



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

Date: Tuesday, 23 April 2024

Time: 3.00pm

Location: Loddon Shire Council Chambers, Wedderburn

AGENDA

Council Meeting

Order Of Business

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OPENING COMMENT

This meeting is being recorded and audio streamed via the Council website and Facebook.

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**5.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

File Number: FOL/19/45615
Author: Lisa Clue, Manager Governance
Authoriser: Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council confirm the Minutes of the following meetings as previously circulated to Councillors:

1. Council Briefing of 26 March 2024
2. Council Meeting of 26 March 2024
3. Council Forum of 9 April 2024.

REPORT

This report seeks Council confirmation of Minutes from the March 2024 Council Briefing and Council Meeting, and the April 2024 Council Forum as previously circulated to Councillors.

6 COUNCIL AUSPICED MEETINGS**6.1 RECORD OF COUNCIL AUSPICED MEETINGS**

File Number: 02/01/001
Author: Lisa Clue, Manager Governance
Authoriser: Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council confirm records of the following as detailed within this report:

1. Council Briefing 26 March 2024
2. Council Forum 9 April 2024.

Rule 35 of Council's Governance Rules requires a record of meetings conducted under the auspices of Council to be presented to the next available scheduled Council meeting for confirmation that must include:

- a) a record of which Councillors and officers attended the meeting;
- b) a summary of the matters considered in the meeting; and
- c) a record of any conflicts of interest disclosed by Councillors and officers and any Councillors or officers that left the meeting whilst a matter that their conflict of interest related to was being discussed.

Section 3 of the Governance Rules defines meetings conducted under the auspices of Council to mean a meeting of the kind described in section 131(1) of the Local Government Act 2020 and includes a meeting which:

- a) is schedule or planned for the purpose of discussing the business of Council or briefing Councillors;
- b) is attended by a majority of Councillors;
- c) is attended by at least one member of Council staff; and
- d) is not a Council meeting or delegated committee meeting.

This report seeks confirmation of the following Council auspiced meetings as detailed within this report:

1. Council Briefing 26 March 2024
2. Council Forum 9 April 2024.

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Meeting details | Briefing |
| Date | 26 March 2024 |
| Councillor Attendees | Cr Holt (Mayor) Cr Beattie Cr Jungwirth Cr Murphy Cr Straub |
| Staff/ Stakeholder representatives | 1. Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer 2. Wendy Gladman, Director Community Wellbeing 3. Steven Phillips, Director Operations 4. Michelle Stedman, Director Corporate 5. Lisa Clue, Governance Manager |
| Item(s) discussed. | 1. Review of Council Meeting Agenda 2. Draft Small Towns Strategy 3. General Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boort Park Community Asset Committee • Funding for flood damaged road repairs • Forum and Council meeting reports • Economic Development Essentials for Elected Members • Telstra 4G Infrastructure |
| Conflict of Interest Disclosures – Councillor/ officer making disclosure | Nil |
| Councillor/officer left room | n/a |

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Meeting details | Forum |
| Date | 9 April 2024 |
| Councillor Attendees | Cr Holt (Mayor) Cr Beattie Cr Jungwirth Cr Murphy Cr Straub |
| Staff/ Stakeholder representatives | 6. Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer 7. Brett Flavell, Acting Director Community Wellbeing 8. Steven Phillips, Director Operations 9. Michelle Stedman, Director Corporate 10. Lisa Clue, Manager Governance Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services – Item 1 below |
| Item(s) discussed. | 1. Draft Annual Budget 2024/25 2. Instrument of Delegation – Council to CEO 3. Library Services Review 4. First Right of Refusal – 2 St Arnaud Road, Wedderburn 5. Introduction of the Establishing Formal Positions of Council Policy v1 6. 2-6 Kerr Street – Intention to Sell – Objections Received 7. 12-14 Allen Street, Korong Vale – Intention to Sell – Objections Received 8. General Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates and discussion on projects, federal inquiries, upcoming reports to Council |
| Conflict of Interest Disclosures – Councillor/ officer making disclosure | Nil |
| Councillor/officer left room | n/a |

7 REVIEW OF ACTIONS**7.1 REVIEW OF ACTIONS**

File Number: 02/01/002
Author: Lisa Clue, Manager Governance
Authoriser: Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer
Attachments: 1. Resolutions acted upon since the March 2024 Council Meeting

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note resolutions acted upon since the March 2024 Council meeting as attached to this report.

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

A document containing the status of actions from March Council meeting resolutions is attached to this Agenda report.

There were no outstanding actions from Council meeting resolutions prior to March 2024.

All actions from March 2024 Council meeting resolutions have been completed.

Resolutions acted upon since the March 2024 Council Meeting

| Meeting | Officer/Director | Section | Subject |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Council 26/03/2024 | Clue, Lisa Stedman, Michelle | Decision Reports | Anti-fraud and Corruption Policy (version 5) |
| <p>RESOLUTION 2024/46</p> <p>Moved: Cr Linda Jungwirth Seconded: Cr Neil Beattie</p> <p>That Council adopts the Anti-fraud and Corruption Policy (version 5).</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p> <p>10 Apr 2024 8:36am Clue, Lisa - Completion Relevant metadata has been updated in the Policy, which is now accessible from Council's website.</p> | | | |

| Meeting | Officer/Director | Section | Subject |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Council 26/03/2024 | Clue, Lisa Stedman, Michelle | Decision Reports | Strategic Risk Report |
| <p>RESOLUTION 2024/47</p> <p>Moved: Cr Dan Straub Seconded: Cr Wendy Murphy</p> <p>That Council approve the Strategic Risk Report – March 2024.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p> <p>10 Apr 2024 8:41am Clue, Lisa - Completion Strategic Risk Report has been registered into Council's records system and will now inform review of current risk controls against target risk levels and Council's risk appetite.</p> | | | |

Resolutions acted upon since the March 2024 Council Meeting

| Meeting | Officer/Director | Section | Subject |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Council 26/03/2024 | Caserta, Deanne Stedman, Michelle | Decision Reports | Audit and Risk Committee Remuneration Report |
| RESOLUTION 2024/44 | | | |
| Moved: Cr Neil Beattie | | | |
| Seconded: Cr Linda Jungwirth | | | |
| That Council: | | | |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. increases the quarterly remuneration paid to independent members of the Audit and Risk Committee to \$570.00, effective the quarter commencing 1 May 2024 2. maintains payment of an extra quarter remuneration to the Chair during a one year term 3. maintains a travel reimbursement for independent members of the Audit and Risk Committee, paid at the rate that Councillors are reimbursed for travel. | | | |
| CARRIED | | | |
| 02 Apr 2024 9:28am Caserta, Deanne - Completion | | | |
| Purchase orders raised for the next 12 months for A&R Committee Members | | | |

| Meeting | Officer/Director | Section | Subject |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Council 26/03/2024 | Clue, Lisa Stedman, Michelle | Decision Reports | Public Interest Disclosure Policy (Version 2) |
| RESOLUTION 2024/45 | | | |
| Moved: Cr Wendy Murphy | | | |
| Seconded: Cr Linda Jungwirth | | | |
| That Council adopts the Public Interest Disclosure Policy (Version 2). | | | |
| CARRIED | | | |
| 10 Apr 2024 8:37am Clue, Lisa - Completion | | | |
| Relevant metadata has been updated in the Policy, which is now accessible from Council's website. | | | |

Resolutions acted upon since the March 2024 Council Meeting

| Meeting | Officer/Director | Section | Subject |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Council 26/03/2024 | Clue, Lisa Stedman, Michelle | Urgent Business | Appointment of members to the Boort Park Community Asset Committee |
| RESOLUTION 2024/50 | | | |
| Moved: Cr Dan Straub | | | |
| Seconded: Cr Neil Beattie | | | |
| That Council appoint the following members to the Boort Park Community Asset Committee: | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garry Zanker and Alistar Knight (Boort Cricket Club) • Gordie Parker and Craig Scott (Boort Football Club) • Kelly Henderson and Sharon Pickering (Boort Hockey Club) • Ray Stoman and Tim Byrne (Boort Trotting Club) • Tom Bleicher (Boort Secondary College) • Marjorie Potter and Madeleine Scott (Boort Agricultural and Pastoral Society) • Stacey Streader and Tracey Bird (Boort Netball Club) • Jacqui Verley and John Nelson (Community Members) | | | |
| CARRIED | | | |
| <p>10 Apr 2024 8:40am Clue, Lisa - Completion Council records have been updated and correspondence sent to the Boort Park Community Asset Committee formally advising of this resolution.</p> | | | |

8 MAYORAL REPORT

8.1 MAYORAL REPORT

File Number: 02/01/001
Author: Lisa Clue, Manager Governance
Authoriser: Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Mayoral Report.

REPORT

Mayor Holt will present a verbal report at the meeting.

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Loddon Campaspe Councils | |
| | |
| Municipal Association of Victoria | |
| | |
| Murray River Group of Councils | |
| | |
| Rural Councils Victoria | |
| | |
| Audit and Risk Committee | |
| | |
| Section 65 Community Asset Committees: | |
| Donaldson Park | |
| Hard Hill Tourist Reserve | |
| Wedderburn Community Centre | |
| Wedderburn Engine Park and Market Square Reserve | |
| Wedderburn Mechanics and Literary Institute Hall | |
| Other Council activities | |
| Date | Activity |
| | |

9 COUNCILLORS' REPORT

9.1 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

File Number: 02/01/001
Author: Lisa Clue, Manager Governance
Authoriser: Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Councillors' reports.

REPORT

Each Councillor will present a verbal report at the meeting.

