

LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2013 – 2018 ACTION PLAN



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Signed by Chief Executive Officer

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

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LINK TO COUNCIL PLAN 2013 – 2017

Following recent adoption of the 2013-2017 Council Plan, seven key strategic platforms have been identified upon which Council believe that it can make the most difference to the future of the municipality and its communities. These strategic platforms subsequently flow through to various strategic plans developed by Council including the sustainability strategy. In addition to the seven strategic platforms, ten core areas of Council business have also been identified within the current Council plan, which spell out the areas in which Council operate within the local community.

In considering the actions identified within the sustainability plan, reference has been made to either the strategic platforms or elements of Councils core business to ensure that activities proposed over the next 5 years, fit within the future direction and objectives of the Loddon Shire. A list of the seven strategic platforms and 10 core business elements is provided below:

Strategic directions:

- S1. Build a network of strong communities
- S2. Grow our population through appropriate development
- S3. Champion our agrifood enterprises
- S4. Make our towns more liveable and memorable
- S5. Grow and diversify our economy
- S6. Support our transitioning towns
- S7. Connect with the next generation

Core business of Council

- C1. Leadership
- C2. Provision of wellbeing services
- C3. Planning for future needs
- C4. Economic development
- C5. Providing quality infrastructure
- C6. Financial stability
- C7. Education and lifelong learning
- C8. Compliance
- C9. Regulation
- C10. Advocacy & partnerships.

1. Energy management

| Item No. | Recommended Action | Priority | Strategic Direction | Timeline | Responsibility | Budget |
|----------|--|----------|---------------------|-------------|----------------|-----------|
| E1 | Undertake an energy efficiency audit of all Shire buildings, specifically focusing upon the identification of potential opportunities for cost effective improvements e.g. draught proofing, double glazing, use of LED lighting and better roof insulation. | Med | S4, C1, C5 | 2015 – 2016 | BCO | \$15,000 |
| E2 | Ensure that passive design, energy efficiency and sustainability standards are incorporated in the formation of designs for refurbishment or construction of Council buildings and facilities. | Low | S4, C5 | 2013 – 2018 | DOP, DE&C | NIL |
| E3 | Implement low-cost software or technologies to establish a system to monitor record and report on the energy use of Councils Municipal offices with scope to roll out similar systems to all Council controlled buildings. | Med | C1, C5 | 2014 – 2015 | BCO | \$10,000 |
| E4 | Seek funding to install Solar panels on all Council buildings where it is practical and cost-effective to do so, to reduce emissions and energy costs. | High | S4, C1, C5 | 2013 – 2016 | MCP, BCO | \$200,000 |
| E5 | Support local energy efficiency projects and solar rollouts by assisting local community and sporting groups to obtain available grants or subsidies. | High | S1, C5, C10 | 2013 – 2018 | MRCD, MCP | NIL |
| E6 | Lobby and facilitate the establishment of medium/large scale renewable energy projects following on from the Bridgewater solar project in collaboration with other municipalities, private enterprise and government agencies. | Med | S5, C4, C10 | 2013 – 2018 | DE&C | NIL |
| E7 | Upgrade street lighting to high-efficiency (possibly LED) technology in collaboration with other municipalities to reduce emissions and operating cost. | High | S4, C5, C6 | 2014 – 2015 | MINFPD | \$80,000 |

2. Water management

| Item No. | Recommended Action | Priority | Strategic Direction | Timeline | Responsibility | Budget |
|----------|--|----------|---------------------|-------------|----------------|--------|
| WR1 | Continue to advocate on behalf of the Loddon Community for improvements in urban and agricultural water security and quality, as well as expansion of the reticulated water and wastewater systems throughout our Townships. | Med | S4, S6, C5, C10 | 2013 – 2018 | DOP | NIL |
| WR2 | Implement a program for the upgrade and improvement of automated watering system for municipal public places, and implement a watering regime which seeks to achieve maximum efficiency and effectiveness. | Med | S1, S4, C5 | 2014 – 2018 | MINFPD, TLP&G | TBA |
| WR3 | Continue to support and encourage the application of water efficiency measures and drought proofing initiatives across Loddon Shire recreational facilities. Seek external funding to facilitate these improvements through such programs as the Federal Government Strengthening Basin Communities fund. | High | S1, S4, C5 | 2014 – 2016 | MRCDC | TBA |
| WR4 | Seek external funding for the completion of Township flood protection studies in Pyramid Hill, Boort and Serpentine, along with associated construction of levee banks or flood mitigation improvements to protect flood prone towns. | High | S1, S4, C5 | 2014 - 2016 | DOP, MINFPD | TBA |
| WR5 | Participate in Goulburn Murray Water's Reference Advisory Group regarding the On Farm Efficiency and Modernisation Connections program, advocating for the provision of clear and comprehensive consultation and information provision to farmers regarding future intentions of the irrigation water supply network | Med | S1, S5, C4, C10 | 2013 – 2018 | DOP | NIL |
| WR6 | Seek, on behalf of the local community, clarification regarding arrangements for the maintenance of community drains (Goulburn Murray Water). | Low | C10 | 2014 – 2015 | DOP | NIL |
| WR7 | Advocate and partner with water authorities to explore the potential opportunities for water recycling and stormwater capture and reuse in accordance with Integrated water cycle principals. | Low | S1, S4, C10 | 2013 – 2018 | DOP | NIL |

