



# Loddon Shire Council 24<sup>th</sup> Statutory Meeting Minutes

*(a Special Council Meeting)*

7.00pm – 7 November 2019, Pyramid Hill Bowling Club

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## 1. OPENING OF MEETING

The Chief Executive Officer opened the meeting and read the Council 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 Chief Executive Officer provided an 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

The following apologies were acknowledged by the Chief Executive Officer:

The Hon Jacinta Allan MP  
The Hon Peter Walsh MLA  
The Hon Damian Drum MP  
Louise Staley MP  
Dr Anne Webster MP  
Deborah Pinyon  
Bruce Moon  
Robert Condliffe

Richard and Sharon Morrison  
David and Joan James  
Robert and Cathie Hooke  
Sheridan and Frank Gunther  
Geoff and Hilary Thomas  
Margaret Williamson  
Ian and Helen Bartels  
Kylie Dowles

## 4. MAYORAL REPORT

The Chief Executive Officer invited the Mayor to report on her term of office in 2018/19.

I'd like to start by thanking my councillor colleagues for the support they have given me throughout the year – you have been an absolute pleasure to work with, and your enthusiasm and passion for you communities is evident.

I also acknowledge the great working relationship we as councillors have with the CEO and the executive team, who are a hard-working and dedicated group of people. Success is achieved only by building relationships that bring out the best in everyone. And much of my role as Mayor has been about building and nurturing relationships, from within Loddon Shire and all the way to Canberra and everywhere in between.

On average, each year Council collects just over \$10m in rates and charges, plus an annual allocation of around \$10m in recurrent grants – which, when combined, generally cover core business. We then have to go cap in hand to both governments for a further \$10m or so, to deliver any projects over and above the 'day to day' business. These projects are assessed on their merits, but also on councils' ability to deliver what it says it will deliver, and we continue to face challenges of timing and resourcing in delivering some long-awaited projects. We must do better - we will do better.

We continue to embrace the challenge, as we have in the past, and will into the foreseeable future, of operating in an environment of achieving more with less – while maintaining effectiveness and quality across all the activities we undertake.

Some significant projects we have been successful in gaining funding for this year include:

- A total of \$2.8m to undertake works on the Echuca Serpentine road, replacement of Murphy's Creek Bridge, rehabilitation of Newbridge Road, and the Bridgewater Raywood road.
- The Federal Government's Regional Growth Fund, along with Council's contribution, that will deliver \$1.7m towards our Caravan Park upgrades, and Stage 2 of the Bridgewater foreshore project.
- \$14.5m from the Federal government will go with the \$11m previously committed by the State Government, for the Mitiamo Pipeline Project, following a strong advocacy campaign led by the dedicated Mitiamo Pipeline committee and actively supported by Council.
- The Donaldson Park upgrade received a funding commitment of \$2.5m, as well as some smaller grants to install flood-lights at a number of our Rec reserves.
- Loddon has a strong record of placing the recreational facilities at all our major sporting grounds very high up on our list of funding priorities. We strive for top class, high standard facilities that you can be proud of, and that will attract players, supporters and their families to your clubs, and encourage our youth to actively participate in sporting activities.
- We run a number of programs to support our youth, such as the Kool Skools and Kool Arts programs, which produce some amazing results, as well as Freeza events at our pools, art competitions and Australia Day award competitions.

Events celebrated over the past year include the official opening of the Wedderburn Streetscape Project, numerous Australia Day events, a number of Citizenship ceremonies, the Loddon Food & Wine Expo at Newbridge, and the launch of the new Loddon Visitor Guide, Tourism website and facebook page, which is now linked to Bendigo Regional Tourism's new website, and should increase Loddon's exposure to a whole new market.

But it hasn't all been cause for celebration - The news of the Pyramid Hill hostel closure has been devastating. Since the announcement, Wendy and her Community Wellbeing Department, have been working with the Hostel Working Group, exploring alternative models of aged care delivery and funding. Council currently delivers services to older members of our community through the Commonwealth Home Support Program, and provide on the ground services on behalf of agencies who deliver Home-Care package services, enabling people to remain in their homes longer – called Ageing in Place - but there often comes a time when a higher level of care is necessary, and 'Ageing in Place' shouldn't stop at your front gate – your 'Place' is in your community. We will continue to pursue opportunities, and hope for a better outcome.

It is important that we continue to invest in the things that are valued most by our communities, things that make a positive difference in people's lives, such as our swimming pools, library services, playgrounds, halls, parks and open spaces.

Council would not be able to deliver all its services or manage all its facilities without community volunteers – so, to you and your various committees, I thank you on behalf of council for all the volunteer hours you put in.

And speaking of volunteers, a big thankyou to the Bowling Club members for their excellent hospitality here tonight.

Thank you.

**Recommendation**

*That the Mayoral Report for 2018/19 be received and noted.*

**MOTION**

**Moved: Cr Condliffe**

**Seconded: Cr Curnow**

That the Mayoral Report for 2018/19 be received and noted.

**Carried**

**5. ELECTION OF MAYOR 2019/20**

The Chief Executive Officer acted as temporary Chairperson for the election of the Mayor.

The Chief Executive Officer called for nominations for the position of Mayor of the Loddon Shire Council for 2019/20.

Cr Holt nominated Cr McKinnon.

The Chief Executive Officer invited other nominations.

There being no other nominations, the Chief Executive Officer declared Cr McKinnon elected as Mayor.

Cr Holt presented Cr McKinnon with the Shire Gavel.

**6. FORMAL ADDRESS**

The Mayor gave her acceptance speech.

