



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

**Date:** Thursday, 24 June 2021  
**Time:** 3pm  
**Location:** Loddon Shire Council Chambers (entry from Peters Street), behind Wedderburn office

# **AGENDA**

**Ordinary Council Meeting**

**24 June 2021**

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**1 OPENING AFFIRMATION**

“We, the Councillors of the Loddon Shire, declare that we will carry out our duties in the best interests of the community, and through collective leadership will maintain the highest standards of good governance.”

**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****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 25 May 2021.
2. The minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 25 May 2021.
3. The minutes of the Confidential Council Meeting of 25 May 2021.
4. The minutes of the Council Forum of 8 June 2021.
5. The minutes of the Special Council Meeting of 8 June 2021.
6. The minutes of the Confidential Special Council Meeting of 8 June 2021.

**REPORT**

Seeking approval of the unconfirmed minutes of the previous meetings.

**6 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS****6.1 RECORD OF ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS**

**File Number:** 02/01/001

**Author:** Christine Coombes, Executive and Commercial Services Officer

**Authoriser:** Phil Pinyon, Chief Executive Officer

**Attachments:** Nil

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council note the Assembly of Councillors records for the following meetings:

1. Council Briefing 25 May 2021.
2. Council Forum 8 June 2021.

In accordance with Clause 51 of Council's Governance Rules, records of Councillor briefings and forums must be reported to the next Ordinary Meeting of Council and confirmed in the minutes.

The record is therefore presented for Council's noting.

**RECORD OF ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCIL**

Assembly details	Briefing
Date	25 May 2021
Councillor Attendees	Cr Beattie Cr Holt Cr Jungwirth Cr Murphy Cr Straub
Staff/Stakeholder representatives	Phil Pinyon, Chef Executive Officer Wendy Gladman, Director Community Wellbeing Sharon Morrison, Director Corporate Services Steven Phillips, Director Operations Lynne Habner, Manager Executive and Commercial Services Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services  Global Leadership Foundation representative
Items discussed.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Working effectively together</li> <li>2. Draft Advocacy Policy</li> <li>3. Request for Council to take on ownership of property</li> <li>4. General business: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wedderburn Lions Club request for civic reception</li> <li>• Purchase of caravan parks on Crown Land</li> <li>• Community Asset Committees and GST</li> <li>• Loddon Shire Council Chambers</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
Conflict of Interest Disclosures - Councillor/officer making disclosure	Nil
Councillor/officer left room	

Assembly details	Forum
Date	8 June 2021
Councillor Attendees	Cr Beattie Cr Holt Cr Jungwirth Cr Murphy Cr Straub
Staff/Stakeholder representatives	Phil Pinyon, Chef Executive Officer Wendy Gladman, Director Community Wellbeing Sharon Morrison, Director Corporate Services Lynne Habner, Manager Executive and Commercial Services Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services Michael Johnston, Community Asset Committee Project Officer Sarah Perry, Manager Community Support  Newbridge, Arnold, Llanelly Community Plan representatives
Items discussed.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Economic Development and Tourism monthly progress report</li> <li>2. Update on the implementation of the Local Government Act 2020</li> <li>3. S181 sales update – sale of properties for unpaid rates and charges</li> <li>4. Feedback on Budget and Revenue and Rating Plan</li> <li>5. Strategic workforce planning update</li> <li>6. Update on the Loddon Project</li> <li>7. Climate Change and the Council Plan</li> <li>8. Community Asset Committees update</li> <li>9. Community Plan Presentation – Newbridge, Arnold, Llanelly Community Planning</li> <li>10. General business: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pyramid Hill Community Centre</li> <li>• Swimming pools</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
Conflict of Interest Disclosures - Councillor/officer making disclosure	Nil
Councillor/officer left room	

**7 REVIEW OF ACTION SHEET****7.1 REVIEW OF ACTIONS**

**File Number:** 02/01/002

**Author:** Christine Coombes, Executive and Commercial Services Officer

**Authoriser:** Phil Pinyon, Chief Executive Officer

**Attachments:** 1. Action sheet

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receive and note the action sheet.

**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.

**REPORT**

Refer attachment.



<a href="#">Action Sheets Report</a>	Division: Council Committee: Officer:	Date From: Date To: Printed: Wednesday, 9 June 2021 3:59:33 PM
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**Outstanding actions from previous meetings**

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 28/01/2020	Phillips, Steven Pinyon, Phil	New Item	Skidders Flat reservoir
<p>Cr Holt requested that Council staff continue to liaise with Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water regarding changes to the originally proposed arrangements for the supply of permanent recreation water to Skidders Flat, and provide a report to the next Council meeting about progress with finalising the heads of agreement between Council and GWM Water.</p>			
<p><b>14 Feb 2020 5:26pm Phillips, Steven</b>                      Council Staff have been in discussions with GWMWater staff about the terms contained within the Heads of Agreement for several months, with a major sticking point being the allocation of Recreational Water for Skidders Flat Reservoir. GWMWater is seeking that Council acquire a water entitlement up to the maximum volume as listed at Item 5 of Schedule A of the Heads Of Agreement (currently stated as 200 MI) from Northern Victoria trading zone 1A (Goulburn regulated). Council Officers have been able to secure agreement from GWMWater for the allocation of up to 200 MI of Recreational Water once off as an initial allowance. Arrangements are being made to secure a meeting between senior members of Council and GWMWater to continue negotiations over this matter.</p>			
<p><b>13 Mar 2020 5:21pm Phillips, Steven</b>                      The Southwest Loddon Pipeline Steering Committee has a meeting scheduled for Friday 20 March. GWMWater are continuing discussion with Coliban Water to further investigate opportunities for the provision of an ongoing water supply for Skidders Flat Reservoir.</p>			
<p><b>14 Apr 2020 5:22pm Phillips, Steven</b>                      Discussions have been undertaken and an agreement has been reached to honor the provision of recreational water to Skidders Flat.</p>			
<p><b>11 May 2020 8:42pm Phillips, Steven</b>                      According to GWMWater staff, a definitive solution to the 200 megalitre problem remains to be found. Discussions are ongoing with GWMWater Staff.</p>			
<p><b>11 Jun 2020 2:25pm Phillips, Steven</b>                      This matter was discussed at the June 2020 Council Forum noting that the supply of water to Skidders Flat is still an outstanding issue. Cr Beattie undertook to contact the Chairman of the Board of GWMWater to discuss how to progress the matter.</p>			
<p><b>20 Jul 2020 1:48pm Phillips, Steven</b>                      A meeting between Cr Holt, Cr Beattie, Phil Pinyon CEO Loddon Shire Council and Peter Vogel Chairman of the Board of GWMWater and Mark Williams Managing Director GWMWater was held on 22 June 2020 in Beaufort. Following this meeting Cr Holt, Cr Beattie, Phil Pinyon CEO Loddon Shire Council were to meet with Damian Wells Managing Director of Coliban Water to discuss possible solutions to this matter. This meeting has not been able to take place due to COVID-19 restrictions.</p>			
<p><b>10 Aug 2020 11:44am Phillips, Steven</b>                      Progress has been significantly hampered due to the current COVID – 19 restrictions and the desire for a face to face meeting with Coliban Water. Once restrictions allow, a face to face meeting with Coliban Water will be arranged.</p>			
<p><b>01 Sep 2020 6:05pm Phillips, Steven</b>                      This matter is scheduled on the September Council Forum agenda for discussion. The timing and circumstances for a meeting with Coliban Water remains a critical issue. It is important that Council is able to engage with them in a meaningful way about potential solutions that they may be able to assist with.</p>			
<p><b>01 Oct 2020 6:17pm Phillips, Steven</b>                      Following the discussion at the September Council Forum contact has been made with GHD for them to provide Council with a fee proposal to investigate the required works associated with actively maintaining the water level at Skidders Flat. The meeting with Coliban Water has not yet been scheduled.</p>			

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**Action Sheets Report**

**09 Nov 2020 1:02pm Phillips, Steven**  
 GHD came back with a proposal to complete the Intermediate Inspection Report in October/November as it is due for review next year. This will provide them with sufficient information to report to Council with recommendations based on the findings. They have also been engaged to attend a Council Forum to discuss the report and its recommendations. The meeting with Coliban Water remains on hold to discuss opportunities to partner with Council on the provision of recreational water for Skinners Flat Reservoir.

**07 Dec 2020 9:17am Phillips, Steven**  
 The Skinners Flat Reservoir Intermediate Dam Safety Inspection has been completed by GHD and its author will be attending the December Council Briefing for discussion on the matter. The meeting with Coliban Water to discuss opportunities to partner with Council on the provision of recreational water for Skinners Flat Reservoir remains on hold.

**11 Jan 2021 6:22pm Phillips, Steven**  
 The Intermediate Dam Safety Inspection report was presented to Council by GHD at its December Forum. That report recommended further assessment of the impacts of flooding to the dam and spillway. Work on the further assessments necessary are being arranged so that a more complete picture can be utilised to establish cost estimates of the required works to ensure that the dam and spillway are safe and suitable for managing water levels of the Reservoir. Council officers will report back to Council once a cost estimate is established for the required works to support the safe use of the Reservoir. A meeting with Coliban Water executives has been arranged for early February 2021 to explore opportunities for Coliban and Council to partner on the provision of recreational water for Skinner Flat Reservoir. Council representatives attending this meeting will include Cr Mayor Beattie and Cr Holt as well senior Council Staff.

**12 Feb 2021 11:22am Phillips, Steven**  
 On Friday 5 February Cr Mayor Beattie and Cr Holt and senior Council Staff met with Damian Wells CEO and Steve Healy Executive General Manager Climate and Population Adaption from Coliban Water to discuss opportunities to work together on the provision of recreational water to Skinners Flat. The meeting was productive with both parties committing to continue to work together on finding a solution. Coliban Water is going to investigate and provide a few options for a commercial leasing arrangement for Council to consider. Work is continuing on scoping the required works to the dam and spillway. It will take some time for the required information to be obtained and assessed. GHD have been engaged and should be able to provide Council with advice and cost estimates within the next 5 months.

**09 Mar 2021 3:16pm Phillips, Steven**  
 Council is waiting on information for the following: • survey and assessment of the dam and spillway by GHD. • Coliban Water to complete its investigations into possible options for water leasing arrangements. No further actions taken at this stage until the above information is provided.

**15 Apr 2021 10:28am Phillips, Steven**  
 The work on the survey and assessment of the dam and spillway by GHD continues. Once the report has been prepared it will be shared with Council. Coliban Water has recently reaffirmed its commitment to investigating a possible solution for water leasing arrangements. Once they have developed suitable options it will be communicated to Council.

**14 May 2021 9:02pm Phillips, Steven**  
 No further activity to report at this stage as we wait for responses from Coliban Water and a report from GHD.

**04 Jun 2021 6:19pm Phillips, Steven**  
 Caliban Water are drafting a letter of offer to be sent to council in the coming weeks. The offer will most likely be as discussed at the meeting held on Friday 5 February 2021. GHD continue their work on the Dam and spillway assessments.

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 23/02/2021	Morrison, Sharon Morrison, Sharon	Decision Reports	Version 2 of the Community Engagement Policy proposed for adoption

<a href="#">Action Sheets Report</a>	<b>Division:</b> <b>Committee:</b> Council <b>Officer:</b>	<b>Date From:</b> <b>Date To:</b> <b>Printed:</b> Wednesday, 9 June 2021 3:59:33 PM
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**RESOLUTION 2021/38**

Moved: Cr Wendy Murphy  
Seconded: Cr Dan Straub

That Council:

1. adopt the Community Engagement Policy
2. approve the cost of the design and printing of a community version of the policy and
3. consider a business case for the resourcing of the implementation of the policy.

**CARRIED**

**09 Mar 2021 11:55am Morrison, Sharon**

Policy has been added to the internet. Community version is being finalised with the printer. Business case for community engagement officer is in draft.

**29 Mar 2021 5:37pm Morrison, Sharon**

Business case for community engagement officer to be finalised.

**15 Apr 2021 11:06am Morrison, Sharon**

Business case for community engagement officer to be finalised.

**12 May 2021 9:59am Morrison, Sharon**

Business case for community engagement officer to be finalised.

**08 Jun 2021 12:49pm Morrison, Sharon**

Business case for community engagement officer to be finalised.

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**Actions completed since last meeting**

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 23/03/2021	Morrison, Sharon Morrison, Sharon	Decision Reports	Review of Councillor allowances
<p><b>RESOLUTION 2021/73</b></p> <p>Moved: Cr Gavan Holt                      Seconded: Cr Dan Straub</p> <p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provides in-principle support to the recommendation that the level of Mayoral and Councillor allowance be set at the top of the range for a Category One municipality</li> <li>seeks community feedback on the recommendation for a period of 14 days from 26 March 2021 to 9 April 2021</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p> <p><b>29 Mar 2021 5:41pm Morrison, Sharon</b>                      Review of allowances is out for public comment until 23 April in accordance with statutory requirement for 28 days public comment period.</p> <p><b>15 Apr 2021 11:08am Morrison, Sharon</b>                      Public comments not due until 23 April 2021.</p> <p><b>12 May 2021 10:01am Morrison, Sharon</b>                      Report to be added to May Council meeting to confirm allowances.</p> <p><b>08 Jun 2021 12:50pm Morrison, Sharon</b>                      Returned to May Council meeting.</p> <p><b>08 Jun 2021 12:51pm Morrison, Sharon - Completion</b>                      Action completed by Morrison, Sharon</p>			

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 25/05/2021	Morrison, Sharon Morrison, Sharon	Decision Reports	Review of Councillor allowances
<p><b>RESOLUTION 2021/107</b></p> <p>Moved: Cr Wendy Murphy                      Seconded: Cr Gavan Holt</p> <p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note that one submission was received in respect of the review of Councillor and Mayoral allowances</li> </ol>			

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**Action Sheets Report**

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. determine that the Councillor allowance continue at the maximum for Councillors at Category One municipalities, currently \$21,049 per annum</li> <li>3. determine that the Mayoral allowance continue at the maximum for Mayors at Category One municipalities, currently \$62,884 per annum</li> <li>4. note that the allowances are payable from the date of this resolution.</li> </ol>	<b>CARRIED</b>
<p><b>08 Jun 2021 12:51pm Morrison, Sharon</b> Finance advised of decision.</p> <p><b>08 Jun 2021 12:52pm Morrison, Sharon - Completion</b> Action completed by Morrison, Sharon</p>	

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 25/05/2021	Perry, Sarah Gladman, Wendy	Decision Reports	Recognition of Community Planning Committees
<b>RESOLUTION 2021/108</b>			
Moved: Cr Linda Jungwirth Seconded: Cr Dan Straub  That Council formally recognises the groups noted in this report as the Community Planning Committees for the nominated communities.			
<b>CARRIED</b>			
<p><b>07 Jun 2021 9:15am Perry, Sarah - Completion</b> Action completed by Perry, Sarah</p> <p><b>07 Jun 2021 9:51am Coombes, Christine</b> The formal letters of recognition have been sent to the Community Planning groups as noted in the report.</p>			

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 25/05/2021	Morrison, Sharon Morrison, Sharon	Decision Reports	Appointment of Audit Committee Chair for 2021
<b>RESOLUTION 2021/109</b>			
Moved: Cr Gavan Holt Seconded: Cr Dan Straub			

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**Action Sheets Report**

That Council endorses the Audit and Risk Committee’s recommendation to appoint Mr Rod Baker as Audit Committee Chair to 28 February 2022 or the date of the Ordinary Meeting of Council in February 2022 where a resolution for appointment of Chair for the new term will be made, whichever is the earlier.

**CARRIED**

**08 Jun 2021 12:48pm Morrison, Sharon**

Letter sent

**08 Jun 2021 12:49pm Morrison, Sharon - Completion**

Action completed by Morrison, Sharon

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 25/05/2021	Habner, Lynne Pinyon, Phil	Decision Reports	Loddon Shire Council Chambers
<b>RESOLUTION 2021/110</b>			
Moved: Cr Dan Straub			
Seconded: Cr Linda Jungwirth			
That Council confirm the new location of the Loddon Shire Council Chambers is in Peters Street Wedderburn, with that space being named "the Loddon Shire Council Chambers".			
<b>CARRIED</b>			
<b>08 Jun 2021 2:12pm Habner, Lynne</b>			
Completed. New meeting room calendar has been established for the new name, and bookings are being transferred from the calendar for the Kooyoora Meeting Room.			
<b>08 Jun 2021 2:13pm Habner, Lynne - Completion</b>			
Action completed by Habner, Lynne			

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 25/05/2021	Pinyon, Phil Pinyon, Phil	Decision Reports	Draft Council Advocacy Policy
<b>RESOLUTION 2021/111</b>			
Moved: Cr Wendy Murphy			
Seconded: Cr Dan Straub			
That Council adopts the Council Advocacy Policy version 4.			
<b>CARRIED</b>			

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**Action Sheets Report**

**26 May 2021 11:35am Coombes, Christine**  
 Advocacy Policy finalised and uploaded to the website on 26 May 2021.  
**26 May 2021 11:40am Pinyon, Phil - Completion**  
 Action completed by Coombes, Christine

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 25/05/2021	Williams, Peter Morrison, Sharon	Decision Reports	Information Technology and Information Security policies
<b>RESOLUTION 2021/112</b>			
Moved: Cr Dan Straub			
Seconded: Cr Linda Jungwirth			
That Council adopt the following Council policies:			
1. Cloud Computing Policy			
2. Cyber Security Policy			
3. Internet Use Policy			
4. Information Security Policy			
<b>CARRIED</b>			
<b>25 May 2021 5:19pm Williams, Peter</b>			
Forwarded to Exec Services for signing and uploading to the Intranet.			
<b>08 Jun 2021 12:26pm Coombes, Christine</b>			
Documents listed on Councils website.			
<b>08 Jun 2021 12:26pm Williams, Peter - Completion</b>			
Action completed by Coombes, Christine			

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 25/05/2021	Morrison, Sharon Morrison, Sharon	Decision Reports	Election Report
<b>RESOLUTION 2021/113</b>			
Moved: Cr Gavan Holt			
Seconded: Cr Wendy Murphy			

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**Action Sheets Report**

That Council note the section 83 election report.

**CARRIED**

**08 Jun 2021 12:46pm Morrison, Sharon**  
No further action

**08 Jun 2021 12:47pm Morrison, Sharon - Completion**  
Action completed by Morrison, Sharon

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 25/05/2021	Morrison, Sharon Morrison, Sharon	Decision Reports	CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy

**RESOLUTION 2021/114**

Moved: Cr Dan Straub  
Seconded: Cr Linda Jungwirth

That Council adopt the CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy version 1.

**CARRIED**

**08 Jun 2021 12:48pm Morrison, Sharon**  
Policy processed

**08 Jun 2021 12:48pm Morrison, Sharon - Completion**  
Action completed by Morrison, Sharon



**8 MAYORAL REPORT**

**8.1 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.

**Cr Beattie**

<b>Rail Freight Alliance</b>	
<b>Loddon Campaspe Councils</b>	
<b>Murray River Group of Councils</b>	
<b>Special Committees Of Council (Section 65 Community Asset Committees):</b>	
Boort Aerodrome Community Asset Committee	
Boort Memorial Hall Community Asset Committee	
Boort Park Community Asset Committee	
Korong Vale Mechanics Hall Community Asset Committee	
Korong Vale Sports Centre Community Asset Committee	
Little Lake Boort Community Asset Committee	
Yando Public Hall Community Asset Committee	
<b>DATE</b>	<b>Activity</b>

**9 COUNCILLORS' REPORT****9.1 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.

**Cr Holt**

<b>Municipal Association of Victoria</b>	
<b>Audit and Risk Committee</b>	
<b>Special Committees Of Council (Section 65 Community Asset Committees):</b>	
Donaldson Park Community Asset Committee	
Wedderburn Community Centre Community Asset Committee	
Wedderburn Engine Park and Market Square Reserve Community Asset Committee	
Wedderburn Mechanics and Literary Institute Hall Community Asset Committee	
Hard Hill Tourist Reserve Community Asset Committee	
<b>Other Council activities</b>	
<b>DATE</b>	<b>Activity</b>

**Cr Jungwirth**

<b>Loddon Mallee Local Government Waste Forum</b>	
<b>Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance</b>	
<b>Municipal Emergency Management Plan Committee</b>	
<b>Other Council activities</b>	
<b>DATE</b>	<b>Activity</b>

**Cr Murphy**

<b>Calder Highway Improvement Committee</b>	
<b>Local Government Womens Charter</b>	
<b>Australia Day Committee</b>	
<b>Healthy Minds Network</b>	
<b>Special Committees Of Council (Section 65 Community Asset Committees):</b>	
Bridgewater on Loddon Memorial Hall Community Asset Committee	
Campbells Forest Hall Community Asset Committee	
Inglewood Community Sports Centre Community Asset Committee	
Inglewood Community Elderly Persons Units Community Asset Committee	
Inglewood Town Hall Hub Community Asset Committee	
Jones Eucalyptus Distillery Site Community Asset Committee	

<b>Other Council activities</b>	
<b>DATE</b>	<b>Activity</b>

**Cr Straub**

<b>North Central Goldfields Regional Library</b>	
<b>North Central Local Learning and Employment Network</b>	
<b>Special Committees Of Council (Section 65 Community Asset Committees):</b>	
East Loddon Community Centre Community Asset Committee	
Pyramid Hill Memorial Hall Community Asset Committee	
Pyramid Hill Swimming Pool Kiosk Community Asset Committee	
<b>Other Council activities</b>	
<b>DATE</b>	<b>Activity</b>

**10 DECISION REPORTS****10.1 PLANNING APPLICATION 5553 - 78-80 BURKE STREET, NEWBRIDGE**

**File Number:** FOL/19/91357  
**Author:** Glenn Harvey, Manager Development and Compliance  
**Authoriser:** Steven Phillips, Director Operations  
**Attachments:** 1. Decision report 5553

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council determines to issue a notice of decision to refuse planning application 5553 for the use and development of the land for a dwelling within the Farming Zone and Land Subject to Inundation Overlay.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

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

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

There have been no previous Council discussions on this matter.

**BACKGROUND**

Planning application 5553 was lodged 23 June 2020 and proposed the use and development of two dwellings on the land at 78-80 Burke Street, Newbridge. In February 2021 an amendment to the application was lodged that changed the proposal to, use and development of the land for a single dwelling.

The subject site is within the Farming Zone and is covered by the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay and Erosion Management Overlay.

**ISSUES/DISCUSSION**

Under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 (the Act) the Minister of Planning delegates a municipal council power to become the planning authority for any planning scheme in force in its municipal district.

A municipal council is obligated to enforce and administer the relevant Planning Scheme, which must use the scheme to determine applications, which are put forth to the council.

For Council, the Loddon Planning Scheme is the relevant Planning Scheme, which must be used by Council when determining applications.

Council has delegated authority to its Planning officer to determine outcomes of applications, however it is the policy/practice for the Council to make the final determination for applications which:

- receive one or more objections  
and/or
- are to be recommended for refusal by the Planning officer.

Pursuant to Section 52 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 notices were sent to owners and occupiers of adjoining land as well as land opposite and surrounding the site. Council has received two objections as the result of the public notification process. The Planning officer's

recommendation is also for refusal and as such the matter is being brought to Council for determination.

A decision report detailing this application and assessment has been prepared and can be found in Attachment 1.

**COST/BENEFITS**

There are various costs associated with having a delegated Planning officer consider an application and make a recommendation as well as with the time of the Councillors to consider this recommendation.

The benefits associated with this cost are the ability for Council to fulfil its requirement under law and provide the community with a statutory service that delivers well-managed and appropriate development.

**RISK ANALYSIS**

The risks of Council not fulfilling its statutory obligation under the Act include:

- inappropriate use and development which could endanger life and property
- Council's reputation as a Responsible Authority
- breaches of the Planning & Environment Act 1987 requiring compliance action.

**CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

Refer to the decision report for further detail on the application.

# LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL

**DECISION REPORT 5553: Use and  
development of the land for a  
dwelling with the Farming Zone and  
Land Subject to Inundation Overlay.**



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## SUMMARY

<b>Application Number:</b>	5553
<b>Applicant:</b>	Rod Hinton (Shane Muir Consulting)
<b>Subject Land:</b>	78-80 Burke Street, Newbridge
<b>Owner:</b>	Greg Fathers
<b>Zone:</b>	Farming Zone
<b>Overlay(s):</b>	Land Subject to Inundation Overlay
<b>Existing use:</b>	Vacant Land (existing shed)
<b>Proposal:</b>	Use and development of the land for a single dwelling

## 1 RECOMMENDATION

That the Responsible Authority having considered all matters which the Planning and Environment Act, 1987, requires it to consider, decides to issue a Notice of Decision to refuse planning application 5553 on the following grounds:

- 1) The proposal is inconsistent with Clause 14.01-1S Protection of agricultural land, of the Planning Policy Framework.
- 2) The proposal is inconsistent with Clause 22.05 Development in rural areas, within the Local Planning Polices.
- 3) The proposal is inconsistent with the purpose and decision guidelines of the Victoria Planning Provisions Clause 35.07 Farming Zone.

## 2 DISCUSSION

### 2.1 Site & location

The subject site is located at 78-80 Burke Street, Newbridge. The site is within the Farming Zone and is covered by the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay and the Erosion Management Overlay of the Loddon Planning Scheme.

The site is an irregular shape and is approximately 2.75 ha in size. The subject site contains eleven titles which vary in shape and size. An existing shed and disused irrigation infrastructure currently exists within the site and a water supply from the Loddon River also exists. There is no town water or sewer connection available at the site.

The site has an approximately 132 metres frontage to Burke Street. Council's road reserve at this location measures approximately 60 metres in width, only 20 meters is required for the existing sealed road (Burke Street). The remaining 40 metres is under a Crown Land Unused Road Reserve Licence for agricultural purposes. Refer to Figure 1 below for an aerial photo of the subject site outlined in red and Crown Land Unused Road Reserve Licence shown in blue.



Figure 1: Aerial photograph of subject site

Land surrounding the subject site to the north, east and west is within the Farming Zone. The subject site is bound to the south by the Loddon River which is within the Public Conservation and Resource Zone.

There are 5 existing dwellings within a 500 metre radius of the subject site. A review of the property files for each of these properties indicated that these dwellings predate the implementation of the lands current zoning. The two existing dwellings located to the north are known to currently support an agricultural use of the land they exist upon. The remaining 3 dwellings are located on sites between 0.6 ha – 0.4 ha in size.

See Figure 2 below for a zoning map of the subject site and surrounding area.



Figure 2: Zoning map

The site is entirely covered by the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay and Erosion Management Overlay. Please refer to Figure 3 below for overlay map.



Figure 3: Land Subject to Inundation and Erosion Management Overlay map

## 2.2 Proposal

Planning application 5553 was lodged 23 June 2020 and proposed the use and development of two dwellings on the land at 78-80 Burke Street, Newbridge. In February 2021 an amendment to the application was lodged by the applicant.

The amended application proposes the use and development of the land for a single dwelling within the Farming Zone, Land Subject to Inundation Overlay and the Erosion Management Overlay.

The proposed dwelling will be set back six metres from the sites western (front) boundary and is proposed to be located within a 25 m x 50 m building envelope. The effluent disposal field is shown to be located directly to the south of the proposed dwelling and is approximately 20 m x 30 m in size. Please refer to **Appendix 1** for a copy of the proposed site plan submitted with the application. The proposed dwelling will be four bedrooms, please refer to **Appendix 2** for the floor plan submitted with the application.

As part of the proposal the nine existing titles will be consolidated into a single title which will measure approximately 2.75 ha in size. It should be noted that consolidation of land does not require a planning permit, however the consolidation would be required as a condition on the Notice of Decision to issues a Planning Permit should Council choose to overturn the officer recommendation. The consolidation would be required in order for a septic system to be installed on the same title as the proposed dwelling. Currently no single lot within the property is considered large enough or an appropriately shape to accommodate a dwelling and septic system.

Currently the site is accessed via an existing crossover and driveway from Burke Street. The proposed site plan shows a new access point to the subject site located within the northern corner of subject land, which will be connected to Burke Street via a new crossover.

Any new driveway would be required to be constructed through the area currently leased from the Crown. The current lease agreement is for grazing purposes, additional consents would be required to be sought by the applicant from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) for the construction of any additional infrastructure.

## 2.3 Loddon Planning Scheme

### 2.3.1 Zone

The subject site is within the Farming Zone. Clause 35.07 states that the purpose of the Farming Zone is:

To implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework

To provide for the use of land for agriculture

To encourage the retention of productive agricultural land

To ensure that non-agricultural uses, including dwellings, do not adversely affect the use of land for agriculture

To encourage the retention of employment and population to support rural communities.

To encourage use and development of land based on comprehensive and sustainable land management practices and infrastructure provision

To provide for the use and development of land for the specific purposes identified in a schedule to this zone

### 2.3.2 Overlay

The subject site is within the Erosion Management Overlay. Clause 44.01 states that the purpose of the Erosion Management Overlay is:

- To implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.
- To protect areas prone to erosion, landslip or other land degradation processes, by minimising land disturbance and inappropriate development.

The subject site is within the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay. Clause 44.04 states that the purpose of the Land Subject To Inundation Overlay is:

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

### 2.3.3 Permit trigger

The Planning permit triggers for the proposal are as follows:

- A planning permit is required under the Farming Zone Clause 35.07-1 Table of uses, for the use of the land for a dwelling on less than 100 ha (listed in Schedule).
- A planning permit is required under the Farming Zone Clause 35.07-4 for buildings and works associated with a Section 2 – Permit required use (dwelling).
- A planning permit is required under the Erosion Management Overlay Clause 44.01-2 for buildings and works within the Overlay.
- A planning permit is required under the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay Clause 44.04-2 for buildings and works within the Overlay

### 2.3.4 Restrictive covenant

There are no restrictive covenants listed on the titles included within the subject site.

### 2.3.5 Planning Policy Framework

The following section gives consideration to the relevant sections of the Planning Policy Framework for this application.

#### **12.03-1S River corridors, waterways, lakes and wetlands**

##### Objective:

To protect and enhance river corridors, waterways, lakes and wetlands.

Relevant strategies of Clause 12.03-1S include:

- Protect the environmental, cultural and landscape values of all water bodies and wetlands.
- Ensure development responds to and respects the significant environmental, conservation, cultural, aesthetic, open space, recreation and tourism assets of water bodies and wetlands.
- Ensure development does not compromise bank stability, increase erosion or impact on a water body or wetland's natural capacity to manage flood flow.

**13.03-1S Floodplain Management****Objective:**

To assist the protection of:

- Life, property and community infrastructure from flood hazard.
- The natural flood carrying capacity of rivers, streams and floodways.
- The flood storage function of floodplains and waterways.
- Floodplain areas of environmental significance or of importance to river health.

**13.04-2S Erosion and Landslip****Objective:**

To protect areas prone to erosion, landslip or other land degradation processes.

**Relevant Strategies of Clause 13.04-2S include:**

- Identify areas subject to erosion or instability in planning schemes and when considering the use and development of land.
- Prevent inappropriate development in unstable areas or areas prone to erosion.
- Promote vegetation retention, planting and rehabilitation in areas prone to erosion and land instability.

**13.07-1S Land use compatibility****Objective:**

To protect community amenity, human health and safety while facilitating appropriate commercial, industrial, infrastructure or other uses with potential adverse off-site impacts.

**Relevant strategies of Clause 13.07-1S include:**

- Ensure that use or development of land is compatible with adjoining and nearby land uses.

**14.01-1S Protection of agricultural land****Objective:**

To protect the state's agricultural base by preserving productive farmland

**Relevant strategies of Clause 14.01-1S included:**

- Identify areas of productive agricultural land, including land for primary production and intensive agriculture.
- Consider state, regional and local, issues and characteristics when assessing agricultural quality and productivity.
- Avoid permanent removal of productive agricultural land from the state's agricultural base without consideration of the economic importance of the land for the agricultural production and processing sectors.
- Protect productive farmland that is of strategic significance in the local or regional context.
- Protect productive agricultural land from unplanned loss due to permanent changes in land use.
- Prevent inappropriately dispersed urban activities in rural areas.
- Protect strategically important agricultural and primary production land from incompatible uses.
- Limit new housing development in rural areas by:
  - directing housing growth into existing settlements.
  - discouraging development of isolated small lots in the rural zones from use for dwellings or other incompatible uses

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- encouraging consolidation of existing isolated small lots in rural zone.

- Identify areas of productive agricultural land by consulting with the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources and using available information.

#### **14.01-2S Sustainable agricultural land use**

##### Objective:

To encourage sustainable agricultural land use.

#### **15.03-2S Aboriginal cultural heritage**

##### Objective:

To ensure the protection and conservation of places of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance.

Relevant strategies of Clause 15.03-2S:

- Identify, assess and document places of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance, in consultation with relevant Registered Aboriginal Parties, as a basis for their inclusion in the planning scheme.
- Provide for the protection and conservation of pre-contact and post-contact Aboriginal cultural heritage places.
- Ensure that permit approvals align with the recommendations of any relevant Cultural Heritage Management Plan approved under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006

#### **Local Planning Policy Framework**

The following section gives consideration to the relevant sections of the Local Planning Policy Framework.

#### **22.05 Development in Rural Areas**

##### Objective:

- To protect the natural and physical resources upon which agricultural industries rely.
- To support the ongoing viability of existing farms.
- To maintain farmland in productive agricultural use.
- To promote the development of new and diverse agricultural industries, fulfilling the potential of existing infrastructure.
- To prevent land use conflicts between sensitive uses and agricultural uses.
- To ensure that new use and development in the Shire is not prejudicial to agricultural industries or the productive capacity of the land.
- To encourage the most productive and sustainable uses of water and soil in the Shire.
- To ensure that development in rural areas does not compromise landscapes of significant value.
- To encourage safety from structure fires and bushfires.

##### Policy

It is policy to assess proposals against the following criteria:

- Where buildings or works are essential they should be sited so as to avoid or minimise loss of good quality agricultural land.
- The responsible authority will support the construction of a dwelling on land in the Farming Zone where it can be demonstrated that the construction of the dwelling is required to enhance the agricultural output of the land and that the dwelling is and is likely to remain ancillary to the farming use of the property.

- The agricultural use of the land that the new dwelling is required to support must be established prior to construction of the dwelling.
- An application for a new dwelling in the Farming Zone will be advertised to surrounding land owners / occupiers.
- Council may require the following information to support an application for a new dwelling in the Farming Zone where a new farm business is proposed: –
  - A farm business plan that shows:
    - why there is a need to live on site and how that would enhance agricultural use
    - the investment into agriculture on the property
    - the estimated return from the agricultural pursuit
    - the amount of land to be engaged in farming, and
    - the estimated production from the property; or
- A whole farm plan that shows; the layout of agricultural uses on the property to demonstrate that the majority of the property is used for farming.

**2.4 Referrals**

**Table 1: Internal referral to the Environmental Health Department of Loddon Shire Council**

Response:	No objection
Planning officer Comment:	Nil

**Table 2: External Referral to North Central Catchment Management Authority (NCCMA)**

Response:	<p>North Central CMA, pursuant to <i>Section 56 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987</i>, <b>does not object</b> to the granting of a permit <b>subject to the following conditions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The finished floor level of the proposed dwelling must be constructed a minimum of 0.3 metres above the estimated 1% AEP flood level of 151.4 metres AHD, i.e. no lower than 151.70 metres AHD.</li> <li>• The building envelope must be entirely located on land where the existing natural surface level is higher than 150.9 metres AHD.</li> <li>• The proposed dwelling must be constructed on an earthen fill pad. The fill pad must be constructed with a finished surface level no lower than 151.4 metres AHD. The area of the fill pad should extend a minimum of two (2) metres beyond the external walls of the proposed dwelling but must not exceed 1,000m2 in area.</li> </ul>
Planning officer Comment:	<p>It should be noted that NCCMA have required a significant reduction in the building envelop shown on the proposed site plan. Discussions between the Planning officer and relevant officers at NCCMA indicated that the development of a shed or other buildings on the site would not be supported by NCCMA.</p>

**Table 3: External Referral to Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning**

Response:	<p><b><i>Comment</i></b>  <b><i>Access through licence</i></b>                  There is a government road under licence to the west of the proposed development. Should the licence area be required for access, the licence should be cancelled and management of the government road returned to Council. Council will need to request cancellation of the licence pursuant to Section 407</p>
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	<p>(1) of the <i>Land Act 1958</i> for this to occur.</p> <p>The licence has been issued for the purpose of grazing, while a vehicle can be driven through the licence area, no infrastructure (including driveway) is to be constructed/modified on the licence area without the Departments consent and the licence area cannot be used for any purpose other than grazing without the Departments consent.</p> <p><b><u>Wastewater Management</u></b> Effluent disposal is to comply with the Code of Practice: Onsite Wastewater Management Publication number 891.34 July 2016 (EPA). Soils, topography and the relationship to dams and the creek need to be considered when siting the location of the effluent disposal field.</p> <p><b>Response</b> As an <i>adjoining owner</i>, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning does not object to the permit being granted, but requests that the following conditions be included on the permit:</p> <p><b>Access and Encroachment</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No access is permitted to the subject land via the adjoining Crown land.</li> <li>2. Adjoining Crown land must not be used for truck turning areas, entry points, parking areas or temporary stack sites during the construction of buildings or works.</li> </ol> <p><b>Works</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. To prevent impacts on Crown land, all works are to be contained within the freehold land and must take place from the freehold side of the boundary</li> </ol> <p><b>Runoff</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. No polluted and/or sediment laden run-off is to be discharged directly or indirectly into the adjoining Crown land. Overland flows must be maintained at the same rate post-development as on the undeveloped land.</li> </ol> <p><b>Native Vegetation Protection</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. No removal of native vegetation associated with the development from the adjoining Crown land is permitted.</li> <li>6. Machinery and timber stockpiles must avoid areas of native vegetation (understorey and trees). Stockpiles must be located outside the Tree Protection Zone (12 times the diameter of the tree trunk at 140 cm above ground level to a maximum distance of 15 metres but no less than 2 metres from the base of the trunk) and at least 2m from remnant patches of native vegetation (includes understorey)</li> </ol> <p><b>Licence</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. The proponent is to obtain written consent from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning prior to any works associated with the development occurring on the government road under licence.</li> </ol> <p><b>Fencing</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Prior to work commencing, the shared boundary with Crown land must be fenced to the satisfaction of the responsible authority and the Department of Environment, Land, Water &amp; Planning in accordance with</li> </ol>
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	<p>the <i>Fences Act 1968</i> and at the applicant's expense. Fencing must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• erected on the boundaries of the land;</li> <li>• stock and domestic pet proof;</li> <li>• without gates or openings on to adjoining Crown land.</li> <li>• at least 1.2 metres in height.</li> </ul> <p><u>Permit Notes:</u> If a planning permit is granted, would you please include the following permit note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The adjoining Crown land is not to be used for access, storage of materials or rubbish. Any private use of Crown land requires consent and/or licensing from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.</li> </ul>
<p>Planning officer Comment: Under Clause 35.07-2 of the Farming Zone, an all-weather access is required to be provided to dwellings within the Farming Zone.</p> <p>The prospect of Council managing the area currently under lease is not considered favourable as the land would be excess to the requirements of Council's needs. As such, the owner will need to obtain the relevant works license and other agreements from DELWP in order to construct any new infrastructure within the area of crown land.</p>	

The application was also referred to the following authorities with no response received to date:

- Coliban Water
- Powercor

## 2.5 Public notification

The application is not exempt from the notice requirement. Pursuant to Section 52 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and the following forms of advertising were undertaken:

- Notices were sent to owners and occupiers of adjoining land (including opposite and surrounding).

Given that two objections were received to the original application, the amended application was readvertised to those who received the original version of the application.

Attempts were made to contact both objectors directly to discuss the amended application, however only one objector was able to be reached.

One updated objection addressing the amended application was lodged as a result of the readvertising process and no response was received from the second objector; therefore their original objection must be considered. Although this objection addressed the original application, it is considered that many of the themes within the objection are still relevant.

The concerns outlined in the two objections can be summarised as:

- Loss of farming land which could of otherwise been used for a viable farming business
- Lack of agricultural justification for the dwelling
- Further fragmentation of farming land
- The proposal will result in the removal of the land from agricultural purposes
- Further spread and mismanagement of weeds, particularly Bindi-Eye
- Concerns around flooding of the proposed dwelling
- Impacts on visual amenity the contemporary style dwelling will have on the subject site and the surrounding dwelling

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- Negative impact on soil quality as a result of the establishment of gardens and lawn
- Introduction of domestic animals negatively impacting on native wildlife
- Light pollution impacting on amenity of the area and adjoining residents
- Approval of the application will set a precedent for further development on the site or surrounding sites

Please refer to appendix 3 for a copy of the objections submitted.

### 3 ASSESSMENT

#### 3.1.1 Planner assessment

A planning permit is required for the use and development of the land for a dwelling within the Farming Zone, Land Subject to Inundation Overlay and Erosion Management Overlay. Specifically, a permit is triggered under Clause 35.07, 44.01 and 44.04 of the Loddon Shire Planning Scheme. In light of this, the application is required to be assessed against the purpose and decision guidelines of the zone and each of the relevant overlays.

The Planning officer is recommending refusal for the following reasons:

- The proposal is inconsistent with Clause 14.01-1S Protection of agricultural land, of the Planning Policy Framework.
- The proposal is inconsistent with Clause 22.05 Development in rural areas, within the Local Planning Polices.
- The proposal is inconsistent with the purpose and decision guidelines of the Victoria Planning Provisions Clause 35.07 Farming Zone.

Each of the reasons for refusal listed above is addressed in further detail below.

The objective of Clause 14.01-1S Protection of agricultural land is:

To protect the state's agricultural base by preserving productive farmland

Strategies to implement this objective include:

- Consider state, regional and local, issues and characteristics when assessing agricultural quality and productivity.
- Avoid permanent removal of productive agricultural land from the state's agricultural base without consideration of the economic importance of the land for the agricultural production and processing sectors.
- Protecting agricultural land that is of strategic significance in the local or regional context
- Prevent inappropriately dispersed urban activities in rural areas.
- Limiting new housing development in rural areas by:
  - directing housing growth into existing settlements
  - discouraging development of isolated small lots in the rural zones from use for dwellings or other incompatible uses
  - encouraging consolidation of existing isolated small lots in rural zones.

The proposal is considered inconsistent with Clause 14.01-1S for the following reasons:

- The application documentation submitted states that no agricultural activity is proposed to be undertaken on the site.
- The dwelling does not support an existing or proposed agricultural use of the land.
- The proposal does not direct housing growth into existing settlements.
- The development of the dwelling and introduction of associated gardens and other associated activities are considered to result in the sites permanent removal from agriculture.
- The proposed dwelling is considered to be inappropriately located and has the potential to fragment productive land within the Farming Zone.

In light of the reasons listed above, the purpose is considered inconsistent with Clause 14.01-1S and therefore should be refused.

Clause 22.05 Development in Rural Areas states that the Responsible Authority:

*“Will support the construction of a dwelling on land in the Farming Zone where it can be demonstrated that the construction of the dwelling is required to enhance the agricultural output of the land and that the dwelling is and is likely to remain ancillary to the farming use of the property.”*

Whilst it is acknowledged the subject land is small in nature it is considered that due to the fair quality of the land, an agricultural use could be undertaken on the site or that current farming operations to the north could potentially expand onto the subject site.

The application documentation submitted acknowledges the potential value of the site but concludes that no farming activity is proposed to be undertaken as a result of the dwelling. The application does not provide information on any potential agricultural uses that could be supported by or requires a dwelling to be constructed on the site.

The proposed use and development is based upon the site becoming residential in nature and therefore is considered inconsistent with Clause 22.05 of the Loddon Planning Scheme.

#### Zone

The purpose of the Farming Zone Clause 35.07 includes the following points:

- *To provide for the use of land for agriculture.*
- *To encourage the retention of productive agricultural land.*

The proposal is not considered to encourage or provide land for the use of agriculture and therefore is inconsistent with the purpose of the Farming Zone.

The decision guidelines of Farming Zone Clause 35.07-6 state that Responsible Authority, must consider, as relevant the following matters:

#### **General issues**

- The Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.
- How the use or development relates to sustainable land management.
- How the use and development makes use of existing infrastructure and services.

#### **Agricultural issues and the impacts from non-agricultural uses**

- Whether the use or development will support and enhance agricultural production.
- Whether the use or development will adversely affect soil quality or permanently remove land from agricultural production.
- The potential for the use or development to limit the operation and expansion of adjoining and nearby agricultural uses.
- The capacity of the site to sustain the agricultural use.
- The agricultural qualities of the land, such as soil quality, access to water and access to rural infrastructure.

#### **Dwelling issues**

- Whether the dwelling will result in the loss or fragmentation of productive agricultural land.
- Whether the dwelling will adversely affect the operation and expansion of adjoining and nearby agricultural uses. The potential for the proposal to lead to a concentration or

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proliferation of dwellings in the area and the impact of this on the use of the land for agriculture.

The proposal is not considered to positively respond to the decision guidelines listed above. Land located on the eastern side of Burkes Road is currently vacant Farming Zoned land. An existing dwelling is located approximately 110 metres to the south of the subject site. This is currently the only dwelling located on the eastern side of Burkes Road. The proposed dwelling is considered to create fragmentation of the surrounding area by placing a residential use within a farming area which has potential to be used for agricultural purposes.

