilities
- recognise times of importance to different cultures and
- acknowledge that children with disabilities are particularly vulnerable and consider their needs.

As an organisation, Council will demonstrate and promote the safety of all children and young people regardless of ability or diversity by:

- demonstrating a zero tolerance to discrimination
- supporting Council representatives and the broader community to be inclusive of all people including people with disabilities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- ensuring the physical environment from which we coordinate children and family services do not pose access issues
- acknowledging that sometimes children with disabilities, children from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background or culturally diverse backgrounds are more at risk in regards to their safety and respond with specific appropriate measures to ensure their safety and wellbeing
- continue to monitor and develop practices, procedures and guidelines to ensure that it has the welfare of children as a key concern.

4 TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
Child	Unless it explicitly specified in any of associated documentation for the Child Safe Standards, a child for the purposes of this framework is considered any person under the age of 18 years old
Child abuse	Any act committed against a child involving: physical violence, sexual offences, serious emotional or psychological abuse and serious neglect.
Child related work	Work within one or more occupational fields defined in the Act where the contact with children is direct, unsupervised, and part of a person's duties, not incidental to their work.
Child protection	Means any responsible measure or activity undertaken to safeguard children from harm
Child safe organisation	In the context of the child safe standards, a child safe organisation is one that meets the standards by proactively taking measures to protect children from abuse.
Council representatives	Means all Councillors, employees, volunteers and contractors.
Disclosure	Requires any adult who holds a reasonable belief that a sexual offence has been committed in Victoria by an adult against a child (aged under 16) to disclose that information to Victoria Police or Child Protection. Applies to everyone in the community, not just mandated professionals. Failure to Disclose applies to any person who holds a position of authority within the organisation who knows of a risk of child sexual abuse by someone in the organisation and has the authority to reduce or remove the risk, BUT negligently fails to do so. The maximum penalty is 5 years imprisonment.
Mandatory reporting	Under the Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 (Section 182) doctors, nurses, midwives, teachers (including early childhood teachers) and principals and police are mandatory reporters. These professions are legally required to make a report to Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS Child Protection Unit) if they form a belief on reasonable grounds that a child is in need of protection from being abused or is at risk of being abused.
Reasonable belief	A reasonable belief or a belief on reasonable grounds is not the same as

	having proof but it is more than mere rumour or speculation. A 'reasonable belief' is formed if a reasonable person in the same position would have formed the belief on the same grounds.
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5 ADMINISTRATION

5.1 Review of this Child Safe Standards Framework

Council is committed to the continuous improvement of this Child Safe Standards Framework. This framework will be reviewed by the Manager Organisational Development for any necessary amendments no later than two years after adoption. Whilst this timeframe is earlier than recommended in the Strategic Documents Framework, it takes into account the changing landscape on this topic due to various investigations, Royal Commissions and policy commitments.

9.2 REVIEW 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 v2

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the Rating Strategy 2017-2021 v2.

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 adopted version one the Rating Strategy 2017-2021 (the Strategy) at the January 2017 Council Meeting.

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 this 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.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The purpose of the Strategy is to communicate how properties will be rated 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
- 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
- application of the Payment in Lieu of Rates (PiLoR) scheme.

Although it is not due for review until January 2021, the Strategy has had an early review. The key reason is to ensure that when yearly approved valuation information has been received by Council, a review (and if necessary an adjustment) to differential is permissible within the revised Strategy.

For the 2019/20 Budget Council has defined a differential rate split of 12% with rural properties having a rate in the dollar of 88% of the general rate. This is a modest adjustment from 11% in 2018/19 to take account of the valuation changes that have shown a higher increase in rural valuations compared to residential valuations.

To allow for future changes, a further sentence has been added to Section 10 – Objective of Council's Differential Rates to allow for the review of the differential split to ensure the fair allocation of rates remains.

On review there were also a small number of other minor changes within the document. These are highlighted in more detail below:

1. In order to ensure the document remains relevant for the full four year period, reference to the 2016/17 Budget figures has been removed.
2. Clarification that Council has not applied for a rate cap variation to date.
3. The Strategy has been updated to reflect the legislated changes to the valuation process in 2019/20 to annual valuations and that the control for this process now sits with the Valuer-General Victoria.
4. Addition of a section to outline Payment in Lieu of Rates (PiLoR), what it is, when it occurs and where additional information may be sourced.

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 Policy Review Group, Management Executive Group and Council Forum prior to presentation in the Council Meeting Agenda.

LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL

RATING STRATEGY 2017-2021



DOCUMENT INFORMATION

DOCUMENT TYPE:	Strategic document
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RELATED LEGISLATION:	Local Government Act 1989 Local Government Better Practice Guide 2014 – Revenue and Rating Strategy
EVIDENCE OF APPROVAL:	

Signed by Chief Executive Officer

FILE LOCATION: K:\FINANCE\Strategies\STR Rating strategy v2.docx

Strategic documents are amended from time to time, therefore you should not rely on a printed copy being the current version. Please consult the Loddon Shire website to ensure that the version you are using is up to date.

This document is available in alternative formats (e.g. larger font) if requested.

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1 INTRODUCTION

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 this Rating 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 this total rate and charges amount raised is equitably distributed amongst Council's ratepayers.

This strategy also responds to the requirements of the Governance and Management Checklist in the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework.

2 PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to communicate a 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.

3 BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Annual budget and long term financial plan

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.

Each year Council develops a LTFP using relevant industry indexation rates. These rates are applied consistently over the 10 year plan with further work completed around forecasted capital works programs and the ongoing cost of adopted plans and strategies.

In developing the Annual Budget, the financials set out in year one of the LTFP is used as a base. From this base, each income and expenditure stream are analysed in greater detail to ensure further accuracy of the results. Council will make a decision around what increase to the overall income will apply to rates and charges, taking into consideration any other factors such as rate capping and waste management costs.

3.2 Rate cap

In 2016/17 the state government introduced the "Fair Go Rates System" placing a cap on rates for all Victorian councils. In December each year the Minister for Local Government determines what the rate cap will be for the following year. Variations to this can only be obtained through a submission to the Essential Services Commission. Council has previously not applied for a variation, but will need to consider each financial year if a variation submission is required to deliver the levels of services and capital works program identified for that forthcoming year.

4 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.

5 RATES PROCESS

In the Budget, Council establishes the maintenance needs of its assets and infrastructure, and determines the community services and facilities that will be provided in the next financial year.

Previous to 2016/17, as part of the financial planning and budget process, the rate revenue required to meet expenditure needs was calculated, taking into account other sources of revenue. Once calculated, Council determined the proportion of rates and municipal charge to be levied on different classes of properties.

After the introduction of the "Fair Go Rates System" capping, the increases were and will continue to be limited to the cap set by the Minister for Local Government.

All other charges, such as kerbside waste and recycling and other fees and levies remain uncapped.

The general rating framework for local government is set out in The Act. It is recommended Council's property rating system meet the following objectives:

- the entire community should contribute to the unavoidable costs of Local Government
- where feasible, services should be funded on user pays principles
- where specified, local objectives can be achieved using differential rates
- residual service costs should be apportioned on the basis of property valuation.

In levying rates and the municipal charges, Council also considers:

- the rationale and practical application of the municipal charge and the level at which it is set
- the characteristics of farming, particularly given the varying climate conditions which can impact the income earning ability of the agricultural sector
- objectives concerning vacant land
- objectives concerning commercial/industrial land.

6 LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

Council's rating system is largely governed by legislation.

6.1 The framework

Section 3C of The Act stipulates the primary objective of Council is to endeavour to achieve the best outcomes for the local community having regard to the long term and cumulative effects of its decisions. In seeking to achieve its primary objective, Council must have regard to facilitating the following objectives:

1. Promote the social, economic and environmental viability and sustainability of the municipal district.
2. Ensure resources are used efficiently and effectively.
3. Improve the overall quality of life of the people in the local community.
4. Promote appropriate business and employment opportunities.
5. Ensure services and facilities provided are accessible and equitable.
- 6. Ensure the equitable imposition of rates and charges.**

7. Ensure transparency and accountability in Council decision making.

The strategy has paid careful attention to ensuring the equitable imposition of rates and charges.

6.2 Equity

Having determined that Council must review its rating strategy in terms of the equitable imposition of rates and municipal charge, a range of considerations have been taken into account in defining and determining what is equitable in the view of Council.

In considering what rating approaches are equitable, Council needs to have regard to the principles of 'Good Tax Design' which are:

1. **Equity** – does the tax burden fall appropriately across different classes of ratepayers?
 - a. **Benefit principle** – where the distribution of benefits is not uniform, should those who benefit more, contribute more?
 - b. **Capacity to pay** – are those ratepayers with greater economic capacity in fact contributing more and should they pay more?
2. **Simplicity**
 - a. is the system practical and cost effective to administer and enforce?
 - b. is the system simple to understand and comply with?
3. **Efficiency** – does the rating methodology significantly distort property ownership and development decisions in a way that results in significant efficiency costs?
4. **Sustainability** – does the system generate sustainable, reliable revenues for Council and is it durable and flexible in changing conditions?
5. **Cross-border competitiveness** – to what extent does the rating system undermine the competitiveness of Council as a place to live and/or own a property or operate a business?
6. **Competitive neutrality** – are all businesses conducting similar activities treated in similar ways within the municipality?

Simultaneously applying all of these taxation principles is an impossible task within the Council environment and therefore trade-offs between these taxation principles are necessary. The rating challenge for Council is to determine the appropriate balancing of competing considerations.

These principles have been sourced and adapted to be relevant to Council from the Local Government Better Practice Guide 2014 – Revenue and Rating Strategy.

7 RATING CHARGE TYPES

Section 155 of The Act provides that Council may declare the following rates and charges on rateable land.

7.1 General rates under Section 158

General rates are applied using a differential rate where variable amounts in the dollar are paid depending on a property's rating category. Council considers "that the differential rate will contribute to the equitable and efficient carrying out of its functions" (Section 161 (1) (b)).

7.2 Municipal charges under Section 159

Council may apply a municipal charge, and under the legislation is not required to specify what is covered by the charge.

This is a flat charge, levied on all properties (with some minor exceptions) within the municipal boundary. Council's total revenue from this charge in a financial year cannot be more than one fifth (20%) of the total revenue raised through the rating system.

Single farm enterprise exemptions apply to the municipal charge, which means that where farmers own and farm more than one property as a single farm enterprise they can apply for exemption from all but one of the properties.

7.3 Service rates and charges under Section 162

Council may raise service rates and charges for any of the following services:

- the provision of a water supply
- the collection and disposal of refuse
- the provision of sewerage services
- any other prescribed service.

Council currently applies a service charge for the collection and disposal of refuse on properties that fall within the collection area. Council's objective is to fully recover the costs of the waste management and waste removal function.

7.4 Special rates and charges under Section 163

Council may declare a special rate or charge or a combination of both for the purposes of:

- defraying any expenses, or
- repaying with interest any advance made, or debt incurred or loan raised, by Council.

There are detailed procedural requirements that Council needs to follow to introduce a special rate or charge, including how Council can apply funds derived from this source.

Section 185 of The Act provides rights to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) in relation to the imposition of a special rate or charge. VCAT has wide powers, which could affect the viability of a special rate or charge. It can set the rate or charge completely aside if it is satisfied that certain criteria are not met.

Council must prove that special benefit exists to those that are being levied the rate or charge.

7.5 Exempt properties

Under the Cultural and Recreation Lands Act 1963, provision is made for Council to grant a rating concession to any "recreational lands" which meet the test of being "rateable land" under The Act. Council has resolved that all rateable recreation land will be exempt from the payment of rates.

8 VALUATION METHODOLOGY

In raising Council rates, Council is required to primarily use the valuation of the rateable property to levy rates.

Section 157 (1) of The Act provides Council with three choices in terms of which valuation base to utilise. They are:

- **site valuation** – value of land only
- **capital improved valuation** – value of land and improvements upon the land
- **net annual value** – rental valuation based on the CIV.

In 2002 Council resolved to apply CIV as the basis of calculating rates, on the grounds that it provides the most equitable distribution of rates across the municipality. This is the most widely used valuation base across Victoria, but Council does have the opportunity to review its rating structure each year as part of the budget process.

Previously a requirement of the Valuation of Land Act 1960 was that all rateable properties within a municipality be revalued every two years. Commencing for the rating year 2019/20, properties are now to be valued annually, with the process being managed direct by the Valuer-General Victoria. At the time of each general revaluation it is necessary to determine the effects of any movements in property values on the total rate to be raised, and accordingly, the rate in the dollar of CIV.

9 DECLARING RATES AND CHARGES

Section 158 of The Act provides that Council must at least once in respect of each financial year declare:

1. the amount which Council intends to raise by way of general rates, municipal charges, service rates and service charges
2. whether the general rates will be raised by application of:
 - a. a uniform rate, or
 - b. differential rates (if Council is permitted to do so under Section 161(1))
 - c. urban farm rates or residential use rates (if Council is permitted to do so under Section 161A).

These are quite different in application and have different administrative and appeal mechanisms that need to be taken into account.

9.1 Uniform rate

Section 160 of The Act stipulates that if Council declares that general rates will be raised by the application of a uniform rate, Council must specify a percentage as the uniform rate. Rates will be determined by multiplying that percentage by the value of the land. Council has decided not to apply this option.

9.2 Differential rates

Under The Act, Council is entitled to apply for differential rates **provided it uses Capital CIV** as its base for rating.

Section 161 outlines the regulations relating to differential rates which includes:

1. Council may raise rates and general rates by the application of a differential rate if it uses the capital improved value system of valuing land.
2. If Council declares a differential rate for any land, Council must specify the objectives of the differential rate, which must be consistent with the equitable and efficient carrying out of Council's functions and must include the following:
 - a. a definition of the types of classes of land which are subject to the rate and statements of the reasons for the use and level of that rate.
 - b. an identification of the type or classes of land which are subject to the rate in respect of the uses, geographic location (other than location on the basis of whether or not the land is within a specific ward in Council's district).
 - c. specification of the characteristics of the land, which are the criteria for declaring the differential rate.

The highest differential rate allowed is no more than four times the lowest differential rate in the municipal district.

Council has adopted differential rating as it considers that differential rating contributes to the equitable distribution of the rating burden. Differential rating allows particular classes of properties to be assessed with rates at different amounts from the general rate set for the municipality. Differential rating allows Council to shift part of the rate burden from some groups of ratepayers to others, through different "rates in the dollar" for each class of property.

10 OBJECTIVE OF COUNCIL'S DIFFERENTIAL RATES

For the declared differential rates it is considered that each differential rate will be used to contribute to the equitable and efficient carrying out of Council's functions. The following are the objectives of the differential rates currently adopted from the different property types and the respective taxation principles applied.

10.1 General rate

This category is the base rate and is known as the residential or general rate. The actual rating burden applied to general or residential properties is determined by a decision to apply either higher or lower rates in the dollar of property value to other classes of property. The equity of the general rate is therefore a by-product of the equity inherent in the setting of those other rates. Differential rates are set relative to the general or residential rate.

10.2 Rural rate

The main objectives of having a rural rate are to:

- encourage and support the use of sound agricultural practices
- conserve and protect areas which are suited to certain agricultural pursuits
- encourage proper land use consistent with genuine farming activities.

Historically a lower rate has been applied to rural properties in the Shire. The basis for this decision is that, in the absence of some rate relief, the higher land component inherent in farming properties contributes to their relatively higher values and would result in farmers having to pay disproportionately high rates in relation to the income or surplus able to be generated from their properties.

There is also a level of support within Council that, by virtue of their distance from urban centres, farming households' access and consumption of a range of services is lower and should be taken into account when setting rates.

Council's position from 2002/03 was targeted at a rate distribution of 70:30 for Rural (70) and Urban (30) properties.

From 2014/15 Council had defined a differential rate split of 11%, with rural having a rate in the dollar of 89% of the general rate. Council considered this as a fair allocation of rates across property types at that time.

For the 2019/20 Budget, Council agreed to change the differential from 11% to 12%, being a modest adjustment to take account of the valuations changes that have shown a higher increase in rural valuations compared to residential valuations.

For future budgets, where the valuation increases are much higher for one property class over the other, it may be necessary to review the differential split during the budget process to ensure the fair allocation of rates remains.

11 PAYMENT IN LIEU OF RATES

Established under section 94(6A) of the Electrical Industry Act (EI Act), the Payment in Lieu of Rates (PiLoR) framework allows for councils and electricity generators to negotiate annual payments. Council intends to consider the use of this framework with regard to future electricity generation developments within the Shire.

A methodology currently exists under this section for estimating payments and applies to all coal, gas, solar, hydro and wind generators. The methodology combines a fixed charge with a

variable charge based on the capacity of the power station in megawatts. More guidance around the PiLoR framework is available at <https://www.energy.vic.gov.au/renewable-energy/community-energy> .

12 FIRE SERVICES PROPERTY LEVY

Under the Fire Services Property Levy Act 2012, introduced as a result of recommendations by the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission (VBRC), the Fire Services Property Levy (FSPL) was introduced to fund operations of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) and Country Fire Authority (CFA). From July 2013 a fire services property levy applied to all private property owners – including persons and organisations that do not currently pay council rates, such as churches, charities, private schools, water catchment authorities and Returned Services Leagues. A number of Council properties are also subject to the fire levy.

A set fixed charge is applied all for applicable residential properties and other property types such as industrial, commercial and farms.

A further variable component is applicable and is based on cents per \$1,000 of CIV and is determined by land category.

Pensioner discounts are available for current eligible recipients of council rate concessions. These ratepayers receive a reduction of the FSPL.

The FSPL is collection by Council on behalf of the state government. All funds collected from the FSPL are paid direct to the state government.

13 SUPPLEMENTARY RATES

In certain circumstances valuations may be performed between general valuations to acknowledge changes in a property, for example when a building is erected or demolished or land subdivided or rezoned. Valuations are undertaken and an adjusted rate notice, known as a supplementary rate notice, is sent.

14 REBATES AND CONCESSIONS

Holders of a Centrelink or Veterans Affairs Pension Concession Card which stipulates Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) or War Widow, or a Veterans Affairs Gold Card may claim a rebate on their sole or principal place of residence.

Each year the government-funded rebate is indexed and provided to Council. This is a discount, under the Municipal Rates Concession Scheme, by the determined fixed amount or 50% of rate payment, whichever is the less. Upon initial application, an ongoing eligibility is maintained unless rejected by Centrelink or Department of Veterans Affairs during verification procedures. Upon acceptance of pensioner status the concession or rebate is deducted from the rate account before payment by the ratepayer.

Applications for the concession must be lodged by 30 June in each year. Retrospective claims are at the discretion of the Department of Health and Human Services.

15 PAYMENT OPTIONS

Under section 167(1) of The Act Council must allow a person to pay a rate or charge (other than a special rate or charge) in four instalments per annum.

Under section 167(2A) of The Act Council may allow a person to pay a rate or charge in a lump sum.

Interest penalty for payment made after the relevant instalment due date will be at the prescribed rate set at 30 June the year prior as provided for in Section 172 of The Act. This will start to accrue the day after the missed instalment for that overdue amount only. Payment dates for instalment and single lump sum payments are fixed by the Minister for Local Government and published in the Government Gazette.

9.3 FINANCE REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 MARCH 2019

File Number: 08/06/001
Author: Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services
Authoriser: Sharon Morrison, Director Corporate Services
Attachments: 1. Finance Report for period ending 31 March 2019

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. receives and notes the Finance Report for the period ending 31 March 2019
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 result in the Council meeting occurring before the completion of the end of month finance procedures.

BACKGROUND

The Finance Report for the period ended 31 March 2019 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 adopted 2018/19 Budget, and includes operating results, capital expenditure and funding sources.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Budgeted Surplus - Council's budgeted cash surplus has decreased from \$3.62M to \$3.60M due to a decrease in expected grant income and a decrease in expected operating expenditure.

Income Statement (revenue) - Council's year to date (YTD) operating revenue is at 84% of YTD budget. Revenue brought to account for March was \$4.42M (\$2.59M last month). Capital grants are behind YTD budget with interest and user fees currently ahead of YTD budget.

Income Statement (expenditure) - Council's operating expenditure is at 92% of YTD budget. Payments for this month totalled just over \$3.78M, compared to \$3.49M last month. Labour is slightly behind budget at 96% (96% last month) and is expected to remain below budget and the 4% mandated cap for the remainder of the year. Materials and services are currently behind YTD budget with utilities currently ahead of YTD budget.

Capital Works - The revised budget for capital works is \$13.62M and is 41% complete in financial terms for the current financial year (27% last month). Asset types with major variations (10% or \$10K) include furniture and equipment, land and buildings, urban and road drainage, recreation leisure and community facilities, footpaths along with parks, open space and streetscapes with many projects underway or still to commence. Officers have completed reviewing 2018/19 budgets versus actuals to determine whether further revisions need to be made to accurately reflect projects not proceeding or savings within projects already delivered. This explains the significant drop in capital works expected to be completed for the year.

Balance Sheet - Council has a cash total of \$18.2M with \$3.0M in general accounts. Debtors are \$2.03M which is a decrease of \$1.24M in the month primarily due to the receipt of rates. Sundry debtors total \$776K with invoices outstanding for 60 or more days relating to community wellbeing debtors and local community groups totalling approximately \$125K.

There were no supplementary valuations updated during March. The total rateable CIV at the end of March remains at \$2.16B.

COST/BENEFITS

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

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

RISK ANALYSIS

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

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

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

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

LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL

FINANCE REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING 31 MARCH 2019



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INTRODUCTION

During March 2019 work continued on the 2019/20 Draft Budget. The first draft has been distributed and a presentation to Councillors scheduled at the April Council Forum.

1 CASH SURPLUS POSITION

1.1 Budget revisions

The overall budget cash surplus, which has been included in the attached financial reports, has decreased from \$3,618,595 to \$3,595,435.

These revisions are summarised below:

Item	February Finance Report	March Finance Report	Change \$
Operating revenue	\$51,890,111	\$49,337,174	(\$2,552,937)
Operating expenditure	(\$51,143,422)	(\$50,790,971)	\$352,451
Transfers from reserves	\$15,523,504	\$15,463,504	(\$60,000)
Transfers to reserves	(\$7,913,940)	(\$10,206,085)	(\$2,292,145)
Other funding decisions	\$655,247	\$655,247	\$0
Capital expenditure	(\$18,155,025)	(\$13,623,896)	\$4,531,129
Other non cash adjustments	\$9,200,989	\$9,199,331	(\$1,658)
Accumulated surplus carried forward	\$3,561,131	\$3,561,131	\$0
Closing surplus (deficit) as reported in Appendix 2	\$3,618,595	\$3,595,435	(\$23,160)

Major changes are highlighted below and although some items listed above have a large overall adjustment, they are made up of numerous smaller changes. Many adjustments made are a result to the budget process for 2019/20.

1.2 Operating revenue

Operating revenue has decreased by \$2.5M.

The main variation to budget is for the Donaldson Park Pavilion project of \$2.8M. This project has been carried forward into 2019/20 with no funding expected to be received in 2018/19.

1.3 Operating expenditure

Operating expenditure has decreased by \$352K.

The main variation decrease includes HACC service delivery carry over of \$602K, which has been placed into reserve for expenditure in 2019/20.

Other variations that have increased expenditure include plant operating costs. These were reviewed during February and a further review in March determined the expected costs required. A large saving from this activity is expected compared to initial budget.

1.4 Transfer from reserves

Transfer from reserves has decreased by \$60K.

This relates to the Gravel and Sand Pit Reserve with the Landfill Masterplan now expected to be completed during the 2019/20 financial year.

1.5 Transfer to reserves

Transfer to reserves has increased by \$2.29M.

This is mainly due to the delay in projects such as the purchase of caravan parks and Donaldson Park Pavilion which are not expected to be required until the 2019/20 financial year.

1.6 Capital expenditure

Capital expenditure has decreased by \$4.53M.

The main variations to budget include the Donaldson Park Pavilion project and the purchase of caravan parks which are not expected to commence until 2019/20. These have been put into reserve for allocation next year.

2 STANDARD INCOME STATEMENT

In the analysis of the statements only those areas which have a variance greater than 10% and \$10,000 are reported. Variances have been explained in further detail below.

2.1 Operating revenue

Total revenue brought to account for the month of March was \$4.42M.

Revenue YTD is at 84% compared to YTD budget or \$5.63M behind.

2.1.1 Capital grants

Capital grants are currently \$6.06M behind budget.

The main variation relates to flood restoration work reimbursements of \$4.6M. Claims have been forwarded, and some have been approved by VicRoads with payment of those expected by the end of April. Other variations relate to local roads projects of \$442K and local bridges projects of \$500K with claims yet to be submitted.

2.1.2 User fees

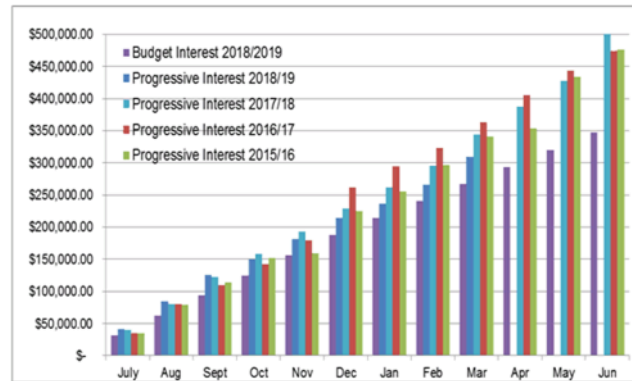
User fees are currently \$295K ahead of budget and include:

- caravan park income of \$50K with an increase of visitors to council's caravan parks
- local laws fines of \$55K with the issue of fines higher than expected
- planning application fees of \$55K due to an increase in planning applications
- Loddon Discovery Tours of \$13K ahead of budget with some tours starting earlier than expected
- standpipes and truck washes of \$33K ahead of budget with an increase of water usage due to dry conditions
- brokered services of \$51K with an increase of hours requested by clients.

2.1.3 Interest income

The total investment interest received and accrued to date is \$309K, and rates interest amounts to \$32K. Year to date represents 91% of the year revised budget amount of \$375K (\$347K for investments only).

Progressive interest from investments for the years 2015/16 to 2018/19 are:



The appendices of this report include a table that shows all investments for the 2018/19 financial year to date.

All investments are term deposits and are currently with Australian Unity Bank, Bendigo and Adelaide Bank, Members Equity Bank, National Australia Bank, and Bank of Queensland.

Due to the short term nature of the term deposits, those deposits which have not reached maturity are included as cash in the Balance Sheet. Interest realised, and interest accrued on non-matured deposits, are shown separately in Appendix 4.

2.2 **Operating expenditure**

Total operating expenditure for March was \$3.90M.

Expenditure YTD is at 92% compared to YTD budget or \$3.12M behind.

2.2.1 Materials and services

Materials and services are behind YTD budget by \$1.63M or 21%.

The main variations behind budget due to works progressing or commencing later in the year than originally expected are:

- weed and pest program of \$86K
- urban drainage strategy of \$165K
- volunteer strategy of \$72K
- recreation strategy of \$54K
- economic development strategy of \$60K
- flood mitigation survey and design of \$87K
- asbestos audit, treat and remove of \$64K
- Bridgewater football/netball female facilities of \$100K
- infrastructure valuations of \$101K
- childcare feasibility study of \$70K.

Other variations are:

- public facilities and park maintenance of \$79K with savings expected
- service delivery reviews of \$65K savings due to change in the scope and delivery approach of the project.

2.2.2 Utilities

Utilities are ahead of YTD budget by \$70K or 20%.

The main variations to budget are the Wedderburn and Bridgewater Caravan Parks along with standpipes and truck washes with payment of invoices ahead of expected budget timing.

2.2.3 Payments

During the month the following payments were made:

Creditor payments - cheque	\$39,236.28
Creditor payments - electronic funds transfer	\$2,852,862.60
Payroll (3 pays)	<u>\$886,647.84</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$3,778,746.72</u>

2.3 **Operating surplus**

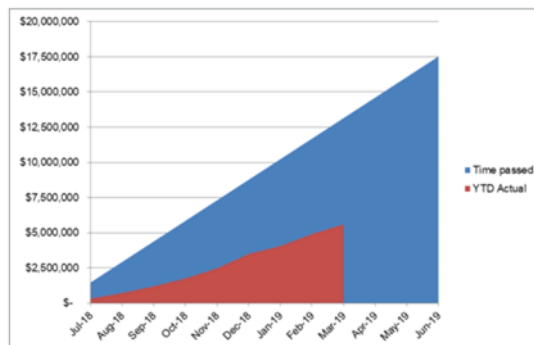
The operating deficit to date is \$4.8M.

2.4 **Capital expenditure**

Total capital works expenditure for March was \$694K.

The total revised budget for the 2018/19 capital works program is now \$13.62M.

The total capital works expenditure is 41% complete in financial terms.



Within the asset types the major variations to YTD budget are:

2.4.1 Proceeds from sale of assets

Proceeds from sale of assets are \$228K behind YTD budget or 44%.

The main variation to budget is sale of excess plant due to a delay in delivery of replacement equipment.

2.4.2 Furniture and office equipment

Furniture and office equipment is behind YTD budget by \$564K or 93%.

The main variations to budget are:

- the IT Strategy implementation of \$485K; this project has commenced and will be on-going through the full financial year
- the server replacement of \$28K is behind due to timing of the budget, the project is still to be completed
- PC replacement of \$51K is behind due to timing of the budget, with more purchases to come.

2.4.3 Land and buildings

Land and buildings are behind YTD budget of \$499K or 57%.

Main variation to budget is for flood mitigation works at Boort with works progressing slower than expected, and livestock and domestic pound works which have commenced, although is progressing slower than expected.

2.4.4 Roadworks

Roadworks are behind YTD budget by \$1.18M or 36%.

The main variations to budget are:

- Woodstock Road project of \$685K which has not yet commenced
- Newbridge Road project of \$68K where works have commenced and are progressing
- Gower - Logan Road project of \$84K where the works have commenced, although the progress is slower than expected
- Billings Road of \$93K with delays to the project and works expected to be carried out later in the year.

2.4.5 Urban and road drainage

Urban and road drainage is ahead of YTD budget by \$62K or 45%.

The main variations to budget are Sugar Gum Drive and Verdon South Street with works commencing ahead of budget timing.

2.4.6 Recreation leisure and community facilities

Recreation leisure and community facilities are behind YTD budget by \$90K or 35%.

The main variation to budget is Inglewood Town Hall landscaping with works yet to commence and Tree replacement where works have commenced, although slower than expected.

2.4.7 Parks, open space and streetscapes

Parks, open space and streetscapes are behind YTD budget by \$541K or 50%.

The main variations to budget are:

- Inglewood pool upgrade of \$19K, with the project currently underway but progressing slower than originally expected
- Korong Vale playground shade sail project of \$24K has commenced, although slower than expected
- Laanecoorie boat ramp of \$90K, with the project yet to commence
- Bridgewater foreshore of \$257K, with the project currently underway but progressing slower than expected.

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2.4.8 Footpaths

Footpaths are behind YTD budget by \$360K or 67%.

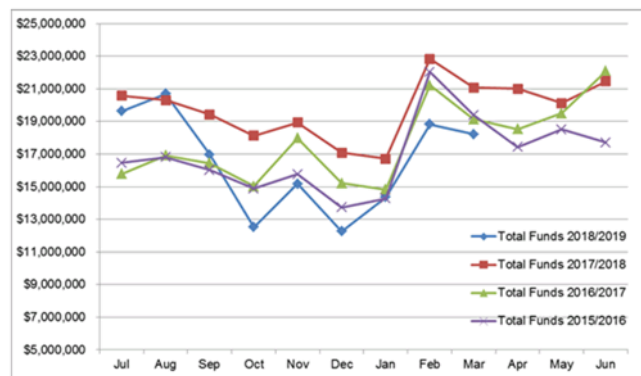
The main variation to budget relates a projects in Boort, Wedderburn and Bridgewater which have been awarded but not yet commenced.

3 STANDARD BALANCE SHEET

3.1 Cash

At the end of the month, Council’s overall cash total was \$18.2M which includes a balance of \$3.0M in general accounts.

Month end balances for Council’s cash, from July 2014 until the current month, are reflected in the graph that follows:



3.2 Receivables

3.2.1 Flood works funds recovery (2016 Flood)

For the year to date, \$13.3M has been expended on flood repair works. The Victorian Treasury Department has refunded \$9.7M, with other claims still going through the due process with VicRoads and Treasury. \$3.0M is expected to be paid to Council in April 2019.

3.2.2 Debtors

Monthly balances of the various categories of debtors for the financial year are:

Category of debtor	Mar 2018	June 2018	Jan 2019	Feb 2019	Mar 2019
Rates	\$ 1,061,547	\$ 258,208	\$ 7,243,024	\$ 1,530,303	\$ 1,087,717
Fire Services Property Levy	\$ 154,500	\$ 49,038	\$ 764,241	\$ 208,770	\$ 153,401
<i>Total Rates & Fire Services Property Levy</i>	<i>\$ 1,216,047</i>	<i>\$ 307,246</i>	<i>\$ 8,007,265</i>	<i>\$ 1,739,073</i>	<i>\$ 1,241,118</i>
Sundry debtors	\$ 689,694	\$ 568,813	\$ 736,221	\$ 1,520,027	\$ 776,423
Community loans/advances	\$ 5,800	\$ 5,572	\$ 3,600	\$ 3,600	\$ 3,600
Long term loans/advances	\$ 80,000	\$ 78,570	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Employee superannuation	\$ (1,392)	\$ -	\$ 8,125	\$ 4,875	\$ -
Magistrates court fines	\$ 100,703	\$ 100,319	\$ 100,319	\$ 124,719	\$ 123,719
LESS provision for doubtful debts	\$ (92,370)	\$ (112,950)	\$ (112,950)	\$ (112,950)	\$ (112,950)
Total	\$ 1,998,482	\$ 947,569	\$ 8,742,581	\$ 3,279,344	\$ 2,031,909

3.2.3 Rates debtors

Outstanding rates and Fire Services Property Levy at the end of selected months were:

	Mar 2018 (1/3/2018)	June 2018 (4/07/2018)	Jan 2019 (1/2/2019)	Feb 2019 (1/3/2019)	Mar 2019 (4/4/2019)
2006/07	\$ 257	\$ 265	\$ 279	\$ 283	\$ 284
2007/08	\$ 405	\$ 417	\$ 440	\$ 445	\$ 448
2008/09	\$ 423	\$ 435	\$ 459	\$ 465	\$ 467
2009/10	\$ 1,664	\$ 1,699	\$ 1,760	\$ 1,780	\$ 1,785
2010/11	\$ 3,064	\$ 3,119	\$ 3,224	\$ 3,261	\$ 3,272
2011/12	\$ 6,054	\$ 5,335	\$ 5,045	\$ 4,578	\$ 4,597
2012/13	\$ 6,968	\$ 6,242	\$ 5,019	\$ 3,934	\$ 3,948
2013/14	\$ 8,220	\$ 6,997	\$ 4,959	\$ 3,822	\$ 2,591
2013/14 Fire Services Property Levy	\$ 1,966	\$ 1,763	\$ 1,382	\$ 1,126	\$ 859
2014/15	\$ 19,432	\$ 17,986	\$ 10,700	\$ 7,817	\$ 6,068
2014/15 Fire Services Property Levy	\$ 3,474	\$ 3,125	\$ 2,289	\$ 1,977	\$ 1,695
2015/16	\$ 30,747	\$ 30,147	\$ 21,700	\$ 18,359	\$ 14,002
2015/16 Fire Services Property Levy	\$ 5,120	\$ 4,839	\$ 3,787	\$ 3,429	\$ 2,984
2016/17	\$ 79,308	\$ 66,601	\$ 40,254	\$ 36,229	\$ 28,040
2016/17 Fire Services Property Levy	\$ 11,347	\$ 9,620	\$ 6,307	\$ 5,741	\$ 4,941
2017/18	\$ 305,847	\$ 118,965	\$ 89,045	\$ 78,047	\$ 64,774
2017/18 Fire Services Property Levy	\$ 44,810	\$ 29,691	\$ 14,112	\$ 13,000	\$ 11,694
2018/19	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,284	\$ 742,459	\$ 325,717
2018/19 Fire Services Property Levy	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,198	\$ 97,577	\$ 48,206
Sub-total: arrears	\$ 529,104	\$ 307,246	\$ 222,244	\$ 1,024,328	\$ 526,373
Current year (outstanding but not due)	\$ 599,160	\$ -	\$ 7,050,444	\$ 631,723	\$ 631,723
Fire Services Property Levy	\$ 87,783	\$ -	\$ 734,577	\$ 83,022	\$ 83,022
Total outstanding	\$ 1,216,047	\$ 307,246	\$ 8,007,265	\$ 1,739,073	\$ 1,241,118
<i>Summary</i>					
Rates in arrears	\$ 462,387	\$ 258,208	\$ 193,169	\$ 898,580	\$ 455,990
FSPL in arrears	\$ 66,717	\$ 49,038	\$ 29,075	\$ 125,748	\$ 70,383
Total arrears	\$ 529,104	\$ 307,246	\$ 222,244	\$ 1,024,328	\$ 526,373

Only the fourth rate instalment remains outstanding, all other payments are now in arrears and are in process of being followed up.

3.2.4 Sundry debtors

Outstanding sundry debtors at the end of the month consist of:

Current	\$78,663	32%
30 days	\$42,800	17%
60 days	\$27,745	11%
90 + days	\$97,411	39%
Sub total routine debtors	\$246,619	100%
Paid Parental Leave	(\$12,948)	
Government departments	\$317,729	
GST	\$225,023	
Total	\$776,423	
60 + days consists of:		
Community Wellbeing debtors	\$96,887	
Local community groups	\$20,226	
Others	\$8,043	
Total	\$125,156	

Total outstanding sundry debtors as at 31 March 2019 are \$776K.

The mainstream sundry debtors (\$247K) have been broken into the amount of time they have been outstanding. At the time of the report \$125K or 50% of that total has been outstanding for more than 60 days. All debtors are contacted as a matter of routine.

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3.2.5 Supplementary valuations

All rateable and non-rateable supplementary valuations are included in this report.

No supplementary valuations received in March 2019 were:

The current balances at end of March 2019 are:

Valuation type	Opening balance	Supplementary changes	Closing balance
Site Value	\$ 1,393,456,200	\$ -	\$ 1,393,456,200
Capital Improved Value	\$ 2,161,961,400	\$ -	\$ 2,161,961,400
NAV	\$ 111,451,920	\$ -	\$ 111,451,920

The total rateable CIV at the end of March 2019 remains at \$2.16B.

3.2.6 Water rights

Council-owned water rights were valued at \$1,979,130 at 30 June 2018.

The rights are revalued to market at the end of each financial year.

There has been no purchase to date this financial year, and no future purchases are budgeted for the remainder of 2018/19.

APPENDIX 1: STANDARD INCOME STATEMENT

	2018/19 Original Budget	2018/19 Revised Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Variance of YTD Actual & YTD Budget	% YTD Actual to YTD Budget	% YTD Actual to Revised Budget
REVENUE FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES							
Rates	\$10,723,126	\$10,754,593	\$10,687,878	\$10,687,723	(\$155)	100%	99%
Revenue grants	\$5,890,114	\$11,143,087	\$5,110,276	\$5,191,077	\$80,801	102%	47%
Capital grants	\$5,491,143	\$24,344,145	\$18,040,085	\$11,976,860	(\$6,063,225)	66%	49%
Vic Roads	\$534,064	\$548,178	\$411,138	\$405,804	(\$5,334)	99%	74%
User fees	\$1,734,539	\$1,770,530	\$1,296,557	\$1,591,602	\$295,045	123%	90%
Capital contributions	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%	0%
Recurrent contributions	\$310,000	\$0	\$0	\$582	\$582	0%	0%
Interest income	\$375,000	\$400,000	\$299,997	\$341,247	\$41,250	114%	85%
* Reversal of impairment losses	\$0	\$1,658	\$1,242	\$1,658	\$416	134%	100%
* Library equity	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%	0%
Reimbursements	\$333,801	\$374,983	\$292,501	\$316,337	\$23,836	108%	84%
Total revenue	\$25,391,787	\$49,337,174	\$36,139,674	\$30,512,889	(\$5,626,785)	84%	62%
EXPENDITURE FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES							
Labour	\$10,604,210	\$10,375,590	\$7,854,602	\$7,531,762	\$322,841	96%	73%
Materials & services	\$8,016,009	\$9,875,168	\$7,656,694	\$6,023,070	\$1,633,624	79%	61%
Depreciation	\$9,200,989	\$9,200,989	\$6,900,723	\$6,900,744	(\$21)	100%	75%
Utilities	\$466,503	\$453,883	\$340,551	\$409,682	(\$69,131)	120%	90%
Contract payments	\$1,581,347	\$20,579,169	\$15,479,265	\$14,247,862	\$1,231,403	92%	69%
Loan interest	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%	0%
Auditor costs	\$85,083	\$85,083	\$31,521	\$30,733	\$788	97%	36%
Councillor costs	\$221,089	\$221,089	\$165,816	\$158,233	\$7,583	95%	72%
Loss on sale of assets	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%	0%
* Impairment losses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%	0%
Bad debts expense	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,394	(\$4,394)	0%	0%
Total expenditure	\$30,175,230	\$50,790,971	\$38,429,172	\$35,306,480	\$3,122,692	92%	70%
NET RESULT FOR THE PERIOD	(\$4,783,443)	(\$1,453,797)	(\$2,289,498)	(\$4,793,590)	\$2,504,093	209%	330%
The operating expenditure shown above is represented in Council's key direction areas as follows:							
	2018/19 Original Budget	2018/19 Revised Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Variance of YTD Actual & YTD Revised Budget	% YTD Actual to YTD Budget	% YTD Actual to Revised Budget
EXPENSES FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES							
Economic development & tourism	\$1,436,315	\$1,513,780	\$1,137,247	\$960,374	\$176,873	84%	63%
Leadership	\$1,946,465	\$20,779,088	\$15,510,958	\$14,784,285	\$726,673	95%	71%
Works & infrastructure	\$13,421,963	\$13,531,386	\$10,099,219	\$9,989,045	\$110,174	99%	74%
Good management	\$4,333,882	\$4,524,931	\$3,551,430	\$2,923,843	\$627,587	82%	65%
Environment	\$2,396,268	\$2,546,586	\$1,974,046	\$1,760,505	\$213,541	89%	69%
Community services & recreation	\$6,640,337	\$7,895,201	\$6,156,272	\$4,888,427	\$1,267,845	79%	62%
Loss on sale of assets	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%	0%
Total operating expenditure	\$30,175,230	\$50,790,971	\$38,429,172	\$35,306,480	\$3,122,692	92%	70%
NET RESULT FOR THE PERIOD	(\$4,783,443)	(\$1,453,797)	(\$2,289,498)	(\$4,793,590)	\$2,504,093	209%	330%

*Income and expense items required by Australian Accounting Standards (AAS)

APPENDIX 2: STANDARD CAPITAL WORKS STATEMENT

	2018/19 Original Budget	2018/19 Revised Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Variance of YTD Actual & YTD Budget	% YTD Actual to YTD Budget	% YTD Actual to Revised Budget
FUNDING DECISIONS							
Add loan interest accrued	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%	0%
Less loan repayments	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%	0%
Add transfer from reserves	\$7,401,594	\$15,463,504	\$0	\$1,891	(\$1,891)	0%	0%
Less transfer to reserves	(\$2,151,749)	(\$10,206,085)	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%	0%
Add proceeds from sale of assets	\$379,427	\$655,247	\$518,524	\$290,214	\$228,310	56%	44%
TOTAL FUNDING DECISIONS	\$5,629,272	\$5,912,666	\$518,524	\$292,105	\$226,419	56%	5%
NET FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR CAPITAL	\$845,829	\$4,458,869	(\$1,770,974)	(\$4,501,486)	\$2,730,512	254%	-101%
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE BY ASSET TYPE							
Furniture and office equipment	\$777,780	\$784,450	\$605,170	\$40,883	\$564,267	7%	5%
Land and buildings	\$3,720,270	\$1,447,535	\$876,187	\$376,803	\$499,384	43%	26%
Plant and equipment	\$1,427,213	\$2,739,204	\$2,131,993	\$1,994,255	\$137,738	94%	73%
Roadworks	\$3,686,379	\$4,817,046	\$3,275,579	\$2,099,786	\$1,175,793	64%	44%
Urban and road drainage	\$350,000	\$542,220	\$138,687	\$201,014	(\$62,327)	145%	37%
Recreation, leisure and community facilities	\$1,263,000	\$1,523,281	\$258,987	\$168,620	\$90,367	65%	11%
Parks, open space and streetscapes	\$250,000	\$1,191,848	\$1,021,007	\$506,875	\$514,132	50%	43%
Footpaths	\$221,793	\$578,312	\$574,509	\$214,298	\$360,211	37%	37%
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PAYMENTS	\$11,696,435	\$13,623,896	\$8,882,119	\$5,602,533	\$3,279,586	63%	41%
NON CASH ADJUSTMENTS							
Less depreciation	\$9,200,989	\$9,200,989	\$6,900,723	\$6,900,744	(\$21)	100%	75%
Add reversal of impairment losses	\$0	(\$1,658)	(\$1,242)	(\$1,658)	\$416	134%	100%
Less loss on sale of assets	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%	0%
Less bad debts expense	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,394	(\$4,394)	0%	0%
TOTAL NON CASH ADJUSTMENTS	\$9,200,989	\$9,199,331	\$6,899,481	\$6,903,479	(\$3,998)	100%	75%
Accumulated surplus brought forward	(\$1,785,085)	(\$3,561,131)	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%	0%
NET CASH (SURPLUS)/DEFICIT	(\$135,468)	(\$3,595,435)	\$3,753,612	\$3,200,539	\$553,072	85%	-89%

APPENDIX 3: STANDARD BALANCE SHEET

	March 2019 As per trial balance	June 2018 As per financial statements	March 2018 As per trial balance
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$18,216,251	\$21,453,507	\$21,071,225
Trade and other receivables	\$1,951,909	\$785,569	\$1,836,482
Financial assets	\$46,715	\$3,405,167	\$36,534
Inventories	\$45,410	\$43,490	\$53,213
Non-current assets classified as held for sale	\$690,322	\$690,322	\$865,424
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$20,950,608	\$26,378,055	\$23,862,878
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Trade and other receivables	\$80,000	\$162,000	\$162,000
Financial assets	\$2,317,851	\$271,480	\$537,622
Intangible assets	\$1,979,130	\$1,979,130	\$1,668,430
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	\$336,519,872	\$338,108,296	\$308,044,784
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	\$340,896,853	\$340,520,906	\$310,412,836
TOTAL ASSETS	\$361,847,461	\$366,898,961	\$334,275,714
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	\$373,358	\$801,793	\$425,319
Trust funds and deposits	\$481,339	\$375,762	\$520,224
Provisions	\$1,786,718	\$1,721,770	\$1,750,730
Interest bearing loans and borrowings	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$2,641,415	\$2,899,325	\$2,696,273
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provisions	\$2,324,221	\$2,324,221	\$2,324,221
Interest bearing loans & borrowings	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$2,324,221	\$2,324,221	\$2,324,221
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$4,965,636	\$5,223,546	\$5,020,494
NET ASSETS	\$356,881,825	\$361,675,415	\$329,255,220
EQUITY			
Accumulated Surplus	\$90,562,773	\$95,354,473	\$92,511,183
Asset Revaluation Reserve	\$247,387,367	\$247,387,367	\$217,168,524
Other Reserves	\$18,931,684	\$18,933,575	\$19,575,512
TOTAL EQUITY	\$356,881,825	\$361,675,415	\$329,255,220

APPENDIX 4: INVESTMENTS

LODDONSHIRE COUNCIL INVESTMENT SCHEDULE											
	Establishment date	Status	Maturity date	Investment days	Interest rate	Investment amount	Interest last year (accrued)	Interest this year	Current investments	Interest received to date	Accrued Interest
NAB 55-639-5005 (LSL)	16/01/2018	Closed	16/07/2018	181	2.54%	\$ 1,791,312	\$ 20,969	\$ 1,994		\$ 1,994	
NAB -33-755-3209	19/02/2018	Closed	19/07/2018	131	2.48%	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 17,802	\$ 2,582		\$ 2,582	
NAB 44-441-8766	26/03/2018	Closed	24/07/2018	120	2.62%	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 13,782	\$ 3,445		\$ 3,445	
BGO 2659853	28/06/2018	Closed	26/07/2018	30	2.20%	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 241	\$ 1,567		\$ 1,567	
BGO 2623540	22/05/2018	Closed	21/08/2018	91	2.80%	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 5,556	\$ 7,552		\$ 7,552	
BGO 2659869	18/04/2018	Closed	14/08/2018	75	2.65%	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 5,445	\$ 3,287		\$ 3,287	
NAB 35-540-3396	12/02/2018	Closed	13/08/2018	182	2.50%	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 9,452	\$ 3,060		\$ 3,060	
NAB 64-792-7106	21/05/2018	Closed	18/09/2018	120	2.62%	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 5,742	\$ 11,629		\$ 11,629	
BGO 2659856	26/06/2018	Closed	24/09/2018	90	2.75%	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 149	\$ 13,413		\$ 13,413	
Bank of Melbourne	21/06/2018	Closed	20/06/2018	91	2.70%	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 1,657	\$ 11,806		\$ 11,806	
NAB 70-700-8670	28/06/2018	Closed	24/10/2018	120	2.80%	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 202	\$ 18,306		\$ 18,306	
BME - 118242	26/07/2018	Closed	26/10/2018	92	2.80%	\$ 2,000,000	\$ -	\$ 14,115		\$ 14,115	
NAB 87-656-3078	30/08/2018	Closed	29/10/2018	60	2.30%	\$ 2,000,000	\$ -	\$ 7,562		\$ 7,562	
BGO 2717042 (ex 2625340)	22/08/2018	Closed	22/11/2018	92	2.55%	\$ 2,000,000	\$ -	\$ 12,938		\$ 12,938	
Mela 356623206	30/09/2018	Closed	11/12/2018	93	2.70%	\$ 2,000,000	\$ -	\$ 13,776		\$ 13,776	
BGO 2609650	23/11/2018	Closed	24/12/2018	31	1.95%	\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ 828		\$ 828	
BGO (Lst)	18/07/2018	Closed	18/01/2019	184	2.78%	\$ 1,800,000	\$ -	\$ 25,228		\$ 25,228	
BGO Preschool	18/07/2018	Closed	18/01/2019	184	2.78%	\$ 200,032	\$ -	Not Council's			
BGO 2609689	23/11/2018	Closed	23/01/2019	61	2.15%	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ 3,593		\$ 3,593	
NAB 87-656-3078	28/10/2018	Closed	29/01/2019	92	2.68%	\$ 2,000,000	\$ -	\$ 13,510		\$ 13,510	
BGO 2609687	23/11/2018	Closed	22/02/2019	91	2.55%	\$ 2,000,000	\$ -	\$ 12,715		\$ 12,715	
ME Bank - 035604	26/10/2018	Closed	27/02/2019	124	2.63%	\$ 2,000,000	\$ -	\$ 17,870		\$ 17,870	
NAB 76-521-5812	4/12/2018	Closed	4/03/2019	90	2.75%	\$ 2,000,000	\$ -	\$ 13,562		\$ 13,562	
11am Account BGO	at 31/12/2018	Open	N/A		1.50%	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000		
AUB 037455	30/01/2019	Open	30/04/2019	90	2.78%	\$ 2,000,000	\$ -	\$ 13,710	\$ 2,000,000		\$ 9,140
AUB 037456	30/01/2019	Open	2/05/2019	92	2.78%	\$ 2,000,000	\$ -	\$ 14,014	\$ 2,000,000		\$ 9,140
ME Bank	25/02/2019	Open	27/05/2019	91	2.65%	\$ 2,000,000	\$ -	\$ 13,213	\$ 2,000,000		\$ 4,937
NAB 42-416-4711 LSL	18/01/2019	Open	17/06/2019	150	2.77%	\$ 2,000,000	\$ -	\$ 22,767	\$ 2,000,000		\$ 10,928
ME Bank	25/02/2019	Open	17/06/2019	112	2.65%	\$ 2,000,000	\$ -	\$ 16,263	\$ 2,000,000		\$ 4,937
Bank of Qld	18/03/2019	Open	17/06/2019	91	2.53%	\$ 2,000,000	\$ -	\$ 12,615	\$ 2,000,000		\$ 1,802
BGO 2927543	27/03/2019	Open	25/07/2019	120	2.51%	\$ 2,000,000	to30th only	\$ 13,014	\$ 2,000,000		\$ 550
ME Bank	25/02/2019	Open	29/07/2019	154	2.65%	\$ 2,000,000	to30th only	\$ 18,150	\$ 2,000,000		\$ 4,937
NAB	18/01/2019	Open	17/06/2019	150	2.77%	\$ 202,835	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 202,835		
Interest on Kinder Account						\$ 2,309	\$ -	\$ -		\$ 48,907	\$ -
Interest on General Accounts						\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Totals							\$ 80,597	\$ 386,967	\$ 17,202,835	\$ 263,221	\$ 46,371
Interest earned											\$ 308,592
Interest transferred to/from externally funded projects											\$ -
Net interest on investments											\$ 308,592
Current investments: Share Funds											
National Australia Bank									\$ 2,000,000		12%
Bank of Queensland									\$ 2,000,000		12%
Members Equity Bank									\$ 6,000,000		35%
Australian Unity Bank									\$ 4,000,000		24%
Bendigo Bank									\$ 1,000,000		18%
Council Funds on Term Deposit									\$ 17,000,000		100%

9.4 ADVERTISEMENT OF THE 2019/20 DRAFT BUDGET

File Number: 07/01/001
Author: Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services
Authoriser: Sharon Morrison, Director Corporate Services
Attachments: 1. 2019/20 Draft Budget

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. advertise the Draft Budget in accordance with Section 129 of the Local Government Act 1989
2. adopt the proportion of rates raised within various valuation categories as follows:
 - Rural Production to have a differential rate 12% lower than the General (Residential, Commercial and Other) differential rate
3. agree that the above distribution of rates raised demonstrates fairness and equity across the municipality
4. implement a differential rate to be struck between categories of Rural Production and General as follows:
 - General (Residential, Commercial and Other) - 0.004074 Cents in the Dollar of Capital Improved Value
 - Rural Production - 0.003585 Cents in the Dollar of Capital Improved Value
5. apply a Municipal Charge of \$217 to all properties, except where an exemption has been granted for a Single Farm Enterprise under the Local Government Act 1989
6. apply a Garbage Charge of \$280 per Residential Garbage Service (140 Litre Bin) and \$380 per Commercial Garbage Service (240 Litre Bin)
7. apply a Kerbside Recycling Service Charge of \$106 per service (240 Litre Bin)
8. update the Strategic Resource Plan for the Council Plan 2017-21 with the current information contained in the Budget, in line with the Local Government Act 1989 and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014 requirements
9. advertise in conjunction with the Draft Budget the 2019/20 the Fees and Charges Schedule as per the March 2019 Council Meeting resolution.