Cr Beattie as the prior Mayor from 2016/17 congratulated the Mayor on behalf of Councillors and Cr Holt and Cr Curnow supplemented those comments.

The Chief Executive Officer congratulated the Mayor and responded on behalf of staff.

The Mayor, Cr McKinnon took the Chair.

**7. MUNICIPAL COMMITTEES**

These committees are largely advisory or management committees established by Council or external committees on which it is appropriate that Council has representation. Should Council be asked to nominate representatives for any further Committees, nominations may be made at any time of the year.

Election to Committees.

**Recommendation**

*That Council adopts the appointments to committees as listed.*

**COUNCIL REPRESENTATION ON COMMITTEES (2019/20)**

<b>SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL (SECTION 86 COMMITTEES)</b>	
Boort Aerodrome Committee of Management	Cr Beattie
Boort Memorial Hall Committee of Management	Cr Beattie
Boort Park Committee of Management	Cr Beattie

<b>SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL (SECTION 86 COMMITTEES)</b>	
Boort Tourism Development Committee of Management	Cr Beattie
Bridgewater on Loddon Development Committee of Management	Cr Condliffe
Campbells Forest Hall Committee of Management	Cr Condliffe
Donaldson Park Committee of Management	Cr Holt
East Loddon Community Centre Committee of Management	Cr McKinnon
Inglewood Community Sports Centre Committee of Management	Cr Condliffe
Inglewood Community Elderly Persons Units Committee of Management	Cr Condliffe
Inglewood Town Hall Hub Committee of Management	Cr Condliffe
Jones Eucalyptus Distillery Site Committee of Management	Cr Condliffe
Kingower Development and Tourism Committee of Management	Cr Curnow
Korong Vale Mechanics Hall Committee of Management	Cr Beattie
Korong Vale Sports Centre Committee of Management	Cr Beattie
Little Lake Boort Committee of Management	Cr Beattie
Loddon Southern Tourism and Development	Cr Curnow
Pyramid Hill Memorial Hall Committee of Management	Cr McKinnon
Pyramid Hill Swimming Pool Committee of Management	Cr McKinnon
Serpentine Bowls and Tennis Pavilion and Reserve Committee of Management	Cr McKinnon
Wedderburn Community Centre Committee of Management	Cr Holt
Wedderburn Engine Park and Market Square Reserve Committee of Management	Cr Holt
Wedderburn Mechanics and Literary Institute Hall Committee of Management	Cr Holt
Wedderburn Tourism Committee of Management	Cr Holt
Yando Public Hall Committee of Management	Cr Beattie

<b>COMMITTEES EXTERNAL TO COUNCIL</b>	
AFL Central Victoria Project Control Group	Manager Community Support

Bendigo Regional Tourism Board	Manager Executive and Commercial Services Tourism and Marketing Officer
Bendigo Loddon Primary Care Partnership Board	Director Community Wellbeing
Buloke Loddon Gannawarra Health Network	Director Community Wellbeing
Calder Highway Improvement Committee (1 representative, 1 substitute)	Cr Condliffe Cr Curnow (substitute)
Early Years Compact	Director Community Wellbeing
Loddon Mallee Waste Resource Recovery Group	Cr Curnow
L2P Steering Committee	Children and Youth Coordinator
Local Government Womens Charter	Cr Condliffe
Loddon Campaspe Councils	Mayor Chief Executive Officer
Loddon Healthy Eating Active Living network	Manager Community Wellbeing Children & Youth Coordinator
Loddon Shire Family Violence Network	Director Community Wellbeing Children & Youth Coordinator
Municipal Association of Victoria (1 representative, 1 substitute)	Cr Holt Cr Beattie (substitute)
Murray River Group of Councils	Mayor Chief Executive Officer
North Central Goldfields Regional Library (2 representatives: one councillor, one officer)	Cr McKinnon Chief Executive Officer
North Central Local Learning and Employment Network	Cr McKinnon
Rail Freight Alliance	Cr Beattie
Rural Councils Victoria Executive	Cr Holt
South West Loddon Pipeline Project Steering Committee	Cr Holt Chief Executive Officer
Strong Families Strong Children network	Director Community Wellbeing Children & Youth Coordinator

#### **ADVISORY COMMITTEES, STEERING COMMITTEES, ETC**

Audit Committee (1 substantive, 1 alternate representative)	Cr Holt Cr Beattie (alternate)
Australia Day Committee (1 Councillor representative)	Cr Condliffe
Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance	Cr Condliffe Manager Community Support

<b>ADVISORY COMMITTEES, STEERING COMMITTEES, ETC</b>	
Healthy Minds Network (1 representative and 1 staff member)	Cr Condliffe Director Community Wellbeing
Central Victoria Rural Women's Network	Cr Condliffe
Municipal Emergency Management Plan Committee (1 representative)	Cr Curnow
Municipal Fire Management Plan Committee (1 representative)	Cr Curnow
Nature Tourism Advisory Team	Cr McKinnon Tourism and Marketing Officer
Nature Tourism Festival Committee (Sub Committee of Nature Tourism Advisory Team)	Tourism and Marketing Officer Cr McKinnon

Cr Curnow stated Council's appreciation for the work of the committees and the efforts of volunteers.

**MOTION**

**Moved: Cr Curnow**

**Seconded: Cr Condliffe**

That Council adopt the appointments to committees as listed.

**Carried**

**8. VOTE OF THANKS**

The Chief Executive Officer made a presentation to Councillors' partners in recognition of their contribution and support over the past twelve months.

**9. CLOSE**

There being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 7.23pm.