The proposed dwelling is also considered to effectively remove the subject site from potential farming uses, as well as negatively impacting on the ability and likelihood of surrounding land (particularly land to the east of Burkes Road) to be used for farming. It would likely result in land use conflicts between the residential use and agricultural uses on surrounding land. Further to this, the approval of the proposed dwelling is considered highly likely to set a precedent for similar developments to be approved. This could result in residential uses encroaching on productive farming that is taking place to the north and potentially result in the removal of productive land from agriculture.

#### 4 CONCLUSION

The proposal is not considered to be in accordance with State and Local Planning Policy concerning the protection of agricultural land, as well as the purpose and decision guidelines of the Farming Zone.

The application does not increase or support agricultural output of the site and the proposal is considered to result in the fragmentation of land within the Farming Zone. The approval of the dwelling will effectively remove the subject site from agriculture and is likely to create a precedent for future dwelling to be approved. Further residential development on surrounding land could result in detrimental impacts to the surrounding Farming Zoned land.

For the reasons stated above it is recommended that the application be refused.

APPENDIX 1: Proposed site plan

## PROPOSED WASTE WATER TREATMENT SYSTEM & LAND APPLICATION AREA LAYOUT

**NOTE:** COLLECTED STORMWATER FROM THE DEVELOPMENT IS TO DISPERSED VIA THE WATER STORAGE TANKS TO A LEGAL POINT OF DISCHARGE OR TO AN OVERLAND FLOW PATH TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE LODDON SHIRE.

**NOTE:** BOTH PROPOSED LOT 1 & LOT 2 HAVE NO OBVIOUS AREAS OF LAND EROSION, LANDSLIP OR DEGRADATION THAT WOULD REQUIRE ANY SPECIFIC OR SIGNIFICANT CONTROL MEASURES. PLEASE REFER TO THE ACCOMPANYING SHEET FOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES.

**EXISTING ENTRY POINT & ACCESSWAY NOT PART OF THIS APPLICATION NOTE TO USED.**

**NEW ENTRY POINT CONNECTED TO NEW ACCESS WAY.**

APPROX. 500mm SITE CUT REQUIRED AS TO ESTABLISH THE DWELLING.

PRIMARY FIELD CAN BE LOCATED WITHIN THE NOMINATED AREA. THE SELECTED DISPOSAL SYSTEM IS TO BE PLACED ON THE CONTOURS OF THE LAND AND MUST BE SITED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIRED SETBACKS.

151.4 APPROX. FLOOD LEVEL

150.2 APPROX. 500mm FLOOD DEPTH

WATER STORAGE TANK

BOREHOLE 1

BOREHOLE 2

BOREHOLE 3

BOREHOLE 4

PROPOSED BUILDING ENVELOPE

PROPOSED CONSOLIDATION 2.427ha

EXISTING SHED TO BE RETAINED.

EXISTING NATIVE VEGETATION ALONG RIVER FRONTAGE BOUNDARY LINE TO BE RETAINED.

EXISTING VEGETATION TO BE RETAINED.

NOT PART OF THIS APPLICATION.

1% GRADIENT

1% GRADIENT

1% GRADIENT

1% GRADIENT

100m MIN. OFFSET TO HIGH LEVEL WATER MARK

EXISTING VEGETATION TO BE RETAINED.

BURKE STREET

Loddon River

Newbridge Recreation

SITE PLAN  
1:1200

**NOTE:**  
THIS LAND CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT (LCA) HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN UNDER THE PREMISE THAT A 4 BEDROOM ACCOMMODATION BUILDING (DWELLING) COULD BE DEVELOPED UPON EACH LOT CREATED WITH A POTABLE WATER SUPPLY VIA A RETICULATED PROVISION SUPPORTED BY WATER STORAGE TANKS. A FUTURE DWELLING MAY EXPERIENCE AN ESTIMATED COMBINED PEAK DAILY FLOW RATE OF 750L/DAY (4 BEDROOM [+ 1 BEDROOM CODE OF PRACTICE ADDITIONAL ALLOWANCE]) x 150L/DAY FOR RETICULATED SUPPLY AS/NZS 1547:2012 TABLE H1) WITH THE DAILY FLOW RATE FLUCTUATING ANNUALLY.

**DESIGNATED WATER SUPPLY AND RIVER BASIN.**  
NO WATER SUPPLY CATCHMENT LISTED. LODDON RIVER WATER BASIN. ASSESSMENT

**LAND CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT.**  
THIS LAND ASSESSMENT HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CODE OF PRACTICE ONSITE WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT, 891.4, JULY 2016 AND AS/NZS 1547:2012, ON-SITE DOMESTIC WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT.

**MEASURES TO SATISFY CRITERIA.**  
THIS ASSESSMENT CONCLUDES THAT IT IS BOTH ACHIEVABLE AND FEASIBLE FOR AN ON-SITE WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM TO BE ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE. THE FOLLOWING IS RECOMMENDED.

**RECOMMENDATION.**  
SECONDARY TREATMENT TO A 20G/M<sup>3</sup> BOD<sub>5</sub> AND 30G/M<sup>3</sup> TSS STANDARD VIA A 3,000 LITRE MINIMUM CAPACITY (AS/NZ 1547:2012 - TABLE J1: ALL-WASTE SEPTIC TANK OPERATIONAL CAPACITY) AERATED WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM (AWTS) DISPERSED TO A SUITABLY CONSTRUCTED 263.0m<sup>2</sup> LAND APPLICATION AREA WITH PRESSURE COMPENSATING SUB-SURFACE IRRIGATION.

**IRRIGATION SYSTEM CALCULATIONS.**  
TO DETERMINE THE NECESSARY SIZE OF THE LAND APPLICATION (IRRIGATION) AREA THE WATER BALANCE MODELLING TOOL IN THE VICTORIAN LAND CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK (2013) WAS UTILISED AS WAS THE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY (2013), GUIDELINES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT; CODE OF PRACTICE - ONSITE WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT, PUBLICATION 891.4, JULY 2016.  
THE CALCULATIONS USE JUNE AS THE MOST RESTRICTIVE MONTH OF THE YEAR.  
Q x NO. DAYS IN MONTH + (ET - RR + B)  
Q x NO. DAYS IN MONTH + EVAPOTRANSPIRATION (ET) - RETAINED RAINFALL (RR) + PERCOLATION (B)  
750L/DAY x 30 DAYS / (21 - 21.84 + 105) (JUNE)  
22,500 / 104.13 = 216.07m<sup>2</sup>. INDICATED 263.0m<sup>2</sup> MINIMUM AS PER THE ATTACHED V/CAF WATER BALANCE CALCULATIONS. THE WATER BALANCE FIGURES HAVE BEEN USED AS THEY REQUIRE A LARGER DISPERSAL AREA COMPARTED TO THE NITROGEN BALANCE FIGURES.

**AS/NZS 1547:2012 TABLE E1 - E4. ASSESSMENT OF SOIL TEXTURE.**

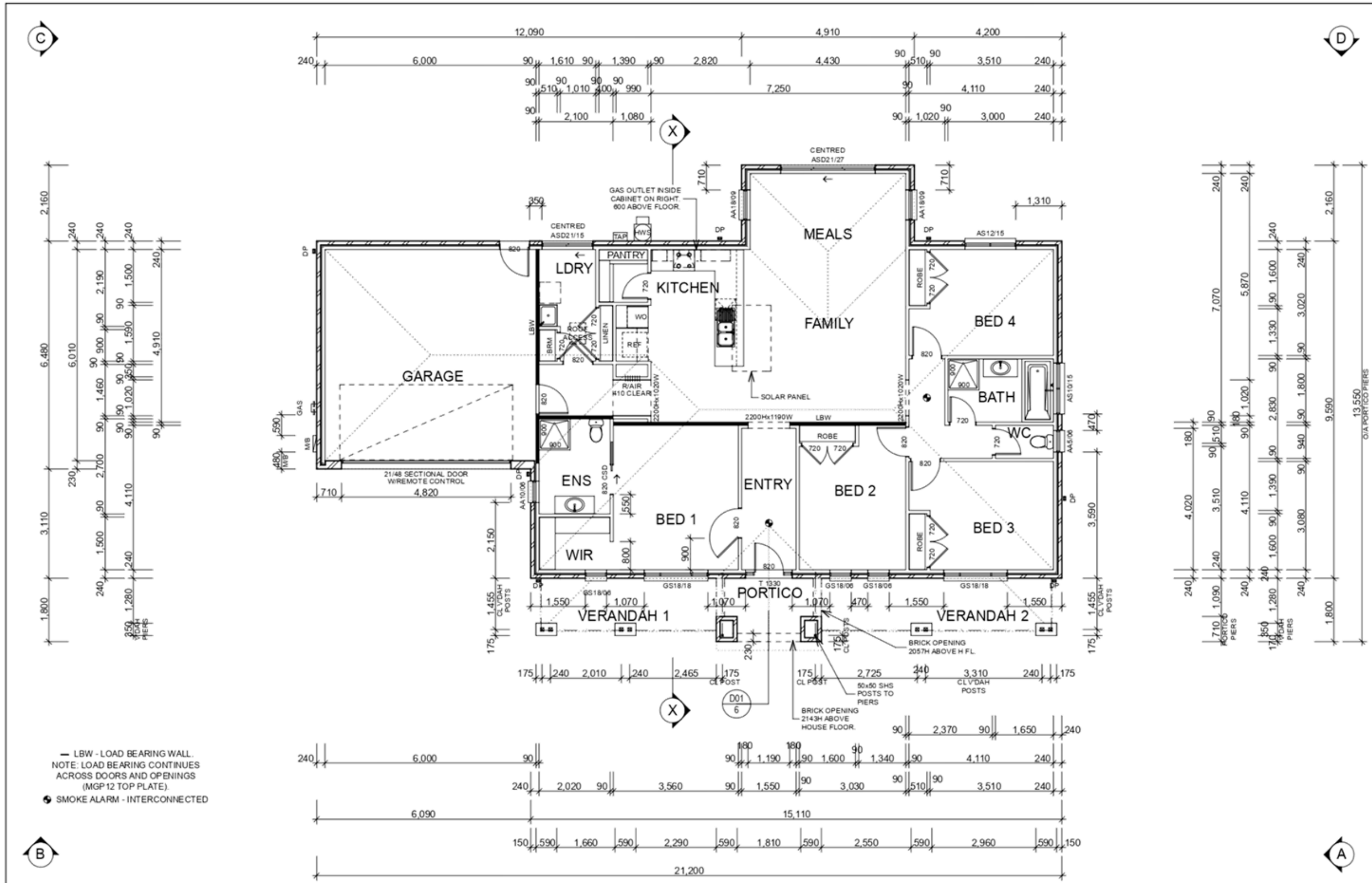
**BORE HOLES.**

- SOIL CATEGORY 4A - CLAY LOAMS (SANDY SILTY CLAY - BROWN) - AS FOR CLAY LOAMS BUT NOT SPONGY; VERY SMOOTH AND SILKY; WILL FORM A RIBBON ABOUT 40-50mm LONG; DRIES OUT RAPIDLY. 2-10% COARSE FRAGMENTS, MODERATE STRUCTURE.
- THE SITE HAS A CONSERVATIVE DETERMINATION OF A SOIL CATEGORY 4A - CLAY LOAMS DUE TO THE GRAVELY SILTY CLAY CONTENT, FRAGMENT % AND MODERATE STRUCTURE. DETERMINED AS A SOIL CATEGORY 4; REFERENCED IT TO CLAY LOAMS UNDER THE GUIDELINES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT; CODE OF PRACTICE - ONSITE WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT, PUBLICATION 891.4, JULY 2016.
- THE SOIL TYPE - CLAY LOAMS IS TAKEN FROM THE GUIDELINES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT; CODE OF PRACTICE - ONSITE WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT, PUBLICATION 891.4, JULY 2016, TABLE 9.
- THE SANDY SILTY CLAY DESCRIBES THE SOIL TYPE IN ACCORDANCE WITH AN ENGINEERING DESCRIPTION.
- RELATES TO ONE OF THE LISTED SOIL CATEGORY IN TABLE E1 OF AS/NZS 1547:2012 - ON-SITE DOMESTIC WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT.

<p><b>SHANE MUIR CONSULTING ENGINEERS</b> 61 POWELLS AVENUE, EAST BENDIGO, 3550 ABN 35 090 257 855 PHONE: (03) 5444 2741 FAX: (03) 5444 2751 EMAIL: admin@smcoe.com.au</p>	CLIENT:		PROJECT:				REVISIONS:			DRAWN:	DWG No.	
	GREG FATHERS		PROPOSED WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM & LAND APPLICATION AREA LAYOUT FOR PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT, 78-80 BURKE STREET (LOT 1, TP585756), NEWBRIDGE.				REV #	DATE	DRAWN	DESCRIPTION	B.L.F.	2001038-LCA
							A	12/08/20	B.L.F.	GENERAL REVISION	S.K.M.	REVISION C2
							B	01/09/20	B.L.F.	REVISED NOTATION AND RECOMMENDATION	SCALE:	
						C	03/02/21	J.T.D.	GENERAL REVISION	@ A3 AS SHOWN		
									DATE:	SHEET:		
									06/09/20	1 of 1		

COPYRIGHT © DO NOT SCALE FROM THIS DRAWING

APPENDIX Z: Proposed floor plan



— LBW - LOAD BEARING WALL.  
NOTE: LOAD BEARING CONTINUES  
ACROSS DOORS AND OPENINGS  
(MGP 12 TOP PLATE).  
● SMOKE ALARM - INTERCONNECTED

<p>www.dennisfamily.com.au ABN 83 056 254 249 VIC REG No. DBU-8230 NSW REG No. NSW-173511C.</p>	SIGNATURE/S This is the drawing referred to in our contract dated / / Owner/s _____ Builder _____	AREA SQM Ground Floor 154.57 Garage 40.40 Verandah2 9.88 Verandah1 7.53 Portico 5.40 TOTAL 217.78	PROPOSED RESIDENCE FOR OWNER _____ ADDRESS _____ MAP REF _____ JOB NO 123456 DRN BB 00/00/00	MODEL <b>NORTHAMPTON 22 PROVINCE</b> L TITLE FLOOR PLAN MST AA 14/05/15 SPEC Aspirations SCALE 1:100 SHEET 3 OF 10
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### APPENDIX 3: Copy of objections

**Sent:** Friday, 23 April 2021 2:29 PM

**Subject:** Re: Planning application 5553 [LOD-LP.URI269732]

Good afternoon Alexandra & Loddon Shire councillors,

Thank you for updating us on the current permit application by Greg Fathers. I can see that he is now intending to build a single four bedroom house on the block that he intends to consolidate. While this addresses my concern regarding easement for our water pipeline that runs through the property, I write today to raise some questions for you to ponder as you address this permit application.

This property is in the  
**FARMING ZONE**  
Purpose:

- To implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.
- To provide for the use of land for agriculture.
- To encourage the retention of productive agricultural land.
- To ensure that non-agricultural uses, including dwellings, do not adversely affect the use of land for agriculture.
- To encourage the retention of employment and population to support rural communities.
- To encourage use and development of land based on comprehensive and sustainable land management practices and infrastructure provision.
- To provide for the use and development of land for the specific purposes identified in a schedule to this zone.



*The FARMING ZONE is a clearly defined area that has been intentionally reserved for farming use within our shire. This block presented great opportunity for small intensive farming operation, with the water allocation readily available from the river. I saw great potential for a new business enterprise to be established here when the property changed hands recently.*

*To date there has been no change to the zoning of this property to open it up for potential residential development.*

*Here are some of the issues I am concerned about that this planning application presents which relate directly to the FARMING ZONE & direct impacts that may be experienced by us/others/future generations as time passes.*

#### *GENERAL*

- How does this application for development relate to sustainable land management? How does dividing a quality 27acre property into many small blocks & building house(s) on it create 'sustainable land management'?*
- The sites where the dwelling is proposed to be built are in areas that were inundated by water in the last significant floods that came through this region. While I was not living here at the time, I have local knowledge via our neighbour that that area was underwater & that the house that we live in was like a little island in a sea of floodwater & debris. Any dwelling that is built in an inundation overlay area would surely need to be elevated off the ground?*
- Is this development compatible with adjoining & nearby land uses? A suburban style home next to a small farm & a historic cottage is potentially incompatible. I would consider that the values & motivations of each party could be vastly different as each is trying to reside in a different setting, though right nearby. How will the proposed dwellings affect the visual amenity of the area? This is a quality parcel of land that is very beautiful.*

#### *AGRICULTURAL*

- I do not see that this proposed development either supports or enhances agricultural production on the land 78-80 Burke Street. There is no mention of any farming operation related to the need to construct a dwelling on either parcel of land.*

- *This proposed development directly removes this quality small farm from agricultural production. The creation of smaller lots is problematic as it is in the farming zone, smaller lots are harder to use for enterprises as they often do not offer enough space.*
- *The impact on soil quality here can be related directly to the establishment of lawns around suburban style homes that demand constant mowing & often chemical inputs that not only affect the quality of the land but are transported through the countryside by water moving through the landscape. Two hectares is unlikely to attract a farming enterprise that will make use of this productive parcel of land & this area will need constant maintenance.*

#### DWELLING

- *The proposed development removes a significant proportion of land from the main property area, thus potentially removing it from agricultural production. I can see that this land offers great opportunity for a small intensive farming enterprise, given its proximity to the Loddon River & could be a real showcase for the town.*
- *This development definitely has the potential to set a precedent for proliferation of planning applications in the area, potentially even within the same main parcel of land.*
- *Approval of this dwelling would obviously remove the land in the development area from agricultural production altogether.*
- *The proposed dwelling has the potential to directly impact the visual amenity of the land in the farming zone.*
- *It is my understanding that the lot that a dwelling is being established on in a farming zone must be at least 40 hectares. That said, I believe some councils allow people to apply for dwellings on smaller allotments, should they have reason to maintain smaller intensive agricultural operations.*

#### ENVIRONMENTAL

- *I have spent a lot of time on the river nearby the proposed area &*

*have spent time with pelicans, kingfishers, whistlers, black ducks, swamphens, parrots of many types & also rare birds such as babblers. There were wallabies living along that section of the river, prior to the sale of this property & the clearing of vegetation. I am concerned that more domestic traffic, including the possibility of cats as pets in this area could further affect the movements & habitat of the local species.*

#### *DESIGN*

- *The proposed dwellings may likely contribute to further light pollution in the area that is already being experienced through the clearing of vegetation on the river letting bright light from the recreation buildings through during the night.*

*Some questions.*

- *How does the proposed dwelling enhance the landscape or agricultural opportunities of the area?*
- *How much development is intended on this property?*
- *The visual amenity of this property directly impacts residents here as we are elevated & look over the land. The view down to the river was particularly beautiful before the land was sold.*
- *I am concerned that should there be a dwelling right across from our property that our dog will be barking constantly.*

Thank you for your time today, while I am not lodging a formal objection today, I do wish to raise these concerns at this point, as I would for any other development I became made aware of. I feel that this region offers great opportunities for young people to get into small intensive farming operations, should the opportunity to purchase quality land & establish operations be still attainable, financially & within reasonable distance of regional centres. The Loddon Shire - Newbridge, has easy access to Bendigo, Castlemaine & Maryborough for sales opportunities & servicing. Developing quality parcels of land into residential housing does not make sense in the long term & I would like to invite you to consider the points raised today.

Best regards,

--

**Sent:** Monday, 10 May 2021 9:13 AM

**Subject:** RE: Planning application 5553 [LOD-LP.URI269732]

Dear Alexandra,

Thanks for being in touch again. I have given the matter some thought & I do actually object to this application. I would like all of the points I have raised to be considered as per my previous communications & would state that the items that directly affect us are;

- Residential development on piece of quality farmland adjoining farming zone invites conflict with differing neighbouring aspirations for life
- Visual amenity from our property will be directly impacted from kitchen window
- Barking dog
- Light pollution at night
- Further deterioration of water quality to Loddon River
- Possible introduction of pets such as cats into the area reduces the local wildlife population
- The opening up of adjoining land for further development as a possibility following this application being granted

We have invested significantly in our property at 94 Burke Street & additionally to our water connection at the Loddon River with recent power upgrades (that runs through the property that Mr Fathers seeks to develop). We chose to settle here & raise our family in

this historic property (former Doctors consulting establishment of Newbridge) for the following reasons;

- Availability of water from the Loddon River for our market garden operation & stock on farm
- Ability to farm on a small scale & direct market to consumers in the local region
- Beautiful views on all sides, including to the south where we view the historic cottage owned by Daryl & Beryl at the General Store being restored currently & the night sky
- Farming zone
- Access to the Loddon River for swimming & recreation

Since the property has been acquired we have observed significant clearing of vegetation along the river which now lets a large amount of light through to our property at night from the Recreation Reserve that never seems to have its lights switched off. One of the lots has been sold to a couple who have a permanent camp set up on the river that also was lit up very brightly when they were residing there until recently. I appreciate living in this part of the country for the beauty of our landscape, the water flowing in our neglected, yet hugely important Loddon River, the wildlife that it is home to & my ability to farm with my young family, sharing production that we achieve. Access to the river is now denied with a lock on a **public road** that runs through the property & A "Trespassers Prosecuted" sign. This road used to be often mowed voluntarily by our neighbour across the road as he also liked to walk down to the river there to walk his dog.

Further development of this property into residential housing blocks directly affects us & also future generations as the land is taken out of agricultural production. This is a quality parcel of land that needs protection from development. So yes, I do object to the proposed planning application & I apologise for any confusion I may have caused with my prior message.

Please use my prior communications & the points I have raised there regarding the farming zone as I have not included here due to duplicate points already being raised in two prior communications regarding the developer's intentions next door.

If you are willing, I invite you to visit our property to view how the proposed development will affect us & further discuss my points raised.

Yours faithfully,

PAGE  
1  
OF  
4

## REGARDING PLANNING ~~APP~~ APPLICATION 5553

I HAVE ACQUIRED A PROPERTY AT  
FOR LIVING, RETIRE AND TO GROW BAMBOO TO EAT-SELL + SELECTIVE SHEEP BREED

AND I WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT OR LED TO BELIEVE THAT  
I AM IN A ZONED FARMING AREA ON WHICH YOU HAD TO ESTABLISH  
A PRODUCTIVE BUSINESS BEFORE RESIDENTS COULD BE ESTABLISHED

AND THIS AREA OF ZONED FARMING WOULD NOT BE SUBJECTED  
TO DEVELOPERS FOR ANOTHER 15 TO 20-YEARS  
BUT AFTER SEEING THE PLANS FOR THE PROPOSED BUILDINGS  
THAT IS IN QUESTION

MY LIST OF CONCERNS OR REQUESTS

### 1. DEVELOPMENT-

WITH 2 HOUSES FACING EACH OTHER AND THE  
2 DRIVEWAYS - NEW ENTRY POINTS LINE UP WITH PARKER ST  
ACROSS BURKE ST. THAT IT MAY BE A CONCERN THAT MORE  
DEVELOPMENT MAY BE AT HAND - CARRIED OUT IN THE NEXT 20 YEARS;  
AT 78 TO 80 BURKE ST. IF 2 HOUSES ARE APPROVED  
KNOWING THAT ESTATES - (HOUSING ESTATES) IN BENDIGO  
LEAVE A 50 MT CLEAR WAY - FOR ROAD - FOOT PATHS AND EASEMENT  
AND KNOWING THAT GREG FATHERS (OWNER OF 78-80 BURKE ST)  
IS A PROPERTY CONSULTANT THAT HE MAY BE PLANNING TO DEVELOP  
MORE OF 78-79 IN THE NEAR FUTURE SINCE THAT HE HAS LEFT  
A 50 MT CLEARANCE BETWEEN THE 2 HOUSES THAT IN LINE  
WITH PARKER ST.

WE ARE WORRY'D THAT THEY MAY DEVELOP MORE - OR ABUSE  
THE AREA MORE - AFTER BURNING GREEN WOOD FOR 3 DAYS ON CLEAN UP  
AS FOR MY NEIGHBOUR AT 85 + MYSELF WE PLAN ORGANIC GARDENING  
AND BASIC LIVESTOCK

PADDIC  
2 OF 4

2. MAIN CONCERNS = HORBISIDE'S + BINDY-EYE > WEED  
NOT RELATED TO DEVELOPMENT BUT IT IS A CONCERN

THEY HAVE ALREADY SPRAY'D 2 HECTARES OF PADDIC WITH ROUND UP > HORBISIDE  
COVERING A HOLE PADDIC NEXT TO MY NABOUR. WITCH I HAVE AGREED TO  
USE LESS IN AVERAGE USE ROUND-UP AROUND MINE AND THEIR PADDIC'S -  
BUT THE PEOPLE CAMPING AT 80 BURKE ST CONNECTED TO 78  
HAVE SPRAY'D AT THE WRONG TIME OF YEAR.

THERE IS A INFESTATION OF BINDY EYE IN NEWBRIDGE -  
AND ON THEIR PROPERTY AND NOW THERE IS NO GROWTH (GREEN)  
TO SUFFERCATE THE BINDY-EYE SO IT CAN THRIVE AND SPRED  
NEWBRIDGE TOWN IS ALREADY INFESTED WITH BINDY EYE  
AND AT THE TOP OF BURKE ST WE HAVE BEEN HAND PLUCKIN - REMOVE  
IT FROM OUR EASMENT - NATURE STRIP + PADDIC'S - AND CHECKIN OUR BOX  
+ CARTERS

THIS IS A MAIN CONSERN OVER SUMMER

ANY THING YOU CAN DO IS APPRECIATED. "THANK YOU"

3. FENCEING AND ROAD EASMENT : 1

COUNCIL-GOVERMENT RESERVED LAND. NEEDS TO BE LOOK'D AT

THE NEW OWENERS AT 80 BURKE WITCH ARE ARE CONNECTED TO 78 BURKE  
HAVE MOVED AND PLACED A NEW CORNER GATE STAY-POST IN CONCRETE  
INTO A DIFFERENT LOCATION FOR A LARGER GATE. ON THE OLD FENCE LINE  
THIS LOCATION IS ON GOVERNMENT ROAD EASMENT, THE GATE NOW SWING  
WITH IN 1.5 OF THE BITUMEN ROAD WITCH MAY EFFECT ON COMMING TRAFIC  
THIS GATE IS CONSTANTY LEFT OPEN WITHIN 1.5 MT OF THE SINGLE LANE ROAD  
THE PROBLEMS WE HAVE WITH THE EASMENT > CLEAR WAY ARE  
A DAILY MILK TANKER, HEAVY MACHINERY, WITH CARS TRAVELING A HIGH SPEED  
LIVE STOCK CROSSING, AND NOW NEW YOUNG CHILDREN AT PLAY -  
- ALL WITH IN 200 MT'S OF THEIR OLD FENCE LINE WITCH IS  
RESERVED FOR A COUNCIL-GOVERMENT INFRASTRUCTURE (CLEARWAY, EASMENT, RESERVE)  
THIS MEANS THAT IT LOOKS LIKE THEY PLAN TO BUILD A NEW FENCE  
THAT IS ON A RESERVE  
THAT IS REQUIRED FOR A FUTURE CLEAR WAY - POSSIBLE TREES OR SEWERAGE

17/6/21  
3 of 4

### 3. FENCEING AND ROAD EASMENT — CONTINUED : 2 COUNCIL — GOVERNMENT RESERVED LAND — NEED'S TO BE LOOK'D,

NABOURING PROPERTY'S WOULD LIKE TO SEE THAT THE RESERVE —  
AT THE SOUTH END OF BURKE ST BE CONTINUED ALONG BURKE ST  
AND THE CURRENT FENCE BE RMV'D OR KEEP AS A TEMPORARY FENCE  
THAT NO NEW CONCRETE BE USED ON ANY OF THE FENCE LINE  
THAT IS CURRENTLY ON GOVERNMENT RESERVE, AS IT WILL COST MORE TO REM.  
OTHER NABOUR'S AND MYSELF WOULD LIKE TO SEE THAT NEW FENCE  
BE PLACED ON 78-80 BURKE ST BOUNDRIES (ETC: ACTUAL PROPERTY LINE)  
SO THAT THE BURKE ST RESERVE TREE PLANTING CAN CONTINUE  
ALONG THE ENTIRE BURKE ST STRIP-ROAD SIDE "THANK YOU"

### 4. LIGHTING DIRECTED AT NABOURING PROPERTY'S

CURRENTLY I HAVE PROBLEMS WITH NABOUR'S AT NEWBRIDGE  
AND SPOT LIGHTS AT MY MOTHER'S IN BENDIGO

I RESIDE 3 TO 4 DAYS IN BENDIGO CAREING FOR MY MOTHER AND WE HAVE HAD  
A NEW NABOUR INSTAL A LED SPOT LIGHT ON A 2 STORY HOUSE UP HIGH  
DIRECTED AT HER HOUSE, OPACIT? HER FRONT DOOR, AND SHINES ON  
AND THRO ALL FRONT WINDOW'S — LOUNGE — BEDROOM — AND IN YOUR EYES —  
— WHEN YOU OPEN THE FRONT DOOR. INSTALL'D BY A ELECTRICIAN  
I HAVE SPOK'N TO HIM AND HE TRY'D TO TURN IT DOWN BUT AT 2 STORY'S  
HIGH IT STILL SHINES THRO OUR WINDOW'S

NOW I HAVE TO REQUEST HIM TO MOVE IT TO A DIFFRENT SPOT  
BYE A ELECTRICIAN SEE THAT IT IS PERMENTLY MOUNTED "SAD"

AS FOR NEWBRIDGE  
PLEASE READ ON —



<sup>1 FILE</sup>  
4 OF 4 4. LIGHTING DIRECTED AT NABOURING PROPERTY'S

AS FOR LIGHTING AT NEWBRIDGE  
BEHIND MY PROPERTY AT BURKE ST I HAVE A NABOUR WITH  
A SPOT LIGHT SHINEING ON MY HOUSE MAIN WINDOWS AND THROUGH  
FROM BEHIND ACROSS 3 PADDIC'S AND PARKER ST  
I CAN SEE MY SHADOW ON MY HOUSE AND IT IS IN MY EYE'S WHEN  
WALKING DOWN MY BACK YARD ETC (TO CHECK ON THE SHEEP AT NIGHT)  
I HAVE SPOKEN TO HIM ABOUT IT (HE SAID HE LOWER'D IT) BUT  
HE ~~KEEPS~~ IT ON 24 HRS TO PROTECT HIS CHICKENS FROM FOXES.  
ON A FOGY-MISTY NIGHT THE LIGHT IS MORE LUMENS - BRIGHTER

"SAD"  
"ANGRY"

SO IF THE DEVELOPMENT GOES AHEAD  
DO NOT ALLOW THEM TO FACE SPOT LIGHTS TOWARDS -  
- IN THE DIRECTION OF ANY NABOURING PROPERTY'S - OR HOUSE'S -

THANK YOU FOR READING THIS  
AND CONSIDERING OUR AND MY CONCERN'S

20-10-2020

**10.2 SKINNERS FLAT RESERVOIR MASTER PLAN**

**File Number:** FOL/21/846  
**Author:** Lynne Habner, Manager Executive and Commercial Services  
**Authoriser:** Phil Pinyon, Chief Executive Officer  
**Attachments:** 1. Draft Skidders Flat Reservoir Master Plan

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receive and note the Skidders Flat Reservoir Master Plan, and:

- (a) pay particular attention to the pre-conditions that will influence a future Council decision about implementation of any of the options or actions contained in the Master Plan
- (b) communicate with key stakeholders and the community to advise Council's decision to note rather than implement the Master Plan immediately, due to (a).

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

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

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

Council Officer, Grant Banks, gave a presentation of an overview of the first draft of the Skidders Flat Reservoir Master Plan at the May 2021 Council Forum.

The Forum noted that the dam wall will need to be addressed to ensure safety of the reservoir, and were advised that more work will be required for designing the structural works in the next financial year, and then funding will need to be pursued for the repair works.

The time needed to do this work will mean that the master plan actions will not be undertaken for some time. The need for securing a permanent water supply was also raised as an issue that would need to be addressed in order for the actions to be undertaken.

Consideration was given to whether the master plan should be held over (and not adopted by Council) until the dam wall works and the security of water is resolved, to help in managing community expectations about when the recommendations would be implemented by Council.

The Forum discussion concluded that no works should be implemented until Council is able to decide on an option.

This report recommends that Council simply receive and note the master plan, and clearly sets out the conditions that would need to be met before implementation of the actions could occur. This information is also included in a foreword to the Master Plan so that stakeholders are clear about these conditions.

**BACKGROUND**

A master plan for Skidders Flat Reservoir was developed to provide the Wedderburn community and visitors with greater access to outdoor recreation activities and to address issues around ad hoc development and lack of maintenance of the asset.

This need was identified in Wedderburn's Community Plan and contributes to Council's strategic objective to "support development of a prosperous and diverse economy". In doing so, this master plan will provide direction for future recreation activities, amenities and infrastructure improvements, as well as options for the delegation of management under the Local Government Act 2020.

**ISSUES/DISCUSSION**

Council is asked to receive and note the Skinners Flat Reservoir Master Plan, and:

1. In noting the content of the Skinners Flat Reservoir Master Plan, pay particular attention to pre-conditions that will influence a future Council decision about implementation of any of the options or actions contained in the Master Plan, namely:
  - (a) completion of the Skinners Flat Dam Safety Upgrade engineering report and likely extensive works on the Reservoir wall that will take significant time to complete
  - (b) that as a result of 1(a) it is possible the Reservoir will have a significantly lower water capacity than previously seen, resulting in limitations on activities
  - (c) confirmation of a secure and affordable water supply to allow suitable water levels to be maintained in the Reservoir.
2. Note the extensive community engagement that was achieved in the development of the Master Plan and the efforts of Council's Strategic Plan Writer in documenting the Master Plan.
3. Communicate with key stakeholders and the community to advise of Council's decision in 1(a), (b) and (c) above, acknowledging that implementation of the Master Plan will take some time to complete.

**COST/BENEFITS**

There is no direct cost to Council of receiving and noting this Master Plan. Future actions would be costed when more detailed project plans are developed following the completion of the Skinners Flat Dam Safety Upgrade.

**RISK ANALYSIS**

There is a risk that community and stakeholder engagement from this Master Plan has raised expectations within the community that progress will be made immediately towards the implementation of this plan. Factors detailed in 1(a), (b) and (c) above must be communicated with key stakeholders and the community to help set realistic expectations.

**CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

Extensive community and stakeholder engagement was the main input for the Master Plan. Further communication is recommended above following Council receiving and noting this Master Plan.

# SKINNERS FLAT RESERVOIR MASTER PLAN



**LODDON**  
SHIRE

## DOCUMENT INFORMATION

DOCUMENT TYPE:	Strategic document
DOCUMENT STATUS:	Draft
POLICY OWNER POSITION:	Strategic Plan Writer
INTERNAL COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT:	Not applicable
APPROVED BY:	Council
DATE ADOPTED:	<a href="#">Click here to enter date of approval</a>
VERSION NUMBER:	1
REVIEW DATE:	<a href="#">Click here to enter a date.</a>
DATE RESCINDED:	
RELATED STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS, POLICIES OR PROCEDURES:	Council Plan Wedderburn Community Plan Recreation Strategy Activating Open Space Strategy Risk Management Policy Community Engagement Policy
RELATED LEGISLATION:	Local Government Act 2020 Water Act 1989 Marine Safety Act 2010
EVIDENCE OF APPROVAL:	

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Signed by Chief Executive Officer

FILE LOCATION: DOC/21/42486

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**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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## FOREWORD

Due to influencing factors, the recommendations and actions outlined in the Skinners Flat Reservoir Master Plan (this plan) are to be noted with these pre-conditions in mind.

It should be noted that:

- the completion of the Skinners Flat Dam Safety Upgrade engineering report and likely extensive works on the Reservoir wall will take a significant time to complete
- a possible outcome of the Skinners Flat Dam Safety Upgrade could be a significantly lower water capacity than previously seen, resulting in limitations on activities
- any development for recreation will be dependent on confirmation of a secure and affordable water supply to allow suitable water levels to be maintained in the Reservoir
- Council will not be able to make a decision about what and when recommendations and actions from the Master Plan will be implemented until outcomes of the above conditions are known.

Given the extensive interest in the project, shown by the considerable response to community and stakeholder engagement efforts, it is important to acknowledge and communicate that implementation of the Master Plan will take some time to complete and that the resulting actions will be determined by the above noted influencing factors.



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Loddon Shire Council seeks to develop a Master Plan for Skinners Flat Reservoir to provide the Wedderburn community and visitors with greater access to outdoor recreation activities and to address issues around ad hoc development and lack of maintenance of the asset. This need was identified in Wedderburn's Community Plan and contributes to Council's strategic objective to "support development of a prosperous and diverse economy". In doing so, this Master Plan will provide direction for future recreation activities, amenities and infrastructure improvements, as well as options for the delegation of management under the Local Government Act 2020.

Through deliberative engagement with stakeholders including but not limited to, private landholders at the site, local community groups and residents, Loddon Shire Council staff, DELWP, Parks Victoria, Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water and Dja Dja Wurrung, this Master Plan has been developed.

Council owns the majority of the land on which the Reservoir is located and is likely to have an ongoing role relating to development of facilities, and the delegation of maintenance and management of the area.

Skinners Flat Reservoir is a location that locals and small numbers of visitors currently visit for recreation with limited infrastructure. An issue in recent years has been the consistently low water level, making many recreation activities impossible. An inflow from the South West Loddon Pipeline has been constructed to allow filling of the Reservoir with recreational water and negotiations are underway with Coliban Water and Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water to secure consistent water inflows.

It has also been identified that some of the dam infrastructure may be failing, and is likely to require significant works to enable a consistent volume of water to be held in the Reservoir in future. These works will be the subject of a separate review, the Skinners Flat Dam Safety Upgrade, running in parallel with this Master Plan.

Individual community groups have expressed different ideas of how Skinners Flat Reservoir should be developed. Both active and passive recreation activities have been suggested and are investigated herein.

There is potential for this site to create nature based tourism experiences, which could attract tourism and increase jobs for the wider local economy. Many stakeholders and community members feel that this value is not compatible with developing the site for active recreation.

A considerable number of Wedderburn residents and the Friends of Skinners Flat group view the Reservoir as a place for locals to enjoy and are especially motivated to see water skiing return to the site.

As a result of the polarised views of the community, this Master Plan outlines two options for future development for Council to consider:

1. active and passive recreation co-existing, with strictly limited numbers of water skiers allowed over the summer months
2. passive recreation only, focussing on Wedderburn's emergent position as a premier birdwatching destination for tourism in Victoria

This Master Plan provides direction for the future development of the Reservoir and aims to assist in obtaining external funding to implement the plan.

## 1 PURPOSE

This strategic document aims to provide a Master Plan for Skinners Flat Reservoir. Through stakeholder engagement, the Master Plan identifies two future options for recreation, outlines the amenities and infrastructure required to deliver these options, and provides options for a management structure for further consideration.

Skinners Flat Reservoir is currently a location where locals and small numbers of visitors congregate for recreational activities with limited infrastructure. It has been identified in Wedderburn's Community Plan as an area to be developed in the future.

Individual community groups have expressed different ideas of how Skinners Flat Reservoir should be developed. Through stakeholder engagement, these groups and the Wedderburn community have provided input into the Master Plan as detailed in Section 6 of this report.

Potential recreational activities have been examined through a process of community engagement, with options for passive and active recreation put forward. Infrastructure elements for recreation are outlined in the recommendations and actions of this Master Plan in Section 7.

This Master Plan will assist in obtaining external funding to implement the plan in the future, as all actions will be dependent on the outcomes of a structural audit of the embankment currently underway that fall outside the scope of this Master Plan. It may also be used to seek funding to undertake the Skinners Flat Dam Safety Upgrade works.

## 2 BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Costing of the actions in this Master Plan are indicative only and all actions will require more up-to-date and detailed costing closer to implementation. The best efforts were made to provide costing for each action based on similar projects both in Loddon Shire and surrounding shires, from online sources and verbal quotes, as well as through consultation with Loddon Shire staff.

The cost to Council may be reduced, dependent on Council's success in attracting external grants or contributions towards identified actions listed within the strategy.

As there will be a lag time between noting this document's and implementation of its recommendations due to the timeframe for the Skinners Flat Dam Safety Upgrade works that must be completed before this plan is actioned, more accurate costing cannot reliably be provided.

For the above reason, potential funding sources are also indicative only, as current external funding streams will likely no longer be available at the time of implementation. Council will be required to identify potential funding sources to support the implementation / delivery of actions in preparation for implementation.

### 3 RISK ANALYSIS

Risk management is an integral part of good management practice and design. While this Master Plan aims to identify the potential risk of the recreation activities and amenities improvements recommended, a risk management plan should be produced prior to implementing actions from this Master Plan. Commitment to risk management will assist in keeping risk exposure to a minimum and help reduce injuries and potential loss.

A risk assessment of the recommendations from this Master Plan identified five main risk areas:

1. Time lapse between adoption and implementation
2. Dam safety audit factors
3. Water supply
4. Project delivery risks
5. Ongoing factors including management, maintenance and injury to users

The tables<sup>1</sup> below outline the risk framework applied in the process of identifying and calculating risk in this project.

**Table 1: Risk management table of consequence criteria**

		Consequence criteria				
		1 – Insignificant	2 – Minor	3 – Moderate	4 – Major	5 – Catastrophic
		<b>Overall Rating</b>				
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)

**Table 2: Risk management likelihood criteria**

Likelihood Criteria				
A – Almost Certain	B – Likely	C – Possible	D – Unlikely	E – Rare
Consequence could occur within days or weeks	Consequence could occur within weeks to months	Consequence could occur within months to years	Consequence could occur within years to decades	Consequence is considered a 100-year event
Consequence is expected to occur in most circumstances	Consequence will probably occur in most circumstances	Consequence may occur but there is a distinct possibility that it won't occur	Consequence may occur but is not anticipated	Consequence would only occur in exceptional circumstances
There is a greater than 90% chance of it occurring within the next year	There is a greater than 50% chance of it occurring within the next year	There is a greater than 20% chance of it occurring within the next year	There is a greater than 5% chance of it occurring within the next year	Consequence is exceptionally unlikely event in the very long term

<sup>1</sup> Risk Management Policy, Loddon Shire Council, 2019  
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Table 3: Risk identification

Risk category refer note above	Risk description	Consequence	Likelihood	Risk rating	Mitigation strategy What actions can Council undertake to limit this risk?
Time lapse between adoption and implementation	Stakeholder willingness to manage and maintain asset	Major	Unlikely	Medium (14)	Ensure engagement with key stakeholders continues. Clearly define terms of management and maintenance delegation.
Time lapse between adoption and implementation	Community expectation for immediate action	Insignificant	Almost certain	Medium (11)	Ensure clear and ongoing communication with key stakeholders and community.
Time lapse between adoption and implementation	Changes in or lack of funding streams	Major	Rare	Medium (10)	Ensure sufficient time and resources are directed towards researching and securing funding in lead up to implementation.
Time lapse between adoption and implementation	Change in local sentiment towards chosen recreation options	Moderate	Rare	Low (6)	Steps to mitigate might include reassessing options recommended by the plan and choosing to proceed with another option.
Dam safety audit factors	Dam survey resulting in significantly lower water levels allowed	Major	Possible	High (18)	A review of options recommended in this plan. Passive recreation only possible.
Dam safety audit factors	Funding for dam safety engineering works unavailable	Moderate	Rare	Low (6)	Delay in engineering works would delay implementation of this plan, creating further time lapse. Continue to seek funding for engineering works.
Water supply	Agreement on supply of affordable recreational water not achieved	Major	Unlikely	Medium (14)	Continued negotiation with water authorities for access to affordable recreational water.

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Risk category refer note above	Risk description	Consequence	Likelihood	Risk rating	Mitigation strategy What actions can Council undertake to limit this risk?
Water supply	Increase in price of water due to drought or other external factors	Major	Unlikely	Medium (14)	Continued negotiation with water authorities for access to affordable recreational water.
Project delivery	Loss of agency stakeholder support	Moderate	Rare	Low (6)	Continued communication with agency stakeholders
Project delivery	Council capacity in works schedule insufficient for timely delivery	Moderate	Likely	High (17)	Factor external project management and construction into budget for actions.
Project delivery	Funding for recommendations unavailable	Moderate	Unlikely	Medium (9)	Monitor funding streams in lead-up to implementation.
Ongoing	Asset maintenance not sufficient	Moderate	Unlikely	Medium (9)	Develop a maintenance plan in consultation with the Community Asset Committee or delegated management committee and fund annually.
Ongoing	User injury – both due to provided infrastructure and passive recreation	Moderate	Almost certain	High (20)	Reasonable action must be taken to eliminate injury risks for recreation users through design of infrastructure, recreation zoning and signage. Sufficient public liability insurance required.

Based on Council's risk matrix there are a range of risk ratings identified above. For each a mitigation strategy has been outlined as per Council policy.

To alleviate these risks, Council's policy suggests to reasonable steps to mitigate the risk. A risk management plan should be included in the design and project planning for future infrastructure and amenities improvements as actioned from this Master Plan.