Cr Beattie

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Rail Freight Alliance | |
| | |
| Section 65 Community Asset Committees: | |
| Boort Aerodrome | |
| Boort Memorial Hall | |
| Boort Park | |
| Korong Vale Mechanics Hall | |
| Korong Vale Sports Centre | |
| Little Lake Boort | |
| Yando Public Hall | |
| | |
| Other Council activities | |
| Date | Activity |
| | |
| | |

Cr Straub

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| North Central Local Learning and Employment Network | |
| | |
| Section 65 Community Asset Committees: | |
| East Loddon Community Centre | |
| Pyramid Hill Memorial Hall | |
| | |
| Other Council activities | |
| Date | Activity |
| | |
| | |

Cr Jungwirth

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Australia Day Committee | |
| | |
| Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance | |
| Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee | |
| | |
| North Central Goldfields Regional Library | |
| | |
| Other Council activities | |
| Date | Activity |
| | |
| | |

Cr Murphy

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Calder Highway Improvement Committee | |
| | |
| Local Government Women’s Charter | |
| | |
| Healthy Minds Network | |
| | |
| Section 65 Community Asset Committees: | |
| Campbells Forest Hall | |
| Inglewood Community Sports Centre | |
| Inglewood Community Elderly Persons Units | |
| Inglewood Town Hall Hub | |
| | |
| Other Council activities | |
| Date | Activity |
| | |
| | |

10 DECISION REPORTS**10.1 2-6 KERR STREET, WEDDERBURN - INTENTION TO SELL****File Number:** FOL/19/431742**Author:** Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer**Authoriser:** Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer**Attachments:** 1. **Valuation report, 2-6 Kerr Street, Wedderburn - Confidential**

This attachment is designated as confidential in accordance with Section 3(1)(a) and (g(ii)) of the *Local Government Act 2020*. It contains Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released; AND private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

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. **(under separate cover)**

2. **Objection 1**3. **Objection 2**4. **Objection 3**5. **Objection 4**6. **Objection 5**7. **Objection 6**8. **Objection 7**9. **Anglican Diocese of Bendigo letter re 2-6 Kerr St, 7 August 2018**10. **Vegetation and flora assessment**11. **Tree report****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Acknowledge the community submissions received;
2. Remove the property at 2-6 Kerr Street, Wedderburn from the property disposal list;
3. Note that Council periodically reviews its entire property portfolio and this property will be considered again at the next review; and,
4. Write to the submitters advising them of Council's decision.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

At the Council meeting of 28 February 2017 Council resolved to sell the land at 2-6 Kerr Street, Wedderburn as it was considered to be surplus. At that time the proposed sale was publicly advertised in accordance with section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* with no objections

received. While no objections were received, once it was placed for sale with an estate agent several residents expressed their concerns and the sale was placed on hold. Since placing this property on hold no further Council resolution has removed this land from sale. As such, it remains on the surplus property list for disposal.

Properties identified as being surplus to Council and community needs were discussed at the September 2023 Council Forum and the January 2024 Council Briefing, this property was included in those reports/discussions.

Councillors discussed the property at the April 2024 Council Forum. The objectors who requested to present their submissions were invited to present at the briefing session held prior to the Council meeting.

BACKGROUND

At the Council meeting of 23 January 2024 Council resolved to sell additional properties. As part of the land disposal process outlined in the Local Government Act 2020, these properties were advertised and submissions requested. Kerr Street was included as one of the properties proposed for sale. The adjacent properties to Kerr Street also received direct mail correspondence informing them of the intended sale and submission process.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The land at 2-6 Kerr Street, Wedderburn was donated to the Shire of Korong in 1973 seeking that it was used for community purposes. The title has no restriction. The property is zoned township and has a partial heritage overlay (HO241) relating to the adjacent church and is in a bushfire prone area.

It is usual practice for Councils to review their property stock and consider the need to purchase or dispose of properties to best serve the community. Consideration is given to if the land does not or will not support, facilitate or contribute to current or future service delivery outcomes as identified.

Identification of properties as surplus is based on the following:

- lack of any significant identifiable and demonstrable community need
- if the asset is surplus to the needs of Council
- have no strategic value to Council on a long term basis
- ongoing cost to maintain the asset or the service provided by the asset
- any cultural or historical significance of the asset
- site location only being suitable for consolidation of titles with a neighbouring property

On 2 July 2018 the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the time and other council staff met with some adjoining property owners along with Anglican Parish of Charlton and Anglican Diocese of Bendigo (Diocese) representatives. Future plans for the land were discussed with options including the donating the land back to the Diocese, continuing to sell or any need for community or strategic use of the land.

The Diocese chose to discuss the matter with their executive further and provided a response to Council on 7 August 2018, attached, with extract below:

The Diocesan Executive Committee met on 6 August 2018 and were of the view that the land should be retained by the Loddon Shire Council until the Council's "Settlement Strategy" and "Open Space Strategy" reviews are complete so that these parcels of land are included in the discussion with the community.

It is hoped through the Council's strategic review of its land and spaces, and with input from the Wedderburn community, a suitable purpose for the vacant land at Kerr Street can be identified.

Following the receipt of this letter, the CEO at the time responded to neighbouring objectors on 26 September 2018 stating:

In relation to the vacant land that was given to Council by the Anglican Church, Council will consider how this will be managed after consultation has been completed for its draft Settlement Strategy, which currently identifies this area as suitable for residential development.

We have also been in contact with the Anglican Diocese of Bendigo about the land, and its Committee is of the view that Council should retain the land until the strategy is completed so that the land is included in consultation with the community.

I do not intend to seek any further decision from Council on this matter until the strategic work has been completed.

Council's Settlement Strategy 2019-24 was adopted 25 February 2020 and no further resolution has been made regarding this specific site. The Settlement Strategy identifies the township of Wedderburn as having significant vacant land within the township for future residential infill and an adequate amount of public/open space land. The Settlement Strategy does not make any recommendation to change the use of this site. The current zoning is Township Zone'.

The Loddon Shire Activating Open Space Strategy as adopted in 2019 noted that the key attributes of an activated area of public open space are:

Access and connections:

- pedestrian-friendly and well-connected, permeable street design
- accessible using a range of transport options
- connected to nearby destinations, attractions and the wider area

Uses and Activities:

- convenient for both local daily living activities and larger organised events
- facilitates a range of activities
- used during different times of day and throughout the year

Comfort and Image:

- is attractive and appealing
- has a sense of character and history
- feels safe, clean and comfortable

Sociability:

- promotes co-operation and neighbourliness
- welcoming and non-exclusionary
- connects people with other people.

The property at 2-6 Kerr Street meets many of these key attributes but lacks others if it were to be used/classified as an activated open space.

Open space as listed in the Strategy for Wedderburn includes:

- Blue Mallee Trail
- Cooper Park
- Donaldson Park
- Soldiers Memorial Park
- Market Square
- Nardoo Linear Park
- Queen's Gully Trail
- Reservoir Track
- Skinners Flat
- Teds Garden
- Wedderburn Swimming Pool

The open space areas above are currently maintained by Council and Wedderburn volunteer committees.

There are also other non-council open spaces in the immediate vicinity including state parks and private open spaces further indicating that open space provision should not be the driving motivation for retaining this space.

Through the submission process community sentiment has been that they seek the land be retained by Council as open space for public access to enjoy the natural beauty of the land and retain the trees present on the property. These submissions appear to assume that vegetation would be removed as a result of sale. It should be noted that development of the land and native vegetation removal would be subject to a planning permit approval process.

COST/BENEFITS

Council is currently paying Fire Services Levy on the property, sale would be a benefit to Council in eliminating this ongoing cost.

Costs to date have included valuation, advertising, licenced real estate agent and legal fees in 2018 and advertising in 2024. Costs are expended from the Land and Buildings Reserve.

There is a general economic development benefit to Council in offering a property for sale.

RISK ANALYSIS

The sale of the property is pertaining to be a reputational risk from incorrect statements being shared by community members through social media and the local press.

The open space holds a risk of public liability.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Following the January briefing properties were advertised for the intention to sell. As a long period had lapsed from the initial advertisement, this property was again publicly advertised for intent to sell as per the current community engagement steps in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*. Unlike in 2017 the neighbouring land holders for this particular property were notified of the intention.

During the intention to sell period a number of objections were received, as attached. The community have noted their belief in the importance and significance of the historical nature of the land holding, along with its nature base and habitat.

Division 5 of the Local Government Act 2020 outlines the role of every Councillor is:

...(1) ...(b) to represent the interests of the municipal community in that decision making; ...

...(2)...(a) consider the diversity of interests and needs of the municipal community, ...

While there is no strategic support for the retention of this property within the 2020 Settlement Strategy or the 2019 Activating Open Space Strategy, as part of Council's deliberations councillors may note the large number of submissions and engagement by local residents.

No written submissions were received supporting Council's proposed sale of this property.

16th February, 2024

Dear Loddon Shire Council CEO, Lincoln Fitzgerald and Councilor Gavan Holt,

RE: PROPOSED LAND SALE AT 2-6 KERR STREET, WEDDERBURN VIC 3518

It has come to our attention that the Loddon Shire is planning to sell the vacant block of land on the corner of Ridge Street and Kerr Street (2-6 Kerr Street, Wedderburn). We wish to strenuously object to the sale of this land on the grounds that the Bendigo Anglican Diocese gifted this land to the Loddon Shire community for recreation and public use.

The beautifully preserved Anglican Church and its surrounding precinct is a magnificent asset to the Wedderburn community. The vacant native bush block behind the Church enhances the visual appeal of the resplendent stone Church which locals and visitors to our town greatly admire. Selling off the back block of land for housing will drastically change the aesthetic and this precious natural asset will be forsaken to permanent destruction.

There are many magnificent historic native trees growing on the land at 2-6 Kerr Street which also serve as homes to many bird species and other treasured fauna.

The Loddon Shire owns the L-Shaped block of vacant land with entrances on Reef Street and Wilson Street (near the town hall) which is very poorly maintained by the Shire. In fact, we have had to contact the Shire about the grass growing on this block that has been over 1 metre high. Not only does the dry grass pose a fire and snake threat, it surrounds the home of highly esteemed community service stalwart, [REDACTED] who is about 88 years of age and who takes great pride in her yard and garden; still mowing her own lawns. How upsetting for [REDACTED] to have this constant problem of tall dry grass growing around her property. Perhaps this block could be sold off for housing if the Loddon Shire needs land for housing development; especially since it is posing a problem to the Shire in terms of obviously not having the resources to maintain the block to a reasonable standard. The Shire-owned land near the Shire depot between St Arnaud Road and Ridge Street is another option Council has to subdivide for housing.

We urge the Loddon Shire to recognise that the block of land at 2-6 Kerr Street is not the Shire's to sell, rather the Loddon Shire are the caretakers of the land and the people of Wedderburn and the wider Loddon Shire are the true beneficiaries of this precious public space.