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 was presented with the 2019/20 Draft Budget at a Council Forum on 9 April 2019.

BACKGROUND

The 2019/20 Draft Budget has been prepared in draft following discussions with Councillors and senior officers.

Council has once again used the Best Practice Guide 'Model Budget' to assist with developing the budget. The Executive Summary is based on this model and has been prepared to provide an explanation of the major components of the budget.

A number of financial reports have also been developed outlining expected income and expenditure for all areas of Council in 2019/20, and comparing these to the forecast actual results for 2018/19.

The Draft Budget includes:

- the continuation of a strong cash position
- the continuation of the Community Planning program
- projects and initiatives included in Council's various strategic plans
- no new borrowings
- continuation of the use of discretionary reserves.

Council's rating increase for 2019/20 is in line with the Victorian State Government's Rate Capping Policy which has been set at 2.5% on the 2018/19 forecast budget rate income. Council has discretion over increases relating to garbage and recycling charges, and has included in the draft budget an increase of 2.5% to assist in ensuring a cost neutral position for waste collection services.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Under Section 223 of the Local Government Act, Council must allow a 28 day timeframe for submissions to be made regarding the 2019/20 Draft Budget.

Subject to Council approval, the Draft Budget will be advertised in the Bendigo Advertiser on Saturday 27 April 2019 and the Loddon Times on Tuesday 30 April 2019. Council will receive submissions until close of business on Friday 24 May 2019.

It is proposed that Council consider submissions received at the Council Forum to be held on Tuesday 11 June 2019 and formally adopt the Draft Budget at the Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on Tuesday 25 June 2019 in the Council Chambers at Serpentine.

COST/BENEFITS

The benefits to Council and the community are that a consultative budget process complies with the Local Government Act 1989, the budget provides a measure for accurate planning, and ensures that Council can deliver services and projects included in the document.

RISK ANALYSIS

The risk to Council of not considering and then advertising the annual budget is that it will not comply with requirements under the Local Government Act 1989.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The Local Government Act 1989 requires that the Draft Budget be available for public comment from a period of 28 days after Council advertisement. After the lapsing of 28 days all submissions received must be provided to Council when deliberating on the 2019/20 Budget.

LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL

BUDGET FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020





**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019**

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LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

MAYOR INTRODUCTION

The Councillors and I are pleased to present the 2019/20 Budget to the community. This budget continues with our Council Plan 2017-21 vision of "A prosperous, vibrant and engaged community" and focuses on the following five key themes:

- Population;
- Economic prosperity;
- Liveability;
- Sustainability;
- High performance organisation.

The Council Plan 2017-21 (Year 3), sets out our strategic plan to deliver our vision over the full term of the Council. As this is the third year of the current Council term, part of the focus over the next year will be on the planning and design activities required to deliver current commitments, along with delivery of key identified projects.

The budget details the resources required over the next year to fund a large range of services we provide to the community. It also includes details of proposed capital expenditure allocations to improve and renew our Shire's road infrastructure, buildings and operational assets as well as funding for a range of projects.

As Councillors, it is our job to listen to community opinions and understand your priorities. During and following the Council elections in 2016 we have consistently heard that Council's services are valued by the community, and that Council also needs to be financially responsible. In response, Council has continued an organisation wide approach to identify savings and organisational improvements that don't impact negatively on its services, to provide increased value for money to ratepayers.

The budget includes a rate increase of 2.5 per cent. This is in line with the Fair Go Rates System which has capped rate increases by Victorian Councils. Council has also identified a number of significant cost and revenue impacts during the budget process which it has had to take into consideration. These include:

- the changes in financial support provided by the Victorian Government within the Home and Community Care area;
- assessing the demand for services from the community and an expectation that at least current services will be maintained at their present standard;
- Council's desire to continue to support Community Planning to drive strategic outcomes from a community level.

Some of the highlights contained in the 2019/20 Budget include:

- full funding of Council's ongoing commitment of community planning of \$750K;
- an increased commitment to investment in information technology;
- strong investment in local road and related infrastructure maintenance;
- \$400K allocation for works associated with the Building Asset Management Plan;
- continued support for the aged services and early years programs;
- capital expenditure program of \$13.68 million;
- no loan repayments with Council remaining debt free;
- continuation of a strong cash position.

This budget was developed through a rigorous process of consultation and review and Council endorses it as financially responsible. I encourage the community to read through this document, in conjunction with the Council Plan 2017-21.

Cr. Cheryl McKinnon
Mayor



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

CEO INTRODUCTION

Council has prepared a budget for 2019/20 which is aligned to the vision in the Council Plan 2017-21. It seeks to maintain and improve services and infrastructure as well as deliver projects and services that are valued by our community, and do this within rate increases mandated by the State Government.

This budget projects a cash surplus of \$149K for 2019/20, however, it should be noted that the adjusted underlying result is a surplus of \$1.05 million after adjusting for capital grants and contributions (refer to Section 4.1.13).

1 Key things we are funding

- ongoing delivery of services to the Loddon Shire Council community
- continued investment in capital projects (\$13.68M). This includes roads (\$4.71M); urban and road drainage (\$0.92M); footpaths (\$0.26M); recreational, leisure and community facilities (\$4.51M) and parks, open space and streetscapes (\$0.55M).

2 Rates and charges increase

- the average rate rise will be 2.5% in line with the order by the Minister for Local Government on 20 December 2018 under the Fair Go Rates System;
- from 2018/19, each year is a revaluation year, therefore, valuations will be as per the General Revaluation dated 1 January 2019;
- the waste service charges will increase by 2.5% per collection item;
- refer to Section 4.1.1 for further details.

3 Key statistics

Total revenue is \$26.51 million (2018/19 \$49.41 million)

Total operating expenditure is \$31.32 million (2018/19 \$50.87 million)

Underlying operating result is \$1.05 million deficit (\$0.9 million surplus in 2018/19)

Note: Underlying operating result is an important measure of financial sustainability as it excludes income which is to be used for capital.

Cash result is \$0.15 million surplus (\$3.59 million surplus in 2018/19)

(Refer Capital Expenditure Statement in Appendix D)

Note: This is the net funding result after considering the funding requirements to meet reserve transfers.

Capital works program of \$13.68 million (\$13.62 million in 2018/19)

\$3.79 million from Council operations

\$3.32 million from reserves

No borrowings

\$0.27 million from asset sales

\$6.3 million from external grants.

Phil Pinyon

Chief Executive Officer



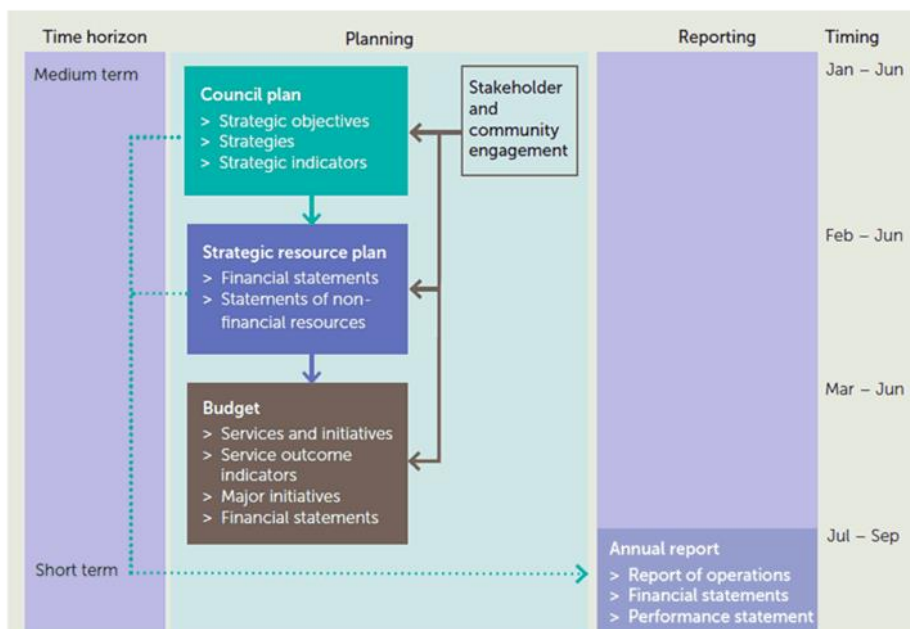
**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019**

1 LINKAGE TO THE COUNCIL PLAN

This section describes how the Budget links to the achievement of the Council Plan within an overall planning and reporting framework. This framework guides the Council in identifying community needs and aspirations over the long term (Long Term Financial Plan 2019/20 to 2028/29), medium term (Council Plan) and short term (Budget) and then holding itself accountable (Annual Report).

1.1 Planning and accountability framework

The Strategic Resource Plan, part of and prepared in conjunction with the Council Plan, is a rolling four year plan that outlines the financial and non-financial resources that Council requires to achieve the strategic objectives described in the Council Plan. The Budget is framed within the Strategic Resource Plan, considering the services and initiatives which contribute to achieving the strategic objectives specified in the Council Plan. The diagram below depicts the planning and accountability framework that applies to local government in Victoria.



Source: Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

The timing of each component of the planning framework is critical to the successful achievement of the planned outcomes.



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

1. LINKAGE TO THE COUNCIL PLAN (Continued)

1.2 Our purpose

Our vision

"Loddon Shire Council's vision is to be a prosperous, vibrant and engaged community"

Our mission

"Its mission is to enhance the sustainability and liveability of Loddon Shire"

Our values

Leadership

Means acting ethically, dealing with suspected wrongdoing, doing the right thing even in the face of adversity, giving proper advice fearlessly, taking initiative, being innovative and acting strategically.

Integrity

Means obeying the law, following the intention of policies and procedures, fully disclosing actual or potential conflicts of interest, acting honestly and responsibly and observing organisational values and codes of conduct.

Accountability

Means having justifiable reasons for decision and actions, obtaining value for money, continuously improving, keeping proper records, and submitting to scrutiny.

Impartiality

Means being fair by being fully informed, considering only relevant matters, and dispassionately assessing without fear, favour or bias.

Respect

Means being open to feedback and other views, communicating with clarity and sensitivity, giving all relevant information, providing reasons for decisions, collaborating and working effectively in teams, being courteous and being punctual.



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

1. LINKAGE TO THE COUNCIL PLAN (Continued)

1.3 Core business of Council

In preparing the Council Plan, the Council has articulated the scope of its role in:

1 - Leadership

Providing vision and leadership in planning for our community's longer term future.

2 - Provision of well being services

Cost effectively providing for the basic needs of our communities.

3 - Planning for future needs

Anticipating and planning for demographic and economic shifts.

4 - Economic development

Supporting the growth and diversification of our economy, based on areas of competitive advantage.

5 - Providing quality infrastructure

Developing and maintaining both built and natural assets appropriate to community priorities.

6 - Financial stability

Planning and managing for long-term financial needs and keeping our rate payers informed about the financial situation.

7 - Education and life-long learning

Advocating for better youth engagement and life-long learning outcomes.

8 - Compliance

Ensuring we are compliant with all legislative reporting requirements.

9 - Regulation

Ensuring community compliance with local regulations.

10 - Advocacy and partnerships

Collaborating internally and externally to achieve our region's goals and promoting the interests and position of our Council.

1.4 Strategic themes

In addition Council has identified five high level strategic themes which are priority activities for the Council over the next four years. These are:

Population - Grow and invigorate Loddon's population

Economic prosperity - Support development of a prosperous and diverse economy

Liveability - Develop attractive, vibrant and well- serviced communities

Sustainability - Provide leadership which contributes to the sustainability of our region

High performance organisation - Implement frameworks which enable sound decision making and support a high performing and customer-focused organisation.

The Budget includes major initiatives that sit under the strategic themes that will be delivered in 2019/20. They are considered high priority projects towards achieving the strategic platform objectives.



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

1. LINKAGE TO THE COUNCIL PLAN (Continued)

1.6 Reporting framework

Council has retained its current reporting structure, which includes six key direction areas, as follows:

1 - Economic development and tourism

To promote economic growth through the retention and development of agriculture and business, and the development and promotion of tourism.

2 - Leadership

To provide Loddon Shire with strategic direction, representation and advocacy to promote good government, realisation of opportunities and to build confidence, pride and unity within the community.

3 - Works and infrastructure

Infrastructure to be provided in an efficient manner that meets the needs of the community.

4 - Good management

Ensure best practice management of human, physical and financial resources.

5 - Environment

To promote and enhance the natural and built environment for the enjoyment of future generations.

6 - Community services and recreation

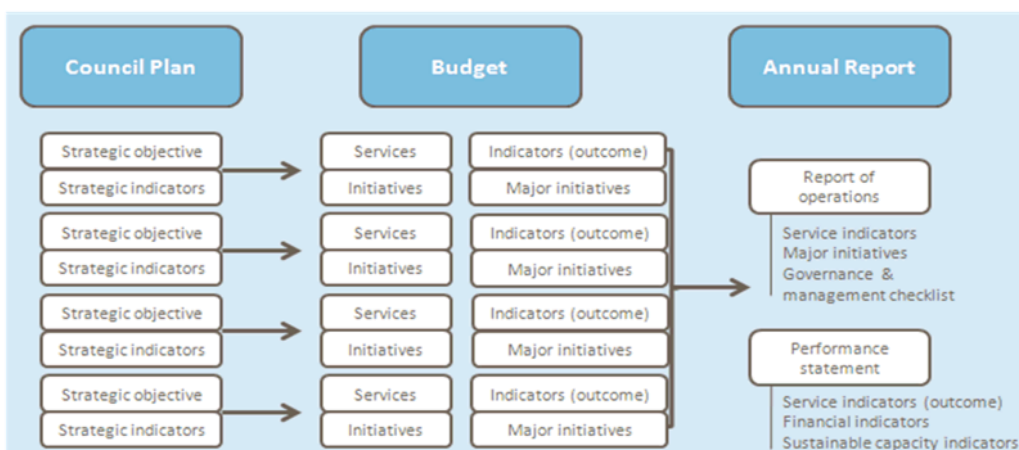
To enhance the quality of life of all ages through the provision of community services and support of community organisations.



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

2 SERVICES, INITIATIVES AND SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

This section provides a description of the services and initiatives to be funded in the Budget for the 2019/20 year and how these will contribute to achieving the strategic platforms specified in the Council Plan. It also describes several initiatives and service performance outcome indicators for key areas of Council's operations. Council is required by legislation to identify major initiatives and service performance outcome indicators in the Budget and report against them in their Annual Report to support transparency and accountability. The relationship between these accountability requirements in the Council Plan, the Budget and the Annual Report is shown below.



Source: Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

2.1 Strategic themes

The following provides a brief outline of the strategic themes outlined within the Council Plan.

2.1.1 Strategic theme 1 - Population

Objective:

Grow and invigorate Loddon's population

Key priorities:

- a) population growth and diversity - develop a more balanced and sustainable demographic profile
- b) quality childcare services - optimise the potential for all residents to pursue employment opportunities and lifestyle choices
- c) infrastructure, amenities and services - support community needs with high standard infrastructure, facilities, services and programs
- d) attractive housing policies - encourage population growth by improving the ease of transition for new residents
- e) public transport services - improve the mobility and accessibility of residents to lifestyle needs and choices.



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

**2 SERVICES, INITIATIVES AND SERVICE PERFORMANCE
INDICATORS (Continued)**

2.1 Strategic themes (continued)

2.1.2 Strategic theme 2 - Economic prosperity

Objective:

Support development of a prosperous and diverse economy

Key priorities:

- a) tourism - realise Loddon's tourism potential by supporting and promoting our natural, historical and cultural assets
- b) economic development - encourage economic development by providing support which facilitates business initiatives and growth
- c) water security - secure adequate water access to maintain the viability of diverse economic activities
- d) economic infrastructure - support the delivery of key public infrastructure that facilitates improved economic returns
- e) business capability - facilitate improvement in the business capabilities of Loddon traders and entrepreneurs.

2.1.3 Strategic theme 3 - Liveability

Objective:

Develop attractive, vibrant and well-serviced communities

Key priorities:

- a) township appearance - ensure our townships are presented to a high standard
- b) community engagement - build relationships and foster community engagement, pride and resilience
- c) lifestyle infrastructure - provide quality infrastructure which supports the desired lifestyles of our residents
- d) water security - secure adequate water access with supports lifestyle needs and recreational choices.

2.1.4 Strategic theme 4 - Sustainability

Objective:

Provide leadership which contributes to the sustainability of our region

Key priorities:

- a) economic sustainability - ensure the ongoing economic viability of Loddon Shire Council operations
- b) environmental sustainability - deliver adequate, efficient and sustainable environment and waste management services
- c) social sustainability - actively promote policies and activities which facilitate community health, harmony and engagement.



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

2 SERVICES, INITIATIVES AND SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (Continued)

2.1 Strategic themes (continued)

2.1.5 Strategic theme 5 - High performance organisation

Objective:

Implement frameworks which enable sound decision making and support a high performing and customer-focused organisation

Key priorities:

- a) financial management - practise responsible and sustainable financial behaviours
- b) quality customer service - improve communication with community and customers
- c) IT infrastructure - improve internal and external service delivery
- d) leadership and representation - deliver results in line with the direction of Council
- e) organisational development - develop the necessary culture and capabilities to achieve Council's strategic and operational objectives
- f) compliance and reporting - meet our legislative requirements and improve internal efficiencies.

2.2 Major initiatives

This section provides a description of the individual key activities and initiatives to be funded in the Budget for 2019/20.

2.2.1 Strategic theme 1

Key priority

Prepare a Settlement Strategy to promote a suitable supply of residential land in and around towns.

Major initiative

Provision of vacant land zones for residential development in and around towns.

2.2.2 Strategic theme 2

Key priority

Develop a comprehensive, cohesive and compelling story which positions and promotes Loddon Shire as "Victoria's natural playground".

Major initiatives

Complete a review of the Tourism Strategy.

2.2.2 Strategic theme 3

Key priority

Provide support to existing businesses to encourage take up of self-improvement activities.

Major initiative

Provide communication and training opportunities about available grants and tender processes.



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

**2 SERVICES, INITIATIVES AND SERVICE PERFORMANCE
INDICATORS (Continued)**

2.2 Major initiatives (continued)

2.2.4 Strategic theme 4

Key priority

Create better opportunities for the community to access council information, services and support.

Major initiative

Review the Communication and Community Engagement Policy.

2.3 Service performance outcome indicators

These service performance outcome indicators are those prescribed in accordance with the Regulations and are reported within Council's Performance Statement.

Indicator	Performance measure	Computation
Governance		
Satisfaction	Satisfaction with Council Decisions (Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed in making decisions in the interests of the community)	Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with the performance of Council in making decisions in the interest of the community
Statutory planning		
Decision making	Council planning decisions upheld at VCAT (Percentage of planning application decisions subject to review by VCAT and that were not set aside)	[Number of VCAT decisions that did not set aside Council's decision in relation to a planning application / Number of VCAT decisions in relation to planning applications] x100
Roads		
Satisfaction	Satisfaction with sealed local roads (Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed on the condition of sealed local roads)	Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed on the condition of sealed local roads
Libraries		
Participation	Active library members (Percentage of the municipal population that are active library members)	[Number of active library members / municipal population] x100



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

2 SERVICES, INITIATIVES AND SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (Continued)

2.3 Service performance outcome indicators

Indicator	Performance measure	Computation
Waste collection		
Waste diversion	Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill (Percentage of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins that is diverted from landfill)	[Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins] x100
Aquatic facilities		
Utilisation	Utilisation of aquatic facilities (The number of visits to aquatic facilities per head of municipal population)	Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Municipal population
Animal management		
Health and safety	Animal management prosecutions (Number of successful animal management prosecutions)	Number of successful animal management prosecutions
Food safety		
Health and safety	Critical and major non-compliance notifications (Percentage of critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications that are followed up by Council)	[Number of critical non-compliance notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises followed up / Number of critical non-compliance notifications and major non-compliance notifications about food premises] x100
Maternal and child health		
Participation	Participation in the MCH service (percentage of children enrolled who participate in the MCH service)	[Number of children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of children enrolled in the MCH service] x 100
Participation	Participation in MCH service by Aboriginal children (Percentage of Aboriginal children enrolled who participate in the MCH service)	[Number of Aboriginal children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of Aboriginal children enrolled in the MCH service] x100



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

2 SERVICES, INITIATIVES AND SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (Continued)

2.4 Services

Section 127(2)(b) and (c) of the Act required the budget to contain a description of the services funded in the budget. This is in further detail below:

Activity	Net cost of activity \$	Income \$	Expenditure \$
110. ECO DEV & TOURISM STRATEGIES	121,000	(35,000)	156,000
111. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	285,180	-	285,180
121. TOURISM	220,243	-	220,243
122. TOURISM INITIATIVES	85,333	-	85,333
123. CARAVAN PARKS	712,299	(380,777)	1,093,076
125. LODDON DIS TOURS	-	(23,511)	23,511
131. PROMOTIONAL INITIATIVES	10,000	-	10,000
132. INDUSTRIAL SITES	(4,778)	(13,825)	9,047
141. CONTRIBUTIONS	4,400	-	4,400
142. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	(11,219)	(19,706)	8,487
151. BUILDING CONTROL	28,942	(101,411)	130,353
161. COUNCIL RESIDENCES	13,570	(2,500)	16,070
181. STANDPIPES & TRUCKWASHES	(1,000)	(46,844)	45,844
191. ACQUISITION & DISPOSAL	(120,000)	(120,000)	-
211. COUNCILLOR COSTS	358,463	-	358,463
212. EXECUTIVE	890,628	-	890,628
221. LOCAL LAWS	71,651	(5,432)	77,083
230. DEVELOPMENT SERVICES	229,644	-	229,644
232. COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP	19,000	(50,000)	69,000
251. RECORDS MANAGEMENT	144,783	-	144,783
281. MUN EMERGENCY MAN	10,993	(6,786)	17,779
311. STAFF ONCOSTS	(90,687)	(1,555,981)	1,465,294
320. TECHNICAL SERVICES	1,053,027	(75,000)	1,128,027
321. PLANT OPERATING	(1,962,879)	(4,149,754)	2,186,875
322. FLEET	(315,731)	(504,000)	188,269
331. LOCAL ROADS MAINT	6,157,874	-	6,157,874
333. RESEALS	1,095,897	-	1,095,897
339. ROADS TO RECOVERY	(2,387,726)	(2,387,726)	-
340. WORKS DEPARTMENT	407,620	-	407,620
341. MAIN RDS ROUTINE PAVEMENT MAINT	(100,033)	(524,064)	424,031
349. LOCAL RD AMENITY PROGRAM	116,733	-	116,733
350. LOCAL RD SAFETY PROGRAM	127,345	-	127,345
351. LOCAL RD CONSTRUCTION	1,625,772	-	1,625,772
352. LOCAL RD GRAVEL RESHEETS	327,914	-	327,914
353. LOCAL RD SHOULDER SHEETS	371,421	-	371,421
354. LOCAL BRIDGES/CULVERTS	585,954	(445,500)	1,031,454
356. TOWNSHIP/STREETS IMP	261,057	-	261,057
371. URBAN DRAINAGE WORKS	350,000	-	350,000
381. GRAVEL PITS	(84,970)	(126,746)	41,776
383. DEPOTS	(4,593)	(140,425)	135,832
384. ROAD OPENINGS ETC	7,051	(10,007)	17,058



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

2 SERVICES, INITIATIVES AND SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (Continued)

2.4 Services (continued)

Activity	Net cost of activity \$	Income \$	Expenditure \$
385. TRAFFIC CONTROL	40,163	-	40,163
386. PRIVATE WORKS	(3,824)	(38,919)	35,095
391. ACQUISITION & DISPOSAL	1,036,230	(274,533)	1,310,763
410. GOOD MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES	400,000	-	400,000
411. RATES INCOME	(9,625,609)	(9,625,609)	-
421. VGC INCOME	(4,521,084)	(4,521,084)	-
431. INTEREST INCOME	(375,125)	(375,125)	-
432. OTHER INCOME	(12,622)	(18,070)	5,448
434. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	1,016,717	-	1,016,717
435. PRINTING & STATIONERY	29,625	-	29,625
436. ADMINISTRATION	619,452	(56,271)	675,723
437. INSURANCE	225,758	(10,965)	236,723
439. CUSTOMER SERVICE	159,042	-	159,042
440. FINANCE	647,627	-	647,627
441. CORPORATE SERVICES	499,253	-	499,253
442. OPERATIONS	298,978	-	298,978
443. OCC HEALTH & SAFETY	32,452	-	32,452
444. ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT	395,352	-	395,352
450. BUILDING RENEWAL	-	-	-
451. WEDDERBURN OFFICE	216,502	-	216,502
452. SERPENTINE OFFICE	40,952	(600)	41,552
453. BRIC	6,216	-	6,216
454. TELEPHONE CHARGES	44,542	-	44,542
461. RESERVE TRANSFERS	(5,195,108)	(7,812,974)	2,617,866
462. LONG SERVICE LEAVE PROV	272,134	-	272,134
471. SUBSCRIPTIONS, DONATIONS, & MEMBERSHIPS	67,525	-	67,525
491. ACQUISITION & DISPOSAL	368,028	-	368,028
510. ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIES	15,000	-	15,000
511. TIPS	646,863	(102,770)	749,633
512. GARBAGE COLLECTION	(569,918)	(1,401,666)	831,748
532. TOWN PLANNING	136,433	(71,750)	208,183
541. HERITAGE & CULTURE	4,000	-	4,000
561. FIRE PROTECTION	92,948	(16,331)	109,279
582. ENVIRONMENT	-	-	-
592. CONSTRUCTION/IMPROVE	250,000	(324,000)	574,000
610. COMM SERVICES & REC STRATEGIES	304,896	-	304,896
611. INFANT WELFARE CENTRES	93,756	(197,491)	291,247
614. PRE-SCHOOL MAINTENANCE	27,205	-	27,205
615. EDUCATION	84,376	(39,025)	123,401
616. BOORT PRE-SCHOOL	-	(148,955)	148,955
617. DINGEE PRE-SCHOOL	-	(139,627)	139,627
618. INGLEWOOD PRE-SCHOOL	-	(134,308)	134,308
619. WEDDERBURN PRE-SCHOOL	-	(115,113)	115,113



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

2 SERVICES, INITIATIVES AND SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (Continued)

2.4 Services (continued)

Activity	Net cost of activity \$	Income \$	Expenditure \$
620. DISABILITY ACCESS PROGRAMS	25,000	-	25,000
621. HEALTH CONTROL	92,140	(53,535)	145,675
622. PYRAMID HILL PRE-SCHOOL	-	(109,587)	109,587
623. OTHER HEALTH	5,000	-	5,000
624. MUNICIPAL PUBLIC HEALTH WELLBEING	500	(500)	1,000
625. OCCASIONAL CARE PROGRAM	(3,128)	(9,800)	6,672
631. HACC SERVICES	80,222	(987,493)	1,067,715
632. COMMUNITY SERVICES	219,120	(38,039)	257,159
633. SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRES	34,403	(62,801)	97,204
634. ELDERLY PERSONS UNITS	(16,523)	(65,309)	48,786
635. HACC ONCOSTS	3,491	(238,104)	241,595
636. EXTERNALLY BROKERED SERVICES	(32,222)	(318,500)	286,278
637. LSC PACKAGED CARE PROGRAM	-	-	-
641. RECREATION & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	474,040	-	474,040
642. RECREATION RESERVES	174,833	-	174,833
643. SWIMMING POOLS	515,785	-	515,785
644. BEACHES	48,861	-	48,861
645. TOWNSCAPE SERVICES	1,083,077	-	1,083,077
649. OTHER RECREATION	20,000	-	20,000
650. MAJOR EVENTS GRANTS	25,000	-	25,000
651. COMMUNITY GRANTS	200,000	-	200,000
652. REGIONAL LIBRARY	211,222	-	211,222
653. PUBLIC HALLS	49,784	-	49,784
655. YOUTH INITIATIVES	6,000	(53,000)	59,000
661. DOMESTIC ANIMALS	31,990	(46,819)	78,809
662. LIVESTOCK	52,835	(1,000)	53,835
670. COMMUNITY PLAN STRATEGY	500,000	-	500,000
671. BOORT COMMUNITY PLANS	50,000	-	50,000
676. WEDDERBURN COMMUNITY PLANS	50,000	-	50,000
677. INGLEWOOD COMMUNITY PLANS	50,000	-	50,000
678. TERRICK COMMUNITY PLANS	50,000	-	50,000
679. TARNAGULLA COMMUNITY PLANS	50,000	-	50,000
681. COMMUNITY PROTECTION	14,386	(10,781)	25,167
682. OTHER COMMUNITY	76,139	-	76,139
690. FUNDED COMMUNITY PROJECTS	150,000	(150,000)	300,000
691. ACQUISITION & DISPOSAL	15,000	-	15,000
692. CONSTRUCTION/IMPROVE	756,567	(2,814,670)	3,571,237
998. (SURPLUS)/DEFICIT C/F	(3,591,683)	(3,591,683)	-
Total	(149,248)	(44,701,802)	44,552,554



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

**2 SERVICES, INITIATIVES AND SERVICE PERFORMANCE
INDICATORS (Continued)**

2.5 Performance Statement

The service performance indicators details in the preceding pages will be reported on in the Performance Statement which is prepared at the end of the year as required by Section 132 of the Act and included in the 2018/19 Annual Report. The Performance Statement will also include reporting on prescribed indicators of financial performance (outlined in Section 5) and sustainable capacity, which are not included in this budget report. The prescribed performance indicators contained in the Performance Statement are audited each year by the Victorian Auditor General who issues an audit opinion on the Performance Statement. The major initiatives detailed in the preceding pages will be reported in the Annual Report in the form of a statement of progress in the Report of Operations.

2.6 Reconciliation with budgeted operating result

Activity	Net cost of activity \$	Income \$	Expenditure \$
Economic development and tourism	1,343,970	(743,574)	2,087,544
Leadership	1,725,162	(62,218)	1,787,380
Works and Infrastructure	8,613,615	(10,232,655)	18,846,270
Good management	(14,389,393)	(22,420,698)	8,031,305
Environment	575,326	(1,916,517)	2,491,843
Community services and recreation	5,573,755	(5,734,457)	11,308,212
Deficit before funding sources	3,442,435	(41,110,119)	44,552,554
Carried forward surplus	(3,591,683)	(3,591,683)	-
Total funding sources	(3,591,683)	(3,591,683)	-
Surplus for the year	(149,248)	(44,701,802)	44,552,554



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

3 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

This section presents information in regard to the Financial Statements and Statement of Human Resources. The budget information for the year 2019/20 has been supplemented with projections to 2022/23 extracted from the Strategic Resource Plan.

This section includes the following financial statements in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989 and the Local Government Model Financial Report:

- 3.1 Comprehensive Income Statement
- 3.2 Balance Sheet
- 3.3 Statement of Changes in Equity
- 3.4 Statement of Cash Flows
- 3.5 Statement of Capital Works
- 3.6 Statement of Human Resources
- 3.7 Statement of Reserves

Pending Accounting Standards

The 2019/20 Budget has been prepared based on the accounting standards applicable at the date of preparation. This means that pending accounting standards that will be in effect from the 2019/20 financial year have not been considered in the development of the budget.

Standards that are likely to impact on the 2019/20 financial statements, not considered in the preparation of the budget include:

- * *AASB 16 Leases*
- * *AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers, and*
- * *AASB 1058 Income for Not for Profit Entities.*

While it is not possible to determine the precise impact of these standards at this time, the broad impact on Council is estimated to be as follows:

* *AASB 16 Leases* - Introduces a single lessee accounting model whereby Council will be required to recognise a right of use asset and associated liability for leases longer than 12 months, except those considered to be of low value.

* *AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers and AASB 1058 Income for Not for Profit Entities* - Change the way that Councils recognise income and also addresses matters such as grant funding, contribution of assets and volunteer services. A key change is replacement for some transactions of the criteria of control as a determinant of the timing of income recognition, with the criteria of satisfying performance obligations in an enforceable agreement. These new standards have the potential to impact the timing of how Council recognises income.



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

3.1 COMPREHENSIVE INCOME STATEMENT
FOR THE FOUR YEARS ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	NOTES	Forecast	Budget	Strategic Resource Plan Projections		
		Actual 2018/19 \$	2019/20 \$	2020/21 \$	2021/22 \$	2022/23 \$
Income						
Rates and charges	4.1.1	10,750,845	11,027,275	11,211,028	11,463,022	11,721,449
Statutory fees and fines	4.1.2	264,304	241,877	182,654	187,126	183,420
User fees	4.1.3	1,506,226	1,594,127	1,590,683	1,629,627	1,597,356
Grants - operating	4.1.4	30,454,562	6,297,978	10,923,426	11,190,597	11,464,385
Grants - capital	4.1.4	5,107,671	5,841,828	2,350,089	2,093,422	2,146,756
Contributions - monetary	4.1.5	-	310,000	40,000	483,333	500,000
Reimbursements	4.1.6	374,983	295,833	304,766	312,385	320,196
Vic Roads	4.1.7	548,178	524,064	561,101	575,128	589,506
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		-	-	-	-	-
Other income	4.1.8	401,658	375,125	378,750	380,663	382,575
Total income		49,408,426	26,508,108	27,542,497	28,315,303	28,905,643
Expenses						
Employee costs	4.1.9	11,677,567	12,125,227	12,488,984	12,863,653	13,249,563
Materials and services	4.1.10	29,681,243	9,455,317	8,669,797	8,769,159	8,899,871
Bad and doubtful debts		-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation and amortisation	4.1.11	9,200,989	9,431,014	9,666,789	9,908,462	10,156,171
Borrowing costs		-	-	-	-	-
Other expenses	4.1.12	306,172	310,797	320,761	328,330	336,088
Total expenses		50,865,971	31,322,355	31,146,331	31,869,604	32,641,693
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		(1,457,545)	(4,814,247)	(3,603,834)	(3,554,301)	(3,736,050)
Other comprehensive income						
Other comprehensive income		-	-	-	-	-
Total comprehensive result		(1,457,545)	(4,814,247)	(3,603,834)	(3,554,301)	(3,736,050)



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

3 BUDGETED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

3.2 BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE FOUR YEARS ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	NOTES	Forecast	Budget	Strategic Resource Plan		
		Actual 2018/19 \$	2019/20 \$	2020/21 \$	2021/22 \$	2022/23 \$
Assets						
Current assets						
Cash and cash equivalents		19,656,604	10,911,513	8,610,593	6,007,816	4,539,038
Trade and other receivables		962,872	497,911	527,158	540,943	552,267
Other financial assets		1,979,130	1,979,130	1,979,130	1,979,130	1,979,130
Inventories		41,316	39,250	37,287	35,423	33,652
Non-current assets classified as held for sale		690,322	690,322	690,322	690,322	690,322
Total current assets	4.2.1	23,330,244	14,118,126	11,844,490	9,253,634	7,794,409
Non-current assets						
Trade and other receivables		2,400	1,200	-	-	-
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		352,310,918	366,401,705	376,273,184	386,830,804	396,401,828
Intangible assets		271,480	271,480	271,480	271,480	271,480
Total non-current assets	4.2.1	352,584,798	366,674,385	376,544,664	387,102,284	396,673,308
Total assets		375,915,042	380,792,511	388,389,154	396,355,918	404,467,717
Liabilities						
Current liabilities						
Trade and other payables		929,496	323,522	312,563	317,327	323,159
Trust funds and deposits		356,974	339,125	322,169	306,060	290,757
Provisions		2,329,124	2,261,090	2,188,439	2,113,611	2,036,536
Interest bearing loans and borrowings	4.2.4	-	-	-	-	-
Total current liabilities	4.2.2	3,615,594	2,923,737	2,823,171	2,736,998	2,650,452
Non-current liabilities						
Provisions		1,917,620	2,188,701	2,476,984	2,775,316	3,084,078
Interest bearing loans and borrowings	4.2.4	-	-	-	-	-
Total non-current liabilities	4.2.2	1,917,620	2,188,701	2,476,984	2,775,316	3,084,078
Total liabilities		5,533,214	5,112,438	5,300,155	5,512,314	5,734,530
NET ASSETS		370,381,828	375,680,073	383,088,999	390,843,604	398,733,187
Equity						
Accumulated surplus		99,154,345	99,057,341	95,207,942	91,919,485	88,019,363
Asset revaluation reserve		257,551,326	268,141,363	279,154,123	290,463,029	302,088,662
Other reserves		13,676,157	8,481,369	8,726,934	8,461,090	8,625,162
TOTAL EQUITY	4.2.4	370,381,828	375,680,073	383,088,999	390,843,604	398,733,187



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

3 BUDGETED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

3.3 STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE FOUR YEARS ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

2019 Forecast Actual	Total	Accumulated surplus	Revaluation reserve	Other reserves
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at beginning of the financial year	361,675,414	95,354,472	247,387,367	18,933,575
Surplus/ (deficit) for the year	(1,457,545)	(1,457,545)	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment / (decrement)	10,163,959	-	10,163,959	-
Transfer to other reserves	-	(10,206,085)	-	10,206,085
Transfer from other reserves	-	15,463,504	-	(15,463,504)
Balance at end of financial year	370,381,828	99,154,346	257,551,326	13,676,156

2020 Budget	Total	Accumulated surplus	Revaluation reserve	Other reserves
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at beginning of the financial year	370,381,828	99,154,345	257,551,326	13,676,157
Surplus/ (deficit) for the year	(4,814,247)	(4,814,247)	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment / (decrement)	10,590,037	-	10,590,037	-
Transfer to other reserves	-	(2,618,186)	-	2,618,186
Transfer from other reserves	-	7,812,973	-	(7,812,973)
Balance at end of financial year	376,157,618	99,534,885	268,141,363	8,481,370

2021 SRP	Total	Accumulated surplus	Revaluation reserve	Other reserves
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at beginning of the financial year	376,157,618	99,534,885	268,141,363	8,481,370
Surplus/ (deficit) for the year	(3,603,834)	(3,603,834)	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment / (decrement)	11,012,760	-	11,012,760	-
Transfer to other reserves	-	(2,229,224)	-	2,229,224
Transfer from other reserves	-	2,470,734	-	(2,470,734)
Balance at end of financial year	383,566,544	96,172,561	279,154,123	8,239,860

2022 SRP	Total	Accumulated surplus	Revaluation reserve	Other reserves
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at beginning of the financial year	383,566,544	96,172,561	279,154,123	8,239,860
Surplus/ (deficit) for the year	(3,554,301)	(3,554,301)	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment / (decrement)	11,308,906	-	11,308,906	-
Transfer to other reserves	-	(2,125,629)	-	2,125,629
Transfer from other reserves	-	1,798,628	-	(1,798,628)
Balance at end of financial year	391,321,149	92,291,260	290,463,029	8,566,861

2023 SRP	Total	Accumulated surplus	Revaluation reserve	Other reserves
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at beginning of the financial year	391,321,149	92,291,260	290,463,029	8,566,861
Surplus/ (deficit) for the year	(3,736,050)	(3,736,050)	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment / (decrement)	11,625,633	-	11,625,633	-
Transfer to other reserves	-	(2,046,311)	-	2,046,311
Transfer from other reserves	-	1,896,987	-	(1,896,987)
Balance at end of financial year	399,210,732	88,405,887	302,088,662	8,716,185



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

3 BUDGETED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

3.4 STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE FOUR YEARS ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	NOTES	Forecast	Budget	Strategic Resource Plan		
		Actual 2018/19 \$	2019/20 \$	Projections		
				2020/21 \$	2021/22 \$	2022/23 \$
Cash flows from operating activities						
Receipts						
Rates and charges		11,066,438	11,363,012	11,199,199	11,454,690	11,713,979
Statutory fees and fines		262,447	293,211	181,573	187,516	184,140
User fees		1,902,403	2,369,787	2,183,468	2,243,960	2,227,320
Grants - operating		31,063,653	6,423,938	11,141,895	11,414,409	11,693,673
Grants - capital		6,837,589	5,471,569	2,397,091	2,135,290	2,189,691
Contributions - monetary		-	316,200	40,800	493,000	510,000
Interest received		400,000	375,125	378,750	380,663	382,575
Trust funds and deposits taken		-	-	-	-	-
Other receipts		1,939,775	301,750	310,861	318,633	326,600
Net GST refund/payment		(236,628)	(182,686)	(103,642)	(108,614)	(111,162)
Operating receipts		53,235,677	26,731,906	27,729,995	28,519,547	29,116,816
Payments						
Employee costs		(11,677,491)	(11,922,180)	(12,273,352)	(12,640,150)	(13,017,876)
Materials and services		(29,872,676)	(10,295,607)	(8,895,538)	(8,981,759)	(9,114,765)
Trust funds and deposits repaid		(18,788)	(17,849)	(16,956)	(16,109)	(15,303)
Other payments		(306,172)	(310,797)	(320,761)	(328,330)	(336,088)
Operating payments		(41,875,127)	(22,546,433)	(21,506,607)	(21,966,348)	(22,484,032)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	4.4.1	11,360,550	4,185,473	6,223,388	6,553,199	6,632,784
Cash flows from investing activities						
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		(13,233,653)	(12,929,364)	(8,523,108)	(9,155,976)	(8,101,562)
Decrease in term deposits		17,791,312	-	-	-	-
Loans and advances made		-	-	-	-	-
Payments of loans and advances		76,200	(1,200)	(1,200)	-	-
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	4.4.2	4,633,859	(12,930,564)	(8,524,308)	(9,155,976)	(8,101,562)
Cash flows from financing activities						
Finance costs		-	-	-	-	-
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	4.4.3	-	-	-	-	-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		15,994,409	(8,745,091)	(2,300,920)	(2,602,777)	(1,468,778)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		3,662,195	19,656,604	10,911,513	8,610,593	6,007,816
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		19,656,604	10,911,513	8,610,593	6,007,816	4,539,038



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

3 BUDGETED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

**3.5 STATEMENT OF CAPITAL WORKS
 FOR THE FOUR YEARS ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

	NOTES	Forecast	Budget	Strategic Resource Plan		
		Actual 2018/19 \$	2019/20 \$	Projections		
				2020/21 \$	2021/22 \$	2022/23 \$
Capital works areas						
Carried forward works from previous years		-	4,983,686	-	-	-
Land and buildings		641,887	1,011,800	707,500	1,317,500	1,557,500
Office furniture and equipment		784,450	122,500	595,000	595,000	95,000
Plant and equipment		2,739,204	1,275,763	1,630,275	1,713,856	1,156,104
Footpaths		578,312	261,057	278,928	288,580	275,988
Roadworks		4,817,046	4,711,536	3,420,739	3,571,495	3,708,633
Urban and road drainage		1,027,220	350,000	380,000	520,000	350,000
Recreation, leisure and community facilities		2,293,275	417,500	340,000	-	-
Parks, open space and streetscapes		742,502	550,000	1,567,000	1,506,500	1,119,000
Other infrastructure		-	-	-	-	-
Total capital works	4.5.1	13,623,896	13,683,842	8,919,442	9,512,931	8,262,225
Represented by:						
New asset expenditure		3,528,654	2,464,585	2,320,275	2,963,856	1,311,104
Asset renewal expenditure		5,940,329	6,036,593	2,912,579	3,007,347	3,058,516
Asset expansion expenditure		825,572	3,891,164	1,467,000	1,406,500	1,019,000
Asset upgrade expenditure		3,329,341	1,291,500	2,219,588	2,135,228	2,873,605
Total capital works expenditure		13,623,896	13,683,842	8,919,442	9,512,931	8,262,225

	Forecast	Budget	Strategic Resource Plan		
	Actual 2018/19 \$	2019/20 \$	Projections		
			2020/21 \$	2021/22 \$	2022/23 \$
Expenditure type					
Labour	297,359	215,281	336,811	359,843	389,004
Oncost	172,994	116,255	200,868	214,906	232,295
Plant	479,675	417,350	592,558	631,132	681,215
Creditors	8,062,065	5,091,973	3,358,333	3,551,260	3,403,878
Contractors	4,611,803	7,842,983	4,430,872	4,755,790	3,555,833
Total capital works expenditure	13,623,896	13,683,842	8,919,442	9,512,931	8,262,225



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

3 BUDGETED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

3.6 STATEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
FOR THE FOUR YEARS ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	Forecast Actual 2018/19 \$	Budget 2019/20 \$	Strategic Resource Plan Projections		
			2020/21 \$	2021/22 \$	2022/23 \$
Staff expenditure					
Employee labour - operating	11,380,208	11,909,946	12,152,173	12,503,810	12,860,559
Employee labour - capital	297,359	215,281	336,811	359,843	389,004
Total staff expenditure*	11,677,567	12,125,227	12,488,984	12,863,653	13,249,563
Staff numbers EFT**	EFT	EFT	EFT	EFT	EFT
Employees	142.17	141.17	140.17	140.17	140.17
Total staff numbers EFT	142.17	141.17	140.17	140.17	140.17

* Excludes employee oncost

** Equivalent Full Time

A summary of human resources expenditure categories according to the organisation structure of Council is included below:

Department	Budget 2019/20	Permanent Full Time	Permanent Part Time
Staff cost			
Economic development and tourism	534,539	354,275	180,264
Leadership	364,986	309,502	55,484
Works and infrastructure	3,659,663	3,659,663	-
Good management	3,541,272	2,308,576	1,232,696
Environment	378,164	275,630	102,534
Community services and recreation	3,431,322	1,500,343	1,930,979
Total permanent staff expenditure	11,909,946	8,407,989	3,501,957
Casuals and other expenditure	-		
Capitalised labour costs	215,281		
Total expenditure	12,125,227		

A summary of the number of equivalent full time (EFT) Council staff in relation to the above expenditure is included below:

Department	Budget 2019/20	Permanent Full Time	Permanent Part Time
Staff EFT			
Economic development and tourism	5.05	3.00	2.05
Leadership	3.60	3.00	0.60
Works and infrastructure	42.00	42.00	0.00
Good management	34.15	20.00	14.15
Environment	4.26	3.00	1.26
Community services and recreation	48.11	16.00	32.11
Total permanent staff EFT	137.17	87.00	50.17
Casuals and other	0.00		
Capitalised labour	5.00		
Total EFT	142.17		



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

3 BUDGETED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

**3.7 STATEMENT OF RESERVES
 FOR THE FOUR YEARS ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

	NOTES	Forecast	Budget	Strategic Resource Plan		
		Actual 2018/19 \$	2019/20 \$	2020/21 \$	2021/22 \$	2022/23 \$
Discretionary						
Land and buildings reserve		54,624	209,624	279,624	79,624	159,624
Professional development reserve		6,564	14,564	22,564	30,564	38,564
Unspent grants reserve		5,123,346	602,262	602,261	602,261	602,261
Capital expenditure reserve		2,234,884	960,000	960,000	960,000	960,000
Information technology reserve		433,314	296,814	191,814	86,814	(18,186)
Valuations reserve		2,667	2,667	2,667	2,667	2,667
Units reserve		111,210	127,733	144,534	161,615	178,976
Economic development reserve		291,655	226,655	261,655	246,655	226,655
Skinner's flat reserve		15,565	15,565	15,565	15,565	15,565
Community planning reserve		1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Plant replacement reserve		1,140,736	1,178,283	931,414	955,504	1,093,133
Fleet replacement reserve		523,757	622,171	797,820	609,377	699,400
GSP restoration reserve		519,473	604,443	694,003	785,735	879,692
Urban drainage reserve		440,938	640,938	640,939	640,939	640,939
Landfill rehabilitation reserve		352,207	337,217	371,907	406,597	441,287
Lake Boort water reserve		34,525	34,525	34,525	34,525	34,525
Reserves improvement reserve		100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Caravan park development reserve		(39,720)	26,304	92,846	159,851	(12,736)
Superannuation liability reserve		797,616	898,808	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Unspent contributions reserve		-	-	-	-	-
War memorial reserve		3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Heritage loan scheme reserve		100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Major projects reserve		179,796	179,796	179,796	179,796	179,796
Unightly premises enforcement provision reserve		100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Swimming pool major projects reserve		150,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Total discretionary reserves	4.3.2	13,676,157	8,481,369	8,726,934	8,461,089	8,625,162



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

This section presents detailed information on material components of the financial statements.

4.1 Comprehensive income statement

4.1.1 Rates and charges

Rates and charges are required by the Act and Regulations to be disclosed in Council's annual budget.

In developing the Strategic Resource Plan, rates and charges were identified as an important source of revenue. Planning for future rate increases has therefore been an important component of the Strategic Resource Planning process. The State Government have introduced the *Fair Go Rates System (FGRS)* which sets out the maximum amount councils may increase rates in a year. For 2019/20 the FGRS cap has been set at 2.5%. The cap applies to general rates and municipal charges and is calculated on the basis of Council's average rates and charges.

The level of required rates and charges has been considered in this context, with reference to Council's other sources of income and the planned expenditure on services and works to be undertaken for the Victorian community.

To achieve these objectives while maintaining service levels and a strong capital expenditure program, the average general rate and the municipal charge will increase by 2.5% in line with the rate cap. The kerbside and recycling collection charges will also increase by 2.5% inline with similar expected expenditure increases in the cost of landfill operations and the continuation of Council's decision for this activity to remain cost neutral.

This will raise total rates and charges for 2019/20 of \$11.03 million.

4.1.1 (a) The reconciliation of the total rates and charges to the Comprehensive Income Statement is as follows:

	Forecast Actual 2018/19 \$	Budget 2019/20 \$	Change \$	Change %
General rates*	8,191,047	8,389,143	198,096	2.4%
Municipal charge*	1,199,791	1,236,466	36,675	3.1%
Garbage charge	1,002,700	1,030,560	27,860	2.8%
Kerbside recycling charge	357,307	371,106	13,799	3.9%
Total rates and charges	10,750,845	11,027,275	276,430	2.6%
Interest on rates and charges	25,000	25,125	125	0.5%

* These items are subject to the rate cap established under the FGRS.

4.1.1 (b) The rate in the dollar to be levied as general rates under Section 158 of the Act for each type or class of land compared with the previous financial year

Type or class of land	2018/19 cents/\$CIV	2019/20 cents/\$CIV	Change
General	0.4283	0.4704	9.8%
Rural	0.3813	0.3585	-6.0%



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

4.1 Comprehensive income statement (continued)

4.1.1 (c) The estimated total amount to be raised by general rates in relation to each type or class of land, and the estimated total amount to be raised by general rates, compared with the previous financial year

Type or class of land	2018/19 \$	2019/20 \$	Change
General	2,409,093	2,416,997	0.3%
Rural	5,763,589	5,972,146	3.6%
Total amount to be raised by rates	8,172,682	8,389,143	2.6%

4.1.1 (d) The number of assessments in relation to each type or class of land, and the total number of assessments, compared with the previous financial year

Type or class of land	2018/19 number	2019/20 number	Change
General	4,194	4,230	0.9%
Rural	3,575	3,584	0.3%
Total number of assessments	7,769	7,814	0.6%

4.1.1 (e) The basis of valuation is the Capital Improved Value (CIV).

4.1.1 (f) The estimated total value of each type or class of land, and the estimated total value of land, compared with the previous financial year

Type or class of land	2018/19 \$	2019/20 \$	Change
General	562,510,600	593,221,700	5.5%
Rural	1,511,709,700	1,665,668,700	10.2%
Total value of land	2,074,220,300	2,258,890,400	8.9%

4.1.1 (g) The municipal charge under Section 159 of the Act compared with the previous financial year

Type of charge	Per rateable property 2018/19 \$	Per rateable property 2019/20 \$	Change
Municipal	212	217	2.4%

4.1.1 (h) The estimated total amount to be raised by municipal charges compared with the previous financial year

Type of charge	2018/19 \$	2019/20 \$	Change
Municipal	1,196,740	1,236,466	3.3%



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

4.1 Comprehensive income statement (continued)

4.1.1 (i) The rate or unit amount to be levied for each type or service rate or charge under Section 162 of the Act compared with the previous financial year

Type of charge	Per rateable property 2018/19 \$	Per rateable property 2019/20 \$	Change
Garbage collection 140 litre	273	280	2.6%
Garbage collection 240 litre	370	380	2.7%
Kerbside recycling 240 litre	103	106	2.9%

4.1.1 (j) The estimated total amount to be raised by each type of service rate or charge, and the estimated total amount to be raised by service rates and charges, compared with the previous financial year

Type of charge	2018/19 \$	2019/20 \$	Change
Garbage charge	996,397	1,030,560	3.4%
Kerbside recycling charge	357,307	371,106	3.9%
Total	1,353,704	1,401,666	3.5%

4.1.1 (k) The estimated total amount to be raised by all rates and charges compared with the previous financial year

	2018/19 \$	2019/20 \$	Change
General rates	8,172,682	8,389,143	2.6%
Municipal charge	1,196,740	1,236,466	3.3%
Garbage and kerbside recycling charge	1,353,704	1,401,666	3.5%
Total rates and charges	10,723,126	11,027,275	2.8%

4.1.1 (l) Fair Go Rates System Compliance

Loddon Shire Council is fully compliant with the State Government's Fair Go Rates System.

	2018/19 \$	2019/20 \$
Total rates base	9,163,249	9,390,838
Number of rateable properties	7,769	7,814
Base average rate	1,179.46	1,201.80
Maximum rate increase (set by State Government)	2.25%	2.50%
Capped average rate	1,206.00	1,231.84
Maximum general rates and municipal charges revenue	9,369,422	9,625,609
Budgeted general rates and municipal charges revenue	9,369,422	9,625,609

4.1.1 (m) Any significant changes that may affect the estimated amounts to be raised by rates and charges

There are no known significant changes which may affect the estimated amounts to be raised by rates and charges. However, the total amount to be raised by rates and charges may be affected by:

- the making of supplementary valuations
- the variation of returned levels of value (e.g. valuation objections)
- changes in use of land such that rateable land becomes non-rateable land and vice versa
- changes in use of land such that general rateable land becomes rural rateable land and vice versa.