#### 4 PROJECT DRIVERS

This project contributes to Council's strategic objective: "Support development of a prosperous and diverse economy" under the Strategy Economic Infrastructure of the Council Plan. The Council Plan outlines Strategic Themes and Objectives necessary for Loddon Shire Council to achieve its vision and mission over the years 2017-2021.

Three of the five Strategic Themes and Objectives are potentially contributed to by developing Skinners Flat Reservoir for recreation. These are:

- **Population** - Grow and invigorate Loddon's population
- **Economic** - Support development of a prosperous and diverse economy
- **Liveability** - Develop attractive, vibrant and well-serviced communities

Restoration of the Reservoir's embankment is also required to meet Council's responsibilities under the Water Act in accordance with ANCOLD (Australian National Committee on Large Dams). While the Skinners Flat Dam Safety Upgrade engineering survey currently underway falls outside of scope of this Master Plan, returning the Reservoir to previous water capacity is a key driver for Council to consider developing the asset for recreation.

Community interest in restoring the Reservoir to a place for outdoor recreation is also a key driver for this project as reflected in the strong participation in engagement activities. With a possibility of securing permanent water for the Reservoir, community interest is likely to grow.

## 5 ASSUMPTIONS

### 5.1 Dam wall upgrade

Future use of the asset as a place for recreation is dependent on the Skinners Flat Dam Safety Upgrade report and possible restoration of the dam embankment due to Council's responsibilities under the Water Act in accordance with ANCOLD (Australian National Committee on Large Dams) guidelines and this is a separate issue to the Master Plan. This activity began before the production of this Master Plan and both projects are happening concurrently.

A key assumption of the Master Plan is that all conditions set by ANCOLD are met before recommendations are actioned. The outcomes of the safety audit, most notably the allowed water capacity and dam embankment height, will have a direct impact on which option from this Master Plan can be implemented. Active recreation, in particular water skiing, will be reliant on the water height of the Reservoir being sufficient for this activity to be safe and allowing enough area for safe navigation. Early indications from the Skinners Flat Dam Safety Upgrade investigations are that it is possible a lower water capacity will be required, and it is improbable that a higher water capacity will be permitted by ANCOLD. A desire to increase Reservoir capacity to allow for active recreation would need to consider the potential for water level encroachment on neighbouring residents' property.

Any structural works on the embankment and spillway would be subject to a works licence from Goulbourn Murray Water to complete the safety works and Vegetation removal permits from DELWP (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning) as well as significant external funding including from the Victorian Government's Water for Victoria scheme.

Another key consideration is the timeline for the engineering report and subsequent works. Estimates of these are as follows:

- Hydrology, dambreak assessments, recommendations and concept upgrade costs to be completed by June 2021
- Full design working drawings and estimates completed by February 2022
- Seek funding streams for upgrade; timeline unknown, however cost of upgrading the Reservoir will likely be in excess of one million dollars and this will be the biggest impediment to progression
- Dam works would take approximately 12 months for construction from successfully securing funding

This timeline estimates the earliest completion of the dam infrastructure upgrade, subject to availability of funding, being in 2023, after which actions from this Master Plan could be commenced (again, subject to funding availability), given the reliance on water level for many of the actions to be successful. Given the uncertainty around a timeline for funding for the upgrade, it is possible these works could be significantly later.

### 5.2 Securing consistent water supply

An inflow from the South West Loddon Pipeline has been constructed to allow filling of the Reservoir with recreational water. For the best outcome for the project a maintained water level is required. Negotiation with water institutions to secure the estimated 200 megalitres of recreational water per annum required to keep the Reservoir full is currently underway.

Structural reinforcement work as outlined in section 5.1 will be required in order to maintain a sufficient water level to allow for active recreation activities. Passive recreation will also benefit from a maintained water level, however this could be at a lower level.



### 5.3 Project funding

Due to the lengthy timeline for structural works outlined in section 5.1, it is anticipated that any funding streams currently available may no longer be available when recommendations from the Master Plan are ready to be actioned. An assumption is that similar funding streams will become available closer to implementation. For this reason, any funding sources identified herein are indicative only.

Also, due to the time lag between adoption and implementation of the actions in this Master Plan, all costing contained herein is indicative only.

Consideration of any recommendations from this Master Plan must also align with Council's capacity for delivery, project management, resources and funding.

### 5.4 Delegation of management and maintenance

A key assumption for the implementation of this Master Plan is that the current interest registered by key local stakeholders to manage and maintain the asset under delegation by Council to a Community Asset Committee (CAC) will continue into the future. This assumption takes into account the lag time between the Master Plan being adopted by Council and recommendations of the plan being implemented, a period that could span three or more years.

It is recommended that communications with key stakeholders is maintained throughout the lifetime of this project including the Skinners Flat Dam Safety Upgrade.

The formulation of a CAC may be dependent on which recreational activities are able to proceed due to the outcomes of the dam safety works and decisions made by Council around passive and active recreation. This is especially a factor as due to the polarised views of key stakeholders that have indicated they are willing to help form the CAC.

## 6 STAKEHOLDER AND COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Community and stakeholder engagement efforts of this project aimed to identify the priorities for recreation activities, amenities improvements and establishing a Community Asset Committee (CAC) for Skinners Flat Reservoir. The findings of the engagement report<sup>2</sup> form the basis of this Master Plan.

Engagement focused on stakeholders directly involved with Skinners Flat Reservoir, neighbouring residents, the Wedderburn community, and active community groups from the nearby town of Wedderburn. Engagement efforts ran throughout March 2021.

It was essential to utilise a range of engagement methods to facilitate the widest possible participation. Local community networks and internal council staff were involved in identifying community stakeholders, their particular interests and needs and how best to engage with them.

Several key themes emerged through this engagement effort. They are summarised below:

- There is a divide in opinion around water skiing and the importance of birdwatching.
- This polarisation of opinion saw passive activities such as birdwatching identified as being incompatible with water skiing by both extremes of opinion, however a moderate majority cohort would be happy for passive and active recreation to co-exist in some form if planned for and managed.
- Key stakeholders of Wedderburn Tourism and Lions Club of Wedderburn see passive recreation focussed on birdwatching adds to Loddon's positioning as an outdoors and nature destination with the current public art project in Wedderburn focussing on birdlife.
- Guaranteed water level was universally seen as important.
- Improved amenities are wanted, including toilets, improved barbecues and picnicking facilities such as tables.
- Camping should continue however could be moved to the southern side of the embankment with the creation of new amenities and improved access.
- There is a desire to 'reclaim the heyday' of Skinners Flat for both locals and tourists to enjoy.

### 6.1 Key stakeholder groups

Engagement efforts included meeting with key community stakeholder groups in Wedderburn. These included:

- Friends of Skinners Flat
- Wedderburn Development Association (WDA)
- Wedderburn Tourism
- Lions Club of Wedderburn

Each group was presented with key project information, background on the engineering review currently underway that is out of scope for this project, detailed information on options for establishing a committee of management, provided an opportunity to ask questions, and requested to make a detailed submission.

Below are the main outcomes from each of these stakeholder meetings.

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<sup>2</sup> Skinners Flat Reservoir Master Plan Engagement Report, Loddon Shire Council (internal document DOC/21/33441)  
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#### 6.1.1 Friends of Skinners Flat (FoSKF)

Members of the FoSKF came to an agreement that having a defined 'ski season' over the warmer months would be a good compromise between active and passive recreation, with no skiing allowed outside of this season.

The group also thought that having an 'active zone' and 'passive zone' whereby swimmers, kayakers, stand-up paddle boarders (SUP), etc. could safely use the shallow water area to the west of the island, keeping (in season) the water ski area limited to the deeper water with a 'turn around zone' using the island as a navigation reference.

A suggestion was also made (by FoSKF) to move the overnight camping to the southern side of the Reservoir, providing access on the track below the embankment. This would require improvement to the access track to allow caravan access but this could be fed into the design of the new embankment should one be required.

Key points from the FoSKF formal submission are:

- Friends of Skinners Flat would be willing to assist in managing Skinners Flat Reservoir as a sub group under the incorporated body WDA.
- Zoning of areas to take place so that it enhances the usage of the area for both passive and active recreation.
- Access road from the Calder Highway requires review and possible widening to allow for passing of vehicles towing caravans and boat trailers.
- Future development on far side for camping and other use (notation A in Appendix 4).
- Barbecue area to be replaced with grass and sand.
- Parking for boat trailers.

Further recommendations made by FoSKF can be found on page 44 in Appendix 3.

#### 6.1.2 Wedderburn Development Association (WDA)

No formal submission was received from WDA, however FoSKF is a sub-group of the WDA. A letter of acknowledgement received. Key points from this letter were:

- The WDA has historically supported FoSKF to maintain infrastructure at Skinners Flat Reservoir.
- WDA supports the establishment of a CAC and would consider taking on this role if needed.

#### 6.1.3 Wedderburn Tourism Inc.

Wedderburn Tourism views the development of Skinners Flat Reservoir as being aligned with Wedderburn's positioning as a destination for birdwatching activities, supplementing the public art 'Birds Eye View' project, and as an outdoors and nature destination more generally.

The group supports Council's initiative to create a Master Plan for the asset and "would very much like to see the area improved for passive recreation only".

Key points from the Wedderburn Tourism formal submission are:

- This is an important opportunity to promote Wedderburn as a destination for birdwatchers, bringing tourists to Wedderburn.
- Skinners Flat already has a substantial amount of water birds and with permanent water the birdlife would increase.
- Introducing speed boats will have an impact on the breeding habitats of birds as well as their food supply.

- Noise is also an issue that could affect “grey nomads”, who are our largest camping group, who like to enjoy the peace and surrounds of Skinners Flat Reservoir while overnight camping.
- Speed boats also limit the number of people who can use the water at one time whereas with passive recreation the area is available to all.
- Agree that there needs to be a CAC for Skinners Flat Reservoir to oversee the running of the facility and maintaining any new structures that will be provided as per the recommendations from the Master Plan.

Further recommendations made by Wedderburn Tourism Inc. can be found on page 45 of Appendix 3.

#### 6.1.4 Lions Club of Wedderburn

The Lions Club of Wedderburn identified Skinners Flat Reservoir as an important asset to the Wedderburn community that should be developed for passive recreation only and promoted as a place for eco-tourism. This is in line with the promotion of birdwatching as a key drawcard for tourist and the Birds Eye View public art project currently being undertaken in Wedderburn.

Key points from the Lions Club of Wedderburn are:

- That Skinners Flat be developed for passive recreation including such past times as picnics, fishing, camping, birdwatching, kayaking, sailboarding etc.
- That all watercraft using Skinners Flat Reservoir be unpowered and that a limit of 5 knots per hour be applied. This would avoid wakes, protect the banks, protect the dam wall and ensure the peace and serenity of the area.
- That any development be minimal and include the building of some composting toilets. Showers are not required, nor are rubbish bins. People should take out what they take in.
- The focus for Skinners Flat should be based around eco-tourism supported by the Bird’s Eye View project in the town. The two go hand in hand.
- That the Wedderburn Lions Club, as an incorporated organisation that works for the community, would be prepared to be the body to oversee the CAC for Skinners.
- That Lions would commit to assisting in the maintenance and development of the area for the purposes stated above in conjunction with the council and the community.

Lions as an incorporated body would be prepared to take on the role of managing the CAC.

Further recommendations made by Lions Club of Wedderburn can be found on page 47 of Appendix 3.

#### 6.1.5 Friends of Kooyoora

During the engagement process, the Friends of Kooyoora group also made a formal submission to the Master Plan. The group noted that their interest in sustainable development is not limited to Kooyoora State Park but also includes Wychitella Nature Conservation Reserve, which is nearby to Skinners Flat Reservoir.

Key points from the Friends of Kooyoora submission are:

- Skinners Flat is important in providing a breeding area and water source for birds with an estimated 273 species of animals, plants and birds in the area according to the Australian Living Atlas.
- They support the building of environmentally friendly toilets in the camping area, removal of existing barbecues and replacement with newer barbecue amenities.
- The Reservoir should be developed to provide greater habitat for birds and fish could be introduced to encourage ecological diversity.

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- Any vessels on the water should be limited to 5 knots, to provide a quiet and natural environment and to have minimal impact on the environment and wildlife.
- Camping should be encouraged, but on a sustainable basis so that people take out their rubbish.
- The area should be promoted for eco-tourism.
- Many Friends of Kooyoora members have considerable experience in conservation and environmental monitoring, and the group is willing to assist in future planning if needed.

## 6.2 Neighbouring residents

Landowners directly adjoining Skinners Flat Reservoir were contacted twice by mail, encouraging them to make contact to determine the most suitable engagement method for each individual. Two of the eight households contacted replied to the letters, indicating they would like to be involved in the engagement process.

Of the two respondents, one opted for an in-person interview that was conducted at the Loddon Shire Wedderburn office. The other was happy to speak informally over the phone and wanted only to confirm that no power lines would encroach on his property.

The resident that opted for a face-to-face interview was in favour of future recreation being passive, noting that the noise from jet skis and ski boats would be a concern.

## 6.3 Government agency stakeholders

**Table 4: Listing of key government agencies and their roles**

Agency	Accountability
Victorian Government and Departments	Legislation Policy Regulation
Environment Protection Agency	Environmental regulation (including best practice guidelines and protection policies)
Water corporations	Water supply
Catchment management authorities	Waterway health Floodplain management Environmental water
Local government	Urban planning Building and planning approvals  Dam Safety engineering review and works

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#### 6.4 Online survey and submissions

An online survey was hosted on the project web page of the Council's website for a period in March and early April. This survey was designed to provide the community with an opportunity to have input into the future recreation activities and amenities improvements at Skinners Flat Reservoir. Respondents were also asked to gauge if they saw the asset as a drawcard for tourism or if they would like to have local use preferenced.

The survey section of the project page was also used to collect comments, and participants (both individuals and stakeholder groups) were able to upload submission documents.

A total of 186 responses were received, although not all of these responses were survey responses, as document submissions (without completing the survey) are included in the total responses received. One submission was submitted in this way, from the Friends of Kooyoora, a local community group who had not previously been engaged with.

A total of 34 comments were received as part of the survey and these are published in full in the Appendix section at the end of this document.

Questions asked in the survey:

- Would you like to see the following activities at Skinners Flat Reservoir?
  - Water skiing
  - Swimming
  - Canoeing/Kayaking
  - Stand-up paddle boarding
  - Fishing
  - Yabbying
  - Bird Watching
  - Bushwalking
  - Camping
  - Picnicking
  - Other – please describe ‘
  
- What new or improved amenities would you like to see at Skinners Flat Reservoir?
  - New/more toilets
  - Shower block
  - Improved boat ramp
  - Parking for boat trailers
  - Picnic tables
  - New barbecues
  - Fish cleaning tables
  - Walking trails
  - Bird watching hides
  - Other – please describe
  
- Do you think Skinners Flat Reservoir should be promoted to attract visitors?
  - Strongly agree
  - Agree
  - Unsure
  - Disagree
  - Strongly disagree
  
- Further comments text box
- Upload a file
- (Optional) Name and email address

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Note that survey responses were not mandatory so an individual could 'vote' for one activity only without voting for or against any others. This will explain not all activities total responses adding up to 186.

#### KEY POINTS

- The majority of respondents were in favour of all recreational activities put forward in the survey (Table 1 – Appendix 1).
- Water skiing and birdwatching were the two lowest rated activities with 126 and 127 'yes' votes for each and 48 and 25 'no' votes for each respectively. This can be attributed to a trend of polarisation where 21 respondents voted 'yes' for water skiing and 'no' for bird watching, while 43 respondents voted 'yes' for birdwatching and 'no' for water skiing (Table 1 – Appendix 1).
- Swimming and canoeing were the most favoured activities with 172 and 170 'yes' votes respectively and only 5 and 3 'no' votes. Picnicking was also highly favoured with 169 affirmative votes (Table 1 – Appendix 1).
- The three most popular suggested amenities improvements were picnic tables, toilets and barbecues, with 163, 161 and 154 votes for respectively (Table 2 – Appendix 1).
- The least favoured amenity improvement was a fish-cleaning table, with 56 votes against (Table 2 – Appendix 1).
- The majority of respondents (83%) agreed or strongly agreed that Skinners Flat Reservoir should be promoted to attract visitors to Wedderburn (Table 3 – Appendix 1).

Results from this online survey are provided in Appendix 1.

#### 6.5 Paper-based survey responses

Postcard surveys were commercially printed and placed in High Street retailers and at a display set up at the front counter of Council's Wedderburn office. A total of 48 surveys were returned from the 200 that were distributed.

Results from the paper-based postcard survey were somewhat consistent with the online survey. Water skiing was again the most divisive activity surveyed, with 56% of respondents in favour of water skiing and 37.5% of respondents not in favour.

Results from this postcard survey are provided in Appendix 1.

#### 6.6 Summary of engagement

The community and stakeholder engagement effort for this project generated a total of 234 responses. This level of engagement has produced a substantial amount of quantitative and qualitative data in the form of survey responses, comments and formal submissions. The quantitative data has been summarised in previous sections.

Comments supplied, discussions at stakeholder meetings and formal written submissions from key stakeholders form the qualitative output of this engagement effort and form the basis of the Master Plan.

A full list of comments from the paper-based and online surveys are supplied in Appendix 1, while a snapshot of comments is below. These also followed the trend of polarisation on the subject of water skiing:

*"Skinners is ideal for passive recreation but far too small for ski boats. One boat would eliminate all other water sports and the noise will deter any birds from nesting as well as limit camping."*

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*“All these activities have worked side by side since it was built, so no need to exclude any particular group.”*

*“There is a small percentage of ski boats in Wedderburn. To fill the Reservoir at great expense for so few cannot possibly be considered viable. Ski boats will also interfere with bird breeding, elderly campers, bird watchers and passive recreation users.”*

*“It needs to be made deeper for most boats. Also it needs all the trees in the water cleared. It’s only small so it should be for people in the local areas. The road in also needs to be wider. It’s too narrow and dangerous over the crests especially if towing a boat or trailer.”*

This polarisation is also evident in the recommendations contained in key stakeholder submissions.

Wedderburn Tourism Inc. and Lions Club of Wedderburn’s submissions support developing Skinners Flat Reservoir for passive recreation only, in line with the positioning of Wedderburn as a birdwatching destination displayed by the current ‘Birds Eye View’ public art project in Wedderburn. Neighbouring residents also view active recreation as being unsuitable. The Lions Club of Wedderburn are willing to take on management and maintenance responsibilities.

The FoSKF submission supports a shared approach with both passive and active recreation zones established. The establishment of a water skiing season of three to four months per year was also posited during discussion with FoSKF and in subsequent correspondence. FoSKF are willing to take on management and maintenance responsibilities.



## 7 RECOMMENDATIONS

As a result of consultation, a consensus between key stakeholders and individual community members was not found. This section outlines two possible options for Council to consider:

- Option 1 allows for passive and active recreation to co-exist, as supported by the Friends of Skinners Flat group.
- Option 2 allows passive recreation only, as supported by Wedderburn Tourism Inc., the Lions Club of Wedderburn and neighbouring landowners.

For more detail on community feedback refer to Section 6.

A further recommendation of this Master Plan is the continued communication with key stakeholders around the delegation of management and maintenance of the asset. Council will need to decide how the management of the asset will be delegated in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020. This is discussed in section 7.4.

This will most likely be guided by the choice of options, as individual stakeholder groups that have expressed interest in managing the asset will likely only be agreeable if their supported recreation option is adopted. A final decision on options and management structures may be dependent on the outcomes of the dam structural review and capacity limits.

### 7.1 Option 1: Co-existing passive and active recreation

This involves creating a shared facility with all recreation activities accommodated as listed below. Passive and active activities require appropriate separation to be clearly zoned and prominently displayed. This option allows water skiing to be undertaken and was supported by the majority of engagement respondents.



**Figure 7.1 Map showing possible water skiing zone**

Key recommendations from Option 1:

- A water skiing season of three to four months over summer

- Number of ski boats on the water to be limited to less than four, possibly no more than two at any one time subject to planning and waterways management investigation
- Zones established for water skiing, fishing, sailing, passive water sports including canoeing, paddle boarding and swimming
- Stocking the dam with fish and constructing a pontoon or jetty and possibly including a fish-cleaning table
- Wetland revegetation and environmental design to reduce water turbidity of Nardoo Creek inflow
- Walking trails
- Wetland board walk and birdwatching infrastructure
- Interpretive signage for birdlife
- Playground
- Improved or relocated camping area
- Improved access to relocated camping area
- Improved access road to main visitation area, allow for vehicles under tow to pass or improve line of site
- Replacement of existing toilet, barbecue and picnic facilities
- Establish a Community Asset Committee in consultation with the WDA and Friends of Skinners Flat group as well as other interested parties

The FoSKF group supports this option and could be the delegated management body under this arrangement as it is incorporated under the auspices of the WDA.

## 7.2 Option 2: Passive recreation only

This involves developing the asset for passive recreation only, with no powered water craft allowed or a 5 knot speed limit allowing only for fishing or small sailing craft. This is seen as capitalising on Wedderburn's positioning as a birdwatching destination consistent with the current public art project occurring in town by providing infrastructure such as birdwatching hides, interpretive signage, walking trails and areas for picnicking and low-impact camping.

Key recommendations from Option 2:

- Passive water sports including canoeing, paddle boarding and swimming would be provided for
- Establish a canoe trail with accessible kayak launch and trail interpretive signage
- Stocking the dam with fish and establishing a pontoon or jetty for fishing and possibly a fish-cleaning table
- Wetland revegetation and environmental design to reduce water turbidity of Nardoo Creek inflow
- Walking trail circuit
- Wetland board walk and birdwatching infrastructure
- Interpretive signage for birdlife
- Playground
- Improved access road to main visitation area, allow for vehicles under tow to pass or improve line of site
- Replacement of existing toilet, barbecue and picnic facilities
- Establish a Community Asset Committee in consultation with the Lions Club of Wedderburn and Wedderburn Tourism Inc. as well as other interested parties

This position is supported by both Wedderburn Tourism and the Lions Club of Wedderburn who could be the delegated management body under this arrangement.

**7.3 Descriptions of recommended actions**

**7.3.1 Updated and relocated amenities block**

The current toilet facilities at the site require replacement due to a number of factors. The amenities are in a poor state of repair and have been situated too close to the water's edge and boat ramp.

A new amenities block would be constructed adjacent to the picnic and car park area to the north west of the boat ramp. These amenities and toilets in particular, would serve both day visitors to the park and overnight campers should the current camping area be retained.

There has also been a suggestion to move overnight visitors to the south of the dam embankment. This would require the construction of a second amenities block, including disabled access, composting toilets and showers.

It is recommended that a waterless composting toilet system be considered, such as the Dry Vault Toilet System as used by Parks Victoria and NSW National Parks Service.



**Figure 7.2 Existing drop-toilet at Skinners Flat Reservoir. Right: Example of a Dry Vault Toilet System.**

**7.3.2 Boat ramp improvement**

The existing boat ramp requires resurfacing due to cracking and erosion and possible redesign depending on the water level achieved by the dam safety works.



**Figure 7.3 Existing boat ramp cracking and erosion.**

### 7.3.3 Wetlands area

In the area to the west of the Reservoir, identified as the shallows on the far side of the island, a wetland area and native reeds and grasses have established naturally. Native birdlife and, in particular, waterbirds have been attracted to these wetlands and are now abundant.

There is the potential to improve this wetland habitat through revegetation, and with environmental design, this could be designed to reduce the turbidity of agricultural inflows from Nardoo Creek.<sup>3</sup>



**Figure 7.4 Nardoo Creek inlet to north-west of current Reservoir**

### 7.3.4 Stocking the dam with fish

Community feedback has highlighted the opportunity to increase the stock of fish in the dam. Fishing is a popular pastime in the Loddon region and this was also suggested as a control measure for leeches. A healthy aquatic ecosystem may also assist in reducing the turbidity of the waterway<sup>4</sup>.

### 7.3.5 Accessible kayak launch

An all-abilities canoe/kayak launch provides a stable platform on the static jetty and then a secure ramp to launch into the water for a person with mobility limitations, with hand rails and supportive rollers to guide them easily in and out of the water.

Similar accessible kayak launches have been installed across the Loddon Shire including on Serpentine Creek at Whytcross Road.

### 7.3.6 Wetland viewing platform

Birdlife forms an attractive aspect of the site, and to encourage participation in the study and understanding of native wildlife, it is proposed that a viewing platform be constructed at a suitable location.

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<sup>3</sup> Wetland Design Manual Supporting document: Planning, funding and management, Melbourne Water

<sup>4</sup> <https://vfa.vic.gov.au/recreational-fishing/fish-stocking/fish-in-farm-dams/stocking-fish-in-farm-dams-information-sheet>

As shown in the image below, a typical viewing platform is covered, has comprehensive signage explaining the particular species likely to be seen and often seating for extended observation. Disability access would be a key feature.



**Figure 7.5 Example of a wetlands and wildlife viewing platform**

7.3.7 Wetlands boardwalk

The above wetland viewing platform could also be incorporated into a longer wetlands boardwalk of approximately 230m length, allowing for additional interpretive experiences. This boardwalk could also form a bridge over the Nardoo Creek inlet, to form a circuit walking trail as detailed below.



**Figure 7.6 Map showing possible wetland boardwalk route**

7.3.8 Walking trails

Construction of a walking trail was suggested during consultation. A walking path circumnavigating the Reservoir, allowing for the longest continuous loop at the site (approximately 1600m), is recommended. The above wetlands boardwalk could also be

incorporated into the walking trail, to showcase the variety of natural habitats present and could be constructed in the north west of the area to provide a bridge over Nardoo Creek. Should a new embankment be constructed, a walking path along the dam wall could be incorporated into the design, returning the path to the boat ramp and main day visitor carpark.



**Figure 7.7 Map showing possible circuit walking trail route incorporating wetlands boardwalk**

7.3.9 “Natural” playground

A natural playground is a play environment that consists of elements and textures from nature such as tree logs, tree stumps, boulders, plants, drainage paths, among others instead of a traditional steel playground structure that includes slides and climbers.



**Figure 7.8 Example of a natural playground**

7.3.10 Parking and roadways

It is proposed that two formal parking areas be established adjoining the camping area and close to the boat ramp which would also service the day visitor and picnic area. The latter will have the ability to store trailers.

A number of respondents also raised concerns with the limited line of sight and inability for two large vehicle or vehicles towing caravans or boats to pass on Mount Kerang Road. It has also been raised that the problem section of this road is winding and reversing vehicles that are towing would be difficult.



**Figure 7.9** Narrow access on Mount Kerang Road identified as providing poor line-of-sight, no passing opportunities for large vehicles and caravans, and difficulty to reverse due to narrowness and bends in road

7.3.11 Barbecues and picnic areas

The currently available barbecue facilities are of traditional steel-sided construction and fuelled by burning wood. These old-style barbecues should be removed and visitors to the park would be able to use their own gas barbecues or electric powered barbecues provided in the day visitor picnic area.



**Figure 7.10** Current barbecues in camping area (above). Current undercover picnic area and barbecue (bottom left)

The current under-cover eating area is in poor repair and needs to be replaced. This structure could be replaced and possibly duplicated with a more modern, open plan and accessible under-cover eating area with the provision of electric barbecues. Additional tables and seating would adjoin this area in close proximity to amenities and day visitor car park.



Figure 7.11 Area showing current camping area, which could be rezoned as a day visitor area



Figure 7.12 Map showing possible area for relocated camping area to the south of Reservoir



7.3.12 Relocation of camping area

During consultation with the Friends of Skinners Flat group it was recommended that the camping area be moved to the southern side of the dam embankment. This action would require considerable works, including tree removal and flattening of the site, construction of an amenities block, and improvements to the access track.

In return, the current camping area could form part of the day visitor area, providing more space for picnic facilities, a relocated toilet block for day users and formalised car park for day users.



**Figure 7.13 Access trail to southern side of Reservoir. (Right) Image showing proposed area for development as southern camping area, requires substantial levelling.**

7.3.13 Removal of metal structure at old pipeline intake

The metal structure above the old pipeline intake has been raised during engagement as a danger to water skiers. As the old pipeline has been flagged for decommissioning this metal structure could be removed.



**Figure 7.14 Metal structure above old pipeline**

#### 7.4 Section 65 – Community Asset Committees<sup>5</sup>

Under the Local Government Act 2020 a community asset committee is a committee with powers of the Council, established and with members appointed by Council, with powers delegated by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), subject to the terms and conditions specified by the CEO, for the purpose of managing a community asset in the municipal district (Section 65(2)).

Section 65 of the Act provides Council with the opportunity to create community asset committees of Council to undertake functions of the Council under delegation.

Section 65 states:

- (1) Council may establish a CAC and appoint as many members to the CAC as Council considers necessary to enable the CAC to achieve the purpose specified in subsection (2).
- (2) Council may only establish a CAC for the purpose of managing a community asset in the municipal district.

Note: see Section 47 for delegation to members of a CAC by the Chief Executive Officer. Unless anything in the instrument of delegation provides otherwise, the conduct of a meeting of a CAC is in the discretion of the CAC.

It is imperative that Council understands that the actions undertaken by a community asset committee are conducted within the limits of delegated authority, are binding, lawful and are effective.

It is therefore important that Council and members of Section 65 CACs understand their instruments of delegation and the limits of authority and areas within which they have been delegated authority to act and operate. The governance arrangements for these committees are specified by the CEO under Section 47(4)). These terms and conditions must include the limits and purpose of any financial delegation that can be exercised by the committee; governance arrangements; and monitoring and reporting requirements.

For the purpose of establishing a CAC for the management of Skinners Flat Reservoir, a number of considerations must be made:

- Will Council seek to delegate management to a single incorporated body to act as the CAC, or will the CAC be representative of many stakeholder groups?
- If delegating to a single stakeholder group, what are the risks involved?
- What will the role and responsibilities of the CAC be? Is the CAC responsible for raising funds for maintenance and upkeep? Will members of the CAC be responsible for performing upkeep duties? What contribution to upkeep and maintenance will Council commit ongoing?

It is recommend that these arrangements be developed in more detail upon establishment of the committee.

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<sup>5</sup> DRAFT Governance Framework, Loddon Shire Council  
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## 8 COSTING AND FUNDING OF ACTIONS

The two tables below outline the actions derived from the recommendations of this Master Plan. As there are two options for Council to consider, Table 5 provides actions for Option 1 (co-existing passive and active recreation) while Table 6 provides actions for Option 2 (passive recreation only). Please note that many of the actions are duplicated between the two options.

**Table 5: Costing and funding of Option 1 – Active and Passive Recreation Co-exist**

Action	Cost of project	Total expected funding	Net cost to Council	Proposed funding source*	Completion timeframe approximate* <small>*Physical implementation only, does not include design, procurement and planning.</small>
Remove existing toilet amenities	\$7K	0	\$7K	Council Community Plan	2 to 3 weeks
New accessible enviro-friendly toilet block	\$200K	\$200K	0	RDV - Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund	1 to 2 months
Improve boat ramp	\$10K	\$10K	0	Boating Safety and Facilities Program	1 to 2 months
Remove existing picnic structure	\$5K	0	\$5K	Council Community Plan	2 to 3 weeks
Eco-designed picnic shelter x 2	\$80K	\$80K	0	RDV - Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund	1 to 2 months
6x metal picnic benches	\$14K	\$14K	0	RDV - Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund	2 to 3 weeks
3x Push-button gas bbqs	\$12K	\$12K	0	RDV - Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund	2 to 3 weeks
Remove steel-sided bbqs	\$2K	0	\$2K	Council Community Plan	2 to 3 weeks
"Nature Play" Playground	\$40K	\$40K	0	RDV - Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund	1 to 2 months

Action	Cost of project	Total expected funding	Net cost to Council	Proposed funding source*	Completion timeframe approximate* <small>*Physical implementation only, does not include design, procurement and planning.</small>
Car park with trailer parking and turn-around	\$12K	\$12K	0	Boating Safety and Facilities Program	1 to 2 months
Car access to kayak launch and small carpark	\$25K	\$25K	0	RDV - Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund	1 to 2 months
Install accessible kayak launch	\$15K	\$15K	0	RDV - Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund	1 to 2 months
Design and installation of interpretive signage for canoe trail	\$30K	\$30K	0	RDV - Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund	3 to 4 months
Walking path design and construction	\$75K	\$75K	0	RDV - Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund	3 to 4 months
Wetlands boardwalk design and construction	\$80K	\$80K	0	RDV - Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund	3 to 4 months
The construction of a raised timber bird hide (approx 4mx2m floor area), short board walk and internal interpretation	\$55K	\$55K	0	Australian Bird Environment Foundation – Community Grants / RDV - Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund	3 to 4 months
Interpretive signage (bird species) design and installation	\$20K	\$20K	0	Australian Bird Environment Foundation – Community Grants	3 to 4 months

Action	Cost of project	Total expected funding	Net cost to Council	Proposed funding source*	Completion timeframe approximate* *Physical implementation only, does not include design, procurement and planning.
Clearing, widening and supply of gravel road base to 1500m of existing overgrown track	\$50K	\$50K	0	RDV - Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund	3 to 4 months
Amenities block (accessible toilets and showers) at southern campground	\$250K	\$250K	0	RDV - Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund	3 to 4 months
Levelling and landscaping of southern campground area	\$30K	0	\$30K	Council Community Plan	1 to 2 months
Swimming pontoon design and installation	\$5K	\$5K	0	SRV - Together More Active	3 to 4 months
Stock with fingerlings	\$5K	\$5K	0	Recreational Fishing Grants Program	1 to 2 months
Fishing jetty	\$10K	\$10K	0	Recreational Fishing Grants Program	3 to 4 months
Fish-cleaning table	\$2K	\$2K	0	Recreational Fishing Grants Program	2 to 3 weeks
Improved wayfinding signage on Calder	\$5K	\$5K	0	RDV - Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund	1 to 2 months
Weed removal	\$2K	\$2k	0	Victorian Landcare Grants	1 to 2 months
Tree planting	\$8K	\$8K	0	Victorian Landcare Grants	1 to 2 months
Wetland species planting on Nardoo Creek inflow to reduce turbidity	\$10K	\$10K	0	Recreational Fishing Grants Program	3 to 4 months
History-board of Skinners Flat	\$20K	\$20K	0	PROV - Local History Grants	6 months

Action	Cost of project	Total expected funding	Net cost to Council	Proposed funding source*	Completion timeframe approximate* *Physical implementation only, does not include design, procurement and planning.
Netted swimming zone	\$4K	\$4K	0	SRV - Together More Active	1 to 2 months
Waterways management planning	\$4K	0	\$4K	Council Community Plan	3 to 4 months
Navigation/recreation zone signage	\$6K	\$6K	0	Boating Safety and Facilities Program	3 to 4 months
Design of amenities and recreation zoning	\$50K	\$50K	0	Boating Safety and Facilities Program	6 months
Project management and delivery	\$200K	\$200K	0	RDV - Regional Infrastructure Fund	6 months
Environmental and Native Title approvals	\$20K	0	\$20K	Council Community Plan	6 months
Total project costs	\$2.08M	\$2.01M	\$68K		

Table 6: Costing and funding of Option 2 – Passive Recreation Only

Action	Cost of project	Total expected funding	Net cost to Council	Proposed funding source*	Completion timeframe approximate* *Physical implementation only, does not include design, procurement and planning.
Remove existing toilet amenities	\$7K	0	\$7K	Council Community Plan	2 to 3 weeks
New accessible enviro-friendly toilet block	\$200K	\$200K	0	RDV - Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund	1 to 2 months
Remove existing picnic structure	\$5K	0	\$5K	Council Community Plan	2 to 3 weeks

Action	Cost of project	Total expected funding	Net cost to Council	Proposed funding source*	Completion timeframe approximate* *Physical implementation only, does not include design, procurement and planning.
Eco-designed picnic shelter x 2	\$80K	\$80K	0	RDV - Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund	1 to 2 months
6x metal picnic benches	\$14K	\$14K	0	RDV - Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund	< Weeks
3x Push-button gas bbqs	\$12K	\$12K	0	RDV - Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund	< Weeks
Remove steel-sided bbqs	\$2K	0	\$2K	Council Community Plan	< Weeks
"Nature Play" Playground	\$40K	\$40K	0	RDV - Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund	1 to 2 months
Car access to kayak launch and small carpark	\$25K	\$25K	0	RDV - Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund	1 to 2 months
Install accessible kayak launch	\$15K	\$15K	0	RDV - Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund	1 to 2 months
Design and installation of interpretive signage for canoe trail	\$30K	\$30K	0	RDV - Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund	3 to 4 months
Walking path design and construction	\$75K	\$75K	0	RDV - Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund	3 to 4 months

Action	Cost of project	Total expected funding	Net cost to Council	Proposed funding source*	Completion timeframe approximate* *Physical implementation only, does not include design, procurement and planning.
Wetlands boardwalk design and construction	\$80K	\$80K	0	RDV - Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund	3 to 4 months
The construction of a raised timber bird hide (approx 4mx2m floor area), short board walk and internal interpretation	\$55K	\$55K	0	Australian Bird Environment Foundation – Community Grants / RDV - Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund	3 to 4 months
Interpretive signage (bird species) design and installation	\$20K	\$20K	0	Australian Bird Environment Foundation – Community Grants	3 to 4 months
Clearing, widening and supply of gravel road base to 1500m of existing overgrown track	\$50K	\$50K	0	RDV - Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund	3 to 4 months
Amenities block (accessible toilets and showers) at southern campground	\$250K	\$250K	0	RDV - Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund	3 to 4 months
Levelling and landscaping of southern campground area	\$30K	0	\$30K	Council Community Plan	1 to 2 months
Swimming pontoon design and installation	\$5K	\$5K	0	SRV - Together More Active	3 to 4 months
Stock with fingerlings	\$5K	\$5K	0	Recreational Fishing Grants Program	1 to 2 months
Fishing jetty	\$10K	\$10K	0	Recreational Fishing Grants Program	3 to 4 months



Action	Cost of project	Total expected funding	Net cost to Council	Proposed funding source*	Completion timeframe approximate* <small>*Physical implementation only, does not include design, procurement and planning.</small>
Fish-cleaning table	\$2K	\$2K	0	Recreational Fishing Grants Program	< Weeks
Improved wayfinding signage on Calder	\$5K	\$5K	0	RDV - Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund	1 to 2 months
Weed removal	\$2K	\$2k	0	Victorian Landcare Grants	1 to 2 months
Tree planting	\$8K	\$8K	0	Victorian Landcare Grants	1 to 2 months
Wetland species planting on Nardoo Creek inflow to reduce turbidity	\$10K	\$10K	0	Recreational Fishing Grants Program	3 to 4 months
History-board of Skinners Flat	\$20K	\$20K	0	PROV - Local History Grants	> 6 months
Netted swimming zone	\$4K	\$4K	0	SRV - Together More Active	1 to 2 months
Design of amenities and recreation zoning	\$50K	\$50K	0	Boating Safety and Facilities Program	> 6 months
Project management and delivery	\$200K	\$200K	0	RDV - Regional Infrastructure Fund	> 6 months
Environmental and Native Title approvals	\$20K	0	\$20K	Council Community Plan	> 6 months
<b>Total project costs</b>	<b>\$1.33M</b>	<b>\$1.27M</b>	<b>\$64K</b>		

\*Note: Proposed funding source is indicative only, it is assumed that similar funding streams will be available at time of implementing this Master Plan.

### 8.1 Funding

A number of funding streams may be available to implement the actions of this Master Plan. These include Council's Community Planning, Council Community Grants, as well as potential

external sources such as Sports and Recreation Victoria, Recreational Fishing Grants, Regional Development Victoria and other future unknown opportunities.

As mentioned previously, the largest inhibitors for detailing funding opportunities for this project is the reliance on dam infrastructure works and unknown outcomes of the dam safety audit. Should the capacity of the dam be significantly reduced, many of the proposed actions from Option 1 of this Master Plan would be impossible, as active recreation such as water skiing is dependent on sufficient water levels. In this situation, actions from Option 2 would also need to be considered.

Given the two factors, lag time to implementation and unknown outcomes external to this Master Plan, no specific funding streams have been identified.

## 9 COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS

The benefits of participating in outdoor recreation are well documented and have been outlined in Council’s Recreation Strategy<sup>6</sup> and Activating Open Space Strategy<sup>7</sup>. Not only do individuals benefit from health and wellbeing improvements, but the whole community benefits from a greater sense of community, economic opportunities, improvement to the environment, reduction in crime and a healthier society. Council’s Activating Open Space Strategy also identifies the benefits of public open spaces as:

Social benefits	Health benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connect and build strong communities by providing opportunities for local people to come together for a range of leisure, cultural and celebratory activities.</li> <li>• Enhance opportunities for social cohesion and inclusion.</li> <li>• Improve liveability in urban environments by offering affordable recreation opportunities for all community sectors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourages physical activity.</li> <li>• Enhances physical and mental health.</li> <li>• Helps to reduce the risk of developing chronic diseases.</li> <li>• Assists in recovery from mental fatigue.</li> <li>• Enhances children’s development and well-being.</li> </ul>
Environmental benefits	Economic benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection of areas of conservation, biodiversity or cultural heritage value.</li> <li>• Managing climate change impacts by providing shade and cooling.</li> <li>• Contributing to storm water management.</li> <li>• Contributing to urban heat abatement.</li> <li>• Reduction of air and noise pollution.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks are a major draw card for recreation and tourism industries and significant sources of employment for local communities and flow on economic benefits.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>

**Figure 9.1 Benefits to the community of open spaces**

While it is challenging to place a monetary figure on the benefit of providing opportunities for outdoor recreation and open spaces to the community, the above social, health, environmental and economic benefits show the diversity of opportunities for beneficial outcomes.

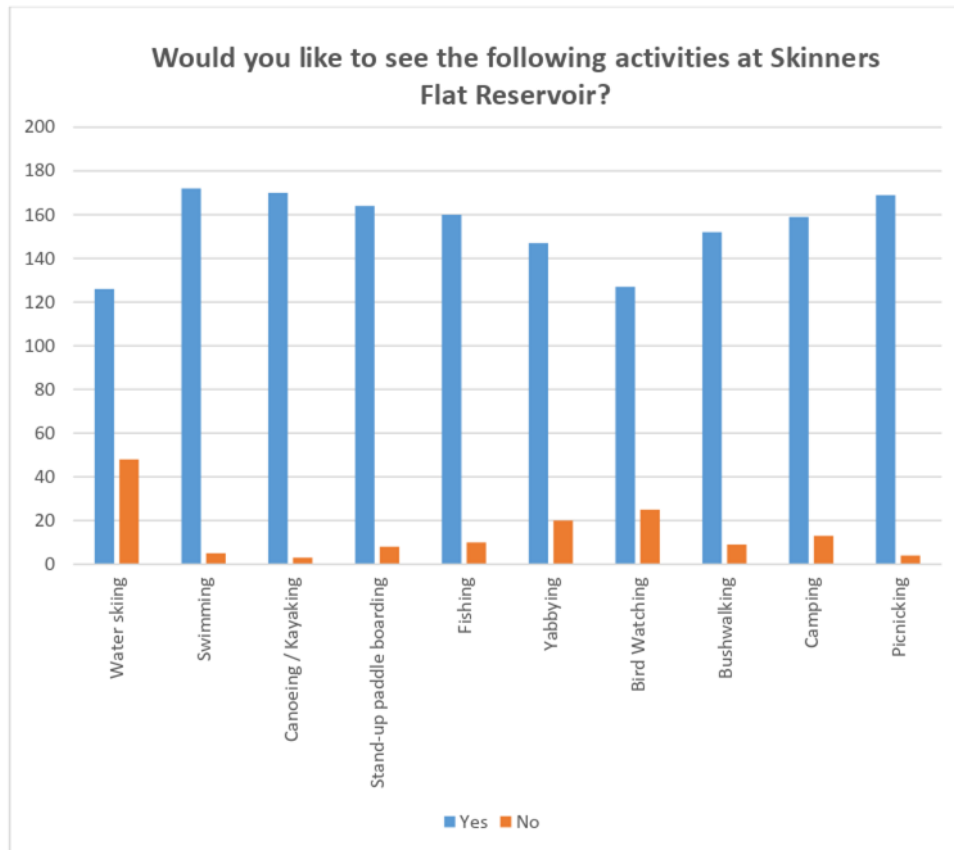
Wedderburn Tourism Inc. and the Lions Club of Wedderburn, as well as many individual respondents to this project’s engagement efforts, raised the opportunity to capitalise on using Skinners Flat Reservoir to position Wedderburn as a premier destination for birdwatching tourism. This is consistent with the current “Birds Eye View” public art project being undertaken in Wedderburn. While the total cost of actioning all of the recommendations from either option of this Master Plan are considerable (\$1.3M to \$2M) significant funding options could be available and the potential benefits to the local community in providing opportunities for outdoor recreation and economic benefits of positioning Wedderburn as a premier birdwatching destination in central Victoria should be considered.