Thank you for taking our request seriously. We would be very happy to meet with you to discuss this matter in more detail.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

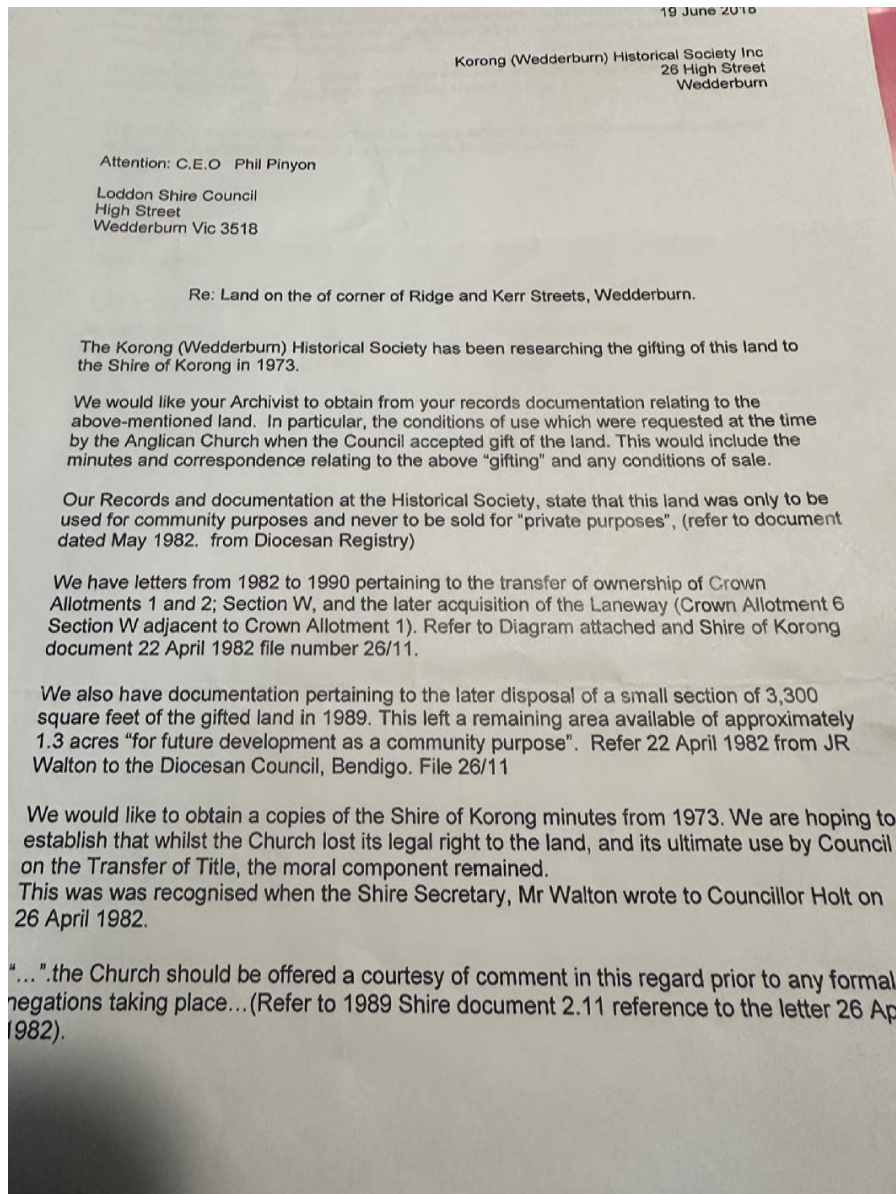
Subject: Re: Objection to proposed sale of land 2-6 Kerr Street Wedderburn
Date: Wednesday, 31 January 2024 10:06:08 AM

Hi all ,
 could you please acknowledge receipt of this email. I'm not sure about afew of the email addresses
 Thank you

On Wed, 31 Jan 2024 at 10:02 am, [REDACTED] > wrote:

On Wed, 31 Jan 2024 at 9:56 am, [REDACTED] > wrote:

Dear Lincoln,



Attachment H Concise History of the church

From 1851 Rev Hall of Brenanah was visiting Wedderburn for services then Rev Clark Hose was appointed to the parochial district of Wedderburn in 1861. He began by taking services in the old run down denominational school room (on the gifted land). Large congregations of settlers and diggers were attending and the need for a Church was very much felt. Originally funds were subscribed by local squatters and traders but following 2 years of terrible drought and the ruin of many only £80 was able to be collected. In October 1864 land with a suitable site was procured.

Rev Hose then had a novel idea and called a public meeting of miners. He moved a proposal that groups of diggers would donate their labour to bring in the local stone from the quarry to the Church site. The proposal was passed with acclamation.

Each miner was credited 7s6p /day or 15s/day (if using his horse/cart) as his subscription to the Church building fund. Thus a grant of £1 for each £1 of subscription money was possible from the Diocese and this paid for the erection of the Church. The cornerstone was laid in May 1866.

The history of the later small subdivision of the piece beside the old dairy and subsequent community disappointment and disapproval is documented in the letter to the CEO. Also the National Trusts opinion in one of the documents.

The gist of [redacted] and other community members who have documented their beliefs via letters and emails is that the land was gifted to the Shire to be held 'in trust' for the community so that it can in the future be used (the actual land) for community use.

Selling of the land would mean this potential for future development of the land for a community use is lost forever.

It appears that the employees and current councillors were not aware of the history of this piece of land which adjoins the Anglican Church in Wedderburn. Because we are acting in good faith we have not publicised this matter in any local or regional newsletters yet.

We are fairly confident that Council will rescind the motion to sell this gifted land. Indeed the land was withdrawn from sale as soon as it's progeny was realised.

Documentation supporting the 1973 gifting of the land has been obtained from the Wedderburn Historical Society archives. CEO Phil Pinyon has stated that this is authentic proof.

It is our belief that the wishes of the congregation who gifted the land should be respected forever by withdrawing it permanently for sale.

[redacted]
8 July 2018

Page 5 of 5

We would like your Archivist to search the 1973 minutes and correspondence to locate both the minutes and correspondence pertaining to the gifting of the Church land to the Shire, including the conditions of transfer / gifting.

We have been informed by Christine Coombes that your Archivist is only available once a month in Wedderburn, and that your records are stored off-site.

We will need these documents at least two weeks before the next Council meeting which is on Tues 24 July 2018. Would be this be possible in your opinion?

Yours Sincerely

Janice McEwen
Janice McEwen
Secretary
Korong (Wedderburn) Historical Soc

Allison Hargreaves
Allison Hargreaves
Member

Dear Phil

we are writing to you as a concerned long term residents of Wedderburn because we recollect some pertinent facts ,and have access and copies of documentation about the land which Council wishes to dispose of on the corner of Kerr and Ridge Streets Wedderburn ,which you may not be aware of.

We trust that after viewing these historical documents and being reminded of the significant history of the gifting of the land to the people of Wedderburn (who the Shire serve) for Community purposes that the land will be withdrawn from sale.

Attached are documents pertaining to the 1973 gift of land on the corner of Kerr and Ridge Streets Wedderburn to the (then)Shire of Korong from the Anglican Diocese . These documents are archived at the Korong (Wedderburn) Historical Society.

As you can see the history of the parcel of land includes the gifting of land from the Diocese (Allotments 1 and 2) and also documentation concerning the laneway or right of way acquisition at a later date then the controversial acquisition by Councillor Lindsay Holt of a small parcel of the gifted land to add to his property.

The Diocese on 6/5/1982 wrote that they had no objection to the laneway purchase and subdivision of the small parcel of land adjoining Councillor Holts property which he subsequently purchased.

Importantly they also wrote in the same letter (6/5/1982) that 'as the land has been donated to Council by the Church for Community purposes we would not wish to see any more of the land sold for private purposes '

We also draw your attention to the letter from the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) January 1990 which they wrote to the Shire after being informed of the small parcel of land sale in which they said that they were 'pleased that the land immediately adjacent to the Church will be maintained as public open space'

As members of the Korong (Wedderburn) Historical Society and members of the Holy Trinity Anglican Congregation and ratepayers who own two of the adjoining boundary properties we are very interested in the future of this land.

Looking forward to your reply ,

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted] @gmail.com
[Redacted]

14/6/18
dm

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

Subject: Fwd: Objection to sale of land Corner Ridge and Kerr Streets Wedderburn

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Phil Pinyon <PPinyon@loddon.vic.gov.au>
Date: 13 June 2018 at 3:15:02 pm AEST

Subject: RE: Objection to sale of land Corner Ridge and Kerr Streets Wedderburn

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for the information that you have provided. Council staff are collating as much relevant documentation relating to the site on the corner of Ridge Street and Kerr Street Wedderburn as can be sourced, to ensure that there is clarity from all perspectives regarding the subject land.

In the interim there will be no further action on the sale of this property and the agent has been requested to withdraw it from sale. Based on the information that you have provided it appears highly likely that the disposal of the land will not proceed. I need to have all relevant documentation to confirm the position and then present that to the elected body of Council so that consideration can be given to rescinding the previous decision to sell that property.

Regards,

Phil

Phil Pinyon | Chief Executive Officer | Loddon Shire Council
PO Box 21 Wedderburn VIC 3518 | 41 High St Wedderburn VIC 3518
p: (03) 5494 1200 | m: 0457 801 256 | e: ppinyon@loddon.vic.gov.au web: www.loddon.vic.gov.au
Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/LoddonShire
National Relay Service: TTY: 133 677 | Speak and listen: 1300 555 727 | Internet relay: www.relayservice.com.au

[redacted] esday, 13 June 2018 1:16 PM
To: Phil Pinyon
Subject: Objection to sale of land Corner Ridge and Kerr Streets Wedderburn

CORRESPONDENCE TO BE ADDRESSED
TO THE SHIRE SECRETARY.

PLEASE SEND TO.....

26/11

MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
P.O. BOX 21,
WEDDERBURN, VICTORIA, 3518.

TELEPHONE : ,
(STD 054) 943260.

22nd April, 1982

Registrar,
Diocesan Council,
Anglican Church of Australia,
32 Forest Street,
BENDIGO. 3550

Dear Sir,

Re: Land Corner of Ridge and Kerr Streets, Wedderburn

I refer to Crown Allotments 1 and 2 Section W Township of Wedderburn being land formerly owned by the Anglican Church and donated to the Shire of Korong in 1973 for community purposes.

The attached sketch map indicates the area in question located on the corner of Ridge and Kerr Streets, Wedderburn, comprising approximately 1.3 acres.

Separating these two Crown Allotments is a lane or right-of-way on title approximately 16'6" wide and 264' deep. Physical access via this lane is not possible at the moment.

The Department of Crown Lands and Survey has offered to close this strip of land and sell it to Council for consolidation with the two adjoining allotments.

Council has accepted this offer and resolved to proceed with the purchase.

In the meantime, however, a further proposal has been submitted to Council by the owner of Pt. Crown Allotment 6 Section W Township of Wedderburn whose property fronts Ridge Street and is adjacent to Crown Allotment 1 owned by Council.

Your comments and consent to the following matter would be appreciated.

The proposal is to purchase a strip of land from Council having a frontage of 40' to Ridge Street and being part of Crown Allotment 1.

.../2

Subject: Objection to sale of land Corner Ridge and Kerr Streets
Wedderburn

- 2 -

Erected on Pt. Crown Allotment 6 is a brick dairy building and is part of a dairy business that operates to serve the Wedderburn and Boort districts. The owner of this land now wishes to erect a dwelling on this site in which to reside and be in close proximity to his business operation. His problem is, however, that the existing dairy building is located in such a position on the site that does not allow the siting of a dwelling so as to enable heavy vehicles access to and from the dairy.

To overcome the problem he has two alternatives, these being:-

- (1) To acquire 40' of land owned by Council; or
- (2) to object to the closure of the lane and use this area for access to and from his property.