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

4.1 Comprehensive income statement (continued)

4.1.1 (n) Differential rates

The existing rating structure comprises one differential rate (rural properties) and a rate for general properties (residential and commercial). These rates are structured in accordance with the requirements of Section 161 "Differential Rates" of the Local Government Act.

The rate and amount of rates payable in relation to land in each category of differential are:

- a general rate of 0.4074 cents in the dollar of CIV for all rateable general properties
- a rural rate of 0.3585 cents in the dollar of CIV for all rateable rural properties.

Each differential rate will be determined by multiplying the Capital Improved Value of the rateable land by the relevant cents in the dollar indicated above.

For the 2019/20 Budget, Council has defined a differential rate split of 12%, with rural rates having a rate in the dollar of 88% of the general rate. Council considers this as a fair allocation of rates across property types.

Under the Cultural and Recreation Lands Act 1963, provision is made for a Council to grant a rating concession to any "recreational lands" which meet the test of being "rateable land" under the Local Government Act 1989. Council has exempted all rateable recreation land from the payment of rates.

4.1.2 Statutory fees and fines

	Forecast Actual 2018/19 \$	Budget 2019/20 \$	Change \$	Change %
Building services	97,157	99,411	2,254	2.3%
Health Act	46,454	47,615	1,161	2.5%
Local laws	37,591	7,226	(30,366)	-80.8%
Other	13,101	15,875	2,774	21.2%
Town planning fees	70,000	71,750	1,750	2.5%
Total statutory fees and fines	264,304	241,877	(22,426)	-8.5%

Statutory fees relate mainly to fees and fines levied in accordance with legislation and include Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 registrations, Planning and Environment Act 1987 registrations, Building Act 1993 registrations, the Country Fire Authority Act 1958 registrations, and Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Act 1994 registrations. Increases in statutory fees are made in accordance with legislative requirements.

Statutory fees are forecast to decrease by 8.5% or \$22K compared to 2018/19.



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

4.1 Comprehensive income statement (continued)

4.1.3 User fees

	Forecast Actual 2018/19 \$	Budget 2019/20 \$	Change \$	Change %
Aged services fees	483,332	532,344	49,012	10.1%
Animal management	47,427	46,025	(1,402)	-3.0%
Building services	2,000	2,000	-	0.0%
Caravan park fees	371,490	380,777	9,287	2.5%
Emergency service	12,635	6,786	(5,849)	-46.3%
Gravel pit fees	60,000	126,746	66,746	111.2%
Other	33,372	22,432	(10,940)	-32.8%
Pre-schools	135,013	191,371	56,358	41.7%
Private works	121,886	48,926	(72,960)	-59.9%
Rental income	106,709	100,865	(5,844)	-5.5%
Standpipes and truckwashes	45,037	46,844	1,807	4.0%
Tips and recycling fees	62,187	65,500	3,313	5.3%
Tourism	25,138	23,511	(1,627)	-6.5%
Total user fees	1,506,226	1,594,127	87,901	5.8%

User charges relate mainly to the recovery of service delivery costs through the charging of fees to users of Council's services. These include home and community care services, caravan park fees, gravel pit fees and royalties, Loddon Discovery Tour fees, rental from Council owned properties, and private works. A detailed listing of statutory fees and Council charges is available on Council's web site and can also be inspected at Council's customer service centre. In setting the budget, the key principle for determining the level of user charges has been to ensure that increases do not exceed CPI increases or market levels. Council has many varied sources of user charges.

User charges are projected to increase by 5.8% or \$88K from 2018/19. The main reductions include private works of \$73K and emergency service fees of \$6K. The main increases include gravel pit fees of \$67K and aged services fees of \$49K. Overall amongst other areas, Council plans to increase user charges for all areas by 2.5% in line with expected inflationary trends over the budget period to maintain parity between user charges and the costs of service delivery.

4.1.4 Grants

Grants are required by the Act and Regulations to be disclosed in Council's budget.

	Forecast Actual 2018/19 \$	Budget 2019/20 \$	Change \$	Change %
Grants were received in respect of the following:				
Summary of grants				
Commonwealth funded grants	30,823,370	6,908,810	(23,914,560)	-77.6%
State funded grants	4,738,863	5,230,996	492,133	10.4%
Total grants received	35,562,233	12,139,806	(23,422,427)	-65.9%



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

4.1 Comprehensive income statement (continued)

4.1.4 Grants (Continued)

	Forecast Actual 2018/19 \$	Budget 2019/20 \$	Change \$	Change %
(a) Operating grants				
Recurrent - Commonwealth Government				
Victoria Grants Commission - local roads	3,694,940	1,873,381	(1,821,559)	-49.3%
Victoria Grants Commission - general	5,340,910	2,647,703	(2,693,207)	-50.4%
Flood recovery	19,034,639	-	(19,034,639)	-100.0%
Recurrent - State Government				
Aged services	899,914	874,489	(25,425)	-2.8%
Community safety	15,425	15,811	386	2.5%
Environment management	150,000	-	(150,000)	-100.0%
Fire protection	5,000	5,000	-	100.0%
Fire Services Property Levy	42,655	43,721	1,066	2.5%
Maternal and child health	137,039	197,491	60,452	44.1%
Pre-schools	537,813	505,044	(32,769)	-6.1%
Tips / landfills	7,159	7,338	179	2.5%
Youth initiatives	53,000	53,000	-	0.0%
Total recurrent grants	29,918,494	6,222,978	- 23,695,516	-79.2%
Non-recurrent State Government				
Community safety	62,440	-	(62,440)	-100.0%
Environment management	49,570	75,000	25,430	51.3%
Flood mitigation	29,750	-	(29,750)	-100.0%
Halls, sports and community centres	12,000	-	(12,000)	-100.0%
Maternal and child health	20,000	-	(20,000)	-100.0%
Parks and streetscapes	109,040	-	(109,040)	-100.0%
Strategies and plans	78,000	-	(78,000)	-100.0%
Tourism	50,000	-	(50,000)	-100.0%
Valuations	30,209	-	(30,209)	-100.0%
Waterways	95,058	-	(95,058)	-100.0%
Total non-recurrent grants	536,067	75,000	(461,067)	-86.0%
Total operating grants	30,454,562	6,297,978	- 24,156,584	-79.3%



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

4.1 Comprehensive income statement (continued)

4.1.4 Grants (Continued)

	Forecast Actual 2018/19 \$	Budget 2019/20 \$	Change \$	Change %
(b) Capital grants				
Recurrent - Commonwealth Government				
Roads to Recovery	2,752,881	2,387,726	(365,155)	-13.3%
Recurrent - State Government				
Nil	-	-	-	0.0%
Total - recurrent capital grants	2,752,881	2,387,726	(365,155)	-13.3%
Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government				
Nil	-	-	-	0.0%
Non-recurrent - State Government				
Caravan parks	611,809	-	(611,809)	100.0%
Community facilities	140,000	2,504,670	2,364,670	100.0%
Flood mitigation	166,333	324,000	157,667	94.8%
Road projects	1,227,000	445,500	(781,500)	-63.7%
Streetscape projects	30,000	-	(30,000)	-100.0%
Swimming pools	59,920	-	(59,920)	-100.0%
Tips / landfills	119,728	29,932	(89,796)	-75.0%
Waterways	-	150,000	150,000	0.0%
Total - non-recurrent capital grants	2,354,790	3,454,102	1,099,312	46.7%
Total - capital grants	5,107,671	5,841,828	734,157	14.4%

Operating Grants include all monies received from State and Federal sources for the purposes of funding the delivery of Council's services to ratepayers.

Capital Grants include all monies received from State and Federal sources for the purposes of funding the capital works program.

4.1.5 Contributions

	Forecast Actual 2018/19 \$	Budget 2019/20 \$	Change \$	Change %
Monetary	-	310,000	310,000	100.0%
Non-monetary	-	-	-	0.0%
Total contributions	-	310,000	310,000	100.0%

Contributions relate to monies paid by community groups and external parties towards capital and recurrent related projects.

Contributions are budgeted to increase by \$310K from 2018/19 to 2019/20.



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

4.1 Comprehensive income statement (continued)

4.1.6 Reimbursements

	Forecast Actual 2018/19 \$	Budget 2019/20 \$	Change \$	Change %
Fuel rebate	137,000	140,425	3,425	2.5%
Insurance claims	66,667	68,334	1,667	2.5%
Other	46,852	7,074	(39,778)	-84.9%
Staff reimbursement	94,463	50,000	(44,463)	-47.1%
Workcover	30,000	30,000	-	0.0%
Total reimbursements	374,983	295,833	(79,150)	-21.1%

Reimbursements include diesel fuel rebates from the Taxation Office, insurance rebates, Workcover reimbursements, and training reimbursements. Reimbursements are projected to decrease by \$80K to just under \$0.3 million in 2019/20.

4.1.7 Vic Roads

	Forecast Actual 2018/19 \$	Budget 2019/20 \$	Change \$	Change %
Routine maintenance	477,444	489,064	11,620	2.4%
Approved maintenance	47,480	20,000	(27,480)	-57.9%
Provisional sum items	23,254	15,000	(8,254)	-35.5%
Total Vic Roads	548,178	524,064	(24,114)	-4.4%

Council's contract with Vic Roads includes an "as of right" amount for routine maintenance works. Income from Vic Roads is projected to decrease by 4.4% or \$24K in 2019/20 in line with expected works requires for this income source. This will be offset by a decrease in expenditure in this area.

4.1.8 Other income

	Forecast Actual 2018/19 \$	Budget 2019/20 \$	Change \$	Change %
Interest	375,000	350,000	(25,000)	-6.7%
Reversal of impairment losses	1,658	-	(1,658)	-100.0%
Total other income	376,658	350,000	(26,658)	-7.1%

Other income relates to a range of items such as interest revenue on investments and rate arrears.

Other income is forecast to decrease by 7.1% or \$27K compared to 2018/19. This is mainly due to a forecast reduction in Council's available cash reserves during 2019/20 to fund major infrastructure projects.



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

4.1 Comprehensive income statement (continued)

4.1.9 Employee costs

	Forecast Actual 2018/19 \$	Budget 2019/20 \$	Change \$	Change %
Wages and salaries	10,375,591	10,796,480	420,889	4.1%
Workcover	162,326	175,785	13,459	8.3%
Superannuation	1,032,850	1,043,592	10,742	1.0%
Fringe benefits tax	106,800	109,370	2,570	2.4%
Total employee costs	11,677,567	12,125,227	447,660	3.8%

Employee costs include all labour related expenditure such as wages and salaries and on-costs such as allowances, leave entitlements, employee superannuation, rostered days off, Workcover premium and Fringe Benefits Tax for all salaries and wages. Salaries and wages that relate to capital works are not included in operating expenditure but is included in the tables below for full transparency.

Employee costs are projected to increase by approximately 3.8% or \$448K from 2018/19 to 2019/20.

4.1.10 Materials, services and contracts

	Forecast Actual 2018/19 \$	Budget 2019/20 \$	Change \$	Change %
Aged services	297,156	220,365	(76,790)	-25.8%
Animal management	18,172	18,626	454	2.5%
Building control	11,512	11,800	288	2.5%
Building maintenance	291,293	181,221	(110,071)	-37.8%
Caravan parks	355,607	301,536	(54,071)	-15.2%
Commercial and rental properties	61,887	65,692	3,805	6.1%
Community support	546,420	428,013	(118,408)	-21.7%
Disability access	116,396	25,000	(91,396)	-78.5%
Early years	453,251	140,575	(312,676)	-69.0%
Economic development and tourism	299,131	269,333	(29,798)	-10.0%
Emergency management	18,717,133	11,531	(18,705,602)	-99.9%
Environment	250,868	14,500	(236,368)	-94.2%
Fire prevention	65,505	58,688	(6,818)	-10.4%
Governance and administration	757,600	730,014	(27,586)	-3.6%
Gravel pits	26,360	26,887	527	2.0%
Halls and community centres	254,983	55,558	(199,425)	-78.2%
Health control	24,860	25,482	622	2.5%
Heritage and culture	39,825	4,000	(35,825)	-90.0%
Information systems	567,853	610,815	42,962	7.6%
Library	206,070	211,222	5,152	2.5%
Local laws	7,025	7,201	176	2.5%
Parks and streetscapes	587,666	527,890	(59,776)	-10.2%
Planning services	16,100	16,503	403	2.5%
Plant operating	1,325,266	1,876,027	550,762	41.6%
Recreation support	195,012	147,488	(47,524)	-24.4%
Road maintenance	388,992	588,600	199,608	51.3%
Sporting reserves	273,993	2,000	(271,993)	-99.3%
Staff costs	293,759	287,837	(5,922)	-2.0%
Standpipes	39,924	41,611	1,687	4.2%



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

4.1 Comprehensive income statement (continued)

4.1.10 Materials, services and contracts (continued)

	Forecast Actual 2018/19 \$	Budget 2019/20 \$	Change \$	Change %
Strategies and plans	790,225	282,909	(507,316)	-64.2%
Street lighting	63,251	190,163	126,912	200.6%
Swimming pools	461,882	447,261	(14,621)	-3.2%
Tips / transfer stations	559,520	455,125	(104,395)	-18.7%
Valuations	205,497	181,794	(23,703)	-11.5%
Waste collection	766,261	785,114	18,853	2.5%
Waterways	198,438	62,725	(135,713)	-68.4%
Workshop and depots	69,943	85,213	15,270	21.8%
Youth initiatives	76,607	59,000	(17,607)	-23.0%
Total materials, services and contracts	29,681,243	9,455,317	(20,225,926)	-68.1%

Materials, services and contracts include the purchase of consumables, payments to contractors for the provision of services and utility costs. Materials, services and contracts are forecast to decrease by 68.1% or \$20.2 million compared to 2018/19. They relate to operating expenditure only, **and do not include the purchase of goods, services, or consumables, or payments to contractors for capital works projects.**

The decrease is largely due to the completion of the flood restoration program, resulting in a reduction of \$18.71M from 2018/19.

4.1.11 Depreciation and amortisation

	Forecast Actual 2018/19 \$	Budget 2019/20 \$	Change \$	Change %
Roads	5,025,456	5,151,092	125,636	2.5%
Buildings	1,780,134	1,824,637	44,503	2.5%
Plant and equipment	1,234,310	1,265,168	30,858	2.5%
Bridges	333,549	341,888	8,339	2.5%
Urban drains	229,280	235,012	5,732	2.5%
Furniture and equipment	106,918	109,591	2,673	2.5%
Footpaths	181,030	185,556	4,526	2.5%
Kerb and channel	117,801	120,746	2,945	2.5%
Landfills	160,377	164,386	4,009	2.5%
Street furniture	29,758	30,502	744	2.5%
Quarries	2,376	2,435	59	2.5%
Total depreciation and amortisation	9,200,989	9,431,014	230,025	2.5%

Depreciation is an accounting measure which attempts to allocate the value of an asset over its useful life for Council's property, plant and equipment including infrastructure assets such as roads and drains. The increase of 2.5% or \$230K for 2019/20 is due mainly to the completion of the 2018/19 capital works program and the full year effect of depreciation on the 2019/20 program.



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

4.1 Comprehensive income statement (continued)

4.1.12 Other expenses

	Forecast Actual 2018/19 \$	Budget 2019/20 \$	Change \$	Change %
Councillors' emoluments	221,089	226,166	5,077	2.3%
Internal audit remuneration	42,029	40,500	(1,529)	-3.6%
External audit remuneration	43,054	44,131	1,077	2.5%
Impairment of interest free loans	-	-	-	0.0%
Total other expenses	306,172	310,797	4,625	1.5%

Other expenses include councillors' costs, auditors' remuneration and other minor expenses.

Other expenses are forecast to increase by 1.5% or \$5K compared to 2018/19.

4.1.13 Adjusted underlying surplus

This section analyses the operating budget including expected income and expenses of the Council for the 2019/20 year.

Details	Ref	Forecast 2018/19 \$	Budget 2019/20 \$	Variance \$
Total income		49,408,426	26,508,108	- 22,900,319
Total expenditure		(50,865,971)	(31,322,355)	19,543,616
Surplus (deficit) for the year		(1,457,545)	(4,814,247)	- 3,356,702
Grants - capital non-recurrent	4.1.4	2,354,790	3,454,102	1,099,312
Capital contributions	4.1.5	-	310,000	310,000
Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit)		897,245	(1,050,145)	- 1,947,390

The adjusted underlying result is the net surplus or deficit for the year adjusted for non-recurrent capital grants, non-monetary asset contributions and capital contributions from other sources. It is a measure of financial sustainability and Council's ability to achieve its service delivery objectives as it is not impacted by capital income items which can often mask the operating result. The underlying result for the 2019/20 year is a surplus of \$1.05 million which is a decrease of \$1.95 million from the 2018/19 year. In calculating the adjusted underlying result, Council has excluded grants received for capital purposes which are non-recurrent and capital contributions from other sources. Contributions of non-monetary assets are excluded as the value of assets assumed by Council is dependent on the level of development activity each year.



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

4.2 Balance sheet

4.2.1 Assets

Cash and cash equivalents include cash and investments such as cash held in the bank and in petty cash and the value of investments in deposits or other highly liquid investments with short term maturities of three months or less. These balances are projected to decrease by \$8.7 million during the year mainly due to the expectation to have most capital projects complete by 30 June and the 50% prepayment of the grants commission return in 2018/19.

Trade and other receivables are monies owed to Council by ratepayers and others. Short term debtors are not expected to change significantly in the budget. Long term debtors (non-current) relating to loans to community organisations will decrease slightly in accordance with agreed repayment terms.

Other assets includes items such as prepayments for expenses that Council has paid in advance of service delivery, inventories or stocks held for sale or consumption in Council's services and other revenues due to be received in the next 12 months.

Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment is the largest component of Council's worth and represents the value of all land, buildings, roads, vehicles, equipment, etc. which has been built up by Council over many years. The \$14.09 million increase in this balance is attributable to the net result of the capital works program (\$13.62 million in 2018/19 and \$13.68 million in 2019/20), depreciation of assets (\$9.20 million in 2018/19 and \$9.43 million in 2019/20) and the income through sale of property, plant and equipment.

Investments in associates and joint ventures represents Council's equity in the North Central Regional Goldfields Library. The change in equity has been inconsistent in the past with some years increasing and other years decreasing, so for budgeting purposes, the equity has not been changed. Non-current assets held for resale is land and/or buildings that Council can confidently state will be sold within a short period of time.

4.2.2 Liabilities

Trade and other payables are those to whom Council owes money as at 30 June. These liabilities are budgeted to reduce by \$0.61 million in 2019/20 levels due to a reduction in material and services costs incurred in 2018/19 for flood restoration projects.

Employee benefits include accrued long service leave, annual leave and rostered days off owing to employees. These employee entitlements are expected to decrease by \$0.07 million (current liability) and increase by \$0.27 million (non current liability) due to increases in employee service years.

4.2.3 Equity

Total equity always equals net assets and is made up of the following components:

- asset revaluation reserve which represents the difference between the previously recorded value of assets and their current valuations
- other reserves that are funds that Council wishes to separately identify as being set aside to meet a specific purpose in the future and to which there is no existing liability. These amounts are transferred from the accumulated surplus of the Council to be separately disclosed
- accumulated surplus which is the value of all net assets less reserves that have accumulated over time. \$0.97 million is the decrease in accumulated surplus results directly from the surplus for the year. This is offset by an amount of \$5.19 million net is budgeted to be transferred to and from other reserves to accumulated surplus. This reflects the usage of Council's reserves to partly fund the capital works program and other specified projects. This is a transfer between equity balances and does no impact on the total balance of equity.



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

4.2 Balance sheet (continued)

4.2.4 Borrowings

The table below shows information on borrowings specifically required by the Regulations.

	Forecast Actual 2018/19 \$	Budget 2019/20 \$
Total amount borrowed as at 30 June of the prior year	-	-
Total amount to be borrowed	-	-
Total amount projected to be redeemed	-	-
Total amount proposed to be borrowed as at 30 June	-	-

In developing the Strategic Resource Plan (SRP) borrowings may be identified as an important funding source for capital works programs. In the past Council has borrowed to finance large projects and since then has been in a phase of debt reduction. This has resulted in a reduction in debt servicing costs, but has meant that cash and investment reserves have been used as an alternate funding source to maintain robust capital works programs.

In general, Council has adopted a policy to remain debt free except for situations where funding was required to deliver significant capital projects. The Council has elected to not borrow any further funds at this time.

In 2015/16 final loan payments were made which finalises all of Council's borrowings.

For the 2019/20 year, Council has decided not to take out any new borrowings to fund the capital works program.



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

4.3 Statement of changes in equity

4.3.1 Reserves

Council undertakes reserves budgeting in order to provide for future expenditure while reducing the impact of purchases on the current year budget.

The following reserves are currently in use by Council:

Land and buildings reserve

The Land and Buildings Reserve is used to fund the acquisition of land and buildings. Funds received from the sale of Council owned land and buildings are transferred to the reserve.

Professional development reserve

The Professional Development Reserve is used to fund professional development undertaken by executive officers of Council. An annual allocation is provided to each officer and that amount is transferred to the reserve annually, while the cost of professional development undertaken during the year is transferred from the reserve.

Unspent grants reserve

The Unspent Grants Reserve has been established for situations where Council has received funding via an external party and those funds remain unspent at the end of the financial year.

Capital expenditure reserve

The Capital Expenditure Reserve is used to set aside funds that have been budgeted for capital works projects in one financial year but will not be fully expended by the end of that year. The funds will be transferred to the reserve in the budget year, and transferred from the reserve in the following financial year, or in the year that the funds are expended for the specific project.

Information technology reserve

The Information Technology Reserve is used to set aside monies for the purchase of information technology assets. The reserve outlines the annual cost of information technology for Council and the amounts required to be set aside in reserve for future asset purchases.

Valuations reserve

The Valuations Reserve is used to fund the cost of Council's bi-annual valuations for rating purposes. Council transfers from the reserve the net cost of valuations and transfers to the reserve an annual allocation to ensure the reserve remains high enough to fund future revaluations.

Units reserve

The Units Reserve is used to fund the purchase or improvement of Council owned elderly persons' units. The surplus generated from rental income is transferred to the reserve annually. The cost of major improvements is transferred from the reserve annually.

Economic development reserve

The Economic Development Reserve is used to set aside funds to assist with economic development initiatives that Council wishes to financially support. Council transfers to the reserve a set amount determined during the budget process and transfers from the reserve the cost of economic development initiatives within the year.

Skidders Flat water reserve

The Skidders Flat Water Reserve is used to fund major repairs and capital works at the Skidders Flat Water Supply. The surplus on operations of the water supply is transferred to reserve annually and the cost of major repairs and capital works is transferred from the reserve.



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

4.3 Statement of changes in equity (continued)

4.3.1 Reserves (continued)

Community planning reserve

The Community Planning Reserve has been established for situations where projects are budgeted in one year but for various reasons are unable to be delivered and are therefore deferred until the following year.

Plant replacement reserve

The Plant Replacement Reserve is used to fund plant purchases. Council transfers to the reserve a fixed amount annually and transfers from the reserve the net cost of plant purchases for the year.

Fleet replacement reserve

The Fleet Replacement Reserve is used to fund the replacement of office vehicles. Council transfers to the reserve a fixed amount annually and transfers from the reserve the net cost of fleet purchases for the year.

GSP reserve

The Gravel and Sand Pit (GSP) Reserve is used to fund land purchase, development and restoration of gravel and sand pits used by Council for the extraction of gravel. The budgeted surplus on operations of the pits is transferred to the reserve annually and the cost of purchasing new sites, development and restoration of the pits is transferred from the reserve.

Urban drainage reserve

The Urban Drainage Reserve is used to fund urban drainage works in the towns within the Shire. Council transfers to the reserve annually a budgeted amount, and transfers from the reserve the cost of urban drainage works for the year.

Waste management reserve

The Waste Management Reserve has been established to assist with the cost of strategic projects, compliance and long term planning for Council's landfills and transfer stations. Council transfers to the reserve annually \$10 per kerbside collection levy (or a pro-rata amount for a pro-rata collection). Council transfers from the reserve the cost of strategic projects, compliance and long term planning within Council landfills and transfer stations.

Reserves improvement reserve

The Reserves Improvement Reserve is an allocation of funds used to provide interest free loans to community groups. Usually there are no transfers to or from this reserve.

Lake Boort water reserve

The Lake Boort Water Reserve was established with funds generated from sale of water allocations not required for immediate use in Little Lake Boort. The reserve is used to purchase replacement water at an appropriate time, or may be used for other purposes specific to Lake Boort.

Caravan park development reserve

The Caravan Park Development Reserve has been established to assist with funding major projects at Council's caravan parks. Council transfers to the reserve annually the surplus on operations of its caravan parks, and transfers from the reserve the cost of major projects undertaken at Council's caravan parks during the year.

Unfunded superannuation liability reserve

The Unfunded Superannuation Liability Reserve is used to repay any potential unfunded superannuation liability arising from the LAS Defined Benefits Plan Scheme. Council transfers to the reserve amounts allocated in the budget, and transfers from the reserve payments made to Vision Super Pty. Ltd. for the unfunded superannuation liability.



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

4.3 Statement of changes in equity (continued)

4.3.1 Reserves (continued)

Unspent contributions reserve

The Unspent Contributions Reserve is used to set aside contributions received for a specific purpose in one financial year that will not be expended until a later financial year. The funds will be transferred to the reserve in the year the funds are received, and transferred from the reserve in the year that the funds are expended for that purpose.

War memorial reserve

The War Memorial Reserve is used to fund the cost of maintaining and renewing war memorials across the Shire. Council transfers funds to the reserve as required and transfers the cost of works to war memorials from reserve.

Heritage loan scheme reserve

The Heritage Loan Scheme Reserve is used to provide land owners of properties located in significant heritage precincts, heritage registered buildings or structures of local heritage significance, with loans to enable repair and maintenance of those buildings with the aims of quality appearance and public safety.

Major projects reserve

The Major Projects Reserve is used to assist with the funding of major projects identified by Council. Council transfers funds to the reserve annually an amount determined during the budget process as sufficient to fund the major projects program and transfers the funds required to finance major works undertaken at Council's discretion.

Unightly premises enforcement provision reserve

The Unightly Premises Enforcement Provision Reserve is used to provide funds to assist with the enforcement and rectification works on determined unightly premises with costs recouped via legal or other action.

Swimming pool major projects reserve

The Swimming Pool Major Projects Reserve is used to fund unplanned major repairs and capital works at the various swimming pool sites across the Shire.



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

4.3 Statement of changes in equity (continued)

4.3.2 Transfers to and from reserves

The following is a summary of the projected reserves position for the year ended 30 June 2019:

2018/19 reserves - as per projected forecast				
Name of reserve	Balance at 1 July 2018 \$	Transfers to reserves \$	Transfers from reserves \$	Balance at 30 June 2019 \$
Land and buildings reserve	632,946	200,000	778,322	54,624
Professional development reserve	(1,436)	8,000	-	6,564
Unspent grants reserve	7,731,738	5,123,345	7,731,737	5,123,346
Capital expenditure reserve	2,160,830	2,234,884	2,160,830	2,234,884
Information technology reserve	1,133,398	185,000	885,084	433,314
Valuation reserve	42,667	-	40,000	2,667
Units reserve	94,965	16,245	-	111,210
Economic development reserve	235,655	171,000	115,000	291,655
Skinner's Flat reserve	15,565	-	-	15,565
Community planning reserve	1,003,063	500,000	503,063	1,000,000
Plant replacement reserve	2,349,664	873,031	2,081,959	1,140,736
Fleet replacement reserve	461,737	218,375	156,355	523,757
GSP restoration reserve	488,719	60,000	29,246	519,473
Urban drainage reserve	692,866	370,000	621,928	440,938
Waste management reserve	317,517	34,690	-	352,207
Lake Boort water reserve	34,525	-	-	34,525
Reserves improvement reserve	100,000	-	-	100,000
Caravan park development reserve	259,937	60,323	359,980	(39,720)
Superannuation liability reserve	696,424	101,192	-	797,616
Unspent contributions reserve	-	-	-	-
War memorial reserve	3,000	-	-	3,000
Heritage loan scheme	100,000	-	-	100,000
Major projects reserve	179,796	-	-	179,796
Unightly premises enforcement	100,000	-	-	100,000
Swimming pool major projects	100,000	50,000	-	150,000
TOTAL	18,933,576	10,206,085	15,463,504	13,676,157



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

4.3 Statement of changes in equity (continued)

4.3.2 Transfers to and from reserves (continued)

The following is a summary of the budgeted reserves position for the year ended 30 June 2020:

2019/20 reserves - as per budget				
Name of reserve	Balance at 1 July 2019 \$	Transfers to reserves \$	Transfers from reserves \$	Balance at 30 June 2020 \$
Land and buildings reserve	54,624	155,000	-	209,624
Professional development reserve	6,564	8,000	-	14,564
Unspent grants reserve	5,123,346	-	4,521,084	602,262
Capital expenditure reserve	2,234,884	-	1,274,884	960,000
Information technology reserve	433,314	285,000	421,500	296,814
Valuation reserve	2,667	-	-	2,667
Units reserve	111,210	16,523	-	127,733
Economic development reserve	291,655	100,000	165,000	226,655
Skinner's Flat reserve	15,565	-	-	15,565
Community planning reserve	1,000,000	-	-	1,000,000
Plant replacement reserve	1,140,736	895,357	857,810	1,178,283
Fleet replacement reserve	523,757	221,834	123,420	622,171
GSP restoration reserve	519,473	126,746	41,776	604,443
Urban drainage reserve	440,938	550,000	350,000	640,938
Waste management reserve	352,207	35,010	50,000	337,217
Lake Boort water reserve	34,525	-	-	34,525
Reserves improvement reserve	100,000	-	-	100,000
Caravan park development reserve	(39,720)	73,524	7,500	26,304
Superannuation liability reserve	797,616	101,192	-	898,808
Unspent contributions reserve	-	-	-	-
War memorial reserve	3,000	-	-	3,000
Heritage loan scheme	100,000	-	-	100,000
Major projects reserve	179,796	-	-	179,796
Unightly premises enforcement	100,000	-	-	100,000
Swimming pool major projects	150,000	50,000	-	200,000
TOTAL	13,676,157	2,618,186	7,812,974	8,481,369

By including the above transfers from reserves it is expected that reserve levels decrease by approximately \$5.2 million, leaving a balance of \$8.5 million in the reserves account.

4.3.3 Details of reserves

The following schedule provides details of each of the reserve transfers for 2019/20:

Land and buildings reserve			
Opening balance			54,624
ADD transfer to reserve			
Sale of housing estate land	Activity 110	35,000	
Sale and land and buildings	Activity 191	120,000	155,000
LESS transfer from reserve			
Nil	N/A		-
Closing balance			209,624



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

4.3 Statement of changes in equity (continued)

4.3.3 Details of reserves (continued)

Professional development reserve			
Opening balance			6,564
ADD transfer to reserve			
Annual allocation	Activity 461	8,000	8,000
LESS transfer from reserve			
Nil	N/A	-	-
Closing balance			14,564
Unspent grants reserve			
Opening balance			5,123,346
ADD transfer to reserve			
Nil	N/A	-	-
LESS transfer from reserve			
Grants Commission 50% upfront payment	Activity 421	(4,521,084)	(4,521,084)
Closing balance			602,262
Capital expenditure reserve			
Opening balance			2,234,884
ADD transfer to reserve			
Nil	N/A	-	-
LESS transfer from reserve			
Donaldson Park	Activity 690	(496,562)	
Purchase caravan parks	Activity 123	(778,322)	(1,274,884)
Closing balance			960,000
Information technology reserve			
Opening balance			433,314
ADD transfer to reserve			
Annual allocations for major purchases	Activity 461	285,000	285,000
LESS transfer from reserve			
Server Replacement	Activity 434	(50,000)	
Other upgrades	Activity 491	(30,000)	
IT strategy implementation	Activity 434	(283,000)	
PC replacement	Activity 491	(53,500)	
Asset Edge devices	Activity 491	(5,000)	(421,500)
Closing balance			296,814
Valuation reserve			
Opening balance			2,667
ADD transfer to reserve			
Nil	N/A	-	-
LESS transfer from reserve			
Nil	N/A	-	-
Closing balance			2,667



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

4.3 Statement of changes in equity (continued)

4.3.3 Details of reserves (continued)

Units reserve			
Opening balance			111,210
ADD transfer to reserve	Activity 634	16,523	16,523
Surplus for 2018/19			
LESS transfer from reserve			
Nil	N/A	-	-
Closing balance			127,733
Economic development reserve			
Opening balance			291,655
ADD transfer to reserve			
Yearly allocation	Activity 461	100,000	100,000
LESS transfer from reserve			
Project scoping	Activity 110	(15,000)	
Scar trees campaign	Activity 110	(60,000)	
Agribusiness Forum	Activity 131	(10,000)	
Economic development strategy	Activity 131	(80,000)	(165,000)
Closing balance			226,655
Skinner's flat reserve			
Opening balance			15,565
ADD transfer to reserve			
Nil	N/A	-	-
LESS transfer from reserve			
Nil	N/A	-	-
Closing balance			15,565
Community planning reserve			
Opening balance			1,000,000
ADD transfer to reserve			
Nil	N/A	-	-
LESS transfer from reserve			
Nil	N/A	-	-
Closing balance			1,000,000
Plant replacement reserve			
Opening balance			1,140,736
ADD transfer to reserve			
Annual allocation to reserve	Activity 461	895,357	895,357
LESS transfer from reserve			
Net cost of plant replacement	Activity 391	(857,810)	(857,810)
Closing balance			1,178,283



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

4.3 Statement of changes in equity (continued)

4.3.3 Details of reserves (continued)

Fleet replacement reserve			
Opening balance			523,757
ADD transfer to reserve			
Annual allocation to reserve	Activity 461	221,834	221,834
LESS transfer from reserve			
Net cost of fleet replacement	Activity 391	(123,420)	(123,420)
Closing balance			622,171
GSP restoration reserve			
Opening balance			519,473
ADD transfer to reserve			
Income from gravel pits	Activity 380	126,746	126,746
LESS transfer from reserve			
Expenditure from gravel pits	Activity 380	(41,776)	(41,776)
Closing balance			604,443
Urban drainage reserve			
Opening balance			440,938
ADD transfer to reserve			
Annual allocation	Activity 461	550,000	550,000
LESS transfer from reserve			
Drainage program	Activity 371	(350,000)	(350,000)
Closing balance			640,938
Waste management reserve			
Opening balance			352,207
ADD transfer to reserve			
Kerbside collection	Activity 512	35,010	35,010
LESS transfer from reserve			
Waste facility fencing	Activity 511	(50,000)	(50,000)
Closing balance			337,217
Reserves improvement reserve			
Opening balance			100,000
ADD transfer to reserve			
Nil	N/A	-	-
LESS transfer from reserve			
Nil	N/A	-	-
Closing balance			100,000



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

4.3 Statement of changes in equity (continued)

4.3.3 Details of reserves (continued)

Lake Boort water reserve			
Opening balance			34,525
ADD transfer to reserve			
Nil	N/A	-	-
LESS transfer from reserve			
Nil	N/A	-	-
Closing balance			34,525
Caravan park development reserve			
Opening balance			(39,720)
ADD transfer to reserve			
Surplus of caravan park operations	Activity 123	73,524	73,524
LESS transfer from reserve			
Tree works	Activity 123	(7,500)	(7,500)
Closing balance			26,304
Superannuation liability reserve			
Opening balance			797,616
ADD transfer to reserve			
Wedderburn streetscape return funds	Activity 461	101,192	101,192
LESS transfer from reserve			
Nil	N/A	-	-
Closing balance			898,808
Unspent contributions reserve			
Opening balance			-
ADD transfer to reserve			
Nil	N/A	-	-
LESS transfer from reserve			
Nil	N/A	-	-
Closing balance			-
War memorial reserve			
Opening balance			3,000
ADD transfer to reserve			
Nil	N/A	-	-
LESS transfer from reserve			
Nil	N/A	-	-
Closing balance			3,000



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

4.3 Statement of changes in equity (continued)

4.3.3 Details of reserves (continued)

Major projects reserve			
Opening balance			179,796
ADD transfer to reserve			
Nil	N/A	-	-
LESS transfer from reserve			
Nil	N/A	-	-
Closing balance			179,796
Unightly premises enforcement provision			
Opening balance			100,000
ADD transfer to reserve			
Nil	N/A	-	-
LESS transfer from reserve			
Nil	N/A	-	-
Closing balance			100,000
Swimming pool major projects reserve			
Opening balance			150,000
ADD transfer to reserve			
Annual allocation to reserve	Activity 461	50,000	50,000
LESS transfer from reserve			
Nil	N/A	-	-
Closing balance			200,000

4.3.4 Equity

Total equity always equals net assets and is made up of the asset revaluation reserve, other reserves and the accumulated surplus.



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

4.3 Statement of changes in equity (continued)

4.3.5 Working capital (\$3.41 million decrease)

Working capital is the excess of current assets above current liabilities. The calculation recognises that although Council has current assets, some of those assets are committed to the future settlement of liabilities and therefore are not available for discretionary spending.

Some of Council's cash assets are restricted in that they are required by legislation to be held in reserve for specific purposes or are held to fund carry forward capital works from the previous financial year.

	Forecast Actual 2018/19 \$	Budget 2019/20 \$	Variance \$
Current assets	23,330,244	14,118,126	9,212,118
Current liabilities	3,615,594	2,923,737	691,857
Working capital	19,714,650	11,194,389	8,520,261
Intended allocation assets			
- Discretionary reserves	(13,676,157)	(8,481,369)	(5,194,788)
- Long service leave	(1,809,316)	(1,909,316)	100,000
Restricted allocation assets			
- Trust funds and deposits	(356,974)	(339,125)	(17,849)
Unrestricted working capital	3,872,203	464,579	3,407,624

In addition to the restricted assets above, Council is also projected to hold \$8.48 million in discretionary reserves at 30 June 2020. Although not restricted by a statutory purpose, Council has made decisions regarding the future use of these funds and unless there is a Council resolution, these funds are to be used for those earmarked purposes.



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

4.4 Statement of cash flows

This section of the report analyses the expected cash flows from the operating, investing and financing activities of Council for the 2019/20 year. Budgeting cash flows for Council is a key factor in setting the level of rates and providing a guide to the level of capital expenditure that can be sustained with or without using existing cash reserves.

4.4.1 Net cash flows provided by / (used in) operating activities

Operating activities - Refers to the cash generated or used in the normal service delivery functions of Council. Cash remaining after paying for the provision of services to the community may be available for investment in capital works, or repayment of debt.

The decrease in cash flows from operating activities is due mainly to a \$24.64 million decrease in operating grants in line with the expected completion of the flood restoration program. There is also a \$1.37 million decrease in capital grants, which is partially offset by a slight increase in rates and charges,

4.4.2 Net cash flows provided by / (used in) investing activities

Investing activities - Refers to cash generated or used in the enhancement or creation of infrastructure and other assets. These activities also include the acquisition and sale of other assets such as vehicles, property and equipment.

The large decrease in payments for investing activities represents a decrease in capital works expenditure. Term deposits are also expected to decrease by \$17.79 million.

4.4.3 Net cash flows provided by / (used in) financing activities

Financing activities - Refers to cash generated or used in the financing of Council functions and include borrowings from financial institutions and advancing of repayable loans to other organisations. These activities include repayment of the principle component of loan repayments for the year.

Council's borrowings were fully extinguished in the 2015/16 financial year. No new are borrowings are budgeted in 2019/20.

4.4.4 Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year

Overall, total cash and investments is forecast to decrease by \$8.75 million to \$10.91 million as at 30 June 2020, although the cash position will be determined by a number of factors including collection of outstanding amounts during the year, payment cycle for Council's creditors and movement in trust funds.

Cash and cash equivalents held by Council are restricted in part, and not fully available for Council's operations. The budgeted cash flow statement above indicates that Council is estimating at 30 June 2020 it will have unrestricted cash and investments of \$0.2 million, which has been restricted as shown in the following table.



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

4.4 Statement of cash flows (continued)

4.4.4 Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year (continued)

	Ref	Forecast Actual 2018/19 \$	Budget 2019/20 \$	Variance \$
Total cash and investments		19,656,604	10,911,513	(8,745,091)
Intended allocation assets				
Long service leave	4.4.5	(1,809,316)	(1,909,316)	(100,000)
Discretionary reserves	4.4.6	(13,676,157)	(8,481,369)	5,194,788
Restricted allocation assets				
Trust funds and deposits		(356,974)	(339,125)	17,849
Unrestricted cash adjusted for discretionary reserves	4.4.7	3,814,157	181,703	(3,632,454)

4.4.5 Long service leave

Council has continued to treat funds set aside for employees long service leave as restricted cash. The increase in the variance is due to increased years of service by employees and increases in wage rates through the enterprise bargaining agreement.

4.4.6 Discretionary reserves

These funds are shown as a discretionary reserve as, although not restricted by a statutory purpose, Council has made decision regarding the future use of these funds and unless there is a Council resolution these funds should be used for those earmarked purposes. The decisions about future use of these funds has been reflected in Council's Strategic Resource Plan and any changes in future use of the funds will be made in the context of the future funding requirements set out in the plan.

4.4.7 Unrestricted cash and investments

These funds are free of all specific Council commitments and represent funds available to meet daily cash flow requirements, unexpected short term needs and any budget commitments which will be expended in the following year such as grants and contributions. Council regards these funds as the minimum necessary to ensure that it can meet its commitments as and when they fall due without borrowing further funds.



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

4.5 Capital works program

This section presents a listing of the capital works projects that will be undertaken for the 2019/20 year.

The capital works projects are grouped by class and include the following:

- new works for 2019/20
- works carried forward from the 2018/19 year.

4.5.1 New works by asset expenditure type

Capital works area	Project cost	Asset expenditure types			
		New \$	Renewal \$	Upgrade \$	Expansion \$
Property					
Land	-	-	-	-	-
Land improvements	55,000	55,000	-	-	-
Total land	55,000	55,000	-	-	-
Buildings	500,000	-	500,000	-	-
Building improvements	456,800	-	456,800	-	-
Total buildings	956,800	-	956,800	-	-
Total property	1,011,800	55,000	956,800	-	-
Plant and equipment					
Plant, machinery and equipment	1,275,763	1,275,763	-	-	-
Computers and telecommunications	122,500	122,500	-	-	-
Fixtures fittings and furniture	-	-	-	-	-
Total plant and equipment	1,398,263	1,398,263	-	-	-
Infrastructure					
Roads	3,680,082	-	3,680,082	-	-
Bridges	1,031,454	-	1,031,454	-	-
Footpaths	261,057	-	261,057	-	-
Drainage	350,000	-	-	350,000	-
Recreation leisure and community facilities	417,500	-	-	67,500	350,000
Parks, open space and streetscapes	550,000	-	100,000	250,000	200,000
Other infrastructure	-	-	-	-	-
Total infrastructure	6,290,093	-	5,072,593	667,500	550,000
Total new works	8,700,156	1,453,263	6,029,393	667,500	550,000



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

4.5 Capital works program (continued)

4.5.2 New works by funding source

Capital works area	Project cost	Funding sources			
		Grants \$	Reserves \$	Council funded \$	Sale of assets \$
Property					
Land	-	-	-	-	-
Land improvements	55,000	-	50,000	5,000	-
Total land	55,000	-	50,000	5,000	-
Buildings	500,000	-	-	500,000	-
Building improvements	456,800	-	-	456,800	-
Total buildings	956,800	-	-	956,800	-
Total property	1,011,800	-	50,000	961,800	-
Plant and equipment					
Plant, machinery and equipment	1,275,763	-	986,123	20,000	269,640
Computers and telecommunications	122,500	-	118,500	4,000	-
Fixtures fittings and furniture	-	-	-	-	-
Total plant and equipment	1,398,263	-	1,104,623	24,000	269,640
Infrastructure					
Roads	3,680,082	1,986,215	-	1,693,867	-
Bridges	1,031,454	585,954	-	445,500	-
Footpaths	261,057	261,057	-	-	-
Drainage	350,000	-	350,000	-	-
Recreation leisure and community facilities	417,500	300,000	7,500	110,000	-
Parks, open space and streetscapes	550,000	-	-	550,000	-
Other infrastructure	-	-	-	-	-
Total infrastructure	6,290,093	3,133,226	357,500	2,799,367	-
Total new works	8,700,156	3,133,226	1,512,123	3,785,167	269,640



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

4.5 Capital works program (continued)

4.5.3 Works carried forward from the 2018/19 year by asset expenditure type

Capital works area	Project cost	Asset expenditure types			
		New \$	Renewal \$	Upgrade \$	Expansion \$
Property					
Land	-	-	-	-	-
Land improvements	29,932	-	-	-	29,932
Total land	29,932	-	-	-	29,932
Buildings	-	-	-	-	-
Building improvements	7,200	-	7,200	-	-
Total buildings	7,200	-	7,200	-	-
Total property	37,132	-	7,200	-	29,932
Plant and equipment					
Plant, machinery and equipment	-	-	-	-	-
Computers and telecommunications	283,000	283,000	-	-	-
Fixtures fittings and furniture	-	-	-	-	-
Total plant and equipment	283,000	283,000	-	-	-
Infrastructure					
Roads	-	-	-	-	-
Bridges	-	-	-	-	-
Footpaths	-	-	-	-	-
Drainage	574,000	-	-	574,000	-
Recreation leisure and community facilities	4,089,554	778,322	-	-	3,311,232
Parks, open space and streetscapes	-	-	-	-	-
Other infrastructure	-	-	-	-	-
Total infrastructure	4,663,554	778,322	-	574,000	3,311,232
Total carried forward works	4,983,686	1,061,322	7,200	574,000	3,341,164



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

4.5 Capital works program (continued)

4.5.4 Works carried forward from the 2018/19 year by funding source

Capital works area	Project cost	Funding sources			
		Grants \$	Reserves \$	Council funded \$	Sale of assets \$
Property					
Land	-	-	-	-	-
Land improvements	29,932	29,932	-	-	-
Total land	29,932	29,932	-	-	-
Buildings	-	-	-	-	-
Building improvements	7,200	-	-	7,200	-
Total buildings	7,200	-	-	7,200	-
Total property	37,132	29,932	-	7,200	-
Plant and equipment					
Plant, machinery and equipment	-	-	-	-	-
Computers and telecommunications	283,000	-	283,000	-	-
Fixtures fittings and furniture	-	-	-	-	-
Total plant and equipment	283,000	-	283,000	-	-
Infrastructure					
Roads	-	-	-	-	-
Bridges	-	-	-	-	-
Footpaths	-	-	-	-	-
Drainage	574,000	324,000	250,000	-	-
Recreation leisure and community facilities	4,089,554	2,814,670	1,274,884	-	-
Parks, open space and streetscapes	-	-	-	-	-
Other infrastructure	-	-	-	-	-
Total infrastructure	4,663,554	3,138,670	1,524,884	-	-
Total carried forward works	4,983,686	3,168,602	1,807,884	7,200	-



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

5 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Indicator	Measure	Notes	Actual	Forecast	Budget	Trend
			2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	+ / O / -
Operating position						
Adjusted underlying result	Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit) / Adjusted underlying revenue	1	-4.51%	-8.30%	-34.18%	-
Liquidity						
Working capital	Current assets / Current liabilities	2	742.25%	645.27%	482.88%	-
Unrestricted cash	Unrestricted cash / Current liabilities		91.92%	105.49%	6.21%	-
Obligations						
Loan and borrowings	Loans and borrowings / Rate revenue	3	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	O
Loan and borrowings	Interest and principal repayments on interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue		0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	O
Indebtedness	Non-current liabilities / Own source revenue		11.76%	14.84%	16.53%	+
Asset renewal	Asset renewal expenses / Asset depreciation	4	35.98%	64.56%	64.01%	O
Stability						
Rates concentration	Rates revenue / Adjusted underlying revenue	5	32.31%	23.39%	43.94%	O
Rates effort	Rate revenue / CIV of rateable properties in the municipality		0.50%	0.52%	0.49%	O
Efficiency						
Expenditure level	Total expenses / No. of property assessments		\$4,339	\$6,547	\$4,008	O
Revenue level	Residential rate revenue / No. of residential property assessments		\$1,012	\$1,037	\$1,055	O
Workforce turnover	No. of permanent staff resignations and terminations / Average no. of permanent staff for the financial year		12.29	7.03	7.08	-



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

5 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (Continued)

Indicator	Measure	Notes	Strategic Resource Plan Projections			Trend
			2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	+ / O / -
Operating position						
Adjusted underlying result	Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit) / Adjusted underlying revenue	1	-20.57%	-16.53%	-16.87%	O
Liquidity						
Working capital	Current assets / Current liabilities	2	419.55%	338.09%	294.08%	-
Unrestricted cash	Unrestricted cash / Current liabilities		-86.70%	-177.88%	-248.49%	-
Obligations						
Loan and borrowings	Loans and borrowings / Rate revenue	3	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	O
Loan and borrowings	Interest and principal repayments on interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue		0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	O
Indebtedness	Non-current liabilities / Own source revenue		18.54%	20.32%	22.21%	+
Asset renewal	Asset renewal expenses / Asset depreciation	4	30.13%	30.35%	30.11%	O
Stability						
Rates concentration	Rates revenue / Adjusted underlying revenue	5	42.58%	41.92%	41.75%	O
Rates effort	Rate revenue / CIV of rateable properties in the municipality		0.49%	0.49%	0.49%	O
Efficiency						
Expenditure level	Total expenses / No. of property assessments		\$3,986	\$4,079	\$4,177	+
Revenue level	Residential rate revenue / No. of residential property assessments		\$1,073	\$1,097	\$1,121	+
Workforce turnover	No. of permanent staff resignations and terminations / Average no. of permanent staff for the financial year		7.13	7.13	7.13	O

Key to forecast trend:

- + Forecasts improvement in Council's financial performance / financial position indicator
- O Forecasts that Council's financial performance / financial position indicator will be steady
- Forecasts deterioration in Council's financial performance / financial position indicator

Notes to indicators

1 *Adjusted underlying result* - An indicator of the sustainable operating result required to enable Council to continue provide core services and meet its objectives. Improvement in financial performance is expected over the period, although continued losses means reliance on Council's cash reserves or increased debt to maintain services.

2 *Working capital* - The proportion of current liabilities represented by current assets. Working capital is forecast to decrease in future years as cash and cash equivalents decrease.

3 *Debt compared to rates* - Council has repaid its final loan liability in 2015/16.

4 *Asset renewal* - This percentage indicates the extent of Council's renewal of assets against its depreciation charge (an indication of the decline in value of its existing capital assets). A percentage greater than 100 indicates that Council is maintaining its existing assets, while a percentage less than 100 means its assets are deteriorating faster than they are being renewed and future capital expenditure will be required to renew assets.

5 *Rates concentration* - Reflects the extent of reliance on rate revenues to fund all of Council's on-going services. Trend indicates that Council will become more reliant on rate revenue compared to all other revenue sources.



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

APPENDIX A - FEES AND CHARGES SCHEDULE

Council's fees and charges schedule contains the fees and charges of a statutory and non-statutory nature which will be charged in respect to various goods and service provided during the 2019/20 year.

This full document is located on Council's website.



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

APPENDIX B - BUDGET PROCESSES

This section lists the budget processes to be undertaken in order to adopt the Budget in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act) and *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014* (the Regulations).

Under the Act, Council is required to prepare and adopt an annual budget for each financial year. The budget is required to include certain information about rates and charges that Council intends to levy as well as a range of other information required by the Regulations which support the Act.

The 2019/20 Budget, which is included in this report, is for the year 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 and is prepared in accordance with the Act and Regulations. The Budget includes financial statements being a Comprehensive Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows and a Statement of Capital Works. These statements have been prepared for the year ended 30 June 2020 in accordance with the Act and Regulations, and consistent with the annual financial statements which are prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Local Government Model Accounts. The budget also includes information about the rates and charges to be levied, the capital works program to be undertaken, the human resources required, and other financial information which Council requires in order to make an informed decision about the adoption of the Budget.

A 'proposed' budget is prepared in accordance with the Act and submitted to Council in April for approval 'in principle'. Council is then required to give 28 days notice of its intention to adopt the proposed budget and make the budget available for inspection at its offices and on its website. Council also provides copies of the proposed budget at post offices and neighbourhood houses/community resource centres within the municipality. A person has the right to make a submission on any proposal contained in the Budget and any submission must be considered before adoption of the budget by Council.

With the introduction of the State Government's rate capping legislation in 2015, Councils are now unable to determine the level of rate increase and instead must use a maximum rate increase determined by the Minister for Local Government which is announced in December for application in the following year.

If Council wishes to seek a rate increase above the maximum allowable it must submit a rate variation submission to the Essential Services Commission (ESC). The ESC will determine whether the rate increase variation submission has been successful by 31 May. In many cases this will require Council to undertake 'public notice' on two separate proposed budgets simultaneously, i.e. the Minister's maximum rate increase and the Council's required rate increase.

The final step is for Council to adopt the budget after receiving and considering any submissions from interested parties. The budget is required to be adopted by 31 August and a copy submitted to the Minister within 28 days after adoption. The key dates for the budget process are summarised below:

Dec - Minister for Local Government announces maximum rate increase
Dec and Jan - Officers update Council's long term financial projections
Jan and Feb - Council to advise ESC if it intends to make a rate variation submission
April - Proposed budget distributed to Councillors
April - Council meets to consider the proposed budget
April - Council resolves to advertise the proposed budget
April and May - Council advertises "Draft Budget"
May and June - Proposed budget available for public inspection and comment
June - Council meets to consider public submissions and adopt the budget
June - Council gives public notice that the budget has been adopted
July - Council provides a copy of the 2019/20 Budget to the Minister



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

APPENDIX C - CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM

This appendix presents a listing of the capital works projects that will be undertaken for the 2019/20 financial year.

C.1 Capital works by key direction area

The following table shows capital expenditure by key direction area, as per the Council Plan, and shows how the capital works have been funded.