<sup>6</sup> Recreation Strategy 2015-2020, Loddon Shire Council

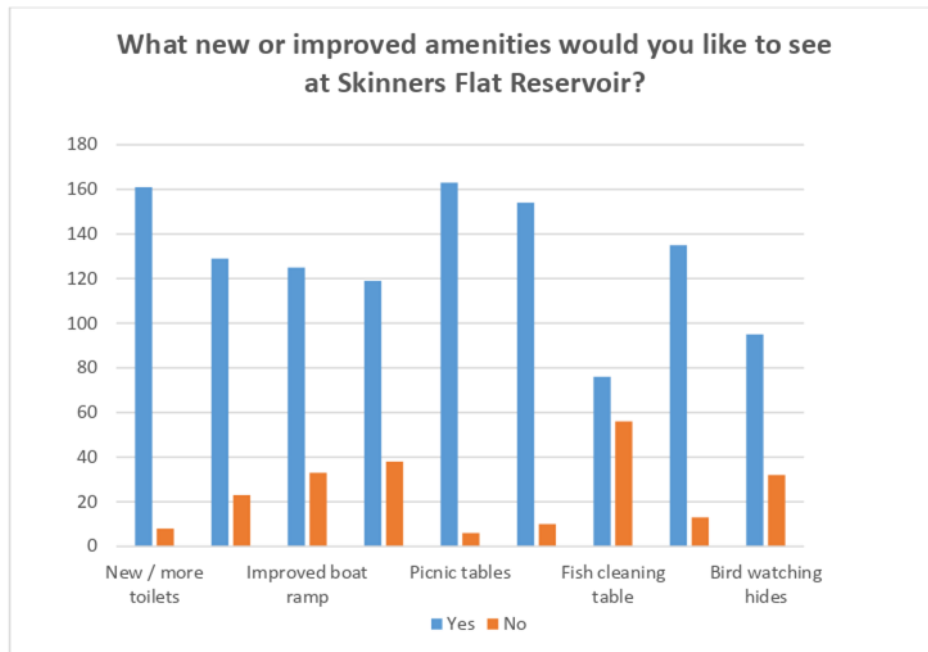
<sup>7</sup> Activating Open Space Strategy 2019-2024, Loddon Shire Council

### APPENDIX 1: Engagement data

Table 7: Online survey result – Recreation activities preferences



**Table 8: Online survey result – Amenities improvement preferences**



**Table 9: Online survey result – Do you think Skinners Flat Reservoir should be promoted to attract visitors?**

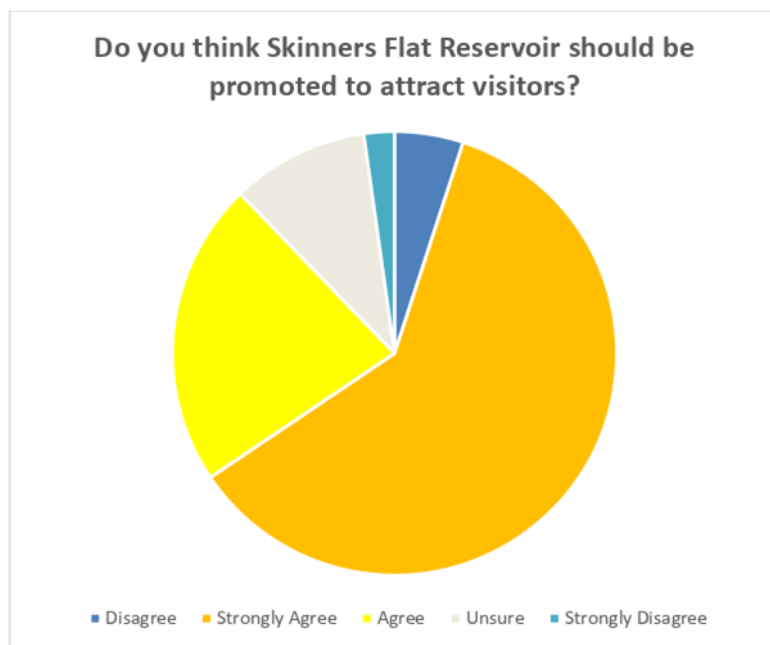
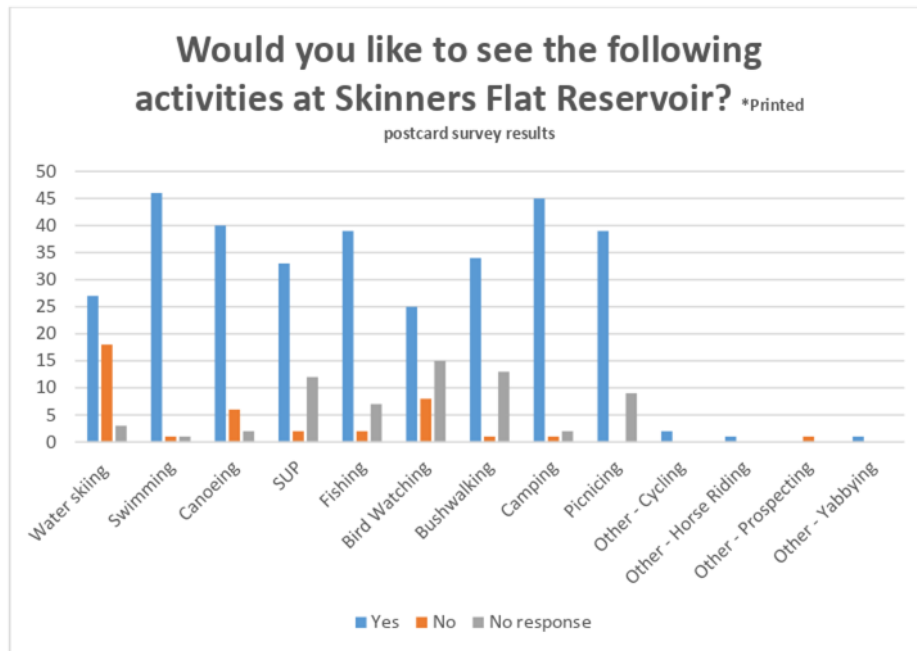


Table 10: Results from postcard survey

Activity	Yes	No	No response
Water skiing	27	18	3
Swimming	46	1	1
Canoeing	40	6	2
SUP	33	2	12
Fishing	39	2	7
Bird Watching	25	8	15
Bushwalking	34	1	13
Camping	45	1	2
Picnicking	39	0	9
Other - Cycling	2	0	0
Other - Horse Riding	1	0	0
Other - Prospecting	0	1	0
Other - Yabbying	1	0	0

Table 11: Graph results from postcard survey



## APPENDIX 2: Full comments from surveys

Can't it be our hidden treasure?

---

Improved facilities may encourage people to camp for far too long. Toilets will be challenging for Shire to maintain due to vandalism and abuse of facilities. Will need big signs to tell campers that DUMP POINT is located at the Caravan Park. DO NOT PROVIDE BINS, this encourages people to treat the area like a tip (like has happened in Hard Hill). High risk of fire due to haphazard campfire placement and people removing firewood from surrounding bush and adjacent private property. Increased usage may need the access road widened from a single lane track. Best to promote it as a low impact environmentally friendly peaceful natural place.

---

Skidders is a jewel for the Wedderburn area. It has strong patronage from the bush camping community and is listed on Wikicamps. Whenever I go out there, which is regularly, there are often caravans spending a night or two there. These people are self-sustainable, take their rubbish out with them and more than likely spend money in Wedderburn.

Water skiing is not viable at Skidders. If there are ski boats on the water, no other boats can use it. Apart from that, you can have 100 people enjoying some quiet time at Skidders and you only need one ski boat or jet ski to disturb the ambience. Skidders is too small for ski boats as they would dominate total activities in the hands of a very small number of people.

Place a 5 knot limit on the water for any craft.

---

Skidders is ideal for passive recreation but far too small for ski boats  
One boat would eliminate all other water sports and the noise will deter any birds from nesting as well as limit camping

---

It's not big enough for too many people, without ruining the place.

---

I think Wedderburn could be promoted as a premier birdwatching area. To this end there should be no motorised activity on the water. Attracting birdwatchers would help bring more people into the area who have low-key requirements.

---

Native Trees & plants to attract wild life and birds. Hides to be in an area where swimmers fisherman will not disturb the water birds. Powered boats will frighten away the water birds. Better access roads & parking area.  
A history board telling the history of Skidders Flat Reservoir & better signs to advertise where the Reservoir is etc.

---

I see it as a local recreational nature based facility. Not over developed and largely for the local community. Note although it is private land in surrounds a lot of this is under Trust for Nature Covenant and some owned by Bush Heritage. Both of these organisations need to be consulted.

---

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I think the local population need this facility for recreation, as we don't have close access to any lakes or rivers; they would regularly use this facility if there was a reliable water level. I don't believe we need to promote it to attract visitors to the area, as this would lead to overcrowding and environmental damage. It is not a large enough area to cater for large numbers of visitors at any one time.

Water skiing and speed boats, if allowed, would have a detrimental impact (noise, wake, danger to others) on both other users and the environment. They would lead to a loss of wildlife habitat, plus the noise would scare away the native birds.

---

a prominently exposed notice board explaining a list of the uses and behaviour expected by all users. The bush setting peace and ambience to be protected and observed.

---

Concerned that I would not be big enough to attract visitors for water sports although it would be a lovely camping spot for travellers.

---

It's a great spot and people spend money in our town.

---

Concerned that I would not be big enough to attract visitors for water sports although it would be a lovely camping spot for travellers.

---

As a regular visitor to Skinners I believe that it would create the most amount of tourism if it were kept to a fishing, camping, sightseeing (walking trails), birdwatching area.

All activity on the water should be kept to a MAXIMUM of 5km per hour as anything more will create TOO MUCH NOISE and probably erode the banks AND WILL DEFINITELY put extra pressures on the dam wall.

Also, too much noise will drive the birdwatchers and bushwalkers away. ( I know that I would definitely NOT go there if water-skiing was allowed). A speed limit of 5km per hour will also not disturb the water birds anywhere near as much.

---

Has good potential to be developed and be promoted for nature tourism activities and cater to visitors to the area, which have economic gains to the area. The use of the venue for skiing will only cater for a few self-interested locals and have no economic net gain to the community. Skiers from outside the local region will still prefer to go the other established ski areas in the shire such as Bridgewater, Boort and Laanacoorie.

---

If promoted too widely you then need bigger & better facilities, It is only a small Reservoir , not a lake, and could not handle large numbers attending . Keep it simple & low maintenance open to campers/caravaners etc passing through with a small fee for overnight stays , & for the residents of Wedderburn & surrounding areas to enjoy.

WATER-constant water level, without this you may as well leave it as it is.

We don't want a 5 star resort, just a upgrade on one of Wedderburn's many hidden treasures that we can all enjoy.

---

Loved to see it used as a multipurpose area as it once was years ago.

With a little upgrade to the toilets, fix the little bbq pits up and maybe add another shelter near the shelter already there it would be a great spot to spend time out there and great use for our community.

---

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It would be great to have a well maintained 'by the water' area for family picnics, gatherings etc.

---

All idea above are fantastic but thinking about the space and safety it might not be possible to have ski boats like Boort due to room and trying to promote other activities.

---

Get rid of the leaches lol

---

Flatten out highway side to allow for more camping areas. Keeping it full would attract more visitors to town therefore increasing all businesses trades in town. Needs more rubbish bins so kept tidy.

---

The priority should be for local users and should cater for a wide range of uses to enable all locals to enjoy the area.

---

It is a lovely quiet peaceful spot to camp, it should remain a free camp as Wedderburn has a van park & a low cost camp at Hard Hill. With the free camp everyone is catered for.

---

Areas to swim horses and wider access road with less over hanging trees. Need designated ski area marked by buoys to segregate swimming kayaking etc.

---

It needs to be made deeper for most boats. Also it needs all the trees in the water cleared.

It's only small so it should be for people in the local areas. The road in also needs to be wider. It's to narrow and dangerous over the crests especially if towing a boat or trailer.

---

An amenities building like Wooroonook has would encompass everything we need. Also a sandy and grassy area for kids to play. A netted off swimming area. Pontoon for kids to jump off.

---

The birdification of Wedderburn (6 murals) could be further enhanced by adding Skinners to the local bird experience and promoted as a natural birdwatching precinct. Low maintenance, durable structures/infrastructure should be considered re: barbecues, shade, tables and chairs. Well signed cycling/walking tracks. No speedboats! Peaceful precinct to appreciate nature, birds and other fauna. Thank you.

---

Children's play ground and some indigenous history of the area acknowledged.

---

This would be a valuable attraction for families. Free camping near by a water play area is a huge draw card. This would absolutely only add value to the shire.

100% tourist attraction. Will bring more busy to town.

I am granddaughter of Joan and Robert (bob) Burgess I remember this as one of my favourite places to go when I visited my nan and pabs farm one year I remember my uncle Colin Martin got a bunch of canoues for us to take out onto the reserve this place has special memories and values also the small water overflow I used to call a water fall I learn how to make chalk here please keep it safe

---

---

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All these activities have worked side by side since it was built, so no need to exclude any particular group.

---

Let it be the locals secret. Don't let it get trashed and damaged by others.

---

It should be left alone for us locals to enjoy, When you install new amenities there is an on going maintenance cost. Council does not own this land, they manage it on behalf of the crown. All cost there for should be born by the crown not the ratepayers.

---

The area is poorly managed and allowed to dry out in summer. More controls need to be implemented to protect indigenous vegetation and wildlife. Public facilities are either non existent, poorly managed, or not serviced.

---

Please, test the water before, during and after all the new ideas are implemented. I don't think that such a small stretch of water can manage lots of tourists.

---

A good concept of seeing how they transformed Lake Lascelles up at Hopetoun. One, how much tourism it brings to a small Mallee town and two how they've constructed the layout their site. Toilet/shower block, large grassed area and powered sites. And to make the Reservoir as recreational as possible.

---

Don't let the green element take over and stuff up a good project.

---

All can co-exist.

---

Definitely an asset for town and businesses.

---

Fires only in fire places. Limit how long campers can LIVE there. Take your rubbish HOME with you. Better toilets – but very hard for shire to maintain as they will be abused. Sign to tell campers DUMP POINT is in town.

---

More toilets, pontoon (for swimmers), will need to be deepened (for fishing)/jetty too. A (bird watching) hide would be great. Will need horse-yards (for horse riding).

---

Shower and toilet facilities would be excellent for a free campsite. Shared walks/cycling trails would be great.

As parks land is so close it would be better to develop the highway side for camping and caravan sites charging (eg) \$5 per night with a honesty box. It would go a long way towards paying for the water, having said that the track in would have to be upgrades and that side of the lake would have to be deepened for access for boats. Also would need a toilet block, I'm

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sure there would be a lot of local voluntary help out there. If stocked with fish you would get people all year round.

---

All activities on the water to be passive.  
No powered motor craft as these create erosion and loss of serenity.  
Grassed areas and public facilities would attract visitors (tourism).

---

It would be a great spot for recreation.

---

Free camping (as now) would be appreciated but no restrictions on other placid activities as in drone flying of similar. NO restrictions on dogs. P.S. A lake in town would be more beneficial.

---

Clean up scrub in bottom of Skinners before it fills. Remove sapplings and scrub which will be a nuisance when full. They need to dig out highway side and boats should be allowed to travel around entire lake as it would be safe and makes sense.

---

Need to make more room for camping and facilities need upgrading.

---

It would be great if the NO CAMPING signs were removed from Skinners Flat and Hard Hill so people would feel welcome in this town. This would do wonders for the town.

---

Just curious to why several members of the local Lions Club camped at Skinners Flat with their caravans a few weeks ago, but there is a 'NO CAMPING' sign. There's also a 'NO CAMPING' sign at Hard Hill Reserve. How do you expect to attract visitors to our town with these signs up. Water attracts people to towns.

---

barbecue areas. Sand beaches. Green grass. Shaded areas.

---

Water skiing is noisy – spoils it for the other activities and is a downer!

Camping would be acceptable if the amenities were there, i.e. toilets and bins!

---

Having watched the rise and fall of water levels and with it Skinners Flat fortunes as a recreational destination for locals and visitors alike; the Reservoir is best suited to passive pursuits. Power boats and jet skis are not compatible with the asset's small surface area and shallow depth. For it to be a viable place for regular use guaranteed recreational water allocation is essential. Council must advocate forcefully with GWM Water!! Otherwise any other expenditure will be wasted.

---

Please keep water level up to a reasonable depth. Not a suitable area for water skiing or motorboats, this churns up the bottom and ruins the environment.

---

Skinners needs to be developed for passive recreation.

---

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A committee of management would be a good idea. The toilet needs to be relocated as it is too close to the water. barbecues desperately need repairing and more picnic tables/seats made available.

---

Needs toilets/showers.

---

Needs toilets.

---

Loddon has numerous other locations for bushwalking and birdwatching such as Mt Korong, Melville Caves, Boort Lake, Loddon River. Skinners needs to be developed as a recreational water venue for the youth, families and visitors.

---

We don't want a "5 star resort". Basically what activities happen there now with upgraded facilities and constant water supply. Upgrade the road to the south-west side and level out that side for extra camping, parking and boating activities.

---

Perhaps a barbecue to be able to use and upgraded toilet amenities.

---

These will be great activities and may bring a lot of tourism to our town.

---

This area developed would be a fantastic asset for our community, just disappointing it has been overlooked for the last 40 years, when we were young and trying to ski out there. Water is a great asset to any community and great for attracting tourism.

---

Beautiful spot, great the council is asking the public on their opinion:

- toilets
  - barbecue areas
  - parking.
- 

There is a small percentage of ski boats in Wedderburn. To fill the Reservoir at great expense for so few cannot possibly be considered viable. Ski boats will also interfere with bird breeding elderly campers, bird watchers and passive recreation users.

---

## APPENDIX 3: Submissions from Key Stakeholders

### SUBMISSION NOTES : FRIENDS OF SKINNERS FLAT

- Friends of Skidders Flat would be willing to assist in managing SF as an incorporated group
- To be used for recreational activities such as skiing, boating, kayaking and fishing
- Zoning of areas to take place so that it enhances the usage of the area
- Road in needs work to allow for passing
- Floating jetty
- Future development on far North side for camping and other use (flatten)
- Dirt taken to fix the bank could be used to enhance the area
- barbecue area to be redone with grass and sand
- Solar lights/toilets to be upgraded (tank and tap needed, handbasin)  
Continue to access grants to promote and develop SF
- Sand next to boat ramp
- Yearly membership for users to raise money for the upkeep
- **Communication with other groups and work together to develop and area for everyone and all interests (Zoning)**
- Parking for boat trailers
- Tree to be removed near boat ramp
- Shade trees to be planted
- Donation tin
- Steel table and chairs
- Signage
- Signs for wildlife
- Suckers to be removed

30 March 2021



Mr. Grant Banks  
Strategic Plan Writer  
Loddon Shire Council  
High Street  
Wedderburn 3518

Dear Grant

**Submission for Skinners Flat Reservoir Master Plan**

Wedderburn Tourism Incorporated, who are also the Community Assets Committee of Management Section 65 for Hard Hill Reserve thank you for coming to our meeting last night and giving a very informative presentation of the proposed Master Plan for Skinners Flat Reservoir.

We support Council's initiative in this important project for our community and would very much like to see the area improved for passive recreation only.

As you are no doubt aware the community have banded together to get the Open Air Gallery Project in our town. This project is to highlight the large number of birds in our area. Out of the 800 birds in Victoria around 200 of them are found here, the largest percentage breakdown in the State! This is an important opportunity to promote Wedderburn as a bird watchers paradise bringing much needed tourists to our town.

Skinners Flat already has a substantial amount of water birds and with permanent water the birdlife would increase dramatically. At present there are white faced and white necked herons, spoonbills, black fronted dotterels, masked lapwings and several species of ducks, even 2 pelicans have been spotted out on the water. Many field birds come to the water to drink and feed off the insects. The re introduction of fish to the Reservoir would also increase the bird life. We would also like to see bird hides constructed as part of the promotion of the area for bird watchers.

Introducing speed boats will have a huge impact on the breeding habitats of these birds as well as their food supply. Noise is also an issue and we doubt if you will attract many grey nomads, who are our largest camping group, who like to enjoy the peace and surrounds on their travels.

Speed boats also limit the number of people who can use the water at one time whereas passive recreation is available to all.

We agree that there needs to be a Committee of Management for Skinners Flat Reservoir to oversee the running of the facility and maintaining any new structures that will be provided as

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per the recommendations from the Master Plan. A new toilet is certainly required as the old one is too close to the water and needs to be pumped out regularly. Perhaps composting toilets similar to those at Kooyoora State Park could be investigated.

Bushwalking tracks and boardwalks around the Reservoir would be interesting and no doubt bring more visitors to the area.

We wish Council well in their endeavour to improve this important and special facility for our community.

Jude Raftis  
Secretary

## Lions Club of Wedderburn

### Skidders Flat Master Plan Submission

As discussed when Grant Banks attended the recent meeting of the Wedderburn Lions, it was intended that we would do a submission. This had to be approved by a business meeting which occurred on the 7<sup>th</sup> April.

The Lions would like to firstly acknowledge your preparedness to allow a late submission from us given meeting structures and then need for approval by resolution at the club level.

Council would be well aware of the involvement that Lions has with the community and its service to the community. Lions has a considerable membership which at present totals 24 with 4 others interested in joining. In addition, the partners of these Lions virtually double the representation of Lions in the Wedderburn community.

The Lions Club of Wedderburn has been established for over 40 years. Over that time the club has contributed significantly to the Wedderburn community and continues to do so. The most major project recently undertaken has been the acquisition of the Coach House Gallery and Museum. Lions have enthusiastically tackled that project and completed considerable restoration work. This is clear evidence of the organisational skills, trade skills and commitment by Lions members.

We understand that the Loddon Shire owns the majority of the land comprising Skidders Flat Reservoir. The Wychitella Nature Conservation Reserve, which adjoins Skidders is a significant piece of bushland. There are considerable numbers of species of plants, birds and animals in the area. We understand from the Open Air Birds Project that there are over 200 varieties of birds alone in the Wedderburn area of the 800 varieties in Australia.

Skidders Flat is important in providing a breeding area and water source for birds at present but could be considerably expanded with regular inflows. This would not require 100% fill either, but enough to provide permanent water in the lake.

Lions believe that Skidders Flat should be developed for passive recreation and eco tourism because of the above reasons. We also consider that this would maximise usage for our residents and visitors.

At our business meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> April, the following motion was passed:-

That the Lions Club of Wedderburn make a submission to the Loddon Shire Council regarding the Master Plan for Skidders Flat.

The submission should include the following points that Lions support.

- That Skidders Flat be developed for passive recreation including such past times as picnics, fishing, camping, birdwatching, kayaking, sailboarding etc.
- That all watercraft using Skidders be unpowered and that a limit of 5 knots per hour be applied. This would avoid wakes, protect the banks, protect the dam wall and ensure the peace and serenity of the area.
- That any development be minimal and include the building of some composting toilets. Showers are not required, nor are rubbish bins. People should take out what they take in.
- That the focus for Skidders Flat should be based around eco tourism supported by the Open Air bird project in the town. The two go hand in hand.

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- That the Wedderburn Lions Club as an incorporated organization that work for the community would be prepared to be the body to oversee the CAC for Skinners.
- That Lions would commit to assisting in the maintenance and development of the area for the purposes stated above in conjunction with the council and the community.

A second motion was also passed:-

That the Lions Club form a sub committee follow through on the above motion.

This was carried and a sub committee has been formed.

Expanding on the initial motion, Lions believe that camping should be encouraged, but on a self sufficient basis so that people take out their rubbish. Camping in the area and the development of Skinners along the lines proposed above would lead to a wider appreciation of the Wychitella NCR. This area can also be promoted for eco-tourism which simply leads to a greater awareness of the Loddon Shire area and what it has to offer.

As mentioned in the motion above, Lions as an incorporated body would be prepared to take on the role of managing the CAC. This would be similar to Wedderburn Tourism and Hard Hill. Several Lions members are also involved in the Hall Committee.

Lions look forward to the opportunity of working with the Shire on this project. We believe this will be of great benefit for our town and community. Visitors for eco tourism pursuits could contribute significantly to the local micro economy.

Please don't hesitate to contact us should you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

Jon Chandler  
Secretary

## Skidders Flat Master Plan Submission

Further to the Loddon Shire calling for submissions relating to Skidders Flat development, the Friends of Kooyoora would like to add their voice on the plan.

The Friends of Kooyoora has been incorporated since 2002. Its' purpose is the promotion and conservation of the Kooyoora State Park. This includes monitoring of various species of plants, birds and animals to ensure sustainable development. With the Kooyoora State Park moving to a joint management arrangement with the Dja Dja Wurrung, the Friends of Kooyoora are taking a wider interest in the area. This includes the Kingower State Forest, Mt Korong, Inglewood NCR and Wychitella NCR which adjoins Skidders Flat.

The Wychitella NCR is a significant piece of bushland. We are aware of several disused Mallee Fowl nests but also the existence of a number of active mounds. The species of plants, birds and animals in the area is significant. Large numbers of varieties have been seen in the Nardoo Hills Reserve belonging to Bush Heritage at the end of the Mt Kerang Road.

Skidders Flat is important in providing a breeding area and water source for birds. The Australian Living Atlas records 273 various species of animals, plants and birds at Skidders Flat alone. We would suggest that these records are not complete as many people do not record sightings.

If we look at the Nardoo Hills Reserve area using a 10km radius, there are 783 various species of animals, plants and birds. This area would include Skidders Flat and the surrounding bushland provides important conservation corridors and environment for many of these species.

It is for these reasons that Skidders Flat should be developed for passive recreation to build upon the existing environmental assets of the area.

The Friends of Kooyoora would support the building of environmentally friendly toilets in the camping area. These could be similar to the ones at the Kooyoora Camp Ground. The water area should be developed to provide greater habitat for birds and fish could be introduced. This would encourage ecological diversity and balance.

Apart from toilets, we do not see the necessity to develop any other assets that would require considerable cost and maintenance. The old barbecues should be removed and perhaps replaced with new ones if viable.

Any vessels on the water should be subjected to a speed limit of 5 knots. This would be in keeping with a quiet and natural environment where people could enjoy the water safely and have minimal impact on the environment and the wildlife. We would not under any circumstances support faster speeds on the water as this would discourage birdlife and detract from the peaceful nature of the environment. It would also considerably reduce the number of people able to enjoy the water area and engaged in other passive recreation at any one time, such as canoeing, paddle boarding, swimming, fishing or bird-watching.

Camping should be encouraged, but on a sustainable basis so that people take out their rubbish. No bins should be provided as they simply create a focal point for people to dump garbage. This can encourage foxes and other scavengers to create unsightly and unhealthy situations.

Camping in the area and the development of Skidders along the lines proposed above would lead to a wider appreciation of the Wychitella NCR. This area can also be promoted for eco-tourism which simply leads to a greater awareness of the Loddon Shire area and what it has to offer.

We look forward to working with the Shire and providing any further information or opinions on the development of the Master Plan. Many of our members have considerable experience in the

conservation area and environmental monitoring. These skills are available for the Shire to access should they choose to do so to enhance the development.

Please don't hesitate to contact us should you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

Robert Scholes  
Convenor  
Friends of Kooyoora

PS. Detailed Flora and Species Lists of Skinners Flat and surrounding/adjoining bushlands can be supplied or obtained from the Australian Living Atlas.

### APPENDIX 4: Aerial view of Skinners Flat Reservoir



**10.3 SECTION 65 COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEE - REVOKE INSTRUMENT OF DELEGATION - BRIDGEWATER ON LODDON MEMORIAL HALL**

**File Number:** FOL/20/7161  
**Author:** Michelle Hargreaves, Administration Officer  
**Authoriser:** Sharon Morrison, Director Corporate Services  
**Attachments:** Nil

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council revoke the instrument of delegation to Bridgewater on Loddon Memorial Hall Community Asset Committee, resulting in the Community Asset Committee being dissolved, effective upon the signing of a Management Agreement with Bridgewater on Loddon Development Inc.

**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 new delegations to Section 65 committees at the ordinary meeting held on 25 August 2020. A Management Agreement can be issued to an incorporated body rather than an Instrument of Delegation.

**BACKGROUND**

Under section 65 of the Local Government Act 2020 (Act) Councillors establish community asset committees and appoint their members. Under section 47 of the Act the CEO issues their instrument of delegation.

Alternatively incorporated bodies like Bridgewater on Loddon Development Committee (BOLD), can be issued a Management Agreement on similar terms and conditions to an Instrument of Delegation, also signed by the CEO.

**ISSUES/DISCUSSION**

Discussions have been held with Bridgewater on Loddon Memorial Hall Community Asset Committee (CAC) and BOLD. The committees have agreed to work under the one banner and become incorporated.

At the CAC meeting held in March the committee voted to rescind the instrument of delegation and have formally written to Council to complete this process. This alleviates the need for as many volunteers.

A draft Management Agreement will be issued to BOLD and if acceptable, can be finalised and signed by BOLD and the CEO.

**COST/BENEFITS**

There are no direct costs associated with this recommendation.

The benefit of the amalgamation of the committees is a reduced need for volunteers.

**RISK ANALYSIS**

There is a reduced risk of lack of volunteers through the amalgamation of two committees.

**CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

The section 65 committee has been consulted regarding the revocation of the instrument of delegation. The committee has indicated that it supports the recommendations made in this report.

**10.4 ADOPTION OF THE 2021/22 BUDGET**

**File Number:** 07/01/001  
**Author:** Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services  
**Authoriser:** Sharon Morrison, Director Corporate Services  
**Attachments:** 1. Fees and Charges Schedule 2021/22  
2. Budget 2021/22

**RECOMMENDATION**

1. That Council:
  - (a) having advertised the Draft Budget and having received no submissions, adopt the 2021/22 Budget.
  - (b) having advertised the Draft Fees and Charges Schedule and having received no submissions, adopt the 2021/22 Fees and Charges Schedule
  - (c) 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 Schedule for the year 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

**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 2021/22 Draft Budget at a Council Forum on Tuesday 13 April 2021.

Council resolved to advertise the Draft Budget at a Council Meeting on Tuesday 27 April 2021.

**BACKGROUND**

The Draft Budget was placed on public display, seeking feedback for 28 days from Saturday 1 May 2021 until Friday 28 May 2021, using the Community Engagement Policy as guidance.

During this period, copies of the Draft Budget were made available on Council's website and a printed copy posted to ratepayers where requested.

Advertisements were placed in the Bendigo Advertiser on Saturday 1 May and Saturday 8 May 2021. Advertisement was also placed in the Loddon Herald. Facebook, emailing to all Council committees and other media options were also utilised.

**ISSUES/DISCUSSION**

No submissions was received during the public display period.

During the advertisement period Council received notification and prepayment of 50% of 2021/22 funding from the Victoria Grants Commission. This has resulted in adjustments to the relevant areas within the budget document but leaves the same cash surplus result.

The fees and charges document did not received any submissions but had some updates made from increased regulatory fees.

**COST/BENEFITS**

The benefits to Council and the community are that a consultative budget process complies with the Local Government Act 1989, and Local Government Act 2020, and allows the community to provide feedback to Council on the budget's content.

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 discussing and advertising the annual budget is that it will not comply with requirements under the Local Government Act 1989 and Local Government Act 2020.

**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 adoption of the 2021/22 Budget. Although the new Local Government Act 2020 does not require this process to be undertaken, it was still followed, seeking feedback for the 28 day period.



# LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL

## FEES AND CHARGES FOR THE YEAR 1 JULY 2021 TO 30 JUNE 2022



## DOCUMENT INFORMATION

DOCUMENT TYPE: Strategic document

DOCUMENT STATUS: Draft

POLICY OWNER POSITION: Manager Financial Services

INTERNAL COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT: Not applicable

APPROVED BY: Council

DATE ADOPTED:

VERSION NUMBER: 1

REVIEW DATE: 30/06/2022

DATE RESCINDED:

RELATED STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS, POLICIES OR PROCEDURES:

RELATED LEGISLATION: Local Government Act 1989  
Australian Taxation Office Goods and Services Tax Act (GST)

EVIDENCE OF APPROVAL:

---

Chief Executive Officer

FILE LOCATION: K:\FINANCE\Budget\2020-21\Fees and Charges\STR  
Fees and Charges 2020-21 v2.docx

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## 1 PURPOSE

This document is provided to Loddon Shire Council staff and customers to provide clear advice on Council's fees and charges for the financial year 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

## 2 BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The fees and charges included in the document will be incorporated into Council's 2020/2021 Budget.

## 3 FEES AND CHARGES

The fees and charges contained in this document apply for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021. There may be some alterations to legislated fees and charges contained in the document. Where this occurs, the document will be updated with the new fees and charges, which will be effective at the date deemed in the legislation.

**PLEASE NOTE: M or D determines the type of fee or charge as below:**

**M = Mandatory and is set by another organisation/government department**

**D = Discretionary and is set by Council**

### 3.1 Building fees

#### 3.1.1 Building fees

Building fees	Unit rate	M or D	Is GST applicable?	2021/2022 Proposed fee
New dwellings, dwelling additions, sheds, carports, veranda	Application	D	Yes	\$500.00 (Cost Of Building Works (COBW) / \$200.00)
Fences, retaining walls and swimming pools (including safety barriers)	Application	D	Yes	\$450.00
Other classes - fee will be determined depending on type of building e.g. factory, retail shop, workshop etc.	Application	D	Yes	On request
Demolitions	Application	D	Yes	\$525.00
Re-erection of a dwelling	Application	M	Yes	\$900.00 + (COBW / \$200.00)
Retention of building works (Works less than \$5,000)	Application	D	Yes	\$520.00
Retention of building works (Works more than \$5,000)	Application	D	Yes	\$1,035.00
Additional inspections	Inspection	D	Yes	\$195.00
Extensions of time on permits	Application	D	Yes	\$275.00

Building fees	Unit rate	M or D	Is GST applicable?	2021/2022 Proposed fee
Application to register swimming pool	Application	M	No	\$31.80
Swimming pool archive search fee	Application	M	No	\$47.20
Lodgement of swimming pool certificate of compliance	Lodgement	M	No	\$20.40
Lodgement of swimming pool certificate of non-compliance	Lodgement	M	No	\$385.00
Swimming pool safety barrier inspection fee	Initial inspection	D	Yes	\$505.00
Swimming pool safety barrier inspection fee	Additional inspection	D	Yes	\$195.00
State Building Levy	Application	M	No	0.128%
Re-erection of a dwelling – bond / surety	Application	D	No	\$10,000.00
Lodgement fee (Section 30)	Lodgement	M	No	\$121.90
Property information	Per application	M	No	\$47.20
Report and consent fee	Application	M	No	\$290.40
Minor amendment fee	Application	D	Yes	\$100.00
File retrieval from archive system (photocopying additional)	Application	D	Yes	\$87.00
Application under section 29A of the Building Act 1993	Application	M	No	\$85.20
Point of discharge for stormwater	Application	M	No	\$144.70
Inspection compliance report	Application	D	Yes	\$505.00
PoPE fee with a paid entry event (per event)	Application	D	Yes	\$623.00
Temporary structure within paid entry PoPE event	Application	D	Yes	\$121.00
PoPe fee with a free entry event (per event)	Application	D	Yes	\$311.00
Temporary structure within free entry PoPE event	Application	D	Yes	\$60.00
Application for Protection of Public Regulation 116(4)	Application	M	No	\$294.70
Application to build above or below Public Facilities Regulation 134(2)	Application	M	No	\$290.40

### 3.2 Caravan parks

#### 3.2.1 Bridgewater Public Caravan Park

Cabins and sites	Unit rate per night or week	M or D	Is GST applicable?	2021/2022 Proposed fee
<b>Cabins</b>				
Cabin (peak period)	Per night 2 people	D	Yes	\$140.00
Cabin additional persons	Per night per person	D	Yes	\$10.00
Cabin (off peak period)	Per night 2 people	D	Yes	\$118.00
Additional person	Per night per person	D	Yes	\$10.00
<b>Sites</b>				
Powered site (peak period)	Per night 2 people	D	Yes	\$42.00
Additional persons	Per night per person	D	Yes	\$6.00
Powered site (off peak period)	Per night 2 people	D	Yes	\$37.00
Additional persons	Per night per person	D	Yes	\$6.00
Powered site (peak period)	Per week 2 people	D	Yes	\$186.00
Additional persons	Per person per night for the week	D	Yes	\$6.00
Powered site (off peak period)	Per week 2 people	D	Yes	\$160.00
Additional persons	Per person per night for the week	D	Yes	\$6.00
Unpowered site (peak period)	Per night 2 people	D	Yes	\$32.00
Additional persons	Per night per person	D	Yes	\$6.00
Unpowered site (off peak period)	Per night 2 people	D	Yes	\$27.00
Additional persons	Per night per person	D	Yes	\$6.00
Unpowered site	Per week 2 people	D	Yes	\$129.00
Additional persons	Per person per night for the week	D	Yes	\$6.00
<b>Other</b>				
Washing machine use	Per cycle	D	Yes	\$6.00
Tumble dryer	Per cycle	D	Yes	\$2.00

- Peak periods means:
  1. Victorian school holidays
  2. Victorian public holiday long weekends (being Labour Day, Easter, ANZAC Day (if this falls on a Friday or Monday), Queens Birthday, Melbourne Cup and AFL Grand Final).
- Normal check out time is: 10.00am.
- \$12.00 late stay fee: to enable campers to remain on the current site until 6:00pm on the day of check out if the site is not required for new campers to check in.
- Caravan and Motorhome Club Group bookings: A flat discount rate of 10.00% is offered for both powered and unpowered sites during both peak and non-peak rates under the following conditions:
  1. the group must be a formalized caravan or motorhome club
  2. a group is defined as 10 or more caravans or motorhomes
  3. two night minimum booking
  4. discounts are at the discretion of the Park Managers, who will take into account the demand for occupancy at the time the group booking is required.
- Individual arrangements for variations to fees may be endorsed by the Chief Executive Officer Loddon Shire Council to assist with accommodation of Council staff for employment purposes.
- Deposits: a deposit is at least the cost of the first night's tariff and must be received by the park within 7 days of booking to confirm a guest's reservation.
- Cancellations: when making a direct booking with a caravan park managed on behalf of Loddon Shire Council, it is acknowledged and agreed that all reservations and deposits are accepted by park managers and are subject to the following cancellation policy guidelines. Any reservations through agents or other third parties may be subject to separate policies, and it is recommended that park managers advise guests to check those conditions.  
Park managers should advise guests of the cancellation policy for the park at the time of reservation.
- Low-season cancellations: during the low season, deposits will only be refunded if the park managers are notified of the cancellation prior to 9am on the day prior to the scheduled arrival. If notice of the cancellation is received after 9am on the day prior to the scheduled arrival, the park manager may retain the full deposit paid.
- Peak-season cancellations: deposits for reservations made wholly or partially in peak seasons will only be refunded if the guest notifies the park manager of the cancellation at least 30 days prior to the scheduled arrival. If less time is provided than the required period of notice of cancellation, the deposit will only be refunded if the site or cabin is able to be rebooked.
- Early departures: Council will not refund amounts paid should the guest cut short the reservation or holiday.
- Failure to notify of cancellation: if the park manager has not been notified of the cancellation, or the guest does not arrive by 10am on the day after the scheduled arrival date, the reservation may be cancelled by the park managers without refund of any paid deposit.



## 3.2.2 Pioneer Caravan Park – Wedderburn

Cabins and sites	Unit rate per night or week	M or D	Is GST applicable?	2021/2022 Proposed fee
Deluxe cabin self-contained	Per night 2 people	D	Yes	\$129.00
Deluxe cabin self-contained	Per week 2 people	D	Yes	\$755.00
Additional to two people staying	Per person per night	D	Yes	\$16.00
Deluxe cabin	Per night 2 people	D	Yes	\$98.00
Deluxe cabin per week	Per week 2 people	D	Yes	\$565.00
Deluxe cabin - more than 2 people staying	Per person per night additional to above	D	Yes	\$16.00
Standard cabin	Per night 2 people	D	Yes	\$87.00
Standard cabin per week	Per week 2 people	D	Yes	\$477.00
Standard cabin – additional to 2 people staying	Per person per night additional to above	D	Yes	\$11.00
<b>Powered sites</b>				
Overnight fee	Per night 2 people	D	Yes	\$22.00
Weekly fee	Per week 2 people	D	Yes	\$103.00
Additional to 2 people staying	Per person per night	D	Yes	\$6.00
<b>Unpowered sites</b>				
Overnight fee	Per night 2 people	D	Yes	\$17.00
Weekly fee	Per week 2 people	D	Yes	\$103.00
Additional to 2 people staying at an unpowered site	Per person per night	D	Yes	\$6.00
<b>Permanent resident</b>				
Weekly fee (GST @ 5.5%)	Per week	D	Yes	\$68.00
Annual fee (GST @ 5.5%)	Per year	D	Yes	\$3,385.00
Power charges - as per tariff supplied by electrical supplier	As metered	D	Yes	

Cabins and sites	Unit rate per night or week	M or D	Is GST applicable?	2021/2022 Proposed fee
<b>Annual tenant</b>				
Annual fee - holiday caravan site	Per year	D	Yes	\$1,179.00
Power charges - as per tariff supplied by electrical supplier	As metered	D	Yes	As metered
<b>Other</b>				
Washing machine	Per cycle	D	Yes	\$6.00
Tumble dryer	Per cycle	D	Yes	\$2.00
Storage	Per week	D	Yes	\$12.00
Shower	Per shower	D	Yes	\$8.00

- Deposits: a deposit is at least the cost of the first night's tariff and must be received by the park within 7 days of booking to confirm a guest's reservation.
- Cancellations: when making a direct booking with a caravan park managed on behalf of Loddon Shire Council, it is acknowledged and agreed that all reservations and deposits are accepted by park managers and are subject to the following cancellation policy guidelines. Any reservations through agents or other third parties may be subject to separate policies, and it is recommended that park managers advise guests to check those conditions.  
Park managers should advise guests of the cancellation policy for the park at the time of reservation.
- Low-season cancellations: during the low season, deposits will only be refunded if the park managers are notified of the cancellation prior to 9am on the day prior to the scheduled arrival. If notice of the cancellation is received after 9am on the day prior to the scheduled arrival, the park manager may retain the full deposit paid.
- Peak-season cancellations: deposits for reservations made wholly or partially in peak seasons will only be refunded if the guest notifies the park manager of the cancellation at least 30 days prior to the scheduled arrival. If less time is provided than the required period of notice of cancellation, the deposit will only be refunded if the site or cabin is able to be rebooked.
- Individual arrangements for variations to fees may be endorsed by the Chief Executive Officer Loddon Shire Council to assist with accommodation of Council staff for employment purposes.
- Early departures: Council will not refund amounts paid should the guest cut short the reservation or holiday.
- Failure to notify of cancellation: if the park manager has not been notified of the cancellation, or the guest does not arrive by 10am on the day after the scheduled arrival date, the reservation may be cancelled by the park managers without refund of any paid deposit.