Council believes the first alternative is preferable to the second as to create physical access in this manner now would sever the whole area of land and spoil the general picturesque nature of the land. It would also detract from any future development of the land for community purposes.

A further alternative to acquire land on the opposite side of the subject dairy property is not possible due the the location of the existing residence and outbuildings on that land.


Council believes that although the land was originally acquired for community purposes the disposal of this small section of approximately 3300 square feet will not be detrimental to the overall area of approximately 1.3 acres for future development as a community purpose.

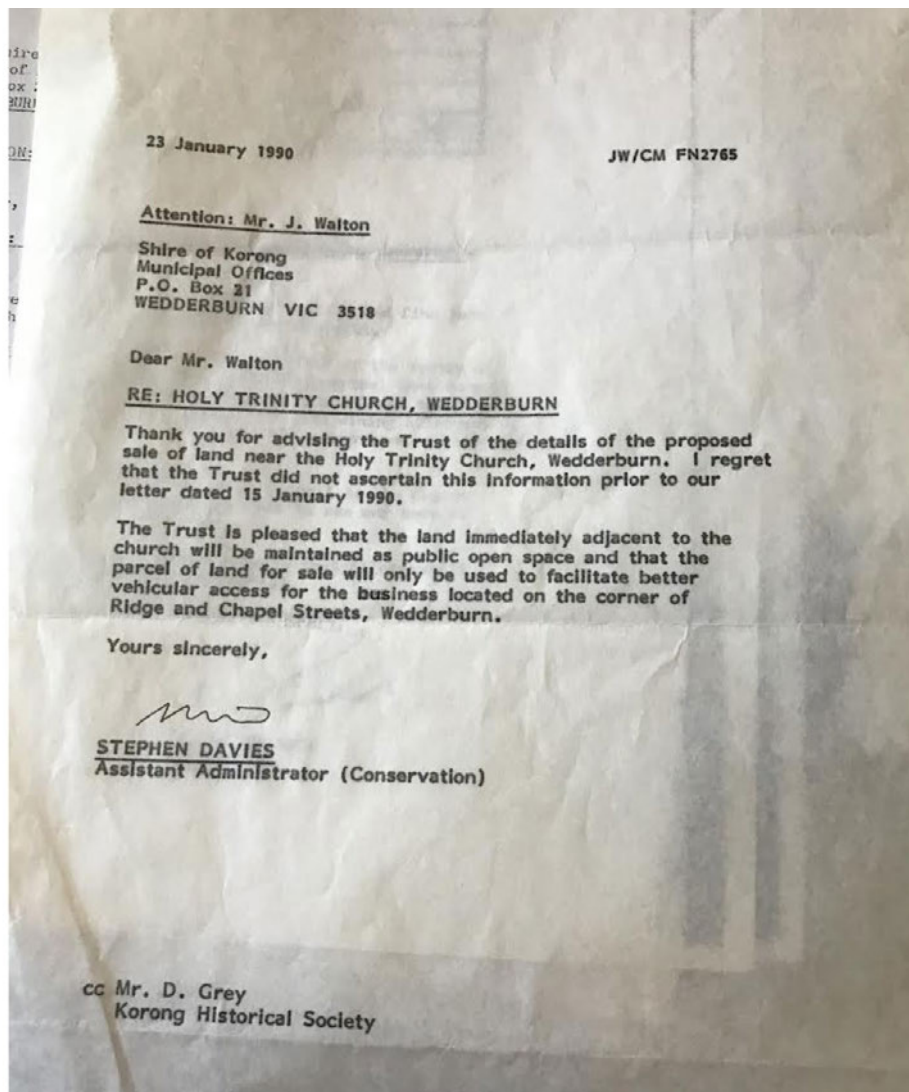
In addition, the Council will be acquiring more land in the purchase of the lane than is proposed to be disposed of in the 40' section.

Keeping in mind that your church donated the land to Council, it is Council's desire to seek your approval and comments to the above proposal before proceeding any further. It is intended that the land be sold at a market level determined by Council's contract valuer.

Your early advice would be appreciated and should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,


J. R. WALTON
SHIRE SECRETARY



We have recently received a letter from your Executive Officer Christine Coombes re the intention of the Loddon Shire to sell land at 2-6 Kerr Street Wedderburn.

We are hoping that the proposal to sell this historic parcel of land ,which was gifted to the Shire by the Anglican Church in 1973 for 'community purpose /use' ,is an administrative error .

In case you may not be aware of the history of this treasured piece of land I will share it .

In June 2018 when Phil Pinyon was CEO the same land was listed for sale without prior community consultation.

After the CEO viewed historical Shire and Diocese records a meeting was held with representatives (2/7/2018) from the Diocese, Parish community, Historical Society representatives and concerned community members.

The CEO then withdrew the land from sale .The elected body of Council unanimously voted to withdraw the land from sale also.

All parties agreed that the proposed sale of the land did not align with the spirit of the original agreement and the community perception for the use of this land .

All parties in 2018 believed ,and still do ,that the Historical perception would appear to be that the land was not intended to be sold by the Council for use as residential or commercial blocks .

If the Anglican Diocese of the time had no objection to use as residential or commercial blocks, this option could have been undertaken by the Diocese.

Instead, the Diocese elected to gift the land to the Council.

Therefore we ask that if there has already been a motion to sell the land that it be rescinded.

We wish that the Loddon Shire Council retain ownership of the land, in its current status (undeveloped) to allow further consideration of the best outcome for the Wedderburn community .

Wedderburn Councillor Gavan Holt knows the history of this precious land well. He was one of the Councillors who voted not to sell the land in 2018. He was unaware that the land was again being proposed for sale and advised that I write to you and attach these documents.

Please find attached relevant historical documentation.

Attachments

1. Letter from Korong (Wedderburn) Historical Society to Loddon Shire Council 19 June 2018 (first page)
2. Letter from Korong (Wedderburn) Historical Society (second page)
3. Concise history of the Church
4. Letter from [REDACTED] June 2018 re objection to sale of land

2-6 Kerr Street .

5. Email response from Phil Pinyon CEO to attachment 4. letter. June 13 2018
6. Letter from J.R Walton (Shire Secretary) to Bendigo Diocese Registrar 22 April 1982 re retainment of land for future community purpose development.(page 1)
7. Page 2. of letter from J.R.Walton to Bendigo Diocese Registrar (Attachment 6)
8. National Trust letter from Stephen Davies (Conservation) 23 January 1990 re maintaining the land as public open space in future.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted signature]

Anglican congregation members.

Historical Society members.

To... Executive@loddon.vic.gov.au

CEO, Loddon Shire Council

CC... All Councillors

Re.... Proposed Sale of Public Open Space 2-6 Kerr Street, Wedderburn

I write to you with grave concerns regarding the Shires’s recent attempt to profit from the green space gifted by the Anglican Church to the community of Wedderburn. It has come to my attention that this is a second attempt to sell off the donated land, disregarding a previous decision not to do so.

I am in the process of seeking legal advice to challenge this questionable move, and I believe various parties share my surprise and disappointment at the Council's repeated attempts to profit from the gifted site. I am determined, like many others in the community, to fight against this second attempt to undermine the decision made not to sell the park land.

The gifted land was intended by the Church for the people of Wedderburn, to serve as a green, public open space peaceful space with beautiful trees. The current attempt to sell the land goes against the moral obligations associated with such a generous gift.

Evidence strongly supports that the parcel of land was specifically gifted for community space and parkland, not for commercial gain. Historical documents and the Church's views reveal that the space was considered a sanctuary of tranquillity and reflective space for the community and not as a housing estate.

Wedderburn is renowned for its birdlife and peaceful atmosphere, and attempting to profit from this gifted land demonstrates a lack of respect for the original intentions of the benefactors.

I have been advised that this site has a number of significant 100-year-old trees, with many hollows which provide arboreal habitation to native animals, as well as significant ground flora which is protected by State Government legislation.

The previous attempt to sell the land faced disapproval from many, including the Church, leading to the cancellation of the potential sale. It is disheartening to learn that the Shire has not adhered to the previous decision and is once again pursuing financial gain from the gifted land.

This decision appears morally out of order, especially in the context of the growing awareness of the importance of green belts and parks, particularly in the face of climate change.

I am taking this matter seriously and will be seeking legal assistance as well as all other measures available to me to ensure that the Council upholds the original intent of the Church's generous gift. I kindly request that the Shire honours its obligations, both moral and legal, to preserve this land as a public open space.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter. I look forward to your response in resolving this issue promptly.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Anglican Parish of Charlton-Donald

3 Armstrong Street
CHARLTON VIC 3525

26 February 2024

Lincoln Fitzgerald
Chief Executive Officer
Company Name
PO Box 21
WEDDERBURN VIC 3528
executive@loddon.vic.gov.au

Submission - Property Address: 2-6 Kerr Street, Wedderburn

Dear Lincoln Fitzgerald

Thank you for the formal notification of the Council's intentions for this property and the opportunity to provide a submission. This aligns with your Community Engagement Policy, which seeks to "increase awareness across Council of community views", "establish clear goals on services and assets valued by the community", and as required by Section 6.3, specifically, "where there is a proposal for changing the way in which a public space looks, is named, is used or enjoyed", "where there is any circumstance where Council needs more information or evidence to make an informed decision" and "where there is a history associated with the project or issue that may impact on the current situation".

We look forward to participating in this community engagement, particularly following Section 6.2 of your Policy, which outlines the Deliberative engagement practices as being:

- informed
- transparent
- provide an opportunity to weigh and balance priorities and options
- timely
- representative
- work together to reach a common or representative view.

On behalf of the Anglican Parish of Charlton-Donald, I lodge our submission regarding the proposed sale of the above-named property. Additionally, I request to be heard in person, along with members of the congregation of Holy Trinity, Wedderburn, in support of this written submission, before Council at a time and date to be advised.

Some relevant background

Our Parish lodged a submission, objecting to the sale of this property, to Loddon Shire Council in 2018. Representatives from the congregation met with Loddon Shire Council staff and the pending sale was cancelled and we were assured at that time, that the matter had been resolved, with the land to continue to be used in accordance with the original intent when gifted to Loddon Shire Council in 1973.

References

I also reference the Wedderburn Community Plan 2012-2025, where the Plan “cannot be said to be conclusive and recognises other matters may need to be addressed as they arise in the future”, and that it is to be “a vision of the community in the future”.