Project	External funding			Internal funding			Total funding sources
	Grants and contrib. \$	Sale of assets \$	Loan funds \$	Reserves \$	Working capital \$	Operating activities \$	
Economic development and tourism							
Caravan park trees				7,500			7,500
Purchase caravan parks				778,322			778,322
Council properties fencing						5,000	5,000
Works and infrastructure							
Local roads reseals	565,257					530,640	1,095,897
Local road amenity program	116,733						116,733
Local road safety program	127,345						127,345
Local road construction	477,545					1,148,227	1,625,772
Local road resheets	327,914						327,914
Local road shoulder sheets	371,421						371,421
Local bridges and culverts	585,954					445,500	1,031,454
Township street improvements	261,057						261,057
Urban drainage				350,000			350,000
Boundary entrance signage park and locality						15,000	15,000
Fleet replacement		67,527		128,313			195,840
Plant replacement		202,113		857,810			1,059,923
Minor plant and equipment						20,000	20,000


**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**
APPENDIX C - CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM (Continued)
C.1 Capital works by key direction area (continued)

Project	External funding			Internal funding			Total funding sources \$
	Grants and contrib. \$	Sale of assets \$	Loan funds \$	Reserves \$	Working capital \$	Operating activities \$	
Good management							
Server replacement				50,000			50,000
Asset Edge devices				5,000			5,000
Photocopier / scanner				10,000			10,000
PC replacement				53,500			53,500
IT Strategy implementation				283,000			283,000
Office furniture and equipment						4,000	4,000
Wedderburn Office refurbishment						130,000	130,000
Building Asset Management Plan allocation						334,000	334,000
Environment							
Waste facility fencing				50,000			50,000
Flood mitigation works Pyramid Hill	324,000			250,000			574,000
Boort Ewaste grant	18,380						18,380
Inglewood Ewaste grant	11,552						11,552
Community services and recreation							
Parks and gardens strategy						100,000	100,000
Skinners Flat masterplan						50,000	50,000
Donaldson Park pavilion	2,814,670			496,562			3,311,232
Inglewood Sports Centre						60,000	60,000
Pyramid Hill streetscape						200,000	200,000
Bridgewater Foreshore	300,000						300,000
Community planning allocations						750,000	750,000
Total	6,301,828	269,640	-	3,320,007	-	3,792,367	13,683,842


**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**
APPENDIX C - CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM (Continued)
C.2 Capital expenditure by classification

This table shows the projects by classification, and shows whether the works are for asset renewal or provide Council with new assets.

Project	Asset renewal \$	New asset \$	Asset upgrade \$	Asset expansion \$	Carried forward \$	Total project \$
Land and buildings						
Council properties fencing		5,000				5,000
Building asset management plan	326,800				7,200	334,000
Wedderburn Office refurbishment	130,000					130,000
Boort Ewaste grant				18,380		18,380
Inglewood Ewaste grant				11,552		11,552
Strategic fund	500,000					500,000
Waste facility fencing			50,000			50,000
Total land and buildings	956,800	5,000	50,000	29,932	7,200	1,048,932
Furniture and equipment						
Server replacement		50,000				50,000
PC replacement		53,500				53,500
Office furniture and equipment		4,000				4,000
Photocopier / scanner		10,000				10,000
Asset Edge devices		5,000				5,000
IT Strategy implementation					283,000	283,000
Total furniture and equipment	-	122,500	-	-	283,000	405,500
Plant and equipment						
Minor plant and equipment		20,000				20,000
Fleet replacement		195,840				195,840
Plant replacement		1,059,923				1,059,923
Total plant and equipment	-	1,275,763	-	-	-	1,275,763
Footpaths						
Township street improvements	261,057					261,057
Total footpaths	261,057	-	-	-	-	261,057
Roadworks						
Local road reseals	1,095,897					1,095,897
Local road amenity	116,733					116,733
Local road safety	127,345					127,345
Local road construction	1,625,772		-			1,625,772
Local road resheets	327,914					327,914
Local road shoulder sheets	371,421					371,421
Local bridges and culverts	1,031,454					1,031,454
Boundary entrance signage parks and locality	15,000					15,000
Total roadworks	4,711,536	-	-	-	-	4,711,536



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

APPENDIX C - CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM (Continued)

C.2 Capital expenditure by classification (continued)

Project	Asset renewal \$	New asset \$	Asset upgrade \$	Asset expansion \$	Carried forward \$	Total project \$
Urban and road drainage						
Urban drainage program			924,000			924,000
Total urban and road drainage	-	-	924,000	-	-	924,000
Recreation, leisure and community facilities						
Skidders Flat master plan				50,000		50,000
Caravan park trees			7,500			7,500
Inglewood Sports Centre upgrade			60,000			60,000
Purchase caravan parks					778,322	778,322
Bridgewater Foreshore				300,000		300,000
Donaldson Park pavilion upgrade					3,311,232	3,311,232
Total recreation, leisure and community facilities	-	-	67,500	350,000	4,089,554	4,507,054
Parks, open space and streetscapes						
Parks and gardens strategy	100,000					100,000
Pyramid Hill streetscape				200,000		200,000
Community planning allocations			250,000			250,000
Total parks, open space and streetscapes	100,000	-	250,000	200,000	-	550,000
Total	6,029,393	1,403,263	1,291,500	579,932	4,379,754	13,683,842



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

APPENDIX D - AUDIT COMMITTEE FINANCIALS

In 2002 Council's Internal Audit Committee created a reporting format that it considered appropriate for reporting Council's results on a monthly basis. That format has been used by Council since then.

The following reports show the 2018/19 Forecast Actuals, the 2019/20 Budgets, and the variance between the two.

The reports include:

- Comprehensive Income Statement by expense type
- Comprehensive Income Statement by key direction area
- Capital Expenditure Statement

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME STATEMENT BY EXPENSE TYPE

	Forecast actual 2018/19 \$	Budget 2019/20 \$	Variance \$
Revenues from ordinary activities			
Rates and charges	10,750,845	11,027,275	276,430
Statutory and user fees	1,770,530	1,836,005	65,475
Operating grants	30,454,562	6,297,978	(24,156,584)
Capital grants	5,107,671	5,841,828	734,157
Operating contributions	-	310,000	310,000
Capital contributions	-	-	-
Vic Roads	548,178	524,064	(24,114)
Reversal of impairment losses	1,658	-	-
Reimbursements	374,983	295,833	(79,150)
Interest	400,000	375,125	(24,875)
Total revenues	49,408,426	26,508,108	(22,900,319)
Expenses from ordinary activities			
Labour	10,375,590	10,796,481	420,891
Materials and services	9,950,168	8,638,751	(1,311,417)
Contracts	20,579,169	1,638,038	(18,941,131)
Utilities	453,883	507,274	53,391
Depreciation	9,200,989	9,431,014	230,025
Interest expense	-	-	-
Other expenses	306,172	310,797	4,625
Total expenses	50,865,971	31,322,355	(19,543,616)
Net (gain) / loss on sale of assets	-	-	-
Surplus / (deficit) for the year	(1,457,545)	(4,814,247)	(3,356,702)



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

APPENDIX D - AUDIT COMMITTEE FINANCIALS (Continued)

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME STATEMENT BY KEY DIRECTION AREA

	Forecast actual 2018/19 \$	Budget 2019/20 \$	Variance \$
Revenues from ordinary activities			
Rates and charges	10,750,845	11,027,275	276,430
Operating grants	30,454,562	6,297,978	(24,156,584)
Capital grants	5,107,671	5,841,828	734,157
Operating contributions	-	310,000	310,000
Capital contributions	-	-	-
User fees	1,770,530	1,836,005	65,475
Reimbursements	374,983	295,833	(79,150)
Reversal of impairment losses	1,658	-	-
Vic Roads	548,178	524,064	(24,114)
Interest	400,000	375,125	(24,875)
Total revenues	49,408,426	26,508,108	(22,900,319)
Expenses from ordinary activities			
Economic development and tourism	1,513,780	1,449,827	(63,953)
Leadership	20,779,088	1,688,427	(19,090,661)
Works and infrastructure	13,531,386	14,542,505	1,011,119
Good management	4,524,931	4,353,730	(171,201)
Environment	2,546,586	2,287,172	(259,414)
Community services and recreation	7,970,201	7,000,694	(969,507)
Total expenses	50,865,972	31,322,355	(19,543,617)
Net (gain) / loss on sale of assets	-	-	-
Surplus / (deficit) for the year	(1,457,546)	(4,814,247)	(3,356,702)



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

APPENDIX D - AUDIT COMMITTEE FINANCIALS (Continued)

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

	Forecast actual 2018/19 \$	Budget 2019/20 \$	Variance \$
Surplus / (deficit) for the year-as per income statement	(1,457,546)	(4,814,247)	(3,356,702)
Less non-cash income			
Reversal of impairment losses	(1,658)	-	1,658
Add non-cash expenditure			
Net gain on sale of assets	-	-	-
Loan interest accrued	-	-	-
Depreciation	9,200,989	9,431,014	230,025
Total funds available for capital expenditure	7,741,785	4,616,766	- 3,125,019
Capital expenditure, transfers and loans			
Economic development and tourism	1,263,598	790,822	(472,776)
Leadership	-	-	-
Works and infrastructure	8,716,782	6,598,356	(2,118,426)
Good management	1,093,984	869,500	(224,484)
Environment	604,728	653,932	49,204
Community services and recreation	1,944,804	4,771,232	2,826,428
Total capital works	13,623,896	13,683,842	59,946
Transfers to reserves	10,206,085	2,618,186	(7,587,899)
Loan repayments	-	-	-
Total capital, transfers and loans	23,829,981	16,302,028	(7,527,953)
Capital expenditure, transfers and loans will be financed by:			
Asset sales	655,244	429,533	(225,711)
Transfers from reserves	15,463,504	7,812,974	(7,650,530)
Accumulated cash surplus brought forward from previous year	3,561,131	3,591,683	30,552
Total financing of capital, transfers, and loans	19,679,879	11,834,190	(7,845,689)
Total accumulated cash surplus	3,591,683	148,928	(3,442,755)

9.5 WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK POLICY FOR ADOPTION

File Number: 03/01/001
Author: Sharon Morrison, Director Corporate Services
Authoriser: Phil Pinyon, Chief Executive Officer
Attachments: 1. Working with Children Check Policy

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the Working with Children Check Policy version 1.

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 was provided with an overview of the new Working with Children Check Policy at the Forum held on 9 April 2019.

BACKGROUND

This policy is part of Council's response to the Child Safe Standards.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The policy has been reviewed to guide Council officers in the need for a Working with Children Check. The policy provides for the following representatives of Council to have a current Working with Children Check (WWCC):

- any person who through their work with Council is deemed a mandatory reporter
- the Chief Executive Officer
- all employees who supervise work experience students under the age of 18 years
- all Councillors, employees, volunteers and contractors who meet the criteria set by the Department of Justice and Community Safety:
 - A self-assessment can be undertaken using "Do I need a Check?" <http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/home/about+the+check/who+needs+a+check/>.
 - Council may conduct its own check using "Do my workers need a Check?" at the same link and subsequently require a Councillor, employee, volunteer or contractor to obtain a WWCC.

COST/BENEFITS

There is little cost associated with the adoption of version 1 of the policy as it largely reflects current practices.

The benefits of adopting the policy include greater clarity of the roles requiring a Working with Children Check and who is responsible for the cost of the Check.

RISK ANALYSIS

There is little risk associated with the adoption of the policy as it reflects current practices.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Various staff have been consulted during the development of this policy.



WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK POLICY

DOCUMENT TYPE:	Council policy
DOCUMENT STATUS:	Draft
POLICY OWNER POSITION:	Manager Organisational Development
INTERNAL COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT:	Consultative Committee
APPROVED BY:	Council
DATE ADOPTED:	Click here to enter date of approval
VERSION NUMBER:	1
REVIEW DATE:	Click here to enter a date.
DATE RESCINDED:	Click here to enter a date.
RELATED STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS, POLICIES OR PROCEDURES:	<p>Current Council Enterprise Agreement Current Early Education Employees Enterprise Agreement Child Safe Standards Framework Child Safe Standards Policy Child Safe Standards Procedure Councillor Code of Conduct Recruitment and Selection Policy and Procedure Staff, Volunteers and Contractor Code of Conduct Working with Children Check Procedure</p>
RELATED LEGISLATION:	<p>Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 (Vic) Working with Children Act 2005 (Vic) Child Wellbeing and Safety Amendment Act 2015 (Vic) Child Wellbeing and Safety Amendment Oversight and Enforcement of Child Safe Standards Act 2016 (Vic) Child Wellbeing and Safety Amendment Act Child Safe Standards) Regulations 2015 (Vic) The Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic) The Commission for Children and Young People Act 2012 (Vic) Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic) Failure to protect a child from sexual abuse 2015 (Vic) Failure to disclose child sexual abuse 2015 (Vic) Grooming offence 2014 (Vic)</p>
EVIDENCE OF APPROVAL:	<hr/> <p>Signed by Chief Executive Officer</p>
FILE LOCATION:	Document2

Policy documents are amended from time to time, therefore you should not rely on a printed copy being the current version. Please consult the policies on the Loddon Shire website (Council Policies) or Intranet (Organisational Policies) to ensure that the version you are using is up to date.
This document is available in alternative formats (e.g. larger font) if requested.



WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK POLICY

1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to:

- enable Loddon Shire Council to meet the Victorian State Government's legislative requirement of the Working with Children Act 2005 relating to Councillors, staff, volunteers and contractors engaging with children and young people
- ensure that Councillors, staff, volunteers and contractors employed and or engaged in child related work hold a current Working with Children Check as prescribed in the Working with Children Check Act 2005 prior to commencing and during their work with the Loddon Shire Council
- ensure that a Working with Children Check is obtained where required.

2 SCOPE

This policy applies to Loddon Shire Councillors, staff, volunteers and contractors responsible for engaging with children and young people for the purpose of care, education, mentoring, support, stakeholder consultations and or work experience placements.

3 POLICY

This policy is in line with Council's Child Safe Standards Framework.

As a result of the introduction of the Child Safe Standards, it is Council's policy that, as a condition of employment or association with Council, the following representatives of Council will be required to have a current Working with Children Check (WWCC):

- any person who through their work with Council is deemed a mandatory reporter
- the Chief Executive Officer
- all employees who supervise work experience students under the age of 18 years
- all Councillors, employees, volunteers and contractors who meet the criteria set by the Department of Justice and Community Safety.
 - A self-assessment can be undertaken using "Do I need a Check?"
<http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/home/about+the+check/who+needs+a+check/>.
 - Council may conduct its own check using "Do my workers need a Check?" at the same link and subsequently require a Councillor, employee, volunteer or contractor to obtain a WWCC.

This policy includes and expands upon the legal criteria for a WWCC.

4 OBTAINING A WWCC

4.1 Preferred candidates for paid employee/contractor positions listed

Where it is a mandatory requirement for the position to have a WWCC or equivalent, the position description will clearly identify the requirement. The preferred candidate must provide proof of a current WWCC. Costs of the WWCC are to be met by the successful applicant prior to commencement with Council. It is the employee's responsibility to ensure that Council is listed as an employer to their application or renewal and their online WWCC profile.



WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK POLICY

4.2 Any current paid and continuing, fixed term or casual representatives

With the exception of council contractors, all current, continuing, fixed term and casual representatives who require a WWCC and work for Council will not be required to pay for their own WWCC and renewal checks. It is the representative's responsibility to ensure Council is listed as their employee on their WWCC applications and profile.

4.3 For volunteer positions of Council

There is no charge for a volunteer WWCC when fulfilling a role on behalf of Council without payment. In the event that a volunteer is a successful candidate for paid employment, then they will be required to obtain an employee WWCC at their own expense.

5 MAINTAINING THE WWCC DATABASE

The Organisation Development Department is responsible for the upkeep and monitoring of Council's WWCC database.

It is the responsibility of all Council representatives with WWCC to ensure that they have a current WWCC and to renew them before the check expires.

It is the responsibility of all Council representatives holding a WWCC to inform the Manager Organisational Development if they are subject to an allegation of child abuse or their WWCC has been revoked or they have an interim negative notice. Each situation will be managed in accordance with the Child Safe Reporting Policy and the Managing Misconduct Procedure.

6 HUMAN RIGHTS STATEMENT

It is considered that this policy does not impact negatively on any rights identified in the Charter of Human Rights Act. Loddon Shire Council is committed to consultation and cooperation between management and employees. The Council will formally involve elected employee Health and Safety Representatives in any workplace change that may affect the health and safety of any of its employees.

7 DEFINITIONS OF TERMS OR ABBREVIATIONS USED

Term	Definition
Child	Means a person below the age of 18 years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority (adulthood) is attained earlier.
Child related work	The Act defines children as anyone under the age of 18. Child-related work involves contact with a child that is unsupervised, direct and a part of the person's duties. Child-related work is an activity undertaken in any of the services, bodies or places referred to in the Act as 'occupational categories'.



WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK POLICY

Term	Definition
Potential Council occupational fields when working with children	Occupation fields including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • kindergartens/ preschools • centre-based long day care • occasional care • family day care and or in-home care • outside school hours care • all overnight camps for children • supervision of child under 16 years of age in employment including work experience students • school crossing services • engagement with online communications with children Please refer to the hyperlink for other potential occupational fields http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/home/about+the+check/who+need+s+a+check/occupational+fields/
Engaging and working with children checks	As a result of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, people engaging in 'child-related work' that involves 'physical contact', 'face to face contact', 'oral', 'written' or 'electronic communication' are required to obtain a Working with Children Check (WWCC). The Act will continue to provide that a WWCC is not required in circumstances where the contact with a child is occasional and not incidental to the work.
Councillor	Democratically elected Local Government representative.
Staff	Paid employees of the Council, including the CEO.
Volunteer	An individual who provides support to the Loddon Shire Council without payment for labour.
Contractor	An external agent who is engaged to undertake work on behalf of the Council via a procurement process.
Supplier	An entity which supplies and delivers goods and services for use within the Loddon Shire.

8 REVIEW

The Manager Organisational Development will review this policy for any necessary amendments no later than 1 year after adoption of this current version.

9.6 RURAL COUNCIL TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM

File Number: 07/03/002
Author: Sharon Morrison, Director Corporate Services
Authoriser: Phil Pinyon, Chief Executive Officer
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the resolutions relating to the Rural Council Transformation Program from the Council Meeting on 26 March 2019
2. Notes the submission of the Addendum (six-council scenario) to the business case
3. Approves implementation by Loddon Shire Council of the project(s) / initiative(s) within the submitted business case and addendum, subject to the application being approved for RCTP funding.

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 on 26 March 2019, it was resolved that Council:

1. Notes that Loddon Shire Council is a participant in a grouping of councils that have made an application for funding under the Victorian Government Rural Councils Transformation Program (RCTP) for the following initiative:
 - (a) *Rural Councils Corporate Collaboration (RCCC)*, in conjunction with Buloke Shire Council, Central Goldfields Shire Council, Golden Plains Shire Council, Hindmarsh Shire Council, Pyrenees Shire Council, West Wimmera Shire Council, Yarriambiack Shire Council and Horsham Rural City Council (*lead council*)
2. Notes that for an RCTP application to be eligible for consideration, the following criteria must be met:
 - (a) Submission of a joint business case by 31 March 2019.
 - (b) Each council must pass an accompanying resolution committing to implement the business case, if approved for funding. The resolution must be lodged with Local Government Victoria by 30 April 2019.
3. Approves the submission of the business case by Horsham Rural City Council on behalf of Loddon Council.
4. Notes there will be a need to approve, at the April Council meeting, implementation of the project(s) / initiative(s) within the submitted business case by Loddon Shire Council, subject to the application being approved for RCTP funding.

At the Council Forum on 9 April 2019 Councillors were provided with a briefing pack outlining the business case for the RCTP application for funding, and advised of the submission of an addendum.

BACKGROUND

In accordance with the Rural Councils Transformation Program (RCTP) Funding Guidelines (the Guidelines), resolutions are required from each council participating in an RCTP application. Resolutions are required which commit the council to implementation of the RCTP business case if the application is successful and funded in accordance with the submitted business case.

The RCTP funding guidelines require the business case to be accompanied by a supporting council resolution from each participating council by 30 April 2019.

Local Government Victoria advise that it is expected that the announcement of successful proposals will occur in early to mid-June 2019.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

In November 2018, Council together with Buloke Shire Council, Central Goldfields Shire Council, Golden Plains Shire Council, Hepburn Shire Council, Hindmarsh Shire Council, Horsham Rural City Council, Pyrenees Shire Council, West Wimmera Shire Council and Yarriambiack Shire Council (the participating councils) submitted an expression of interest in the Rural Councils Transformation Program to undertake a project to improve the corporate systems of the participating councils.

Horsham Rural City Council (HRCC) is the lead council. Local Government Victoria appointed KPMG, on behalf of the participating councils to conduct a scoping analysis to support the expression of interest.

The expression of interest was accepted by Local Government Victoria (the funding body) and the participating councils were asked to submit a business case by 31 March 2019.

A business case was developed by KPMG which built on the expression of interest. Prior to submitting the business case, Hepburn Shire Council withdrew as a participating council. The business case was submitted by 31 March 2019 and includes a shared platform for a corporate system plus two modules – finance and payroll. Due to three Councils submitting applications for multiple projects, there may be a need for these Councils to withdraw from one or more projects. For this reason, an addendum was prepared and submitted to cover a 'six-council scenario'. This scenario would see six councils with a shared platform, finance and payroll modules, plus an additional corporate system module for document management.

COST/BENEFITS

It is intended that the initiative be fully funded by the RCTP funding. However, it can be expected that a significant amount of the time of some staff will need to be invested in the implementation of the initiative.

The benefits of the initiative include:

- improved resourcing, asset and IT infrastructure management
- improved governance and data-driven decision making
- more efficient and streamlined back office support
- supporting a high performance organisational culture and capabilities

RISK ANALYSIS

The business case will not be eligible for consideration if a copy of the March resolution and this resolution of Council as set out above is not lodged by 30 April 2019.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Local Government Victoria has engaged and consulted with councils through the expression of interest and business case development stages of this program. Various staff within each council

have been engaged in the provision and development of material to inform the scoping analysis, expression of interest and business case.

9.7 AUDIT COMMITTEE REMUNERATION 2019-20 REPORT

File Number: 06/02/003
Author: Sharon Morrison, Director Corporate Services
Authoriser: Phil Pinyon, Chief Executive Officer
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. *increases the quarterly remuneration paid to independent members of the Audit Committee to \$475, effective the quarter commencing 1 May 2019*
2. *maintains payment of an extra quarter remuneration to the Chair during a one year term*
3. *maintains a travel reimbursement for independent members of the Audit Committee, paid at the rate that Councillors are reimbursed for travel.*

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 was provided with an Audit Committee Remuneration Report at the Ordinary Meeting held on 24 April 2018, where Council resolved as follows:

1. *increases the quarterly remuneration paid to independent members of the Audit Committee to \$465, effective the quarter commencing 1 May 2018*
2. *maintain payment of an extra quarter remuneration to the Chair during a one year term*
3. *maintain a travel reimbursement for independent members of the Audit Committee, paid at the rate that Councillors are reimbursed for travel.*

BACKGROUND

The Consumer Price Index for All Groups – Melbourne for December Quarter 2017 to December Quarter 2018 seasonally adjusted is used as the guide for increases to Audit Committee remuneration annually. The indexation has been sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics and is 2.0%.

Application of 2.0% to the Audit Committee's current remuneration of \$465 per quarter calculates to \$474.30 per quarter. This report recommends that this amount be rounded to \$475 per quarter.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Last year's report confirmed Council's commitment of an extra quarterly payment to the Chair during a one-year term. This payment recognises the additional responsibility held by the Chair.

It also confirmed a travel reimbursement to be paid to independent members at the same rate as the Councillors' travel reimbursement.

This report recommends that the travel reimbursement and extra payment for the Chair be maintained.

COST/BENEFITS

There is a small financial cost to Council resulting from this report which can be accommodated within Council's budget.

RISK ANALYSIS

Council increases the likelihood of recruiting and retaining quality Audit Committee members by ensuring that remuneration is reviewed on a regular basis.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Nil

9.8 ADVERTISING THE DRAFT ACTIVATING OPEN SPACES STRATEGY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

File Number: 03/01/004
Author: Allan Stobaus, Manager Community Support
Authoriser: Wendy Gladman, Director Community Wellbeing
Attachments: 1. Draft Activating Open Space Strategy

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolve to advertise the draft Activating Open Spaces Strategy for public comment.

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 summarising the draft Activating Open Spaces Strategy was presented to the March 2019 Council Forum.

BACKGROUND

In June 2017 Council received funding from the state government to develop the Sports Reserves/Township Parks Activation Plan.

Council has prepared a number of asset development plans / strategies to optimise the use of sporting reserves, swimming pools and sporting clubs. There has been less of a focus on natural and built features that enhance the overall amenity and use of public open spaces.

This document provides strategies that are designed to activate and optimise the use of reserves and open spaces to maximise the wider health and wellbeing, social and recreation objectives of Loddon residents.

In order to better activate public open spaces in Loddon Shire and increase the percentage of residents who take part in sufficient levels of physical activity, there are a number of key factors that have been taken into account when developing the direction, principles and recommendations in the strategy. These include the need to:

- promote the benefits of being physically active to the community
- create safe, inclusive and accessible spaces and places
- promote events and programs that support / increase physical activity
- involve the community in planning spaces, places, events and programs
- promote spaces, places, events and programs where physical activity occurs
- ensure that systems, policies and processes encourage physical activity
- develop partnerships with organisations to help deliver spaces, places, events and activities
- understand the financial implications associated with construction, ongoing maintenance and whole of life costs when planning and implementing the recommendations in the strategy.

The strategy is a key strategic planning tool that aims to develop and maintain public open spaces throughout the shire.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The majority of the actions in this strategy have not been costed. It is the intention that each project identified for towns, e.g. outdoor fitness equipment or a playground upgrade, be scoped detail and costed as part of the planning process.

Consideration will be given to what is realistic and achievable when scoping these projects, with local residents (including local community planning groups) being invited to participate in the planning and scoping of these projects.

Loddon Shire Council staff will include any proposed projects in the normal budget processes and identify potential funding sources to support the implementation / delivery of the scoped projects.

A focus of this strategy was to assess the feasibility of installing outdoor exercise equipment in our communities. The strategy recommends the construction of outdoor fitness equipment in two towns as a pilot project. It is anticipated that this would cost approximately \$120,000 with an additional \$4,000 annually for maintenance and an annual amount of \$10,000 set aside for renewal.

In the development of recommendations, it is acknowledged that recreation reserves are key public outdoor spaces used by local residents for sport, recreation, fitness and socialisation. However, as each of the major recreation reserves in the Shire has its own master plan with a series of actions that committees of management are working towards implementing, only recommendations that improve facilities for the general public, i.e. related to playgrounds, seating, paths, BBQ areas, etc. are featured in this strategy as all other recommendations, e.g. upgrading pavilions, installing oval lighting and installing shelters for netballers are already included in the individual master plans.

It is the intention to review Council's "Parks Asset Management Plan March 2010". The Asset Management Plan was developed to document Council's asset management processes, to guide the planning, acquisition, operation, maintenance, renewal and disposal of assets.

The review of this plan will be consistent with the directions, principles and recommendations in the Activating Open Spaces Strategy. It is also the intention to include a style guide pertaining to park furniture in this strategy.

COST/BENEFITS

The success of this strategy will be supported with the development of a realistic and achievable action plan which will identify relevant and appropriate projects at identified sites. Construction costs will be clearly determined, annual maintenance costs will be assessed and estimated as will the whole of life replacement costs.

It is expected that the completion of the action plan will position council strongly in terms of being able to access external funding from state government programs to assist with the implementation of identified initiatives.

RISK ANALYSIS

External funding agencies prioritise initiatives that are supported by a strategic planning process and this plan will better position Council to access available external funding.

A focus of this strategy is to activate public open spaces and therefore promoting more participation in physical activity. Loddon is currently the number one ranked municipality for heart attacks in Victoria. Inactivity by individuals is a major risk factor for heart disease.

The Activating Open Spaces Strategy identifies principles associated with functionality, preferred locations, keeping maintenance and replacement costs to a minimum and will assist in the coordination of future open space development.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The development of the Activating Open Spaces Strategy was informed through:

- consultation with agencies and council officers delivering services relevant to open space development
- consultation with the community, including 273 residents throughout the municipality, including school children, youth, senior citizens, community groups and the community in general
- a review of 35 local, regional, state and national documents, including: Council Plan (2017-20), Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan (2017-21), Recreation Strategy (2015-20), Active Victoria (2017-21), World Health Organisation Global Action Plan on Physical Activity (2018-30)
- undertaking an audit of all public open spaces in the Shire to assess the type of infrastructure available, the condition of the infrastructure and opportunities for improvement
- undertaking a demographic analysis of the Loddon community.

It is now recommended that the strategy be placed on exhibition for public comment.



ACTIVATING OPEN SPACE STRATEGY



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Signed by Chief Executive Officer

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Strategic documents are amended from time to time, therefore you should not rely on a printed copy being the current version. Please consult the Loddon Shire website to ensure that the version you are using is up to date.

This document is available in alternative formats (e.g. larger font) if requested.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Loddon Shire Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land comprising the Loddon Shire Council area. Council would like to pay respect to their Elders both past and present.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Loddon Shire features a diversity of public open spaces such as parks, playgrounds, sports ovals, bushland, footpaths, cycling / walking tracks, rivers and lakes distributed throughout the Shire. Some of the 113 or more parcels of public open spaces located within Loddon Shire are very well utilised by local residents and visitors, whereas others are significantly under-utilised. Loddon Shire Council is keen to improve the functionality and attractiveness of these open spaces and to encourage local residents and visitors of all ages, genders, backgrounds and abilities to better activate or utilise these important community spaces. It is important to note that some open spaces listed in the strategy are not Council owned; hence Council's involvement may vary depending on the circumstances.

Whilst the benefits of taking part in physical activity in outdoor spaces is well documented, e.g. it reduces the risk of developing chronic diseases; it encourages the development of more connected communities; and it improves people's overall sense of health and wellbeing, there are still 30.1% of local residents who take part in no physical activity at all. This may be one of the contributing factors to explain why Loddon Shire Council is currently the number one ranked Local Government Authority in Victoria for heart attacks.¹

Further, mental health related issues are on the rise with almost half of the population of Australia likely to experience a mental disorder at some time in their life², and Loddon Shire's suicide rate is significantly higher than state average suicide rate 16.8 in comparison to a Victorian average rate of 11.0.per 1,000 people.

Given that participating in regular physical activity can reduce cardiovascular disease-related deaths by up to 35%, decrease stress levels and increase people's resilience, there is a very strong case to better activate open spaces for local residents to become more physically active.³

It is not simply a case of 'build it and they will come'. Loddon Shire is already endowed with an ample array of open spaces, and minimal population growth, hence there is limited justification for many new developments. Instead, the key focus needs to be on upgrading, renewing and improving maintenance of what already exists (with a few exceptions) and activating open spaces. However, where there are requests for new facilities, these should be accompanied by a feasibility study which clearly outlines the need or demand, how the facility will be sustainable and whole of life costs from construction to maintenance to replacement.

The major issues are more around how we make existing public open space sites more attractive, accessible and inclusive; and then how we (and our partners) can activate them through activities, programs and events. These sites and the activities available within them need strong community support in the planning and need to be well promoted. We also need to reduce systematic barriers around access to spaces and ensure that certain groups understand that they do not have exclusive use of particular sites (except at certain times). We cannot do this alone though – we need to partner with other organisations to help us better activate the public open spaces we have. Our partners will include (but not be limited to) the health sector, the environmental sector, schools, community organisations such as neighbourhood houses, churches and the private sector.

A fundamental component of activating our open spaces is to ensure that the barriers to participation and access are addressed. Barriers include:

- Cost
- Lack of transport
- Fear of embarrassment
- Poor health/injuries
- Culturally inappropriate environment
- Poor quality facilities
- Lack of information
- Unwelcome environment
- Safety concerns

These barriers are even more pronounced for traditionally disadvantaged groups such as:

- older adults
- people with disabilities
- women
- indigenous people
- culturally and linguistically diverse citizens
- people from low socio-economic backgrounds.

Unless the barriers to participation and activation of public open spaces are addressed, participation is unlikely to increase and we will continue to have 30% of the population inactive and in poor health.

In order to better activate public open spaces in Loddon Shire and increase the percentage of residents who take part in sufficient levels of physical activity, there are seven key factors that need to be taken into consideration.

These factors are:

- 1. Promote the benefits of being physically active to the community**
Actively promote the Australian Physical Activity Guidelines and increase people's knowledge of the benefits of being physically active and leading a healthy lifestyle.
- 2. Create safe, inclusive and accessible spaces and places**
Ensure that each town provides a number of safe, welcoming, inclusive and accessible spaces and places that encourage people of all ages and abilities to be physically active, as per the Open Space Infrastructure Provision Framework and the Style Guide in the Appendix.
Infrastructure / facilities should be Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant and designed according to universal design principles. Wherever possible, open spaces should be designed to be as flexible as possible to encourage spaces to be used by more than one user group and for more than one type of activity.
- 3. Encourage / promote events and programs that support / increase physical activity**
Facilitate a range of programs and events within the Shire that encourage residents and visitors to engage in physical activity on a regular basis within public open spaces, e.g. walking festival, tai chi in a park, ParkRun, swimming lessons, water aerobics, Summer in the Parks, Heart Foundation Walking Groups, dive in movies, pedometer challenges, yoga, etc.
- 4. Involve the community in planning spaces, places, events and programs**
Encourage place making by empowering the local community to be involved in the planning of spaces and places in their neighbourhood where physical activity can occur and to also to be involved in the planning and delivery of events and programs. This is likely to create greater ownership of spaces and places, which will result in stewardship (caring for local facilities) and improved sustainability. It is also likely to encourage the implementation of events and programs which meet local needs and are therefore well supported.

One aspect of place making is the development and installation of art works to reflect something that is important to the community, e.g. the cormorant and fish sculptures at Little Lake Boort. This should be encouraged in major parks / open spaces.
- 5. Promote spaces, places, events and programs where physical activity occurs**
Promote existing open spaces and places and ensure that any new programs or events are well publicised using a variety of different tools (e.g. website, social media pages, media articles, posters in shop windows, etc).

6. Ensure that our systems, policies and processes encourage physical activity

Review Council, sports club and community systems, policies and processes (e.g. Community Support Policy) to enhance, rather than discourage, physical activity participation, e.g. suitable tenancy arrangements with sporting clubs, public access to tennis courts, access to school playgrounds, etc.

7. Develop partnerships with organisations to help deliver spaces, places, events and activities

Work in partnership with sports clubs, schools, neighbourhood houses, community planning groups, businesses, churches, service clubs and others to collectively increase the number of people who are physically active in open spaces throughout the Shire.

In order to identify the types of improvements required to activate public open spaces, 273 residents of Loddon Shire had their say through a series of community engagement and consultation activities including:

- consultation with young people at Wedderburn and Boort P-12 schools (44)
- listening posts at Wedderburn IGA Supermarket, Calivil Recreation Reserve, Inglewood Recreation Reserve (95)
- Seniors Forum (7)
- Townscape Services staff meeting (4)
- Technical Services staff meeting (1)
- community survey (122).

Local residents who completed a survey stated that the key factors that would encourage them to utilise public open spaces more often are:

- more events, e.g. movies in the park, festivals, markets, etc
- more or better walking / cycling paths and linkages
- more shade
- outdoor gym equipment
- more seats
- more / better play equipment
- picnic tables
- drinking fountains
- physical activity programs, e.g. outdoor tai chi, yoga and zumba
- shelters.

A series of recommendations have been made to help activate open spaces in Loddon Shire, taking into consideration feedback from the community, information from the literature review, demographic analysis, an audit of facilities, research into trends and best practice and analysis of available resources.

In the development of recommendations, it is acknowledged that recreation reserves are key public outdoor spaces used by local residents for sport, recreation, fitness and socialization. However, as each of the major recreation reserves in the Shire has its own master plan with a series of actions that committees of management are working towards implementing, only recommendations that improve facilities for the general public, i.e. related to playgrounds, seating, paths, BBQ areas, etc. are featured in this plan as all other recommendations, e.g. upgrading pavilions, installing oval lighting and installing shelters for netballers are already included in the individual master plans.

General Shire-wide recommendations include:

- park upgrades
- play space renewals
- development of walking and cycling tracks, including footpaths
- development of waterways as family recreation facilities
- solar heating and programming of swimming pools
- signage improvements
- improved maintenance and management
- keeping things affordable.

A summary of major projects in towns to activate open spaces are:

Boort - playground upgrades and skate park / modular pump track	Bridgewater - playground upgrades, nature-based play, landscaping and jetty	Calivil - BBQ / picnic area and walking track
Dingee - path developments	Durham Ox - toilets for canoeists	Eddington - path developments
Inglewood - youth play, paths, BBQ and walking track upgrades	Korong Vale - park / playground upgrade	Laanecoorie - BBQ, beach, boat ramp, canoe platform
Mitiamo - park / playground upgrade	Newbridge - BBQs and shelters in park	Pyramid Hill - park, playground and walking track upgrades
Serpentine - path upgrade	Tarnagulla - play upgrade and landscaping	Wedderburn - park / play upgrade, youth play, Reservoir upgrade

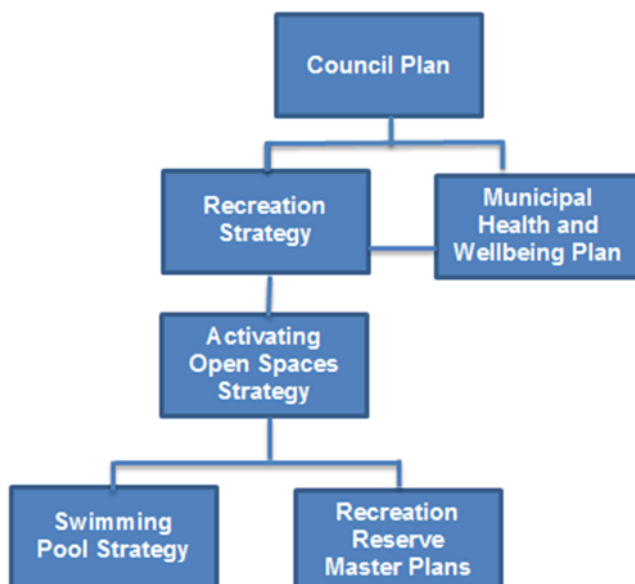
1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this strategy is to help prioritise and guide the ongoing development and management of Council's open spaces, with a particular focus on informal recreation opportunities and maximising participation in physical activity both formal and informal.

Specifically, the strategy aims to provide an evidence base to support Loddon Shire to:

- encourage more people to be more active, whether it be playing organised sport or by taking part in informal physical activities
- encourage people, particularly those from traditionally disadvantaged cohorts, to take part in more physical activity by addressing barriers to participation
- identify the types of facilities, infrastructure, programs, activities, technology and services that may be required to support people to be more active.

Relationship of the plan to other Council plans:



2 BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

None of the actions in this strategy have been costed. It is the intention that each project identified for towns, be scoped and costed as part of the planning process. It is expected that consideration will be given to what is realistic and achievable when scoping these projects, with local residents (including local Community Planning groups) being invited to participate in the planning and the scoping of these projects. Community Planning groups will consult with local residents about exactly what will work for their community and ensure that the project is realistic and achievable. The one exception to this relates to the identified outdoor exercise equipment which is in progress, having received external funding, which may have a potential ongoing cost implication as noted in this plan. Council staff will identify potential funding sources to support the implementation / delivery of the scoped projects.

3 RISK ANALYSIS

The risk of implementing this strategy is minimal. In fact the risk associated with failure to undertake forward planning is possibly more detrimental in the long term in relation to maximum utilisation of existing assets and maximising the community's opportunities to be physically active and thereby improve their health and wellbeing.

The key risks identified are:

Potential risk	Likelihood of risk occurring	Impact of risk / consequence criteria	Risk mitigation strategy
Infrastructure developments (e.g. outdoor fitness equipment) or upgrades (e.g. shade, lighting paths and seats in a park) recommended are unable to be funded by Council or external sources	Possible (C)	Minor (2) Developments or upgrades will not occur or may be delayed. There could be some community dissatisfaction if there is an expectation that certain things will be funded. Not all facilities will be utilised to their maximum capacity if specific upgrades are not undertaken. The diversity of opportunities will be limited if new developments do not occur.	Be clear in the action plan of the strategy that items can only be funded if sufficient funds are available from Council and/or external funding opportunities and also note that some things will be subject to further feasibility assessments and extended timeframes due to prioritisation. Consider other ways to activate spaces or to achieve the outcomes desired by the community that are less costly.
Infrastructure developments and upgrades implemented are not well utilised by the community	Possible (C)	Minor (2) Facilities will be under-utilised and therefore few people in the community will benefit from the investment.	Actively promote any new developments or upgrades in the community. Consider holding an open day, a come and try day, an event or running a program that utilises the new infrastructure in some way to increase awareness of the new development and how to use it is. Involve the local community in any significant new development or upgrade so that they develop a sense of ownership.
Events / programs (e.g. summer in the parks, tai chi in the park, etc) recommended are not well attended by the community	Possible (C)	Minor (2) Events or programs may not run again, thereby reducing the amount and diversity of physical activity opportunities in public open spaces. Council or event organisers may make a	Undertake sufficient research prior to the event to ensure that the event/program is something that people want to be involved in. Extensive promotion of events and programs to

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Potential risk	Likelihood of risk occurring	Impact of risk / consequence criteria	Risk mitigation strategy
		financial loss.	occur through a variety of different outlets. Key barriers to participation need to be addressed to maximise attendance, e.g. cost and times activities occur, etc.
Not developing an ongoing cyclic and pro-active maintenance and inspection regime that is budgeted and resourced appropriately and, allocated to a specific department within Council.	Possible (C)	Moderate (3) New and existing infrastructure and surrounds may not be maintained to an appropriate standard, therefore impacting on safety, aesthetic appeal and functionality	Develop a maintenance plan and fund it annually.

Based on Council’s risk matrix, each of the risks identified above fall into a medium risk category with a score of eight, with the exception of the last risk, which rates as a medium risk with a score of 13.

		Consequence criteria				
		1 – Insignificant	2 – Minor	3 – Moderate	4 – Major	5 – Catastrophic
		Overall Rating				
Likelihood Criteria	A	Medium (11)	High (16)	High (20)	Very High (23)	Very High (25)
	B	Medium (7)	Medium (12)	High (17)	High (21)	Very High (24)
	C	Low (4)	Medium (8)	Medium (13)	High (18)	High (22)
	D	Low (2)	Low (5)	Medium (9)	Medium (14)	High (19)
	E	Low (1)	Low (3)	Low (6)	Medium (10)	Medium (15)

Legend for likelihood criteria: A= almost certain, B= likely, C= possible, D= unlikely, E= rare

To alleviate these risks, Council’s policy suggests:

Action: Take reasonable steps to mitigate the risk. Until elimination, substitution, or engineering controls can be implemented, institute administrative or personal protective equipment controls. These “lower level” controls must not be considered permanent solutions.

Details: Interim measures until permanent solutions can be implemented:

- develop administrative controls to limit the use or access
- provide supervision and specific training related to the issue of concern.

4 BACKGROUND AND SCOPE

4.1 Overview

Globally, as people are constrained by busy lifestyles and time pressures, there has been a shift in physical activity participation away from traditional sports participation such as cricket or tennis on a Saturday to more informal recreation and fitness pursuits such as walking or cycling at times that suit the participant.

Public open spaces, such as sports grounds, parks, rivers, lakes, trails, footpaths and bushland are key locations where physical activity occurs within Loddon Shire. Some of the open spaces and / or facilities located within Loddon Shire are very well utilised by local residents and visitors, whereas others are significantly under-utilised.

Loddon Shire has developed master plans for all of its major sporting reserves in recent years; however, these strategies have primarily focused on improving facilities and infrastructure for the tenant sporting clubs, with minimal consideration given to improving the overall amenity of these sites for potential usage by unstructured recreation or other user groups.

To activate public open spaces more effectively and to increase usage by a broader demographic, we need to not only understand what the key attributes of well utilised spaces are, but also what barriers are preventing some members of the community from utilising and benefitting from them.

4.2 Focus of strategy

This strategy therefore focuses on two key areas:

- improving the physical appearance, functionality and opportunities available at public open spaces – including accessible paths, BBQs, lighting, additional infrastructure, seats and shade
- activation of public open spaces (and therefore promoting more participation in physical activity) through programs, activities, events and services.

4.3 Definitions

Although public open space can be defined as “the variety of spaces within the urban environment that are readily and freely accessible to the wider community for recreation and enjoyment⁴.” for the purpose of this strategy, we will only include:

- parks
- playgrounds
- water ways, e.g. rivers, creeks and lakes
- shared paths, e.g. footpaths and cycling trails
- bushland.

We will not include recreation reserves as each recreation reserve has its own master planning. Committees overseeing these sites are working towards upgrading facilities to better meet the needs of the community. Nor will we include public halls or indoor leisure centres, despite these facilities potentially being key locations where physical activity can occur, as these facilities are located indoors.

Other definitions of relevance to this strategy include:

- place activation is defined as “planning for diverse human activity in a place...the focus of place activation is on ensuring the needs of all potential users are met”⁵.
- physical activity is defined as “any bodily movement produced by skeletal muscles that requires energy expenditure”⁶.

4.4 Methodology

In order to obtain the information necessary to make informed recommendations about what ideally needs to occur to better activate Loddon Shire's public open spaces, the following actions occurred:

- literature review
- demographic analysis
- assessment of benefits, trends, participation, usage and barriers
- community engagement
- audit
- case studies
- report on outdoor fitness equipment
- preparation of style guide
- action plan.

5 AN OVERVIEW OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

5.1 Importance of public open spaces

The World Health Organisation states that there is a need for "small, local green spaces very close to where people live and spend their day, as well as large green spaces offering formal provisions such as playing fields and opportunities to experience contact with nature and relative solitude."⁷ It specifically notes that a "lack of parks, sidewalks and sport / recreation facilities" are key environmental factors that discourage people from being more active.⁸

The World Health Organisation also notes that "urban green space has health benefits, particularly for economically deprived communities, children, pregnant women and senior citizens. It is therefore essential that all populations have adequate access to green space, with particular priority placed on provision for disadvantaged communities...the need for green space and its value for health and well-being is universal."⁹

5.2 Quality public open spaces

Public open spaces that attract high levels of use have a key set of common indicators. Kelly Park in Pyramid Hill, J Sloan Playground located at the Inglewood Recreation Reserve and Nolen's Park in Boort are all good examples within the Shire of parks that have recently been updated and which now attract a considerable amount of usage.

Some of the successful design features include:

- new play equipment, some of which is designed to be used by people of all abilities, e.g. the birds nest swing at Nolen's Park
- play equipment for a variety of different ages, e.g. at Nolen's Park there are swings and slides for younger children and a flying fox for older children; at Kelly Park there is traditional play equipment for younger children along with a half basketball court for older children; and at J Sloan Park there is a skate park for older children.
- multiple physical activity opportunities, including space to kick a football
- there are access paths throughout the play spaces, although it is also important to create access paths directly to equipment
- there are seats for parents / carers to sit and watch their children play, although more shade over some seats would be useful
- there are toilets nearby
- there are picnic tables and BBQs with shelters at Nolen's Park and Kelly Park, which encourage people to stay longer and to meet other people

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- there are clear lines of sight throughout the parks, which creates a perception of safety
- each site is easily visible and accessible from main roads, not hidden away in a court or back street
- there is aesthetically pleasing landscaping, which helps to create a sense of place
- there are items of public art which help to develop a sense of place
- each site is well maintained
- each site feels welcoming.

5.3 Key attributes of an activated area of public open space

When considering how to activate other areas of public open spaces in Loddon Shire and to encourage regular usage, attention should be given to the following key attributes (from the Heart Foundation's Healthy Active Design Guidelines):¹⁰

Access and connections:

- pedestrian-friendly and well-connected, permeable street design
- accessible using a range of transport options
- connected to nearby destinations, attractions and the wider area

Uses and Activities:

- convenient for both local daily living activities and larger organised events
- facilitates a range of activities
- used during different times of day and throughout the year

Comfort and Image:

- is attractive and appealing
- has a sense of character and history
- feels safe, clean and comfortable

Sociability:

- promotes co-operation and neighbourliness
- welcoming and non-exclusionary
- connects people with other people."

Other considerations include:

- land sufficient in size for its purpose
- well signed
- clear site lines
- potentially connected to a social media page to promote activities
- well maintained site
- proactive management, e.g. any incidents are quickly followed up with by Council officers.

5.4 Industry tools

Some specific industry tools and principles that promote quality design of public open spaces include:

- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design: https://www.police.vic.gov.au/content.asp?document_id=10444
- Heart Foundations - Healthy By

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Design: <https://www.heartfoundation.org.au/programs/healthy-by-design-victoria>

- Universal Design Principles:
<http://universaldesign.ie/What-is-Universal-Design/The-7-Principles/>
- Parks and Leisure Australia Open Space Planning and Design Guide: <https://www.parksleisure.com.au/documents/item/2091>
- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning - Creating Liveable Open Space – Case Studies
<https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/policy-and-strategy/open-space-planning>.
- Sport and Recreation Victoria's Guidelines for Planning, Installing and Activating Outdoor Fitness Equipment
<http://www.sport.vic.gov.au/publications-and-resources/community-sport-resources/guidelines-planning-installing-and-activating>
- AARP's Creating Parks and Public Spaces for People of All Ages. A Step-by-Step Guide (2018)
<https://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/livable-communities/documents-2018/Parks%20Guide-LR-091018-singles.pdf>

5.5 Benefits of public open spaces

According to Parks and Leisure Australia¹¹, the benefits of public open space for municipalities such as Loddon Shire include:

Social benefits	Health benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect and build strong communities by providing opportunities for local people to come together for a range of leisure, cultural and celebratory activities. • Enhance opportunities for social cohesion and inclusion. • Improve liveability in urban environments by offering affordable recreation opportunities for all community sectors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourages physical activity. • Enhances physical and mental health. • Helps to reduce the risk of developing chronic diseases. • Assists in recovery from mental fatigue. • Enhances children's development and well-being.
Environmental benefits	Economic benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of areas of conservation, biodiversity or cultural heritage value. • Managing climate change impacts by providing shade and cooling. • Contributing to storm water management. • Contributing to urban heat abatement. • Reduction of air and noise pollution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks are a major draw card for recreation and tourism industries and significant sources of employment for local communities and flow on economic benefits. • Active open spaces serve the same purpose on competition days by attracting participants and spectators beyond the district and this has significant flow on economic benefits.

5.6 Public open space trends

Rural municipalities such as Loddon Shire are not necessarily subject to the same trends in open space planning as inner city centres such as Melbourne and Sydney.

In metropolitan locations, the population is increasing at a fast rate and municipalities are promoting higher density living to limit the urban sprawl and the need to develop additional infrastructure. At the same time, developers are competing for any available space and selling residential blocks which provide little space for backyards.

Instead, the key trends impacting or likely to impact Loddon Shire include:

Trend	Details
Liveability	Quality open spaces are seen as one of the tools used to attract new residents to come and live in Loddon Shire and to improve the liveability of towns.
Social interactions	Parks and open spaces are seen as safe and attractive locations for public interactions for people living in lone households, older adults, families with young children, people with disabilities, people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities, young people, etc. Some features to encourage social interactions are seating, BBQs, shelters and programming.
Active transport and linkages	There is a greater focus on ensuring that recreation and open space areas are connected to existing walking / cycling networks.
Accessibility	There is greater awareness of the need to ensure that people of all ages and all abilities can safely and easily utilise areas of open space. Universal Design Principles and Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) requirements provide guidance in this area. Infrastructure to encourage participation by people of all abilities includes ramps, unisex toilets with change tables, single story buildings to allow for wheelchair access, Braille signs, etc.
Planning	Master planning of recreation reserves and open spaces has occurred to ensure that needs of all existing and casual users are considered in the long term – including the linking of cycling / walking paths, development of play spaces, landscaping and BBQ / picnic facilities, formalised parking, etc.
Multi-purpose design and diversity	Parks and open spaces are being used for a variety of different purposes including sport, markets, festivals, etc.; hence spaces need to be as multi-purpose as possible to cater for community needs.
Connection with nature	There is a greater focus on providing quality landscaping and more natural spaces which utilise loose materials, rocks, logs, etc. There may also be some interpretive activities associated with the natural features. Loddon Shire has some excellent interpretive information and is blessed with an abundance of natural landscapes.
Safety	There is a greater awareness of safe design when it comes to parks and open spaces to ensure safety and perceived safety issues do not act as a barrier to usage. Clear sight lines, lighting, vegetation that can be seen through, passive surveillance, shade, etc. are all

Trend	Details
	tools that can be used to improve safety.
Sustainability	There has been a greater focus on the development of environmentally responsible practices such as solar hot water, recycled water systems, double glazed windows, wetlands, community gardens, synthetic surfaces, use of recycled materials, use of locally sourced materials, etc. to reduce the impact of facilities / spaces and their users on the environment and to potentially reduce operating costs of facilities.
Climate change	There is a greater focus on climate-proofing areas of open space as much as possible to reduce water usage and to retain some green space during periods of low rainfall.
Individual activities	There has been a movement away from many traditional organised sports such as football, cricket, netball and tennis to more individual or small group non-organised activities, e.g. walking, gym workouts, fitness classes, cycling, swimming, running, etc.
Lifestyle / non-traditional forms of sport	There is greater demand for lifestyle/non-traditional forms of sport and recreation in open space areas, e.g. petanque, street table tennis, spin classes in parks, etc.
Personal training	There has been greater use of parks, reserves and open spaces by personal fitness trainers and their clients.
Events	There has been greater demand on sporting facilities and public open spaces such as parks for special events and tournaments, e.g. markets, festivals, weddings, etc.
Programming	There is a growing focus by Local Government on providing programs in open spaces to attract greater levels of participation in physical activities, e.g. summer activities on a daily basis, ParkRun, etc.
Dog parks	There has been an emergence of off leash dog parks in response to the desire to connect with other dog walkers and the desire for dogs to socialise with one another.
Playgrounds	There has been greater investment in developing destination play spaces in open space areas, designed to attract people from both within and outside municipalities. Inglewood, Boort and Pyramid Hill all have play spaces which attract people from outside the immediate neighbourhood.
Aquatic centres	In many areas, the 25 or 50m outdoor municipal swimming pool is being replaced with an indoor pool, program pools and often a gymnasium and program rooms. Alternatively, there is big demand for communities, particularly in areas where indoor pools are not feasible (such as Loddon Shire), to solar heat outdoor swimming pools to extend the season and increase water temperature.
Splash parks	In some areas, swimming pools are being replaced by splash parks or water play areas. Splash parks are children's play areas that feature water which is sprayed from ground level or from upright

Trend	Details
	structures and drained away so that it has zero or minimum depth at any time.
Outdoor fitness equipment	There has been a growth in the installation of outdoor fitness equipment in public open spaces in recent years, either clustered together in one location or spread along a linear pathway.
Community gardens	There has been an increase in the number of community gardens in cities and towns in areas of public open space where people come together to garden together and increase their access to affordable fruit and vegetables.
Food	There has been a growing trend for Local Government Authorities to develop a café or restaurant in some open spaces or encourage food trucks to visit these sites.
Community hubs	There has been a trend to co-locate several sporting facilities to form recreation precincts to maximise limited resources and to cross- market activities.
Management and maintenance	Local Government Authorities are focusing on more effective planning, management and maintenance, including understanding whole of life costs of infrastructure, i.e. construction, management, activation, maintenance and replacement.
Place making	There has been a shift in recent years away from organisations such as Local Government Authorities undertaking the planning and design work for public open spaces to a greater focus on place making where communities and businesses lead or collaborate with authorities to develop vibrant well utilised spaces (place making). Public art has greatly assisting in reflecting what is important to a community.
Tourism	Public open spaces are increasingly being used by event organisers for activities such as fun runs, cycling events, Great Victorian Bike Ride, Tough Mudder, music festivals, etc. These can create a positive economic impact for the municipality.