### 3.3 Rental properties

#### 3.3.1 Elderly persons units

Elderly persons units	Unit rate	M or D	Is GST applicable ?	2021/2022 Proposed fee
<b>Dingee</b>				
Unit 1	Per week	D	No	\$96.00
Unit 2	Per week	D	No	\$96.00
Unit 3	Per week	D	No	\$96.00
Unit 4	Per week	D	No	\$96.00
Unit 5	Per week	D	No	\$96.00
<b>Pyramid Hill</b>				
Unit 1	Per week	D	No	\$82.00
Unit 2	Per week	D	No	\$89.00
Unit 3	Per week	D	No	\$82.00
Unit 4	Per week	D	No	\$82.00
<b>Serpentine</b>				
Unit 1	Per week	D	No	\$96.00
Unit 2	Per week	D	No	\$96.00
Unit 3	Per week	D	No	\$96.00
Unit 4	Per week	D	No	\$96.00
Unit 5	Per week	D	No	\$96.00

### 3.4 Public health

#### 3.4.1 Food Act registration fees

Food premises	Unit rate	M or D	Is GST applicable ?	2021/2022 Proposed fee
<b>Businesses</b>				
Registration of premises (class 1)	Each	D	No	\$389.00
Registration of premises (class 2)	Each	D	No	\$300.00
Registration of premises (class 3)	Each	D	No	\$187.00
Notification of premises (class 4)				
<b>Not permitted under the Food Act 1984</b>	Each	M	No	N/A
Temporary Food Premises – 12 month registration	For the year			50% of applicable class fee
Temporary Food Premises – Short Term Registration	For registration period			25% of applicable class fee

Food premises	Unit rate	M or D	Is GST applicable ?	2021/2022 Proposed fee
Temporary <b>Food Premises</b> - with a Fixed Premises registered with Loddon Shire	For the Year			25% of applicable class fee
Mobile Food Premises - Business	For the year			As per class fee above
Mobile Food Premises - with a Fixed Premises registered with Loddon Shire	For the year			25% of applicable Class registration Fee
<b>Community Groups</b>				
Community group with Liquor Licence Fixed Premises (class 2)	Each	D	No	\$160.00
Community group without Liquor Licence Fixed Premises (class 2)	Each	D	No	\$111.00
Community group with Liquor Licence Fixed Premises (class 3)	Each	D	No	\$100.00
Community group without Liquor Licence Fixed Premises (class 3)	Each	D	No	\$75.00
Notification of premises (class 4) <b>Not permitted under the Food Act 1984</b>	Each	M	No	N/A
Temporary Food Premises – Community Group (yearly and short term fee)	For the year	D	No	\$28.00
Temporary Food Premises – Community Group with a Fixed Premises	For the year	D	No	No charge
Mobile Food Premises – Community Group	For the year	D	No	\$28.00
<b>All Groups</b>				
Inspection and report	Each	D	Yes	\$207.00
Transfer of registration (includes mandatory inspection charge)	Each	D	No	\$192.00
Late payment of annual registration fee (additional charge added to annual registration fee)	Each	D	No	50% of applicable fee
Additional inspection fee (applied to each subsequent inspection beyond the 3 allowed in each registration year)	Each	D	Yes	\$207.00

3.4.2 Public Health and Wellbeing Act registration fees

Health premises	Unit rate	M or D	Is GST applicable?	2021/2022 Proposed fee
Registration of premises (prescribed accommodation)	Each	D	No	\$215.00
Registration of health premises (undertaking 1 activity)	Each	D	No	\$153.00
Registration of health premises (undertaking 2 or more activities)	Each	D	No	\$176.00
Registration of low risk premises (life time registration unless premises relocates)	Each	D	No	\$153.00
Swimming Pools (class 1)	Each	D	No	\$209.00
Inspection and report	Each	D	Yes	\$207.00
Late payment of annual registration fee	Each	D	No	50% of applicable fee
Transfer of registration	Each	D	No	50% of applicable fee

3.4.3 Residential Tenancies Act and Regulations (caravan parks)

Caravan parks	Unit rate	M or D	Is GST applicable ?	2021/2022 Proposed fee
Registration - as per schedule in regulations	Per site	M	No	As set within Regulation
Transfer of premises - as per schedule in regulations	Each	M	No	As set within Regulation
Transfer inspection report	Each	D	Yes	\$207.00
Application to install a moveable dwelling / rigid annex	Each	D	Yes	\$71.00

3.4.4 Environment Protection Act application fees

Onsite Wastewater Management	Unit rate	M or D	Is GST applicable?	2021/2022 Proposed fee
Installation of new onsite wastewater management system or significant alterations	Each	D	No	As set within Regulation
Minor amendments to recently issued permits and completion of expired permit without inspection	Each	D	No	As set within Regulation
Permit extension - 1 year	Each	D	No	As set within Regulation

Onsite Wastewater Management	Unit rate	M or D	Is GST applicable?	2021/2022 Proposed fee
Alteration to an existing onsite wastewater management system	Each	D	No	As set within Regulation
Inspection fee	Each	D	Yes	\$207.00
File retrieval from archive system (photocopying additional)	Application	D	Yes	\$87.00

- The Environment Protection regulations are due to commence on 1 July 2021 as part of the regulations a range of onsite wastewater management fees will be introduced

### 3.5 Aged and disability services

#### 3.5.1 Home and community care for younger people program

Aged care services	Unit rate	M or D	Is GST applicable?	2021/2022 Proposed fee
Home care – low	Per hour	D	No	\$6.36
Home care – medium	Per hour	D	No	\$16.16
Home care – high	Per hour	D	No	\$36.32
Personal care – low	Per hour	D	No	\$4.80
Personal care – medium	Per hour	D	No	\$9.80
Personal care – high	Per hour	D	No	\$40.60
Respite care – low	Per hour	D	No	\$3.28
Respite care – medium	Per hour	D	No	\$4.96
Respite care – high	Per hour	D	No	\$37.36
Negotiated fee variation – home care	Per hour	D	No	\$2.58
Negotiated fee variation – personal care	Per hour	D	No	\$1.56
Meals on wheels – low and medium	Per meal	D	No	\$9.88
Meals on wheels – high	Per meal	D	No	\$12.16
Property maintenance – low	Per hour	D	No	\$12.96
Property maintenance – medium	Per hour	D	No	\$19.48
Property maintenance – high	Per hour	D	No	\$51.60
Property maintenance – mod construction	Per hour	D	No	\$24.92
Planned activity group – core	Per session	D	No	\$8.16
Planned activity group – high	Per session	D	No	\$8.16

3.5.2 Commonwealth home support program

Home support program	Unit rate	M or D	Is GST applicable?	2021/2022 Proposed fee
Domestic assistance – low	Per hour	D	No	\$6.36
Domestic assistance – medium	Per hour	D	No	\$16.16
Domestic assistance – high	Per hour	D	No	\$36.32
Personal care – low	Per hour	D	No	\$4.80
Personal care – medium	Per hour	D	No	\$9.52
Personal care – high	Per hour	D	No	\$40.60
Flexible respite – low	Per hour	D	No	\$3.28
Flexible respite – medium	Per hour	D	No	\$4.96
Flexible respite – high	Per hour	D	No	\$37.36
Meals on wheels – low and medium	Per meal	D	No	\$9.72
Meals on wheels – high	Per meal	D	No	\$12.16
Meals – other	Per meal	D	No	\$9.72
Home maintenance – low	Per hour	D	No	\$12.76
Home maintenance – medium	Per hour	D	No	\$19.16
Home maintenance – high	Per hour	D	No	\$51.52
Home maintenance – mod construction	Per hour	D	No	\$24.92
Social support – group	Per session	D	No	\$8.00
Social support – individual	Per session	D	No	\$8.00

3.5.3 Transport for aged service clients

Transport for aged service clients	Unit rate	M or D	Is GST applicable?	2021/2022 Proposed fee
Transport within town	Per trip	D	No	\$5.70
Transport under 20km to destination	Per trip	D	No	\$11.20
Transport 20-50km to destination	Per trip	D	No	\$22.60
Transport 50-100km to destination	Per trip	D	No	\$34.00
Transport 100-150km to destination	Per trip	D	No	\$45.20
Transport over 150km to destination	Per trip	D	No	\$56.60

3.5.4 Brokered services: linkages, post-acute care, aged care packages, carer support services, WorkCover

Services	Unit rate	M or D	Is GST applicable?	2021/2022 Proposed fee
Home care	Per hour	D	Yes	\$53.38
Personal care	Per hour	D	Yes	\$53.38
Respite care	Per hour	D	Yes	\$53.38
Weekend personal / respite care	Per hour	D	Yes	\$105.34
Property maintenance	Per hour	D	Yes	\$68.88
Meals on wheels	Per meal	D	Yes	\$14.44
Travel	Per km	D	Yes	\$1.26
Annual home safety check	Per check	D	Yes	\$57.87

3.5.5 Capped account limits

Capped account limits	Unit rate	M or D	Is GST applicable?	2021/2022 Proposed fee
Client monthly account - single - 4 week account cycle	Per month	D	No	\$250.00
Client monthly account - single - 5 week account cycle	Per month	D	No	\$312.00
Client monthly account - single - 6 week account cycle	Per month	D	No	\$375.00
Client monthly account - double - 4 week account cycle	Per month	D	No	\$446.00
Client monthly account - double - 5 week account cycle	Per month	D	No	\$557.00
Client monthly account - double - 6 week account cycle	Per month	D	No	\$669.00

3.5.6 Department of Veteran Affairs

Department of Veterans Affairs	Unit rate per client	M or D	Is GST applicable?	2021/2022 Proposed fee
Home care	Per hour	M	Yes	\$64.68
Personal care	Per hour	M	Yes	\$80.03
Personal care – weekend	Per hour	M	Yes	\$98.34
Respite care	Per hour	M	Yes	\$62.04
Respite care – weekend	Per hour	M	Yes	\$81.51
Emergency respite	Per hour	M	Yes	\$66.06
Emergency respite – weekend	Per hour	M	Yes	\$74.36
Property maintenance	Per hour	M	Yes	\$66.61
Co-payment – average of all fees	Per session	M	No	\$5.00



### 3.6 Local laws

#### 3.6.1 Domestic Animals Act 1994

Animal registration period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

Domestic animals	Unit rate	M or D	Is GST applicable?	2021/2022 Proposed fee
Registration fee - unsterilized animal	Per animal	D	No	\$125.00
Registration fee - unsterilized animal - pensioners' concession	Per animal	D	No	50% of above fee
Registration fee - reduced fee (refer criteria)	Per animal	D	No	\$31.00
Registration fee - reduced fee (refer criteria) - pensioners' concession	Per animal	D	No	50% of above fee
Registration fee - dangerous / menacing or restricted breed dog (no reduced fee available under S 15(7) of the Act)	Per animal	D	No	\$125.00
Impounding of dog or cat	Per animal	D	No	\$76.50
Annual licence fee for Domestic Animal Business Registration	Per licence	D	No	\$156.00
Transfer from another council (registration must be for current period)	Per animal	D	No	Nil

#### 3.6.2 Domestic Animals Act 1994 - reduced fee criteria

*Registration fee for an animal registered for the first time after 10 October will be one half the applicable annual fee*

*Where the animal has been registered for the full year dies within six months of the commencement of the registration year the owner shall be entitled to a refund of one half of the registration fee paid*

*Animal desexed*

*Animal over 10 years old*

*Farm working dog*

*Animal kept as part of a registered domestic animal business or applicable organisation*

*A dog that has undergone approved obedience training in accordance with Regulation 52 of the Domestic Animals Regulations*

*Dogs and cats registered with an 'applicable organisation' in accordance with the Domestic Animals Act 1994*

3.6.3 Impounding of Livestock Act 1994

Livestock	Unit rate	M or D	Is GST applicable?	2021/2022 Proposed fee
Sheep or goat (per head, up to 10 head)	Impoundment	D	No	\$76.70
Sheep or goat (per head, more than 10)	Impoundment	D	No	\$1.50
Sheep or goat (per head)	Daily feeding	D	Yes	\$2.50
Sheep or goat (per head)	Daily feeding	D	Yes	\$2.50
Horse, cow or ram (per head)	Impoundment	D	No	\$76.70
Horse, cow or ram(per head)	Daily feeding	D	Yes	\$11.40
Other livestock (per head)	Impoundment	D	No	\$76.70
Other livestock (per head)	Daily feeding	D	Yes	\$11.40

*With regard to the items below, please see the relevant Local Law or associated Act for fines and penalties*

3.6.4 Local Law No. 4 – Environment (2015) infringements3.6.5 Local Law No. 2 - Street and Roads (Amendment No 2 2010) infringements3.6.6 Environment Protection Act penalties3.6.7 Country Fire Authority Act 19583.6.8 Local Law No. 5 – Livestock (2005)3.6.9 Domestic Animals Act 19943.6.10 Local Law No. 2 – Streets and Roads - Part 4

Local laws permits	Unit rate	M or D	Is GST applicable?	2021/2022 Proposed fee
Division one – Advertising signs	Per sign	D	No	\$53.80
Division two – Trading from road	Per day	D	No	\$53.80
Division three – Display of goods	Per site	D	No	\$53.80
Division four – Street furniture and outdoor eating	Per permit	D	No	\$28.40
Outdoor area public liability insurance	Per permit	D	No	\$11.70

3.6.11 Local laws permits

Local laws permits	Unit rate	M or D	Is GST applicable?	2021/2022 Proposed fee
All other local laws permits	Per permit	D	No	\$27.40

3.6.12 Clearing fire hazard blocks

Fire hazard blocks	Unit rate	M or D	Is GST applicable?	2021/2022 Proposed fee
Clearing of fire hazards – blocks	Per block	D	Yes	At cost plus \$110.00 admin fee plus GST

3.7 **Town planning**3.7.1 Planning fees

Permits	Unit rate	M or D	Is GST applicable?	2021/2022 Proposed fee
<b>Use only</b>	Application	M	No	\$1,318.10
<b>VicSmart applications (confirm with Planning Officer if your application qualifies)</b>				
Less than \$10,000	Application	M	No	\$199.95
More than \$10,001	Application	M	No	\$429.50
Application to subdivide or consolidate land (as permitted by VicSmart regulations)	Application	M	No	\$199.95
<b>Single dwelling and ancillary to dwelling (based on value of development)</b>				
Less than \$10,000	Application	M	No	\$199.95
\$10,001 to \$100,000	Application	M	No	\$629.40
\$100,001 to \$500,000	Application	M	No	\$1,288.45
\$500,001 to \$1,000,000	Application	M	No	\$1,392.15
\$1M > \$2M	Application	M	No	\$1,495.80
<b>Other development (based on value of development)</b>				
\$10,001 to \$100,000	Application	M	No	\$1,147.75
\$100,001 to \$1,000,000	Application	M	No	\$1,547.65
\$1M to \$5M	Application	M	No	\$3,413.70
\$5M to \$15M	Application	M	No	\$8,700.85
\$15M to \$50M	Application	M	No	\$25,658.30
\$50M to \$100M	Application	M	No	\$57,670.15
<b>Subdivision</b>				
To subdivide an existing building	Application	M	No	\$1,318.10
To subdivide land into 2 lots	Application	M	No	\$1,318.10
To subdivide land into <u>more than 2</u> lots	Application	M	No	\$1,318.10 per 100 lots
To remove a restriction (within the meaning of the Subdivision Act 1988) over land	Application	M	No	\$1,318.10
To create, vary or remove a restriction within the meaning of the Subdivision Act 1988, or to create or remove a right of way	Application	M	No	\$1,318.10

Permits	Unit rate	M or D	Is GST applicable?	2021/2022 Proposed fee
To create, vary or remove an easement other than a right of way, or to vary or remove a condition in the nature of an easement in a Crown grant.	Application	M	No	\$1,318.10
Secondary consent	Application	M	No	\$195.10
Extension of time to permit	Application	M	No	\$200.00
Certification of plan of subdivision	Application	M	No	\$174.75
Alteration of a plan under Section10(2) prior to Certification	Application	M	No	\$111.05
Amendment of a certified plan under section11(1) of the Act	Application	M	No	\$140.70
Planning enquiry	Application	D	Yes	\$42.70
File retrieval from archive system (photocopying additional)	Application	D	Yes	\$87.30

### 3.8 Swimming pools

#### 3.8.1 Pool fees

Pool fees	Unit rate	M or D	Is GST applicable?	2020/2021 Adopted fee
*Concession cards accepted: Heath Care, Student, Veterans Affairs, Victorian Carers, Pension and Seniors Cards				
<b>Season tickets</b>				
Family	Per season	D	Yes	\$132.00
Family concession*	Per season	D	Yes	\$105.00
Adult	Per season	D	Yes	\$77.00
Adult concession*	Per season	D	Yes	\$62.00
Child	Per season	D	Yes	\$51.00
<b>Entrance fees</b>				
Family (for 1 or 2 adults and their dependent children under 18)	Per entry	D	Yes	\$10.50
Family concession*	Per entry	D	Yes	\$8.50
Adult	Per entry	D	Yes	\$5.00
Adult concession*	Per entry	D	Yes	\$4.00
Child	Per entry	D	Yes	\$2.50
School groups	Per entry	D	Yes	\$1.30
Adult - non-swimmer	Per entry	D	Yes	Nil
Companion Card holder	Per entry	D	Yes	Nil
Child - non-swimmer	Per entry	D	Yes	Nil
One lifeguard in attendance	Per hour	D	Yes	\$19.70

Pool fees	Unit rate	M or D	Is GST applicable?	2020/2021 Adopted fee
Two lifeguards in attendance	Per hour	D	Yes	\$58.90
<b>Swimming lessons / exercise classes</b>				
One lifeguard in attendance	Per hour	D	Yes	\$19.70
Two lifeguards in attendance	Per hour	D	Yes	\$58.90
<b>Out of session hire</b>				
Includes one lifeguard	Per hour	D	Yes	\$51.00
<b>For profit – during public operating hours</b>				
Lane hire / per lane	Per hour	D	Yes	\$11.00 first hour \$6.00 every hour after

### 3.9 Roads

#### 3.9.1 Road reinstatement fees

Roads	Unit rate	M or D	Is GST applicable?	2021/2022 Proposed fee
Minimum charge	Event	D	Yes	\$118.80
Sealed pavement (surface only)	Per m <sup>2</sup>	D	Yes	\$146.20
Unsealed pavement	Per m <sup>2</sup>	D	Yes	\$97.50
Trench off pavement	Per m <sup>2</sup>	D	Yes	\$48.80
Footpath (100-200mm concrete)	Per m <sup>2</sup>	D	Yes	\$156.30
Footpath (other sealed asphalt)	Per m <sup>2</sup>	D	Yes	\$156.30

#### 3.9.2 Application for consent to work within municipal road reserve

Roads	Unit rate	M or D	Is GST applicable?	2021/2022 Proposed fee
Fee structure determined pursuant to the Roads Management (Works and Infrastructure) 2015 Regulations. Current fee unit rate is available at <a href="http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au">www.vicroads.vic.gov.au</a>	Application	M	Yes	See relevant legislative document

### 3.10 Tourism

#### 3.10.1 Loddon Discovery Tours

- Loddon Discovery Tours are priced based on full cost recovery to Council; therefore as prices change, tour prices are amended.
- Details on all tours with inclusions/exclusions are located in the various Loddon Discovery Tour brochures available on Council's website.
- These prices stated are subject to minimum booking numbers.

#### 3.10.2 Loddon Valley Website

Website	Unit rate	M or D	Is GST applicable?	2021/2022 Proposed fee
Subscription	Per year	D	Yes	\$55.90

### 3.11 Waste management

#### 3.11.1 Domestic waste, e-waste and recyclables

Waste, e-waste and recyclables	Unit rate	M or D	Is GST applicable?	2021/2022 Proposed fee
Minimum Fee	Min. charge	D	Yes	\$10.00
General waste (up to 4m <sup>3</sup> )	Per m <sup>3</sup>	D	Yes	\$31.00
Recyclable materials (up to 1m <sup>3</sup> )	Per m <sup>3</sup>	D	Yes	Nil
Recyclable materials (1m <sup>3</sup> to 4m <sup>3</sup> )	Per m <sup>3</sup>	D	Yes	\$7.00
Domestic green waste (up to 4m <sup>3</sup> )	Per m <sup>3</sup>	D	Yes	\$13.00
Refrigerators, freezers, and air conditioners (e-waste)	Each	D	Yes	\$18.00
Televisions and computer monitors (e-waste)	Each	D	Yes	\$14.00
Uncontaminated bricks and concrete (up to 4m <sup>3</sup> )	Per m <sup>3</sup>	D	Yes	\$33.00
Mattress (single)	Each	D	Yes	\$13.00
Mattress (double or larger)	Each	D	Yes	\$18.00
Metals (up to 4m <sup>3</sup> )	Per m <sup>3</sup>	D	Yes	Nil
Cars (complete or close)	Each	D	Yes	\$28.00

- Loads over the quoted volumes will not be accepted at any Loddon waste site.
- Commercial waste is no longer accepted at any Loddon waste site.
- Council has the right to waive or reduce fees for approved community benefit events.
- More information on Council's e-waste program can be found at [www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Live/Your-home/Garbage-and-recycling/E-waste](http://www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Live/Your-home/Garbage-and-recycling/E-waste).

3.11.2 Tyres

Tyres	Unit rate	M or D	Is GST applicable?	2021/2022 Proposed fee
Car tyre	Each	D	Yes	\$13.00
Car tyre on rim	Each	D	Yes	\$30.00
4 wheel drive / light truck tyre	Each	D	Yes	\$17.00
Truck tyre	Each	D	Yes	\$35.00
Super single tyre	Each	D	Yes	\$55.00
Truck tyre on rim	Each	D	Yes	\$55.00
Small tractor tyre	Each	D	Yes	\$128.00
Large tractor tyre	Each	D	Yes	\$212.00

3.12 **Miscellaneous**3.12.1 Rates

Rates	Unit rate	M or D	Is GST applicable?	2021/2022 Proposed fee
Land information certificates	Application	M	No	\$27.40
Rates search	Application	D	Yes	\$53.80

3.12.2 Photocopying, faxing and printing

Photocopying, faxing and printing	Unit rate	M or D	Is GST applicable?	2021/2022 Proposed fee
Black and white - single sided	Per page	D	Yes	\$0.80
Black and white - double sided	Per page	D	Yes	\$1.20
Colour - single sided	Per page	D	Yes	\$1.20
Colour - double sided	Per page	D	Yes	\$1.60
Fax – Send first page	First page	D	Yes	\$2.20
Fax – Send subsequent pages	Subsequent	D	Yes	\$1.20
Fax – Receive per page	Per page	D	Yes	\$0.70

3.12.3 Private works

Private works	Unit rate	M or D	Is GST applicable?	2021/2022 Proposed fee
For community groups	Per job	D	Yes	At cost
For private residents	Per job	D	Yes	At cost plus 30%

3.12.4 Insurance

Public Liability Insurance	Unit rate	M or D	Is GST applicable?	2021/2022 Proposed fee
Casual hirer's of Council Owned or Controlled Facilities – limit \$10M	Per hire	D	Yes	\$12.00
Casual hirer's of Council Owned or Controlled Facilities – limit \$20M	Per hire	D	Yes	\$15.00
Performers/Stallholders/Artists/Buskers/Street Stalls/Participants – limit \$10M	Per event	D	Yes	\$25.00
Performers/Stallholders/Artists/Buskers/Street Stalls/Participants – limit \$20M	Per event	D	Yes	\$40.00
Permit holders – limit \$10M	Per trader	D	Yes	\$15.00
Permit holders – limit \$20M	Per trader	D	Yes	\$20.00

3.12.5 Freedom of information requests

Freedom of information	Unit rate	M or D	Is GST applicable?	2021/2022 Proposed fee
Freedom of information requests	Per request	M	No	\$30.10
FOI search charge	Hourly	M	No	\$22.60
FOI supervision charge	Quarter hourly	M	No	\$5.65

3.12.6 Water charges

Water	Unit rate	M or D	Is GST applicable?	2021/2022 Proposed fee
Water via standpipes (Inglewood, Tarnagulla, Mitiamo, Pyramid Hill and Wedderburn)	Per kilolitre	D	No	\$5.30
Emergency water supply point - Bridgewater (non-potable water)	Per kilolitre	D	No	\$3.35
Truck wash facility use	Per minute	D	No	\$1.00

3.12.7 Senior citizens room hire

Room hire	Unit rate	M or D	Is GST applicable?	2021/2022 Proposed fee
Community group session	Per session	D	Yes	\$17.00
Private / commercial session	Per session	D	Yes	\$73.00
Government session	Per session	D	Yes	\$44.00
Daily government rate	Per day	D	Yes	\$86.00
Weekly government rate	Per week	D	Yes	\$114.00
Monthly government rate	Per month	D	Yes	\$425.00



3.12.8 Civic offices room hire

Room hire	Unit rate	M or D	Is GST applicable?	2021/2022 Proposed fee
<b>Large meeting rooms in Wedderburn Office or Council Chambers in Serpentine</b>				
Community group session	Per session	D	Yes	\$26.00
Private / government session	Per session	D	Yes	\$50.00
Daily government rate	Per day	D	Yes	\$100.00
Weekly government rate	Per week	D	Yes	\$163.00
Monthly government rate	Per month	D	Yes	\$435.00
<b>Small meeting room in Wedderburn Office (sits up to 4 people)</b>				
Community group session	Per session	D	Yes	\$13.00
Private / government session	Per session	D	Yes	\$25.00
Daily government rate	Per day	D	Yes	\$50.00
Weekly government rate	Per week	D	Yes	\$87.00
Monthly government rate	Per month	D	Yes	\$325.00

- Council has the right to waive or reduce fees for approved special community benefit bookings.

3.12.9 Committee managed facilities room hire

These charges are retained by the committee of management to cover the costs of maintaining the facility.

Fees for each community asset committee are being finalised and will be available on Council's website. These will be reviewed and updated by each committee of management on an ongoing basis.

Committee
Boort Aerodrome Community Asset Committee
Boort Memorial Hall Community Asset Committee
Boort Park Community Asset Committee
Bridgewater on Loddon Memorial Hall Community Asset Committee
Campbells Forest Hall Community Asset Committee
Donaldson Park Community Asset Committee
East Loddon Community Centre Community Asset Committee
Hard Hill Tourist Reserve Community Asset Committee
Inglewood Community Elderly Persons Units Community Asset Committee
Inglewood Community Sports Centre Community Asset Committee
Inglewood Town Hall Hub Community Asset Committee
Jones Eucalyptus Distillery Site Community Asset Committee
Korong Vale Mechanics Hall Community Asset Committee
Korong Vale Sports Centre Community Asset Committee
Little Lake Boort Community Asset Committee
Pyramid Hill Memorial Hall Community Asset Committee
Pyramid Hill Swimming Pool Kiosk Community Asset Committee

Committee
Wedderburn Community Centre Community Asset Committee
Wedderburn Engine Park and Market Square Reserve Community Asset Committee
Wedderburn Mechanics and Literary Institute Hall Community Asset Committee
Yando Public Hall Community Asset Committee

3.12.10 Boat launching fees

Boat launching fees	Unit rate	M or D	Is GST applicable?	2021/2022 Proposed fee
Boat launching fees at Little Lake Boort (powerboats and jet skis are charged, small fishing boats with outboards, and sailing craft are not)	Per season	D	Yes	Nil
Boat launching fees at Little Lake Boort (powerboats and jet skis are charged, small fishing boats with outboards, and sailing craft are not)	Per month	D	Yes	Nil
Boat launching fees at Little Lake Boort (powerboats and jet skis are charged, small fishing boats with outboards, and sailing craft are not)	Per day	D	Yes	Nil
Boat launching fees at Bridgewater Caravan Park	Per season	D	Yes	Nil
Boat launching fees at Bridgewater Caravan Park	Per day	D	Yes	Nil

For 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22, no boat launching fees will be charged. The revenue is covered by the Boat Launching and Parking Fees Abolition Program provided by the State Government and is to be reviewed in subsequent years.

# LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL

## BUDGET FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022





**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL  
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

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## LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

### MAYOR INTRODUCTION

The Councillors and I are pleased to present the 2021/22 Budget to the community. Due to the timing of the adoption of the new Council Plan, this budget continues with our Council Plan 2017-21 vision of "A prosperous, vibrant and engaged community" and focuses on the five key themes in that Council Plan:

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

When approved by Council, the Council Plan 2021-25 (Year 1), will set out Council's strategic plan to deliver our vision over the full term of the Council. As this is the first year of the current Council term, the focus over the next year will be on the planning and design activities required to deliver the new commitments and on maintaining existing services.

The budget details the resources required over the next year to fund a large range of services Council provides to the community. It also includes details of proposed capital expenditure allocations to improve and renew our Shire's road infrastructure, buildings and other operational assets.

As Councillors, it is our job to listen to community opinions and understand your priorities. During and following the Council elections in 2020 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 identifying savings and organisational improvements that provide increased value for money to ratepayers.

The budget includes a rate increase of 1.50 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
- Council's desire to continue to support Community Planning to drive strategic outcomes from a community level.

Some of the highlights contained in the 2021/22 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
- \$300K allocation for works associated with the Building Asset Management Plan
- continued support for the aged services and early years programs
- capital expenditure program of \$6.92 million
- no loan repayment,s 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 2021-25 once developed.

**Cr. Neil Beattie**  
**Mayor**



## LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

### CEO INTRODUCTION

Council has prepared a budget for 2021/22 which continues its alignment 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 increase limits mandated by the State Government.

#### 1 Key things we are funding

- ongoing delivery of services to the Loddon Shire Council community
- continued investment in capital projects (\$6.92M). This includes roads (\$3.07M); urban and road drainage (\$0.35M); footpaths (\$0.24M) and recreational, leisure and community facilities (\$1.33M).

#### 2 Rates and charges increase

- the average rate rise will be 1.5% in line with the order by the Minister for Local Government on 21 December 2020 under the Fair Go Rates System
- since 2018/19, each year is a revaluation year, therefore, valuations will be as per the General Revaluation dated 1 January 2021, undertaken by valuers appointed by the Valuer General
- the waste service charges will increase by 10.0% per collection item, which offsets increases in the cost of kerbside waste and recycling disposal along with new licencing requirements
- refer to Section 4.1.1 for further details.

#### 3 Key statistics

Total revenue is \$23.42 million (2020/21 \$41.71 million)

Total operating expenditure is \$34.41 million (2020/21 \$39.10 million)

Cash result is \$0.40 million surplus (\$2.99 million surplus in 2020/21)

(Refer Capital Expenditure Statement in Appendix A)

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

Capital works program of \$6.92 million (\$26.84 million in 2020/21) funded by:

- \$2.15 million from Council operations
- \$2.12 million from reserves
- No borrowings
- \$0.26 million from asset sales
- \$2.39 million from external grants.

I am pleased to present this Budget to the Loddon community and recommend that it be read in conjunction with other key documents including the Revenue and Rating Plan and the Schedule of Fees and Charges.

**Phil Pinyon**  
**Chief Executive Officer**



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**ECONOMIC ASSUMPTIONS**

	Notes	Forecast	Budget	Projections			Trend +/-
		Actual 2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	
Rate cap increase	1	2.00%	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%	O
Population growth		0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	O
Investment interest rate		0.25%	0.75%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	+
Borrowing interest rate		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	O
Consumer Price Index	2	1.90%	0.70%	0.70%	0.70%	0.70%	O
User fees	3	2.00%	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%	O
Grants - recurrent		1.90%	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%	O
Grants - non-recurrent		0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	O
Contributions		0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	O
Proceeds from sale of assets		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	O
Finance costs		1.90%	0.70%	0.70%	0.70%	0.70%	O
Other revenue		1.90%	0.70%	0.70%	0.70%	0.70%	O
Employee costs	4	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	O
Contractors and materials		1.90%	0.70%	0.70%	0.70%	0.70%	O
Utilities	5	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	O
Bad and doubtful debts		0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	O
Depreciation		2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	O
Other expenses		1.90%	0.70%	0.70%	0.70%	0.70%	O

**Notes to assumptions**

1 *Rate cap increase* - Council increases the rate cap each year in line with the rate set by the Minister as outlined in the Revenue and Rating Plan.

2 *Consumer Price Index* - Based on the rates published in the December to December year for Melbourne.

3 *User fees* - Council increases the user fees in line with the rate cap set each year set by the Minister and as outlined in the Revenue and Rating Plan.

4 *Employee costs* - Council increases employee costs in line with the current published EA plus 1% allowance for movement within the bands.

5 *Utilities* - This category is increased by a higher rate in line with increasing costs incurred from utility providers and also to offset increased water charges as a result of streetscape and other recent and planned park beautification projects.



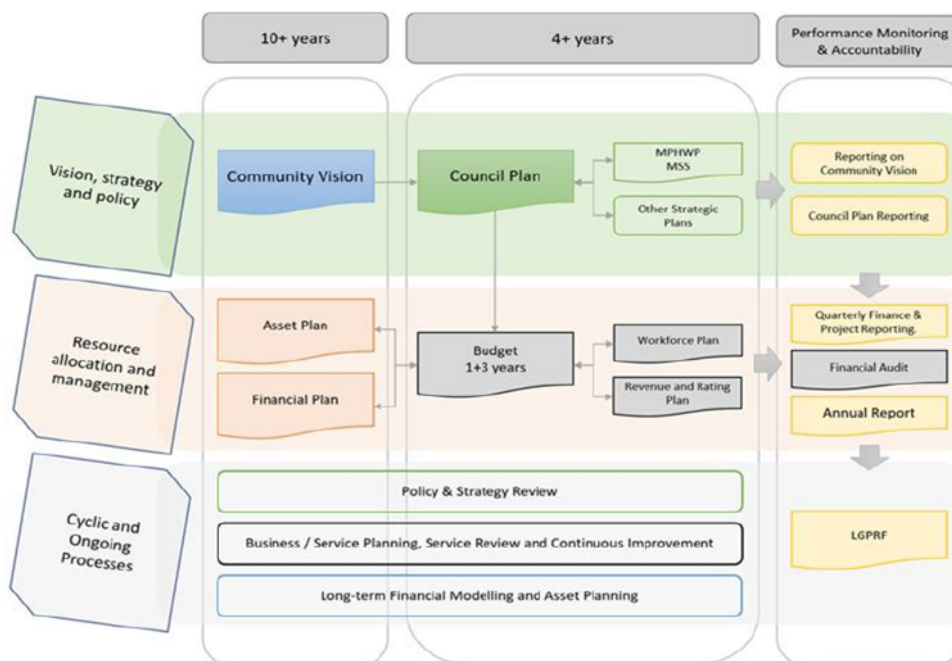
**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL  
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**1 LINK TO THE INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING FRAMEWORK**

This section describes how the Budget links to the achievement of the Community Vision and Council Plan within an overall integrated planning and reporting framework. This framework guides the Council in identifying community needs and aspirations over the long term (Community Vision and Financial Plan), medium term (Council Plan, Workforce Plan, and Revenue and Rating Plan) and short term (Budget) and then holding itself accountable (Annual Report).

**1.1 Legislative planning and accountability framework**

The Budget 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 diagram below depicts the integrated planning and reporting framework that applies to local government in Victoria. At each stage of the integrated planning and reporting framework there are opportunities for community and stakeholder input. This is important to ensure transparency and accountability to both residents and ratepayers.



Source: Department of Job, Precincts and Regions

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





## LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

### 1. LINK TO THE INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING FRAMEWORK (Continued)

#### 1.1.2 Key planning considerations - Service level planning

Although councils have a legal obligation to provide some services - such as animal management, local roads, food safety and statutory planning - most council services are not legally mandated, including some services closely associated with councils, such as libraries, building permits and sporting facilities. Further, over time, the needs and expectations of communities can change. Therefore councils need to have robust processes for service planning and review to ensure all services continue to provide value for money and are in line with community expectations. In doing so, councils should engage with communities to determine how to prioritise resources and balance service provision against other responsibilities such as asset maintenance and capital works. Community consultation needs to be in line with a councils adopted Community Engagement Policy and Public Transparency Policy.

#### 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**

We work towards achieving our vision while demonstrating our values.

##### **Integrity**

We are open, honest and fair.

##### **Accountability**

We will be consistent and responsible in our actions.

##### **Impartiality**

We will make decisions based on being informed without fear, favour or bias.

##### **Respect**

We treat everyone with respect and dignity at all times.

#### 1.3 Strategic objectives

The 2017-2021 Council Plan identified five high level strategic themes and strategic objectives. Due to the timing of the development of the budget and Council Plan the strategic themes and strategic objectives for this budget will continue to be the 2017-2021 themes. 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-served communities.

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

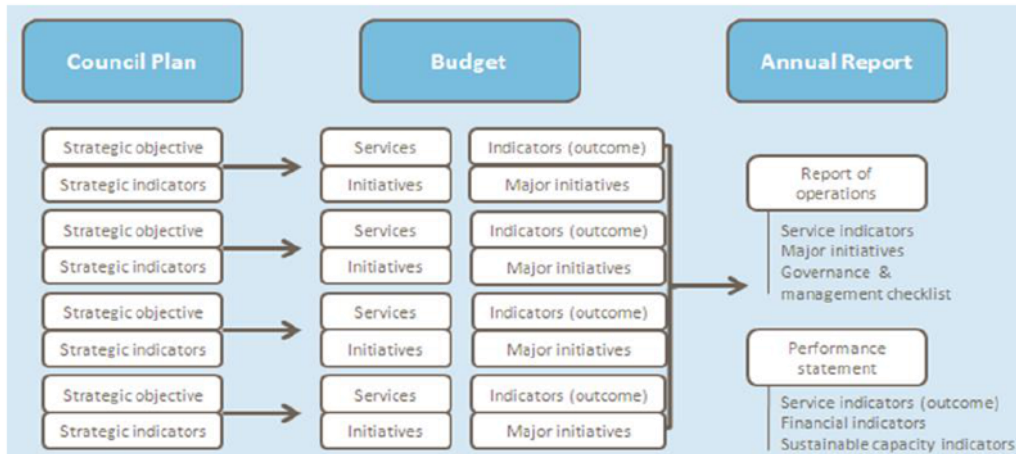
*High performance organisation* - Implement frameworks which enable sound decision making and support a high performing and customer-focused organisation.



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL  
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**2 SERVICES AND SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

This section provides a description of the services and initiatives to be funded in the Budget for the 2021/22 year and how these will contribute to achieving the strategic objectives outlined 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, 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 Jobs, Precincts and Regions



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

## 2 SERVICES AND SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (Continued)

### 2.1 Strategic themes and objectives

The following provides a brief outline of the strategic themes and objectives from 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.

**Services**

Service area	Surplus/(deficit) \$	Income \$	Expenditure \$
Library services	218,018	-	218,018
Aged care services	623,929	1,405,549	2,029,478
Elderly persons units	(15,252)	66,616	51,364
Rural access	-	-	-
Seniors	93,958	11,435	105,393
Municipal health and wellbeing	6,500	1,000	7,500
Maternal and child health	90,046	197,866	287,912
Early years	154,032	51,256	205,288
Boort Pre School	-	124,827	124,827
Dingee Pre School	-	138,736	138,737
Inglewood Pre School	-	119,411	119,412
Pyramid Hill Pre School	-	116,930	116,931
Wedderburn Pre School	-	121,234	121,234
Immunisation	39,475	1,000	40,475
Youth	6,000	24,500	30,500
Building regulation	79,424	84,668	164,092
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,296,129</b>	<b>2,465,030</b>	<b>3,761,161</b>

**Major initiatives**

- refer to Council Plan

**Other initiatives**

- refer to Council Plan



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

## 2 SERVICES AND SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (Continued)

### 2.1 Strategic themes and objectives (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.

**Services**

Service area	Surplus/(deficit) \$	Income \$	Expenditure \$
Economic development	155,547	35,705	191,252
Caravan parks	(68,499)	391,201	322,702
Loddon Discovery Tours	1	24,191	24,192
Tourism	392,662	-	392,662
Roads to recovery	(2,387,726)	2,387,726	-
Roads	4,706,561	1,897,951	6,604,512
DoT Routine Maintenance Contract	(70,741)	510,705	439,964
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,727,804</b>	<b>5,247,480</b>	<b>7,975,284</b>

**Major initiatives**

- refer to Council Plan

**Other initiatives**

- refer to Council Plan



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
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## 2 SERVICES AND SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (Continued)

### 2.1 Strategic themes and objectives (continued)

#### 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.

**Services**

Service area	Surplus/(deficit) \$	Income \$	Expenditure \$
Community support	1,218,901	-	1,218,901
Grants and community planning	277,000	-	277,000
Swimming pools	584,638	-	584,638
Council engineering and technical services	215,080	20,349	235,429
Project and contract management	78,151	-	78,151
Local laws and animal management	307,232	67,597	374,829
Public health	110,943	48,502	159,445
Strategic and statutory planning	184,349	76,122	260,471
Air strips	9,239	-	9,239
Building and property maintenance	868,024	2,618	870,642
Plant and fleet	(2,239,046)	140,000	(2,099,046)
Gravel pits	(77,962)	130,185	52,223
Parks and townships	937,141	-	937,141
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,473,689</b>	<b>485,374</b>	<b>2,959,063</b>

**Major initiatives**

- refer to Council Plan

**Other initiatives**

- refer to Council Plan



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

## 2 SERVICES AND SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (Continued)

### 2.1 Strategic themes and objectives (continued)

#### 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.

**Services**

Service area	Surplus/(deficit) \$	Income \$	Expenditure \$
Emergency management	16,508	7,004	23,512
Waste management	(5,137)	1,882,183	1,877,046
Waterways management	59,222	-	59,222
<b>Total</b>	<b>70,593</b>	<b>1,889,187</b>	<b>1,959,780</b>

**Major initiatives**

- refer to Council Plan

**Other initiatives**

- refer to Council Plan



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
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## 2 SERVICES AND SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (Continued)

### 2.1 Strategic themes and objectives (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.

**Services**

Service area	Surplus/(deficit) \$	Income \$	Expenditure \$
Administration and management	2,886,685	-	2,886,685
Council administration	484,363	50,000	534,363
Media	78,868	-	78,868
Corporate governance	156,199	3,100	159,299
Financial services	7,579,297	3,062,399	10,641,696
Rates and property	(9,844,944)	10,093,037	248,093
Customer service	301,088	-	301,088
Information management	254,152	-	254,152
Information technology	893,475	-	893,475
Human resources and development	646,456	40,280	686,736
Risk management	456,315	82,895	539,210
Management and administration	534,853	-	534,853
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,426,807</b>	<b>13,331,711</b>	<b>17,758,518</b>

**Major initiatives**

- refer to Council Plan

**Other initiatives**

- refer to Council Plan



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

## 2 SERVICES AND SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (Continued)

### 2.2 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
<b>Governance</b>		
<b>Satisfaction</b>	<b>Satisfaction with Council Decisions</b> (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
<b>Statutory planning</b>		
<b>Decision making</b>	<b>Council planning decisions upheld at VCAT</b> (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
<b>Roads</b>		
<b>Satisfaction</b>	<b>Satisfaction with sealed local roads</b> (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
<b>Libraries</b>		
<b>Participation</b>	<b>Active library members</b> (Percentage of the municipal population that are active library members)	[Number of active library members / municipal population] x100
<b>Waste collection</b>		
<b>Waste diversion</b>	<b>Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill</b> (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
<b>Aquatic facilities</b>		
<b>Utilisation</b>	<b>Utilisation of aquatic facilities</b> (The number of visits to aquatic facilities per head of municipal population)	Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Municipal population
<b>Animal management</b>		
<b>Health and safety</b>	<b>Animal management prosecutions</b> (Number of successful animal management prosecutions)	Number of successful animal management prosecutions





**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

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

**2.3 Service performance outcome indicators (continued)**

Indicator	Performance measure	Computation
<b>Food safety</b>		
<b>Health and safety</b>	<b>Critical and major non-compliance notifications</b> (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
<b>Maternal and child health</b>		
<b>Participation</b>	<b>Participation in the MCH service</b> (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
<b>Participation</b>	<b>Participation in MCH service by Aboriginal children</b> (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

**2.4 Reconciliation with budgeted operating result**

Activity	Surplus/(deficit) \$	Income \$	Expenditure \$
Administration and management	2,886,685	-	2,886,685
Economic development	155,547	35,705	191,252
Council administration	484,363	50,000	534,363
Library services	218,018	-	218,018
Media	78,868	-	78,868
Caravan parks	(68,499)	391,201	322,702
Loddon Discovery Tours	1	24,191	24,192
Tourism	392,662	-	392,662
Aged care services	623,929	1,405,549	2,029,478
Elderly persons units	(15,252)	66,616	51,364
Rural access	-	-	-
Seniors	93,958	11,435	105,393
Community support	1,218,901	-	1,218,901
Community planning - Boort	-	-	-
Community planning - Inglewood	-	-	-
Community planning - Tarnagulla	-	-	-
Community planning - Terricks	-	-	-
Community planning - Wedderburn	-	-	-
Emergency management	16,508	7,004	23,512


**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL  
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**
**2 SERVICES AND SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (Continued)**
**2.4 Reconciliation with budgeted operating result (continued)**

Activity	Surplus/(deficit) \$	Income \$	Expenditure \$
Grants and community planning	277,000	-	277,000
Municipal health and wellbeing	6,500	1,000	7,500
Swimming pools	584,638	-	584,638
Maternal and child health	90,046	197,866	287,912
Early years	154,032	51,256	205,288
Boort Pre School	-	124,827	124,827
Dingee Pre School	-	138,736	138,737
Inglewood Pre School	-	119,411	119,412
Pyramid Hill Pre School	-	116,930	116,931
Wedderburn Pre School	-	121,234	121,234
Immunisation	39,475	1,000	40,475
Youth	6,000	24,500	30,500
Corporate governance	156,199	3,100	159,299
Financial services	(2,329,162)	3,062,399	733,237
Rates and property	189,499	58,594	248,093
Customer service	301,088	-	301,088
Information management	254,152	-	254,152
Information technology	893,475	-	893,475
Human resources and development	646,456	40,280	686,736
Risk management	456,315	82,895	539,210
Council engineering and technical services	215,080	20,349	235,429
Project and contract management	78,151	-	78,151
Roads to recovery	(2,387,726)	2,387,726	-
Building regulation	79,424	84,668	164,092
Local laws and animal management	307,232	67,597	374,829
Public health	110,943	48,502	159,445
Strategic and statutory planning	184,349	76,122	260,471
Air strips	9,239	-	9,239
Building and property maintenance	868,024	2,618	870,642
Plant and fleet	(2,239,046)	140,000	(2,099,046)
Gravel pits	(77,962)	130,185	52,223
Management and administration	534,853	-	534,853
Parks and townships	937,141	-	937,141
Roads	4,706,561	1,897,951	6,604,512
DoT Routine Maintenance Contract	(70,741)	510,705	439,964
Waste management	1,802,239	74,807	1,877,046
Waterways management	59,222	-	59,222
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,928,383</b>	<b>11,576,962</b>	<b>24,505,347</b>
<b>Expenses added in:</b>			
Depreciation			9,908,459
<b>Surplus/(deficit) before funding sources</b>			<b>22,836,842</b>
<b>Funding sources added in:</b>			
Rates and charges revenue			(10,034,443)
Waste charge revenue			(1,807,376)
<b>Operating surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>			<b>10,995,023</b>



## LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

### 3 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

This section presents information in regard to the Financial Statements and Statement of Human Resources. The budget information for the year 2021/22 has been supplemented with projections to 2024/25.

This section includes the following financial statements prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.