Below are listed specific sections within this plan that particularly resonate with this matter:

- 2. Community Infrastructure: Vision - “preserve Wedderburn’s heritage, sustain its future and take care of its population”
- Goal 2: “beautification to attract tourists and new residents”
- Goal 5: “promote Wedderburn’s heritage, habitat, environment and assets”, “natural environment - here for their children and children’s children” (Page 8)
- “strong communities proud of their individual identities” (Page 10)
- Attachment 3
 - 10. “Beautification - more trees”
 - 33. “Develop and promote our natural environment”
 - 70. “Identify what makes the town different from others”
 - 96. “Preserving Wedderburn’s assets”
 - 120. “Street beautification”
 - 134. “Unique aesthetics encouraging visitors to stop”
- Attachment 6
 - Task 1. Explore diversity of Wedderburn’s assets for promotion and development.
 - Actions: 1. Identify with Council what it has on record as Wedderburn’s assets. 2. Engage the community to further identify Wedderburn’s assets. 3. Include Council and Tourism Inc. in engagement. 4. Forward outcomes of process to Council, Tourism Inc. and relevant organisations for promotion.

Considerations

Respect

Respect is recognising someone else’s worth, honouring them for what they have done and for who they are or have been. To honour and respect others requires humility on our part.

This situation has deteriorated to the current state whereby the sale of this land is being considered purely as an administrative transaction. There appears to be little regard for those pioneers that have gone before us, residents and ratepayers of Wedderburn, members of the congregation of Holy Trinity Church, built in 1866, and still open for worship today, who made the decision to gift the parcel of land to Loddon Shire Council “for future development as a community purpose”.

To wave away this generosity and spirit of intent towards their wider community, because it is now considered surplus to Council needs, disregards the historical significance this has for their ancestors, the remaining congregation and for the wider community of Wedderburn.

This is a good news story and should be a source of pride for both Loddon Shire Council and the Holy Trinity congregation (past and present).

Value as a natural asset

Perhaps, also we are failing to acknowledge the natural undeveloped beauty of this parcel of land. It provides a natural environment and haven for flora and fauna alike. It is a pocket of heaven here on earth, reminding us of the natural bush which surrounds Wedderburn, but which we are fortunate to have two blocks back from the main street. Maintenance is minimal due to the canopy of the trees and natural vegetation. A variety of birds, small animals and reptiles call this home. Once it is developed, this natural asset will be lost for ever. The apparent impetus to sell because it is not generating revenue, will sell out much more for the generations that follow, something priceless and unique, that was given to the Council for the benefit of the community. Not just the current community, but those that will follow.

Acknowledgement and Purpose

Perhaps we have both done ourselves a disservice, in not publicly acknowledging this gift and linking the history to the natural potential of this land. Public signage, advising tourists and residents alike of the history of this land, along with the agreed use “development for community use”, could be the solution. This could be jointly funded to align with the spirit of the original gift.

A number of the submissions that Council received in 2018, identified that this land would be perfect for a “Contemplative Walk” or “Reserve” to allow all to “pause and contemplate” the beauty and splendour, alongside another landmark and significant asset, the church, all in walking distance from the main street.

This also aligns with the following State Government guidance to Councils:

“Promoting acts to engage with and preserve our natural environment can have mental health benefits and help overcome feelings of climate anxiety, stress and hopelessness (Hayes et al. 2018). Further, extreme weather events, such as bushfires and extreme heat, which are occurring at greater frequency and severity due to climate change, can have direct impacts on mental illnesses such as post-traumatic stress disorder and depression (Hayes et al. 2018 and Bryant et al. 2014).”

[Co-benefits of a healthy lifestyle for mental wellbeing](#)

This page summarises the co-benefits of action to address the 4 focus areas of the [Victorian public health and wellbeing plan 2019–2023 \(VPHWP 2019–2023\)](#) (increasing healthy eating, increasing active living, reducing tobacco-related harm and [tackling climate change and its impacts on health](#)) and improving mental wellbeing. It provides information to support councils in the development of their municipal public health and wellbeing plan and to have regard to the focus areas of the [VPHWP 2019–2023](#).

Next Steps

The Parish of Charlton-Donald looks forward to working together with Loddon Shire Council to reach a common position that represents the views of those that have gone before us, those with us currently, that remember and seek to have this promise honoured, and those in the future, who will be beneficiaries of the restorative power of nature and rich history of this parcel of land. This includes first and foremost, a common purpose and benefit for all members of the community, for now and forever.

Yours sincerely

██████████

██████████████████

██████████████

Anglican Parish of Charlton-Donald

[REDACTED]

From: Loddon Shire Executive
Subject: FW: Attention: Loddon Councillors c/O CEO: Anglican Church block in Kerr St

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 February 2024 9:03 AM
To: loddonmail <loddon@loddon.vic.gov.au>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Attention: Loddon Councillors c/O CEO: Anglican Church block in Kerr St

To
The Loddon Council

Dear councillors,

"Society is a partnership of the dead, the living, and the unborn"
Edmund Burke 1790

I write to express disappointment at the proposed sale of land in Kerr St that was gifted to council by the Anglican community of Wedderburn for use of the community as a whole. This breach of the sentiments of the original transfer is an assault on the principles laid out so well in the above quote by Burke; it is particularly egregious to the "dead" and the "unborn".

It would be hoped that we as a community could take the opportunity to "Aspire" to something better

The "dead".

It is important to a functioning society that people know that their efforts and agreements aren't just blithely consigned to the dustbin of history once they are no longer around. The most instructive example of this was in 2012, when the Mt Alexander council publicly embarrassed themselves with their treatment of the local CWA.

The issue was over the donation, long ago, of a property by the CWA to the council: the particulars/paperwork of which had been lost over the passage of time, but which was still remembered by the older members of that community. It is quite possible that the CWA, still operating on more traditional country values and morality, hadn't bothered to "get it in writing": naively believing that people's words are their bond, particularly as it was an agreement between 2 august community bodies not the sale of a used car on the side of a road somewhere. The mayor even had the audacity to dismissively state to the Bendigo Advertiser that "there is nothing special about the CWA".

“.....but Mayor Janet Cropley says there is no written documentation of the alleged agreement. "Those actions were taken by a previous council and previous administration," she said. "There might be a mythology of an agreement but I don't think it's worth anything..... we can't find anything in writing.....There is nothing special about the CWA.”

Bendigo Advertiser 3rd February 2012

Earlier, in 2010, the Mt Alexander council had proudly proclaimed in the Age newspaper that so many people had moved into the community from Melbourne that they now thought of themselves as 'North Northcote'. A term of jest, sure, but they were justly proud of the overwhelmingly positive outcomes that had flowed from this northern migration. Unfortunately, there was one particular downside to this rapid change in demographics: they lost that connection to the "dead".

Luckily for the CWA, at the eleventh hour, a very small brass plaque was discovered noting the council's appreciation of the CWA's generosity. So in the end the issue was resolved to the satisfaction of all parties concerned: apart from the mayor, who was unceremoniously dumped at the election later the same year.

"Unborn"

I have recently (since 2014) began to marvel at the sight of the Scared Heart cathedral in Bendigo. Even though it is smaller than its counterpart in central Melbourne, the generous open space that surrounds it makes it a much more impressive and imposing ornament to the Bendigo skyline.

In 2014, The Bendigo community excelled themselves when they finally achieved the necessary open space to fully show the majesty of the 2nd tallest cathedral in Australia. The Scared Heart Cathedral had been blighted since its foundation in 1897 by the original shanty town area that blocked its viewing from High St. 117 years later this was finally rectified with the demolition of the last holdout, the Yamaha Dealership in 2014. The now proposed “Aspire” development will accentuate this open space.

The Heritage-listed Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Kerr St is also much more impressive for having the luxury of a sizeable open space around it. It is particularly impressive seen from the elevated vantage points in Ridge St, displaying all its glory below the impressive old gums on the block in question. In the future, the "unborn" will thank you for having the foresight to retain this open space, rather than significantly diminishing it with base urban encroachment.

We too can “Aspire” to greater things

Thank you for your time and patience



(Descendant of the "dead" who made the original agreement)

[REDACTED]

Wedderburn

3518

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 16 February 2024 3:12 PM
To: loddonmail <loddon@loddon.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Attention to Chief Executive Officer, Lincoln Fitzgerald

Dear Mr. Fitzgerald.


Attached is a letter to you with regards to the proposed sale of public land located at 2-6 Kerr Street, Wedderburn, by the Loddon Shire.

The sale of this land is in my opinion, and the opinion of an overwhelming number of local residents, wrong and morally reprehensible.

The land in question was gifted to the Shire to be used as passive open space for the benefit of the local community and future generations to enjoy.

Regards

[REDACTED]



14th February 2024

Loddon Shire Council.
Att. CEO. Lincoln Fitzgerald
41 High St, Wedderburn
Victoria, Australia 3518

Subject: Propose Sale of land 2-6 Kerr Street, Wedderburn

Dear Mr Fitzgerald

I am writing to you as a concerned resident and ratepayer to express my deep dismay and frustration regarding the repeated attempts to sell gifted public open space within our community. It has come to my attention that despite previous rejections by residents and ratepayers, it appears that the Shire has again decided to proceed with the sale of public open space located 2-6 Kerr Street, Wedderburn.

This public open space in question holds significant historical and environmental values for the community, providing a place for passive activities, fostering a sense of community, and contributing to the overall well-being of our residents. It has a historical significance as being the original site for the Wedderburn Church of England and school. This site was one of the few public open space locations not impacted by the recent floods.

Within this site there are significant native trees that date back prior to European settlement of Wedderburn, with one tree estimated to be approximately 300 years old. These trees now contain multiple hollows which are used as arboreal habitat for native animals such as birds, mammals such as Microbats and smaller reptiles.

I should remind the Shire that it has an obligation under acts of federal and state government legislation to ensure that native animals and their habit are protected. (See Refs. 3. 1,2,3) The sale of this site for any form of development will severely impact on the ongoing existence and protection of this native fauna which is protected by law under State Government Legislation.

According to a recent flora report commissioned and paid for by the local residents, the proposed sale of this land has also the potential to compromise the viability of a potentially significant species of terrestrial flora. (Hairy Tails, *Ptilotus erubescens* (Foreman 2024 Ref #1) This report can be made available to the shire by request. As you may be aware, the land is zoned Township Zone (TZ) and is partially subject to a Heritage Overlay (HO241) (See Ref #2)

It is disheartening to witness continuous efforts to compromise these valuable public spaces for short-term gains, especially when the sentiment from the community has been consistently against such developments.

It is important to emphasize that public open spaces are not merely parcels of land; they are an integral part of our community's identity and heritage. The rejection of these proposals by residents and ratepayers in the past clearly indicates that there is a strong consensus against sacrificing these spaces for housing developments.

I urge the Loddon Shire Council to consider the wishes and concerns of the community seriously. Engaging in open and transparent communication with residents, listening to their feedback, and respecting their opinions and the wishes of the benefactors of this land to remain as public open space. These are crucial steps toward maintaining a healthy and harmonious community.

I implore the Shire to explore alternative solutions that preserve and manage our public open spaces and align with the best interests of the community not simply as Shire assets to be sold off at a whim to improve finances.