5.7 Local demand for facilities

Loddon Shire's Recreation Strategy (2015) identifies the following facility upgrades in public open spaces as a priority by survey respondents:

- gym facilities
- swimming pool (heated) and swimming clubs
- more cycling / walking tracks
- indoor sports opportunities, e.g. badminton, table tennis, squash
- skate park
- water security for recreation reserves
- lakes stocked with more fish.

6 AN OVERVIEW OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION

6.1 Benefits and importance of physical activity participation

Participation in regular physical activity can have a major impact on people's health and wellbeing. Not only can regular participation reduce the risk of some types of cancer and chronic conditions such as type 2 diabetes and cardio vascular disease, it can also promote stronger social connections, improved self-esteem and reduced stress and anxiety.

The importance of activating public open spaces and encouraging more local residents to become physically active is clearly apparent when reviewing current research about physical activity:

- Only 30% of Australian children aged 2-17 meet the physical activity component of Australia's Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviour Guidelines (for 13-17 year olds this figure is just 7.9%).¹²
- Only 44% of adults aged 18 and over meet the physical activity guideline¹³
- Participating in regular physical activity can reduce cardiovascular disease-related deaths by up to 35%.¹⁴
- Physical inactivity costs the Australian economy \$805 million annually - \$640m in direct costs (healthcare expenditure) and \$165m in indirect costs (loss in productivity)¹⁵ (2013 figures).
- Physical inactivity causes an estimated 16,000 premature deaths a year.¹⁶
- Productivity loss due to physical inactivity is estimated at 1.8 working days per worker per year.¹⁷
- Adults who participate in sport are 20–40% less likely to die prematurely from all causes compared with non-participants.¹⁸
- People who are overweight or obese and physically inactive have the same level of disease burden (the health loss from living with, or dying prematurely from, a disease or injury) as people who use tobacco.¹⁹
- An extra 15 minutes of brisk walking, 5 days each week, could reduce disease burden due to physical inactivity by an estimated 13%. If this time increased to 30 minutes, the burden could be reduced by 26%.²⁰
- Physical inactivity contributes to 19% of diabetes cases, 16% of bowel cancer cases, 16% of uterine cancer cases, 14% of dementia cases, 11% of breast cancer cases, 11% of coronary heart disease cases and 10% of strokes.²¹

6.2 Participation in physical activity by adults

In recent years, there has been a shift away from organised sport to more informal recreational activities that can be undertaken in small groups, alone, or at varying times of the day in parks, sports reserves and open spaces. The following table shows the most popular physical activities (organised and non-organised) for people 15 years of age and over in Australia in 2015-2016.²²

No current local data is available, however it is anticipated that local data would show a lower percentage of people who take part in soccer as no clubs are available within the Shire and may also show AFL football in the top ten activities (nationally it sits at number 15 after basketball, cricket, netball and surfing).

Activity	Participation rate by people 15 years of age and over (%)
Walking (recreational)	43
Fitness / gym	32
Athletics track and field (includes jogging and running)	16
Swimming	15

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Cycling	12
Football (soccer)	6
Bushwalking	5
Golf	5
Tennis	5
Yoga	4

Note that participation refers to taking part in the specific activity at least once in the past 12 months (it doesn't account for frequency, intensity, membership / casual participation, etc).

Two of the activities listed above generally occur indoors (gym and yoga), but there is potential through the establishment of outdoor gym equipment and programs in parks to offer each of these activities outdoors if feasible. In terms of open space provision for adults, walking / cycling paths and trails and swimming pools need to be a priority, based on the Australian Sports Commission data. However, there continues to be a place for upgrading and promoting sport and recreation facilities.

6.3 Participation in physical activity by children

For Australian children, the top 10 organised activities outside school hours (does not include other leisure activities such as bike riding) undertaken at least once per year in 2015 were:²³

Activity	Participation rate by children under 15 years of age (%)
Swimming	30
Football (soccer)	15
Australian Rules Football	8
Gymnastics	7
Netball	7
Dancing (recreational)	7
Basketball	7
Tennis	6
Cricket (outdoor)	6
Athletics – track and field	4

Three of the top 10 activities for children are generally undertaken indoors, e.g. gymnastics, dancing and basketball. Consideration needs to be given to see if these activities can also be offered informally outdoors, e.g. outdoor basketball half courts, more adventurous equipment in play spaces such as climbing walls to replicate some gymnastic skills and spaces for young people to practice their dancing outdoors. Based on the top 10 activities, there will continue to be a need to provide multi-purpose playing fields, hard courts and swimming pools to service the needs of young people.

6.4 Local participation

As part of the previous Loddon Shire Recreation Strategy (2015), survey respondents were asked to identify what activities they regularly take part in, and the frequency of participation. On a weekly participation rate, walking was the most popular activity, followed by sport, swimming and running / jogging. Water sports and visiting playgrounds, parks and rivers are also popular activities, participated in by many people at least once per year.

When asked about the types of activities they would like to do, but don't currently do, survey respondents listed the following as their preferred activities:

- swimming

- gym / yoga / pilates
- bike riding
- horse riding.

6.5 Barriers to physical activity participation

There are a broad range of social and economic determinants that influence whether or not people participate in physical activity. These barriers exist at an individual, organisational, community and societal level as outlined below.

Individual level: Key factors which limit participation in physical activity by individuals include:

- fear of being embarrassed
- lack of time
- cost of activities
- poor health / injuries
- poor body image
- lack of motivation
- inability to access child care
- lack of confidence or self-esteem.

Organisational and club level: Factors that may limit participation at an organisational or club level include:

- lack of inclusive policies and practices
- lack of information about opportunities available
- inadequate facilities
- clubs or organisations that do not respond to the cultural needs of certain groups.

Community level: At a community level, the following factors can have a negative impact on physical activity participation:

- inadequate facilities and areas of open space as a result of poor planning and lack of activation
- communities that are based around cars as the major form of transport.
- lack of public transportation
- communities where people do not feel connected to each other.

Societal level: At a societal level, participation can be limited if:

- people don't feel that facilities and areas of open space are safe
- people feel that spectators will make it unpleasant to participate
- people feel that it is more enjoyable to spend leisure time using technology.
- there is a concern that participation as a participant or support person may lead to litigation.

Research undertaken as part of the previous Loddon Shire Recreation Strategy (2015) indicated that the key barriers for local residents are:

- it's not available locally (42%)
- I don't have time (14%)
- I'm not fit / well enough (5%)
- it costs too much (4%).

For people from traditionally disadvantaged groups, these barriers can be significant. The World Health organisation notes that "in most countries, girls, women, older adults,

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underprivileged groups, and people with disabilities and chronic diseases, all have fewer opportunities to access safe, affordable and appropriate programmes and places in which to be physically active.”²⁴ It also notes that priority should be given to engaging the least active and those who face the greatest barriers to increasing participation.

7 DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACE IN LODDON SHIRE

There are at least 80 parcels of public open space in Loddon Shire which include parks, playgrounds, bushland, walking / cycling trails, swimming pools, recreation reserves, rivers, lakes, creeks, etc. In addition, we have included a few spaces managed by Parks Victoria, e.g. Terrick Terrick National Park and Melville Caves in this list due to their popularity with local residents.

Whilst recreation reserves and swimming pools are included in this list, no recommendations have been made for these facilities as existing recreation reserve master plans and swimming pool development plans have already identified works to upgrade these sites (refer to individual plans for further detail). Further details of each of these sites can be found in the Audit Report. Public open spaces in Loddon Shire include:

Arnold
Arnold Recreation Reserve
Bears Lagoon
Bears Lagoon Public Reserve and Tennis Club
Boort
Boort Bowls, Croquet and Tennis Facility
Boort Golf Club
Boort Park
Boort Swimming Pool
Jubilee Park
Little Lake Boort Trail
Nolens Park
Sunnyside Crt Playground
Bridgewater
Bridgewater Bowls Club
Bridgewater Golf Club
Bridgewater Recreation Reserve
Bridgewater River Walk/Bridgewater foreshore
Bullabul Track from Bridgewater
Sloans Park
Swimming hole and fishing piers
Calivil
Calivil Recreation Reserve
Derby
Derby Public Hall and Tennis Club
Dingee
Dingee Recreation Reserve
Progress Park
Inglewood
Botanic Gardens and Reservoir Track
Bullabul Track from Inglewood
Inglewood Bowls Club
Inglewood Community Sports Centre
Inglewood Golf Course
Inglewood Riding Club
Inglewood Swimming Pool

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J Sloan Park
Kingower
Kingower Cricket and Recreation Reserve
Melville Caves
Village Green
Korong Vale
Borella Park
Korong Vale Community Sports Centre
Laanecoorie
Laanecoorie River Trail
Mitiamo
Mitiamo Golf Course
Mitiamo Municipal Recreation Reserve
Mitiamo Swimming Pool
R J Phelan Reserve
Terrick Terrick National Park
Newbridge
Newbridge Recreation Reserve
Progress Park
Powlett Plains
Powlett Plains and District Community Centre
Pyramid Hill
Kelly Park
Lions Park near tennis courts
Lions Park opposite Kelly Park
Mitchell Park
Pyramid Hill Bowls and Tennis Centre
Pyramid Hill Golf Course
Pyramid Hill Neighbourhood House
Pyramid Hill Reserve – The Hill
Pyramid Hill Swimming Pool
Pyramid Hill Trail
Rheola
Rheola Hall and Recreation Reserve
Serpentine
Serpentine Bowls and Tennis Complex
Serpentine Pon Pon Trail
Serpentine Recreation Reserve
T J Rudkins Reserve
Tarnagulla
Soldiers Memorial Park
Heraud's Place
Tarnagulla Cemetery Track
Tarnagulla Golf Course
Tarnagulla Recreation Reserve
Tarnagulla Reservoir Track
Tarnagulla Town Heritage Trail
Wedderburn
Blue Mallee Trail
Cooper Park
Donaldson Park

7.1 Spatial analysis

From a spatial perspective, there is a very good distribution of open space, within each of the major towns, i.e. Boort, Bridgewater, Inglewood, Pyramid Hill and Wedderburn, each featuring as a minimum a recreation reserve, a separate playground, a swimming pool, a golf course, a hall and some walking / cycling tracks.

Mitiamo, as a small town also includes all of the above, with the exception of walking / cycling tracks. As would be expected, other medium sized towns such as Calivil, Dingee, Newbridge, Serpentine and Tarnagulla don't feature as many areas of open space, but most have a hall and a recreation reserve with a playground. Both Dingee and Tarnagulla have separate parks with playgrounds.

The smallest towns or villages generally have a hall and may also have a park, recreation reserve or a village green.

7.2 Future demand and challenges

Given the size of the community and its current growth rate, there is no demand to increase the amount of public space that is available in the near future. The challenge will be for communities and Loddon Shire to be able to afford to maintain each of these facilities; find sufficient funds to help activate these spaces; and prioritise the spaces for development. If any requests are received from communities for new open spaces, these sites will be subject to a feasibility study and detailed costings, e.g. understanding of the full cost of development and a break-down of operational, maintenance and replacement costs.

8 OBSERVATIONS OF OPEN SPACES IN LODDON SHIRE

As part of the strategy development, a basic physical audit of every area of public open space was undertaken – refer to the Appendix for more details. Observations from this audit show:

8.1 Parks

- there is a lack of paths within parks, particularly leading to seats and play equipment, e.g. Sloan Park in Bridgewater. This makes it particularly challenging for people utilising wheelchairs, walking frames, crutches, motorised scooters, prams or tricycles to access parks and traverse through them.
- there is a lack of shade in some parks. This makes open spaces less appealing for people to spend time in, particularly in the height of summer.
- there is a lack of seats in some parks and play spaces, e.g. Calivil Recreation Reserve. This makes it unappealing to spend any length of time in parks, particularly for parents / carers of young children (who may then make a decision not to visit a park with their children, but to stay at home instead), older adults and people with mobility issues.
- there are no areas within the Shire featuring outdoor fitness equipment. The majority of Local Government Authorities in Victoria would feature at least one outdoor fitness station (cluster) or linear path containing outdoor fitness equipment. Such a facility provides free outdoor exercise opportunities for local residents and visitors, however, such facilities can be expensive to install and maintain.

8.2 Play spaces

- some good quality play spaces with high play value and more diversity of play opportunities have been installed, e.g. J. Sloan Park in Inglewood, Nolen's Park in Boort and Kelly Park in Pyramid Hill.
- play equipment is generally geared towards children under eight years of age.

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- some play equipment such as swings may have been installed at the wrong height and some rebound walls have been poorly designed (mostly at Recreation Reserves, which are not part of the scope of this project).
- there has been a growing focus on providing play opportunities for teenagers, e.g. half basketball court at Bridgewater Swimming Hole and Kelly Park, Pyramid Hill and the flying fox at Nolen's Park in Boort, but there are some towns with very limited non-formal sporting activities.
- some items of play equipment appear to be nearing the end of their life or may not meet current standards, e.g. Jubilee Park in Boort.
- play space soft fall levels may need to be addressed at some sites (mostly at recreation reserves, which are not part of the scope of this project).

8.3 Landscaping

- there has been some good quality landscaping undertaken in some areas, e.g. Kelly Park in Pyramid Hill, but there are many areas of open space which appear unappealing due to a lack of landscaping, e.g. Jubilee Park in Boort.
- solar lighting / bollards are being used in some locations, e.g. Kelly Park, Pyramid Hill.

8.4 Public art

- public art is becoming a feature of some areas of open space, e.g. sculptures around Little Lake Boort, Kelly Park in Pyramid Hill, Ted's Garden in Wedderburn and Tarnagulla Soldier's Memorial Park. Current trends suggested that ideally each town would have at least one items of public art to reflect the character of the town.

8.5 Signage

- trail head signage on walking tracks is generally excellent. e.g. Blue Mallee Trail in Wedderburn
- there is some good quality interpretive signage in some areas, e.g. Hard Hill in Wedderburn.
- the majority of parks and playgrounds do not have any signage. Signage can help to create a sense of place and create a welcoming atmosphere.
- some tracks do not have any directional signage, e.g. Bullabull Track from Bridgewater to Inglewood.

8.6 Water

- there have been some towns, e.g. Bridgewater and Boort, that have capitalised on their water access by installing walking paths, seats, shelters, public art, social areas, swimming platforms, interpretive information, etc.
- canoe trails are becoming increasingly popular and infrastructure has been developed to support this activity, e.g. Durham Ox fishing platform and canoe ramp.
- there are no splash parks or water play parks within the Shire. Whilst such features can be relatively expensive and rely on water treated in the same way as swimming pools, they can create good play value, particularly in towns where there are limited opportunities to engage with water, e.g. Wedderburn. Due to the cost of establishing an independent water park (e.g. a neighbouring LGA paid approximately \$600,000 to install a splash park) and the ongoing operational costs associated with water testing and cleaning / checking of toilets several times per day, it is likely to be out of financial reach for the Shire. It may be possible to develop a splash area at an existing swimming pool, nevertheless.

8.7 Recreation reserves

- since the Drought Proofing Recreation Reserves Strategy was undertaken in 2011, a significant amount of work has been undertaken at recreation reserves, e.g. installation of hard courts for netball and tennis, installation of water tanks, planting of warm season grasses, etc. Recreation reserve committees of management will be encouraged to complete their master plans, outside the scope of this strategy.

9 WHAT OUR STRATEGIES TELL US

9.1 Summary of key issues

Fifteen strategies including the Council Plan, the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and Active Victoria's strategic framework for sport and recreation in Victoria were reviewed in order to understand the context in which open spaces are planned, developed and managed and in which physical activity occurs. A full literature review is included in the Appendix. An additional sixteen strategies or articles were referenced in the strategy.

Of particular relevance to this strategy are the following points:

- **benefits of physical activity** - there is a clear understanding of the benefits of physical activity and a strong push to increase participation in physical activity
- **health and wellbeing** - Loddon Shire has a strong desire to improve community health and wellbeing
- **aesthetics and functionality** - specific projects have been identified to improve the aesthetics and functionality of public open spaces, e.g. streetscape projects
- **passive activities** - specific projects that have a more passive element to them in public spaces have been identified, e.g. community gardens
- **sports related projects** - specific sports related projects have been identified, e.g. Donaldson Park development
- **importance of planning** - there is a high value placed on recreation reserve master plans by the Shire
- **accessibility** - there is a greater focus on improving accessibility for people of all abilities and utilising universal design principles in facility developments
- **events** - the potential role of events in activating spaces and people is acknowledged
- **marketing and promotion** - it is acknowledged that marketing and promotion of facilities and events could be improved
- **multi-purpose design** - there is an understanding that spaces need to be designed to encourage community use of spaces for different activities and by different ages and abilities and therefore need to be multi-purpose and flexible
- **participation options** - there needs to be a greater focus on flexible and innovative participation options
- **inclusion** - participation needs to be broader and more inclusive, i.e. – focusing on affordability and increasing participation for females; Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders; people with a disability; Lesbian Gay Bisexual, Queer or Questioning, Transgender or Intersex (LGBTQI) people and disengaged youth
- **active recreation** - there needs to be an additional focus on active recreation – focusing on supporting non-organised and unstructured physical activity, investing in infrastructure that enables active recreation and creating a model that supports the structure and needs of active recreation.

9.2 Recreation Strategy

Council's Recreation Strategy (2015-2020) highlighted a range of ways to activate public open spaces:

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- **developing social sport and recreation activities** - encourage local sports clubs to work in partnership with external providers and State Sporting Associations to develop and implement social sport and recreation activities or modified sports for community members
- **programming and events** - develop a range of shire-wide physical activity programs and events such as come and Try days, summer in the parks (which may include live music and movies), family BBQs at swimming pools, guided walks in forests / parks, etc which are inclusive of all residents
- **program leadership training** - develop a program to train local residents to run various physical activities such as yoga, gentle exercise classes, water aerobics, swimming lessons, kinder gym, gymnastics, circus skills, personal training, walking groups, dance classes, cycling groups, canoeing classes, cardio tennis, etc so that they can deliver these programs locally for an agreed period of time
- **facility upgrades** - continue to progressively upgrade sport and recreation facilities in line with Council's strategic planning priorities
- **attracting events** - prepare a prospectus outlining opportunities available for a range of sporting events in the municipality (e.g. on road and off-road cycling, orienteering, triathlons, water skiing, canoeing, hockey, football, netball, tennis, bowls, cricket, etc) and actively distribute this prospectus to event organisers, clubs / organisations and State Sporting organisations.

9.3 Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan

Also of relevance is Loddon Shire's Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan²⁵. A key outcome of this plan is to increase healthy eating and active living. Two measures of success against this outcome which have been listed in the plan to be measured every three years are:

- increased proportion of adults/ adolescents 10-17 years/ children 5-12 years, who are sufficiently physically active
- increased proportion of people participating in organised sport.

The plan notes:

- more than 60% of residents had used a local park or playground, recreation facility or open space or nature space in the last 12 months
- 75% said that more opportunities for physical activity were very important or important to them
- 59.8% said that they would like to increase physical activity to improve their health and wellbeing
- respondents said that the top three most important things to improve the community's health and wellbeing are better roads and road maintenance (30%), more footpaths (20%), better cycling and footpath networks (12.2%) and better recreation facilities (8.9%)
- 9.4% rated parks and green spaces and 5.2% rated good cycling and footpath networks in the top three things they value in the community.

10 OUR COMMUNITY

10.1 Location

Loddon Shire is situated in north central Victoria approximately 200km north of Melbourne and 40km north-west of Bendigo. It is predominantly a rural area featuring a number of small towns such as Bridgewater, Inglewood, Wedderburn, Serpentine, Tarnagulla, Boort, Mitiamo and Pyramid Hill. From a landscape perspective, the Shire features forests, rolling hills, rocky outcrops, rivers, lakes and productive farmland. Main industries include agricultural activities

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such as dairy, horticulture, viticulture, cropping, lamb and intensive poultry and piggeries. The area is popular with bushwalkers, cyclists, water skiers, fishermen, canoeists and people who enjoy visiting wineries and the natural environment.



A brief summary of the demographic make-up of the Shire of Loddon follows²⁶, with a more detailed analysis for each major town included in the Appendix.

10.2 Population

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics Census (2016)²⁷, Loddon Shire has a current population of 7,516. The population is dispersed over many small towns, none of which exceed 1,000 people. By 2031, the population is projected to have declined to 6,710 according to the State Government's (2016) Victorian in Future 2016 report²⁸, although Loddon Shire is actively working towards reversing this trend. Growth is most likely to occur in towns in the southern part of the Shire closest to Bendigo such as Bridgewater and Inglewood.

10.3 Age

Loddon Shire is an ageing community with 44.8% of the population currently over 55 years of age compared with 27.6% of Australians. Wedderburn, Boort and Newbridge report the highest median age, i.e. 56, 53 and 53 respectively, compared with 38 for Australia. Hence from an activating open spaces perspective we need to ensure that we provide spaces that are accessible for people of all ages and abilities. There is less likely to be demand for highly active outdoor sports facilities and more demand for outdoor facilities that enable less physically active or passive recreational opportunities, e.g. walking, cycling, swimming, spaces in parks for activities such as tai chi, etc.

10.4 Country of birth and languages spoken

The majority of residents (79.8%) were born in Australia and speak only English at home (86.3%). Fifteen other languages are spoken at home, with the five most popular being Filipino, Tagalog, Hungarian, German and Greek. One in ten residents of Pyramid Hill was born in the Philippines and 9.3% of its population speak either Filipino or Tagalog at home. This indicates that there may be a need to provide information about open spaces in Filipino or Tagalog in Pyramid Hill.

10.5 Employment

Slightly less residents were employed full-time and slightly more part time, compared with Australians overall. There was a greater percentage of people away from work, compared with the Australian figure and the unemployment rate was slightly lower. Almost half of those employed were employed as managers and labourers and most people are employed in some form of farming. This data tells us that our residents may be working in quite manual jobs, some of which may be very demanding in hours at certain times of the year (e.g. shearing, harvesting and milking) and therefore consideration needs to be given to when activities are provided within the Shire.

10.6 Income

In relation to income, more than one third of Loddon Shire households earn less than \$650 gross per week, compared with just one in five Australians (20.0%). The median household income in Loddon Shire is \$826 per week compared with \$1,438 for Australia. Household incomes in Wedderburn and Inglewood are lowest within the Shire, indicating that participation costs for any physical activities need to be kept at an affordable level.

10.7 Caring for children and people with a disability

Due to the ageing population, the percentage of people who are responsible for caring for children in the Shire is generally less than Australia overall, with the exception of Serpentine where there are many young families. So whilst childcare is unlikely to be a major barrier to participation for older adults in the community (unless they are caring for grandchildren / foster children), due to the lack of childcare options in the Shire at present, it may be a major issue for some. Similarly, there is a higher percentage of people who care for someone with a disability. This may provide a barrier for carers to utilise open spaces for their own health and wellbeing. One in five people in Mitiamo is currently caring for a person with a disability.

10.8 Volunteering

Loddon Shire has a strong culture of volunteerism, as evidenced by the number of people who stated that they have undertaken some form of voluntary work through an organisation sometime within the last 12 months. Four out of every ten residents in Boort have volunteered their services in the past 12 months. Despite the high number of volunteers in the community, local feedback indicates that there is still a lack of volunteers, many volunteers are ageing and many volunteers are very busy.

10.9 Household types

Compared with Australia, Loddon Shire has a much higher rate of single or one person households (34.2% compared with 24.4%). This figure increases to 43.3% of households in Boort. To ensure that people in single or one-person households are able to make connections with others outside their homes, the design of public spaces should focus on facilitating community contacts, e.g. group programs, community events, seating that encourages interactions.

10.10 Transport

Given that public transport is very limited in Loddon Shire, access to a car is very important for many people. There is an average of 2.3 cars per household, compared with 1.8 for Australia. Mitiamo and Newbridge have the greatest access to vehicles, whereas Pyramid Hill and Wedderburn have the least access. Place-based activities and activities held at convenient locations are therefore likely to be very important, particularly given the cost of fuel and

distances that need to be travelled to access open spaces and physical activity opportunities in neighbouring communities inside the Shire or in towns outside the Shire.

10.11 Internet connection

Loddon Shire lags considerably behind its Australian counterparts in relation to internet connection. Whereas more than eight out of ten Australians access the internet from their home, this figure is as low as 58.7% for Inglewood. Until such time as there is greater uptake of the technology and improved access to a reliable and affordable internet service, any information about the provision of facilities or activities needs to be provided in multiple platforms, including written materials and posters in shop windows.

10.12 Health and wellbeing

In terms of health and wellbeing, 55% of Loddon residents do not do enough physical activity to achieve health benefits, compared with 50% of Victorians. Further, 25% of Loddon residents are obese or overweight, compared with 19% of Victorians. These factors, combined with smoking, excessive alcohol consumption and poor diet contribute to chronic illness. Some specific data related to chronic illness in Loddon Shire follows:

- Loddon Shire has the highest rate of heart attack in Victoria
- Loddon Shire has the 2nd highest rate of cardiac arrest in Victoria
- there is a higher proportion of people in Loddon Shire with diabetes compared with Victoria
- avoidable deaths from diabetes, cancer, COPD and suicide are higher in Loddon than in Victoria.

11 WHAT OUR COMMUNITY TELLS US

11.1 Overview of community engagement

273 residents of Loddon Shire had their say through a series of community engagement and consultation activities including:

- consultation with young people at Wedderburn and Boort P-12 schools (44)
- listening posts at Wedderburn IGA Supermarket, Calivil Recreation Reserve, Inglewood Recreation Reserve (95)
- Seniors Forum (7)
- Townscape Services staff meeting (4)
- Technical Services staff meeting (1)
- community survey (122).

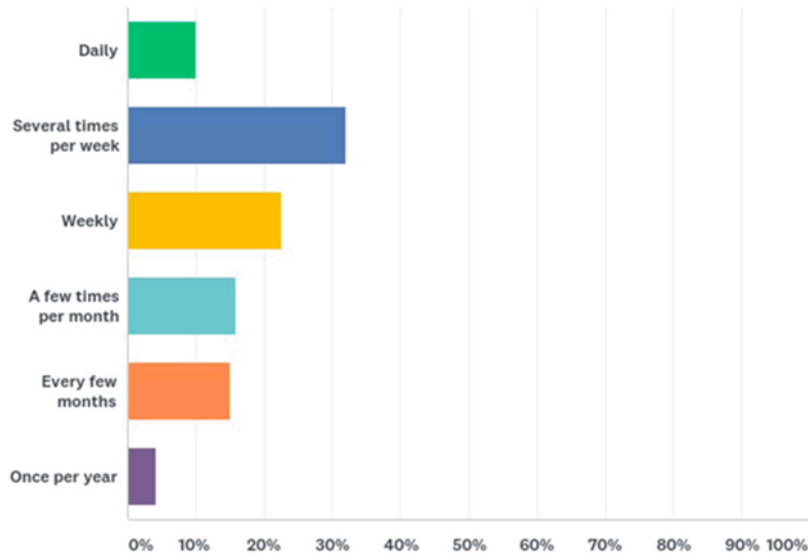
Detailed notes from each consultation or engagement activity are included in the Appendix. Suggestions received from the community have been assessed and used to inform the recommendations for each town.

11.2 How local residents utilise public open space

Local residents who completed a survey were asked a series of questions about their usage of open space. They were permitted to provide details of up to three spaces. The following data pertains just to the first area of open space identified, which was generally the most frequently visited site by survey respondents. Results for the second and third sites were very similar. Refer to the Appendix for further details.

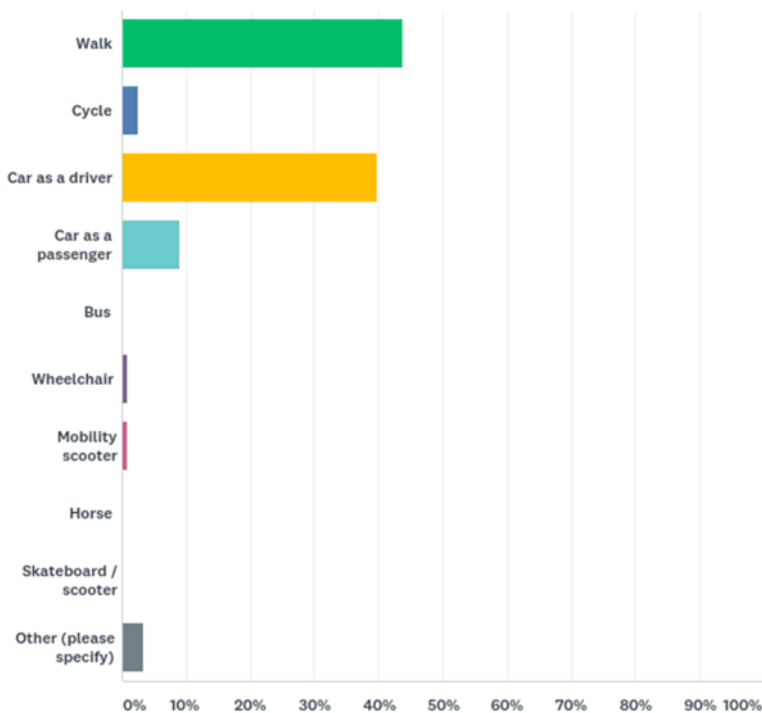
11.3 How often people use open space

For the first area of open space nominated, survey respondents typically used this space several times per week (31.9%) followed by weekly (22.7%).



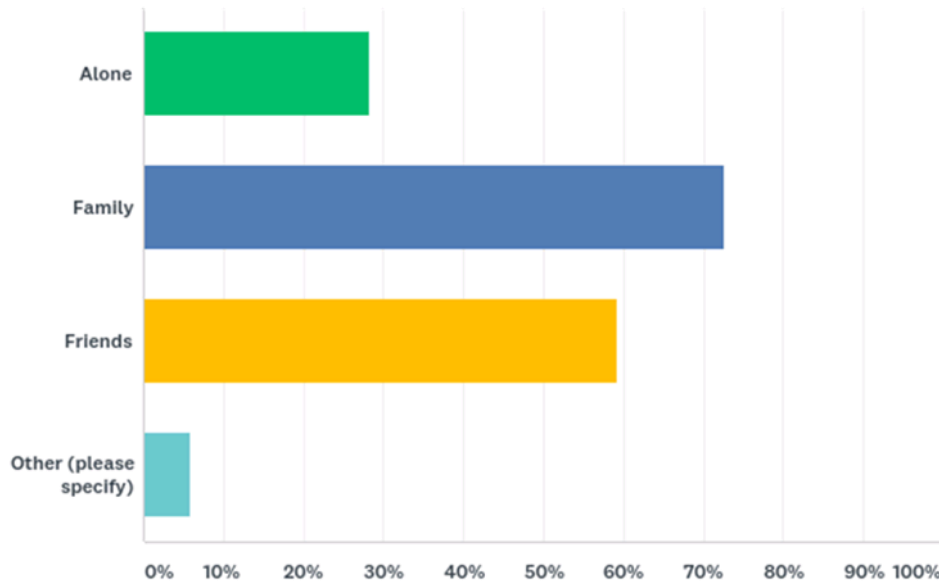
11.4 How people get to areas of public open space

In general people travelled to this site by foot (43.8%) or in a car as a driver (39.7%).



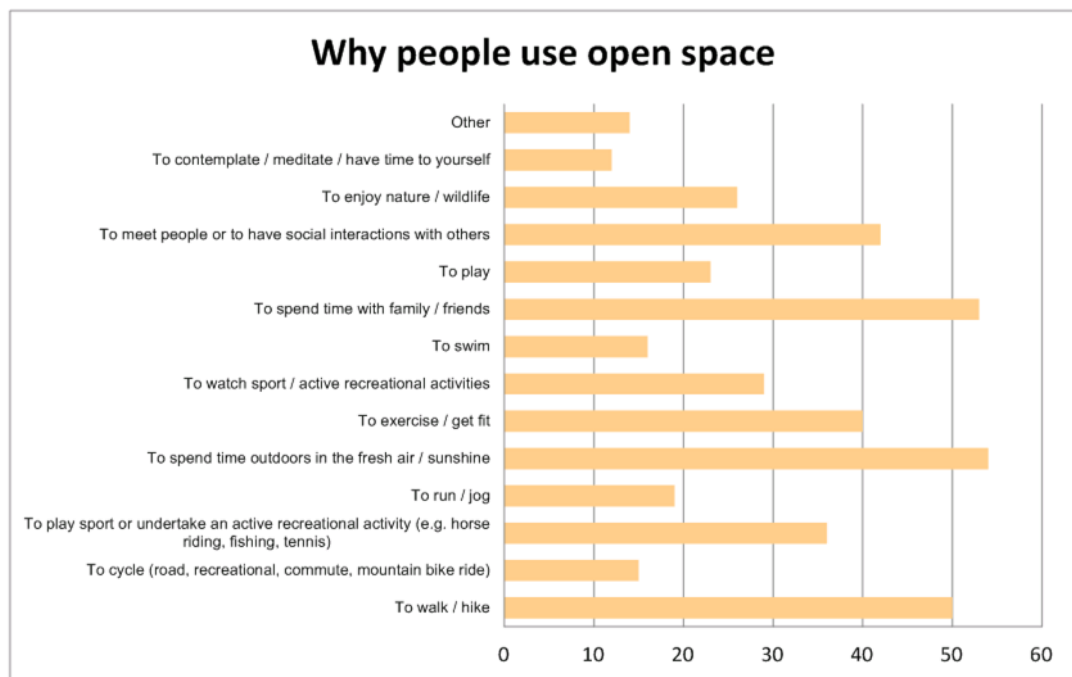
11.5 Who people go to public open spaces with

People mostly visit open spaces with family (72.5%) and / or with friends (59.2%).



11.6 Why people use open space

Survey respondents primarily used this site to spend time outdoors in the fresh air / sunshine (44.6%), to spend time with family / friends (43.8%), to walk / hike (41.3%), to meet people / have social interactions with others (34.7%) or to exercise / get fit (33.1%).



11.7 What would encourage people to use public open spaces more often

Survey respondents were asked (from an extensive list) what would encourage them to use public open spaces in Loddon Shire more often (multiple responses were permitted). The top 10 responses to this question are:

Suggestion	Percentage of responses
More events, e.g. movies in the park, festivals, markets, etc	50.9%
More or better walking / cycling paths and linkages	44.4%
More shade	40.7%
Outdoor gym equipment	38.9%
More seats	32.4%
More / better play equipment	32.4%
Picnic tables	32.4%
Drinking fountains	28.7%
Physical activity programs, e.g. outdoor tai chi, yoga, zumba, etc	28.7%
Shelters	28.7%

11.8 General comments

Some general comments included:

Topic	Details
Events	facilitate more community events in parks, particularly over summer, e.g. movies, music, markets, walking festival, food trucks
Activities / programs	consider facilitating activities or programs in parks and open spaces, e.g. tai chi, bushwalking groups
Promotion	consider ways to better promote spaces and activities held within spaces
Maintenance	ensure that our existing public open spaces are well maintained
Diversity of activities	facilitate a more diverse range of active sport and informal recreation activities in public open spaces, e.g. horse riding, soccer, rock climbing, outdoor table tennis
Infrastructure	provide more seats, paths and shade in public open spaces
Accessibility	ensure that infrastructure / facilities are DDA compliant and designed according to universal design principles
Drinking water	provide drinking water for both people and dogs in parks
Culture	provide more interpretive information about Indigenous and European history
Sense of place	each area of open space should have its own identity and reflect the community in which it is based (community engagement is important)
Informal recreation	continue to develop walking / cycling trails, upgrade play spaces, consider development of dog parks and install outdoor fitness equipment

Topic	Details
	in key locations throughout the Shire
Social aspect	construct BBQs and shelters in parks and at recreation reserves to allow for outings with family and friends and improved community connections
Inter-generational activities	provide a range of activities suitable for people of all ages wherever possible in parks, recreation reserves and other areas of public open space

11.9 Site specific demands

Some of the site-specific recommendations with a higher degree of support (i.e. more than one response / suggestion) include:

- **Boort**
 - install outdoor exercise equipment
 - upgrade Nolen's Park play space, paths and shade
 - install solar heating at the swimming pool [this is already planned]
 - improve access tracks to The Granites
 - improve play opportunities for teenagers
 - develop more paths for walking / cycling;
 - level footpaths in the main street
- **Bridgewater**
 - construct toilets at Sloans Park
 - improve change facilities for netballers and public toilets at Bridgewater Recreation Reserve
 - continue to improve the River Walk and the Swimming Hole
- **Calivil**
 - construct a BBQ and shelter
 - develop a netball shelter
 - upgrade play equipment and install seats next to the playground
 - develop a double lane road in front of the Reserve to improve safety
- **Inglewood**
 - provide more shade and seats at the Sloan Park playground
 - upgrade lights on the oval to allow night games and construct new accessible public toilets
 - upgrade Inglewood Botanic Gardens
 - encourage more people to walk around the Inglewood Golf Course and perhaps set up a Heart Foundation Walking Group
 - install a full-sized basketball court for young people in town
 - increase the size of the Skate Park and increase the degree of difficulty of some equipment
 - upgrade walking / cycling tracks at Inglewood Reservoir
- **Mitiamo**
 - upgrade play equipment at Phelan Park
 - construct additional female toilets and showers at the Recreation Reserve
- **Newbridge**
 - construct BBQ with shelters at both Riverside Park and Progress Park

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- Pyramid Hill
 - install a fence next to the Lions Park in Victoria St (next to the tennis courts)
 - better maintain the Pyramid Hill Walking Track and install improved signage
 - upgrade Kelly Park to include drinking fountains, a baby swing, outdoor gym equipment and swings from the park on the opposite side of the road
 - better female change room facilities at Kelly Park
- Serpentine
 - install outdoor fitness equipment at the Reserve
 - upgrade the Serpentine Tennis clubrooms
 - develop more walking tracks
 - upgrade car parks at the Reserve (this work has now been undertaken)
- Wedderburn
 - develop new clubrooms at Donaldson Park [this is already planned]
 - improve accessibility of toilets for hockey players at Donaldson Park
 - update play equipment, repair gates, develop a skate park and develop water play opportunities at Soldier's Memorial Park
 - upgrade fitness equipment and improve maintenance on the Nardoo Walking Track
 - grade roads in bushland to allow easier walking
 - install more seats, shade and a diving board at Wedderburn Swimming Pool
 - install more picnic tables at Mt Korong
 - upgrade toilet facilities, seats and picnic tables and construct BBQs at Skinners Flat Reservoir
 - develop an off-leash dog park in Wedderburn
 - install a drinking fountain at the bus stop under the shelter
 - continue to provide green spaces (grass and trees) that are well maintained
 - develop more community activities in parks and in community centres
 - develop more outdoor play opportunities for teenagers.

Note that in some towns, e.g. Dingee, Laanecoorie and Tarnagulla, there were no suggestions nominated two or more times by the community.

12 HOW CAN WE ACTIVATE OUR OPEN SPACES

Activating open spaces can be achieved by addressing seven key aspects:



Each of these actions is described in further detail in the table below. This strategy has identified specific actions to help activate open spaces in towns throughout the Shire. However, there are some broader, national, state and Shire-wide actions which also need to be considered, which are based on the strategic directions such as the World Health Organisation as well as general feedback from the Loddon community.

12.1 The seven key factors to activate open spaces

These actions are as follows:

Action	Details	Strategic linkages
Promote the benefits of being physically active to the community	Actively promote the Australian Physical Activity Guidelines and increase people's knowledge of the benefits of being physically active and leading a healthy lifestyle.	Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan
Create safe, inclusive and accessible spaces and places	Develop and / or maintain a number of safe, inclusive and accessible spaces and places in towns that encourage people of all ages and abilities to be physically active, as per the Open Space Infrastructure Provision Framework and the Style Guide in the Appendix. Infrastructure / facilities should be DDA compliant and designed according to universal design principles. Wherever possible, open spaces should be designed to be as flexible as possible to encourage spaces to be used by more than one user group and for more than one type of activity.	Recreation Strategy Tracks and Trails Strategy
Promote events and programs that encourage physical activity	Promote a range of programs and events within the Shire that encourage residents and visitors to engage in physical activity on a regular basis within public open spaces, e.g. walking festival, tai chi in a park, ParkRun, Summer in the Parks, Heart Foundation Walking Groups, dive in movies, pedometer challenges and yoga Wherever possible, encourage clubs, not for profit agencies and businesses to offer new activities and provide them with an appropriate level of support.	Tourism Strategy Recreation Strategy
Involve the community in planning spaces, places, events and programs	Encourage place making by empowering the local community to be involved in the planning of spaces and places in their neighbourhood where physical activity can occur (place making) and to also to be involved in the planning and delivery of events and programs. This is likely to create greater ownership of spaces and places, which will result in stewardship (caring for local facilities). It is also likely to encourage the implementation of events and programs which meet local needs and are therefore well supported. One aspect of place making is the development and installation of art works to reflect something that is important to the community, e.g. the cormorant and fish sculptures at Little Lake Boort. This should be encouraged in major parks / open spaces.	Recreation Strategy.

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Action	Details	Strategic linkages
Promote spaces, places, events and programs where physical activity occurs	Promote existing open spaces and places and ensure that any new programs or events are well publicised using a variety of different tools (e.g. website, social media pages, media articles, posters in shop windows, etc).	Tourism Strategy Recreation Strategy
Ensure that our systems, policies and processes encourage physical activity	Review Council, sports club and community systems, policies and processes (e.g. Community Support Policy) to ensure that they enhance, rather than discourage, physical activity participation, e.g. suitable tenancy arrangements with sporting clubs, public access to tennis courts, etc.	Recreation Strategy
Develop partnerships with organisations to help deliver spaces, places, events and activities.	Work in partnership with sports clubs, schools, neighbourhood houses, community planning groups, businesses and others to collectively increase the number of people who are physically active in open spaces throughout the Shire.	Recreation Strategy

12.2 Potential opportunities for consideration

12.2.1 Outdoor fitness equipment

Outdoor fitness equipment is similar to indoor gym equipment, except that it may be somewhat more basic in appearance, is more hard wearing and resistant to weather. Items may be static or dynamic. Outdoor fitness equipment is generally installed along a linear pathway, e.g. around a lake or along a river, or can be clustered together to form an exercise station or can be a combination of the two.



Image: Springfield Daily Record on google images. Outdoor fitness equipment in Yeppoon, QLD

Some of the advantages and disadvantages of outdoor fitness equipment (OFE) can be summarised as follows:

Advantages

- helps to improve people's health and fitness (e.g. strength, aerobic capacity, balance, dexterity, range of motion and flexibility)
- helps to improve people's mental health and social connections
- free for people to use
- can be used at any time of day or night (if there is some form of lighting)
i.e. not reliant on a gym being open
- intergenerational and social meeting point for local residents
- can be used by people of all ages including family groups
- opportunity to exercise outdoors in the fresh air and sunshine
- enables people to connect with nature and feel rejuvenated
- no need to employ people to supervise the gym
- no need to pay running costs of a building, e.g. lighting, heating, cooling, etc
- may encourage increased physical activity levels by existing park users
- can modernise an existing area of open space and draw more users
- it builds on the increasing demand of Australians for gym / fitness activities,
i.e. 32% of Australians currently participate in gym / fitness activities – this is second only to walking (42%) which is the most popular physical activity of Australians.
- opportunity for fitness instructors to 'hire' the site at set terms to earn income by offering group fitness classes using the equipment.

Disadvantages

- equipment can be vandalised
- some people are embarrassed to use the equipment in public and fear that they will look silly
- some people worry about their safety in an outdoor gym environment or are concerned that they will injure themselves
- usage can be impacted by weather
- equipment, particularly moving equipment, requires a high level of maintenance (possibly 5-10% of the construction cost annually)
- difficult to achieve universal design with some items
- people could potentially injure themselves if they do not know how to use the equipment correctly
- equipment may not be used if people are unfamiliar with the type of exercises that can be performed
- they often only appeal to or are regularly used by people who are already leading active lifestyles
- it is difficult to monitor and evaluate usage.

The cost of OFE varies considerably, depending on a range of factors including the number of exercise stations, the type of exercise stations, under-surfacing, signage costs, supporting infrastructure, planning costs, programming costs.

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According to Sport and Recreation Victoria²⁹ equipment installed along Swan Hill Rural City Council's Riverside Park cost just over \$220,000; Darebin City Council installed OFE for just over \$80,000, Port Philip Bay for \$100,000 and City of Wodonga for \$150,000.

There will be an annual maintenance cost that will also need to be factored in. This is estimated to be around \$4,000 annually for equipment with a purchase price of \$100,000. The equipment is likely to last for 10-15 years, depending on factors such as usage levels, weather conditions, the degree of dynamic equipment, etc., hence an annual sum of \$10,000 in today's costs needs to be set aside for renewal in 10 years-time.

A sample of state, national and international research undertaken over the past five years indicates a mixed response to outdoor fitness equipment in terms of its usage and benefits. Generally older adults and females will be the main users of such equipment. More research is needed to determine how effectively parks or spaces with outdoor fitness equipment can attract new park users and increase physical activity levels of participants over time. What is highly evident however, is the growth in suppliers of outdoor fitness equipment, based on a demand by communities for such equipment.

The key to successful outdoor fitness gyms are:

- demand by the community, i.e. sufficient population and visitor numbers to justify the expenditure and an indication that the facilities will be well utilised
- placement in a highly visible location with good passive surveillance
- access to supporting facilities and amenities, e.g. paths, toilets, shelter / shade and drinking fountains
- diversity of equipment that allows for a full body workout and that is easy and intuitive to use by people of all ages and abilities (universal design)
- promotion of the outdoor gym when it is first developed, e.g. come and try day, media articles, website promotion, etc.
- encouragement and support, e.g. programs run by exercise physiologists / personal trainers on how to use gym equipment correctly and how to develop and modify a program
- information about how to use the gym equipment, e.g. signage, instructional guides, brochures, posters, etc.
- sufficient resources to effectively maintain the site and keep it in good working order.

The key locations for consideration of outdoor fitness equipment in Loddon Shire, based on existing strategic planning, community feedback and an assessment of likely success factors, are:

- Little Lake Boort – a cluster at Nolen's Park or near the swimming pool
- Inglewood Town Hall – cluster
- Wedderburn – linear with small clusters of equipment at Cooper Park, Soldier's Memorial Park and along the Nardoo Creek path.
- Bridgewater – linear trail along the Loddon River
- Pyramid Hill – near the tennis court and swimming pool.

Several options for consideration are:

Option	Description	Discussion
Option 1	Construct outdoor fitness equipment in three communities	This option would cost approximately \$300,000 to deliver with an additional \$12,000 annually for maintenance and an annual amount of \$30,000 set aside for renewal. It would enable people in each of these towns (and possibly neighbouring towns) to access gym equipment

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Option	Description	Discussion
		free of charge at any time that suits them. It is a large investment with no guarantees of usage levels. It may impact on usage of community gyms in Boort and Wedderburn. External funding would need to be sought to help fund the development.
Option 2	Construct outdoor fitness equipment in one community	This option would cost approximately \$100,000 to deliver, with an additional \$4,000 annually for maintenance and an annual amount of \$10,000 set aside for renewal. It would enable people in the selected town and possibly neighbouring towns to access gym equipment free of charge at any time that suits them. It is a moderate sized investment with no guarantees of usage levels. External funding would need to be sought to help fund the development.
Option 3	Establish a physical activity program fund	This option would cost approximately \$50,000 for Council staff to establish and run activities in public open spaces such as parks, waterways, sports grounds, etc. that encourage local residents, particularly those who are currently inactive, to get outdoors and take part in physical activities. This reflects actions identified in the Loddon Shire Recreation Strategy. It is a moderate sized investment with no guarantees of usage levels. From an equity perspective, this option could enable every town in the Shire to benefit in some way. Long term sustainability of the program cannot be guaranteed.
Option 4	Construct outdoor fitness equipment at two towns as a pilot project and establish a physical activity program fund	This option could be delivered for approximately \$120,000 with an additional \$4,000 annually for maintenance and an annual amount of \$10,000 set aside for renewal. The first part would involve the development of outdoor fitness equipment in two towns and the second component would involve community groups and individuals (supported by seed funding) to deliver physical activities in parks and other opens spaces throughout the Shire on behalf of Council for local residents and packaged together through Shire advertising. This model has a strong community development focus and is likely to be more sustainable. From an equity perspective, this option could enable every town in the Shire to benefit in some way. However, to some extent it relies on utilising volunteers (who may not have the time or desire to be involved in delivering physical activities). It is a moderate sized investment with no guarantees of usage levels.

It is recommended that the Shire of Loddon proceed with option four and seek external funds to construct outdoor fitness equipment at two locations in the Shire as a pilot project with the view to expanding equipment if there is demonstrated high usage and success; and to set aside \$20,000 as a pilot project to establish physical activity opportunities throughout the Shire for

local residents. If these facilities are deemed to be successful, there is potential that it could be rolled out to other towns in the Shire.

As per the recommendations of the Recreation Strategy 2015-2020 Council should also continue to assist communities to develop community gyms as required.

12.2.2 Splash Parks

Splash parks are children's play areas that feature water which is sprayed from ground level or from upright structures and drained away so that it has zero or minimum depth at any time. Zones can be incorporated into the splash park so that there are areas suitable for toddlers right through to teens. These facilities, whilst very popular, require water to be treated in the same way as swimming pools; hence can be cost prohibitive in some areas.

A neighbouring Local Government Authority installed a Splash Park in one of its suburbs in 2017 at a cost of approximately \$600,000. It is a solar heated facility which opens in October each year and closes in March. Water quality and toilets are checked several times daily by contractors. In addition to the visitor-activated fountains in the splash park, it features a shaded seating area, irrigated grass area, picnic tables, BBQ, toilets, change room, dry playground, and basketball ring. There are crossing signals at each end of the splash pad, which when activated run for four minutes at a time.



The Little Lake Boort Draft Master Plan recommends the establishment of a splash park. Ideally, the priority location for the development of water play facilities is Wedderburn in the vicinity of the public outdoor swimming pool (subject to feasibility) as a priority given the lack of quality play opportunities and the lack of water in the town.

12.2.3 Modular pump track

Modular pump tracks are becoming increasingly popular, often as an alternative to a traditional skate park. They are suitable for people of all ages and abilities on mountain bikes, scooters and skate boards. They work by people using pressure to generate propulsion on the high grip surface, i.e. a pumping movement rather than a pedalling or skating movement. The track is made up of engineered modules that can be configured in a variety of different ways and they are installed either above ground or into the terrain. They can be easily upgraded or changed. Modular pump tracks come as pre-cast concrete or as a plywood composite. The plywood composite track can be transported to events. Pump tracks have been installed in Horsham, Nagambie and Apollo Bay. Supplier: Parkitect.



12.2.4 Outdoor table tennis

Numerous parks and open spaces have incorporated permanent outdoor table tennis tables into their design to create another informal physical activity opportunity for park users. Generally there is a permanent 'net' on the table and people can either bring their own bats and balls along or they can be hired or borrowed from a nearby shop. Supplier: Imaginationplay.



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12.2.5 Technology

Technology can be used in a park to enhance the user's experience, e.g. interactive play structures and can also be used to enhance the management and maintenance of parks and open spaces, e.g. moisture detecting devices for ovals and lawns.

There are various websites and apps that promote and encourage physical activity, e.g. Strava - a social fitness network that is used to track cycling, running, and swimming activities; and the Heart Foundation's Walking app which tracks a person's minutes of activity and daily steps and compares the results with others in the community. It is important that Loddon Shire promote its public open spaces and the physical activity opportunities that are available in these on relevant apps and websites (including its own).

The term 'smart parks' is growing in momentum and is used to describe a park that utilises technology to enhance the visitor's experience, improve the performance of a park and reduces the long-term operating costs of a park.

Interactive play structures – can be used by people of all abilities. They can take the place of traditional play structures, or be used in addition to existing structures. Interactive play structures are designed to create fun, educate people (e.g. they can be programmed with maths questions), and promote physical activity. Users can receive automatic updates of new games.



Supplier: Yalp Interactive (Netherlands)

Dance arch – these spaces create opportunities for people of all abilities to dance and listen to music. There is software available that provides audio feedback. Games have also been incorporated into the software that are designed for children with autism or other disorders.



Supplier: Yalp Interactive (Netherlands)

Sutu ball wall – is an interactive soccer game that is connected to a Smartphone application. Young people can compete with other young people by tracking their scores on an app associated with the game. They receive a notification when their friends get a higher score.



Supplier: Yalp Interactive (Netherlands)

Energy-generating exercise equipment – such as an exercise bike, creates friction (and heat), while it is being used. This heat is then converted to electrical energy via a generator. This electricity can be used to charge up mobile phones, provide lighting or returned to the grid. An hour of cycling produces enough energy (50 to 150 watts) to power a TV for approximately one hour.