3. Biodiversity

| Item No. | Recommended Action | Priority | Strategic Direction | Timeline | Responsibility | Budget |
|----------|--|----------|---------------------|-------------|----------------|------------------------|
| B1 | Utilise GIS/Mapping data in consultation with the North Central Catchment Management Authority to identify roadside areas of biodiversity significance so as to minimise potential impact from maintenance or construction activities. | Low | C8 | 2014 – 2018 | MINFPD | NIL |
| B2 | Partner with DSE and Parks Victoria to ensure crown land for which Council is responsible is managed appropriately to protect biodiversity and habitats. | Low | C8, C10 | 2013 – 2018 | MINFPD | NIL |
| B3 | Lobby DEPI and MAV for further funding for LSC to support or undertake control of regionally prohibited and regionally controlled weeds on roadsides and Shire managed land. | Med | C10 | 2015 – 2016 | DOP | NIL |
| B4 | Advocate for further funding for Land Care facilitator positions to better support the regional Land Care groups and their key projects. | Low | S1, C10 | 2013 – 2018 | DOP | NIL |
| B5 | Engage and partner with DEPI in a campaign to raise awareness of numerous absentee landholders as to their obligations to manage their land in environmentally responsible way. | Low | C10 | 2016 – 2018 | DOP | NIL |
| B6 | The Loddon Shire to seek external funding for employ a part-time shared resource dedicated to environmental management, environmental education and pest plant and animal control. | Med | C10 | 2014 – 2016 | DOP | \$40,000 (External) |
| B7 | Investigate the opportunities for establishing offset credits on existing Council properties or the possibility of purchasing available land for registration with BushBroker so as to offset vegetation clearing required as part of Councils routine road construction and maintenance activities. | Med | C5, C8 | 2014 – 2016 | MINFPD | NIL |

4. Land management and planning

| Item No. | Recommended Action | Priority | Strategic Direction | Timeline | Responsibility | Budget |
|----------|---|----------|---------------------|-------------|----------------|------------------------|
| L1 | Develop Loddon Shire Roadside Weed & Pest Animal Management Plan (In accordance with DEPI Funding Agreement). | High | S3, C8 | 2014 - 2015 | MIPS | \$50,000 (External) |
| L2 | Maintain process for the issuing of roadside firewood collection permits. | Low | C2, C9 | 2013 - 2018 | MPLL | NIL |
| L3 | Establish a working group to advise on re-vegetation of Shire Managed Land including the opportunities for carbon farming, biodiversity offsets and woodlots. | Low | C3, C5, C8 | 2016 - 2017 | DOP | NIL |
| L4 | Conduct and audit of all Council buildings to identify required improvement works as well as associated opportunities to improve utilisation through multiuse arrangements. | Med | S6, S1, C5, C3 | 2015 - 2016 | BCO, MIPS | NIL |

5. Sustainable transport

| Item No. | Recommended Action | Priority | Strategic Direction | Timeline | Responsibility | Budget |
|----------|--|----------|---------------------|-------------|----------------|---------|
| T1 | The Plant Replacement committee considers and incorporates into their procurement recommendation report, an assessment of the relative energy efficiency or various plant, fleet & equipment being recommended for purchase. | Med | C6 | 2014 – 2015 | MOW | NIL |
| T2 | Continue to maintain a car pool policy and associated financial sponsorship for the existing carpool arrangement for staff travelling from Bendigo. | Low | C1 | 2013 - 2018 | CEO | \$5,000 |
| T3 | Review the vehicle policy and considers further incentives to actively encourage the choice of energy efficient vehicles in employment packages to staff. E.g. Reduced cost to employees who select smaller or more efficient vehicles. | Med | C1, C6 | 2014 - 2015 | DOP | NIL |
| T4 | Advocate on behalf of the Loddon Community for improved passenger rail services including expansion of the services to capture towns currently limited by the availability of public transport options to regional centres such as Bendigo. . | Low | S2, C10 | 2013 - 2015 | DE&C | NIL |
| T5 | Provide support and technical advice to community groups seeking to establish community based local transport solutions such as community cars or buses, operated by volunteers. Support could include training of authorised drivers, advice on insurance, health and safety and other legal liabilities. | Low | S6, C2 | 2013 – 2018 | MCP | NIL |
| T6 | Seek interested community members to form an advisory reference group to advise and advocate for improved freight facilities for farm produce. | Low | S3, S5, C10 | 2015 - 2016 | RCDM | NIL |