- 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

### 3.1 COMPREHENSIVE INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE FOUR YEARS ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

	NOTES	Forecast	Budget	Projections		
		Actual 2020/21 \$	2021/22 \$	2022/23 \$	2023/24 \$	2024/25 \$
<b>Income</b>						
Rates and charges	4.1.1	11,520,410	11,841,819	11,877,398	12,064,026	12,253,611
Statutory fees and fines	4.1.2	334,432	279,467	281,416	283,377	285,353
User fees	4.1.3	1,510,543	1,496,306	1,507,673	1,531,878	1,556,663
Grants - operating	4.1.4	13,674,896	6,350,499	11,017,608	11,096,376	11,175,725
Grants - capital	4.1.4	13,076,677	2,387,726	3,470,226	4,393,559	2,990,445
Contributions - monetary	4.1.5	490,000	-	40,000	-	-
Reimbursements	4.1.6	297,411	252,259	233,996	234,899	235,809
Regional Roads Victoria	4.1.7	512,033	510,705	517,646	521,271	524,920
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		-	-	-	-	-
Other income	4.1.8	295,000	300,000	325,000	325,000	325,000
<b>Total income</b>		<b>41,711,402</b>	<b>23,418,781</b>	<b>29,270,963</b>	<b>30,450,386</b>	<b>29,347,526</b>
<b>Expenses</b>						
Employee costs	4.1.9	13,911,405	13,649,014	13,884,095	14,170,295	14,561,317
Materials and services	4.1.10	15,183,159	10,519,882	9,872,150	9,855,008	10,410,054
Bad and doubtful debts		-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	4.1.11	9,666,789	9,908,459	10,156,219	10,410,068	10,670,298
Borrowing costs		-	-	-	-	-
Finance costs - leases		-	-	-	-	-
Other expenses	4.1.12	334,239	336,449	338,682	340,927	343,189
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>39,095,592</b>	<b>34,413,804</b>	<b>34,251,146</b>	<b>34,776,298</b>	<b>35,984,858</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>		<b>2,615,810</b>	<b>(10,995,023)</b>	<b>(4,980,183)</b>	<b>(4,325,912)</b>	<b>(6,637,332)</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>						
Other comprehensive income		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive result</b>		<b>2,615,810</b>	<b>(10,995,023)</b>	<b>(4,980,183)</b>	<b>(4,325,912)</b>	<b>(6,637,332)</b>



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**3 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

**3.2 BALANCE SHEET**  
**FOR THE FOUR YEARS ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

	NOTES	Forecast	Budget	Projections		
		Actual 2020/21 \$	2021/22 \$	2022/23 \$	2023/24 \$	2024/25 \$
<b>Assets</b>						
<b>Current assets</b>						
Cash and cash equivalents		15,997,678	8,685,966	3,532,563	(822,972)	(4,309,091)
Trade and other receivables		813,339	447,117	563,886	587,384	565,236
Other financial assets		2,979,650	2,979,650	2,979,650	2,979,650	2,979,650
Inventories		25,443	24,171	22,962	21,814	20,723
Non-current assets classified as held for sale		540,076	540,076	540,076	540,076	540,076
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>4.2.1</b>	<b>20,356,186</b>	<b>12,676,980</b>	<b>7,639,137</b>	<b>3,305,952</b>	<b>(203,406)</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>						
Trade and other receivables		-	-	-	-	-
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		390,469,674	398,955,092	411,202,119	423,794,188	433,655,748
Right of use assets		-	-	-	-	-
Intangible assets		276,604	276,604	276,604	276,604	276,604
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>4.2.1</b>	<b>390,746,278</b>	<b>399,231,696</b>	<b>411,478,723</b>	<b>424,070,792</b>	<b>433,932,352</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>411,102,464</b>	<b>411,908,676</b>	<b>419,117,860</b>	<b>427,376,744</b>	<b>433,728,946</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>						
<b>Current liabilities</b>						
Trade and other payables		514,245	373,586	354,592	355,284	373,249
Trust funds and deposits		338,561	321,633	305,551	290,274	276,760
Provisions		2,476,204	2,399,811	2,319,783	2,237,980	2,153,796
Interest bearing loans and borrowings	4.2.4	-	-	-	-	-
Lease liabilities		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>4.2.2</b>	<b>3,329,010</b>	<b>3,095,030</b>	<b>2,979,926</b>	<b>2,883,538</b>	<b>2,803,805</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>						
Provisions		2,081,495	2,386,417	2,706,033	3,034,952	3,375,191
Interest bearing loans and borrowings	4.2.4	-	-	-	-	-
Lease liabilities		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>	<b>4.2.2</b>	<b>2,081,495</b>	<b>2,386,417</b>	<b>2,706,033</b>	<b>3,034,952</b>	<b>3,375,191</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>5,410,505</b>	<b>5,481,447</b>	<b>5,685,959</b>	<b>5,918,490</b>	<b>6,178,996</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>405,691,959</b>	<b>406,427,229</b>	<b>413,431,901</b>	<b>421,458,254</b>	<b>427,549,950</b>
<b>Equity</b>						
Accumulated surplus		104,663,508	98,721,758	94,907,695	91,196,040	84,347,155
Asset revaluation reserve		289,339,078	301,069,371	313,054,226	325,406,491	338,136,519
Other reserves		11,689,373	6,636,100	5,469,980	4,855,723	5,067,276
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>4.2.4</b>	<b>405,691,959</b>	<b>406,427,229</b>	<b>413,431,901</b>	<b>421,458,254</b>	<b>427,550,950</b>



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**3 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

**3.3 STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY**  
**FOR THE FOUR YEARS ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

<b>2021 Forecast Actual</b>	Total \$	Accumulated surplus \$	Revaluation reserve \$	Other reserves \$
Balance at beginning of the financial year	379,179,745	90,213,334	265,442,674	23,523,737
Surplus/ (deficit) for the year	2,615,810	2,615,810	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment / (decrement)	23,896,404	-	23,896,404	-
Transfer to other reserves	-	(7,086,940)	-	7,086,940
Transfer from other reserves	-	18,921,307	-	(18,921,307)
<b>Balance at end of financial year</b>	<b>405,691,959</b>	<b>104,663,511</b>	<b>289,339,078</b>	<b>11,689,370</b>

<b>2022 Budget</b>	Total \$	Accumulated surplus \$	Revaluation reserve \$	Other reserves \$
Balance at beginning of the financial year	405,691,959	104,663,508	289,339,078	11,689,373
Surplus/ (deficit) for the year	(10,995,023)	(10,995,023)	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment / (decrement)	11,730,293	-	11,730,293	-
Transfer to other reserves	-	(1,944,500)	-	1,944,500
Transfer from other reserves	-	6,987,773	-	(6,987,773)
<b>Balance at end of financial year</b>	<b>406,427,229</b>	<b>98,711,758</b>	<b>301,069,371</b>	<b>6,646,100</b>

<b>2023 Projection</b>	Total \$	Accumulated surplus \$	Revaluation reserve \$	Other reserves \$
Balance at beginning of the financial year	406,427,229	98,711,758	301,069,371	6,646,100
Surplus/ (deficit) for the year	(4,980,183)	(4,980,183)	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment / (decrement)	11,984,855	-	11,984,855	-
Transfer to other reserves	-	(2,229,224)	-	2,229,224
Transfer from other reserves	-	2,470,734	-	(2,470,734)
<b>Balance at end of financial year</b>	<b>413,431,901</b>	<b>93,973,085</b>	<b>313,054,226</b>	<b>6,404,590</b>

<b>2024 Projection</b>	Total \$	Accumulated surplus \$	Revaluation reserve \$	Other reserves \$
Balance at beginning of the financial year	413,431,901	93,973,085	313,054,226	6,404,590
Surplus/ (deficit) for the year	(4,325,912)	(4,325,912)	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment / (decrement)	12,352,265	-	12,352,265	-
Transfer to other reserves	-	(2,125,629)	-	2,125,629
Transfer from other reserves	-	1,798,628	-	(1,798,628)
<b>Balance at end of financial year</b>	<b>421,458,254</b>	<b>89,320,173</b>	<b>325,406,491</b>	<b>6,731,591</b>

<b>2025 Projection</b>	Total \$	Accumulated surplus \$	Revaluation reserve \$	Other reserves \$
Balance at beginning of the financial year	421,458,254	89,320,173	325,406,491	6,731,591
Surplus/ (deficit) for the year	(6,637,332)	(6,637,332)	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment / (decrement)	12,730,028	-	12,730,028	-
Transfer to other reserves	-	(2,046,311)	-	2,046,311
Transfer from other reserves	-	1,896,987	-	(1,896,987)
<b>Balance at end of financial year</b>	<b>427,550,950</b>	<b>82,533,518</b>	<b>338,136,519</b>	<b>6,880,915</b>



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**3 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

**3.4 STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE FOUR YEARS ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

	NOTES	Forecast	Budget	Projections		
		Actual 2020/21 \$		2021/22 \$	2022/23 \$	2023/24 \$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>						
<b>Receipts</b>						
Rates and charges		11,369,005	12,233,872	11,898,495	12,090,435	12,326,060
Statutory fees and fines		357,419	321,442	275,483	286,695	293,275
User fees		1,665,700	1,689,966	1,485,806	1,551,941	1,597,763
Grants - operating		13,948,394	6,477,509	11,237,960	11,318,304	11,399,240
Grants - capital		12,715,593	2,435,481	3,539,631	4,481,430	3,050,254
Contributions - monetary		499,800	-	40,800	-	-
Interest received		340,475	300,000	325,000	325,000	325,000
Trust funds and deposits taken		-	-	-	-	-
Other receipts		858,974	778,223	766,675	771,293	775,944
Net GST refund/payment		(166,317)	(141,370)	(120,165)	(102,140)	(86,819)
<b>Operating receipts</b>		<b>41,589,043</b>	<b>24,095,123</b>	<b>29,449,685</b>	<b>30,722,958</b>	<b>29,680,717</b>
<b>Payments</b>						
Employee costs		(12,388,176)	(11,853,406)	(12,065,628)	(12,306,902)	(12,648,048)
Materials and services		(16,756,406)	(12,560,956)	(11,787,758)	(11,789,132)	(12,383,039)
Trust funds and deposits repaid		(17,819)	(16,928)	(16,082)	(15,277)	(14,514)
Short-term, low value and variable lease payments		-	-	-	-	-
Other payments		(311,110)	(313,162)	(315,228)	(317,309)	(319,405)
<b>Operating payments</b>		<b>(29,473,511)</b>	<b>(24,744,452)</b>	<b>(24,184,696)</b>	<b>(24,428,620)</b>	<b>(25,365,006)</b>
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>	<b>4.4.1</b>	<b>12,115,532</b>	<b>(649,329)</b>	<b>5,264,989</b>	<b>6,294,338</b>	<b>4,315,711</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>						
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		(26,445,468)	(6,663,583)	(10,418,392)	(10,649,873)	(7,801,830)
Decrease in term deposits		-	-	-	-	-
Loans and advances made		-	-	-	-	-
Payments of loans and advances		1,168	1,200	-	-	-
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities</b>	<b>4.4.2</b>	<b>(26,444,300)</b>	<b>(6,662,383)</b>	<b>(10,418,392)</b>	<b>(10,649,873)</b>	<b>(7,801,830)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>						
Finance costs		-	-	-	-	-
Repayment of lease liabilities		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities</b>	<b>4.4.3</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>(14,328,768)</b>	<b>(7,311,712)</b>	<b>(5,153,403)</b>	<b>(4,355,535)</b>	<b>(3,486,119)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		30,326,446	15,997,678	8,685,966	3,532,563	(822,972)
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>		<b>15,997,678</b>	<b>8,685,966</b>	<b>3,532,563</b>	<b>(822,972)</b>	<b>(4,309,091)</b>



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**3 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

**3.5 STATEMENT OF CAPITAL WORKS  
 FOR THE FOUR YEARS ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

	NOTES	Forecast	Budget	Projections		
		Actual 2020/21 \$	2021/22 \$	2022/23 \$	2023/24 \$	2024/25 \$
<b>Capital works areas</b>						
Land and buildings		2,929,877	277,500	1,512,500	1,702,500	407,500
Office furniture and equipment		185,000	175,000	120,000	128,000	128,000
Plant and equipment		1,703,140	1,427,920	2,498,233	1,960,104	1,706,155
Footpaths		1,405,444	240,814	242,178	220,510	216,343
Roadworks		10,201,868	3,069,204	3,592,167	3,762,656	3,810,221
Urban and road drainage		3,262,164	350,000	380,000	520,000	350,000
Recreation, leisure and community facilities		5,165,611	1,330,000	2,040,000	1,650,000	750,000
Parks, open space and streetscapes		1,989,091	50,000	538,000	1,023,500	865,500
Other infrastructure		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total capital works</b>	<b>4.5.1</b>	<b>26,842,195</b>	<b>6,920,438</b>	<b>10,923,078</b>	<b>10,967,270</b>	<b>8,233,719</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>						
New asset expenditure		2,666,462	1,602,920	2,618,233	2,088,104	1,834,155
Asset renewal expenditure		14,363,665	3,987,518	5,202,345	5,590,166	4,884,064
Asset expansion expenditure		6,126,623	100,000	1,722,500	1,669,000	765,500
Asset upgrade expenditure		3,685,445	1,230,000	1,380,000	1,620,000	750,000
<b>Total capital works expenditure</b>		<b>26,842,195</b>	<b>6,920,438</b>	<b>10,923,078</b>	<b>10,967,270</b>	<b>8,233,719</b>

	Forecast	Budget	Projections		
	Actual 2020/21 \$	2021/22 \$	2022/23 \$	2023/24 \$	2024/25 \$
<b>Expenditure type</b>					
Labour	313,226	248,001	359,319	386,460	395,019
Creditors	10,810,399	4,240,157	7,049,083	6,325,353	4,609,376
Contractors	15,718,570	2,432,280	3,514,676	4,255,457	3,229,324
<b>Total capital works expenditure</b>	<b>26,842,195</b>	<b>6,920,438</b>	<b>10,923,078</b>	<b>10,967,270</b>	<b>8,233,719</b>

	Forecast	Budget	Projections		
	Actual 2020/21 \$	2021/22 \$	2022/23 \$	2023/24 \$	2024/25 \$
<b>Funding sourced represented by</b>					
Grants / contributions	8,846,921	2,387,726	3,510,226	4,393,559	2,990,445
Council cash	3,894,538	2,155,843	3,334,619	3,335,607	3,071,619
Reserves	13,704,009	2,120,015	3,573,546	2,920,706	1,739,766
Sale of assets	396,727	256,854	504,687	317,398	431,889
<b>Total capital works expenditure</b>	<b>26,842,195</b>	<b>6,920,438</b>	<b>10,923,078</b>	<b>10,967,270</b>	<b>8,233,719</b>



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**3 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

**3.6 STATEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES  
 FOR THE FOUR YEARS ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

	Forecast	Budget	Projections		
	Actual 2020/21		2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Staff expenditure</b>					
Employee labour - operating	13,598,179	13,401,013	13,524,776	13,783,835	14,166,298
Employee labour - capital	313,226	248,001	359,319	386,460	395,019
<b>Total staff expenditure*</b>	<b>13,911,405</b>	<b>13,649,014</b>	<b>13,884,095</b>	<b>14,170,295</b>	<b>14,561,317</b>
<b>Staff numbers EFT**</b>	<b>EFT</b>	<b>EFT</b>	<b>EFT</b>	<b>EFT</b>	<b>EFT</b>
Employees	143.17	145.72	145.72	145.72	145.72
<b>Total staff numbers EFT</b>	<b>143.17</b>	<b>145.72</b>	<b>145.72</b>	<b>145.72</b>	<b>145.72</b>

\* Excludes employee oncost

\*\* Equivalent Full Time

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

Directorate	Budget 2021/22	Permanent Full Time	Permanent Part Time
<b>Staff cost</b>			
Executive and commercial services	1,410,049	1,020,953	389,096
Community wellbeing	3,356,143	958,869	2,397,274
Corporate services	1,959,501	1,468,503	490,998
Operations	6,675,320	6,259,873	415,447
<b>Total permanent staff expenditure</b>	<b>13,401,013</b>	<b>9,708,198</b>	<b>3,692,814</b>
Casuals and other expenditure	-		
Capitalised labour costs	248,001		
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>13,649,014</b>		

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

Department	Budget 2021/22	Permanent Full Time	Permanent Part Time
<b>Staff EFT</b>			
Executive and commercial services	9.88	6.00	3.88
Community wellbeing	37.58	9.00	28.58
Corporate services	19.72	14.00	5.72
Operations	73.54	69.00	4.54
<b>Total permanent staff EFT</b>	<b>140.72</b>	<b>98.00</b>	<b>42.72</b>
Casuals and other	0.00		
Capitalised labour	5.00		
<b>Total EFT</b>	<b>145.72</b>		





**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**3 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

**3.6 STATEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES (Continued)**  
**FOR THE FOUR YEARS ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

	Budget 2021/22 \$	Projections		
		2022/23 \$	2023/24 \$	2024/25 \$
<b>Executive and commercial services</b>				
Permanent - Full time				
- Female	588,194	605,840	624,015	642,735
- Male	432,759	445,742	459,114	472,887
Permanent - Part time				
- Female	340,358	350,569	361,086	371,918
- Male	48,738	50,200	51,706	53,258
<b>Total executive and commercial services</b>	<b>1,410,049</b>	<b>1,452,351</b>	<b>1,495,921</b>	<b>1,540,799</b>
<b>Community support</b>				
Permanent - Full time				
- Female	518,541	534,097	550,120	566,623
- Male	440,328	453,538	467,144	481,158
Permanent - Part time				
- Female	2,203,944	2,270,063	2,338,164	2,408,309
- Male	193,330	199,130	205,104	211,257
<b>Total community support</b>	<b>3,356,143</b>	<b>3,456,827</b>	<b>3,560,532</b>	<b>3,667,348</b>
<b>Corporate services</b>				
Permanent - Full time				
- Female	945,657	974,027	1,003,248	1,033,345
- Male	522,846	538,531	554,687	571,328
Permanent - Part time				
- Female	490,998	505,727	520,899	536,526
- Male	-	-	-	-
<b>Total corporate services</b>	<b>1,959,501</b>	<b>2,018,286</b>	<b>2,078,834</b>	<b>2,141,199</b>
<b>Operations</b>				
Permanent - Full time				
- Female	461,878	475,734	490,006	504,706
- Male	5,797,995	6,052,987	6,104,254	6,253,295
Permanent - Part time				
- Female	307,479	316,703	326,204	335,991
- Male	107,968	111,207	114,543	117,979
<b>Total operations</b>	<b>6,675,320</b>	<b>6,956,631</b>	<b>7,035,007</b>	<b>7,211,971</b>
Casuals, temporary and other expenditure	-	-	-	-
Capitalised labour costs	248,001	359,319	386,460	395,019
<b>Total staff expenditure</b>	<b>13,649,014</b>	<b>13,884,095</b>	<b>14,170,295</b>	<b>14,561,317</b>



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**3 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

**3.6 STATEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES (Continued)**  
**FOR THE FOUR YEARS ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

	Budget 2021/22 EFT	Projections		
		2022/23 EFT	2023/24 EFT	2024/25 EFT
<b>Executive and commercial services</b>				
Permanent - Full time				
- Female	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
- Male	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
Permanent - Part time				
- Female	3.42	3.42	3.42	3.42
- Male	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46
<b>Total executive and commercial services</b>	<b>9.88</b>	<b>9.88</b>	<b>9.88</b>	<b>9.88</b>
<b>Community support</b>				
Permanent - Full time				
- Female	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
- Male	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
Permanent - Part time				
- Female	26.34	26.34	26.34	26.34
- Male	2.24	2.24	2.24	2.24
<b>Total community support</b>	<b>37.58</b>	<b>37.58</b>	<b>37.58</b>	<b>37.58</b>
<b>Corporate services</b>				
Permanent - Full time				
- Female	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00
- Male	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Permanent - Part time				
- Female	5.72	5.72	5.72	5.72
- Male	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total corporate services</b>	<b>19.72</b>	<b>19.72</b>	<b>19.72</b>	<b>19.72</b>
<b>Operations</b>				
Permanent - Full time				
- Female	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
- Male	64.00	64.00	64.00	64.00
Permanent - Part time				
- Female	3.16	3.16	3.16	3.16
- Male	1.39	1.39	1.39	1.39
<b>Total operations</b>	<b>73.54</b>	<b>73.54</b>	<b>73.54</b>	<b>73.54</b>
Casuals, temporary and other expenditure	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Capitalised labour costs	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
<b>Total staff expenditure</b>	<b>145.72</b>	<b>145.72</b>	<b>145.72</b>	<b>145.72</b>



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**3 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

**3.7 STATEMENT OF RESERVES**  
**FOR THE FOUR YEARS ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

	NOTES	Forecast	Budget	Projections		
		Actual 2020/21 \$	2021/22 \$	2022/23 \$	2023/24 \$	2024/25 \$
<b>Discretionary</b>						
Capital expenditure reserve		-	-	-	-	-
Caravan park development reserve		97,072	158,072	97,273	4,552	59,778
Community planning reserve		771,000	771,000	771,000	771,000	771,000
Gravel and sand pit reserve		400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
Heritage loan scheme reserve		100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Land and buildings reserve		455,274	575,274	295,274	295,274	340,274
Lake Boort water reserve		14,069	14,069	14,069	14,069	14,069
Major projects reserve		153,996	153,996	153,996	153,996	153,996
Reserves improvement reserve		100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Superannuation liability reserve		1,200,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Unightly premises enforcement reserve		100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Unspent contributions reserve		-	-	-	-	-
Unspent grants reserve		4,617,310	-	-	-	-
Waste management reserve		300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
Boundary and township signage		100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Economic development reserve		214,535	179,535	114,535	(11,465)	102,535
Fleet replacement reserve		563,334	680,714	619,845	633,104	550,293
Information technology reserve		668,123	506,226	506,226	506,226	506,226
Plant replacement reserve		1,488,281	1,354,835	639,383	224,588	298,726
Professional development reserve		15,616	21,616	27,619	33,619	39,619
Swimming pool major projects reserve		200,000	-	-	-	-
Units reserve		60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
Urban drainage reserve		70,760	70,760	70,760	70,760	70,760
<b>Total discretionary reserves</b>	<b>4.3.2</b>	<b>11,689,370</b>	<b>6,646,097</b>	<b>5,469,980</b>	<b>4,855,723</b>	<b>5,067,276</b>



## LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

### 4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

This section presents detailed information on material components of the financial statements. Council needs to assess which components are material, considering the dollar amounts and nature of these components.

#### 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 budget.

As per the Local Government Act 2020, Council is required to have a Revenue and Rating Plan which is a four year plan for how Council will generate income to deliver the Council Plan, program and services and capital works commitments over a four-year period.

In developing the Budget, rates and charges were identified as an important source of revenue. Planning for future rate increases has therefore been an important component of the financial planning process. The Fair Go Rates System (FGRS) sets out the maximum amount councils may increase rates in a year. For 2021/22 the FGRS cap has been set at 1.5%. The cap applies to both 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 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 1.5% in line with the rate cap.

This will raise total rates and charges for 2021/22 of \$11.84 million.

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

	Forecast Actual 2021/22 \$	Budget 2020/21 \$	Change \$	Change %
General rates*	8,610,070	8,721,118	111,048	1.3%
Municipal charge*	1,276,081	1,313,325	37,244	2.9%
Garbage charge	1,201,281	1,331,810	130,529	10.9%
Kerbside recycling charge	432,978	475,566	42,588	9.8%
<b>Total rates and charges</b>	<b>11,520,410</b>	<b>11,841,819</b>	<b>321,409</b>	<b>2.8%</b>
Interest on rates and charges	20,000	25,000	5,000	25.0%

\* 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	2020/21 cents/\$CIV	2021/22 cents/\$CIV	Change
General	0.3928	0.3579	-8.9%
Rural	0.3457	0.3150	-8.9%



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**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	2020/21 \$	2021/22 \$	Change
General	2,508,770	2,528,635	0.8%
Rural	6,055,651	6,192,483	2.3%
<b>Total amount to be raised by rates</b>	<b>8,564,421</b>	<b>8,721,118</b>	<b>1.8%</b>

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	2020/21 number	2021/22 number	Change
General	4,248	4,329	1.9%
Rural	3,585	3,594	0.3%
<b>Total number of assessments</b>	<b>7,833</b>	<b>7,923</b>	<b>1.1%</b>

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	2020/21 \$	2021/22 \$	Change
General	638,611,200	706,447,400	10.6%
Rural	1,751,676,500	1,965,965,700	12.2%
<b>Total value of land</b>	<b>2,390,287,700</b>	<b>2,672,413,100</b>	<b>11.8%</b>

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 2020/21 \$	Per rateable property 2021/22 \$	Change
Municipal	221	225	1.8%

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

Type of charge	2020/21 \$	2021/22 \$	Change
Municipal	1,269,866	1,313,325	3.4%



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**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 2020/21 \$	Per rateable property 2021/22 \$	Change
Garbage collection 140 litre	322	354	9.9%
Garbage collection 240 litre	437	481	10.1%
Kerbside recycling 240 litre	122	134	9.8%

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	2020/21 \$	2021/22 \$	Change
Garbage charge	1,195,816	1,331,810	11.4%
Kerbside recycling charge	430,904	475,566	10.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,626,720</b>	<b>1,807,376</b>	<b>11.1%</b>

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

	2020/21 \$	2021/22 \$	Change
General rates	8,610,070	8,721,118	1.3%
Municipal charge	1,276,081	1,313,325	2.9%
Garbage and kerbside recycling charge	1,634,259	1,807,376	10.6%
<b>Total rates and charges</b>	<b>11,520,410</b>	<b>11,841,819</b>	<b>2.8%</b>

4.1.1 (l) Fair Go Rates System Compliance

Loddon Shire Council is fully compliant with the State Government's Fair Go Rates System. The table below details the budget assumptions consistent with the requirements of the Fair Go Rates System.

	2020/21 \$	2021/22 \$
Total rates base	9,641,458	9,886,151
Number of rateable properties	7,833	7,923
Base average rate	1,230.88	1,247.78
Maximum rate increase (set by State Government)	2.00%	1.50%
Capped average rate	1,255.49	1,266.50
Maximum general rates and municipal charges revenue	9,834,287	10,034,443
Budgeted general rates and municipal charges revenue	9,834,287	10,034,443



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

#### 4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

##### 4.1 Comprehensive income statement (continued)

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.

##### 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 0.3579 cents in the dollar of CIV for all rateable general properties
- a rural rate of 0.3150 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 2021/22 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 2020/21 \$	Budget 2021/22 \$	Change \$	Change %
Rates and property	13,592	13,687	95	0.7%
Risk management	11,558	11,639	81	0.7%
Building regulation	80,114	80,668	554	0.7%
Local laws and animal management	54,545	54,926	381	0.7%
Public health	49,030	42,425	(6,605)	-13.5%
Strategic and statutory planning	125,593	76,122	(49,471)	-39.4%
<b>Total statutory fees and fines</b>	<b>334,432</b>	<b>279,467</b>	<b>(5,494)</b>	<b>-16.4%</b>

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.



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

**4.1 Comprehensive income statement (continued)**

4.1.3 User fees

	Forecast Actual 2020/21 \$	Budget 2021/22 \$	Change \$	Change %
Economic development	37,946	35,705	(2,241)	-5.9%
Caravan parks	388,482	391,201	2,719	0.7%
Loddon Discovery Tours	24,023	24,191	168	0.7%
Tourism	10,710	-	(10,710)	-100.0%
Aged care services	483,647	517,227	33,580	6.9%
Elderly persons units	66,616	66,616	-	0.0%
Seniors	8,800	8,835	35	0.4%
Emergency management	6,955	7,004	49	0.7%
Municipal health and wellbeing	1,500	1,000	(500)	-33.3%
Early years	2,300	2,300	-	0.0%
Pre-schools	157,479	127,380	(30,099)	-19.1%
Corporate governance	2,601	3,100	499	19.2%
Financial services	3,045	3,066	21	0.7%
Human resources and development	40,280	40,280	-	0.0%
Risk management	3,969	3,997	28	0.7%
Council engineering and technical services	20,208	20,349	141	0.7%
Building regulation	4,000	4,000	-	0.0%
Building and property maintenance	2,500	2,618	118	4.7%
Gravel pits	93,667	130,185	36,518	39.0%
Roads	39,697	39,975	278	0.7%
Waste management	112,118	67,277	(44,841)	-40.0%
<b>Total user fees</b>	<b>1,510,543</b>	<b>1,496,306</b>	<b>(14,237)</b>	<b>-0.9%</b>

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.

4.1.4 Grants

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

	Forecast Actual 2020/21 \$	Budget 2021/22 \$	Change \$	Change %
<b>Grants were received in respect of the following:</b>				
Summary of grants				
Commonwealth funded grants	11,907,055	6,930,037	(4,977,018)	-41.8%
State funded grants	14,844,518	1,808,188	(13,036,330)	-87.8%
<b>Total grants received</b>	<b>26,751,573</b>	<b>8,738,225</b>	<b>(18,013,348)</b>	<b>-67.3%</b>





**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

**4.1 Comprehensive income statement (continued)**

4.1.4 Grants (Continued)

	Forecast Actual 2020/21 \$	Budget 2021/22 \$	Change \$	Change %
(a) Operating grants				
<b>Recurrent - Commonwealth Government</b>				
VLGGC - local roads	3,658,345	1,782,978	(1,875,367)	-51.3%
VLGGC - general	5,484,408	2,759,333	(2,725,075)	-49.7%
<b>Recurrent - State Government</b>				
Aged care services	853,461	888,325	34,864	4.1%
Seniors	51,493	2,600	(48,893)	-95.0%
Maternal and child health	197,491	197,866	375	0.2%
Early years	45,810	48,956	3,146	6.9%
Pre-schools	466,757	469,849	3,092	0.7%
Immunisation	-	1,000	1,000	#DIV/0!
Youth	24,500	24,500	-	0.0%
Rates and property	44,595	44,907	312	0.7%
Human resources and development	2,500	-	(2,500)	-100.0%
Risk management	-	5,000	5,000	#DIV/0!
Local laws and animal management	12,583	12,671	88	0.7%
Public health	6,032	6,074	42	0.7%
Roads	75,000	75,000	-	0.0%
Waste management	7,477	7,529	52	0.7%
Waterways management	11,220	-	(11,220)	-100.0%
<b>Total recurrent grants</b>	<b>10,941,672</b>	<b>6,326,588</b>	<b>- 4,615,084</b>	<b>-42.2%</b>
<b>Non-recurrent State Government</b>				
Administration and management	1,092,908	-	(1,092,908)	-100.0%
Economic development	10,000	-	(10,000)	-100.0%
Aged care services	2,500	-	(2,500)	-100.0%
Community support	132,770	-	(132,770)	-100.0%
Grants and community planning	162,000	-	(162,000)	-100.0%
Early years	7,167	-	(7,167)	-100.0%
Pre-schools	-	23,911	23,911	#DIV/0!
Human resources and development	72,000	-	(72,000)	-100.0%
Risk management	45,599	-	(45,599)	-100.0%
Project and contact management	800,000	-	(800,000)	-100.0%
Local laws and animal management	250,000	-	(250,000)	-100.0%
Waste management	8,280	-	(8,280)	-100.0%
Waterways management	150,000	-	(150,000)	-100.0%
<b>Total non-recurrent grants</b>	<b>2,733,224</b>	<b>23,911</b>	<b>(2,709,313)</b>	<b>-99.1%</b>
<b>Total operating grants</b>	<b>13,674,896</b>	<b>6,350,499</b>	<b>- 7,324,397</b>	<b>-53.6%</b>



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

**4.1 Comprehensive income statement (continued)**

4.1.4 Grants (Continued)

	Forecast Actual 2020/21 \$	Budget 2021/22 \$	Change \$	Change %
(b) Capital grants				
<b>Recurrent - Commonwealth Government</b>				
Roads to Recovery	2,764,302	2,387,726	(376,576)	-13.6%
<b>Recurrent - State Government</b>				
Nil	-	-	-	0.0%
<b>Total - recurrent capital grants</b>	<b>2,764,302</b>	<b>2,387,726</b>	<b>(376,576)</b>	<b>-13.6%</b>
<b>Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government</b>				
Nil	-	-	-	0.0%
<b>Non-recurrent - State Government</b>				
Caravan parks	611,809	-	(611,809)	-100.0%
Grants and community planning	2,624,670	-	(2,624,670)	-100.0%
Projects and contract management	7,025,896	-	(7,025,896)	-100.0%
Waste management	50,000	-	(50,000)	-100.0%
<b>Total - non-recurrent capital grants</b>	<b>10,312,375</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(10,312,375)</b>	<b>-100.0%</b>
<b>Total - capital grants</b>	<b>13,076,677</b>	<b>2,387,726</b>	<b>(10,688,951)</b>	<b>-81.7%</b>

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 2020/21 \$	Budget 2021/22 \$	Change \$	Change %
Monetary	490,000	-	(490,000)	100.0%
Non-monetary	-	-	-	0.0%
<b>Total contributions</b>	<b>490,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>490,000</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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

4.1.6 Reimbursements

	Forecast Actual 2020/21 \$	Budget 2021/22 \$	Change \$	Change %
Council administration	50,000	50,000	-	0.0%
Risk management	107,411	62,259	(45,152)	-42.0%
Plant and fleet	140,000	140,000	-	0.0%
<b>Total reimbursements</b>	<b>297,411</b>	<b>252,259</b>	<b>(45,152)</b>	<b>-15.2%</b>

Reimbursements include diesel fuel rebates from the Taxation Office, insurance rebates, Workcover reimbursements, and training reimbursements.



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

**4.1 Comprehensive income statement (continued)**

4.1.7 Regional Roads Victoria

	Forecast Actual 2020/21 \$	Budget 2021/22 \$	Change \$	Change %
Approved maintenance	6,644	20,523	13,879	208.9%
Provisional sum items	9,453	12,738	3,285	34.8%
Routine maintenance	495,936	477,444	(18,492)	-3.7%
<b>Total Regional Roads Victoria</b>	<b>512,033</b>	<b>510,705</b>	<b>(1,328)</b>	<b>-0.3%</b>

Council's contract with Regional Roads Victoria includes an "as of right" amount for routine maintenance works.

4.1.8 Other income

	Forecast Actual 2020/21 \$	Budget 2021/22 \$	Change \$	Change %
Interest	275,000	275,000	-	0.0%
Reversal of impairment losses	-	-	-	0.0%
<b>Total other income</b>	<b>275,000</b>	<b>275,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

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

4.1.9 Employee costs

	Forecast Actual 2020/21 \$	Budget 2021/22 \$	Change \$	Change %
Wages and salaries	12,287,261	12,052,504	(234,757)	-1.9%
Workcover	296,177	311,500	15,323	5.2%
Superannuation	1,223,878	1,181,010	(42,868)	-3.5%
Fringe benefits tax	104,089	104,000	(89)	-0.1%
<b>Total employee costs</b>	<b>13,911,405</b>	<b>13,649,014</b>	<b>(262,391)</b>	<b>-1.9%</b>

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.



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

**4.1 Comprehensive income statement (continued)**

4.1.10 Materials, services and contracts

	Forecast Actual 2020/21 \$	Budget 2021/22 \$	Change \$	Change %
Administration and management	909,499	536,684	(372,815)	-41.0%
Economic development	443,048	191,252	(251,796)	-56.8%
Council administration	388,745	226,583	(162,162)	-41.7%
Library services	216,502	218,018	1,516	0.7%
Media	39,000	39,000	-	0.0%
Caravan parks	314,602	318,890	4,288	1.4%
Loddon Discovery Tours	20,378	20,396	18	0.1%
Tourism	132,068	135,403	3,335	2.5%
Aged care services	1,135,302	303,360	(831,942)	-73.3%
Elderly persons units	44,222	44,935	713	1.6%
Rural access	145,653	0	(145,653)	-100.0%
Seniors	65,347	66,211	864	1.3%
Community support	652,077	408,254	(243,823)	-37.4%
Emergency management	19,592	19,726	134	0.7%
Grants and community planning	1,689,049	277,000	(1,412,049)	-83.6%
Municipal health and wellbeing	161,022	7,500	(153,522)	-95.3%
Swimming pools	495,042	532,043	37,001	7.5%
Maternal and child health	240,913	94,784	(146,129)	-60.7%
Early years	331,344	53,595	(277,749)	-83.8%
Pre-schools	88,704	89,857	1,153	1.3%
Immunisation	-	4,321	4,321	100.0%
Youth	38,512	30,500	(8,012)	-20.8%
Corporate Governance	173,859	40,595	(133,264)	-76.7%
Financial services	159,220	171,839	12,619	7.9%
Rates and property	56,849	74,069	17,220	30.3%
Customer service	109,016	109,839	823	0.8%
Information management	141,090	174,489	33,399	23.7%
Information technology	378,970	495,133	116,163	30.7%
Human resources and development	416,653	309,371	(107,282)	-25.7%
Risk management	392,681	389,256	(3,425)	-0.9%
Council engineering and technical services	298,612	232,476	(66,136)	-22.1%
Project and contract management	186,549	78,151	(108,398)	-58.1%
Building regulation	35,801	42,024	6,223	17.4%
Local laws and animal management	508,888	51,997	(456,891)	-89.8%
Public health	29,390	35,557	6,167	21.0%
Strategic and statutory planning	26,132	30,460	4,328	16.6%
Air strips	8,364	8,449	85	1.0%
Building and property maintenance	867,832	642,304	(225,528)	-26.0%
Plant and fleet	(2,900,435)	(2,434,442)	465,993	-16.1%
Gravel pits	14,759	38,475	23,716	160.7%
Management and administration	72,000	72,000	-	0.0%
Parks and townships	438,341	387,271	(51,070)	-11.7%



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

**4.1 Comprehensive income statement (continued)**

4.1.10 Materials, services and contracts

	Forecast Actual 2020/21 \$	Budget 2021/22 \$	Change \$	Change %
Roads	4,116,517	4,012,697	(103,820)	-2.5%
DOT routine maintenance contract	184,175	185,961	1,786	1.0%
Waste management	1,830,374	1,695,433	(134,941)	-7.4%
Waterways management	66,901	58,166	(8,735)	-13.1%
<b>Total materials, services and contracts</b>	<b>15,183,159</b>	<b>10,519,882</b>	<b>(4,663,277)</b>	<b>-30.7%</b>

Materials, services and contracts include the purchase of consumables, payments to contractors for the provision of services and utility costs.

4.1.11 Depreciation

	Forecast Actual 2020/21 \$	Budget 2021/22 \$	Change \$	Change %
Roads	5,279,870	5,411,866	131,997	2.5%
Buildings	1,870,253	1,917,010	46,756	2.5%
Plant and equipment	1,296,797	1,329,217	32,420	2.5%
Bridges	350,435	359,196	8,761	2.5%
Urban drains	240,887	246,909	6,022	2.5%
Furniture and equipment	112,331	115,139	2,808	2.5%
Footpaths	190,195	194,950	4,755	2.5%
Kerb and channel	123,765	126,859	3,094	2.5%
Landfills	168,496	172,708	4,212	2.5%
Street furniture	31,264	32,046	782	2.5%
Quarries	2,496	2,559	62	2.5%
<b>Total depreciation</b>	<b>9,666,789</b>	<b>9,908,459</b>	<b>241,670</b>	<b>2.5%</b>

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.

4.1.12 Other expenses

	Forecast Actual 2020/21 \$	Budget 2021/22 \$	Change \$	Change %
Councillors' emoluments	248,000	249,610	1,610	0.6%
Internal audit remuneration	44,969	45,281	312	0.7%
External audit remuneration	41,270	41,558	288	0.7%
Impairment of interest free loans	-	-	-	0.0%
<b>Total other expenses</b>	<b>334,239</b>	<b>336,449</b>	<b>2,210</b>	<b>0.7%</b>

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



## LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

### 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 \$7.3 million during the year mainly due the expectation to have most capital projects complete by 30 June and the upfront funding received by 30 June 2021.

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 \$8.5 million increase in this balance is attributable to the net result of the capital works program (\$26.84 million in 2020/21 and \$6.92 million in 2021/22), depreciation of assets (\$9.67 million in 2020/21 and \$9.91million in 2021/22) 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 \$0.14 million in 2021/22 levels due to a reduction in material and services costs incurred during the financial year.

Employee benefits include accrued long service leave, annual leave and rostered days off owing to employees. These employee entitlements are expected to decrease by \$0.08 million (current liability) and increase by \$0.30 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. \$5.94 million is the decrease in accumulated surplus results directly from the surplus for the year. This is offset by an amount of \$5.01 million net is budgeted to be transferred to other reserves from 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 2022**

#### 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 2020/21 \$	Budget 2021/22 \$
Total amount borrowed as at 30 June of the prior year	-	-
Total amount to be borrowed	-	-
Total amount projected to be redeemed	-	-
<b>Total amount proposed to be borrowed as at 30 June</b>	-	-

In developing the Financial Plan, 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 2021/22 year, Council has decided not to take out any new borrowings.

##### 4.2.5 Leases by category

As a result of the introduction of AASB16 Leases, right-of-use assets and lease liabilities have been recognised as outlined in the table below.

	Forecast Actual 2020/21 \$	Budget 2021/22 \$
<b>Right-of-use assets</b>	-	-
Property	-	-
<b>Total right-of-use assets</b>	-	-
<b>Lease liabilities</b>		
<b>Current lease liabilities</b>	-	-
Land and buildings	-	-
<b>Total current lease liabilities</b>	-	-
<b>Non-current lease liabilities</b>	-	-
Land and buildings	-	-
<b>Total non-current lease liabilities</b>	-	-
<b>Total lease liabilities</b>	-	-

Where the interest rate applicable to a lease is not expressed in the lease agreements, Council applied the average incremental borrowing rate in the calculation of lease liabilities. The current incremental borrowing rate is 0.25%



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL  
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**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:

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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, to a maximum reserve level of \$400K and the cost of purchasing new sites, development and restoration of the pits is transferred from the 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.

**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.

**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.

**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.





## LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

### 4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

#### 4.3 Statement of changes in equity (continued)

##### 4.3.1 Reserves (continued)

###### 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.

###### 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.

###### 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.

###### 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.

###### 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.

###### 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), to a maximum level of \$300K. Council transfers from the reserve the cost of strategic projects, compliance and long term planning within Council landfills and transfer stations.

###### Boundary and township signage reserve

The Boundary and Township Signage Reserve is used to fund replacement of Council's boundary and township signage. annually an amount determined during the budget process as sufficient to fund the boundary and township signage replacement program, to a maximum reserve level of \$100K. Council transfers from the reserve the net cost of boundary and township signage purchases and installation for the year.

###### 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.

###### 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.



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL  
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

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**4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

**4.3 Statement of changes in equity (continued)**

**4.3.1 Reserves (continued)**

**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. It is capped to a maximum reserve level of \$800K.

**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.

**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.

**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. Council transfers to the reserve annually an amount determined during the budget process, to a maximum reserve level of \$200K. Council transfers from the reserve the net cost of unplanned major repairs and capital works.

**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.

**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.



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**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 2020:

2020/21 reserves - as per projected forecast				
Name of reserve	Balance at 1 July 2020 \$	Transfers to reserves \$	Transfers from reserves \$	Balance at 30 June 2021 \$
Capital expenditure reserve	6,244,527	-	6,244,527	-
Caravan park development reserve	49,393	70,179	22,500	97,072
Community planning reserve	2,007,039	-	1,236,039	771,000
Gravel and sand pit reserve	400,000	-	-	400,000
Heritage loan scheme reserve	100,000	-	-	100,000
Land and buildings reserve	(15,070)	470,344	-	455,274
Lake Boort water reserve	24,069	-	10,000	14,069
Major projects reserve	153,996	-	-	153,996
Reserves improvement reserve	100,000	-	-	100,000
Superannuation liability reserve	898,808	301,192	-	1,200,000
Unightly premises enforcement	100,000	-	-	100,000
Unspent contributions reserve	-	-	-	-
Unspent grants reserve	8,714,548	4,617,310	8,714,548	4,617,310
Waste management reserve	300,000	-	-	300,000
Boundary and township signage	83,206	16,794	-	100,000
Economic development reserve	371,740	100,000	257,205	214,535
Fleet replacement reserve	640,954	227,380	305,000	563,334
Information technology reserve	800,000	185,000	316,877	668,123
Plant replacement reserve	1,486,953	917,741	916,413	1,488,281
Professional development reserve	9,616	6,000	-	15,616
Swimming pool major projects reserve	150,000	50,000	-	200,000
Units reserve	60,000	-	-	60,000
Urban drainage reserve	843,958	125,000	898,198	70,760
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23,523,737</b>	<b>7,086,940</b>	<b>18,921,307</b>	<b>11,689,373</b>



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**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 2021:

2021/22 reserves - as per budget				
Name of reserve	Balance at 1 July 2021 \$	Transfers to reserves \$	Transfers from reserves \$	Balance at 30 June 2022 \$
Capital expenditure reserve	-	-	-	-
Caravan park development reserve	97,072	68,500	7,500	158,072
Community planning reserve	771,000	-	-	771,000
Gravel and sand pit reserve	400,000	-	-	400,000
Heritage loan scheme reserve	100,000	-	-	100,000
Land and buildings reserve	455,274	120,000	-	575,274
Lake Boort water reserve	14,069	-	-	14,069
Major projects reserve	153,996	-	-	153,996
Reserves improvement reserve	100,000	-	-	100,000
Superannuation liability reserve	1,200,000	-	200,000	1,000,000
reserve	100,000	-	-	100,000
Unspent contributions reserve	-	-	-	-
Unspent grants reserve	4,617,310	-	4,617,310	-
Waste management reserve	300,000	-	-	300,000
Boundary and township signage	100,000	-	-	100,000
Economic development reserve	214,535	100,000	135,000	179,535
Fleet replacement reserve	563,334	200,000	82,620	680,714
Information technology reserve	668,123	150,000	311,897	506,226
Plant replacement reserve	1,488,281	900,000	1,033,446	1,354,835
Professional development reserve	15,616	6,000	-	21,616
Swimming pool major projects reserve	200,000	50,000	250,000	-
Units reserve	60,000	-	-	60,000
Urban drainage reserve	70,760	350,000	350,000	70,760
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,689,370</b>	<b>1,944,500</b>	<b>6,987,773</b>	<b>6,646,100</b>

By including the above transfers from reserves it is expected that reserve levels decrease by approximately \$5.04 million, leaving a balance of \$6.64 million in the reserves account.