Sustainable development that considers the long-term impact on our environment and the well-being of residents should be at the forefront of any decision-making process.

I trust that the Loddon Shire Council will take these concerns seriously and act in the best interests of the community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to your response and a positive resolution that preserves the integrity of our public open spaces.

Sincerely,



References.

1, Paul Foreman, Blue Devil Consulting, *Vegetation and flora assessment of land at 2–6 Kerr Street, Wedderburn.*

2, Planning Overlays, [https://www.land.vic.gov.au/maps-and-spatial/first-time-here/property-and-parcel search](https://www.land.vic.gov.au/maps-and-spatial/first-time-here/property-and-parcel-search).

3.1 Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988, Amended 2022. <https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/acts/flora-and-fauna-guarantee-act-1988/048>.

3.2 Native vegetation removal regulation, <https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation/native-vegetation-removal-regulations>.

3.3 Planning and Environment Act, Victoria (2023) <https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/acts/planning-and-environment-act-1987/155>

[REDACTED]
Wedderburn 3518

Attention CEO, Shire Councilors
Loddon Shire Council

Once again I write to you as an active member of Holy Trinity Anglican Church Wedderburn. It is very distressing for me to see this gifted piece of land from this church in 1973 is advertised for sale again. It was gifted with conditions, never to be used for commercial gains so was most disappointing to see this land advertised for sale. Our church is still in operation and we feel the conditions which this land was gifted should be carried out by Loddon Shire Council.

Yours sincerely
[REDACTED]



7 August 2018

Phil Pinyon
CEO
Loddon Shire Council
PO Box 21
WEDDERBURN VIC 3518

Dear Phil

Re: Vacant Land – 2–6 Kerr Street

I am writing formally to advise you of the position of the Anglican Diocese of Bendigo in relation to the vacant land at 2-6 Kerr Street, Wedderburn following a meeting at the Loddon Shire Council offices in Wedderburn with representatives from the Council and local church, and consultation with the local Parish Council.

The Diocesan Executive Committee met on 6 August 2018 and were of the view that the land should be retained by the Loddon Shire Council until the Council's "Settlement Strategy" and "Open Space Strategy" reviews are complete so that these parcels of land are included in the discussion with the community.

It is hoped through the Council's strategic review of its land and spaces, and with input from the Wedderburn community, a suitable purpose for the vacant land at Kerr Street can be identified.

I look forward to seeing the outcome of these reviews and want to also acknowledge the cooperation and communication from the Loddon Shire Council in working through this historic matter.

Please don't hesitate to be in contact with me if you would like to discuss this further.

Kind regards

Naomi Fountain
Registrar/General Manager

Bendigo Diocesan Trusts Corporation • ABN 83 137 849 135
PO Box 2 • 4 Myers Street Bendigo VIC 3552 • P 03 5443 4711 • F 03 5441 2173 • E reception@bendigoanglican.org.au

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 29 February 2024 7:31 AM
To: Loddon Shire Executive <executive@loddon.vic.gov.au>
Cc: Cr Gavan Holt <gholt@loddon.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Vegetation and Flora report

Further information that was undertaken regarding significance of Kerr street.
Land being proposed for sale by Council for development.
Totally morally wrong, this piece of land was gifted by the Church for the community and reflection space.
What part of this agreement do you not understand.
Requesting a formal meeting with Loddon Council, as many others will be, regarding this ridiculous grab of land for Council profit without any concern for the original terms of the gift.

[REDACTED]
Wedderburn. Victoria 3518

[REDACTED]
Get [Outlook for Android](#)



Blue Devil Consulting
8 Templeton Street
PO Box 683, Castlemaine VIC 3450
www.bluedevilconsulting.com.au
paul@bluedevilconsulting.com.au
Mb: 0429 009 743

Feb. 12, 2024

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

RE: Vegetation and flora assessment of land at 2–6 Kerr Street, Wedderburn

Introduction

The purpose of this letter is to follow up the February 9, 2024 site visit with a brief written summary of my observations and opinions about the ecological values and significance of the remnant vegetation present on the land at 2–6 Kerr Street, Wedderburn.

The land in question comprises three parcels (2\LP221972, 1\TP161455, 2\TP161455, Parish of Wedderburn, Shire of Loddon), adjoining the Holy Trinity Anglican Church, with a combined area of 0.523 hectares. The land is zoned Township Zone (TZ) and is partially subject to a Heritage Overlay (HO241), and although the area is designated as a Bushfire Prone Area, it is not subject to a Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO) (<https://www.land.vic.gov.au/maps-and-spatial/first-time-here/property-and-parcel-search>).

It is understood that the land was originally owned by the Anglican Church and donated to the Shire in 1973 under the understanding that it be managed as township Public Open Space for the benefit of the local community. Since then the land has been treated as an informal 'reserve' and mostly managed for fuel reduction with apparently periodic slashing. It is one of the few blocks close to the middle of town still supporting remnant trees and indigenous vegetation and is valued by local residents for its natural values and visual amenity. The project brief is to undertake a field survey to document the site's current indigenous vegetation, floristic and habitat values.

Methods

Field survey was conducted on Friday February 9, 2024 and involved systematic assessment of vegetation richness and composition across the site, observations about the largest canopy trees, selected photographs and a species list from a nearby roadside reference site (at the CNR of Calder Highway and the Wedderburn to Wedderburn junction road). All plant taxonomy follows the Flora of Victoria online.



While the species lists are thorough, additions could be made with further searching, especially in different years and seasons. (Note: survey outside spring means the smaller annual and herbaceous species such as lilies, orchids and other wildflowers would be hard to detect).

All spatial information was entered into ArcGIS and relevant background spatial coverages (hydro, contours, geology, 10 m DTM, Pre-1750 Ecological Vegetation Classes or EVCs etc.) were sourced from www.data.vic.gov.au. Historic plant records for the region were sourced from the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA).

Results – Flora composition

The flora recorded during the field assessment of the Kerr Street site totalled 77 vascular plant species comprising 38 exotic taxa and 39 indigenous or native taxa. The lifeforms ranged from trees and shrubs, to perennial and annual forbs, epiphytes, grasses (and grass allies) and vines/scramblers. This should not be considered a comprehensive list for the site as it is likely additional species would be recorded with further searching, especially in spring. (Combined with the reference site, the flora jumped to 96 comprising 41 exotic taxa and 55 indigenous or native taxa, including one listed as critically endangered under the FFG Act 1988; Hairy Tails *Ptilotus erubescens*). No significant state or nationally listed species were recorded from the Kerr Street site.

A quick search on the ALA also revealed early herbarium voucher specimens apparently collected in the mid 1960's on or near the Kerr Street site by botanists from the National Herbarium in Melbourne. Virtually all of these vouchers are species often associated with grassy woodlands viz: Prickly Woodruff (*Asperula scoparia* subsp. *scoparia*), Lemon Beauty-heads (*Calocephalus citreus*), Common Everlasting (*Chrysocephalum apiculatum*), Annual Everlasting (*Chrysocephalum vitellinum*) and Scarlet Mint-bush (*Prostanthera aspalathoides*).

Results – Vegetation patterns

According to the Statewide EVC coverage, the site comprises a single Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs), namely: Sandstone Ridge Shrubland (EVC 093). The benchmark describes this EVC (for the Goldfields sub-region) as: "Low open mallee to 3 m tall typically with a tall shrubby understorey, or shrubland with scattered emergent mallees. A good field character for this EVC is the dominance or co-dominance of the tall shrub *Melaleuca uncinata* in shrubland or as an understorey shrub in Mallee vegetation. Confined to the crests of outcropping Parilla sandstone ridges and also where these ridges are at least partially obscured by a shallow mantle of Lowan sand." However, this is clearly erroneous as not only does that site have a woodland canopy dominated by Waxy Yellow-gum (*Eucalyptus leucoxylon* subsp. *pruinosa*) and Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) over a ground layer of herb and grass-rich vegetation, the site is located a low toe-slope of sedimentary rocks widespread in the Goldfields sub-bioregion, close to the margin of the valley bottom alluvium associated with Nardoo Creek, which runs through the middle of town (and eventually through to the Loddon River near Kinypanial).

This alluvial system is predominantly mapped as Grassy Woodland/Alluvial Terraces Herb-rich Woodland Mosaic (EVC 076) with the riparian zone right at the bottom of the valley dominated by a strip of Creepline Grassy Woodland (EVC 068). Often the grassy woodland component of this mosaic unit in this part of the Goldfields is Low Rises Grassy Woodland (EVC 175_61) described as "A variable open eucalypt woodland to 15 m tall over a diverse ground layer of grasses and herbs. The shrub component is usually diverse but sparse in cover. In the Goldfields bioregion, Grassy Woodland occurs on sedimentary soils on the lowest slopes at the interface between the plains and the infertile woodlands of the sedimentary hills."



EVCs are notoriously unreliable and often do not accurately reflect the nature and extent of vegetation patterns at the site level and this case is no exception. Consultant botanists and other experts routinely need to adjust and update the EVC coverage (and benchmarks) to better reflect the actual nature and condition of specific sites/properties. Clearly the species composition of the site, as well as its dominant species, vegetation structure and position in the landscape, best matches Low Rises Grassy Woodland (EVC 175_61) and not Sandstone Ridge Shrubland (EVC 093).

A key feature of Low Rises Grassy Woodland is the dominance of the two eucalypts already mentioned, the sparse shrub cover (e.g. Gold-dust Wattle *Acacia acinacea* s.l. Golden Wattle *Acacia pycnantha* and Lightwood *Acacia implexa*), a ground layer rich in native tussock grasses (esp. Wallaby Grasses *Rytidosperma* spp., Spear Grasses *Austrostipa* spp.; 14 grasses and grass-like species were recorded at the Kerr Street site), a similar variety of indigenous forbs or wildflowers (e.g. Clustered Everlasting *Chrysocephalum semipapposum*, Shade Wood-sorrel *Oxalis perennans*, Variable Sida *Sida corrugata*, Fuzzy New Holland Daisy *Vittadinia cuneata* var. *cuneata*). Other characteristic features include the prevalence of saltbushes or chenopods (e.g. Berry Saltbush *Atriplex semibaccata*, Nodding Saltbush *Einadia nutans*, Wingless Bluebush *Maireana enchylaenoides*, Ruby Saltbush *Enchylaena tomentosa* var. *tomentosa*, Black Cotton-bush *Maireana decalvans* s.l.) as well as the presence of the distinctive cane-like Spear Grass, Feather Spear-grass (*Austrostipa elegantissima*) which was found at the reference site and could well have originally been present at the Kerr Street site.

Detracting from the remnant indigenous value of the Kerr Street site is the presence of a large number of exotic species – 38 in total (including forbs, tussock grasses and some shrubs and vines). While most of these weeds are relatively scattered and patchy/sparse across the site, one species (*Gazania linearis*) has seriously infested the area and today clearly dominates the ground layer more or less throughout. It is likely this species has been actively spread by frequent slashing, combined with a lack of weed control.