6. Waste

| Item No. | Recommended Action | Priority | Strategic Direction | Timeline | Responsibility | Budget |
|----------|--|----------|---------------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| WA1 | Continue participation and partnership with the Central Murray Regional Waste Management Group in such projects as detox your home, DrumMuster, Plastic Bag Free Towns, E-Waste initiatives and campaigns to reduce the roadside dumping of waste. | Med | S4, C8 | 2013 - 2018 | BCO | \$5,000 P.A |
| WA2 | In collaboration with the CMRWMG and surrounding municipalities, investigate opportunities for efficiency improvement through establishment of regional waste management facilities or services so as to capitalise on economies of scale in regards to tip emissions and tonnages handled. | Med | S5, C3, C10 | 2016 - 2018 | DOP | NIL |
| WA3 | Lobby Coliban Water for the establishment of a township sewer scheme in Newbridge and if required provide financial support to implement infrastructure within this Township so as to facilitate potential growth. | Med | S2, C10 | 2013 - 2018 | CEO | TBA |
| WA4 | Undertake an audit and education campaign regarding on-site wastewater disposal systems throughout the Shire as well as consider opportunities and regulations surrounding non-conventional waste water treatment options within the Shire such as dry composting toilets which may allow further residential development where use of conventional systems have been a limiting factor. | Low | S2, C9 | 2013 - 2015 | MEH | NIL |
| WA5 | Investigate opportunity to employ an environmental sustainability officer within Council to champion waste management, vegetation management and environmental issues as identified within the Environmental Sustainability Strategy. | Med | C3 | 2015 - 2016 | DOP | TBA |

7. Business development

| Item No. | Recommended Action | Priority | Strategic Direction | Timeline | Responsibility | Budget |
|----------|--|----------|---------------------|-------------|----------------|--------|
| B1 | Advocate for, and promote, business opportunities for large-scale renewable energy projects within the municipality. Where possible collaborate with neighbouring municipalities to capitalise on regional opportunities. | Low | S5, C10, C4 | 2013 - 2018 | DE&C | NIL |
| B2 | Incorporate educational or informative material on Councils new website, including links to external agency websites, relating to opportunities for the improvement or enhancement of environmental sustainability within local households and businesses. | Med | S1, C1 | 2014 | DOP, DCS | NIL |
| B3 | Promote and enhance the profile of nature based and eco-tourism activities within the Shire through tourism literature, advertising, campaigns and seminars/presentations as well as partnering opportunities with external agencies. | Low | S5 | 2014 - 2018 | MT | NIL |
| B4 | In collaboration with surrounding municipalities and regional partnerships such as the Central Murray Waste Management Group, explore the economic viability of establishing biogas, high temperature waste incinerators, composting and biodiesel plants so as to capitalize on the Shire assets of sun hours, low population density and low-cost land may give an economic advantage. | Low | S5, C10 | 2015 - 2018 | DOP | NIL |
| B5 | Advocate for improved community access to the Fibre optic broadband network rollout along with improved mobile phone coverage in areas such as Korong Vale. | Med | S5, C4, C5, C3 | 2013 – 2018 | DE&C | NIL |
| B6 | Partner with lead agencies to provide training, advice and encouragement to broad-acre farmers throughout the district to adapt in a time of climate change. | Med | S1, S3, S5 | 2013 – 2018 | RCDM | NIL |
| B7 | The Loddon Shire to support and partner the community to setup a Loddon Food Cooperative where residents, business and tourists can sell and buy locally produced food. | Low | S1, S3, S5 | 2015 - 2016 | RCDM | NIL |
| B8 | The Loddon Shire to partner with DEPI and CSIRO to educate and explore new high value crops, alternative farming techniques and equipment and provide educational opportunities/speakers. | Low | S1, S3, S5 | 2014 - 2018 | RCDM | NIL |

LEGEND

| Environmental Sustainability Theme | | Strategic Directions | | Core Business of Council | | Responsible Officer Abbreviations | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|---|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| E. | Energy management | S1 | Build a network of strong communities | C1 | Leadership | DOP | Director Operations |
| WR | Water management | S2 | Grow our population through appropriate development | C2 | Provision of wellbeing services | RCDM | Rural Coordination & Development Manager |
| B | Biodiversity | | | C3 | Planning for future needs | MINFPD | Manager Infrastructure Program Development |
| L | Land management and planning | S3 | Champion our agrifood enterprises | C4 | Economic development | BCO | Building & Contracts Officer |
| T | Sustainable transport | S4 | Make our towns more liveable and memorable | C5 | Providing quality infrastructure | MIPS | Manager Infrastructure Policy & Strategy |
| WA | Waste | | | C6 | Financial stability | CEO | Chief Executive Officer |
| BD | Business and industry development | S5 | Grow and diversify our economy | C7 | Education and life long learning | MEG | Management Executive Group |
| | | S6 | Support our transitioning towns | C8 | Compliance | DCS | Director Corporate Services |
| | | S7 | Connect with the next generation | C9 | Regulation | DE&C | Director Economy & Community |
| | | | | C10 | Advocacy & partnerships | MCP | Manager Community Planning |
| | | | | | | TLP&G | Team Leader Parks & Gardens |
| | | | | | | MPLL | Manager Planning & Local Laws |
| | | | | | | MOW | Manager of Works |
| | | | | | | MT | Manager Tourism |
| | | | | | | MRCD | Manager Recreation & Community Development |