4.3.3 Details of reserves

The following schedule provides details of each of the reserve transfers for 2020/21:

<b>Capital expenditure reserve</b>			
Opening balance			-
ADD transfer to reserve			-
Nil	N/A	-	-
LESS transfer from reserve			-
Nil	N/A	-	-
Closing balance			-



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

**4.3 Statement of changes in equity (continued)**

4.3.3 Details of reserves (continued)

<b>Caravan park development reserve</b>			
Opening balance			97,072
ADD transfer to reserve			
Surplus of caravan park operations		68,500	68,500
LESS transfer from reserve			
Tree works		(7,500)	(7,500)
Closing balance			158,072
<b>Community planning reserve</b>			
Opening balance			771,000
ADD transfer to reserve			
Nil		-	-
LESS transfer from reserve			
Nil		-	-
Closing balance			771,000
<b>GSP restoration reserve</b>			
Opening balance			400,000
ADD transfer to reserve			
Nil		-	-
LESS transfer from reserve			
Nil		-	-
Closing balance			400,000
<b>Heritage loan scheme reserve</b>			
Opening balance			100,000
ADD transfer to reserve			
Nil		-	-
LESS transfer from reserve			
Nil		-	-
Closing balance			100,000
<b>Land and buildings reserve</b>			
Opening balance			455,274
ADD transfer to reserve			
Sale and land and buildings		120,000	120,000
LESS transfer from reserve			
Nil			-
Closing balance			575,274



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

**4.3 Statement of changes in equity (continued)**

4.3.3 Details of reserves (continued)

<b>Lake Boort water reserve</b>			
Opening balance			14,069
ADD transfer to reserve			
Nil		-	-
LESS transfer from reserve			
Nil		-	-
Closing balance			14,069
<b>Major projects reserve</b>			
Opening balance			153,996
ADD transfer to reserve			
Nil		-	-
LESS transfer from reserve			
Nil		-	-
Closing balance			153,996
<b>Reserves improvement reserve</b>			
Opening balance			100,000
ADD transfer to reserve			
Nil		-	-
LESS transfer from reserve			
Nil		-	-
Closing balance			100,000
<b>Superannuation liability reserve</b>			
Opening balance			1,200,000
ADD transfer to reserve			
Nil		-	-
LESS transfer from reserve			
Not required - COVID-19 response		(200,000)	(200,000)
Closing balance			1,000,000
<b>Unightly premises enforcement provision</b>			
Opening balance			100,000
ADD transfer to reserve			
Nil		-	-
LESS transfer from reserve			
Nil		-	-
Closing balance			100,000



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

**4.3 Statement of changes in equity (continued)**

4.3.3 Details of reserves (continued)

<b>Unspent contributions reserve</b>			
Opening balance			-
ADD transfer to reserve			
Nil		-	-
LESS transfer from reserve			
Nil		-	-
Closing balance			-
<b>Unspent grants reserve</b>			
Opening balance			4,617,310
ADD transfer to reserve			
Nil		-	-
LESS transfer from reserve			
Upfront 50% payment of VLGGC funding 20/21		(4,617,310)	(4,617,310)
Closing balance			-
<b>Waste management reserve</b>			
Opening balance			300,000
ADD transfer to reserve			
Nil		-	-
LESS transfer from reserve			
Nil		-	-
Closing balance			300,000
<b>Boundary and township entrance signage</b>			
Opening balance			100,000
ADD transfer to reserve			
Nil		-	-
LESS transfer from reserve			
Nil		-	-
Closing balance			100,000
<b>Economic development reserve</b>			
Opening balance			214,535
ADD transfer to reserve			
Yearly allocation		100,000	100,000
LESS transfer from reserve			
Project scoping		(15,000)	
Economic development strategy		(120,000)	(135,000)
Closing balance			179,535



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

**4.3 Statement of changes in equity (continued)**

4.3.3 Details of reserves (continued)

<b>Fleet replacement reserve</b>			
Opening balance			563,334
ADD transfer to reserve			
Annual allocation to reserve		200,000	200,000
LESS transfer from reserve			
Net cost of fleet replacement		(82,620)	(82,620)
Closing balance			680,714
<b>Information technology reserve</b>			
Opening balance			668,123
ADD transfer to reserve			
Annual allocations for major purchases		150,000	150,000
LESS transfer from reserve			
Server replacement		(50,000)	
Photocopier / scanner		(10,000)	
Project management software		(30,000)	
PC replacement		(115,000)	
IT salaries		(106,897)	(311,897)
Closing balance			506,226
<b>Plant replacement reserve</b>			
Opening balance			1,488,281
ADD transfer to reserve			
Annual allocation to reserve		900,000	900,000
LESS transfer from reserve			
Net cost of plant replacement		(1,033,446)	(1,033,446)
Closing balance			1,354,835
<b>Professional development reserve</b>			
Opening balance			15,616
ADD transfer to reserve			
Annual allocation		6,000	6,000
LESS transfer from reserve			
Nil		-	-
Closing balance			21,616
<b>Swimming pool major projects reserve</b>			
Opening balance			200,000
ADD transfer to reserve			
Annual allocation to reserve		50,000	50,000
LESS transfer from reserve			
Capital works program		(250,000)	(250,000)
Closing balance			-





**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

**4.3 Statement of changes in equity (continued)**

4.3.3 Details of reserves (continued)

<b>Units reserve</b>			
Opening balance			60,000
ADD transfer to reserve			-
Nil		-	-
LESS transfer from reserve			-
Nil		-	-
Closing balance			60,000
<b>Urban drainage reserve</b>			
Opening balance			70,760
ADD transfer to reserve			-
Annual allocation		350,000	350,000
LESS transfer from reserve			-
Drainage program		(350,000)	(350,000)
Closing balance			70,760

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.

4.3.5 Working capital

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 2020/21 \$	Budget 2021/22 \$	Variance \$
Current assets	20,356,186	12,676,980	7,679,206
Current liabilities	3,329,010	3,095,030	233,980
Working capital	17,027,176	9,581,950	7,445,226
<b>Intended allocation assets</b>			
- Discretionary reserves	(11,689,373)	(6,646,100)	(5,043,273)
- Long service leave	(2,054,807)	(2,154,807)	100,000
<b>Restricted allocation assets</b>			
- Trust funds and deposits	(338,561)	(321,633)	(16,928)
<b>Unrestricted working capital</b>	<b>2,944,435</b>	<b>459,410</b>	<b>2,485,025</b>

In addition to the restricted assets above, Council is also projected to hold \$6.64 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 2022

### 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 2021/22 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 an increase in operating costs offset by a decrease in grants. This is partially offset by a slight increase in rates and charges, which includes an increase in rates of 1.5% and garbage related charges of 10.0%.

##### 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 decrease in payments for investing activities represents a decrease in capital works expenditure. Term deposits are also expected to decrease.

##### 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 borrowings are budgeted in 2021/22.

##### 4.4.4 Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year

Overall, total cash and investments is forecast to decrease by \$7.31 million to \$8.69 million as at 30 June 2022, 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 2022 it will have unrestricted cash and investments of \$0.5 million, which has been restricted as shown in the following table.



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**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 2020/21 \$	Budget 2021/22 \$	Variance \$
<b>Total cash and investments</b>		<b>15,997,678</b>	<b>8,685,966</b>	<b>(7,311,712)</b>
<b>Intended allocation assets</b>				
Long service leave	4.4.5	(2,054,807)	(2,154,807)	(100,000)
Discretionary reserves	4.4.6	(11,689,370)	(6,646,100)	5,043,270
<b>Restricted allocation assets</b>				
Trust funds and deposits		(338,561)	(321,633)	16,928
<b>Unrestricted cash adjusted for discretionary reserves</b>	<b>4.4.7</b>	<b>1,914,940</b>	<b>(436,574)</b>	<b>(2,351,514)</b>

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 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 2022**

**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 2021/22 year.

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

- new works for 2021/22
- works carried forward from the 2020/21 year.

**4.5.1 New works by asset expenditure type**

Capital works area	Project cost	Asset expenditure types			
		New \$	Renewal \$	Upgrade \$	Expansion \$
<b>Property</b>					
Land	-	-	-	-	-
Land improvements	5,000	-	5,000	-	-
<b>Total land</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Buildings	-	-	-	-	-
Building improvements	272,500	-	272,500	-	-
<b>Total buildings</b>	<b>272,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>272,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total property</b>	<b>277,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>277,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Plant and equipment</b>					
Plant, machinery and equipment	1,427,920	1,427,920	-	-	-
Computers and telecommunications	175,000	175,000	-	-	-
Fixtures fittings and furniture	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total plant and equipment</b>	<b>1,602,920</b>	<b>1,602,920</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Infrastructure</b>					
Roads	2,922,503	-	2,922,503	-	-
Bridges	146,701	-	146,701	-	-
Footpaths	240,814	-	240,814	-	-
Drainage	350,000	-	350,000	-	-
Recreation, leisure and community facilities	1,330,000	-	-	1,230,000	100,000
Parks, open space and streetscapes	50,000	-	50,000	-	-
Other infrastructure	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total infrastructure</b>	<b>5,040,018</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,710,018</b>	<b>1,230,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>
<b>Total new works</b>	<b>6,920,438</b>	<b>1,602,920</b>	<b>3,987,518</b>	<b>1,230,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**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 / contributions \$	Reserves \$	Council funded \$	Sale of assets \$
<b>Property</b>					
Land	-	-	-	-	-
Land improvements	5,000	-	-	5,000	-
<b>Total land</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>-</b>
Buildings	-	-	-	-	-
Building improvements	272,500	-	7,500	265,000	-
<b>Total buildings</b>	<b>272,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>265,000</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total property</b>	<b>277,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>270,000</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Plant and equipment</b>					
Plant, machinery and equipment	1,427,920	-	1,116,066	55,000	256,854
Computers and telecommunications	175,000	-	175,000	-	-
Fixtures fittings and furniture	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total plant and equipment</b>	<b>1,602,920</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,291,066</b>	<b>55,000</b>	<b>256,854</b>
<b>Infrastructure</b>					
Roads	2,922,503	2,000,211	121,449	800,843	-
Bridges	146,701	146,701	-	-	-
Footpaths	240,814	240,814	-	-	-
Drainage	350,000	-	350,000	-	-
Recreation, leisure and community facilities	1,330,000	-	350,000	980,000	-
Parks, open space and streetscapes	50,000	-	-	50,000	-
Other infrastructure	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total infrastructure</b>	<b>5,040,018</b>	<b>2,387,726</b>	<b>821,449</b>	<b>1,830,843</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total new works</b>	<b>6,920,438</b>	<b>2,387,726</b>	<b>2,120,015</b>	<b>2,155,843</b>	<b>256,854</b>



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

**4.5 Capital works program (continued)**

4.5.3 Works carried forward from the 2020/21 year by asset expenditure type

Capital works area	Project cost	Asset expenditure types			
		New \$	Renewal \$	Upgrade \$	Expansion \$
<b>Property</b>					
Land	-	-	-	-	-
Land improvements	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total land</b>	-	-	-	-	-
Buildings	-	-	-	-	-
Building improvements	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total buildings</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total property</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Plant and equipment</b>					
Plant, machinery and equipment	-	-	-	-	-
Computers and telecommunications	-	-	-	-	-
Fixtures fittings and furniture	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total plant and equipment</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Infrastructure</b>					
Roads	-	-	-	-	-
Bridges	-	-	-	-	-
Footpaths	-	-	-	-	-
Drainage	-	-	-	-	-
Recreation, leisure and community facilities	-	-	-	-	-
Parks, open space and streetscapes	-	-	-	-	-
Other infrastructure	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total infrastructure</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total carried forward works</b>	-	-	-	-	-



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

**4.5 Capital works program (continued)**

4.5.4 Works carried forward from the 2020/21 year by funding source

Capital works area	Project cost	Funding sources			
		Grants / contributions \$	Reserves \$	Council funded \$	Sale of assets \$
<b>Property</b>					
Land	-	-	-	-	-
Land improvements	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total land</b>	-	-	-	-	-
Buildings	-	-	-	-	-
Building improvements	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total buildings</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total property</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Plant and equipment</b>					
Plant, machinery and equipment	-	-	-	-	-
Computers and telecommunications	-	-	-	-	-
Fixtures fittings and furniture	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total plant and equipment</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Infrastructure</b>					
Roads	-	-	-	-	-
Bridges	-	-	-	-	-
Footpaths	-	-	-	-	-
Drainage	-	-	-	-	-
Recreation, leisure and community facilities	-	-	-	-	-
Parks, open space and streetscapes	-	-	-	-	-
Other infrastructure	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total infrastructure</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total carried forward works</b>	-	-	-	-	-



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

**4.5 Capital works program (continued)**

4.5.4 Summary of planned capital works expenditure by asset type

Capital works 2022/23	Project cost	Asset expenditure types			
		New \$	Renewal \$	Upgrade \$	Expansion \$
<b>Property</b>					
Land	-	-	-	-	-
Land improvements	505,000	-	-	-	505,000
<b>Total land</b>	<b>505,000</b>	-	-	-	<b>505,000</b>
Buildings	600,000	-	-	600,000	-
Building improvements	407,500	-	407,500	-	-
<b>Total buildings</b>	<b>1,007,500</b>	-	<b>407,500</b>	<b>600,000</b>	-
<b>Total property</b>	<b>1,512,500</b>	-	<b>407,500</b>	<b>600,000</b>	<b>505,000</b>
<b>Plant and equipment</b>					
Plant, machinery and equipment	2,498,233	2,498,233	-	-	-
Computers and telecommunications	120,000	120,000	-	-	-
Fixtures fittings and furniture	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total plant and equipment</b>	<b>2,618,233</b>	<b>2,618,233</b>	-	-	-
<b>Infrastructure</b>					
Roads	3,442,679	-	3,442,679	-	-
Bridges	149,488	-	149,488	-	-
Footpaths	242,178	-	242,178	-	-
Drainage	380,000	-	350,000	30,000	-
Recreation, leisure and community facilities	2,040,000	-	290,000	750,000	1,000,000
Parks, open space and streetscapes	538,000	-	320,500	-	217,500
Other infrastructure	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total infrastructure</b>	<b>6,792,345</b>	-	<b>4,794,845</b>	<b>780,000</b>	<b>1,217,500</b>
<b>Total capital works 2022/23</b>	<b>10,923,078</b>	<b>2,618,233</b>	<b>5,202,345</b>	<b>1,380,000</b>	<b>1,722,500</b>





**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

**4.5 Capital works program (continued)**

4.5.4 Summary of planned capital works expenditure by asset type (continued)

Capital works 2023/24	Project cost	Asset expenditure types			
		New \$	Renewal \$	Upgrade \$	Expansion \$
<b>Property</b>					
Land	-	-	-	-	-
Land improvements	595,000	-	-	-	595,000
<b>Total land</b>	<b>595,000</b>	-	-	-	<b>595,000</b>
Buildings	700,000	-	-	700,000	-
Building improvements	407,500	-	407,500	-	-
<b>Total buildings</b>	<b>1,107,500</b>	-	<b>407,500</b>	<b>700,000</b>	-
<b>Total property</b>	<b>1,702,500</b>	-	<b>407,500</b>	<b>700,000</b>	<b>595,000</b>
<b>Plant and equipment</b>					
Plant, machinery and equipment	1,960,104	1,960,104	-	-	-
Computers and telecommunications	128,000	128,000	-	-	-
Fixtures fittings and furniture	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total plant and equipment</b>	<b>2,088,104</b>	<b>2,088,104</b>	-	-	-
<b>Infrastructure</b>					
Roads	3,610,328	-	3,610,328	-	-
Bridges	152,328	-	152,328	-	-
Footpaths	220,510	-	220,510	-	-
Drainage	520,000	-	350,000	170,000	-
Recreation, leisure and community facilities	1,650,000	-	-	750,000	900,000
Parks, open space and streetscapes	1,023,500	-	849,500	-	174,000
Other infrastructure	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total infrastructure</b>	<b>7,176,666</b>	-	<b>5,182,666</b>	<b>920,000</b>	<b>1,074,000</b>
<b>Total capital works 2023/24</b>	<b>10,967,270</b>	<b>2,088,104</b>	<b>5,590,166</b>	<b>1,620,000</b>	<b>1,669,000</b>



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

**4.5 Capital works program (continued)**

4.5.4 Summary of planned capital works expenditure by asset type (continued)

Capital works 2024/25	Project cost	Asset expenditure types			
		New \$	Renewal \$	Upgrade \$	Expansion \$
<b>Property</b>					
Land	-	-	-	-	-
Land improvements	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total land</b>	-	-	-	-	-
Buildings	-	-	-	-	-
Building improvements	407,500	-	407,500	-	-
<b>Total buildings</b>	<b>407,500</b>	-	<b>407,500</b>	-	-
<b>Total property</b>	<b>407,500</b>	-	<b>407,500</b>	-	-
<b>Plant and equipment</b>					
Plant, machinery and equipment	-	-	-	-	-
Computers and telecommunications	128,000	128,000	-	-	-
Fixtures fittings and furniture	1,706,155	1,706,155	-	-	-
<b>Total plant and equipment</b>	<b>1,834,155</b>	<b>1,834,155</b>	-	-	-
<b>Infrastructure</b>					
Roads	3,654,998	-	3,654,998	-	-
Bridges	155,223	-	155,223	-	-
Footpaths	216,343	-	216,343	-	-
Drainage	350,000	-	350,000	-	-
Recreation, leisure and community facilities	750,000	-	-	750,000	-
Parks, open space and streetscapes	865,500	-	100,000	-	765,500
Other infrastructure	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total infrastructure</b>	<b>5,992,064</b>	-	<b>4,476,564</b>	<b>750,000</b>	<b>765,500</b>
<b>Total capital works 2024/25</b>	<b>8,233,719</b>	<b>1,834,155</b>	<b>4,884,064</b>	<b>750,000</b>	<b>765,500</b>



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

**4.5 Capital works program (continued)**

4.5.5 Summary of planned capital works expenditure by funding source

Capital works 2022/23	Project cost	Funding sources			
		Grants / contributions \$	Reserves \$	Council funded \$	Sale of assets \$
<b>Property</b>					
Land	-	-	-	-	-
Land improvements	505,000	-	505,000	-	-
<b>Total land</b>	<b>505,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>505,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Buildings	600,000	282,500	317,500	-	-
Building improvements	407,500	-	7,500	400,000	-
<b>Total buildings</b>	<b>1,007,500</b>	<b>282,500</b>	<b>325,000</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total property</b>	<b>1,512,500</b>	<b>282,500</b>	<b>830,000</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Plant and equipment</b>					
Plant, machinery and equipment	2,498,233	-	1,973,546	20,000	504,687
Computers and telecommunications	120,000	-	120,000	-	-
Fixtures fittings and furniture	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total plant and equipment</b>	<b>2,618,233</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,093,546</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>504,687</b>
<b>Infrastructure</b>					
Roads	3,442,679	1,996,060	-	1,446,619	-
Bridges	149,488	149,488	-	-	-
Footpaths	242,178	242,178	-	-	-
Drainage	380,000	-	350,000	30,000	-
Recreation, leisure and community facilities	2,040,000	840,000	300,000	900,000	-
Parks, open space and streetscapes	538,000	-	-	538,000	-
Other infrastructure	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total infrastructure</b>	<b>6,792,345</b>	<b>3,227,726</b>	<b>650,000</b>	<b>2,914,619</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total capital works 2022/23</b>	<b>10,923,078</b>	<b>3,510,226</b>	<b>3,573,546</b>	<b>3,334,619</b>	<b>504,687</b>



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

**4.5 Capital works program (continued)**

4.5.5 Summary of planned capital works expenditure by funding source

Capital works 2023/24	Project cost	Funding sources			
		Grants / contributions \$	Reserves \$	Council funded \$	Sale of assets \$
<b>Property</b>					
Land	-	-	-	-	-
Land improvements	595,000	500,000	95,000	-	-
<b>Total land</b>	<b>595,000</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>95,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Buildings	700,000	282,500	417,500	-	-
Building improvements	407,500	-	7,500	400,000	-
<b>Total buildings</b>	<b>1,107,500</b>	<b>282,500</b>	<b>425,000</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total property</b>	<b>1,702,500</b>	<b>782,500</b>	<b>520,000</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Plant and equipment</b>					
Plant, machinery and equipment	1,960,104	-	1,622,706	20,000	317,398
Computers and telecommunications	128,000	-	128,000	-	-
Fixtures fittings and furniture	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total plant and equipment</b>	<b>2,088,104</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,750,706</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>317,398</b>
<b>Infrastructure</b>					
Roads	3,610,328	2,014,888	-	1,595,440	-
Bridges	152,328	152,328	-	-	-
Footpaths	220,510	220,510	-	-	-
Drainage	520,000	133,333	350,000	36,667	-
Recreation, leisure and community facilities	1,650,000	600,000	300,000	750,000	-
Parks, open space and streetscapes	1,023,500	490,000	-	533,500	-
Other infrastructure	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total infrastructure</b>	<b>7,176,666</b>	<b>3,611,059</b>	<b>650,000</b>	<b>2,915,607</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total capital works 2023/24</b>	<b>10,967,270</b>	<b>4,393,559</b>	<b>2,920,706</b>	<b>3,335,607</b>	<b>317,398</b>



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

**4.5 Capital works program (continued)**

4.5.5 Summary of planned capital works expenditure by funding source

Capital works 2024/25	Project cost	Funding sources			
		Grants / contributions \$	Reserves \$	Council funded \$	Sale of assets \$
<b>Property</b>					
Land	-	-	-	-	-
Land improvements	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total land</b>	-	-	-	-	-
Buildings	-	-	-	-	-
Building improvements	407,500	-	7,500	400,000	-
<b>Total buildings</b>	<b>407,500</b>	-	<b>7,500</b>	<b>400,000</b>	-
<b>Total property</b>	<b>407,500</b>	-	<b>7,500</b>	<b>400,000</b>	-
<b>Plant and equipment</b>					
Plant, machinery and equipment	1,706,155	-	1,254,266	20,000	431,889
Computers and telecommunications	128,000	-	128,000	-	-
Fixtures fittings and furniture	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total plant and equipment</b>	<b>1,834,155</b>	-	<b>1,382,266</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>431,889</b>
<b>Infrastructure</b>					
Roads	3,654,998	2,135,546	-	1,519,452	-
Bridges	155,223	155,223	-	-	-
Footpaths	216,343	216,343	-	-	-
Drainage	350,000	-	350,000	-	-
Recreation, leisure and community facilities	750,000	-	-	750,000	-
Parks, open space and streetscapes	865,500	483,333	-	382,167	-
Other infrastructure	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total infrastructure</b>	<b>5,992,064</b>	<b>2,990,445</b>	<b>350,000</b>	<b>2,651,619</b>	-
<b>Total capital works 2024/25</b>	<b>8,233,719</b>	<b>2,990,445</b>	<b>1,739,766</b>	<b>3,071,619</b>	<b>431,889</b>



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**5 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

Indicator	Measure	Notes	Actual	Forecast	Budget	Trend
			2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	+ / O / -
<b>Operating position</b>						
Adjusted underlying result	Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit) / Adjusted underlying revenue	1	-8.06%	-46.95%	-21.85%	-
<b>Liquidity</b>						
Working capital	Current assets / Current liabilities	2	744.86%	611.48%	409.59%	-
Unrestricted cash	Unrestricted cash / Current liabilities		3.10%	57.52%	-14.11%	-
<b>Obligations</b>						
Loan and borrowings	Interest bearing 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		11.85%	15.24%	17.15%	O
Asset renewal	Asset renewal and upgrade expenses / Asset depreciation	4	57.71%	186.71%	52.66%	-
<b>Stability</b>						
Rates concentration	Rates revenue / Adjusted underlying revenue	5	38.60%	49.19%	42.13%	+
Rates effort	Rate revenue / CIV of rateable properties in the municipality		0.49%	0.48%	0.44%	-
<b>Efficiency</b>						
Expenditure level	Total expenses / No. of property assessments		\$3,949	\$4,991	\$4,344	O
Revenue level	Total rate revenue / No. of property assessments		\$1,227	\$1,262	\$1,266	O



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**5 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (Continued)**

Indicator	Measure	Notes	Strategic Resource Plan Projections			Trend
			2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	+/-
<b>Operating position</b>						
Adjusted underlying result	Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit) / Adjusted underlying revenue	1	-21.85%	-22.26%	-24.67%	O
<b>Liquidity</b>						
Working capital	Current assets / Current liabilities	2	256.35%	114.65%	-7.25%	-
Unrestricted cash	Unrestricted cash / Current liabilities		-150.94%	-288.67%	-431.84%	+
<b>Obligations</b>						
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		19.34%	21.37%	23.41%	+
Asset renewal	Asset renewal expenses / Asset depreciation	4	64.81%	69.26%	52.80%	+
<b>Stability</b>						
Rates concentration	Rates revenue / Adjusted underlying revenue	5	42.26%	42.41%	42.45%	O
Rates effort	Rate revenue / CIV of rateable properties in the municipality		0.44%	0.43%	0.43%	O
<b>Efficiency</b>						
Expenditure level	Total expenses / No. of property assessments		\$4,323	\$4,389	\$4,542	+
Revenue level	Residential rate revenue / No. of residential property assessments		\$1,299	\$1,308	\$1,328	+

**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 2022**

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**6 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 2021/22 year.

Fees and charges are based on information available at the time of publishing and may vary during the financial year subject to any changes in Council's policy or legislation.

This full document is located on Council's website.





**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**APPENDIX A - AUDIT COMMITTEE FINANCIALS**

In 2002 Council's Audit and Risk 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 2020/21 Forecast Actuals, the 2021/22 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 2020/21 \$	Budget 2021/22 \$	Variance \$
<b>Revenues from ordinary activities</b>			
Rates and charges	11,520,410	11,841,819	321,409
Statutory and user fees	1,844,975	1,775,773	(69,202)
Operating grants	13,674,896	6,350,499	(7,324,397)
Capital grants	13,076,677	2,387,726	(10,688,951)
Operating contributions	490,000	-	(490,000)
Capital contributions	-	-	-
Regional Roads Victoria	512,033	510,705	(1,328)
Reversal of impairment losses	-	-	-
Reimbursements	297,411	252,259	(45,152)
Interest	295,000	300,000	5,000
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>41,711,402</b>	<b>23,418,781</b>	<b>(18,292,621)</b>
<b>Expenses from ordinary activities</b>			
Labour	12,287,261	12,052,504	(234,757)
Materials and services	14,424,942	9,375,758	(5,049,184)
Contracts	1,858,943	2,180,963	322,020
Utilities	523,418	559,671	36,253
Depreciation	9,666,789	9,908,459	241,670
Interest expense	-	-	-
Other expenses	334,239	336,449	2,210
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>39,095,592</b>	<b>34,413,804</b>	<b>(4,681,788)</b>
Net (gain) / loss on sale of assets	-	-	-
<b>Surplus / (deficit) for the year</b>	<b>2,615,810</b>	<b>(10,995,023)</b>	<b>(13,610,833)</b>



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**APPENDIX A - AUDIT COMMITTEE FINANCIALS (Continued)**

**COMPREHENSIVE INCOME STATEMENT BY KEY DIRECTION AREA**

	Forecast actual 2020/21 \$	Budget 2021/22 \$	Variance \$
<b>Revenues from ordinary activities</b>			
Rates and charges	11,520,410	11,841,819	321,409
Operating grants	13,674,896	6,350,499	(7,324,397)
Capital grants	13,076,677	2,387,726	(10,688,951)
Operating contributions	490,000	-	(490,000)
Capital contributions	-	-	-
User fees	1,844,975	1,775,773	(69,202)
Reimbursements	297,411	252,259	(45,152)
Reversal of impairment losses	-	-	-
Regional Roads Victoria	512,033	510,705	(1,328)
Interest	295,000	300,000	5,000
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>41,711,402</b>	<b>23,418,781</b>	<b>(18,292,621)</b>
<b>Expenses from ordinary activities</b>			
Commercial services	1,267,720	1,040,180	(227,540)
Executive	3,585,070	1,878,369	(1,706,701)
Aged card	3,151,821	2,186,235	(965,586)
Community support	3,713,614	2,111,551	(1,602,063)
Early years	1,649,124	1,185,315	(463,809)
Corporate services	735,355	558,995	(176,360)
Financial services	10,593,757	10,889,789	296,032
Information management	1,270,173	1,448,716	178,543
Organisational development	1,403,955	1,225,946	(178,008)
Assets and infrastructure	1,373,638	1,358,166	(15,472)
Development and compliance	1,514,830	1,244,746	(270,084)
Works	8,836,534	9,285,795	449,261
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>39,095,592</b>	<b>34,413,805</b>	<b>(4,681,788)</b>
Net (gain) / loss on sale of assets	-	-	-
<b>Surplus / (deficit) for the year</b>	<b>2,615,810</b>	<b>(10,995,024)</b>	<b>(13,610,833)</b>



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**APPENDIX A - AUDIT COMMITTEE FINANCIALS (Continued)**

**CAPITAL EXPENDITURE STATEMENT**

	Forecast actual 2020/21 \$	Budget 2021/22 \$	Variance \$
<b>Surplus / (deficit) for the year-as per income statement</b>	<b>2,615,810</b>	<b>(10,995,024)</b>	<b>(13,610,833)</b>
<b>Less non-cash income</b>			
Reversal of impairment losses	-	-	-
<b>Add non-cash expenditure</b>			
Net gain on sale of assets	-	-	-
Loan interest accrued	-	-	-
Depreciation	9,666,789	9,908,459	241,670
<b>Total funds available for capital expenditure</b>	<b>12,282,599</b>	<b>(1,086,565)</b>	<b>- 13,369,164</b>
<b>Capital expenditure, transfers and loans</b>			
Commercial services	2,010,437	7,500	(2,002,937)
Community support	5,146,946	1,230,000	(3,916,946)
Information management	185,000	175,000	(10,000)
Assets and infrastructure	16,614,477	3,795,018	(12,819,459)
Development and compliance	102,121	-	(102,121)
Works	2,783,214	1,712,920	(1,070,294)
<b>Total capital works</b>	<b>26,842,195</b>	<b>6,920,438</b>	<b>(19,921,757)</b>
Transfers to reserves	7,086,940	1,944,500	(5,142,440)
Loan repayments	-	-	-
<b>Total capital, transfers and loans</b>	<b>33,929,135</b>	<b>8,864,938</b>	<b>(25,064,197)</b>
<b>Capital expenditure, transfers and loans will be financed by:</b>			
Asset sales	867,071	376,854	(490,217)
Transfers from reserves	18,921,207	6,987,773	(11,933,434)
Accumulated cash surplus brought forward from previous year	4,845,880	2,987,622	(1,858,258)
<b>Total financing of capital, transfers, and loans</b>	<b>24,634,158</b>	<b>10,352,249</b>	<b>(14,281,909)</b>
<b>Total accumulated cash surplus</b>	<b>2,987,622</b>	<b>400,746</b>	<b>(2,586,876)</b>

**10.5 ADOPTION OF THE REVENUE AND RATING PLAN**

**File Number:** 09/04/001  
**Author:** Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services  
**Authoriser:** Sharon Morrison, Director Corporate Services  
**Attachments:** 1. Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-2025

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council, having advertised the Draft Revenue and Rating Plan and having received no submissions, adopt the Revenue and Rating Plan.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

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

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

Council was presented with the Draft Revenue and Rating Plan at a Council Forum on Tuesday 13 April 2021.

Council resolved to advertise the Draft Revenue and Rating Plan (the Plan) at a Council Meeting on Tuesday 27 April 2021.

**BACKGROUND**

In 2017, Council established the first Rating Strategy (the Strategy) and conducted a review of the document in April 2019. The Strategy expires in 2021.

This document included the basic principles for rate collection within Council and replaced the information that was previously published within the Annual Budget to ensure Council's position remained transparent and available to all ratepayers.

The Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020) requires each Council to prepare a Revenue and Rating Plan (Plan) to cover a minimum period of four years following each Council election. The Revenue and Rating Plan establishes the revenue raising framework within which the Council proposes to work.

This Draft Plan has built on the current Strategy and has had the required revenue components added.

The Draft Plan was placed on public display, seeking feedback for 28 days from Saturday 1 May 2021 until Friday 28 May 2021, using the Community Engagement Policy as guidance.

During this period, copies of the Draft Plan were made available on Council's website and a printed copy posted to ratepayers where requested.

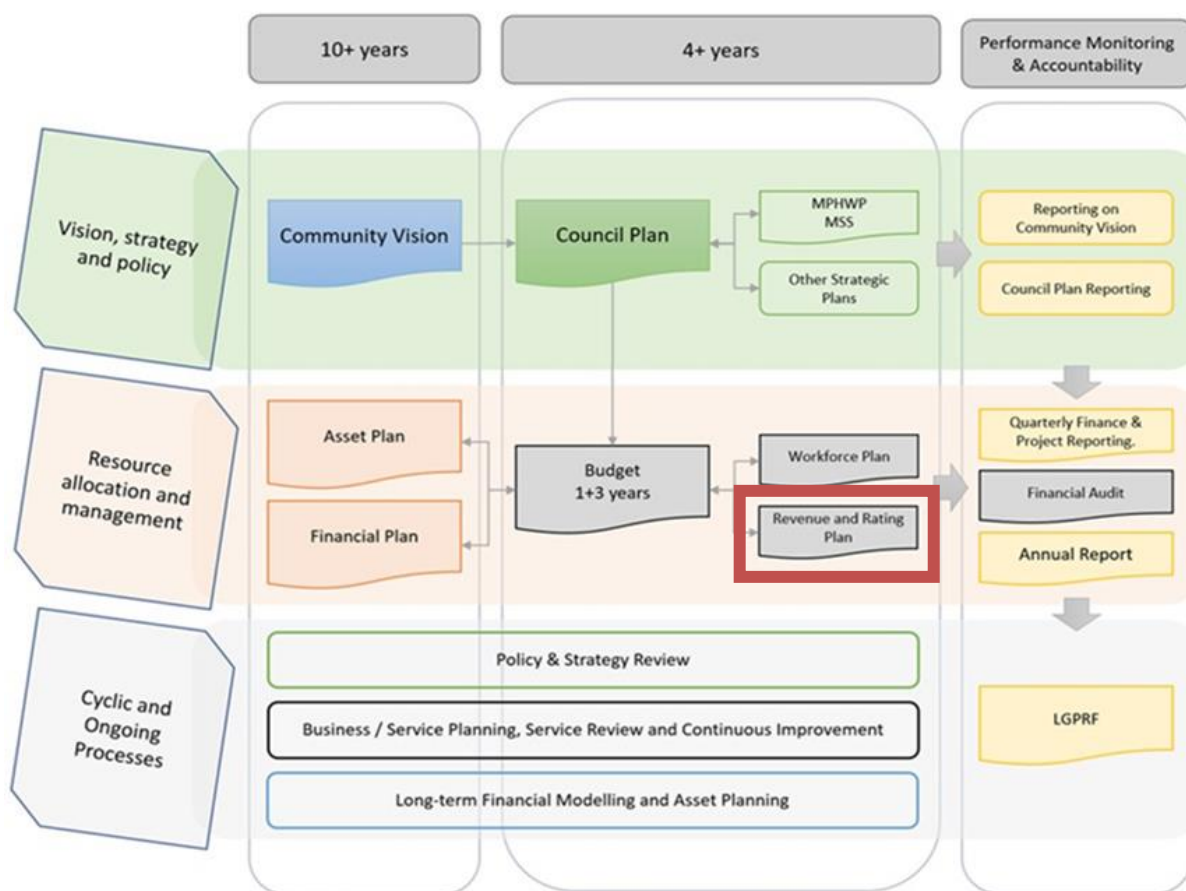
Advertisements were placed in the Bendigo Advertiser on Saturday 1 May and Saturday 8 May 2021. Advertisement was also placed in the Loddon Herald. Facebook, emailing to all Council committees and other media options were also utilised.

**ISSUES/DISCUSSION**

The purpose of the Plan is to determine the most appropriate and affordable revenue and rating approach for Loddon Shire Council which, in conjunction with other income sources, will adequately finance the objectives in the Council Plan.

This Plan is an important part of Council's integrated planning and reporting framework, all of which helps Council achieve its vision. The diagram below depicts the integrated planning and

reporting framework that applies to local government in Victoria. At each stage of the integrated planning and reporting framework there are opportunities for community and stakeholder input. This is important to ensure transparency and accountability to both residents and ratepayers.



Source: Department of Job, Precincts and Regions

This Plan explains how Council calculates the revenue needed to fund its activities, and how the funding burden will be apportioned between ratepayers and other users of Council facilities and services.

In particular, this Plan sets out decisions that Council has made in relation to rating options available to it under the LGA 2020 to ensure fair and equitable distribution of rates across property owners.

It also sets out principles that are used in decision making for other revenue sources such as fees and charges.

The Plan does not set revenue targets for Council; it outlines the strategic framework and decisions that inform how Council will go about calculating and collecting its revenue.

**COST/BENEFITS**

The Plan will be used to guide Council in making decisions around the setting of rates, municipal charges and fees and the equitable distribution of these fees and charges for future long term Financial Plans 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 revenue and rates 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, and Council Forum prior to presentation in the Council Meeting Agenda.

Council has advertised the document for public comment for a period of 28 days, receiving no submissions. This process was guided by the Community Engagement Policy



## REVENUE AND RATING PLAN 2021-2025



## DOCUMENT INFORMATION

DOCUMENT TYPE:	Strategic document
DOCUMENT STATUS:	Draft
POLICY OWNER POSITION:	Manager Financial Services
INTERNAL COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT:	Not applicable
APPROVED BY:	Council
DATE ADOPTED:	<a href="#">Click here to enter date of approval</a>
VERSION NUMBER:	1
REVIEW DATE:	<a href="#">Click here to enter a date.</a>
DATE RESCINDED:	<a href="#">Click here to enter a date.</a>
RELATED STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS, POLICIES OR PROCEDURES:	Annual Budget Council Plan Financial Plan Fees and Charges Schedule
RELATED LEGISLATION:	Local Government Act 1989 Local Government Act 2020 Valuation of Land Act 1960 Local Government Revenue and Rating Plan – Better Practice Guide 2021
EVIDENCE OF APPROVAL:	

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Signed by Chief Executive Officer

FILE LOCATION: K:\FINANCE\Strategies\Rating and Revenue Plan\STR Revenue and Rating Plan v1 - DRAFT.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.**

## 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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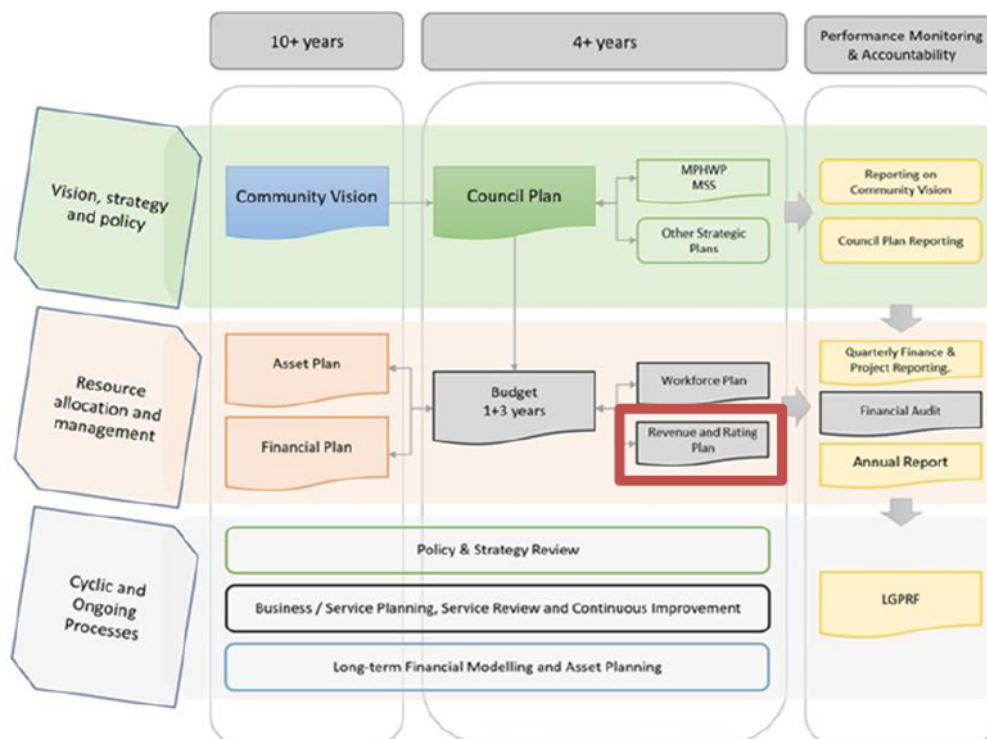
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## 1 PURPOSE

The Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020) requires each Council to prepare a Revenue and Rating Plan (Plan) to cover a minimum period of four years following each Council election. The Revenue and Rating Plan establishes the revenue raising framework within which the Council proposes to work.

The purpose of the Plan is to determine the most appropriate and affordable revenue and rating approach for Loddon Shire Council which in conjunction with other income sources will adequately finance the objectives in the Council Plan.

This Plan is an important part of Council’s integrated planning and reporting framework, all of which is created to help Council achieve its vision. The diagram below depicts the integrated planning and reporting framework that applies to local government in Victoria. At each stage of the integrated planning and reporting framework there are opportunities for community and stakeholder input. This is important to ensure transparency and accountability to both residents and ratepayers.



Source: Department of Job, Precincts and Regions

This Plan will explain how Council calculates the revenue needed to fund its activities, and how the funding burden will be apportioned between ratepayers and other users of Council facilities and services.

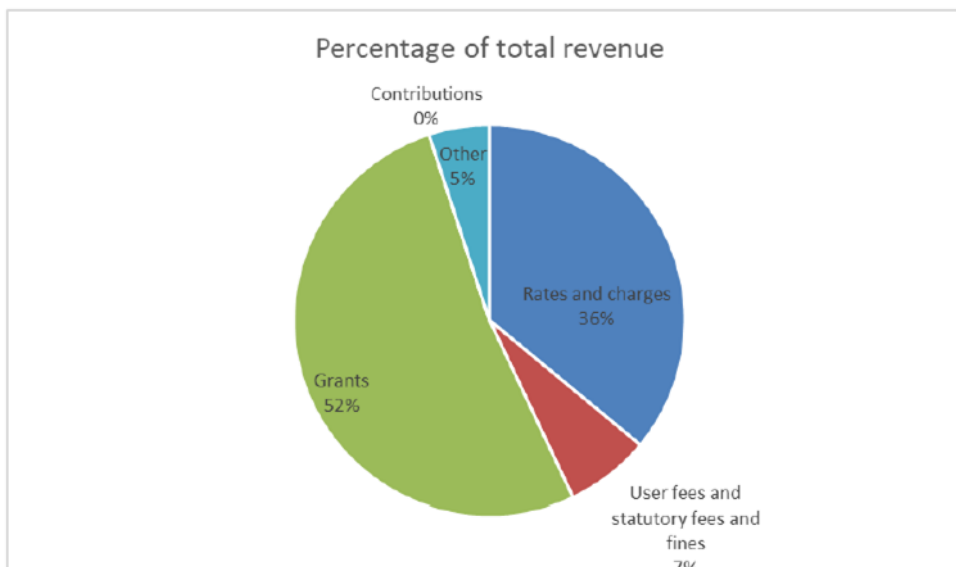
In particular, this Plan will set out decisions that Council has made in relation to rating options available to it under the LGA 2020 to ensure fair and equitable distribution of rates across property owners.

It will also set out principles that are used in decision making for other revenue sources such as fees and charges.

It is also important to note that this Plan does not set revenue targets for Council; it outlines the strategic framework and decisions that inform how Council will go about calculating and collecting its revenue.

## 2 INTRODUCTION

Council provides a number of services and facilities to our local community. In order to do so Council must collect revenue to cover the cost of providing these services and facilities.



Source: Essential Services Commission 2019-20 Fact Sheet

Council's revenue sources includes:

- rates and charges
- waste and garbage charges
- grants
- statutory fees and fines
- user fees
- other revenue.