Supplier: Playpoint Asia



Daylight fluorescent aggregate – daylight fluorescent aggregate (small pebbles) used on walking/cycling paths and roads, when mixed with epoxy resin can create glow in the dark paths. Following approximately 10 minutes of exposure to natural light, the aggregate can glow for up to 12 hours.

Supplier: Strabag (Poland)



Smart benches – are bench seats that incorporate solar powered USB charging points for electronic devices and / or Wi-Fi hot spots.

Supplier: Soofa (USA)



Smart water fountains – include solar panels to chill water, filters to remove contaminants, sensors to monitor water quality and audio to engage visitors (some provide compliments or tell jokes).

Supplier: Meet PAT – Products and Things (Australia)



Piezoelectric energy harvesting tiles – every footstep generates five watts of power, which can fully charge a mobile phone within an hour. These tiles can also power park or sports ground lighting when supplemented with solar energy.

Supplier: Pavegen (UK)



All photos sourced from UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs - Luskin Center for Innovation Smart Parks: A Toolkit: <http://innovation.luskin.ucla.edu/sites/default/files/ParksWeb020218.pdf>

There are numerous other forms of technology such as LED lighting, fibre optic lighting, solar lighting digital signs, etc. Some of the challenges of incorporating technology into parks and open spaces are:

- Cost to install the technology
- Staff skills to utilise and oversee the technology
- Technology installed quickly becomes obsolete
- Some people afraid of using technology.

There is potential to seek State Government funding to establish a smart park at as suitable location in Loddon Shire.

12.2.6 Programming

Numerous Local Government Authorities around Australia are implementing free or low cost programs in their parks to activate these sites, particularly over the warmer months. This has been occurring in United States parks for many years.

The City of Gold Coast produces an annual 12 month lifestyle guide for its community. The guide lists activities that occur both outdoors and in indoor venues. In 2016, there were 150 weekly active and health sessions conducted, which attracted 120,000 attendances. Low cost or free activities held in parks, at beaches or on the river include tai chi, yoga, pilates, barre, paddleboard, group fitness classes, boxing, stroller groups, mums and bubs fitness classes, walking groups, trail chix, etc. Sports sign on days are also held.

Darebin Shire Council conducted a program in 2017 called Get Active in Darebin. This program featured a variety of free or low-cost activities such as yoga, walking groups, Qi Gong, pilates, hooperise, tai chi, zumba, spin classes and family discos to encourage local residents to get more active. As part of this program they held come and try days so that local people could learn how to use the recently installed outdoor fitness equipment and also promoted modified sports such as Cardio Tennis and Rock Up Netball.

Figure 1: City of Darebin’s Get Active in Darebin program



ACTIVITY	LOCATION	SUBURB	STARTS	FINISHES	TIME
MONDAY					
ROCK UP NETBALL	DAREBIN COMMUNITY SPORTS STADIUM	RESERVOIR	6 FEBRUARY	20 MARCH	9.30 - 10.30AM
SOCIAL SPIN	EDWARDES LAKE PARK	RESERVOIR	6 FEBRUARY	20 MARCH	6.45 - 7.30PM
TAI CHI IN THE PARK	AG DAVIS PARK	PRESTON	6 FEBRUARY	20 MARCH	9.30 - 10.30AM
TUESDAY					
GET INTO CARDIO TENNIS	JS GREY RESERVE	PRESTON	7 FEBRUARY	21 MARCH	9.30 - 10.15AM
HOOPERCEISE	PENDERS PARK	THORNBURY	7 FEBRUARY	21 MARCH	9.30 - 10.30AM
NORTHLAND WALKING GROUP	NORTHLAND SHOPPING CENTRE	PRESTON	7 FEBRUARY	21 MARCH	9.30 - 10.30AM
PARENTS AND KIDS DISCO	PRESTON CITY OVAL	PRESTON	7 FEBRUARY	21 MARCH	10 - 11AM
WOMEN’S ZUMBA	PRESTON CITY HALL	PRESTON	14 FEBRUARY	21 MARCH	6 - 7PM
WEDNESDAY					
HEART FOUNDATION WALKING GROUP	NORTHCOTE AQUATIC AND RECREATION CENTRE	NORTHCOTE	8 FEBRUARY	22 MARCH	9.30 - 10.30AM
PILATES IN THE PARK	GE ROBINSON PARK	RESERVOIR	8 FEBRUARY	22 MARCH	9.30 - 10.30AM
THURSDAY					
QI GONG IN THE PARK	RAY BRAMHAM GARDENS	PRESTON	9 FEBRUARY	23 MARCH	9.30 - 10.30AM
YOGA IN THE PARK	DAREBIN PARKLANDS	ALPHINGTON	9 FEBRUARY	23 MARCH	9.30 - 10.30AM
FRIDAY					
FITNESS IN THE PARK	ALL NATIONS PARK	NORTHCOTE	10 FEBRUARY	24 MARCH	9.30 - 10.30AM
OUTDOOR EXERCISE EQUIPMENT ‘COME AND TRY’	TW ANDREWS RESERVE	RESERVOIR	10 FEBRUARY	NA	10 - 11AM
OUTDOOR EXERCISE EQUIPMENT ‘COME AND TRY’	BUNDOORA PARK	BUNDOORA	17 FEBRUARY	NA	10 - 11AM
YOGA IN THE PARK	HP ZWAR RESERVE	PRESTON	10 FEBRUARY	24 MARCH	9.30 - 10.30AM
SUNDAY					
GET INTO CARDIO TENNIS	JS GREY RESERVE	PRESTON	12 FEBRUARY	26 MARCH	10 - 10.45AM

CITY OF DAREBIN

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National Relay Service

TTY dial 133 677 or **Speak & Listen**
 1300 555 727
 or iprelay.com.au
 then enter
 03 8470 8888



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العربية Italiano
 繁體中文 Македонски
 Ελληνικά Soomali
 हिंदी Tiếng Việt

13 ACTION PLAN

13.1 Shire-wide considerations

General 'big picture' Shire-wide considerations to encourage activation of public open spaces are:

Consideration	Action
Parks	<p>Review Councils Park Asset Management Plan 2010 to update policy around hierarchy, standards and service levels.</p> <p>Undertake a gradual plan to renew and upgrade parks and reserves throughout the Shire, focusing on planting more shade trees in strategic locations, improved landscaping (using drought tolerant plantings and infrastructure such as rocks and logs), installing drinking fountains, installing more seats with arm and back rests, providing picnic tables, providing BBQs, improving accessibility for people of all abilities, installing paths and installing lighting where appropriate, etc.</p> <p>Appropriate planning should be undertaken prior to any renewals or upgrades to ensure that the proposed works complement what already exists and will meet community needs into the future. For major sites, a master plan is recommended.</p>
Play Spaces	<p>Renew playgrounds when they reach the end of their useful life, taking into consideration diversity of play opportunities, quality of play, etc.</p> <p>Provide a greater focus on nature-based play and work towards including access for all abilities, particularly in the larger play spaces.</p> <p>Remove under-utilised play spaces that do not provide play value.</p> <p>Encourage each major recreation reserve to maintain and further develop suitable play opportunities for families.</p> <p>Explore opportunities to develop a Memorandum of Understanding with local schools to provide access to school play equipment after hours.</p> <p>Playgrounds will be included as part of the review of Councils Park Asset Management Plan and will include information about updating policy around hierarchy, standards and service levels.</p>
Walking / Cycling tracks	<p>Develop future footpath infrastructure to be consistent with "Loddon Shire Footpath Asset Management Plan".</p> <p>Continue to develop quality walking / cycling tracks throughout the Shire, with suitable supporting infrastructure, e.g. seats, shade, drinking water and signage (subject to feasibility and full costings / whole of life costings being established). Connect any new tracks to the existing walking / cycling network wherever possible.</p> <p>Consider partnering with golf clubs to develop walking / cycling tracks on golf courses.</p>
Waterways	<p>Develop key water ways as passive recreation facilities for local residents and visitors, including infrastructure such as seating, picnic tables, BBQs where relevant, shade, planting of grass, fishing platforms, swimming pontoons, kayak entrance / exit points, play opportunities, etc. There is a real opportunity to turn these spaces into quality family recreation facilities that attract not only locals but also visitors.</p>

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Consideration	Action
Swimming pools	Extend the swimming pool season wherever possible through use of solar heating and implementation of a Volunteer lifeguard program. Provide a range of activities at each pool throughout summer, e.g. community BBQs, water aerobics, swimming lessons, pool parties and dive in movies to encourage physical activity participation. Share inflatable equipment between the pools. Install drinking fountains. These actions have been picked up in swimming pool development plans. Maintain and further develop early morning swimming sessions and other related activities i.e. aquarobics at all swimming pools.
Signage	Install suitable signage (trail heads, directional signage, place signage, kilojoule consumption signage, etc.) so that local residents and visitors are aware of facilities available, their location and the benefits of physical activity. Provide interpretive signage where appropriate to enhance the experience.
Maintenance and management	Develop an adequate maintenance schedule and budget to keep infrastructure in a safe and usable state. Consideration for additional staff in Townscape Services to adequately maintain existing open spaces, parks and gardens as well as new additional items added into these areas.
Affordability	Ensure that facilities, events and programs remain affordable for local residents to maximise participation.
Programming	Work in partnership with a range of organisations including the health sector, the environmental sector, schools, community organisations such as neighbourhood houses, churches and the private sector to deliver a range of physical activity programs in parks and open spaces in Loddon Shire. Activities could include yoga, tai chi, walking groups, circus skills, bocce, community cricket games, old fashioned games, running groups, cycling groups, swimming groups, water aerobics, canoeing, stand up paddle boarding, etc. If funds permit, Loddon Shire could potentially train some local people to facilitate some of these programs (as per a key recommendation in the 2015 Recreation Strategy).

13.2 Town by town suggested initiatives from community consultation process.

BOORT
Implement the recommendations of the Little Lake Boort Draft Master Plan (2018).
Incorporate rubberised paths to play equipment in Nolen's Park and more informal play opportunities near Little Lake Boort as part of the Boort Foreshore Plan, e.g. half basketball court, a rock-climbing wall, outdoor table tennis tables, bocce pitch and a kayak launch pad.
Sell the Sunnyside Court block and use the funds to expand the play space at nearby Boort Park.
Renew Jubilee Park playground.

BRIDGEWATER

Continue to implement the Bridgewater Foreshore Development Plan (stages 1 and 2), which includes a nature-based play space, shade, seats, signage, art work, pier / jetty, landscaping, lighting and interpretation (black smith area).

Prepare an upgrade plan in partnership with the local community for Sloan Park to install paths, landscaping, shade trees, a barrier, some form of public art and more exciting play equipment. Ensure that play opportunities available at this site are different to what is available at the Recreation Reserve and along the Foreshore.

Install additional seating at Bridgewater Swimming Hole and more shade trees/structures.

Install signage on Bullabull track.

CALIVIL

Support the Recreation Reserve COM to upgrade the social aspect of the Recreation Reserve to include a BBQ area, shelter, picnic tables, drinking fountain and landscaping. At the same time develop a pedestrian safe area.

Support the Recreation Reserve COM to develop a walking track around Calivil Recreation Reserve utilising the old golf course.

DINGEE

Construct access paths at Progress Park and renew existing play equipment when it reaches the end of its lifespan.

DURHAM OX

Construct environmentally sustainable toilets at Durham Ox for use by canoeists.

EDDINGTON

Construct some access paths in the park next to Eddington Community Centre.

INGLEWOOD

Develop a BBQ area with shelter and picnic tables at Inglewood Recreation Reserve.

Consider providing active play opportunities for teenagers at J Sloan Park playground, e.g. flying fox, climbing wall, full sized basketball court and upgrade traditional skate park to a modular pump track when it reaches the end of its life.

Plant more shade trees at J Sloan playground.

Develop a safe pedestrian area at Inglewood Recreation Reserve in the vicinity of the J Sloan playground and the oval.

Liaise with Inglewood Golf Club to develop a walking track around the golf course.

Liaise with the Heart Foundation to establish a walking group in Inglewood, utilising the golf course.

Upgrade Inglewood Botanic Gardens and Inglewood Reservoir, primarily through a track upgrade, more seats, renewal of infrastructure and better maintenance.

KINGOWER

Advocate for Parks Victoria to upgrade seats, toilets, picnic / BBQ facilities at Melville Caves.

Support development of Captain Melville's Trail.

KORONG VALE

Consider upgrading Borella Park to include shelter over the BBQ area, upgraded seats and new play equipment (when the existing equipment reaches the end of its useful life).

LAANECOORIE

Develop a plan to upgrade Brownbill Reserve at Laanecoorie Weir near the caravan park on the edge of the waterway for passive recreational purposes, e.g. BBQS under shelter, sandy beach area, upgrade and extend boat ramp, develop a canoe platform, etc.

MITIAMO

Advocate for Parks Victoria to undertake more regular grading of the tracks at Terrick Terrick National Park.

Upgrade Phelan Park when equipment is at the end of its lifecycle by renewing equipment, installing some form of barrier against the Mitiamo- Echuca Road boundary and planting more shade trees and trees to act as a wind break.

NEWBRIDGE

Install BBQs and shelters at Progress Park if feasible and if it aligns with community planning priorities.

PYRAMID HILL

Redevelop Lions Park in Kelly St to develop a passive recreational space.

Install a drinking fountain and more comfortable seats at Kelly Park.

Improve toilets at Pyramid Hill.

Improve signage and maintenance of Pyramid Hill Walking.

Redevelop the playground next to the swimming pool and tennis courts and install a barrier to prevent children from running on to the road.

SERPENTINE

Upgrade track condition and wayfinding on the Pon Pon Trail in Serpentine.

TARNAGULLA

Renew street furniture in Heraud's Place and improve landscaping.

Add additional play equipment at Soldier's Memorial Park.

WEDDERBURN
Upgrade play equipment at Soldiers Memorial Park (consider installation of a learn to ride bicycle track) and include a screen to act as a wind break. This could become a smart park by installing technologically advanced items such as exercise bikes that charge mobile phones and a demonstration environmental park (i.e. use of solar lighting and water saving measures).
Develop informal activities for young people, e.g. climbing wall, multi-use games areas, skate park or modular pump park, socialisation space, etc. at Soldier's Memorial Park.
Install drinking fountains in public places in Wedderburn, e.g. Soldier's Memorial Park and Nardoo Creek Trail.
Install additional seating and trees along Nardoo Creek Trail.
Consider developing an off-leash dog area in Wedderburn.
Prepare a development plan for Skinners Flat Reservoir, particularly focusing on items such as walking track to the site, BBQ, picnic tables, shelter and possibly a toilet.
Consider installation of some water play features at or near the Wedderburn Swimming Pool.
Advocate to Parks Victoria to grade tracks in state and national parks and provide additional facilities such as BBQs and seats.

The Appendix contains detailed information about each town, including demographics, a list of all public open spaces, relationship to existing plans, community feedback, observations from the audit and proposed town by town recommendations.

14 COSTING AND FUNDING OF ACTIONS

None of the projects in this strategy have been costed. It is recommended that all infrastructure works and programming activities be costed at the development stage. This will provide clarity associated with construction, implementation, ongoing maintenance and whole of life costs.

APPENDIX

15 LITERATURE REVIEW

Thirty-five strategies and articles were reviewed in order to understand the context in which open spaces are planned, developed and managed and in which physical activity occurs. These documents included:

- Council Plan 2017-2021
- Loddon Shire Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017 – 2021
- Loddon Shire Building Asset Management Plan 2009
- Loddon Shire Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2018 – 2021
- Loddon Shire Recreation Strategy 2015-20
- Loddon Shire Climate Proofing Loddon's Sports and Recreation Facilities Strategy 2011
- Loddon Shire Cycling and Walking Strategy 2009
- Footpath Asset Management Plan August 2009
- Loddon Mallee Regionally Significant Trails Strategy (2009)
- Loddon Shire Swimming Pool Development Plan 2014-2018
- Parks Asset Management Plan March 2010
- Loddon Shire Nature Tourism Plan 2011
- Jacka Park Master Plan (Soldiers Memorial Park) Need brief commentary table below
- Loddon Shire Major Recreation Reserve Master Plans
- Loddon Shire New Master Plan Projects document
- Little Lake Boort Master Plan 2018-2028 (Draft)
- Wedderburn Community Plan 2015-2025
- Active Victoria. A strategic framework for sport and recreation in Victoria 2017 - 2021
- Heart Foundation. Healthy Active By Design. Public Open Space (website)
- Parkland WA. Vibrant activation! An introduction to space activation and placemaking website
- World Health Organisation (2017) Global action plan on physical activity 2018-2030. More active people for a healthier world
- World Health Organisation (2016) Urban green spaces and health – a review of evidence (2016)
- Parks and Leisure Australia (2013) Open Space Planning and Design Guide
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2018) Physical activity across the life stages
- Samitz G, Egger M, Zwahlen M. (2011) Domains of physical activity and all-cause mortality: systematic review and dose-response meta-analysis of cohort studies
- Eoin Blackwell (2017) Physical Inactivity is Costing Australia Nearly \$1 Billion a Year
- Khan KM, Thompson AM, Blair SN, et al. Sport and exercise as contributors to the health Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2017) Impact of physical inactivity as a risk factor for chronic conditions: Australian Burden of Disease
- Australian Sports Commission (2016) AusPlay Participation data for the sports sector – summary of key national findings – October 2015 to September 2016 data
- Sport and Recreation Victoria (2018) Guidelines for planning, installing and activating outdoor fitness equipment
- Leonie Neville and Ashleigh Scott (2013) The impact of outdoor gyms on park use and physical activity
- Leonie Cranney et al (2016) Impact of an outdoor gym on park users' physical activity: A natural experiment
- Ashleigh Scott et al (2014) Design and promotion of an outdoor gym for older adults: a collaborative project
- Hsueh-wen Chow et al (2017) Who is using outdoor fitness equipment and how? The case of Xihu Park

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- Geoff Bates et al (2013) Evaluating the provision of outdoor gym equipment: Uptake and impact in Sefton, Merseyside

Document title	Relevance to strategy
Loddon Shire Council Plan 2017-21	<p>Council's vision is for "a prosperous, vibrant and engaged community"</p> <p>Relevant projects identified in the Council Plan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • implement the Donaldson Park Master Plan • implement streetscape improvements in key townships • provide opportunities for the community to develop community gardens • develop a plan for rationalisation of unnecessary assets with a direction towards future use of multi-purpose facilities • pursue advocacy opportunities for water security initiatives which support lifestyle needs and recreation choices as they arise.
Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017 – 2021	<p>Council's Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan provides a strategic framework for Council and other agencies with an aim to improve the health and wellbeing of the community.</p> <p>The four key priorities identified in this plan are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Good physical health 2. Good mental health 3. Protect and promote health 4. Feel safe and secure <p>Some of the measurements of relevance to be undertaken as part of this plan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increased proportion of adults/ adolescents 10-17 years/ children 5-12 years, who are sufficiently physically active • increased proportion of people participating in organised sport.
Park Asset Management Plan 2010	<p>This plan focuses on capital investment in park assets in Council owned and controlled parks with playgrounds or major parks structures as well as other park areas comprising of only lawn, irrigation systems or gardens with no substantial structures, lawn or gardens in streets, lawn and gardens at other Council facilities, open space areas and road reserves.</p> <p>Some key recommendations from this plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop a policy in relation to the provision of shade in council's playgrounds and passive parks in recognition of risk management issues and climate change concerns. • develop a policy and hierarchy in relation to playgrounds and passive parks.

Document title	Relevance to strategy
<p>Loddon Shire Building Asset Management Plan 2009</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review the use of all playgrounds with a view to rationalise small under-utilised playgrounds with single items or minimal equipment. • ensure all renewal and future new works are designed for a range of age groups and suitable for all abilities. • develop guidelines for Community Plans setting out a balance between new and renewal projects. • progressively develop and expand this plan by including other parks assets as they are quantified, valued and assessed. These assets include irrigation systems, recreational lakes and dam's infrastructure and lighting. <p>The following aspects will be measured to determine the effectiveness of the plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • playground and parks maintenance and condition surveys will continue to be carried out on a regular basis. • the progressive reduction in the funding gap will be a measure of the success of the Plan • community satisfaction with parks and playground conditions will improve. <p>The specific purpose of the Asset Management Plan is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrate responsible stewardship by the Council • define how the infrastructure is and will be managed to achieve the organisation's objectives • provide the basis for customer consultation to determine the appropriate levels of service • manage risk of asset failure • achieve savings by optimising whole of life costs • support long term planning. <p>Council's support for bids for external funding is subject to an adopted Recreation Reserve Master Plan to support the application. This is an absolute requirement before bids for external funding will be supported by Council. Council's Recreation Department plans to actively encourage and assist Recreation Reserve Committees of Management to produce or update Master Plans.</p> <p>Other considerations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a project proposal is supported by documented substantiated need • projects which create multi-use facility have high priority (i.e. consolidates existing buildings or functions) • renewal projects have high priority • advice from grant provider as to likelihood of project being funded

Document title	Relevance to strategy
<p>Footpath Asset Management Plan 2009</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • compliance with grant conditions and funding guidelines • availability of community funding • project readiness to commence. <p>As part of the Operations and Management Plan, it was determined that with regard to recreation buildings Council provides the same level of support for all types of sporting facility whether or not located on Council controlled land. However under this plan Council's investment in operations and maintenance in recreation buildings is limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • annual allocations as per "Public Hall and Reserve Allocation Policy" • allocation of Community Grants as per Community Grants policy" • Committees of management are required to fund operations and maintenance expenditure from their own resources. <p>As part of the renewal or replacement plan, it was determined that with regard to recreation buildings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council's investment in renewal or replacement works at recreation buildings is limited as detailed in 2.11.4 Level of Service provided for recreation buildings under this plan • renewal or replacement works at indoor stadiums, located at district colleges, will be assessed on a case by case basis at the time of project development. <p>This Asset Management plan documents Council's asset management processes to guide the planning, acquisition, operation, maintenance, renewal and disposal of assets with an objective to maximise service delivery potential and manage related risks and costs over entire asset lives.</p> <p>Key recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • incorporate asset renewal funding into the Strategic Resource Plan • Investigate and implement systems to facilitate integration of Asset Registers and GIS. • develop asset rationalisation policy • develop a formal system for controlling and monitoring construction of vehicle crossings. • develop an asset protection process that incorporates an inspection prior to development works commencing that involves access across an existing footpath. This could include the issuing of a permit and the taking of a bond • review the existing footpath network to determine if footpaths exist that provide no useful purpose with a view to removing them from the footpath register • this will assist in reducing council's future liability and the renewal gap

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Document title	Relevance to strategy
<p>Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2018 – 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review footpath renewal cost estimates that have been used to calculate the funding gap. New footpath construction costs have been used. These may well be higher due to preparation and earthworks costs • develop a policy and hierarchy in relation to recreational paths • develop guidelines for Community Plans setting out a balance between new and renewal projects. <p>The Disability Access and Inclusion Plan has been developed to help identify how Loddon Shire Council can contribute to better access and inclusion for local residents.</p> <p>The six focus areas of the plan are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accessible services, programs and events 2. Accessible Council buildings and infrastructure 3. Equal employment opportunities 4. Accessible communication and engagement 5. Inclusive community participation 6. Respectful and safe communities. <p>Some of the key commitments by Council include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will support events in the Loddon Shire to be accessible and welcoming to people with a disability. • We will work with our community to understand what physical barriers are experienced by people with a disability in our built and natural environments. • We will ensure new developments and infrastructure are built to the principles of universal design, planning beyond the Access Standards to meet community needs. • We will work to increase the accessibility of our built and natural environments to reduce the physical barriers experienced by people with a disability. • We will support our residents to maintain their independence to get about town. • We will support private businesses and people working in the building sector to understand the importance of and improve their accessibility. • We will continue to improve our communication and information approaches to ensure that people with a disability can access information and know what is happening in their community.

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Document title	Relevance to strategy
<p>Recreation Strategy 2015-20</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will ensure our community engagement approaches are accessible and inclusive of people with a disability and ensure all Loddon Shire residents have the opportunity to have their say. • We will continue to improve access to and from activities, services and events for people with a disability in the Loddon Shire community and reduce isolation. • We will lead and work with others to increase opportunities for people with a disability, their families and carers to connect and feel supported in the Loddon Shire community. <p>The aim of the Loddon Shire Recreation Strategy 2015-2020 is to develop a framework to guide Council and its partners to ensure that their investment in sport and recreation facilities, services and programs will achieve the most effective outcomes possible for the community. At its very core is the desire to get more people more active, so that health and wellbeing of the community will improve; so that existing facilities meet the needs of the community and their use is maximised; and so that local clubs and organisations are assisted to be as sustainable as they can be.</p> <p>The vision contained within this strategy is:</p> <p><i>Loddon Shire is an active, healthy and inclusive community supported by strong community clubs and a diversity of programs and accessible facilities.</i></p> <p>The 10 planning principles are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Designed to meet demonstrated community need 2. Of benefit to the community 3. Accessible for people of all abilities 4. Inclusive and welcoming 5. Sustainable 6. Multi-purpose design 7. Able to offer a diversity of opportunities 8. Cost effective 9. Designed to enhance and protect natural environment and cultural and heritage values 10. Designed to reflect the unique nature of Loddon Shire <p>The following recommendations, of relevance to activating open space, are included in the strategy:</p>

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Document title	Relevance to strategy
<p>Loddon Shire Climate Proofing Loddon's Sports and Recreation Facilities Strategy 2011</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developing social sport and recreation activities - encourage local sports clubs to work in partnership with external providers and State Sporting Associations to develop and implement social sport and recreation activities or modified sports for community members • programming and events - develop a range of shire-wide physical activity programs and events such as Come and Try Days, summer in the parks (which may include live music and movies), family BBQs at swimming pools, guided walks in forests / parks, etc which are inclusive of all residents • program leadership training - develop a program to train local residents to run various physical activities such as yoga, gentle exercise classes, water aerobics, swimming lessons, kinder gym, gymnastics, circus skills, personal training, walking groups, dance classes, cycling groups, canoeing classes, cardio tennis, etc so that they can deliver these programs locally for an agreed period of time • facility upgrades - continue to progressively upgrade sport and recreation facilities in line with Council's strategic planning priorities • attracting events - prepare a prospectus outlining opportunities available for a range of sporting events in the municipality (e.g. on road and off road cycling, orienteering, triathlons, water skiing, canoeing, hockey, football, netball, tennis, bowls, cricket, etc) and actively distribute this prospectus to event organisers, clubs / organisations and State Sporting organisations. <p>The aim of this Strategy is to identify work that will assist to 'climate proof' as many sporting facilities in Loddon Shire as possible and at the same time help communities to retain their invaluable sport and recreation assets. The report notes that climate change has had a significant impact on the ability of sport and recreation clubs to access water to maintain sports grounds to a satisfactory standard. Rainfall levels have decreased, temperatures have increased and access to potable or irrigation water through water authorities has decreased.</p> <p>This strategy has identified a number of works to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce water use • increase the security of supply of water • reduce leakage of storage systems at sport and recreation facilities in Loddon Shire. <p>Typically these works include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • installation of hard courts and removal of grass courts • resurfacing grass playing fields • upgrading irrigation systems

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Document title	Relevance to strategy
Cycling and Walking Strategy 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • water harvesting projects, e.g. installation of water tanks • installation of water saving devices. <p>Loddon Shire Council received \$900,000 worth of external grants, and with local contributions had an amount of \$1.7m available to redevelop facilities.</p> <p>The purpose of the Tracks and Trails Strategy was to help identify and review existing tracks and trails located within Loddon Shire; and to identify a clear direction for the Shire from 2008-2013 in terms of tracks and trails provision, future development, management, maintenance and marketing.</p> <p>An audit was undertaken as part of the Strategy, which identified a number of gaps and opportunities in the tracks and trails in the Shire.</p> <p>The gaps identified included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • poor signage • inconsistency of track names • access issues • confusion on correct routes • varying levels and standards of maintenance • limited connections and linkages • overall lack of trails <p>Opportunities identified include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improved marketing • understanding and appreciation of the natural environment • increased physical activity • development of events that could be run on the trails • development of a local management committee <p>The following recommendations were made:</p>

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Document title	Relevance to strategy
<p>Loddon Mallee Regionally Significant Trails Strategy (2009)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve links between trails • improve connectivity of existing trails • improve trail design (through the development of specific guidelines) • instigate a "Stop and Walk" program (aimed at encouraging motorists to stop and walk in towns) • identify potential events to encourage usage of tracks and trails • ensure interpretation opportunities are made available • improve marketing and promotion of tracks and trails • improve the coordination, management and planning of trails • provide appropriate maintenance schedules <p>The purpose of the Loddon Mallee Regionally Significant Trails Strategic Plan is to provide a clear framework to guide the Loddon Mallee Regional Manager's Forum; the Loddon Mallee Trails Network; individual Local Government Authorities; Department of Sustainability and Environment; Parks Victoria; and individual trail management groups in relation to the development of regional cycling, walking, mountain biking, horse riding and canoeing / kayaking trails throughout the Loddon Mallee region of Victoria.</p> <p>Of particular relevance is Captain Melville's Trail (Bridgewater-on- Loddon, Inglewood, Kingower, and Melville Caves). This regionally significant trail will bring in economic benefits from other trail users and provide an additional recreation facility for local residents. Community strengthening is possible through formation of management committees and working bees.</p> <p>Some opportunities associated with the trail are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • linking trail related activities to annual local events (such as food and wine festivals) will improve awareness and use of the trail • the development of packages and some innovative marketing and interpretation (i.e. indigenous and bushranger history) and the naming of the trail to reflect its bushranger past may assist in attracting potential trail users from other parts of the state, and potentially internationally • there is an opportunity to develop canoe trails, rock climbing and horse riding which would further enhance the reputation of the trail. <p>The major challenges are accessing public transport and distance to metropolitan areas. It also does not link with other major trails.</p>

Document title	Relevance to strategy
Loddon Shire Swimming Pool Development Plan 2014-2018 [note that a new swimming pool improvement plan is now in place]	<p>The purpose of this plan is to identify required capital works and routine maintenance costs required to maintain an adequate level of safety and amenity for each of Council's five public swimming pools over a four-year period 2014-2018.</p> <p>Recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • installation of solar panels • shade structures • water play features (at three pools) • perimeter fencing (over the next four years) • pool painting (on a three year cycle) • cyclic maintenance.
Little Lake Boort Master Plan 2018-2028 (Draft)	<p>The vision for Little Lake Boort will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a place that nurtures our flora and fauna, and celebrates our natural and indigenous heritage • an expression of who we are as a community • a place of creativity, celebration, energy, and fun • a place to meet and greet, play, relax, and restore the soul • a place that tells a story and can take us on a journey • a place where we love to be, and that brings us together. <p>The six principles identified in the plan are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proposed built and landscape development must be financially and environmentally sustainable. 2. The type of infrastructure and vegetation will be determined by the environmental and recreation themes of each zone, and the overall topographic and climatic condition of the region. 3. Built infrastructure will be in a modern and consistent theme and appropriate to the environment and primary use of the zone; and comply with all relevant legislation. 4. Signage will be important in activating the lake environs and interpreting the natural and cultural values and history of the lake. 5. Spaces will be designed so as to encourage community use of the lake and foreshore environment for different activities and by different ages and abilities. 6. Management protocols and processes are necessary to ensure the parklands are managed in line with relevant government and industry OHS, risk management, asset management etc. guidelines, legislation, and/or policies.


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Document title	Relevance to strategy
<p>Active Victoria. A strategic framework for sport and recreation in Victoria 2017 - 2021</p>	<p>The Master Plan recommends the construction of all or some of the following, subject to a feasibility study: water splash park, a skate park and an outdoor fitness centre between the swimming pool and the croquet club.</p> <p>Active Victoria is a strategic framework for sport and recreation in Victoria. The Victorian Government's vision is: "an increased proportion of Victorians participate in sport and active recreation."</p> <p>Its strategic directions of relevance are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • meeting demand – focusing on flexible and innovative participation options and increasing the capacity of infrastructure • broader and more inclusive participation – focusing on affordability and increasing participation for females, Aboriginals, people with a disability, LGBTI people and disengaged youth • additional focus on active recreation – focusing on supporting non-organised and unstructured physical activity, investing in infrastructure that enables active recreation and creating a model that supports the structure and needs of active recreation. • build system resilience and capacity – focus on supporting volunteers, developing a strong evidence base and encouraging good governance and diverse leadership • work together for shared outcomes <p>The framework defines active recreation as : "leisure time physical activity undertaken outside of structured, competitive sport".</p>
<p>Loddon Shire Nature Tourism Plan 2011</p>	<p>The objective of this plan is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to promote existing nature tourism venues in the Shire • to identify areas in Loddon Shire that demonstrates potential for nature tourism • to assist in the improvement, where practical, of existing facilities • to identify potential new/expanded business opportunities in nature tourism. <p>The relevant objectives and actions from this plan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to promote existing nature tourism venues in the Shire. Action: to produce brochures for individual activities, a nature activities map, annual nature-based events


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Document title	Relevance to strategy
<p>Major Recreation Reserve Master Plans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to identify areas in Loddon Shire that demonstrates potential for nature tourism. Action: select 5 top priority areas to focus attention • to assist in the improvement of existing facilities where practical. <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to identify sites for potential improvement; undertake a tracks and trails audit • to identify potential new/expanded business opportunities in nature tourism. <p>Recreation Reserve Master Plans have been prepared for the nine major recreation reserves in Loddon Shire to guide future development and to identify priorities. Key recommendations from each of these master plans follow.</p> <p>Note that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Priority recommendations are those proposed to take place in 1-3 years • High to Medium Priority Recommendations between 4-6 years • Medium Priority Recommendations between 7-9 years • Low Priority Recommendations over 10+ years. <p>Boort Park</p> <p>High priority recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop a water allocation agreement for key sports facilities during restriction periods, implement formal water use monitoring and annual reporting process • construct basic facility with shelter and storage space for hockey club, install lights • install a more hard-wearing grass on the sports oval that remains green over winter. <p>High to medium recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • install more lights for football club training purposes. <p>Medium priority recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • upgrade toilets, showers and taps to water efficient fixtures • extend social rooms to cater for club functions • construct a small shed on site to be utilised as a gymnasium

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Document title	Relevance to strategy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop a female umpire change room • upgrade kitchen to better cater for club functions • upgrade public toilets. <p>Low priority recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • install rainwater tanks.
	<p>Bridgewater Recreation Reserve</p> <p>High priority recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop a water allocation agreement for key sports facilities during restriction periods, implement an ongoing water use monitoring and reporting program • resurface and re-grade the oval and plant with warm season grasses • irrigation specialist to assess the current system and provide recommendations to either upgrade or replace the system • implement the recommendations provided by the irrigation specialist • proceed with the development of a groundwater source at the Recreation Reserve • construct concrete pathways and paving around the Sports Pavilion, construct verandah • construct drainage near the pavilion to reduce pooling of water. <p>Medium priority recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • install two additional floodlights around the sports ground • replace mower • provide shade and protective barriers around playground equipment • install boundary fencing, particularly along the highway. <p>Low priority recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assess the need to purchase and install a rainwater/storm water harvesting system which collects run-off from the netball / tennis courts as a back-up emergency water supply. <p>Calivil Recreation Reserve</p>


Document title	Relevance to strategy
	<p>High priority recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • implement a formal water use monitoring and annual reporting process • investigate the sinking of a bore to provide an alternative source of water for the Recreation Reserve • resurface courts and relocate light towers to meet Netball Victoria standards. Line-mark these two courts for tennis • install a new irrigation system to reduce water use • install lights for bowls to allow night time training and games. <p>High to Medium priority recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • construct a BBQ to encourage visitors • resurface cricket practice nets <p>Medium priority recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consider development of a campground at the Recreation Reserve • install shade sails to provide a safer and more attractive play space • re-vegetate and landscape around the entire recreation reserve to improve visual amenity of the site • consider the development of a farmer’s market and alternative expos at the Recreation Reserve to increase local revenue • modify power supply to the football shed • install safety signage around play area and additional directional signage to and around the reserve. <p>Low priority recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • retain two grass courts in the short term and develop two new hard courts if demand dictates. • install two extra light towers on the football oval • construct a covered and paved area which links the pavilion to the change rooms • explore the possibility of developing an Opportunity Shop in the tennis pavilion at the Reserve.
	<p>Inglewood Recreation Reserve</p> <p>High priority recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop a water allocation agreement for key sports facilities during restriction periods

Document title	Relevance to strategy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • calculate the yield of the Old Inglewood Reservoir and put in place a water allocation process • develop and implement an ongoing program of works for the Old Town Reservoir. • implement a formal water use monitoring and annual reporting process • secure water for the ground by upgrading catch drains to allow the Inglewood Reservoir to fill so that water can then be transferred to the sports complex for irrigation purposes • upgrade toilet facilities in Sports Centre • install a new irrigation system to allow more efficient use of water and plant warm season grasses to provide a better playing surface • install a range hood in the kitchen area to meet regulations • install some speed humps with signage around the sports oval. <p>High to Medium priority recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • upgrade Sports Centre to improve overall appearance and amenity • develop change facilities for netballers and female umpires – as part of the tennis pavilion • install heating and cooling in the pavilion. Cover louver windows. <p>Medium priority recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • install more shelter, shade and seating around the Recreation Reserve • upgrade the canteen and the bar • upgrade lights for sports oval and netball courts • upgrade football / cricket showers and toilets in change rooms. <p>Low priority recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • upgrade public toilets • develop a rebound wall to allow people to practice their tennis alone or in pairs.
	<p>Donaldson Park (Wedderburn)</p> <p>High priority recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • calculate the yield of the old town water supply system and put in place a water allocation process • develop and implement an ongoing program of works for Skinners Flat Reserve and Caravan Park dam

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Document title	Relevance to strategy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • investigate potential for storm water harvesting from Nardoo Creek • develop a water allocation agreement for key sports facilities during restriction periods • develop a new pavilion on the current site of the spectator shed. The new pavilion is to be constructed in two stages. • upgrade second netball court to meet Netball Victoria standards • extend kitchen and construct administrative space in bowls pavilion. Ensure kitchen upgrade includes provision for low water use fixtures and appliances • demolish the old tennis shed and develop an adventure / outdoor play space in this area; and also a more traditional play space near the netball courts • plant with warm season grasses to reduce water use and costs • replace two grass tennis courts with two synthetic (hard) tennis courts with lights to reduce water use and to provide for year round tennis • upgrade existing hockey irrigation system. <p>Medium priority recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review use of harness racing in 2011 to determine future of pavilion and the track. Increase use of the pavilion, e.g. hockey change facility, cricket pavilion, community gym shared with Wedderburn P-12 College, etc. and install a DDA compliant toilet and ramp suitable for people with disabilities. <p>High to medium priority recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • install signage that reflects Council's corporate style and provides information on opportunities at the Park • improve landscaping throughout the park, to create a more attractive and welcoming environment • seal main entrance from Chapel St to improve condition of internal roadway • install two lights at the southern end of the hockey field. <p>Medium priority recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demolish existing sheds and build one new shed, able to provide some shelter, seating and storage for hockey equipment • decommission Hospital Street toilet block once pavilion extension is complete • render and smarten up existing public toilets near the bowls green.

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Document title	Relevance to strategy
	<p>Low priority recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• develop an electronic ground booking system. <p>Ongoing recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• continue to explore opportunities for new activities / user groups• continue to plant trees along Nardoo Walking Track.
	<p>Mitchell Park (Pyramid Hill)</p>
	<p>High priority recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• develop a water allocation agreement for key sports facilities during restriction periods• implement a formal water use monitoring and annual reporting process• set up an agreement with Loddon Shire to access a set volume of water from the Loddon Shire's Pyramid Hill-Boort Irrigation water share• reseal both courts and extend run-off to meet Netball Victoria standards and to improve safety for netballers• replace existing irrigation system• upgrade fire service to ensure safety of patrons in the pavilion should a fire break out• install light near playground to improve visibility of children playing in the area• install signage to warn motorists to slow down.
	<p>High to medium priority recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• provide access for people with disabilities to top floor of the pavilion. <p>Medium priority recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• collect rainwater from clubhouse and use for toilet flushing and other non-drinking building purposes• consider replacement of turf wickets with synthetic wickets to reduce water usage• need to install heating and cooling in the pavilion, a skylight and better acoustics• construct a verandah to the south end of the pavilion for netball spectators• improve aesthetics of the ground through ongoing planting and upkeep of more trees• seal internal road around oval and provide signage and speed humps.

Document title

Relevance to strategy



Low priority recommendations include:

- replace training lighting around the sports oval to improve visibility during training sessions
- replace gate, fence and track to provide safe access for users of Mitchell Park
- replace original toilet block.

Mitiamo Recreation Reserve

High priority recommendations include:


- develop an agreement with the MRWS to access water from the proposed pipeline and install rainwater tank
- develop a water allocation agreement for key sports facilities during restriction periods
- decommission all 5 lawn tennis courts and construct 2 new shared netball / tennis courts (which meet Netball Victoria standards)
- relocate existing light poles and upgrade lighting of the courts
- Improve drainage around the court area so that water does not pool on the courts
- relocate entrance to pavilion further to the east to allow a car-free area around the netball / tennis and play area
- survey oval and improve drainage on southern side of ground
- revegetate Recreation Reserve.

High to medium priority recommendation:

- construct a basic club facility to provide shelter, a toilet, a shower and storage space next to the courts.
- Medium priority recommendations include:
- implement a formal water use monitoring and annual reporting process
 - install sturdy cafe plastic sheeting around the verandah to increase capacity of the pavilion to cater for events
 - relocate the two water tanks and connect to the roof for toilet flushing.
 - install water efficient fixtures.
 - assess the need to supplement the water supply and implement a stormwater harvesting system.

Low priority recommendations include:

- extend pavilion by approximately 4 metres to increase capacity for events and functions and also to provide additional storage space [NOTE: This is unlikely to provide any significant benefits, hence not supported – cafe

Document title	Relevance to strategy
	<p>plastic sheeting is a more cost effective solution]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve the existing irrigation system on the sports oval • upgrade light towers around the sports ground to allow football games to be held at night [NOTE: Not consistent with the grading of the ground – not supported].
	<p>Newbridge Recreation Reserve</p> <p>High priority recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop a water allocation agreement for key sports facilities during restriction periods • implement a formal water use monitoring and annual reporting process • install an in-ground irrigation sprinkler system to decrease water use; decrease amount of time spent watering; and improve condition of the ground • develop a new community sports pavilion to cater for social events and to provide suitable change facilities for players and umpires; and also upgrade power. Incorporate water efficient fixtures and additional rainwater tanks • reconstruct netball courts to meet Netball Victoria standards (over existing tennis courts). <p>High to medium priority recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mentor young people to take on administrative roles on the Newbridge Recreation Reserve Committee of Management to ensure its ongoing sustainability. <p>Medium priority recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide shade trees and a BBQ in playground / picnic area to provide a more comfortable place for people to recreate. • develop a track along reserve extending this around the top of the reserve. <p>Low priority recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fence the site to prevent sheep from causing damage • liaise with Coliban Water on potential for recycled water option if the proposal to provide a reticulated sewage system to the town goes ahead. <p>Pyramid Hill Tennis and Bowls</p>

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Document title	Relevance to strategy
	<p>High priority recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop a water allocation agreement for key sports facilities during restriction periods • implement a formal water use monitoring and annual reporting process • set up an agreement with Loddon Shire to access a set volume of water from the Loddon Shire's Pyramid Hill-Boort Irrigation water share • develop two synthetic tennis courts with lights to reduce water usage and to provide year round tennis opportunities for the community and also install an in-ground irrigation system on the tennis courts to eliminate the need for flood irrigation and to more effectively irrigate the tennis courts • install a fence near the channel to prevent children from falling into the water; between the playground and the fire training track; and between the playground and the main road • erect signage from main road to direct people to the tennis courts • plant trees on the western side of the tennis / swimming pavilion to help keep players and the pavilion cooler and to provide additional shade in the car park • purchase a new motorised spraying machine to more effectively maintain the bowls greens • upgrade the bowls pavilion kitchen by installing a new oven and relocating the hand basin; and also installing new carpet throughout the pavilion. <p>Medium priority recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • upgrade play equipment to ensure provision for younger and middle age groups • undertake additional planting and landscaping around the tennis area, particularly at either end of the complex once the end tennis courts have been removed • install lighting at the Bowls Club to allow night time training, competitions and events.
	<p>Serpentine Recreation Reserve</p>
	<p>High priority recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop a water allocation agreement for key sports facilities during restriction periods • implement a formal water use monitoring and annual reporting process • upgrade irrigation system so that it is fully automated • purchase and install a storage tank and associated pipe- work to connect to the new pipeline • re-level, laser and resurface sports ground oval to create a more uniform playing surface

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Document title

Relevance to strategy



- replant sports oval with warm season grasses to reduce water use
- increase run-off on netball to meet Netball Victoria standards.

High to medium priority recommendations include:

- improve landscaping around the front of the Community Centre and by planting drought tolerant species
- install a new playground with a protective barrier or fence
- re-route Coliban water tankers from internal road at the Reserve to an alternative / new road when accessing the treatment plant due to potential safety issues and degradation of the internal roads
- consider closing off road between netball courts and the Community Centre to increase safety
- widen drop off area in front of Community Centre.

Medium priority recommendations include:

- upgrade inefficient water fixtures (toilets and taps)
- develop the area behind the netball courts into a native bush land area (known as Pon Pon Reserve), featuring a shared trail with fitness stations around it
- increase size of football and netball change rooms, and improve umpire change rooms, the social rooms and canteen facilities.

Winzar Recreation Reserve Master Plan (Dingee)

High priority recommendations include:

- develop a water allocation agreement for key sports facilities during restriction periods
- implement a formal water use monitoring and annual reporting process
- consider purchasing a permanent water allocation
- convert one lawn tennis court to hard court to allow for year round multi-purpose use; install lights; and line mark for other sports such as netball and basketball
- upgrade lighting on the bowling green.

High to medium priority recommendation:

- Continue to develop the walking track around the reserve to form a self-contained loop from Dingee and link up with Tang Tang Reserve

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Document title	Relevance to strategy
<p>Wedderburn Community Plan 2015-2025</p>	<p>Medium priority recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • upgrade cricket practice nets • improve condition of cricket wicket and oval • fill in the dam as water will be sourced from a pipeline in the future and a new water storage tank has been installed recently. • level ground around pavilion; repair exterior wall to match new extension; and install carpet in function area • review the adequacy of the tennis courts sprinkler system and replace or upgrade the sprinkler system if required. <p>Low priority recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • share a caretaker with another community to maintain sports facilities • formalise bowls club parking area with pine bollards and install lighting. <p>Key actions of relevance include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establish a farmer’s market in Wedderburn and, if possible, incorporate aspects of a street market • continued liaison and input into the “Wedderburn Streetscape Plan” to ensure the original objectives are met • develop and execute a plan for the upgrade of the swimming pool including painting, heating and opening hours • establish an “events” board in a suitable and prominent location • establish more public seating along High Street. • develop infrastructures to support sport and recreational activities • investigate the opportunities to develop bike and BMX tracks, art walks and a skate park • investigate the opportunity to introduce a pedal powered event • investigate the opportunities to establish an annual music event • enter discussions with the relevant organisations to extend the opening hours of the pool and all year golf • investigate what activities (including extracurricular), other than sport, are available for the young people.

16 COMMUNITY PROFILE

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics Census (2016)³⁰, Loddon Shire has a current population of 7,516. The population is dispersed over many small towns, none of which exceed 1,000 people. By 2031, the population is projected to have declined to 6,710 according to the State Government’s (2016) Victorian in Future 2016 report³¹, although Loddon Shire is actively working towards reversing this trend. The following table shows data from some of the larger towns within the Shire at the time of the 2016 Census:

Characteristic	Loddon Shire	Boort	Bridgewater	Inglewood	Mitiamo	Newbridge	Pyramid Hill	Serpentine	Wedderburn	Australia
POPULATION										
Total Population	7,516 people	873 people	326 people	855 people	117 people	192 people	558 people	192 people	941 people	23m people
Males	51.2%	47.1%	52.7%	49.5%	50.4%	52.8%	47.7%	52.4%	51.5%	49.3%
Females	48.8%	52.9%	47.3%	50.5%	49.6%	47.2%	52.3%	47.6%	48.5%	50.7%
Indigenous persons	1.6%	1.4%	1.2%	1.5%	3.6%	0%	0%	0%	1.8%	2.8%
AGE										
Median Age	51 years	55 years	53 years	53 years	48 years	55 years	45 years	42 years	56 years	38 years
0-4 year olds	4.5%	4.6%	3.1%	4.1%	2.5%	0%	5.9%	3.3%	3.3%	6.3%
5-14 year olds	11.4%	10.7%	11.2%	10.8%	16.8%	6.8%	14.8%	12.6%	9.5%	12.4%
15-24 year olds	8.6%	7.0%	7.5%	7.9%	10.1%	10.5%	9.5%	7.6%	10.4%	12.8%
25-54 year olds	30.8%	27.8%	33.3%	29.2%	40.4%	28.9%	30.4%	39.4%	24.8%	41.2%
55-64 year olds	18.0%	15.5%	18.4%	15.5%	19.3%	23.7%	16%	15.7%	19.6%	11.8%
65 years and older	26.8%	34.5%	26.5%	32.5%	10.9%	29.9%	23.4%	17.7%	32.5%	15.8%
COUNTRY OF BIRTH										
Australia	79.8%	83.8%	86.2%	80.7%	86.0%	84.4%	74.5%	85.1%	78.2	66.7%

Characteristic	Loddon Shire	Boort	Bridgewater	Inglewood	Mitiamo	Newbridge	Pyramid Hill	Serpentine	Wedderburn	Australia
POPULATION										
England	2.2%	0.9%	1.6%	3.3%	0%	0%	1.8%	1.5%	3.5	3.9%
New Zealand	0.8%	0.6%	0%	1.3%	6.1%	0%	2.0%	0%	0.8%	2.2%
Netherlands	0.4%	0%	1.9%	0.5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.3%	0.7%
India	<0.4%	1.5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1.9%
Thailand	<0.4%	0.7%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.3%
Germany	0.4%	0.3%	0%	0.5%	0%	0%	1.4%	0%	0.5%	0.4%
Scotland	<0.4%	0%	0%	0.4%	0%	0%	0.5%	0%	1.0%	0.5%
Philippines	0.9%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	10.8%	0%	0%	1.0%
South Africa	<0.4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2.2%	0%	0%	0%	0.7%
Greece	<0.4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1.7%	0%	0%	0%	0.4%
LANGUAGE										
SPOKEN AT HOME										
English only	86.3%	87.9%	90.7%	86.5%	92.4%	87.1%	83%	89.2%	85.5%	72.7%
Afrikaans	<0.2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2.1%	0%	0%	0%	0.2%
Greek	0.2%	0.3%	0%	0%	0%	1.5%	0%	0%	0%	1.0%
Hindi	<0.2%	0.9%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.7%
Thai	<0.2%	0.7%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.2%
German	0.3%	0.5%	0%	0.4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.4%	0.3%
Italian	<0.2%	0.3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.3%	1.2%
Arabic	<0.2%	0%	0%	0.4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1.4%
Malayalam	<0.2%	0%	0%	0.4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.2%
Filipino	0.5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	6.6%	0%	0%	0.3%

Characteristic	Loddon Shire	Boort	Bridgewater	Inglewood	Mitiamo	Newbridge	Pyramid Hill	Serpentine	Wedderburn	Australia
POPULATION										
Tagalog	0.3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2.7%	0%	0%	0.5%
Mandarin	<0.2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1.4%	0%	0%	2.5%
Biyasa	<0.2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.9%	0%	0%	0%
Maltese	<0.2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.3%	0.1%
Indonesian	<0.2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.3%	0.3%
Hungarian	0.3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.1%
LABOUR FORCE (October 2017)										
Employed full-time	55.7%	49.9%	54.7%	51.5%	43.9%	50.0%	52.4%	60.9%	51.3%	57.7%
Employed part-time	31.3%	34.9%	27.3%	35.2%	36.8%	33.7%	23.8%	27.6%	34.1%	30.4%
Unemployed	5.3%	5.6%	5.8%	10.1%	10.5%	8.1%	6.6%	0%	9.2%	6.9%
Away from work	7.7%	9.7%	12.2%	3.1%	8.8%	8.1%	8.3%	11.5%	5.5%	5.0%
OCCUPATION										
Managers	35.0%	30.3%	18.7%	13.7%	36.5%	26.8%	26.5%	33.0%	16.8%	13%
Professionals	10.7%	14.5%	10.6%	6.8%	5.8%	13.4%	12.8%	11.0%	9.0%	22.2%
Labourers	14.8%	12.1%	15.4%	20.9%	17.3%	18.3%	22.4%	6.6%	14.8%	13.5%
Community and Personal Service workers	8.0%	8.2%	14.6%	14.5%	0%	7.3%	7.3%	9.9%	11.5%	10.6%
Technicians and Trades workers	8.8%	9.4%	12.2%	16.1%	7.7%	3.7%	10.5%	5.5%	13.1%	13.1%

Characteristic	Loddon Shire	Boort	Bridgewater	Inglewood	Mitiamo	Newbridge	Pyramid Hill	Serpentine	Wedderburn	Australia
POPULATION										
Clerical and Administrative	8.4%	7.0%	8.1%	10.4%	15.4%	11.0%	5.9%	11.0%	12.3%	13.6%
Machinery operators and drivers	7.0%	9.7%	10.6%	8.0%	17.3%	4.9%	9.1%	13.2%	11.1%	6.3%
Sales workers	5.5%	6.4%	7.3%	6.0%	0%	14.6%	4.1%	9.9%	9.0%	9.4%
INDUSTRY OF EMPLOYMENT										
Other Agricultural Product Wholesaling	<3.8%	0%	4.6%	0%	0%	0%	0%	7.5%	0%	0.1%
Fuel retailing	<3.8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	13.2%	0%	0.3%
Local Government Administration	<3.8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	9.4%	17.9%	1.3%
Hospitals (except psychiatric hospitals)	5.4%	10.6%	11.5%	11.3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3.9%
Supermarket and grocery stores	<3.8%	3.9%	0%	8.1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	10.7%	2.4%
Wine and other Alcoholic Beverage Manufacturing	<3.8%	0%	11.5%	4.8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.1%
Bakery product Manufacturing (non-factory based)	<3.8%	0%	4.6%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.2%
Primary Education	<3.8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	8.2%	0%	0%	0%	2.2%
Aged Care Residential Services	<3.8%	0%	0%	4.8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2.0%
Dairy Cattle farming	3.8%	0%	0%	0%	17.2%	14.3%	4.6%	0%	0%	0.2%

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Characteristic	Loddon Shire	Boort	Bridgewater	Inglewood	Mitiamo	Newbridge	Pyramid Hill	Serpentine	Wedderburn	Australia
POPULATION										
Religious Services	<3.8%	0%	0%	0%	13.8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.3%
Other Grain Growing	6.0%	7.4%	0%	0%	10.3%	0%	5.7%	0%	0%	0.2%
Landscape construction Services	<3.8%	0%	0%	0%	10.3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.4%
Pig farming	<3.8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	9.3%	0%	0%	0.0%
Sheep farming	<3.8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	7.0%	3.3%
Sheep farming (specialised)	6.6%	0%	0%	0%	0%	6.1%	5.2%	11.3%	5.6%	0.2%
Combined primary and secondary education	<3.8%	4.2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5.7%	0%	4.6%	1.1%
Poultry processing	<3.8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	22.4%	0%	0%	0%	0.1%
Grain-sheep or grain-beef cattle farming	5.9%	6.4%	0%	0%	10.3%	6.1%	0%	7.5%	6.1%	0.1%
Pubs, taverns and bars	<3.8%	0%	4.6%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.7%
Plumbing services	<3.8%	0%	0%	4.3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.6%
UNPAID WORK										
Cared for child / children	21.6%	22.5%	18.5%	20.0%	28.9%	21.2%	19.8%	32.5%	15.3%	27.6%
Provided unpaid assistance to person with a disability (in	13.5%	13.9%	10.3%	12.6%	19.4%	15.8%	11.6%	9.4%	13.2%	11.3%

Characteristic	Loddon Shire	Boort	Bridgewater	Inglewood	Mitiamo	Newbridge	Pyramid Hill	Serpentine	Wedderburn	Australia
POPULATION										
last 2 weeks)										
Did voluntary work through an organisation (last 12 months)	31.7%	40.3%	23.4%	23.5%	24.4%	23.3%	30.2%	31.8%	27.7%	19.0%
INCOME										
Median personal income (\$/weekly)	\$467	\$471	\$503	\$437	\$428	\$474	\$494	\$682	\$432	\$662
Median household income (\$/weekly)	\$826	\$884	\$860	\$777	\$900	\$814	\$875	\$1,218	\$676	\$1,438
Median family income (\$/weekly)	\$1,116	\$1,135	\$1,270	\$1,045	\$1,070	\$1,406	\$1,192	\$1,583	\$871	\$1,734
Households earning less than \$650 gross income per week	36.4%	33.3%	32.3%	38.2%	27.0%	32.9%	38.2%	24.6%	48.2%	20.0%
SEIFA Index	934	989	894	877	N/A	985	921	997	864	
FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS										
Total families	1,874 families	230 families	87 families	198 families	27 families	45 families	141 families	47 families	207 families	6m families
Couple families with	33.8%	30.9%	36%	31.0%	34.3%	33.3%	35.4%	41.7%	30.9%	44.7%

Characteristic	Loddon Shire	Boort	Bridgewater	Inglewood	Mitiamo	Newbridge	Pyramid Hill	Serpentine	Wedderburn	Australia
POPULATION										
children										
Couple families without children	52.4%	58.3%	48.8%	51.3%	51.4%	60.0%	47.2%	52.1%	58.3%	37.8%
One parent families	12.7%	10.9%	15.1%	16.2%	14.3%	6.7%	17.4%	6.2%	10.9%	15.8%
Other families	1.1%	0%	0%	1.5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1.7%
DWELLING CHARACTERISTICS										
Median rent (\$/weekly)	\$125	\$150	\$180	\$175	Not known	\$100	\$123	\$88	\$130	\$335
Median housing loan repayment (\$/monthly)	\$809	\$758	\$975	\$737	\$666	\$857	\$661	\$1,170	\$767	\$1,755
Average household size	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.8	2.1	1.9	2.6
TENURE TYPE										
Owned Outright	52.3%	50.3%	51.1%	48.4%	53.7%	51.2%	47.9%	32.9%	56.7%	31.0%
Owned with mortgage	25.9%	27.2%	27.7%	28.7%	26.8%	28.0%	19.5%	31.5%	23.4%	34.5%
Rented	16.3%	18.1%	16.1%	16.7%	19.5%	12.2%	25.4%	28.8%	13.9%	30.9%
Other tenure type	1.1%	0.9%	0%	0%	0%	3.7%	0%	0%	1.0%	1.0%
Not stated	4.3%	3.5%	5.1%	6.2%	0%	4.9%	7.2%	6.8%	5.0%	2.7%
HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION										
Family households	62.8%	67.0%	60.8%	58.6%	58.6%	64.4%	60.3%	61.0%	51.5%	71.3%

Characteristic	Loddon Shire	Boort	Bridgewater	Inglewood	Mitiamo	Newbridge	Pyramid Hill	Serpentine	Wedderburn	Australia
POPULATION										
Single or one person households	34.2%	32.1%	32.9%	38.8%	30.2%	35.6%	36.8%	35.1%	43.3%	24.4%
Group households	3.0%	0.9%	6.3%	2.7%	7.0%	0.0%	3.0%	3.9%	5.2%	4.3%
MOTOR VEHICLES										
Average number of motor vehicles per dwelling	2.3	2.0	1.9	1.9	2.4	2.4	1.8	2.3	1.8	1.8
INTERNET										
Internet accessed from dwelling	68.4%	67.3%	63.6%	58.7%	77.5%	68.1%	68.2%	67.1%	64.1%	83.2%

This data tells us that Loddon Shire is an ageing community with 44.8% of the population currently over 55 years of age compared with 27.6% of Australians. Wedderburn, Boort and Newbridge report the highest median age, i.e. 56, 53 and 53 respectively, compared with 38 for Australia. Hence from an activating open spaces perspective we need to ensure that we provide spaces that are accessible for people of all ages and abilities. There is less likely to be demand for highly active outdoor sports facilities and more demand for outdoor facilities that enable less physically active or passive recreational opportunities, e.g. walking, cycling, swimming, spaces in parks for activities such as tai chi, etc.