Rates are one of Council's significant revenue sources making up roughly one third of Council's annual income.

The introduction of rate capping under the Victorian Government's Fair Go Rates System (FRGS) has brought a renewed focus to Council's long term financial sustainability. The FRGS continues to restrict Council's ability to raise revenue above the rate cap unless an application is made to the Essential Services Commission for variation.

Maintaining service delivery levels and investing in community assets remain key priorities for Council. This Plan will provide options to help achieve these priorities.

Council provides a wide range of services to the community, often for a fee or charge. The nature of these fees and charges generally depends on whether they relate to statutory or discretionary services. Some of these, such as statutory planning fees are set by State Government statute and are commonly known as regulatory fees. In these cases, councils

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usually have no control over service pricing. However, in relation to other services, Council has the ability to set a fee or charge and will set that fee based on the principles outlined in this Plan.

Council revenue can also be adversely affected by changes to funding from other levels of government. Some grants are tied to delivery of Council services, whilst many are tied directly to the delivery of new community assets, such as roads or sports pavilions. It is important for Council to be clear about what grants it intends to apply for, and the obligations the grants create in the delivery of services or infrastructure.

### 3 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Plan outlines Council's decision making process on how revenues are calculated and collected. The following public consultation process will be followed to ensure due consideration and feedback is received from relevant stakeholders.

Revenue and Rating Plan community engagement process:

- draft Plan prepared by officers
- draft Plan placed on exhibition at Council Meeting (April) for a period of 28 days and calling for public submissions
- distribution to Community Reference Group for comment
- community engagement through local news outlets and social media
- hearing of public submissions (June)
- draft Revenue and Rating Plan (with any revisions) presented to Council Meeting (June) for adoption.

### 4 BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

#### 4.1 Annual Budget and Financial Plan

The Plan will be used to guide Council in making decisions around the setting of rates and municipal charges and the equitable distribution of these charges in future Financial Plans and Annual Budgets.

Each year Council develops a Financial Plan using relevant industry indexation rates. These rates are applied consistently over the 10 year plan with further work completed around forecast 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 Financial Plan are 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 fees, rates and charges, taking into consideration any other factors such as service levels, cost of delivery, rate capping and waste management costs.

#### 4.2 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.

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#### 4.3 Increases to discretionary fees and charges

Each year a review is undertaken to determine the appropriate increase to be applied to the base fees and charges of Council.

This increase will follow indexation of the mandated rate cap determined by the Minister in December each year.

Some cost areas within the Fees and Charges Schedule will have an increase higher than the set increase for the year due to rounding or the requirement to allow for an hourly rate.

There will also be circumstances where Council will increase or maintain charges and these will be at the recommendation of Council officers or Council decision.

### 5 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 fully documents its objectives and approach to the raising of revenue in line with its goal of providing transparency in its decision-making.

Council is required to also ensure it fully complies with all Acts or Regulations set and the adoption of this Plan by 30 June after a general election is set out as a requirement under Section 93 of the LGA 2020.

The Plan also mitigates risk by providing transparency to the community around decisions made by Council when making decisions relating to rates and revenue.

### 6 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2020

The Local Government Act 2020 (the LGA 2020) includes principles and specific requirements relevant to the development of a Revenue and Rating Plan. Key provisions are included below.

#### 6.1 Section 89: Strategic Planning Principles

- (1) A Council must undertake the preparation of its Council Plan and other strategic plans in accordance with the strategic planning principles.
- (2) The following are the strategic planning principles –
  - a. an integrated approach to planning, monitoring and performance reporting is to be adopted;
  - b. strategic planning must address the Community Vision (Section 88);
  - c. strategic planning must take into account the resources needed for effective implementation;
  - d. strategic planning must identify and address the risks to effective implementation;
  - e. strategic planning must provide for ongoing monitoring of progress and regular reviews to identify and address changing circumstances.

#### 6.2 Section 93: Revenue and Rating Plan

A Council must prepare and adopt a Revenue and Rating Plan by the next 30 June after a general election for a period of at least the next four financial years.

### 6.3 Section 101: Financial Management Principles

- (1) The following are the financial management principles –
  - a. revenue, expenses, assets and liabilities, investments and financial transactions must be managed in accordance with a Council's financial policies and strategic plans
  - b. financial risks must be monitored and managed prudently having regard to economic circumstances
  - c. financial policies and strategic plans, including the Revenue and Rating Plan, must seek to provide stability and predictability in the financial impact on the municipal community
  - d. accounts and records that explain the financial operations and financial position of the Council must be kept.
- (2) For the purposes of the financial management principles, financial risk includes any risk relating to the following –
  - a. the financial viability of the Council
  - b. the management of the current and future liabilities of Council
  - c. the beneficial enterprises of the Council.

### 6.4 Section 106: Service Performance Principles

- (1) A Council must plan and deliver services to the municipal community in accordance with the service performance principles.
- (2) The following are the service performance principles –
  - a. services should be provided in an equitable manner and be responsive to the diverse needs of the municipal community
  - b. services should be accessible to the members of the municipal community for whom the services are intended
  - c. quality and costs standards for services set by the Council should provide good value to the municipal community
  - d. a Council should seek to continuously improve service delivery to the municipal community in response to performance monitoring
  - e. service delivery must include a fair and effective process for considering and responding to complaints about service provision.

### 6.5 Section 94: Budget

Section 94(2) of the LGA 2020 states that Council must adopt a budget by 30 June each year (or at another time fixed by the Minister) to include (amongst other things):

- (a) the total amount that the Council intends to raise by rates and charges;
- (b) a statement as to whether the rates will be raised by the application of a uniform rate or a differential rate;
- (c) a description of any fixed component of the rates, if applicable;
- (d) if the Council proposes to declare a uniform rate, the matters specified in section 160 of the LGA 1989;
- (e) if the Council proposes to declare a differential rate for any land, the matters specified in section 161(2) of the LGA 1989.

Section 94(3) of the LGA 2020 also states that Council must ensure that, if applicable, the budget also contains a statement –

- (a) that the Council intends to apply for a special order to increase the Council's average rate cap for the financial year or any other financial year; or
- (b) that the Council has made an application to the Essential Services Commission for a special order and is waiting for the outcome of the application; or
- (c) that a special Order has been made in respect of the Council and specifying the average rate cap that applies for the financial year or any other financial year.

## 7 LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING AND REPORTING) REGULATIONS 2020

The Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 (the Regulations) came into operation on 24 October 2020. The Regulations define a Revenue and Rating Plan as follows:

**Revenue and Rating Plan** means a Revenue and Rating Plan prepared by a Council under Section 93 of the LGA 2020.

Schedule 1 of the Regulations requires the governance and management checklist included in the report of operations in a council's Annual Report to include the Revenue and Rating Plan as an item. The checklist confirms whether the Revenue and Rating Plan has been adopted by Council, and if so on what date.

## 8 RATING SYSTEM REVIEW

In 2019 the Victorian State Government conducted a Local Government Rating System Review. The Local Government Rating System Review Panel presented their final report and list of recommendations to the Victorian Government in March 2020. The Victorian Government subsequently published a response to the recommendations of the Panel's report. However, at the time of publication of this Plan the recommended changes have not yet been implemented, and timelines to make these changes have not been announced.

## 9 RATES PROCESS

Rates are property taxes that allow Council to raise revenue to fund essential public services to cater to their municipal population. Importantly, it is a taxation system that includes flexibility for councils to utilise different tools in its rating structure to accommodate issues of equity and to ensure fairness in rating for all ratepayers.

Council can establish a rating structure comprised of three key elements. These are:

- **General rates** – Based on property values (Capital Improved Valuation methodology), which are indicative of capacity to pay and form the central basis of rating under the Local Government Act 1989;
- **Service charges** – A 'user pays' component for Council services to reflect the benefits provided by Council to ratepayers who benefit from a service; and
- **Municipal charge** – A 'fixed rate' portion per property to cover some of the administrative costs of Council.

Striking a proper balance between these elements will help to improve equity in the distribution of the rate burden across residents.

Council makes a further distinction when applying general rates by applying rating differentials based on the purpose for which the property is used. That is, whether the property is used for general (includes residential, commercial/industrial, manufacturing and recreational) or farming purposes. This distinction is based on the concept that different property categories should pay a fair and equitable contribution, taking into account the benefits and access to infrastructure that those properties receive within the local community.

The Council rating structure comprises two differential rates:

- residential / general
- farming / rural

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These rates are structured in accordance with the requirements of Section 161 'Differential Rates' of the Local Government Act 1989 (the LGA 1989, and the Ministerial Guidelines for Differential Rating 2013.

'Differential' is classified as the distinction between individuals or classes.

The differential rates are currently set as follows:

- residential / general rate – 100%
- farming / rural rate - 88% of general rate.

Council also levies a municipal charge. The municipal charge is a minimum rate per property and declared for the purpose of covering some of the administrative costs of Council. In applying the municipal charge, Council ensures that each rateable property in the municipality makes a contribution.

The formula for calculating general rates, excluding any additional charges, arrears or additional supplementary rates is:

- Valuation (Capital Improved Value) x Rate in the Dollar (Differential Rate Type).

'Rate in the dollar' is determined by calculating the total amount of money to be raised in general rates and this is divided by the total value of all rateable properties. The resulting figure is called 'the rate in the dollar'. The council determines the amount to be paid in rates by applying the rate in the dollar to the assessed value of each property.

The rate in the dollar for each rating differential category is included in Council's Annual Budget.

Rates and charges are an important source of revenue, accounting for approximately one third of the operating revenue received by Council. The collection of rates is an important factor in funding Council services.

Planning for future rate increases is therefore an important component of the long-term financial planning process and plays a significant role in ensuring that service delivery can continue and is in line with the increasing cost.

Council is aware of the balance between rate revenue (as an important income source) and community sensitivity to rate increases. With the introduction of the State Government's Fair Go Rates System, all rate increases are capped to a rate declared by the Minister for Local Government, which is announced in December for the following financial year.

Council currently utilises a service charge to fully recover the cost of Council's waste services and provide for future landfill rehabilitation costs. The garbage service charge is not capped under the Fair Go Rates System, and Council will continue to allocate surplus funds from this charge towards the provision of waste services.

## 10 RATING LEGISLATION

The legislative framework set out in the LGA 1989 determines Council's ability to develop a rating system. The framework provides significant flexibility for Council to tailor a system that suits its needs.

This Plan outlines the principles and strategic framework that Council will utilise in calculating and distributing the rating burden to property owners, however, the total value of rate revenue and rating differential amounts will be determined in the Annual Budget.

The recommended strategy in relation to municipal charges, service rates and charges and special rates and charges are discussed later in this document.

Section 155 of the LGA1989 provides that Council may declare rates and charges on rateable land as set out below.

In raising Council rates, Council is required to use the valuation of the rateable property to levy rates. Section 157 (1) of the LGA1989 provides Council with three choices in terms of which valuation base to utilise. They are: Site Valuation (SV), Capital Improved Valuation (CIV) and Net Annual Value (NAV).

The advantages and disadvantages of the respective valuation basis are discussed further in this document. Whilst this document outlines Council's strategy regarding rates revenue, rates data will be contained in the Council's Annual Budget as required by the LGA 2020.

#### **10.1 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)).

#### **10.2 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.

#### **10.3 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.

#### **10.4 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 LGA 1989 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.

### **10.5 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 LGA 1989. Council has resolved that all rateable recreation land will be exempt from the payment of rates.

Other persons and organisations that do not currently pay council rates include churches, charities, private schools, water catchment authorities and Returned Services Leagues.

## **11 RATING PRINCIPLES**

### **11.1 Taxation principles**

When developing a rating strategy, in particular with reference to differential rates, a Council should give consideration to the following good practice taxation principles:

- wealth tax
- equity
- efficiency
- simplicity
- benefit
- capacity to pay
- diversity.

#### **Wealth tax**

The wealth tax principle implies that the rates paid are dependent upon the value of a ratepayer's real property and have no correlation to the individual ratepayer's consumption of services or the perceived benefits derived by individual ratepayers from the expenditures funded from rates.

#### **Equity**

*Horizontal equity* – ratepayers in similar situations should pay similar amounts of rates (ensured mainly by accurate property valuations, undertaken in a consistent manner, their classification into homogenous property classes and the right of appeal against valuation).

*Vertical equity* – those who are better off should pay more rates than those worse off (the rationale applies for the use of progressive and proportional income taxation. It implies a 'relativity' dimension to the fairness of the tax burden).

#### **Efficiency**

Economic efficiency is measured by the extent to which production and consumption decisions by people are affected by rates.

#### **Simplicity**

How easily a rates system can be understood by ratepayers and the practicality and ease of administration.

**Benefit**

The extent to which there is a nexus between consumption/benefit and the rate burden.

**Capacity to pay**

The capacity of ratepayers or groups of ratepayers to pay rates.

**Diversity**

The capacity of ratepayers within a group to pay rates.

The rating challenge for Council therefore is to determine the appropriate balancing of competing considerations.

**11.2 Rates and charges revenue principles**

Property rates will:

- be reviewed annually
- not change dramatically from one year to next and
- be sufficient to fund current expenditure commitments and deliverables outlined in the Council Plan, Financial Plan and Asset Plan.

Differential rating should be applied as equitably as is practical and will comply with the Ministerial Guidelines for Differential Rating 2013.

**12 VALUATION METHODOLOGY**

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

Section 157 (1) of the LGA1989 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.

**12.1.1 Capital Improved Value (CIV)**

Capital Improved Value is the most commonly used valuation base by local government with over 90% of Victorian councils applying this methodology. Based on the value of both land and all improvements on the land, it is generally easily understood by ratepayers as it equates to the market value of the property.

Section 161 of the LGA 1989 provides that a Council may raise any general rates by the application of a differential rate if –

- a) it uses the capital improved value system of valuing land and
- b) it considers that a differential rate will contribute to the equitable and efficient carrying out of its functions.

Where a council does not utilise CIV, it may only apply limited differential rates in relation to rural land, urban rural land or residential use land.

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### Advantages of using Capital Improved Value (CIV)

- CIV includes all property improvements, and hence is often supported on the basis that it more closely reflects 'capacity to pay'. The CIV rating method takes into account the full development value of the property, and hence better meets the equity criteria than Site Value and NAV.
- With the increased frequency of valuations (previously two year intervals, now annual intervals) the market values are more predictable and has reduced the level of objections resulting from valuations.
- The concept of the market value of property is more easily understood with CIV rather than NAV or SV.
- Most councils in Victoria have now adopted CIV which makes it easier to compare relative movements in rates and valuations across councils.
- The use of CIV allows council to apply differential rates which greatly adds to council's ability to equitably distribute the rating burden based on ability to afford council rates. CIV allows council to apply higher rating differentials to the commercial and industrial sector that offset residential rates.

### Disadvantages of using CIV

- The main disadvantage with CIV is the fact that rates are based on the total property value which may not necessarily reflect the income level of the property owner as with pensioners and low-income earners.

#### 12.1.2 Site Value (SV)

There are currently no Victorian councils that use this valuation base. With valuations based simply on the valuation of land and with only very limited ability to apply differential rates, the implementation of Site Value in a Council context would cause a shift in rate burden from the industrial/commercial sectors onto the residential sector, and would hinder council's objective of a fair and equitable rating system.

There would be further rating movements away from modern townhouse style developments on relatively small land parcels to older established homes on quarter acre residential blocks. In many ways, it is difficult to see an equity argument being served by the implementation of site valuation in the Council.

### Advantages of Site Value

- There is a perception that under SV, a uniform rate would promote development of land, particularly commercial and industrial developments. There is, however, little evidence to prove that this is the case.
- Scope for possible concessions for urban rural land and residential use land.

### Disadvantages of using Site Value

- Under SV, there will be a significant shift from the industrial/commercial sector onto the residential sector of council. The percentage increases in many cases would be in the extreme range.
- SV is a major burden on property owners that have large areas of land. Some of these owners may have much smaller/older dwellings compared to those who have smaller land areas but well developed dwellings - but will pay more in rates. A typical example is flats, units, or townhouses which will all pay low rates compared to traditional housing styles.
- The use of SV can place pressure on council to give concessions to categories of landowners on whom the rating burden is seen to fall disproportionately (eg. rural land and residential use properties). Large landowners, such as farmers for example, are disadvantaged by the use of site value.

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- SV will reduce Council's rating flexibility and options to deal with any rating inequities due to the removal of the ability to levy differential rates.
- The community may have greater difficulty in understanding the SV valuation on their rate notices, as indicated by many inquiries from ratepayers on this issue handled by council's customer service and property revenue staff each year.

### 12.1.3 Net Annual Value (NAV)

There are currently only a small number Victorian councils that use this valuation base. NAV, in concept, represents the annual rental value of a property. However, in practice, NAV is loosely linked to capital improved value for residential and rural properties. Valuers derive the NAV directly as 5 per cent of CIV.

In contrast to the treatment of residential and rural properties, NAV for commercial and industrial properties are assessed with regard to actual market rental. This differing treatment of commercial versus residential and rural properties has led to some suggestions that all properties should be valued on a rental basis.

Overall, the use of NAV is not largely supported. For residential and rural ratepayers, actual rental values pose some problems. The artificial rental estimate used may not represent actual market value, and means the base is the same as CIV but is harder to understand.

## 12.2 Recommended valuation base

In choosing a valuation base, councils must decide on whether they wish to adopt a differential rating system (different rates in the dollar for different property categories) or a uniform rating system (same rate in the dollar). If a council was to choose the former, under the LGA 1989 it must adopt either of the CIV or NAV methods of rating.

Council applies Capital Improved Value (CIV) to all properties within the municipality to take into account the fully developed value of the property. This basis of valuation takes into account the total market value of the land plus buildings and other improvements.

Differential rating allows (under the CIV method) 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.

Section 161 of the LGA 1989 provides that a Council may raise any general rates by the application of a differential rate if –

- a) It uses the capital improved value system of valuing land and
- b) It considers that a differential rate will contribute to the equitable and efficient carrying out of its functions.

Where a council does not utilise CIV, it may only apply limited differential rates in relation to farm land, urban farm land or residential use land.

Once the Council has declared a differential rate for any land, the Council must:

- (a) specify the objectives of the differential rates
- (b) specify the characteristics of the land which are the criteria for declaring the differential rate.

The purpose is to ensure that Council has a sound basis on which to develop the various charging features when determining its revenue strategies and ensure that these are consistent with the provisions of the LGA 1989.

The general objectives of each of the differential rates are to ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council. There is no limit on the number or types of differential rates that can be levied, but the highest differential rate can be no more than four times the lowest differential rate.

### **12.3 Property valuations**

The Valuation of Land Act 1960 is the principle legislation in determining property valuations. Under the Valuation of Land Act 1960, the Victorian Valuer-General conducts property valuations on an annual basis. Loddon Shire Council applies a Capital Improved Value (CIV) to all properties within the municipality to take into account the full development value of the property. This basis of valuation takes into account the total market value of the land including buildings and other improvements.

The value of land is always derived by the principal of valuing land for its highest and best use at the relevant time of valuation.

Council needs to be mindful of the impacts of revaluations on the various property types in implementing the differential rating strategy outlined in the previous section to ensure that rises and falls in council rates remain affordable and that rating 'shocks' are mitigated to some degree.

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.

#### **12.3.1 Supplementary valuations**

Supplementary valuations are carried out for a variety of reasons including rezoning, subdivisions, amalgamations, renovations, new constructions, extensions, occupancy changes and corrections. The Victorian Valuer-General is tasked with undertaking supplementary valuations and advises council on any valuation and Australian Valuation Property Classification Code (AVPCC) changes.

Supplementary valuations bring the value of the affected property into line with the general valuation of other properties within the municipality. Objections to supplementary valuations can be lodged in accordance with Part 3 of the Valuation of Land Act 1960. Any objections must be lodged with Council within two months of the issue of the supplementary rate notice.

#### **12.3.2 Objections to property valuations**

Part 3 of the Valuation of Land Act 1960 provides that a property owner may lodge an objection against the valuation of a property or the Australian Valuation Property Classification Code (AVPCC) within two months of the issue of the original or amended (supplementary) Rates and Valuation Charges Notice (Rates Notice), or within four months if the notice was not originally issued to the occupier of the land.

A property owner must lodge their objection to the valuation or the AVPCC in writing to Council. Property owners also have the ability to object to the site valuations on receipt of their Land Tax Assessment. Property owners can appeal their land valuation within two months of receipt of their Council Rate Notice (via Council) or within two months of receipt of their Land Tax Assessment (via the State Revenue Office).

## 13 DECLARING RATES AND CHARGES

Section 158 of the LGA 1989 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 rural 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.

### 13.1 Uniform rate

Section 160 of the LGA 1989 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.

### 13.2 Differential rates

Under the LGA 1989, 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.



## 14 OBJECTIVE OF COUNCIL'S DIFFERENTIAL RATES

Council believes each differential rate will contribute to the equitable and efficient carrying out of council functions. Details of the objectives of each differential rate, the classes of land which are subject to each differential rate and the uses of each differential rate are set out below.

### 14.1 General Rate

#### Definition

General land is any rateable land which does not have the characteristics of rural rate.

#### Objectives

To ensure that Council has adequate funding to undertake its strategic, statutory, service provision and community services obligations and to ensure that the differential rate in the dollar declared for defined general rate land properties is fair and equitable, having regard to the cost and the level of benefits derived from provision of Council services.

#### Types and classes

Rateable land having the relevant characteristics described below:

- (a) used primarily for residential purposes; or
- (b) any land that is not defined as rural rate.

#### Use of rate

The differential rate will be used to fund items of expenditure described in the Annual Budget adopted by Council. The level of the differential rate is the level which Council considers is necessary to achieve the objectives specified above.

#### Level of rate

100% of General Rate.

### 14.2 Rural Rate

#### Definition

Any land which is 'Farm Land' within the meaning of Section 2 (1) of the Valuation of Land Act 1960.

- (a) 'Farm Land' means any rateable land that is 2 or more hectares in area;
  - used primarily for primary producing purposes from its activities on the land; used primarily for grazing (including agistment), dairying, pig-farming, poultry farming, fish farming, tree farming, bee keeping, viticulture, horticulture, fruit growing or the growing of crops of any kind or for any combination of those activities; and that is used by a business - that has a significant and substantial commercial purpose of character
  - that seeks to make a profit on a continuous or repetitive basis from its activities on the land, and
  - that is making a profit from its activities on the land, or that has a reasonable prospect of making a profit from its activities on the land if it continues to operate in the way that it is operating.

#### Objectives

To ensure that Council has adequate funding to undertake its strategic, statutory, service provision and community services obligations and to ensure that the differential rate in the dollar declared for defined Rural Rate land properties is fair and equitable, having regard to the cost and the level of benefits derived from provision of Council services with considerations to maintain agriculture as a major industry in the municipal district, to facilitate the longevity of the rural sector and achieve a balance between providing for municipal growth and retaining the important agricultural economic base.

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**Types and classes**

Rural land having the relevant characteristics described as being used primarily for primary production purposes.

**Use of rate**

The differential rate will be used to fund items of expenditure described in the Annual Budget adopted by Council. The level of the differential rate is the level which Council considers is necessary to achieve the objectives specified above.

**Level of rate**

88% of the General Rate.

**14.3 Advantages of a differential rating system**

The advantages of utilising a differential rating system summarised below are:

- There is greater flexibility to distribute the rate burden between all classes of property, and therefore link rates with the ability to pay and reflecting the tax deductibility of rates for commercial and industrial premises.
- Differential rating allows Council to better reflect the investment required by Council to establish infrastructure to meet the needs of the commercial and industrial sector.
- It allows Council to reflect the unique circumstances of some rating categories where the application of a uniform rate may create an inequitable outcome (e.g. farming enterprises).
- It allows Council discretion in the imposition of rates to facilitate and encourage appropriate development of its municipal district in the best interest of the community. (i.e. vacant commercial properties still attract the commercial differential rate).

**14.4 Disadvantages of a differential rating system**

The disadvantages in applying differential rating summarised below are:

- The justification of the differential rate can at times be difficult for the various groups to accept giving rise to queries and complaints where the differentials may seem to be excessive.
- Differential rates can be confusing to ratepayers, as they may have difficulty understanding the system. Some rating categories may feel they are unfavourably treated because they are paying a higher level of rates than other ratepayer groups.
- Differential rating involves a degree of administrative complexity as properties continually shift from one type to another (e.g. residential to commercial) requiring Council in some circumstances to request a supplementary valuation to update its records. Ensuring the accuracy/integrity of Council's data base is critical to ensure that properties are correctly classified into their right category.
- Council may not achieve the objectives it aims for through differential rating. For example, Council may set its differential rate objectives to levy a higher rate on land not developed, however it may be difficult to prove whether the rate achieves those objectives.

**14.5 Council's intention**

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

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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 the 2021/22 Budget, Council agreed to continue with the current differential rate split of 12% after reviewing valuation increases for both of the categories.

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.

## 15 MUNICIPAL CHARGE

Another principle rating option available to councils is the application of a municipal charge. Under Section 159 of the LGA 1989, Council may declare a municipal charge to cover some of the administrative costs of the Council. The legislation is not definitive on what comprises administrative costs and does not require Council to specify what is covered by the charge.

The application of a municipal charge represents a choice to raise a portion of the rates by a flat fee for all properties, rather than sole use of the CIV valuation method.

Under the LGA 1989, a council's total revenue from a municipal charge in a financial year must not exceed 20 per cent of the combined sum total of the council's total revenue from the municipal charge and the revenue from general rates (total rates).

The municipal charge applies equally to all properties and is based upon the recovery of a fixed cost of providing administrative services irrespective of valuation. The same contribution amount per assessment to cover a portion of council's administrative costs can be seen as an equitable method of recovering these costs.

### 15.1 Council's intention

Council has a set municipal charge applied to each eligible property. This is increased in line with the rate cap indexation set by the Minister and is rounded for ease of application.

## 16 SPECIAL CHARGE SCHEMES

The LGA 1989 recognises that councils need help to provide improved infrastructure for their local communities. Legislation allows councils to pass on the cost of capital infrastructure to the owner of a property that generally receives a unique benefit from the construction works. The technical explanation of a Special Charge comes from legislation (under the LGA 1989) that allows councils to recover the cost of works from property owners who will gain special benefit from that work.

The purposes for which special rates and special charges may be used include road construction, kerb and channelling, footpath provision, drainage, and other capital improvement projects.

The special rate or special charges may be declared on the basis of any criteria specified by the council in the rate (Section 163 (2)). In accordance with Section 163 (3), council must specify:

- (a) the wards, groups, uses or areas for which the special rate or charge is declared; and
- (b) the land in relation to which the special rate or special charge is declared;
- (c) the manner in which the special rate or special charge will be assessed and levied; and
- (d) details of the period for which the special rate or special charge remains in force.

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The special rates and charges provisions are flexible and can be used to achieve a wide range of community objectives. The fundamental principle of special rates and charges is proof 'special benefit' applies to those being levied. For example, they could be used to fund co-operative fire prevention schemes. This would ensure that there were no 'free-riders' reaping the benefits but not contributing to fire prevention.

Landscaping and environmental improvement programs that benefit small or localised areas could also be funded using special rates or charges.

## 17 SERVICE RATES AND CHARGES

Section 162 of the LGA 1989 provides Council with the opportunity to raise service rates and charges for any of the following services:

- (a) the provision of a water supply
- (b) the collection and disposal of refuse
- (c) the provision of sewage services
- (d) any other prescribed service.

Council currently applies a service charge for the collection and disposal of refuse on urban properties (compulsory) and rural properties (optional) and providing waste services for the municipality (street litter bins for instance). Council retains the objective of setting the service charge for waste at a level that fully recovers the cost of the waste services, including providing for the cost of rehabilitation of Council's landfill once it reaches the end of its useful life.

Council currently utilises a service charge to fully recover the cost of Council's waste services and provide for future landfill rehabilitation costs. The garbage service charge is not capped under the Fair Go Rates System, and Council will continue to allocate surplus funds from this charge towards the provision of waste services.

It is recommended that Council retain the existing waste service charge – should Council elect not to have a waste service charge, this same amount would be required to be raised by way of an increased general rate – meaning that residents in higher valued properties would substantially pay for the waste service of lower valued properties.

Whilst this same principle applies for rates in general, the mix of having a single fixed charge combined with valuation driven rates for the remainder of the rate invoice provides a balanced and equitable outcome.

## 18 COLLECTION AND ADMINISTRATION OF RATES AND CHARGES

### 18.1 Payment options

In accordance with section 167(1) of the LGA 1989 ratepayers have the option of paying rates and charges by way of four instalments. Payments are due on the prescribed dates below:

- 1st Instalment: 30 September
- 2nd Instalment: 30 November
- 3rd Instalment: 28 February
- 4th Instalment: 31 May

Council offers a range of payment options including:

- in person at Council offices (cheques, money orders, EFTPOS, credit/debit cards and cash)

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- online via Council's ratepayer portal, direct debit (on prescribed instalment due dates or weekly / fortnightly /monthly)
- BPAY
- Australia Post (over the counter, over the phone via credit card and on the internet)
- by mail (cheques and money orders only).

### **18.2 Interest on arrears and overdue rates**

Interest is charged on all overdue rates in accordance with Section 172 of the LGA 1989. The interest rate applied is fixed under Section 2 of the Penalty Interest Rates Act 1983, which is determined by the Minister and published by notice in the Government Gazette.

### **18.3 Pensioner rebates**

Holders of a Centrelink or Veteran Affairs Pension Concession card or a Veteran Affairs Gold card which stipulates TPI or War Widow may claim a rebate on their sole or principal place of residence. Upon initial application, ongoing eligibility is maintained, unless rejected by Centrelink or the Department of Veteran Affairs during the annual verification procedure. Upon confirmation of an eligible pensioner concession status, the pensioner rebate is deducted from the rate account before payment is required by the ratepayer.

With regards to new applicants, after being granted a Pensioner Concession Card (PCC), pensioners can then apply for the rebate at any time throughout the rating year. Retrospective claims up to a maximum of one previous financial year can be approved by Council on verification of eligibility criteria, for periods prior to this claims may be approved by the relevant government department.

### **18.4 Financial Hardship Policy**

It is acknowledged that various ratepayers may experience financial hardship for a whole range of issues and that meeting rate obligations constitutes just one element of a number of difficulties that may be faced. The purpose of the Financial Hardship Policy is to provide options for ratepayers facing such situations to deal with the situation positively and reduce the strain imposed by financial hardship.

Ratepayers may elect to either negotiate a rate payment plan or apply for a rate deferral.

Ratepayers seeking to apply for such provision will be required to submit the necessary information outlined in the Financial Hardship Policy which is available at the Council offices, on the Council website or which can be posted upon request.

### **18.5 Debt recovery**

Council makes every effort to contact ratepayers at their correct address but it is the ratepayers' responsibility to properly advise Council of their contact details. The LGA 1989 Section 230 and 231 requires both the vendor and buyer of property, or their agents (e.g. solicitors and or conveyancers), to notify Council by way of notice of disposition or acquisition of an interest in land.

In the event that an account becomes overdue, Council will issue an overdue reminder notice which will include accrued penalty interest. In the event that the account remains unpaid, Council may take legal action without further notice to recover the overdue amount. All fees and court costs incurred will be recoverable from the ratepayer.

If an amount payable by way of rates in respect to land has been in arrears for three years or more, Council may take action to sell the property in accordance with the LGA 1989 Section 181.

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## 19 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>.

## 20 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. Council receives a small administrative fee for administering this charge on an annual basis.

## 21 STATUTORY FEES, FINES AND USER CHARGES

Fees and charges set by Council include statutory fees and fines, along with user fees.

### 21.1 User fees

User fees and charges are those that Council will charge for the delivery of services and use of community infrastructure.

Examples of user fees and charges include:

- kindergarten and childcare fees
- pool visitation and membership fees
- waste management fees
- aged and Health Care service fees
- leases and facility hire fees.

The provision of infrastructure and services form a key part of Council's role in supporting the local community. In providing these, Council must consider a range of 'Best Value' principles

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including service cost and quality standards, value-for-money, and community expectations and values. Council must also balance the affordability and accessibility of infrastructure and services with its financial capacity and in the interests of long-term financial sustainability.

Councils must also comply with the government's Competitive Neutrality Policy for significant business activities they provide and adjust their service prices to neutralise any competitive advantages when competing with the private sector.

In providing services to the community, Council must determine the extent of cost recovery for particular services consistent with the level of both individual and collective benefit that the services provide and in line with the community's expectations.

Services are provided on the basis of one of the following pricing methods:

- (a) Market Price
- (b) Full Cost Recovery Price
- (c) Subsidised Price

**Market pricing (a)** is where Council sets prices based on the benchmarked competitive prices of alternate suppliers. In general market price represents full cost recovery plus an allowance for profit. Market prices will be used when other providers exist in the given market, and Council needs to meet its obligations under the government's Competitive Neutrality Policy.

It should be noted that if a market price is lower than Council's full cost price, then the market price would represent Council subsidising that service. If this situation exists, and there are other suppliers existing in the market at the same price, this may mean that Council is not the most efficient supplier in the marketplace. In this situation, Council will consider whether there is a community service obligation and whether Council should be providing this service at all.

**Full cost recovery price (b)** aims to recover all direct and indirect costs incurred by Council. This pricing should be used in particular where a service provided by council benefits individual customers specifically, rather than the community as a whole. In principle, fees and charges should be set at a level that recovers the full cost of providing the services unless there is an overriding policy or imperative in favour of subsidisation.

**Subsidised pricing (c)** is where Council subsidises a service by not passing the full cost of that service onto the customer. Subsidies may range from full subsidies (i.e. Council provides the service free of charge) to partial subsidies, where Council provides the service to the user with a discount. The subsidy can be funded from Council's rate revenue or other sources such as Commonwealth and state funding programs. Full Council subsidy pricing and partial cost pricing should always be based on knowledge of the full cost of providing a service.

As per the Victorian Auditor General's Office report 'Fees and charges – cost recovery by local government' recommendations, Council has developed a user fee pricing policy to help guide the fair and equitable setting of prices. The policy outlines the process for setting fee prices and includes such principles as:

- both direct and indirect costs to be taken into account when setting prices
- accessibility, affordability and efficient delivery of services must be taken into account, and
- competitive neutrality with commercial providers.

Council will develop a table of fees and charges as part of its Annual Budget each year. Proposed pricing changes will be included in this table and will be communicated to stakeholders before the budget is adopted, giving them the chance to review and provide valuable feedback before the fees are locked in.

## 21.2 Statutory fees and fines

Statutory fees and fines are those which Council collects under the direction of legislation or other government directives. The rates used for statutory fees and fines are generally advised by the state government department responsible for the corresponding services or legislation, and generally councils will have limited discretion in applying these fees.

Examples of statutory fees and fines include:

- planning and subdivision fees
- building and Inspection fees
- infringements and fines
- land information certificate fees.

Penalty and fee units are used in Victoria's Acts and Regulations to describe the amount of a fine or a fee.

### 21.2.1 Penalty units

Penalty units are used to define the amount payable for fines for many offences. For example, the fine for selling a tobacco product to a person aged under 18 is four penalty units.

One penalty unit is currently \$165.22, from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

The rate for penalty units is indexed each financial year so that it is raised in line with inflation. Any change to the value of a penalty unit will happen on 1 July each year.

### 21.2.2 Fee units

Fee units are used to calculate the cost of a certificate, registration or licence that is set out in an Act or Regulation. For example, the cost of depositing a Will with the Supreme Court registrar of probates is 1.6 fee units.

The value of one fee unit is currently \$14.81. This value may increase at the beginning of a financial year, at the same time as penalty units.

The cost of fees and penalties is calculated by multiplying the number of units by the current value of the fee or unit. The exact cost may be rounded up or down.

## 22 OTHER INCOME

Other than those outlined above there are a number of other funding streams available to Council. These include but are not limited to:

- grant revenue (capital, operating, recurrent, non-recurrent)
- contributions
- reimbursements
- interest on investments
- borrowings.

These are collated by category and are included in the Financial Plan, Annual Budget and Financial Statements.

### 22.1 Grant revenue

Grant revenue represents income usually received from other levels of government. Some grants are singular and attached to the delivery of specific projects, whilst others can be of a recurrent nature and may or may not be linked to the delivery of projects.

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Council will pro-actively advocate to other levels of government for grant funding support to deliver important infrastructure and service outcomes for the community. Council may use its own funds to leverage higher grant funding and maximise external funding opportunities.

When preparing its financial plan, Council considers its project proposal pipeline, advocacy priorities, upcoming grant program opportunities, and co-funding options to determine what grants to apply for. Council will only apply for and accept external funding if it is consistent with the Community Vision and does not lead to the distortion of Council Plan priorities.

Grant assumptions are then clearly detailed in Council's budget document. No project that is reliant on grant funding will proceed until a signed funding agreement is in place.

## **22.2 Contributions**

Contributions represent funds received by Council, usually from non-government sources, and are usually linked to projects.

Contributions can be made to Council in the form of either cash payments or asset hand-overs.

Examples of contributions include:

- monies collected from developers under planning and development agreements
- monies collected under developer contribution plans and infrastructure contribution plans
- contributions from user groups towards upgrade of facilities
- assets handed over to council from developers at the completion of a subdivision, such as roads, drainage, and streetlights.

Contributions should always be linked to a planning or funding agreement. Council will not undertake any work on a contribution-funded project until a signed agreement outlining the contribution details is in place.

Contributions linked to developments can be received well before any Council expenditure occurs. In this situation, the funds will be identified and held separately for the specific works identified in the agreements.

## **22.3 Reimbursements**

Reimbursements include diesel fuel rebates from the Taxation Office, insurance rebates, Workcover reimbursements, and training reimbursements. It also includes Council's contract with Regional Roads Victoria includes an 'as of right' amount for routine maintenance works.

## **22.4 Interest on investments**

Council receives interest on funds managed as part of its investment portfolio, where funds are held in advance of expenditure, or for special purposes. The investment portfolio is managed per council's investment policy, which seeks to earn the best return on funds, whilst minimising risk.

## **22.5 Borrowings**

Whilst not currently a source of income, borrowings can be an important cash management tool in appropriate circumstances. Loans can only be approved by Council resolution. The following financial sustainability principles are recommended to be applied to new borrowings:

- borrowings must only be applied for where it can be proven that repayments can be met in the Financial Plan
- borrowings must not be used to fund ongoing operations

- borrowings are appropriate for funding large capital works where the benefits are provided to future generations.
- Council will maintain its debt at levels which are sustainable, with:
  - indebtedness <60% of rate and charges revenue, and
  - debt servicing cost <5% of total revenue (excluding capital revenue).

**11 INFORMATION REPORTS**

Nil

**12 COMPLIANCE REPORTS****12.1 SECTION 65 COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP DETAILS - KORONG VALE MECHANICS HALL**

**File Number:** FOL/20/7153  
**Author:** Michelle Hargreaves, Administration Officer  
**Authoriser:** Sharon Morrison, Director Corporate Services  
**Attachments:** Nil

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council appoints the persons named in this report as members of the Korong Vale Mechanics Hall Section 65 Community Asset Committee, effective upon the receipt of advice from the Committee of the nomination of another Committee member as the Treasurer.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report. Some staff members do have an involvement in the subject matter of the report by virtue of their volunteer commitment to the Community Asset Committee or the volunteer commitment by their family members.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

Council approved the current list of committee members for Korong Vale Mechanics Hall Community Asset Committee on 25 August 2020.

**BACKGROUND**

Under section 65 of the Local Government Act 2020 (Act) Councillors establish community asset committees and appoint their members. Under section 47 of the Act the CEO issues their instrument of delegation.

Clause 7.1 of the instrument of delegation establishes the composition of the committee. Clause 7.2.1 provides for the appointment of the member by name by resolution of Council for a term of one year. For community based committees, at least 6 community representatives are preferred. For organisation based committees, each delegation has a list of organisations that are required to provide representatives for the committee.

Clause 7.6 states that:

At the annual meeting each year nominations shall be called for proposed members of the Committee. The Committee must then elect from its proposed members the following office bearers:

- chair
- deputy chair (not mandatory, but recommended)
- secretary
- treasurer\*
- booking officer\*
- general members

\*The treasurer and booking officer must not be the same person.

Clause 7.2.4 states that Council shall appoint members to the Committee as soon as reasonably practicable after the date upon which their annual meeting occurs.

**ISSUES/DISCUSSION**

Korong Vale Mechanics Hall is a community based committee with preferred representation requiring at least 6 community representatives. The following is a list of nominated representatives for the committee which meets the minimum requirement:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Glenda Brooker	Chair
Lyn Chapman	Secretary/ Treasurer
Jenni Bligh	Booking Officer
Rita Tosch	Committee Member
Ken Hunt	Committee Member
Fred Brooks	Committee Member
Heather Charry	Committee Member
John Charry	Committee Member
Darren Quigley	Committee Member
Robert Chapman	Committee Member

This committee only had four people attend the annual meeting, along with Loddon Shire representatives. A general meeting has been held since to appoint more members to the committee.

The auditing of financials has been delayed by more than eight months and the current Treasurer has been a supplier to the committee in the past 12 months. For these reasons it is recommended that the committee nominate another person as treasurer to ensure separation of duties, more effective management of conflicts of interest and distribution of workload to help ensure more timely auditing of financials.

The Council representative for this committee is Cr Neil Beattie.

**COST/BENEFITS**

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

**RISK ANALYSIS**

Section 65 Community Asset Committees act for and on behalf of Council which creates a risk for Council should they ever act outside their delegated authority.

Clause 7.3 of the instrument of delegation provides for the removal of any committee member. This clause could be used to mitigate risk.

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

**CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

The community asset committee has provided Council with the list of proposed committee members and their positions.

**12.2 COMMUNITY GRANTS - BRIDGEWATER RECREATION RESERVE**

**File Number:**

**Attachments:** Nil

**MOTION**

That Council allocates \$1980 from Council's unallocated 2020/21 Community Grant monies to the Bridgewater Recreation Reserve Committee of Management in support of their project to paint the interior of their clubrooms.

**RATIONALE**

I, Councillor Wendy Murphy was contacted by Ms Lisa Langley, Treasurer of the Bridgewater Recreation Reserve Committee of Management to seek clarification whether the closure date of the Loddon Shire Community Grants was a hard closure date of 1 May, 2021 or whether late applications would be accepted.

Ms Langley had been ill leading up to the closure date for the online grants and missed the closing date thinking she had an extra day.

The project is for the painting of the interior of the clubrooms as the current paint work is flaking, has been damaged by hanging pictures and boards and is looking dull. With new paint, the rooms will look better, be more inviting and improve the feel of the rooms.

Bridgewater Recreation Reserve is on crown land and under a committee of management under DELWP. Painting of the clubrooms is considered maintenance and does not need Public Land Owner Consent, although Ms Langley did contact DELWP informing them of the project.

Community groups who use the Bridgewater Recreation Reserve clubrooms include the Bridgewater Football Netball Club, Bridgewater Tennis Club, Bridgewater Cricket Club, Bridgewater Active Farmers as well as ad hoc hirings.

Loddon Shire's Director of Community Wellbeing, Wendy Gladman has indicated there is \$17,212 available in the 2020/21 Community grants unspent funds.

Ms Gladman has indicated the information provided by the Bridgewater Recreation Reserve Committee of Management does meet the criteria normally used by Council to assess Community Grants.

Bridgewater Recreation Reserve Committee of Management have a quote of \$2970 as the total project cost. They will contribute \$495 in in kind labour and \$495 in cash, a total of \$990 in all. They are seeking \$1980 from Council as the grants are based on a 2:1 contribution.

Covid-19 has had an impact on the ability of community groups to raise funds for projects therefore Council support would be a welcome assistance to this project.

I commend this Notice of Motion to Council.

**13 URGENT BUSINESS**

In accordance with Council's Governance Rules, Clause 53 provides that at a scheduled or special meeting of Council, business that is not included in the agenda notice must only be considered if no more than one Councillor is absent and the Council resolves that the matter is urgent.

Despite this requirement, a matter that is not included in the agenda notice must not be considered at a Council meeting if it will:

- (a) directly and significantly affect the exercise of a person's rights;
- (b) alter the Council Plan or the budget; or
- (c) commit the Council to expenditure exceeding \$20,000.

**14 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 66(1) and 66(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020:

**14.1 REVIEW OF CONFIDENTIAL ACTIONS**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 3(1)(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 confidential meeting information, being the records of meetings closed to the public under section 66(2)(a).

Pursuant to section 66(5)(b) of the Local Government Act 2020, if released the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to this agenda item, may disclose confidential meeting information, being the records of meetings closed to the public under section 66(2)(a)

**14.2 Amendment to CEO contract clause**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 3(1)(f) 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 personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs.

Pursuant to Section 66(5)(b) of the Local Government Act 2020, if released the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to this agenda item may result in the release of information which would result in unreasonable disclosure about any person and their personal affairs.

**14.3 Purchase of Crown Land caravan parks**

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 3(1)(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 Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.

Pursuant to section 66(5)(b) of the Local Government Act 2020, if released the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to this agenda item, may prejudice the commercial position of Council, as various negotiations remain pending.

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 27 July 2021 at Wedderburn commencing at at 3pm.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at [enter time](#).

Confirmed this.....day of..... 2021

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