The majority of residents (79.8%) were born in Australia and speak only English at home (86.3%). Fifteen other languages are spoken at home, with the five most popular being Filipino, Tagalog, Hungarian, German and Greek. One in ten residents of Pyramid Hill was born in the Philippines and 9.3% of its population speak either Filipino or Tagalog at home. This indicates that there may be a need to provide information about open spaces in Filipino or Tagalog in Pyramid Hill. Slightly fewer residents were employed full-time and slightly more part time. There was a greater percentage of people away from work, compared with the Australian figure and the unemployment rate was slightly lower. Almost half of those employed were employed as managers and labourers and most people are employed in some form of farming. In relation to income, more than one third of Loddon Shire households earn less than \$650.00 gross per week, compared with just one in five Australians (20.0%). All of this data tells us that our residents may be working in quite manual jobs, some of which may be very demanding in hours at certain times of the year (e.g. shearing, harvesting, milking), and that income levels are significantly lower than for Australia overall, i.e. median household income in Loddon Shire is \$826 per week compared with \$1,438 for Australia. Household incomes in Wedderburn and Inglewood are lowest within the Shire. Hence we need to ensure that we provide opportunities for people to be physically active in open spaces at a time that suits them and that participation costs for any physical activities is kept at an affordable level.

Childcare responsibilities in the Shire are generally less than Australia overall, with the exception of Serpentine. Therefore childcare is unlikely to be a major barrier to participation. Similarly, there is a higher percentage of people who care for someone with a disability. This may provide a barrier for carers to be utilise open spaces for their own health and wellbeing. One in five people in Mitiamo is currently caring for a person with a disability.

Loddon Shire has a strong culture of volunteerism, as evidenced by the number of people who stated that they have undertaken some form of voluntary work through an organisation sometime within the last 12 months. Four out of every ten residents in Boort have volunteered their services in the past 12 months. Attracting volunteers to assist with community base programs may not necessarily be an issue, but perhaps better utilising the skills of volunteers is worth exploring.

Compared with Australia, Loddon Shire has a much higher rate of single or one person households (34.2% compared with 24.4%). This figure increases to 43.3% of households in Boort. To ensure that people in single or one person households are able to make connections with others outside their homes, the design of public spaces should focus on facilitating community contacts, e.g. group programs, community events, seating that encourages interactions, etc.

Given that public transport is very limited in Loddon Shire, access to a car is very important for many people. There is an average of 2.3 cars per household, compared with 1.8 for Australia. Mitiamo and Newbridge have the greatest access to vehicles, whereas Pyramid Hill and Wedderburn have the least access. Place based activities and activities held at convenient are therefore likely to be very important.

Loddon Shire lags considerably behind its Australian counterparts in relation to internet connection. Whereas more than eight out of ten Australians access the internet from their

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home, this figure is as low as 58.7% for Inglewood. Until such time as there is greater uptake of the technology, any information about the provision of facilities or activities needs to be provided in multiple platforms, including written materials and posters in shop windows.

In terms of health and wellbeing, 55% of Loddon residents do not do enough physical activity to achieve health benefits, compared with 50% of Victorians. Further, 25% of Loddon residents are obese or overweight, compared with 19% of Victorians. These factors, combined with smoking, excessive alcohol consumption and poor diet contribute to chronic illness. Some specific data related to chronic illness in Loddon Shire follows:

- Loddon Shire has the highest rate of heart attack in Victoria
- Loddon Shire has the 2nd highest rate of cardiac arrest in Victoria
- there is a higher proportion of people in Loddon Shire with diabetes compared with Victoria
- avoidable deaths from diabetes, cancer, COPD and suicide are higher in Loddon than in Victoria.

17 OUTDOOR FITNESS EQUIPMENT

17.1 Overview of outdoor fitness equipment

Based on discussions with local residents and survey responses, there is some demand for outdoor fitness equipment (OFE) in Loddon Shire. Outdoor fitness equipment is similar to indoor gym equipment, except that it may be somewhat more basic in appearance, is more hard wearing and resistant to weather. Items may be static or dynamic. Outdoor fitness equipment is generally installed along a linear pathway, e.g. around a lake or along a river, or can be clustered together to form an exercise station, or can be a combination of the two.

17.2 Advantages and disadvantages

Some of the advantages and disadvantages of outdoor fitness equipment can be summarised as follows:

Advantages

- helps to improve people's health and fitness (e.g. strength, aerobic capacity, balance, dexterity, range of motion and flexibility)
- helps to improve people's mental health and social connections
- free for people to use
- can be used at any time of day or night (if there is some form of lighting)
i.e. not reliant on a gym being open
- intergenerational and social meeting point for local residents
- can be used by people of all ages including family groups
- opportunity to exercise outdoors in the fresh air and sunshine
- enables people to connect with nature and feel rejuvenated
- no need to employ people to supervise the gym
- no need to pay running costs of a building, e.g. lighting, heating, cooling, etc
- may encourage increased physical activity levels by existing park users
- can modernise an existing area of open space and draw more users
- it builds on the increasing demand of Australians for gym / fitness activities, i.e. 32% of Australians currently participate in gym / fitness activities – this is second only to walking (42%) which is the most popular physical activity of Australians.
- opportunity for fitness instructors to 'hire' the site at set terms to earn income by offering group fitness classes using the equipment

Disadvantages

- equipment can be vandalised
- some people are embarrassed to use the equipment in public and fear that they will look silly
- some people worry about their safety in an outdoor gym environment or are concerned that they will injure themselves
- usage can be impacted by weather
- equipment, particularly moving equipment, requires a high level of maintenance (possibly 5-10% of the construction cost annually)
- difficult to achieve universal design with some items
- people could potentially injure themselves if they do not know how to use the equipment correctly
- equipment may not be used if people are unfamiliar with the type of exercises that can be performed
- they often only appeal to or are regularly used by people who are already leading active lifestyles
- it is difficult to monitor and evaluate usage.

17.3 Equipment required

Approximately eight items are required to provide a full body workout. Some potential items to consider are:

- treadmills (aerobic / strengthening)
- stationary bikes (aerobic / strengthening)
- cross trainers (aerobic / strengthening)
- chest press (strengthening)
- parallel bars (strengthening / balance)
- sit up bench (strengthening)
- leg press (strengthening)
- stepping stones / balance beam (balance)
- shoulder wheels (flexibility and strength)
- Dexterity builder (dexterity, coordination and mobility).

17.4 Choosing equipment

Equipment should be selected on the following basis:

- variety, quality and functionality of equipment
- ease of use of equipment by people of all ages and abilities
- instructional signage
- ease of maintenance and ability to access replacement parts as required
- price
- vandal resistance
- adherence to safety standards and any other regulations.

17.5 Static equipment versus dynamic equipment

OFE sites vary greatly from one another – some will have static equipment only (with no moving parts), while others have dynamic equipment (with moving parts) and others still will have a combination of both. Static equipment, such as a chin up bar or a sit up bench, is usually fairly basic and easy to use (including by children and people who are not experienced using gym equipment). It can provide a variety of exercise options using the same layout (although clear instructions about usage and exercise options may need to be provided). Generally it is cheaper to purchase than dynamic equipment and will last longer. It is also easier to maintain as there are no moving parts.

Dynamic equipment, such as steppers and exercise bikes can be more appealing and easy to use, particularly for beginners, although some equipment may be too difficult to use by people unfamiliar with that type of equipment. Dynamic equipment generally provides a guided range of movement for the user, but it may not be easily adjustable for different user experiences and it may have limited applications (i.e. can only be used one way).

17.6 Clustered equipment versus lineal trail equipment

Outdoor fitness equipment can either be grouped in a cluster at one location or laid out along a linear trail with each item separated by a specific distance. There are pros and cons of each of these options.

Clustered equipment is more conducive to social interactions and people training together. It's also easier to maintain as all equipment is located in one place. People may feel safer as equipment is grouped together, rather than potentially being spread out across a large area and facilities such as toilets and drinking fountains may be easier to access if they are located

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near a clustered equipment site.

Equipment located along a trail or foreshore may be more appealing to people who may have a higher level of fitness and enjoy running or walking between exercise stations. It may also appeal to people who appreciate the different scenery along the way. It can be accessed at various points along the trail.

17.7 Supporting amenities

Sport and Recreation Victoria³² has prioritised various site features and supporting amenities for OFE sites:

High	Medium	Low
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • signage • drinking water access • path access. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • public transport access • shade protection • car parking • proximity to other community recreational areas • vegetation • seating. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lighting • bike racks.

17.8 Cost of equipment

The cost of OFE varies considerably, depending on a range of factors including the number of exercise stations, the type of exercise stations, under-surfacing, signage costs, supporting infrastructure, planning costs, programming costs.

According to Sport and Recreation Victoria³³, equipment installed along Swan Hill Rural City Council’s Riverside Park cost just over \$220,000; Darebin City Council installed OFE for just over \$80,000, Port Philip Bay for \$100,000 and City of Wodonga for \$150,000.

There will be an annual maintenance cost that will also need to be factored in and consideration that the equipment is likely to last for 10-20 years, depending on factors such as usage levels, weather conditions, the degree of dynamic equipment, etc.

17.9 Outdoor fitness equipment research

A sample of state, national and international research undertaken over the past five years indicates a mixed response to outdoor fitness equipment in terms of its usage and benefits. Generally older adults and females will be the main users of such equipment.

More research is needed to determine how effectively parks or spaces with outdoor fitness equipment can attract new park users and increase physical activity levels of participants over time.

What is highly evident however, is the growth in suppliers of outdoor fitness equipment, based on a demand by communities for such equipment.

- In relation to outdoor gyms, there is “some evidence of increased use and more new users in the short term”, but “little evidence that outdoor gyms can increase park use and physical activity levels in the long term”.³⁴
- There was a “small but significant increase in senior park users engaging in moderate to vigorous physical activity” following the installation of an outdoor gym in the specified

park in Sydney (from 1.6% to 5.1%) and a significant increase in the number of users of the outdoor gym equipment from its installation to follow up assessments (i.e. from 6% of park users to 40% of park users). The percentage of seniors who used this outdoor gym equipment also increased during this time from 1.4% to 6%.³⁵

- Outdoor gyms tend to attract more female users than males.³⁶
- Observations undertaken at the outdoor gym in Xihu Park, Taiwan indicate that the gym attracts most usage in the early morning and late afternoon, i.e. approximately 12 users per hour used the OFE, with the majority being females and seniors. The most popular exercise stations were the triple arm stretch and air walker; however, most people used less than three of the exercise stations. As users spent an average of less than nine minutes on all of the equipment combined, the health benefits achieved are likely to be minimal.³⁷
- Of outdoor gym users in Sefton Council, UK, the average length of time people used outdoor gym equipment was 19 minutes or slightly longer (22 minutes) if they use the equipment at least once per week. "Over two thirds of these participants agreed or strongly agreed that the equipment had an overall positive impact on their health, and that since starting to use an outdoor gym they felt fitter and more confident exercising. Over half reported that they felt more relaxed or less stressed since starting to exercise using an outdoor gym."³⁸
- Sport and Recreation Victoria's survey of Local Government Authorities reveals that 15% of OFE is heavily used, 47% is moderately used, 22% is not used very often, 2% is not used at all and the use of the remaining 14% of OFE sites is unknown. In terms of participants, 'all comers' account for 38% of users, older adults account for 36% of users and it is not known who the remaining 22% of users are.

17.10 Key to success

The key to successful outdoor fitness gyms are:

- demand by the community, i.e. sufficient population and visitor numbers to justify the expenditure and an indication that the facilities will be well utilised
- placement in a highly visible location with good passive surveillance
- access to supporting facilities and amenities, e.g. paths, toilets, shelter / shade and drinking fountains
- diversity of equipment that allows for a full body workout and that is easy and intuitive to use by people of all ages and abilities (universal design)
- promotion of the outdoor gym when it is first developed, e.g. come and try day, media articles, website promotion, etc.
- encouragement and support, e.g. programs run by exercise physiologists / personal trainers on how to use gym equipment correctly and how to develop and modify a program
- information about how to use the gym equipment, e.g. signage, instructional guides, brochures, posters, etc.
- sufficient resources to effectively maintain the site and keep it in good working order.

18 FRAMEWORK OF OPENSOURCE INFRASTRUCTURE PROVISION

In order to ensure appropriate and equitable distribution of recreation facilities and open spaces throughout the municipality so that all residents, a minimum level of facility provision guide has been developed (based on the current situation and open to be reviewed). This table also provides a guide for future provision, in terms of what could or should realistically be provided in towns of various sizes to encourage physical activity participation. The information in this table has been specifically developed for the Shire, taking into consideration:

- provision and benchmarking of facilities in similar-sized towns in rural Victoria
- the types of activities that currently occur (or may feasibly occur in the future given feedback from local residents and examining statewide participation trends)
- climatic conditions
- population growth
- existing facility provision within the catchment (including neighbouring towns and municipalities).

Noting that:

- *Some towns may already exceed the infrastructure level identified for a town of its size. In this situation, Council will continue to provide the same level of service that exists, but when the infrastructure is due for replacement, Council may at its discretion choose not to replace the infrastructure.*
- *Association or competition sport conducted in a community may create an override of the minimum specifications, e.g. two netball courts required for netball competitions associated with the local Football / Netball league.*
- *Community groups or other organisations such as schools may choose to construct and maintain additional facilities at their own cost. Where communities wish to develop infrastructure outside the level suggested in this guide and where there is an expectation that Council will take on responsibility for the infrastructure, it is a requirement that initiatives are subjected to a fully informed feasibility study (which demonstrates demand, need and sustainability) and whole of life costs are clearly understood.*
- *This table is simply a guide. Actual needs of towns vary considerably depending on the demographics of the town, proximity to other facilities in other towns, specific participation trends, availability of coaches / instructors for certain activities, transport availability, costs, etc.*

The following table lists the level of facility development that Loddon Shire recommends.

Facilities – may include	Large town (800 - 1,000 people) e.g. Boort, Inglewood and Wedderburn	Medium town (300-800 people) e.g. Bridgewater and Pyramid Hill	Small-medium town (150 – 300) e.g. Newbridge and Serpentine	Small town (less than 150 people) e.g. Calivil, Dingee and Mitiamo
Sports oval and change/ social facilities (this may be over-riden by association or competition sport demands)	Yes – developed to a reasonably high level. Facility provision needs to be guided by relevant publications including building regulations, DDA and other documents such as AFL Preferred Facilities Guidelines	Yes – developed to a medium level. Facility provision needs to be guided by relevant publications including building regulations, DDA and other documents such as AFL Preferred Facilities Guidelines	May be provided, but will be only developed to a basic level. Facility provision needs to be guided by relevant publications including building regulations, DDA and other documents such as AFL Preferred Facilities Guidelines	May be provided, but will be only developed to a basic level
Netball court and change facilities (this may be over-riden by association or competition sport demands)	Yes – one to two courts at each recreation reserve, preferably line marked for tennis too. Change facilities provided	Yes – one to two courts at each recreation reserve, preferably line marked for tennis too. Change rooms provided	One court may be provided, preferably line marked for tennis too. Change rooms may be provided	One court may be provided, preferably line marked for tennis too
Tennis court (this may be over-riden by association or competition sport demands)	Yes – up to six courts with lights suitable for municipal-level and local competitions, social use and practice	Yes – up to two tennis courts suitable for local competitions, social use and practice. May have lights	At least one tennis court for social use or practice. No lights	Possibly one tennis court for social use or practice. No lights
Bowling green (this may be over-riden by association or competition)	Yes – one facility per town. May have a synthetic surface, but	May be provided, but generally lawn	May be provided, but generally lawn	Generally not provided

Facilities – may include	Large town (800 - 1,000 people) e.g. Boort, Inglewood and Wedderburn	Medium town (300-800 people) e.g. Bridgewater and Pyramid Hill	Small-medium town (150 – 300) e.g. Newbridge and Serpentine	Small town (less than 150 people) e.g. Calivil, Dingee and Mitiamo
sport demands)	only if feasible			
Croquet green (this may be over-ridden by association or competition sport demands)	Possibly one croquet green	Generally not provided	Not provided	Not provided
Petanque piste	Possibly one petanque piste	Possibly one petanque piste	Possibly one petanque piste	Generally not provided
Golf course	Possibly one golf course with irrigated putting greens	Possibly one golf course, but only sand scrapes courses. No new facilities will be constructed	Generally not provided	Not provided
Multi-purpose playing field, e.g. soccer	Possibly one multi-purpose playing facility, but could be provided by a school. Needs a reasonably good playing surface	May be provided, but only to a basic level – possibly at a school	Generally not provided	Not provided
Clay target / rifle shooting facilities	Possibly one facility to be provided	May be provided	May be provided	Not provided
Horse racing tracks	Possibly one facility to be provided	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided
Park with BBQ, public toilet and picnic facilities	Yes – several local level parks to be provided, but	Yes – at least one local level park to be	Yes – one local level park provided to a basic level.	Possibly one park provided to a basic level.

Facilities – may include	Large town (800 - 1,000 people) e.g. Boort, Inglewood and Wedderburn	Medium town (300-800 people) e.g. Bridgewater and Pyramid Hill	Small-medium town (150 – 300) e.g. Newbridge and Serpentine	Small town (less than 150 people) e.g. Calivil, Dingee and Mitiamo
	evenly spaced throughout the town. Minimum of 0.5 hectares. Maybe one regional level park - minimum of 2 hectares, which should have an accessible toilet and one to two BBQs	provided, preferably in a central location so that it is accessible to all. Should have an accessible toilet and one to two BBQ. Minimum of 0.5 hectares	If public toilets (including an accessible one) and BBQ are provided at a recreation reserve in town, they will not be duplicated in the park (and vice versa). Minimum of 0.5 hectares	If public toilets (including an accessible one) and BBQ are provided at a recreation reserve in town, they will not be duplicated in the park (and vice versa). Minimum of 0.5 hectares
Playground with open space for ball games	Yes – several playgrounds to be provided (depending on the geographic size of each town), but evenly spaced throughout the town. One playground should be developed to a municipal or regional level	Yes – a local level playground should be provided within parks and also at the recreation reserve	Yes – a local level playground should be provided within a park or at the recreation reserve	Possibly a local level playground provided within a park or at the recreation reserve
Footpaths	Footpaths to be provided on at least one side of each street in town, but preferably both sides. New footpaths in the town to be constructed to a width suitable for	Footpaths to be provided on at least one side of each street in town, but preferably both sides. New footpaths in the town to be constructed to a width suitable for	Footpaths to be provided on at least one side of each street in town. Seats to be placed in key locations and at regular intervals (500m apart).	Footpaths to be provided on at least one side of each street in town

Facilities – may include	Large town (800 - 1,000 people) e.g. Boort, Inglewood and Wedderburn	Medium town (300-800 people) e.g. Bridgewater and Pyramid Hill	Small-medium town (150 – 300) e.g. Newbridge and Serpentine	Small town (less than 150 people) e.g. Calivil, Dingee and Mitiamo
	shared usage. Seats to be placed in key locations and at regular intervals (500m apart). Footpaths on all street frontages around schools connected to the township footpath network	shared usage. Seats to be placed in key locations and at regular intervals (500m apart). Footpaths on all street frontages around schools connected to the township footpath network	Footpaths on all street frontages around schools connected to the township footpath network	
Walking / cycling trails	One or more off road recreational trails that provides opportunities for walking and cycling near a creek, river, recreation reserve, bushland, etc at least 5km in length, but may be much longer and may connect to other towns. Trails will feature interpretive signage, seats, etc	One off road recreational trail that provides opportunities for walking and cycling near a creek, river, recreation reserve, bushland, etc at least 5km in length. Will feature seats and may feature interpretive signage	One off road recreational trail that provides opportunities for walking and cycling near a creek, river, recreation reserve, bushland, etc at least 2km in length	Possibly one off road recreational trail that provides opportunities for walking and cycling near a creek, river, recreation reserve, bushland, etc
Commuter route for cyclists	A clearly identified east-west and north- south route comprising of on road lanes for cycling	A clearly identified east-west and north- south route comprising of on road lanes for cycling	None	None

Facilities – may include	Large town (800 - 1,000 people) e.g. Boort, Inglewood and Wedderburn	Medium town (300-800 people) e.g. Bridgewater and Pyramid Hill	Small-medium town (150 – 300) e.g. Newbridge and Serpentine	Small town (less than 150 people) e.g. Calivil, Dingee and Mitiamo
	commuters. There may also be some marked on-road cycling lanes around schools	commuters. There may also be some marked on-road cycling lanes around schools		
Swimming pool	One 25m – 50m outdoor pool with toddler pool could be provided in a central location. Consideration could be given to the development of a small hydrotherapy pool, but only in partnership with other organisations	Possibly one 12m-25m pool with toddler pool could be provided in a central location, but only if it already exists. No new pools to be constructed in towns of this size	Access to a pool within approximately 20 minutes drive from homes if possible	Access to a pool within approximately 20 minutes drive from homes if possible
Skate parks / BMX / pump park / bike skills area	One skate park or modular pump track to be provided in a central location	Possibly one small skate park or modular pump track may be provided in a central location subject to demand and distance from other skate parks	Not provided	Not provided
Bike skills area / pump park / BMX track	One bike skills / pump park / BMX track to be provided	Possibly one small bike skills / pump park / BMX track to be provided subject to demand	Not provided	Not provided
Lakes / creeks / rivers	Possibly a fishing pontoon or platform will	Possibly a fishing pontoon will be	Possibly a fishing pontoon will be	Not provided

Facilities – may include	Large town (800 - 1,000 people) e.g. Boort, Inglewood and Wedderburn	Medium town (300-800 people) e.g. Bridgewater and Pyramid Hill	Small-medium town (150 – 300) e.g. Newbridge and Serpentine	Small town (less than 150 people) e.g. Calivil, Dingee and Mitiamo
	be developed to enhance lakes / creeks / rivers in or close to the town	developed to enhance lakes / creeks / rivers in or close to the town	developed to enhance lakes / creeks / rivers in or close to the town particularly in towns with no swimming pools	
Informal recreation facilities, e.g. outdoor fitness equipment, down ball area, rebound wall, basketball half court, outdoor table tennis, etc	Yes – a number of informal recreation facilities to be developed dependent upon community needs and available resources	One to two informal recreational facilities may be provided in each town – dependent upon community need and available resources	One informal recreational facility may be provided in each town – dependent upon community needs and available resources	One informal recreational facility may be provided in each town – dependent upon community needs and available resources

19 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

19.1 Introduction

273 residents of Loddon Shire had their say about how to activate open spaces more effectively through a series of community engagement and consultation activities including:

- consultation with young people at Wedderburn and Boort P-12 schools (44)
- listening posts at Wedderburn IGA Supermarket, Calivil Recreation Reserve, Inglewood Recreation Reserve (95)
- Seniors Forum (7)
- Townscape Services staff meeting (4)
- Technical Services staff meeting (1)
- community survey (122).

19.2 Young people

Wedderburn School Captain

The captain of Wedderburn P-12 College addressed Loddon Shire Council on 24 April 2018 to discuss issues impacting young people locally. In relation to activating open spaces, the school captain suggested that:

- a summer program of activities / games organised by lifeguards at swimming pools
- ball games organised at the Neighbourhood House played on the netball court
- sporting equipment available for young people to borrow and use in the local park
- pizza nights using the oven in the community garden
- outdoor family film nights on the football oval using the score board.

Wedderburn P-12 Students

A workshop was held with 20 secondary school aged students from Wedderburn P-12 at lunchtime on Wednesday 27 June. Students worked in groups to answer several questions about open space. Their responses included:

Which open spaces in Loddon Shire do you currently use?	What do you do in open spaces in Loddon Shire?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wedderburn Swimming Pool • Donaldson Park • Skinners Reservoir • Inglewood Reservoir • walking tracks • bike tracks • Soldiers Memorial Park • Mt Kooyoora • Melville Caves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • play football • play netball • play golf • play tennis • play hockey • play basketball • ride bikes • go horse riding • go walking / hiking • go swimming

What do you like about these spaces?	What improvements / new developments would you like to see to open spaces in Loddon Shire?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cheap / free • accessible, i.e. walking distance from home • well maintained (e.g. swimming pool and Soldiers Memorial Park) • safe (e.g. swimming pool and Soldiers Memorial Park) • sports grounds are close so you can play more than one sport • some spaces have lighting, so you feel safe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • play equipment for teenagers with big swings, flying fox, sand pit • relocate basketball ring in Wedderburn to a more visible location, make it full size and paint some lines • half netball court in Korong Vale • skate park in Wedderburn • outdoor fitness equipment • BMX track at the Korong Vale oval • soccer pitch • more social events for kids outdoors, e.g. FReeZA • improvements to Skinners Reservoir – develop an off-road walking trail to the reservoir (instead of having to walk along the road), install lights, promote it better, providing drinking water, install seats, upgrade toilets, allow camping, improve parking • organised game days every month • more festivals and live music on ovals • heat the pool • develop a better gym • develop a rock-climbing course • upgrade all parks • develop an ice-skating rink • improve outdoor areas by developing graffiti walls and painting silos • install outdoor table tennis tables • install more street lights in Korong Vale • hold movie nights on Wedderburn Cricket Oval • make sports equipment available for hire for young people • have free Wi-Fi in parks • organise nature walks • improve toilets at Melville Caves • develop dog parks at Wedderburn, Inglewood and Korong Vale • more shade in open spaces • more lighting of open spaces • more seats in open spaces • better promotion of what already exists, i.e. maps, brochures, etc.

Boort P-12 Students

A workshop was held with 23 secondary school aged students from Wedderburn P-12 at lunchtime on Wednesday 27th June. Students worked in groups to answer several questions about open space. Their responses included:

Where do you go?	What do you do there?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • park • Little Lake Boort • Boort Swimming Pool • jumping pillow • Lake Cafe • tennis courts • playground • swings • BMX track • public toilets • events, e.g. Boort Show • football ground • gun club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • play soccer • play ball games • water ski • swim • kayak • exercise • go on the flying fox • go on the merry go round • canoeing / kayaking • play netball • play hockey • play football • play tennis • walk / ride around the lake • go camping • have a BBQ • play • ride a bike • walk • hang out with friends

What do you like about the spaces you go to?	How can we improve these spaces?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • free • in town, therefore easy access • open • outdoors • health benefits • length of the pool • lake is refreshing • lake is good for water skiing • safe • the whole community can use the spaces • the park is fun • lake isn't too deep 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop a skate park in Boort • establish a graffiti wall • install fitness equipment around the lake (Myrnong Beach) or in the park • improve the walking track • develop a bush walk around the big lake and include interpretive signage • develop the tortoise trail into a proper walk • develop a bike track and bike parking • develop a scenic bike track around the town and the lake (potentially sealed) • develop a mountain bike track near the water tower • develop an off-road BMX jumps • develop a motorbike track • install a water slide at the pool • install a spa at the pool • improve water quality in the lake for swimmers • have competitive swimming at the pool with a coach

What do you like about the spaces you go to?	How can we improve these spaces?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop a water park – potentially at Nolens Park near the lake – with water cannons and pistols • have longer opening hours at the pool (including morning swimming) • upgrade basketball court – fix rings and add shelter • construct a hard court for ball sports at the lake • construct a new gun club • develop a soccer field • fix the cricket nets at the oval • develop cricket nets at the Lake • construct a turf hockey pitch • install toilets at the hockey field • improve facilities at the sports ground • open the merry go round more often • install a boulder / climbing wall • purchase human sized board games • have a separate toilet block for people with caravans at Boort Park • install fire pits • establish a dog park at the cow patch • develop designated camping spots around the lake • develop a youth facility • develop cow patch • use old primary school site for outdoor activities • install play equipment for young people, e.g. sand pits, slides, chimney climber, inflatable equipment • install a kayak launch pad • fix the pontoon near the scout shed • develop Chinese gardens • develop toilets on the other side of the lake near the fishing club • install a BBQ at Myrnong Beach • upgrade lookout and Rotary Track – make more prominent • develop outdoor table tennis tables • Install more BBQs in Boort • develop a 4WD track • install more lighting • improve security of open spaces • increase promotion of facilities and activities • modernise things • establish more shade around the lake

19.3 General Community

Wedderburn IGA Supermarket

A listening post was held at Wedderburn IGA Supermarket on Wednesday 26 June from 10.10am until 12.00pm. 26 people provided feedback – 11 females and 15 males. Almost half of the people who spoke with the facilitator were approximately 70 years of age, with the remaining majority between 40 to 60 years of age. Three participants were approximately 20 years of age. Eight of the 26 people said that they are satisfied with open spaces in Wedderburn and have no ideas for improvements. Comments from participants included:

Play:

- need a skate park in Wedderburn (2)
- need a playground at Donaldson Park, Wedderburn
- need to repair the gate at the Soldiers Memorial Park playground in Wedderburn
- need a sandpit at the Soldiers Memorial Park playground in Wedderburn
- need more slides and less metal equipment at Jacka Park playground in Wedderburn
- need a full-sized basketball court in Wedderburn
- need more things for children to do in Wedderburn.

Parks / open spaces:

- continue to provide green spaces (grass and trees) that are well maintained in Wedderburn (2)
- like the Soldiers Memorial Park upgrade in Wedderburn and the soldier statues
- need more disabled car parks near open spaces in Wedderburn
- should keep some open spaces from being planted up with trees so there is space to kick a football in Wedderburn
- need to install a screen in the shelter shed near Jacka Park in Wedderburn to break the wind
- need more bins in parks in Wedderburn and these bins need to be emptied more often
- preserve all of the existing areas of open space in Wedderburn
- interpretation of natural and cultural features is important in Wedderburn to create stewardship
- all areas of open space in Wedderburn need upgrading
- define areas in Wedderburn with fences where required.

Sports facilities:

- like the existing sports facilities in Wedderburn
- need a motorcycle trail near Wedderburn.

Walking / cycling tracks:

- need to get rid of bindii on the Nardoo Walking Track in Wedderburn as it is preventing some people from riding a bike (2)
- like Nardoo Walking Track in Wedderburn.

CBD / shopping area:

- need a drinking fountain at the bus stop in Wedderburn under the shelter (2)
- better maintenance required on footpaths and in relation to leaf litter in Wedderburn (2)
- would like to see the whole town of Wedderburn beautified, not just the main street
- Need dog poo bags and bins in parks and open spaces in Wedderburn
- don't like streetscape works in Wedderburn.

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Swimming pool:

- need to keep the Wedderburn Pool open for longer in summer
- need a fence around the toddler pool in Wedderburn.

Calivil Recreation Reserve

A listening post was held at Calivil Recreation Reserve on Saturday 2 June from 1.10pm until 4.00pm, featuring a football match between Calivil and Pyramid Hill. 33 people provided feedback – 17 females and 16 males. The largest age cohorts to participate were the under 15's (7) and the 40 year olds (7), followed by the 20 year olds (5) and 70 year olds (4). All other age cohorts were represented.

Five of the 33 people said that they are satisfied with open spaces in their local area and have no ideas for improvements. Comments from other participants included:

Calivil Recreation Reserve:

- need a BBQ and shelter / rotunda at Calivil Recreation Reserve (7 responses)
- develop a netball shelter at Calivil Recreation Reserve (5)
- need seats next to the playground at Calivil Recreation Reserve (2)
- develop a double lane road in front of the at Calivil Recreation Reserve to improve safety (2)
- need picnic tables next to the playground at Calivil Recreation Reserve
- install a drinking fountain next to the playground at Calivil Recreation Reserve
- develop a pedestrian zone between the clubrooms and the playground at Calivil Recreation Reserve
- construct a net behind the goal posts at Calivil Recreation Reserve
- reseed the Calivil Recreation Reserve oval
- install toddler play equipment at Calivil Recreation Reserve
- provide more activities at Calivil Recreation Reserve for young children, e.g. petting zoo and jumping castle.

Kelly Park, Pyramid Hill:

- move swings from the park across the road to Kelly Park in Pyramid Hill (2)
- need more seats in Kelly Park in Pyramid Hill (existing seats are uncomfortable)
- need more shade in Kelly Park in Pyramid Hill.

Melville Caves:

- ensure access tracks are open at Melville Caves.

Promotion:

- promote events on facebook pages such as Events in Bendigo.

Events:

- hold more events in parks throughout the Shire.

Playgrounds:

- ensure that there are playgrounds at every recreation reserve in the Shire.

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Sport / recreation (general):

- develop a pump park in Pyramid Hill
- develop a motorbike track near Calivil
- sports clubs (such as Pyramid Hill Golf Club) need more financial assistance for things like fuel for mowers
- sports clubs need help with grant writing.

Pyramid Hill Sports Oval:

- change shape of oval so that it is better for spectators.

Inglewood Recreation Reserve

A listening post was held at Inglewood Recreation Reserve on Saturday 16 June from 1.05pm until 4.00pm, featuring a football match between Inglewood and Mitiamo. 36 people provided feedback – 22 females and 13 males. The largest age cohorts to participate were the under 15's (10) and the 50-year olds (8), followed by the 20-year olds (6) and 60-year olds (4). All other age cohorts were represented. Two of the 33 people said that they are satisfied with open spaces in their local area and have no ideas for improvements. Comments from participants included:

Inglewood Recreation Reserve:

- develop netball club rooms at Inglewood Recreation Reserve (2)
- like Inglewood playground (2)
- build new public toilets at Inglewood Recreation Reserve (2)
- upgrade lights on oval at Inglewood Recreation Reserve to allow night games (2)
- provide an inside space for the football club trainer to operate from at Inglewood Recreation Reserve (2)
- improve road safety of area between clubrooms and the netball courts at Inglewood Recreation Reserve
- install electric BBQs and shelter at Inglewood Recreation Reserve
- install a drinking fountain at Inglewood Recreation Reserve
- install an electronic scoreboard at Inglewood Recreation Reserve
- install more seats at Inglewood Recreation Reserve
- construct an all abilities toilet at Inglewood Recreation Reserve
- install outdoor fitness equipment in Inglewood
- would not use outdoor fitness equipment
- plant more trees on the fence line at Inglewood Recreation Reserve to create a wind block
- install more seats and bins around the boundary of Inglewood Recreation Reserve
- construct a second block of public toilets on the opposite side of the oval.

Inglewood Swimming Pool:

- heat the Inglewood Swimming Pool for winter use
- install a diving board at Inglewood Swimming Pool
- provide inflatables at Inglewood Swimming Pool.

Inglewood Botanic Garden:

- upgrade Inglewood Botanic Garden by providing a general 'face lift' and installing a BBQ.

Play:

- install a full-sized basketball court for young people in Inglewood (3)
- upgrade playgrounds in the Shire so that they are more like the playground in Inglewood with birds' nest swings, slides, swings, monkey bars and climbers (2)
- increase the size of the Inglewood Skate Park and increase the degree of difficulty of some equipment (2)
- Sloan Park playground in Bridgewater is boring so people tend to use the playground at the caravan park as it has a jumping pillow
- provide more things for young people to do at Inglewood playground, e.g. climbing wall, flying fox.

Parks / open space:

- unlikely to use outdoor exercise equipment (3)
- plant more grass in Bridgewater for passive relaxation between the bridge and the motel
- develop more shade and seats in parks / open space in Inglewood
- need to retain access into the bush for horse riders
- need more shade and seating in parks
- allow food trucks to set up in parks / open spaces
- make sure all recreation reserves are well maintained.

Cycling / walking:

- develop new cycling / walking tracks in Inglewood.

Inglewood Town Hall:

- install more shade.

Inglewood Reservoir:

- upgrade walking / cycling tracks (2)
- install BBQs, tables and bins
- dig the reservoir out so that it becomes deeper.

Little Lake Boort:

- clean up Little Lake Boort.

Mitiamo Recreation Reserve:

- construct shelter for netballers at Mitiamo Recreation Reserve
- upgrade pavilion at Mitiamo Recreation Reserve to include female change rooms, umpire change rooms, male change room upgrade (more showers) and a new roof.

Mitiamo:

- develop a walking path in the town
- upgrade the playground in Mitiamo and provide a buffer between the play space and the busy road to improve the safety of children.

Inglewood CBD / Shopping area:

- develop a car park at the entrance of the town where visitors can park and then explore Inglewood by foot
- better maintain footpaths in Inglewood
- establish a mini park in the middle of Inglewood with a BBQ, rotunda, seats and a drinking fountain
- establish a scooter charging station at the supermarket.

Inglewood Golf Course:

- encourage more people to walk around the Inglewood Golf Course and perhaps set up a Heart Foundation Walking Group (2).

Serpentine Recreation Reserve:

- upgrade car park (it gets very boggy).

Kooyoora:

- concern that access will be restricted if ownership / management changes hands.

Bridgewater Swimming Hole:

- need more spaces for people to sit.

19.4 Older Adults

Seniors Forum

A senior's forum was held on Tuesday 8 May at Serpentine Council Chambers. Seven older adults were in attendance – six females and one male, representing the major towns in the Shire. The following topics were covered:

What spaces do you currently use?

- walk every morning on the bush track behind the Police Station (Wedderburn)
- walking track (Inglewood)
- walk around Inglewood reservoir
- walk along the river walking track (Bridgewater)
- track at bridge towards caravan park
- track by the flour mill
- walk around the oval (Pyramid Hill, Bridgewater and Inglewood)
- walk around the oval with the dog (Pyramid Hill and Inglewood)
- walk around the streets (Bridgewater, Pyramid Hill, Inglewood)
- walk along the channel in Wedderburn (Nardoo Creek)
- walk up the trail to the summit of Pyramid Hill
- playground at Inglewood with the grandchildren
- need to top up the soft fall
- needs more shade
- family often camp at the Bridgewater caravan park and love it
- Melville Caves.

Pros and cons of walking:

- it's free and accessible
- some people worry about walking alone due to safety concerns

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- "I wouldn't go in the bush on my own."
- "I much prefer the bush; I hate walking on designated paths"
- older people need places to sit along footpaths / trails
- some people dislike walking in towns and on footpaths; they prefer the bush / bush tracks
- Wedderburn has good bush tracks but needs improved signage and information for walkers.

Outdoor exercise equipment:

- mixed opinions regarding whether or not they would use equipment
- some would use the equipment, whilst others think it looks too difficult
- "We need more chairs than equipment."
- concerns about safety and not knowing how to use it
- they think the grandchildren would use it
- three people said they would be too embarrassed / self-conscious to use it (as the setting is likely to be too public)
- would need someone to show them how to use it
- have noticed the one in Cohuna is used a lot.

Location for Outdoor Exercise Equipment

- around the lake at Boort
- Bridgewater near the pub/BBQ
- Nardoo Creek in Wedderburn
- the small park opposite the Senior Citizens in Wedderburn
- next to the Senior Citizens hall in Pyramid Hill.

Layout of equipment

- grouped together might be better
- grouped together might also be less likely to be vandalised
- if it was grouped together then a group of people might form and use it at a set time and day/s each week.

Dog Parks:

- often see people walking dogs
- in Pyramid Hill people often use the oval to walk dogs.
- develop a dog park
- dog parks are a good place to meet people
- a dog park might work in Wedderburn near the swimming pool
- would need to separate the big and small dogs.

Shade, seating and footpaths:

- Pyramid Hill needs more shade
- Inglewood playground needs more shade
- need more shade at Lions Park at Inglewood Reservoir
- need better facilities out at Skinners flat (the tables and chairs etc. are extremely old)
- more shade around oval in Inglewood especially netball courts
- shade in the small park across from Wedderburn Senior Citizens
- seating along walking trails i.e. Nardoo Creek, trail out to the Reservoir in Inglewood (about the halfway point)
- linear trail at Inglewood to the reservoir is used a lot - needs two seats

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- the seating near Bendigo Bank in Inglewood needs a backrest and arms
- the seats in Kelly Street Park (Pyramid Hill) are too low and very hard to get up out of
- footpaths needed in Pyramid Hill and Inglewood
- Council needs to develop a Footpath Strategy
- in Inglewood a path from the caravan park to town would be beneficial to locals and visitors
- seats needed in Market square.

Programs in parks:

- most people will only attend if the weather is good
- the concept of farmers markets is supported
- strong interest in a bushwalking group (there’s one in Bendigo)
- a walking festival could be popular
- opportunity to incorporate indigenous components to programs, events or initiatives
- run wildflower walks
- better promote existing opportunities
- set up outdoor chess
- cafes could loan balls / sports equipment to children if located near a park or open space
- Inglewood Senior Citizens runs tai chi in the park sometimes.

Other:

- need toilets in Durham Ox to support the canoe trail
- historical walks would be good –
- could ask Howard Rochester to establish a bushwalking group
- could train local leaders as bushwalk leaders
- murals would help to make areas look nicer
- ensure facilities are DDA compliant and designed according to universal design principles
- access to drinking water is important – like water bottle fillers with dog bowl at base
- each park needs to have a point of difference
- more seats needed in Kelly Park, Pyramid Hill between the toilet block and the building.
- need to retain a space for fiesta activities in Pyramid Hill
- consider providing snake bite training for bushwalkers
- develop a marketing campaign which also encourages people to take plenty of water with them.

19.5 Council staff

Two meetings were held with Council staff (a total of seven attendees) to discuss how to best activate public open spaces and some of the challenges of doing so. The key issues discussed included:

Issue / opportunity	Details
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there are clear health and wellbeing benefits of activating spaces • economic benefits can be achieved by attracting visitors to the area to use public open spaces • better open spaces that are activated may attract more people to live in Loddon Shire
Costings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • need to consider whole of life costings

Issue / opportunity	Details
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> usage can be increased at minimal cost
Linkages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> need to better link walking / cycling network to open spaces
Usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> need to determine why some spaces are better utilised than others e.g. Ted's Garden is not well utilised
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> need to engage with the community in new ways to attract them to use facilities, e.g. door knock, community walks, community BBQs, information booths, information, advertising
Visual appearance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> visual appearance of sites is important in order to attract users
Equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensure that small towns do not miss out
Existing spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> need to maximise existing resources in the best possible way
Rationalisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> consider whether or not any spaces need to be rationalised
Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> need to ensure that open spaces and paths are well maintained open spaces still need sufficient space to get maintenance equipment onto site and space within the site to use equipment easily need to consult with townscape services staff prior to constructing play spaces and other upgrades - potentially develop a checklist of considerations walking tracks are not well maintained need a decent maintenance budget
Capital budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council's capital budget for townscape services is \$100,000 per annum
Street furniture / infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> need to purchase quality Australian made products (not cheap imports that don't last) that are easy to maintain need to ensure materials don't get too hot or too cold for users there is inconsistency in Boort in terms of street furniture infrastructure needs to be safe, attractive, flood resistant, kangaroo resistant, bird resistant items need to be DDA compliant
Signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> town signage is getting weathered – consider stone signage interpretive boards are important to have need to have information in Serpentine about the canoe trail at Durham Ox could have QR codes in other languages in open spaces,

Issue / opportunity	Details
	e.g. Tagalog in Pyramid Hill
Toilets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • unisex toilets required in some places • there is very limited DDA access in public toilets in the Shire • contractors who may not clean toilets properly give Council a bad name
Fencing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • steel fences, not colourbond fences, required around playgrounds
Bollards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prefer redgum bollards as recycled bollards tend to break easily and metal bollards fade
Bins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • people still tend to put normal rubbish in recycling bins
Dogs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • need dog poo bags and bins along the river in Bridgewater
Lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lighting of public open spaces will help to encourage use, but need to determine what level of development and costing is appropriate Solar lights work well in places where they are installed
Outdoor fitness equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is there enough evidence to demonstrate that these facilities are worthwhile • previous unit in Wedderburn was removed due to lack of use
BBQs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BBQs need shelter
Wi-Fi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • need to have free Wi-Fi in public spaces and power points to charge phones
Public art	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • incorporate public art / sculptures where possible
Turf / grass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • need to have grassed areas for children to play on
Playgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • people can't access Inglewood playground if the Recreation Reserve is being use for football (unless they pay the entry fee) • could rationalise Sunnyside Court playground in Boort
Plantings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plant native trees. Chinese elms do well. Ironbarks grow too quickly and are messy

19.6 Survey

A community survey was developed and distributed throughout the Shire via existing networks. Hard copies of surveys were also made available at Council offices and resource centres. As only a total of 122 people responded to the survey, the results need to be viewed with caution.

The majority of survey respondents were female (77.8%), with males making up 21.4% and other genders making up 0.9% of respondents. The high level of response by females needs to be taken into consideration when viewing responses, as the answers may not necessarily reflect the broader community's views.

In terms of age ranges, the majority of survey respondents were aged 30-59 (63.0%), followed by under 15-year olds (14.3%) and 70-79 year olds (8.4%). No one aged 15-19 completed a survey (however this age group was targeted through school consultations) and only a small amount of 20-29 year olds and 60-69 year olds responded (6.7% each). One person over 80 completed a survey (0.8%).

Survey responses were received from all major towns in the Shire; however; the majority of responses were received from people living in Wedderburn (32.8%), Boort (13.5%), Inglewood (9.2%), Pyramid Hill (8.4%), Bridgewater (6.7%) and Serpentine (6.7%).

Survey respondents provided detailed information for up to three areas of open space that they regularly visit. Any suggested improvements to these sites have been fed into the action plan. A total of 87 locations were nominated with the 12 most popular locations being:

- Donaldson Park, Wedderburn (24)
- Little Lake Boort / Boort Lake, Boort (19)
- Soldier's Memorial, Wedderburn (18)
- Wedderburn Swimming Pool, Wedderburn (15)
- Calivil Recreation Reserve, Calivil (9)
- Serpentine (Janiember) Recreation Reserve, Serpentine (9)
- Nolens Park, Boort (9)
- Inglewood Playground and Skate Park, Inglewood (8)
- Pyramid Hill Walking Track, Pyramid Hill (7)
- Inglewood Recreation Reserve, Inglewood (7)
- Kelly Park, Pyramid Hill (7)
- Skinners Flat Reservoir, Wedderburn (7).

The full list follows:

Open space	Town	Primary space	Secondary space	Tertiary space	Total
Boort Park Recreation Reserve	Boort	1	3	2	6
Boort croquet courts	Boort	1	0	0	1
Boort shopping area	Boort	1	0	1	2
Boort Swimming Pool	Boort	0	1	1	2
Boort Tennis Courts	Boort	0	1	1	2
Borella Park	Korong Vale	1	1	0	2
Bridgewater Golf Course	Bridgewater	0	0	1	1
Bridgewater public roads	Bridgewater	0	1	1	2
Bridgewater Recreation Reserve	Bridgewater	1	3	1	5
Bridgewater River Walk	Bridgewater	3	1	1	5
Bridgewater Swimming Hole / Foreshore	Bridgewater	2	2	1	5
Brownbill Reserve	Laanecoorie	0	1	0	1
Bushland / State Forest – Talgitcha St	Wedderburn	3	1	2	6
Calivil Recreation Reserve	Calivil	7	0	2	9
Cains Reserve	Laanecoorie	1	0	0	1
Civic space next to town hall	Eddington	1	0	0	1
Dunolly Forest	Tarnagulla	0	0	1	1
Dingee Progress Park	Dingee	1	1	0	2

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Open space	Town	Primary space	Secondary space	Tertiary space	Total
Donaldson Park	Wedderburn	17	5	2	24
Eddington Golf Course	Eddington	0	0	1	1
Hardhill Tourist Reserve	Wedderburn	3	1	1	5
Hill above Boort	Boort	0	1	0	1
Inglewood Botanic Gardens	Inglewood	2	0	0	2
Inglewood Conservation Reserve / bushland	Inglewood	0	1	1	2
Inglewood Footpaths	Inglewood	0	1	0	1
Inglewood Playground and Skate Park	Inglewood	4	2	2	8
Inglewood Recreation Reserve	Inglewood	3	4	0	7
Inglewood Reservoir	Inglewood	0	0	1	1
Inglewood Town Hall gardens	Inglewood	0	1	2	3
Kelly Park	Pyramid Hill	4	2	1	7
Kerr St	Wedderburn	0	0	1	1
Kingower Cemetery	Kingower	0	0	1	1
Kingower Recreation Reserve	Kingower	1	0	0	1
Kingower Village Green Rotunda	Kingower	0	1	0	1
Kooyoora State Park	Wedderburn	0	0	1	1
Korong Vale Golf Club	Korong Vale	0	0	1	1
Korong Vale Recreation Reserve	Korong Vale	1	0	0	1
Korong Vale Tennis Courts	Korong Vale	0	0	1	1
Laanecoorie River Walk	Laanecoorie	0	0	1	1
Laanecoorie Weir	Laanecoorie	1	0	0	1
Lake Marmal	Lake Marmal	0	0	1	1
Lions Park	Pyramid Hill	1	1	0	2
Little Lake Boort / Lake – walking track	Boort	7	8	4	19
Loddon River	Bridgewater	1	2	0	3
Loddon River	Eddington	0	1	0	1
Loddon River	Newbridge	1	0	0	1
Market Square / Engine Park	Wedderburn	1	0	2	3
Market St (between Parker St and Hollands Lane)	Newbridge	1	0	0	1
Melville Caves	Kingower	1	2	2	5
Mitchell Park Recreation Reserve	Pyramid Hill	0	4	2	6
Mitiamo Recreation Reserve	Mitiamo	2	0	0	2
Mitiamo Swimming Pool	Mitiamo	1	0	1	2
Mt Korong	Wedderburn	2	0	0	2
Nardoo Creek Walking Track	Wedderburn	2	3	1	6
Newbridge public roads	Newbridge	0	1	0	1
Newbridge Recreation Reserve	Newbridge	0	1	0	1
Nolens Park	Boort	5	3	1	9
Phelan Park Playground	Mitiamo	0	2	0	2
Progress Park	Newbridge	1	1	0	2
Pyramid Hill shopping area	Pyramid Hill	0	0	1	1
Pyramid Hill Swimming Pool	Pyramid Hill	1	2	1	4
Pyramid Hill Tennis Courts	Pyramid Hill	1	0	1	2
Pyramid Hill Walking Track	Pyramid Hill	3	0	4	7
Railway Reserve	Wedderburn	0	1	0	1
Riverside Park	Newbridge	1	1	0	2
Serpentine Bowling Club	Serpentine	0	0	1	1

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Open space	Town	Primary space	Secondary space	Tertiary space	Total
Serpentine Footpaths	Serpentine	0	1	0	1
Serpentine (Janiember) Recreation Reserve	Serpentine	7	0	2	9
Serpentine Tennis Courts	Serpentine	0	1	1	2
Skidders Flat Reservoir	Wedderburn	1	4	2	7
Sloans Park	Bridgewater	4	1	1	6
Soldier's Memorial Playground	Wedderburn	6	10	2	18
Sugarloaf Hill	Wedderburn	1	0	0	1
Tarnagulla open space	Tarnagulla	0	1	0	1
Tarnagulla Walking Track	Tarnagulla	0	0	1	1
Ted's Garden	Wedderburn	1	0	0	1
Terrick Terrick National Park	Mitiamo	1	1	1	3
The Granites	Mysia	1	0	1	2
Towerhill	Wedderburn	0	1	1	2
Walking tracks	Wedderburn	2	0	1	3
Wedderburn Golf Course	Wedderburn	1	1	1	3
Wedderburn P-12 grounds	Wedderburn	0	1	0	1
Wedderburn shopping area	Wedderburn	0	0	1	1
Wedderburn Swimming Pool	Wedderburn	3	6	6	15
Woodstock Tennis Courts	Woodstock	1	0	0	1

For the first area of open space nominated, survey respondents typically used this space several times per week (31.9%) followed by weekly (22.7%). In general they travelled to this site by foot (43.8%) or in a car as a driver (39.7%) and mostly went there with family (72.5%) and / or with friends (59.2%). They primarily used this site to spend time outdoors in the fresh air / sunshine (44.6%), to spend time with family / friends (43.8%), to walk / hike (41.3%), to meet people / have social interactions with others (34.7%) or to exercise / get fit (33.1%).

For the second area of open space nominated, survey respondents typically used this space a few times per month (29.1%) followed by every few months (21.4%). In general they travelled to this site by car as a driver (43.7%) or by foot (30.1%) and mostly went there with family (74.5%) or friends (53.9%). They primarily used this site to spend time outdoors in the fresh air / sunshine (46.1%), to spend time with family / friends (38.2%), to walk / hike (29.4%), to meet people / have social interactions with others (27.5%) or to exercise / get fit (27.5%).

For the third area of open space nominated, survey respondents typically used this space every few months (33.8%), followed by several times per week (21.3%). In general they travelled to this site by car as a driver (48.8%) or by foot (29.8%) and mostly went there with family (67.5%) or with friends (51.8%). They primarily used this site to walk / hike (41.5%), spend time outdoors in the fresh air / sunshine (40.2%), to spend time with family / friends (32.9%), to meet people / have social interactions with others (26.8%) or to enjoy nature / wildlife (25.6%).

Survey respondents were asked (from an extensive list) what would encourage them to use public open spaces in Loddon Shire more often (multiple responses were permitted). The top 10 responses to this question are:

Suggestion	Percentage of responses
More events, e.g. movies in the park, festivals, markets, etc	50.9%
More or better walking / cycling paths and linkages	44.4%
More shade	40.7%
Outdoor gym equipment	38.9%

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More seats	32.4%
More / better play equipment	32.4%
Picnic tables	32.4%
Drinking fountains	28.7%
Physical activity programs, e.g. outdoor tai chi, yoga, zumba, etc	28.7%
Shelters	28.7%

The five least important aspects (from the pre-determined list) are:

- If it was closer to home (4.6%)
- Fencing (6.5%)
- If I had more time (7.4%)
- If there were more people around using these spaces (9.3%)
- If activities there were free (12.0%).

People were also asked to identify any public open spaces in the Shire that they would like to use, but currently don't. Respondents were also asked to identify the reasons why they didn't use these spaces (although not everyone answered the second part of this question). Key responses include:

Type of facility	Location	Reason for non-use
Bike / walking tracks	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not available in towns.
	Inglewood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lack of tracks.
Rivers / reservoirs / lakes	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not accessible. • lack of information.
	Bridgewater Swimming Hole	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • too many weeds near the shore – needs to be cleaned out. • need more access for swimmers.
	Loddon River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • need more access for swimmers.
	Cains Reserve to Holly Lock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • can't follow canoeists along the river to provide canoe instruction. • riparian damage due to livestock access.
	Inglewood Reservoir	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • feel unsafe if you are on your own. • should be linked to public walkways.
	Skinners Reservoir, Wedderburn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not sufficiently developed. • needs to be cleaned up. • needs to be better promoted.
	Big Lake Boort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has no infrastructure.
Nature reserves / state parks	Terrick Terrick and Pyramid Hill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access by vehicle is very rough • facilities are poor or non-existent • poorly maintained • shooting of native fauna is permitted (disagree with this).

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Type of facility	Location	Reason for non-use
	Mt Korong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> poor roads no camping available no public toilets.
Playgrounds / skate parks / outdoor gyms	Bridgewater Caravan Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> private playground so cannot access it.
	Land between croquet court and swimming pool in Bort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> need a skate park.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> need outdoor gym equipment.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> playgrounds should be located near public toilets.
Swimming pools	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> too far from home too expensive to visit too difficult to supervise children need more suitable hours of operation (later in the day).
Public toilets	Tarnagulla Soldiers Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> toilets are in poor condition.
	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> public toilets can be too far away when required.
Sport and recreation facilities	Tennis courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> costs too much to play tennis.
	Nolan's Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> poorly planned and laid out.
	Sports pavilion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> only open on game days and during training times. costs too much to hire for short events, e.g. exercise classes.
	Gym	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> gym membership is too expensive.
	Market Square, Wedderburn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> needs to be tidied up and beautified.
Civic areas	Inglewood Town Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> more seats required on the grassed area.
Facilities in general	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> too far to travel to use facilities lack of information about location and what's there lack of Council permission cost need better signage

Type of facility	Location	Reason for non-use
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> need more trees and grass

Other comments received from survey respondents about public open spaces included:

Focus area	Details	No. of responses
Events / activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need more markets and family events / activities that are free or low cost, e.g. movies, bands in the parks, children's activities, etc. 	8
Maintenance	<p>Need better maintenance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> more lawn mowing trim the shrubs at the Pyramid Hill railway crossing involve school children in nature planting, beautifying works get rid of noxious weeds near Calivil can't rely on volunteers to maintain open spaces better maintenance needed of Bridgewater River Walk. 	8
Open spaces – general	<p>Improve open space facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> make them more attractive and fun upgrade all parks (other than Inglewood) develop proper place making strategies – not just review landscaping focus on a few quality open spaces in each town provide open spaces in areas where they are needed, e.g. near Bridgewater Bakery ensure that parks are accessible and friendly for children, prams and bikes better link open spaces to streetscapes. 	8
Playgrounds / skate parks / outdoor gyms	<p>Improve play opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> develop interactive playgrounds with sensory gardens and fences for children with special needs provide quality playgrounds with fun equipment provide spaces for children to play without equipment develop skate parks and water parks supported by family picnic facilities develop an outdoor gym, e.g. in Boort between pool and croquet court. 	8
Walking and cycling	<p>Improve walking / cycling paths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide more walking / cycling tracks that are longer in length, attractive, safe, fun and shaded provide accessible tracks / footpaths to areas 	5

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Focus area	Details	No. of responses
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> of open space improve trail surfaces, e.g. Bridgewater River Track develop an off-road bike track at Pyramid Hill.	
Positive feedback	Positive feedback about open spaces: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> all open spaces Soldiers Memorial Park Bridgewater Swimming Hole Bridgewater River Walk. 	4
BBQs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide more BBQs. 	2
Covered areas / shelters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide covered areas for older adults. 	2
Public rest stop / traveller's rest stops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> develop a public rest stop / traveller's rest stop. 	2
Rivers / reservoirs / lakes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> improve waterways: better utilise the Loddon River to connect towns provide better facilities at Skinners Flat. 	2
Signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> improve signage, e.g. Wedderburn. 	2
Bins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> install more bins. 	1
Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> better promote what already exists. 	1
Interpretation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide better interpretation of indigenous history and culture in the Shire. 	1
Landscaping	Improve landscaping: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensure parks are aesthetically pleasing plant more garden beds focus on native and indigenous plantings. 	
Lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide better lighting in open spaces. 	1
Picnic tables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide more picnic tables. 	1
Public art	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> incorporate sculptures into public open spaces 	1
Public toilets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide more public toilets 	2
Seats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide more seats 	1
Sport and recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> improve sport and recreation facilities encourage more alternative sports to become established in the Shire improve club facilities at Donaldson Park in Wedderburn 	2
Surveillance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> police Bridgewater Swimming Hole more often 	1

20 TOWN BY TOWN DETAILS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE CONSIDERED WHEN DEVELOPING WORK PLANS

20.1 Boort

Demographics	873 people SEIFA Index: 989 (Loddon Shire is 934)	
Open spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bowls, Croquet and Tennis Facility • Boort Park • Boort Swimming Pool 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jubilee Park (playground) • Little Lake Boort • Nolens Park • Rotary and Historic Parks • Sunnyside Court Playground
Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little Lake Boort Master Plan (2018) Draft recommends the construction of all or some of the following, subject to a feasibility study: water splash park, a skate park and an outdoor fitness centre between the swimming pool and the croquet club. • New Master Plan Projects – Boort Park (2018) – still to complete female change facilities. 	
Community feedback	<p>Survey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little Lake Boort – relocate walking path away from roadside water treatment plant, improve boat ramp, install outdoor fitness equipment around the lake (4), water grass behind the Angling Club, don't turn sprinklers on on Saturday afternoons, improve track surface, more toilets near old sailing area, better maintenance, extend bush walking track • Nolen's Park – upgrade play space (2), improve accessibility of pathways (2) more swings including a baby swing, fence playground, remove vine from Perspex wall, more shade – including over the swings (2), install another table near the main BBQ, more bins, more seats, improved maintenance • Boort shopping area – footpaths and gutters need to be more level (2) • The Granites –improve access tracks (2), develop mountain bike tracks, better maintain site • Boort Swimming Pool – install solar heating (2) [happening], open earlier on extreme heat days • Boort Croquet – install new fence along lake side • Boort Park – upgrade change rooms, install a new kitchen, upgrade playground, replace softfall in playground, upgrade picnic tables • Boort Tennis Club – install lighting • Lake Marmal – better maintenance of weeds. <p>Youth Consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • playgrounds / skate facilities – develop a skate park in Boort; open the merry go round more often; install a boulder / climbing wall; purchase human sized board games; install play equipment for young people, e.g. sand pits, slides, chimney climber, inflatable equipment • Little Lake Boort / Lake Boort – install fitness equipment around the lake at Mernong Beach or in the park; improve the walking track, develop a bush walk around Lake Boort with interpretive signage; 	

	<p>more shade; install a kayak launch pad; fix the pontoon near the scout shed; develop toilets on the other side of the lake near the fishing club; install a BBQ at Mernong Beach; improve water quality in the lake for swimmers; construct a hard court for ball sports at the lake; develop cricket nets at the Lake; Develop a water park – potentially at Nolens Park near the lake – with water cannons and pistols</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cycling / walking - develop a scenic bike track around the town and the lake (potentially sealed) with bike parking; develop a mountain bike track near the water tower; develop an off road BMX jumps; develop the tortoise trail into a proper walk; upgrade lookout and Rotary Track – make more prominent • sport and recreation - develop a motorbike track; upgrade basketball court – fix rings and add shelter; construct a new gun club; develop a soccer field; fix the cricket nets at the oval; construct a turf hockey pitch; install toilets at the hockey field; improve facilities at the sports ground; develop a 4WD track; develop outdoor table tennis tables • Boort Swimming Pool - install a water slide; install a spa; have competitive swimming at the pool with a coach; have longer opening hours at the pool (including morning swimming) • Cow Patch – develop a dog park • promotion - increase promotion of facilities and activities • safety - improve security of open spaces • parks - develop Chinese gardens, install more BBQs in Boort, and install more lighting. <p>Community Listening Post:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little Lake Boort – clean up the lake. <p>Seniors Forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little Lake Boort – construct outdoor fitness equipment around the lake.
<p>Observations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little Lake Boort and Nolen's Park are key regional recreational facilities. They attract locals, people staying at the caravan park day trippers who use the lake for water skiing. There are opportunities to further develop this precinct, e.g. outdoor fitness equipment, potentially some sort of splash park for young children, kayak launch pad, skate park, basketball half court, rock climbing wall, etc. The investment will improve liveability of the town, help to attract more residents and help to attract more visitors • the play space at Nolen's Park is very popular and much of the equipment is designed to be used by people of all abilities. However, to be truly accessible, there need to be paths (e.g. rubber) to and around items of play equipment • there are no lights on the lawn tennis courts. Given the proximity of the caravan park and the popularity of Little Lake Boort for campers, lighting of several tennis courts and their availability for public access could be beneficial • Jubilee Park playground offers very little play value (e.g. flat site with no landscaping and only a swing, slide and seesaw) and equipment is estimated to be past its lifecycle. • Sunnyside Playground offers very little play value – only a swing set located at the end of a court, with half the site taken over by

	building supplies.
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the recommendations of the Little Lake Boort Draft Master Plan (2018). • Incorporate rubberised paths to play equipment in Nolen's Park and more informal play opportunities near Little Lake Boort as part of the Boort Foreshore Plan, e.g. half basketball court, a rock-climbing wall, outdoor table tennis tables, bocce pitch and a kayak launch pad. • Sell the Sunnyside Court block and use the funds to expand the play space at nearby Boort Park. • Renew Jubilee Park playground.

20.2 Bridgewater

Demographics	326 people SEIFA Index: 894 (Loddon Shire is 934)	
Open spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridgewater Bowls Club • Bridgewater Recreation Reserve • Bridgewater River Walk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bullabull Track from Bridgewater • Sloans Park • Bridgewater Swimming Hole and Foreshore
Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridgewater on Loddon Foreshore Development (2018) includes a nature based play space, shade, seats, signage, art work, pier / jetty , landscaping, lighting and interpretation (black smith area). 	
Community feedback	<p>Surveys:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sloans Park – construct toilets (4), fence, more shade, upgrade play equipment • Bridgewater Recreation Reserve – improve toilets (2), upgrade kitchen, improve change facilities for netballers (2), improve track around the oval • Bridgewater Swimming Hole / Foreshore – reduce the height of the edge on the path, install outdoor fitness equipment, better paths around island, more regular rubbish removals, more shade, shade canopy over waterhole platform, improved maintenance, provide life guard over summer, provide more parking • Bridgewater River Walk – upgrade walking path, provide dog poo bags • Loddon River – redesign so that water skiers do not get priority access to the water, improve access to the river, manage the corellas and cockatoos, build a skate park, develop a playground next to the river • Bridgewater public roads – install bike lanes on Calder Highway and sweep the road periodically (VicRoads responsibility) • Bridgewater Golf Club – more public toilets and change facilities • Bridgewater public roads – install footpaths along busier roads. <p>Community Listening Posts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sloane Park - improve play value (it's boring) • Loddon River – plant more grass between the bridge and the motel 	

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	<p>for passive relaxation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridgewater Swimming Hole – need more seating areas. <p>Seniors Forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridgewater River Walk – construct outdoor fitness equipment.
Observations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bullabull Track needs signage • Sloans Park needs paths, more shade, a wind break and more exciting play equipment. May also need a barrier to stop young children from running on to the road • Bridgewater Swimming Hole could use more seating and shade.
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to implement the Bridgewater Foreshore Development Plan which includes a nature based play space, shade, seats, signage, art work, pier / jetty, landscaping, lighting and interpretation (black smith area). • Prepare an upgrade plan in partnership with the local community for Sloan Park to install paths, landscaping, shade trees, a barrier, some form of public art and more exciting play equipment. Ensure that play opportunities available at this site are different to what is available at the Recreation Reserve and along the Foreshore. • Install additional seating at Bridgewater Swimming Hole and more shade trees. • Install signage on Bullabull track.

20.3 Calivil

Demographics	N/A
Open spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calivil Recreation Reserve and Tennis Club
Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Master Plan Projects – Calivil Recreation Reserve (2018) includes: upgrade pavilion / change facilities, develop a multi-use clubroom for tennis and netball, update signage, construct a shelter and BBQ, walking track, landscaping, and water reduction measures.
Community feedback	<p>Surveys:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calivil Recreation Reserve – BBQ with covered seating (4), shelter for netball / tennis courts, seating for netball, seats, picnic tables, covered areas, walking track, interactive / updated play equipment (3), more toilets, police the 80km per hour speed limit in front of the reserve more frequently on game days, improve access paths, plant more shade trees, improve ground near front fence, rip up old netball court, outdoor fitness equipment, better walking tracks, tours of local wildlife • Calivil Golf Course – undertake weed and vermin control now that the club has folded • Carney's Reserve – remove rubbish dump. <p>Community Listening Post:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calivil Recreation Reserve - need a BBQ and shelter / rotunda (7); develop a netball shelter (5); need seats next to the playground (2); develop a double lane road in front of the Reserve to improve

	<p>safety (2); need picnic tables next to the playground; install bubble taps next to the playground; develop a pedestrian zone between the clubrooms and the playground; construct a net behind the football goal posts; reseed the oval; install toddler play equipment; provide more activities for young children, e.g. petting zoo and jumping castle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> open space – develop a motor bike track.
Observations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> recreation reserve lacks a pedestrian safe area and could benefit from having a social gathering space with BBQ, shelter and picnic tables as well as a walking track there is no other park in Calivil
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the Recreation Reserve COM to upgrade the social aspect of the Calivil Recreation Reserve to include a BBQ area, shelter, picnic tables, drinking fountain and landscaping. At the same time develop a pedestrian safe area. Support the Recreation Reserve COM to develop a walking track around Calivil Recreation Reserve utilising the old golf course.

20.4 Dingee

Demographics	N/A	
Open spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dingee Recreation Reserve 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress Park
Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No recent plans 	
Community feedback	<p>Survey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dingee Progress Park – fence off when events are held on site, install seats undercover. 	
Observations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> play equipment at Winzar Recreation Reserve is too high off the ground and soft fall needs to be spread out (maintenance issue) need paths in Winzar Recreation Reserve rebound wall needs a concrete pad in front of it at Winzar Recreation Reserve need to remove wooden frame near tennis courts need to plant shade trees near playground Progress Park needs access paths. 	
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construct access paths at Progress Park and renew existing play equipment when it reaches the end of its lifespan. 	

20.5 Durham Ox

Demographics	N/A	
Open spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Durham Ox Memorial Hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loddon River Canoe Trail
Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No current plans 	
Community feedback	<p>Seniors Forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canoe Trail – provide toilets. 	

Observations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No toilet facilities for canoeists.
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construct environmentally sustainable toilets at Durham Ox for use by canoeists.

20.6 Eddington

Demographics	N/A	
Open spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eddington Community Centre Eddington Golf Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eddington Tennis Courts Laanecoorie Weir
Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No current plans 	
Community feedback	Survey: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eddington Tennis Courts – repair tennis courts Eddington Golf Course – remove locked gates to enable better public access. 	
Observations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> tennis courts are in a poor state of disrepair no access paths in the park or near the play equipment ramp into Community Centre unlikely to meet regulations opportunities to upgrade Laanecoorie Weir for passive recreation. 	
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construct some access paths in the park next to Eddington Community Centre 	

20.7 Inglewood

Demographics	855 people SEIFA Index: 877 (Loddon Shire is 934)	
Open spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Botanic Gardens and Reservoir Track Bullabul Track from Inglewood Inglewood Bowls Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inglewood Golf Course Inglewood Swimming Pool J Sloan Park / Inglewood Playground.
Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Master Plan Projects – Inglewood (2018) lists the following projects at the Recreation Reserve – reseal roadway, improved signage, cooling / heating for sports centre, reseeding of ovals, upgrade scoreboard, develop a BBQ area, install a rebound wall for tennis, improve drainage around tennis building, upgrade servery windows. 	
Community feedback	Survey: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inglewood Play Space – more seats, new / closer toilets (3), more shade / trees (2), upgrade play equipment Inglewood Recreation Reserve – upgrade change rooms (males and females), install outdoor fitness equipment, widen road entry to reserve, upgrade track from the road to the oval / car park Inglewood Botanic Gardens – upgrade gardens (2), label plants Inglewood Town Hall – repair wooden seats, install security lighting 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inglewood Conservation Reserve – improve control methods for Eucalypts • Inglewood bush tracks – better maintenance • Inglewood Reservoir – more seats. <p>Youth Consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop a dog park at Inglewood. <p>Community Listening Post:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • play - install a full sized basketball court for young people (3); increase the size of the skate park and increase the degree of difficulty of some equipment (2); provide more things for teenagers to do at Inglewood playground, e.g. climbing wall, flying fox • Inglewood Recreation Reserve - develop netball club rooms (2); build new accessible public toilets (2); upgrade lights on oval to allow night games (2); provide an inside space for the football club trainer to operate from (2); improve road safety of area between clubrooms and the netball courts; install electric BBQs and shelter; drinking fountain; electronic scoreboard; more seats; more bins; outdoor fitness equipment; plant more trees on the fence line to create a wind block; construct a second block of public toilets on the opposite side of the oval • Inglewood Swimming Pool - heat the pool, install a diving board, provide inflatables • Inglewood Botanic Garden – upgrade gardens by providing a general 'face lift' and installing a BBQ • cycling / walking – develop new cycling / walking tracks • Inglewood Town Hall – install more shade • Inglewood Reservoir – upgrade walking / cycling tracks (2), install BBQs, bins, tables, dig out reservoir so it becomes deeper • Inglewood Golf Course - Encourage more people to walk around the Inglewood Golf Course and perhaps set up a Heart Foundation Walking Group (2) • Inglewood shopping area - develop a car park at the entrance of the town where visitors can park and then explore Inglewood by foot; better maintain footpaths; establish a mini park in the middle of Inglewood with a BBQ, rotunda, seats and a drinking fountain; establish a scooter charging station at the supermarket • Inglewood Playground – install more seats and shade. <p>Seniors Forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inglewood Playground – needs more shade (4); need to top up softfall • Inglewood Reservoir – needs 2 more seats along the linear trail and more shade in the picnic area • Inglewood Recreation Reserve – needs more shade around the oval and near the netball / tennis courts • cycling / walking – develop a path from the caravan park into town • Inglewood streets – develop more footpaths and replace seats near Bendigo Bank with seats with backrests and arms.
<p>Observations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new toilet is under construction at the Recreation Reserve to be shared between swimming pool users, play space users and recreation reserve users. May need to consider pedestrian friendly

	<p>areas around this site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there is a lack of shade at the Inglewood play space • lack of challenging play opportunities in town for teenagers • Inglewood Botanic Gardens and Inglewood Reservoir do not meet expectations and therefore should be upgraded when funds become available.
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a BBQ area with shelter and picnic tables at Inglewood Recreation Reserve. • Consider providing active play opportunities for teenagers at J Sloan Park playground, e.g. flying fox, climbing wall, full sized basketball court and upgrade traditional skate park to a modular pump track when it reaches the end of its life. • Plant more shade trees at J Sloan playground. • Develop a safe pedestrian area at Inglewood Recreation Reserve in the vicinity of the J Sloan playground and the oval. • Liaise with Inglewood Golf Club to develop a walking track around the golf course. • Liaise with the Heart Foundation to establish a walking group in Inglewood, utilising the golf course. • Upgrade Inglewood Botanic Gardens and Inglewood Reservoir, primarily through a track upgrade, more seats, renewal of infrastructure and better maintenance.

20.8 Kingower

Demographics	N/A	
Open spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kingower Cricket and Recreation Reserve 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Village Green • Melville Caves
Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loddon Mallee Regionally Significant Tracks and Trails Strategy (2010) supports the development of the Captain Melville Trail from Bridgewater to Melville Caves via Inglewood and Kingower. 	
Community feedback	<p>Survey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kingower Recreation Reserve – seats around the oval, fence playing surface to prevent damage by vandals • Melville Caves – install lighting, install lights to toilets, supply more firewood for campers, provide drinking water, provide interpretive information about Captain Melville, install electric or gas BBQ facilities, install new picnic tables, better promote, run tours, local tours once per month by mini bus with BBQ, damper making activity, camp outs, promotional flyers • Kingower Village Green – remove advertising sign, provide free Wi-Fi. <p>Youth Consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve the toilets at Melville Caves. <p>Community Listening Post:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melville Caves – ensure access tracks are open. 	

Observations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melville Caves is an excellent asset for the community, but needs some additional upgrades and maintenance (Parks Victoria responsibility) • advertising signs should not be placed in public spaces such as the Village Green.
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for Parks Victoria to upgrade seats, toilets, picnic / BBQ facilities at Melville Caves. • Support development of Captain Melville's Trail.

20.9 Korong Vale

Demographics	N/A	
Open spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borella Park (playground) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Korong Vale Community Sports Centre (including tennis, bowls and an oval)
Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No current plans 	
Community feedback	<p>Survey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borella Park – install a skate park, upgrade play space (spider web swing), upgrade picnic tables and seats, install a rebound wall, install directional signs to the public toilet, install a rotunda. • Korong Vale Recreation Reserve – improve maintenance and encourage more use, develop a skate park. • Korong Vale Golf Club – grow membership and volunteers. <p>Youth Consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dog park – develop a dog park in Korong Vale. • Korong Vale Recreation Reserve – develop a BMX track, install a half court netball court. • streets – install more lights. 	
Observations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Korong Vale Recreation Reserve is only used for tennis and bowls – these facilities are adequate, but old netball court with a tree growing in it should be removed • Borella Park is looking a bit tired and could use an upgrade. 	
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider upgrading Borella Park to include shelter over the BBQ area, upgraded seats and new play equipment (when the existing equipment reaches the end of its useful life). 	

20.10 Laanecoorie

Demographics	N/A	
Open spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laanecoorie River Trail 	
Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No current plans 	
Community feedback	<p>Survey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cains Reserve – install play equipment • Brownbill Reserve – install interpretive signage 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laanecoorie town – install a footbridge to link the two halves of the town.
Observations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • near the Laanecoorie River Trail there are two old tennis courts and an old playground (presumably owned by DELWP) • Mechanics Institute Hall needs a path to the road to improve accessibility.
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a plan to upgrade Laanecoorie Weir at Brownbill Reserve near the caravan park on the edge of the waterway for passive recreational purposes, e.g. BBQS under shelter, sandy beach area, upgrade and extend boat ramp, develop a canoe platform, etc.

20.11 Mitiamo

Demographics	117 people SEIFA Index: N/A (Loddon Shire is 934)		
Open spaces	<table border="0"> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitiamo Golf Course • Mitiamo Municipal Recreation Reserve </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitiamo Swimming Pool • R J Phelan Reserve (playground) </td> </tr> </table>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitiamo Golf Course • Mitiamo Municipal Recreation Reserve 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitiamo Swimming Pool • R J Phelan Reserve (playground)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitiamo Golf Course • Mitiamo Municipal Recreation Reserve 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitiamo Swimming Pool • R J Phelan Reserve (playground) 		
Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Master Plan Projects – Mitiamo Recreation Reserve (2018) – includes change room upgrade, light towers, nets behind goal posts and water security measures. 		
Community feedback	<p>Survey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitiamo Swimming Pool – open the pool more in the morning for older adults, provide water aerobics classes • Mitiamo Recreation Reserve – provide undercover seating, construct additional female toilets and showers (2), construct change facilities for females • Mitiamo Playground / Phelan Park – provide more parking, provide shade over play equipment, upgrade equipment (2), better maintenance • Terrick Terrick – better promote, improve maintenance of tracks. <p>Community Listening Post:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitiamo Recreation Reserve - construct shelter for netballers; upgrade pavilion at Mitiamo Recreation Reserve to include female change rooms, umpire change rooms, male change room upgrade (more showers) and a new roof • Phelan Park - upgrade the playground and provide a buffer between the play space and the busy road to improve the safety of children • cycling / walking - develop a walking path in the town. 		
Observations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tracks in Terrick Terrick are rough • Phelan Park lacks shade, could use a toddler swing and may need a barrier (e.g. low plantings or low fence) on the Mitiamo- Echuca Road boundary • no walking tracks in town. 		
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for Parks Victoria to undertake more regular grading of 		

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	<p>the tracks at Terrick Terrick National Park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade Phelan Park when equipment is at the end of its lifecycle by renewing equipment, installing some form of barrier against the Mitiamo-Echuca Road boundary and planting more shade trees and trees to act as a wind break.
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20.12 Newbridge

Demographics	192 people SEIFA Index: 985 (Loddon Shire is 934)	
Open spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riverside Park • Progress Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newbridge Recreation Reserve
Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Master Plan Projects – Newbridge (2018) priorities are: concrete stairs and rails up the embankment, shade cover for playground, shaded BBQ area between playground and tennis clubroom, establishment of a Men's Shed, shade trees, further develop a track along the north east side of the reserve, install seating near netball coaches / scorers boxers for netballers, BMX mounds in the south east corner of the reserve. 	
Community feedback	<p>Surveys:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market St – remove box thorns and upgrade path to improve accessibility • Riverside Park – BBQs with shelters (2), stepped embankment areas (2), more picnic tables, shelter over playground, plant more trees around the entrance and the oval, install more fire pits • Progress Park - shelters over BBQs (2), stepped embankment areas, more picnic tables, more seats, install outdoor fitness equipment, sculptures, musical play elements, science play, logs for children to play on • Newbridge Recreation Reserve – develop horse tie-rails and small yards, install shelter over the playground, install a public BBQ • roads, easements and bushland – develop horse riding trails with signage and maps, provide more opportunities for bike riding. 	
Observations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recreation reserve is in excellent condition, however the social aspect of the site could be improved, i.e. shaded BBQ area and shade trees planted next to the playground. 	
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install BBQs and shelters at Progress Park if feasible and if it aligns with community planning priorities. 	

20.13 Pyramid Hill

Demographics	558 people SEIFA Index: 921 (Loddon Shire is 934)	
Open spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kelly Park • Lions Park • Mitchell Park • Pyramid Hill Bowls and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pyramid Hill Memorial Hall • Pyramid Hill Neighbourhood House • Pyramid Hill Reserve – The

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	<p>Tennis Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pyramid Hill Trail 	<p>Hill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pyramid Hill Swimming Pool
Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Master Plan Projects (2018) – Pyramid Hill includes: relocation of children’s playground, relocation of second entrance, storage, internal roadways resurface, internal roadways resurface, car park lighting, water storage, upgraded scoreboard, fence around ground, a hydro pool, all abilities access to top floor. 	
Community feedback	<p>Survey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kelly Park – install drinking fountain (3), baby swing (3), outdoor gym equipment (2), install fence along Kelly St side of park entrance Pyramid Hill Walking Track – better maintain the track by spraying weeds and removing branches that have fallen (3), more regular clearance of rubbish, new / improved signage (3) Lions Park next to tennis courts – needs fence (3), paths, garden, shade trees, seating, a new BBQ, improved play equipment, better maintenance Pyramid Hill Tennis Courts – provide a safe fenced off space for children Pyramid Hill Swimming Pool – shade over medium sized pool, improve the visual appeal of the front entrance, improve drainage in car park so trees no longer continue to die Mitchell Park – fully fence the play space, flatten out sand running track around the oval, upgrade pavilion – especially toilets. <p>Community Listening Post:</p> <p>Kelly Park - move swings from the park across the road to Kelly Park (2); need more seats (existing seats are uncomfortable); need more shade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mitchell Park - change shape of oval so that it is better for spectators Pyramid Hill Golf Club - financial assistance for things like fuel for mowers open space – develop pump park. <p>Seniors Forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kelly Park – needs more seats between the toilet block and the building; existing seats are too low and very hard to get up out of; need to retain a space for fiesta activities Pyramid Hill streets – need more footpaths parks / open spaces – need more shade; develop a dog park Senior Citizens Hall – install outdoor fitness equipment next to the hall. 	
Observations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kelly Park is an example of a well-designed play space and park Kelly Park could benefit from having a toddler swing and a drinking fountain the swings from the Lions Park opposite Kelly Park should be relocated to Kelly Park as it is impractical and unsafe to have play equipment separated by a road Pyramid Hill Walking Track could benefit from improved signage and maintenance and toilet doors need to be redesigned as they are unusable for people who may be overweight or obese. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there may need to be a barrier to prevent children from running on to the road at the Lions Park next to the tennis courts.
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redevelop Lions Park in Kelly St to develop a passive recreational space. • Install a drinking fountain and more comfortable seats at Kelly Park. • Improve toilets at Pyramid Hill. • Improve signage and maintenance of Pyramid Hill Walking. • Redevelop the playground next to the swimming pool and tennis courts and install a barrier to prevent children from running on to the road.

20.14 Serpentine

Demographics	192 people SEIFA Index: 997 (Loddon Shire is 934)	
Open spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serpentine Bowls and Tennis Complex • Serpentine Pon Pon Trail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serpentine (Janiember) Recreation Reserve • T J Rudkins Reserve
Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No current plans. 	
Community feedback	<p>Survey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serpentine (Janiember) Recreation Reserve – improve play equipment (4), install outdoor fitness equipment (3), construct outdoor shelter, electronic scoreboard that can show movies • Serpentine Tennis Club – upgrade clubrooms (2), build play facilities • general – construct a swimming pool, develop more walking tracks –including to the cemetery (2) and develop a new park. <p>Community Listening Post:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serpentine (Janiember) Recreation Reserve – upgrade car park (it gets very boggy). 	
Observations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a new community hub featuring social rooms and change rooms has recently been constructed at Serpentine; hence little work needs to be undertaken at this site (other than finishing off paths and placing seats around the oval), although an electronic scoreboard would enable the football, netball or cricket clubs to show movies on the oval and or increase their own revenue. • the very well utilised TJ Rudkins Reserve has benefitted from its recent upgrade and is in excellent condition. • there is some demand for additional walking tracks around Serpentine and to the cemetery. • the tennis and bowls shared clubrooms are starting to deteriorate. 	
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade track condition and wayfinding on the Pon Pon Trail in Serpentine. 	

20.15 Tarnagulla

Demographics	N/A	
Open spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heraud's Place • Soldiers Memorial Park • Tarnagulla Cemetery Track • Tarnagulla Golf Course 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tarnagulla Recreation Reserve • Tarnagulla Reservoir Track • Tarnagulla Town Heritage Trail
Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No current plans. 	
Community feedback	Survey <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • park – more play opportunities • bush tracks – better maintain. 	
Observations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the community centre and Soldier's Memorial Park are located in an attractive setting with good landscaping • Heraud's Place could use some improvement in terms of landscaping and replacement of old seats • trail head signage on walking tracks is excellent • playground equipment at Tarnagulla Recreation Reserve does not meet standards but given that the Reserve is no longer used for regular sporting events, consideration should be given to providing greater play opportunities at Soldier's Memorial Park (which is also more centrally located). 	
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renew street furniture in Heraud's Place and improve landscaping • Add additional play equipment at Soldier's Memorial Park. 	

20.16 Wedderburn

Demographics	941 people SEIFA Index: 864 (Loddon Shire is 934)	
Open spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue Mallee Trail • Cooper Park • Donaldson Park • Soldiers Memorial Park • Market Square • Nardoo Linear Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Queen's Gully Trail • Reservoir Track • Skidders Flat • Teds Garden • Wedderburn Swimming Pool
Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Plan – upgrade Donaldson Park • Donaldson Park Master Plan – upgrade Donaldson Park • Donaldson Park Community Hub Feasibility Study – upgrade Donaldson Park. 	
Community feedback	Survey: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soldier's Memorial – update play equipment (5), repair gates to play area (2), develop a skate park (3), BBQs , seating (under shade), picnic tables, mini bicycle track, water play (2), garden, repair fence (RSL responsibility), provide a first aid kit in case someone hurts themselves, install more power outlets for stall holders, drinking fountain 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nardoo Walking Track – install / upgrade outdoor fitness equipment (4), install several seats, better connect the track to other paths / footpaths, improve maintenance (2), get rid of Bindii weeds, plant some shade trees • bushland – grade roads (3), install more seats, improve signage • Donaldson Park – develop new clubrooms (5), improve entrance and garden, higher fences, drinking fountain near netball courts, more grass near the seats, toilet near the hockey field (2), more toilets closer to the oval (2), convert one netball court into an undercover court, improve drainage, fence entire site, develop paths to the site, improve maintenance • Mt Korong – grade tracks, install more picnic tables (2), install toilets, install interpretive information at the top of the mountain • Wedderburn Swimming Pool – install diving board (2), fenced area with gate around toddler pool, more seats (3), better supervision, update children's pool and put a statue in the middle of it, provide more picnic tables, upgrade perimeter fence, purchase new cricket nets and stumps, increase size of pool, reduce entry fees, more shade (2), locks on bathroom doors, small play space, better baby pool, water aerobics and fitness classes (daytime and in the afternoon), more pool equipment, better public knowledge of what equipment can be shared, longer pool hours in the evenings • Hard Hill Tourist Reserve – improve maintenance • Skinners Flat Reservoir – improve safety for water skiers, upgrade toilet facilities (3), install showers, more bins, more regular rubbish collection, camping on west side with toilets, BBQs (3), picnic tables right around the reservoir, remove trees from lake bed, make the reservoir deeper, provide secure water supply, develop a pier, develop a walking trail around the perimeter • Wedderburn Golf Course – plant more native trees • Kurruca State Park – develop a better track to ride through the bush • Wedderburn Tennis Courts – more shade • Towerhill – improve trail surface • walking / cycling tracks – provide bikes free of charge for locals to ride, set up social bike riding groups, link the paths together • Railway Reserve – Plant more canopy trees to shade the pathway • Kooyoora State Park – develop an interpretive brochure • Community House – erect a skate park • Market Square / Engine Park – update cricket nets, protect historical sites and features. <p>Youth Consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • activities - a summer program of activities / games organised by lifeguards at the swimming pool; ball games organised at the Neighbourhood House played on the netball court; sporting equipment available for young people to borrow and use in the local park; pizza nights using the oven in the community garden; outdoor family film nights on the football oval using the score board; organise nature walks; more festivals / live music. • playgrounds – provide equipment for teenagers; develop a skate park; relocate basketball ring and make court full size • sports and recreation facilities – develop a soccer pitch; install outdoor fitness equipment; develop an ice skating rink; improve the
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	<p>gym; develop a rock climbing wall, install outdoor table tennis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wedderburn Swimming Pool – heat the pool • Skinners Flat Reservoir – develop an off-road walking trail to the reservoir, install lights, promote it better, providing drinking water, install seats, upgrade toilets, allow camping, improve parking parks – upgrade all parks, provide free Wi-Fi in parks, more shade, more seats, more lighting • promotion – better promote what already exists • dog park – develop a dog park in Wedderburn. <p>Community listening post:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBD / shopping area – install a drinking fountain at the bus stop under the shelter (2); better maintain footpaths and in relation to leaf litter; beautify the whole town (not just the main street); place dog poo bags and bins in parks • Donaldson Park – install a playground • Soldier’s Memorial Park – repair the gate, install a sandpit, more slides and less metal equipment; need to install a screen in the shelter shed near Soldiers Memorial Park in Wedderburn to break the wind • play / skate – develop a skate park, develop a full sized basketball court • parks – all open space areas need upgrading; continue to provide green spaces (grass and trees) that are well maintained (2); need more disabled car parks near open spaces; keep some open spaces from being planted up with trees so there is space to kick a football; need more bins; preserve all existing areas of open space; provide interpretation of natural and cultural features; define parks with fences where required • sports facilities – develop a motorcycle trail • Nardoo Walking Track - get rid of bindii • Wedderburn Swimming Pool: keep the pool open for longer in summer; install a fence around the toddler pool. <p>Seniors Forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nardoo Creek – install outdoor fitness equipment (or in the small park opposite Wedderburn Senior Citizens) • Park – develop a dog park near the Wedderburn Swimming Pool • Skinners Flat Reservoir – upgrade tables and chairs • Wedderburn Senior Citizens park – provide more shade • Nardoo Creek Trail – provide seating along the trail • Market Square / Engine Park – place more seats.
<p>Observations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • play equipment at Soldier’s Memorial needs to be updated • there are opportunities to provide a more diverse range of activities for younger children, e.g. learn to ride bicycle track or water play • there is an opportunity to develop a smart park and demonstration environmental park • there is a lack of informal activities for teenagers, e.g. half basketball court, climbing wall, multi-use games areas, skate park, socialisation space, etc • tracks used in the bush for walking or cycling are not necessarily well maintained • Nardoo Walking Track needs to be redeveloped

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donaldson Park clubrooms need to be updated • Wedderburn Swimming Pool needs more seats and more shade • Skinners Flat Reservoir could be a valuable community recreational asset if it is upgraded, e.g. walking track to the site, BBQ, picnic tables, shelter and possibly a toilet.
<p>Recommendations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade play equipment at Soldiers Memorial Park (consider installation of a learn to ride bicycle track) and include a screen to act as a wind break. This could become a smart park by installing technologically advanced items such as exercise bikes that charge mobile phones and a demonstration environmental park (i.e. use of solar lighting and water saving measures). • Develop informal activities for young people, e.g. climbing wall, multi-use games areas, skate park or modular pump park, socialisation space, etc. at Soldier's Memorial Park. • Install drinking fountains in public places in Wedderburn, e.g. Soldier's Memorial Park and Nardoo Creek Trail. • Install additional seating and trees along Nardoo Creek Trail. • Consider developing an off-leash dog area in Wedderburn. • Prepare a development plan for Skinners Flat Reservoir, particularly focusing on items such as walking track to the site, BBQ, picnic tables, shelter and possibly a toilet. • Consider installation of some water play features at or near the Wedderburn Swimming Pool. • Advocate to Parks Victoria to grade tracks in state and national parks and provide additional facilities such as BBQs and seats.

DRAFT

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- 2 Australian Government – Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2018) Mental Health Services in Australia: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/mental-health-services/mental-health-services-in-australia/report-contents/summary/prevalence-and-policies>
- 3 Samitz G, Egger M, Zvahlen M. Domains of physical activity and all-cause mortality: systematic review and dose- response meta-analysis of cohort studies. *Int J Epidemiol* 2011; 40(5):1382–1400
- 4 Heart Foundation. Healthy Active by Design. Public Open Space. <http://www.healthyactivebydesign.com.au/design-features/public-open-spaces>
- 5 Parkland WA. Vibrant activation! An introduction to space activation and placemaking: <http://www.parklandwa.org.au/news/30/vibrant-activation--an-introduction-to-space-activation-and-placemaking>
- 6 World Health Organisation (2017) Global action plan on physical activity 2018-2030. More active people for a healthier world <http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/272722/9789241514187-eng.pdf>
- 7 World Health Organisation (2016) Urban green spaces and health – a review of evidence (2016): http://www.euro.who.int/data/assets/pdf_file/0005/321971/Urban-green-spaces-and-health-review-evidence.pdf?ua=1
- 8 World Health Organisation (2018) Physical Activity Fact Sheet: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs385/en/>
- 9 World Health Organisation (2016) Urban green spaces and health – a review of evidence (2016): http://www.euro.who.int/data/assets/pdf_file/0005/321971/Urban-green-spaces-and-health-review-evidence.pdf?ua=1
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10 INFORMATION REPORTS

Nil

11 COMPLIANCE REPORTS**11.1 SECTION 86 COMMITTEES - STATUS REPORT**

File Number: 02/01/005
Author: Michelle Hargreaves, Administration Officer
Authoriser: Sharon Morrison, Director Corporate Services
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the status of the Section 86 Committees of Management.

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 noted the status of Section 86 Committees of Management at the Council meeting on 23 October 2018

BACKGROUND

Section 86 of the Local Government Act allows Loddon Shire Council (the Council) to delegate its powers, duties or functions (with certain limitations) to special committees. These are commonly known as Section 86 Committees. A Section 86 Committee is established by an instrument of delegation by the Council, which outlines the Committee's purpose and specific powers. These Committees typically involve activities such as the management of halls, community centres, pools, recreation reserves and development & tourism within Council's boundaries.

In April 2013, the internal auditors conducted a review of Section 86 committees.

The review assessed whether Council:

- has appropriate policies and procedures to effectively govern the delegation of Council's powers, functions and duties under Section 86 of the Act
- complies with the Act in relation to the delegation of powers and functions, the appointment and on-going operation of Section 86 Committees, and
- has appropriate monitoring and reporting mechanisms in place to enable effective management of the Committees.

The results of the review identified a number of strong controls around the management and operation of Section 86 Committees as well as some opportunities for improvement including:

- The need for formal reporting to the Council on the on-going conduct and financial operations of Section 86 Committees;
- Monitoring the holding of meetings and provision of financial reports on a consistent basis.

Council indicated at the Council meeting on 24 October 2017 that a half yearly status report on section 86 committees would assist in monitoring the status of section 86 committees.

In February 2019 the Local Government Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) updated its information bulletin on Section 86 (special) committees. The information bulletin notes that section 81, 86, 87 and 98 of the Local Government Act outline the requirements Council must adhere to when

establishing and maintaining special committees. The information bulletin goes on to identify the key management issues the Inspectorate found during compliance audits.

The table below lists the key management issues and Council's status on each:

Key management issue	Loddon Shire Council's response
Council unaware of the number of special committees in place and/or the names of office bearers on each committee	Council currently has 25 committees. A request is sent to the committee each year seeking the names of office bearers. These names are approved at a Council meeting.
Council unaware of the reason each special committee was established, especially, those that have been in place for a long period of time	Instrument of delegation identifies reason for committee. Signed instruments of delegation are registered by Council. A table listing the committees and their purpose is available on the website and published in the annual report.
No register of delegations	Each committee has an instrument of delegation and a register is maintained of current delegations.
Delegations not reviewed within required timeframes	Delegations are reviewed each Council cycle.
No schedule of meetings or terms of reference	Committees are encouraged to complete and submit a schedule of meetings for the next 12 months. Meeting frequency and terms of reference are set out in the instrument of delegation.
Meeting minutes not sent to council or not signed by the special committee Chair	Six monthly letters are sent to remind committees of reporting obligations including the need for timely provision of meeting minutes. Ad hoc reminders are given by phone or email based on advised schedule of meetings entered in section 86 committee reporting database. Minutes are registered by Council.
Primary and ordinary returns not submitted to the CEO on time or, not submitted at all – primary returns must be completed within 30 days of becoming a special committee member, and subsequent ordinary returns twice a year unless exempt by council	On 28 February 2017 Council resolved to exempt section 86 committees from the need to submit returns.
No funds reconciliation provided to council.	Committees are required to submit financials annually for audit by Council's Management Accountant. Where turnover is greater than \$50,000 the committee is required to use a commercial auditing firm. Financials and outcome of the audit are registered by Council. Some Committees struggle in meeting the timeframes for this requirement.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Annual meetings generally take place at the end of the financial year, generating the requirement for financials and committee appointments to be provided to Council.

At the time of preparing this report (mid-April 2019), the status of committees was as follows:

Committee Name	Status of committee (active / disbanded / under review)	Status of Instrument of Delegation (reviewed and approved / under review / draft sent / due for review / overdue for review)	Annual meeting minutes received? (yes / no / comment)	2017/18 financials received to be audited? (yes / no / comment)	Committee appointment received? (yes / no / comment)	Compliant with minutes forwarded (yes / no / comment)
Boort Aerodrome	Active	Reviewed and approved	Yes	Yes	Yes	No-not on time and some missing
Boort Tourism Development	Active	Reviewed and approved	Yes	No	No	No-not on time
Boort Memorial Hall	Active	Reviewed and approved	Yes	Yes	Yes	No-not on time and some missing
Boort Park	Active	Reviewed and approved	Yes	Yes	Yes	No-not on time and some missing
Bridgewater On Loddon Development	Active	Reviewed and approved	Yes	Yes	Yes	No-not on time and some missing
Campbell's Forest Hall	Active	Reviewed and approved	Yes	Yes	Yes	No-not on time
Donaldson Park	Active	Reviewed and approved	Yes	Yes	Yes	No-not on time and some missing
East Loddon Community Centre	Active	Reviewed and approved	Yes	Yes	Yes	No-not on time and some missing
Inglewood Community Sports Centre	Active	Reviewed and approved	Yes	Yes	Yes	No-not on time and some missing

Committee Name	Status of committee (active / disbanded / under review)	Status of Instrument of Delegation (reviewed and approved / under review / draft sent / due for review / overdue for review)	Annual meeting minutes received? (yes / no / comment)	2017/18 financials received to be audited? (yes / no / comment)	Committee appointment received? (yes / no / comment)	Compliant with minutes forwarded (yes / no / comment)
Inglewood Community Elderly Persons Units (updated name)	Active	Reviewed and approved	Yes	No	No	No-not on time and some missing
Inglewood Town Hall Hub	Active	Reviewed and approved	Yes	Yes	Yes	No-not on time and some missing
Jones Eucalyptus Distillery Site	Active	Reviewed and approved	Yes	Yes	Yes	No-not on time
Kingower Development and Tourism	Active	Draft	Yes	Yes	Yes	No-not on time and some missing
Korong Vale Mechanics Hall	Active	Reviewed and approved	Yes	Yes	Yes	No-not on time and some missing
Korong Vale Sports Centre	Active	Reviewed and approved	Yes	Yes	Yes	No-not on time
Little Lake Boort Management	Active	Reviewed and approved	Yes	Yes	Yes	No-not on time and some missing
Loddon Southern Tourism and Development	Active	Reviewed and approved	Yes	Yes	Yes	No-not on time and some missing
Pyramid Hill Memorial Hall	Active	Reviewed and approved	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pyramid Hill Swimming Pool	Active	Reviewed and approved	Yes	Yes	Yes	No-not on time and some missing
Serpentine Bowls and Tennis Pavilion Reserve	Active	Under review	No	Exempt	No	No- missing

Committee Name	Status of committee (active / disbanded / under review)	Status of Instrument of Delegation (reviewed and approved / under review / draft sent / due for review / overdue for review)	Annual meeting minutes received? (yes / no / comment)	2017/18 financials received to be audited? (yes / no / comment)	Committee appointment received? (yes / no / comment)	Compliant with minutes forwarded (yes / no / comment)
Wedderburn Community Centre	Active	Under review	Yes	Yes	No	No-not on time and some missing
Wedderburn Engine Park and Market Square Reserve (updated name)	Active	Reviewed and approved	Yes	Exempt	Yes	Yes
Wedderburn Mechanics and Literary Institute	Active	Reviewed and approved	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Wedderburn Tourism Inc.	Active	Under review	Yes	Yes	Yes	No-not on time and some missing
Yando Public Hall	Active	Reviewed and approved	Yes	Yes	Yes	No-not on time
Results as at April 2019	Total (n=25)	Reviewed and approved = 21 Draft = 1 Under review = 3	Yes = 22 No = 3	Yes = 19 No = 4 Exempt = 2	Yes = 17 No = 8	Yes = 3 No = 22
Results as at end of October 2018	Total (n=25)	Reviewed and approved = 19 Draft = 1 Under review = 5	Yes = 22 No = 3	Yes = 19 No = 4 Exempt = 2	Yes = 17 No = 8	Yes = 2 No = 23
Results as at end of March 2018	Total (n=25)	Under review = 14 Draft sent = 8 Finalised = 3	Yes = 22 No = 3	Yes = 22 No = 1 Exempt = 2	Yes = 23 No = 2	Yes = 3 No/comment = 22
Results as at end of October 2017	Total (n=29)	Under review = 29	Yes = 17 No = 10 Comment = 2	Yes = 16 No = 9 Comment = 4	Yes = 12 No = 15 Comment = 2	Not reported

COST/BENEFITS

There are no costs associated with the preparation of this report. The benefits of preparing this report include responding to previously identified opportunities for improvement identified in 2013 audit review.

RISK ANALYSIS

The risk of not reviewing the Section 86 committees can be seen in the reputation impact experienced by Central Goldfields Shire Council recently in not providing evidence of reviewing most Instruments of Delegation since 1995. There is also a risk that services for the community may not be suitable.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Section 86 committees are contacted on a regular basis to follow up any outstanding documentation required for auditing purposes.

12 GENERAL BUSINESS

13 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**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:

13.1 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.

13.2 APPOINTMENT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBER

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 89(2) - (a) 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 personnel matters.

13.3 Council purchase of property, Pyramid Hill

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 89(2) - (e) and (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 proposed developments and Any other matter which the Council or special committee considers would prejudice the Council or any person.

Closing of Meeting to the Public

RECOMMENDATION

That the meeting be closed to the public.

NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on 28 May 2019 at Serpentine commencing at at 3pm.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at [enter time](#).

Confirmed this.....day of..... 2018