According to the Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST; an online tool for identifying prospective Matters of National Environmental Significance – for a particular site/area – under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation or EPBC Act 1999), the Kerr Street site is likely to support one or both of the following ecological communities (EC): 'Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia' (Endangered; referred to here as 'Inland Grey Box') or White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland (Critically Endangered; referred to here as 'Box Gum Woodland'). The Listing Advice associated with Inland Grey Box EC specifically lists Low Rises Grassy Woodland (EVC 175_61) as one of the EVCs that corresponds with the Inland Grey Box EC.

In applying the Key diagnostic characteristics and condition thresholds, the remnant at Kerr Street technically falls short of the definition primarily because of its modest size and the abundance of *Gazania* – which has effectively displaced the natives. It is beyond the scope of this letter to provide the detailed technical explanation for this preliminary determination. However, with appropriate management – especially weed control and the reintroduction of native grasses, forbs and shrubs using simple restoration methods – it would be possible to significantly restore the condition of this important patch of remnant vegetation.



Large Old Trees

According to the benchmark for this EVC, Large Old Trees are classed as any canopy species with a Diameter at Breast Height (Over Bark) (DBHOB) of ≥ 70 cm (Table 1). A total of six trees (mostly Yellow Gum) were identified as exceeding this threshold – with one tree to 114 cm. It is estimated that these larger individuals could be in the order of 300 years old (ranging 220–475; DNRE 1998) and thus likely predate the Goldrush and the arrival of Europeans. Today such Large Old Trees often support numerous hollows that provides potential habitat for a wide range of wildlife including invertebrates, microbats, mammals, birds, reptiles and even amphibians. Possible threatened species that may use the increasingly rare habitat provided Large Old Trees include: declining woodland birds like Black-chinned Honeyeater, Brown Treecreeper, Diamond Firetail and Hooded Robin, plus reptiles like Bearded Dragon and Lace Goanna.

Table 1: Remnant Large Old Trees found on the Kerr Street site

| No. | Species | Circ (cm) | DBHOB (cm) | Comments |
|-----|---------|-----------|------------|---------------------|
| 1 | YG | 356 | 113.3 | Rough base |
| 2 | YG | 266 | 84.7 | Clean base |
| 3 | YG | 350 | 111.4 | Slightly rough base |
| 4 | YG | 279 | 88.8 | N/A |
| 5 | GB | 358 | 114.0 | On boundary |
| 6 | YG | 275 | 87.5 | Snd stem dead |

Conclusion

The Kerr Street site still supports a diversity of indigenous plants, including a number of Large Old Trees that probably pre-date European arrival and provide important habitat for a range of wildlife potentially including threatened species. Although seriously infested with the weed *Gazania*, the understorey and ground layer support numerous native tussock grasses, saltbushes and some other shrubs and wildflowers, although further assessment in spring would likely pick up additional species.

Based on a reassessment of the Statewide EVC mapping, it was determined that the EVC present at the site is likely a form of grassy woodland (Low Rises Grassy Woodland; EVC 175_61) that has undergone significant decline historically and is considered vulnerable in the Goldfields sub-bioregion. This EVC is also considered part of an Ecological Community listed as Endangered under the EPBC Act 1998, although the remnant is unlikely to meet all the formal condition thresholds specified under the Listing Advice.



Never the less the vegetation present has conservation value and could be improved/restored with appropriate management including weed control and understorey species reintroductions, provided it is retained as a public open space reserve.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Foreman, Senior Ecologist and Botanist, Blue Devil Consulting

References

DNRE (1998). Box Ironbark Timber Assessment Project. Bendigo Forest Management Area and Pyrenees Ranges. Forests Service Technical Report 98-3. Department of Natural Resources and Environment, East Melbourne.

TSSC (2010). Commonwealth Listing Advice on Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia. Threatened Species Scientific Committee Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. Canberra, ACT: Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. In effect under the EPBC Act from 01-Apr-2010. Available from: <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/communities/pubs/86-listing-advice.pdf>



Appendix 1: Selected images



Image 1: Shot of the Kerr Street site showing open woodland structure dominated by Yellow Gum (and elsewhere Grey Box) and a ground layer of scattered shrubs such as Gold Dust Wattle and the invasive weed Gazania – which is apparently periodically slashed



Image 2: Close up of the numerous areas of remnant shrub regrowth – in this case Gold Dust Wattle.



Image 3: Despite the high abundance of the invasive weed Gazania, the site still supports numerous native plants on the ground including numerous tussock grasses like this Copper-awned Wallaby-grass. A number of saltbushes are also common at the site



Image 4: Shot of a nearby roadside reference site showing a less weedy example of Low Rises Grassy Woodland (EVC 175_61).



Appendix 2: Site flora

| ORIGIN | COMMON_NAME | SCIENTIFIC_NAME | Lifeform | Chenopod | FREQ | Kerr St | Ref. Site | FFG | EPBC | VROT |
|--------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------|----------|------|---------|-----------|-----|------|------|
| * | Cootamundra Wattle | Acacia baileyana | Shrub | | 1 | P | | | | |
| * | Celery | Apium graveolens | Forb | | 1 | P | | | | |
| * | Bridal Creeper | Asparagus asparagoides | Vine | | 1 | P | | | | |
| * | Bearded Oat | Avena barbata | TG | | 2 | P | P | | | |
| * | Wild Oat | Avena fatua | TG | | 1 | P | | | | |
| * | Great Brome | Bromus diandrus | TG | | 2 | P | P | | | |
| * | Couch | Cynodon dactylon var. dactylon | TG | | 1 | P | | | | |
| * | Barneyard Grass | Echinochloa crus-galli | TG | | 1 | P | | | | |
| * | Panic Veldt-grass | Ehrharta erecta | TG | | 1 | P | | | | |
| * | Annual Veldt-grass | Ehrharta longiflora | TG | | 2 | P | P | | | |
| * | Stink Grass | Eragrostis cilianensis | TG | | 1 | P | | | | |
| * | Big Heron's-bill | Erodium botrys | Forb | | 1 | P | | | | |
| * | Cleavers | Galium aparine | Vine | | 1 | P | | | | |
| * | Gazania | Gazania linearis | Forb | | 2 | P | P | | | |
| * | Common Heliotrope | Heliotropium europaeum | Forb | | 1 | P | | | | |
| * | Barley Grass | Hordeum marinum | TG | | 1 | P | | | | |
| * | Flatweed | Hypochaeris radicata | Forb | | 2 | P | P | | | |
| * | Prickly Lettuce | Lactuca serriola | Forb | | 1 | P | | | | |
| * | Common Peppergrass | Lepidium africanum | Forb | | 2 | P | P | | | |
| * | Notch-leaf Sea-lavender | Limonium sinuatum | Forb | | 1 | P | | | | |
| * | Wimmera Rye-grass | Lolium rigidum | TG | | 2 | P | P | | | |
| * | African Box-thorn | Lycium ferocissimum | Shrub | | 2 | P | P | | | |
| * | Small-flower Mallow | Malva parviflora | Forb | | 1 | P | | | | |
| * | Horehound | Marrubium vulgare | Shrub | | 1 | | P | | | |
| * | Thread Iris | Moraea setifolia | TG | | 1 | P | | | | |
| * | Wheel Cactus | Opuntia robusta | Shrub | | 1 | | P | | | |
| * | Witch Panic | Panicum hillmanii | TG | | 1 | P | | | | |
| * | Paspalum | Paspalum dilatatum | TG | | 1 | P | | | | |
| * | Buck's-horn Plantain | Plantago coronopus | Forb | | 1 | P | | | | |
| * | Ribwort | Plantago lanceolata | Forb | | 2 | P | P | | | |
| * | Bulbous Meadow-grass | Poa bulbosa | TG | | 2 | P | P | | | |
| * | Prostrate Knotweed | Polygonum aviculare s.l. | Forb | | 1 | P | | | | |
| * | Curled Dock | Rumex crispus | Forb | | 1 | P | | | | |
| * | Wild Sage | Salvia verbenaca | Forb | | 1 | | P | | | |
| * | Common Sow-thistle | Sonchus oleraceus | Forb | | 2 | P | P | | | |
| * | Desmazeria | Tribolium acutiflorum s.l. | TG | | 1 | P | | | | |
| * | Narrow-leaf Clover | Trifolium angustifolium var. angustifolium | Forb | | 1 | P | | | | |
| * | Hare's-foot Clover | Trifolium arvense var. arvense | Forb | | 1 | P | | | | |
| * | Cluster Clover | Trifolium glomeratum | Forb | | 1 | P | | | | |
| * | Wall Fescue | Vulpia muralis | TG | | 1 | P | | | | |
| * | Rat's-tail Fescue | Vulpia myuros | TG | | 1 | P | | | | |
| | Gold-dust Wattle | Acacia acinacea s.l. | Shrub | | 2 | P | P | | | |
| | Lightwood | Acacia implexa | Tree | | 1 | P | | | | |
| | Black Wattle | Acacia mearnsii (planted?) | Tree | | 1 | P | | | | |
| | Golden Wattle | Acacia pycnantha | Shrub | | 1 | P | | | | |
| | Sheep's Burr | Acaena echinata | Forb | | 1 | | P | | | |
| | Box Mistletoe | Amyema miquelii | Epi | | 1 | P | | | | |
| | Common Wheat-grass | Anthosachne scabra s.l. | TG | | 1 | | P | | | |
| | Brush Wire-grass | Aristida behriana | TG | | 1 | | P | | | |
| | Berry Saltbush | Atriplex semibaccata | Forb | Y | 2 | P | P | | | |
| | Crested Spear-grass | Austrostipa blackii | TG | | 2 | P | P | | | |
| | Feather Spear-grass | Austrostipa elegantissima | OG | | 1 | | P | | | |
| | Spurred Spear-grass | Austrostipa gibbosa | TG | | 2 | P | P | | | |
| | Knotty Spear-grass | Austrostipa nodosa | TG | | 2 | P | P | | | |



| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | Rough Spear-grass | <i>Austrostipa scabra</i> | TG | 2 | P | P | | | |
| | Sweet Bursaria | <i>Bursaria spinosa</i> subsp. <i>spinosa</i> | Shrub | 1 | | P | | | |
| # | Drooping Cassinia | <i>Cassinia sifton</i> | Shrub | 1 | | P | | | |
| | Windmill Grass | <i>Chloris truncata</i> | TG | 2 | P | P | | | |
| | Clustered Everlasting | <i>Chrysocephalum semipapposum</i> | Forb | 1 | P | | | | |
| | Blushing Bindweed | <i>Convolvulus angustissimus</i> | Vine | 1 | P | | | | |
| | Black-anther Flax-lily | <i>Dianella revoluta</i> s.l. | TG | 2 | P | P | | | |
| # | Clammy Goosefoot | <i>Dysphania pumilio</i> | Forb | 2 | P | P | | | |
| | Saloop | <i>Einadia hastata</i> | Forb | Y 1 | P | | | | |
| | Nodding Saltbush | <i>Einadia nutans</i> | Forb | Y 2 | P | P | | | |
| | Ruby Saltbush | <i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i> var. <i>tomentosa</i> | Shrub | Y 2 | P | P | | | |
| | Spider Grass | <i>Enteropogon acicularis</i> | TG | 2 | P | P | | | |
| # | Early Spring-grass | <i>Eriochloa pseudoacrotricha</i> | TG | 1 | P | | | | |
| | Waxy Yellow-gum | <i>Eucalyptus leucoxylon</i> subsp. <i>pruinosa</i> | Tree | 1 | P | | | | |
| | Grey Box | <i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i> | Tree | 2 | P | P | | | |
| # | Flat Spurge | <i>Euphorbia dallachyana</i> | Forb | 1 | P | | | | |
| | Hoary Rush | <i>Juncus radula</i> | TG | 1 | | P | | | |
| | Wattle Mat-rush | <i>Lomandra filiformis</i> | TG | 2 | P | P | | | |
| | Dwarf Mat-rush | <i>Lomandra nana</i> | TG | 1 | | P | | | |
| | Short-leaf Bluebush | <i>Maireana brevifolia</i> | Shrub | Y 1 | P | | | | |
| | Black Cotton-bush | <i>Maireana decalvans</i> s.l. | Shrub | Y 1 | P | | | | |
| | Wingless Bluebush | <i>Maireana enchylaenoides</i> | Forb | Y 2 | P | P | | | |
| | Grassland Wood-sorrel | <i>Oxalis perennans</i> | Forb | 2 | P | P | | | |
| | Curved Rice-flower | <i>Pimelea curviflora</i> s.l. | Shrub | 1 | | P | | | |
| | Hairy Tails | <i>Ptilotus erubescens</i> | Forb | 1 | | P | CE | | V |
| | Twiggy Bush-pea | <i>Pultenaea largiflorens</i> | Shrub | 1 | P | | | | |
| # | Hedge Saltbush | <i>Rhagodia spinescens</i> (planted?) | Shrub | Y 1 | P | | | | |
| | Common Wallaby-grass | <i>Rytidosperma caespitosum</i> | TG | 2 | P | P | | | |
| | Hill Wallaby-grass | <i>Rytidosperma erianthum</i> | TG | 1 | | P | | | |
| | Copper-awned Wallaby-grass | <i>Rytidosperma fulvum</i> | TG | 2 | P | P | | | |
| | Velvet Wallaby-grass | <i>Rytidosperma pilosum</i> | TG | 1 | P | | | | |
| | Slender Wallaby-grass | <i>Rytidosperma racemosum</i> var. <i>racemosum</i> | TG | 1 | P | | | | |
| | Bristly Wallaby-grass | <i>Rytidosperma setaceum</i> | TG | 2 | P | P | | | |
| | Cotton Fireweed | <i>Senecio quadridentatus</i> | Forb | 1 | | P | | | |
| | Variable Sida | <i>Sida corrugata</i> | Forb | 2 | P | P | | | |
| # | Salt Sea-spurrey | <i>Spergularia brevifolia</i> | Forb | 1 | P | | | | |
| | Kangaroo Grass | <i>Themeda triandra</i> | TG | 1 | | P | | | |
| # | Caltrop | <i>Tribulus terrestris</i> | Forb | 1 | P | | | | |
| | Yellow Rush-lily | <i>Tricoryne elatior</i> | Forb | 1 | | P | | | |
| | Fuzzy New Holland Daisy | <i>Vittadinia cuneata</i> var. <i>cuneata</i> | Forb | 2 | P | P | | | |
| | Woolly New Holland Daisy | <i>Vittadinia gracilis</i> | Forb | 1 | | P | | | |
| | Shiny Everlasting | <i>Xerochrysum viscosum</i> | Forb | 1 | | P | | | |
| 48 | | | | 96 | 77 | 51 | 1 | 0 | 1 |

Viridis Eco



Tree Report

**2-6 Kerr Street
Wedderburn**

Author; Peter Goegan

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- Aerial Map of Site
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References:

P. Foreman, Blue Devil Consulting, 2024, *Vegetation and flora assessment of land at 2–6 Kerr Street*.
Australian Standards 4373—2007 *Pruning of Amenity Trees*
Australian Standard, *Protection of Trees on Development Sites* (AS4970 2009)
Victorian Government, *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Amendment Act 2019*
Victorian Government, *The Wildlife Act 1975*, (Section VII)

Introduction.

Viridis Eco was engaged by local residents to provide an Arboricultural Impact Assessment for trees which have the potential to be adversely affected by a proposed sale of public land by the Loddon Shire at 2-6 Kerr Street, Wedderburn.

Retention and proper management of vegetated urban open space has many environmental, aesthetic and sociological benefits.

Urban passive open space with native vegetation adds value to nearby properties and promotes the habitation, food and visitation of many native animal species.

Retaining existing urban vegetation is important in maintaining a high standard of urban living and to combat the effects of climate change and urban heat island effect.

This report should be read in conjunction with; ***Vegetation and flora assessment of land at 2–6 Kerr Street, P. Foreman Blue Devil Consulting, 2024.***

1. Key Objectives

The key objectives of the report are to:

1. Identify and assess the current state of all trees (over 3m in height) that have the potential to be impacted by the proposed sale and future development;
2. Determine the habitat value of trees and extent of arboreal habitation in the site.
3. Determine appropriate protection measures for all trees assessed.
4. Identify required remedial works on assessed trees (if any); and
5. Recommend management strategies for the trees to ensure they remain safe viable and functional for as long as possible.

2. Documents and Information Provided

Maps of the property was provided including photos detailing the local planning requirements on the identified site.

Nearby residents were contacted and historical documents were sighted alluding to the gifting of the site to the now Loddon Shire.

3. Methodology

The assessment consisted of Visual Tree Assessments, (VTA) taken from ground level to determine the health, structure and amenity value of trees over 3m in height.

1. All measurements were taken to ascertain tree height, canopy spread and trunk diameter.
2. Observations, numbers of habitable hollows and photos were taken to determine arboreal habitation.
3. SULE was used to develop a time frame for the longevity of the subject trees.

4. Site Visit and Observations

The author who has extensive experience and a degree in Urban Tree Management, carried out a site visit on 14 February 2024. All of his observations were from ground level and using camera with telescopic lens.

The weather at the time of the inspection was clear with good visibility.

For the purpose of this report, only 9 mature trees with high environmental and habitat value have been described in detail. The remaining 13 trees vary from 3 metres to 6 metres in height, are in good condition and age range is between 5 to 30 years. These young and semi mature trees are an important asset for the future usage and functionality of this location.

5. Site Description

The subject site at 2-6 Kerr Street, Wedderburn, is located on the north side of Kerr Street at the intersection of Ridge Street.

The site is vacant public open space land of approximately 0.6 hectares in size.

The site as it stands is an attractive backdrop to the historic, Holy Trinity, Anglican Church.

Historical records and research show that the property was gifted to the Loddon Shire in 1973 by the Anglican Diocese under the understanding that it was to be used as a contemplative passive open space in keeping with the theme and the aesthetics of the historic Anglican Church which occupies the eastern boundary of the site. The site is moderately vegetated, mainly with mature and semi mature *Eucalyptus* species consisting entirely of two species of trees, *Eucalyptus leucoxylon var. pruinosus* (Yellow Gum) and *Eucalyptus microcarpa*. (Grey Box) which are endemic to the area.

The surrounding properties have retained several examples of the above-mentioned species.

6. Subject Trees and Significance

Twenty-Two (22) trees were assessed as part of the tree assessment on the subject site.

Nine trees, have been identified of high habitat or potential habitat value. (Refer to Site Map)

Six mature trees were assessed as having active arboreal habitation with approximately 50 sites suitable for a range of animals consisting of birds, reptiles and mammals. Tree 1, is approximately 250 years old and has 20 arboreal hollows, with many of them being active at the time of inspection. Observations by the author of this report at the time of the inspection, noted that the trees were inhabited by several species of birds including, but not limited to the following;

Purple Crowned Lorikeet, (*Parvipsitta porphyrocephala*) White Cheeked Eastern Rosella, (*Platycercus eximius*) Striated Pardalote, (*Pardalotus striatus*) Red Wattle Bird, (*Anthochaera carunculata*) Galahs, (*Eolophus roseicapilla*) Magpies, (*Gymnorhina tibicen*) and Corellas (*Cacatua sanguinea*).

The above list is by no means exhaustive and there is a potential for many other bird species, mammals such as Microbats (*Microchiroptera*) and an assortment of reptiles to use and inhabit these trees. This observation of habitation and visitation of birds was carried out over a period of just two hours which is a relatively short time frame to observe animal activity.

7. Table of Significant Trees

| No. | Genus | Specie | Approx. Age (Yrs.) | Height (Mts) | Width (Mts) | DBH (Mts) | SULE (Yrs.) |
|-----|-------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| 1 | <i>Eucalyptus</i> | <i>leucoxylon subsp. pruinosus</i> | 250 | 12 | 6 | 1.5 | 60 |
| 2 | <i>Eucalyptus</i> | <i>leucoxylon subsp. pruinosus</i> | 50 | 12 | 5 | 0.5 | 100 |
| 3 | <i>Eucalyptus</i> | <i>leucoxylon subsp. pruinosus</i> | 40 | 10 | 5 | 0.4 | 100 |
| 4 | <i>Eucalyptus</i> | <i>leucoxylon subsp. pruinosus</i> | 120 | 22 | 10 | 1.0 | 70 |
| 5 | <i>Eucalyptus</i> | <i>leucoxylon subsp. pruinosus</i> | 50 | 15 | 7 | 0.6 | 100 |
| 6 | <i>Eucalyptus</i> | <i>leucoxylon subsp. pruinosus</i> | 40 | 12 | 5 | 0.5 | 100 |
| 7 | <i>Eucalyptus</i> | <i>leucoxylon subsp. pruinosus</i> | 80 | 20 | 15 | 1.6 | 40 |
| 8 | <i>Eucalyptus</i> | <i>leucoxylon subsp. pruinosus</i> | 70 | 20 | 9 | 0.7 | 90 |
| 9 | <i>Eucalyptus</i> | <i>leucoxylon subsp. pruinosus</i> | 80 | 20 | 12 | 0.7 | 80 |

Legend: SULE = Safe Useful Life Expectancy,
DBH = Diameter at Breast Height

8. Discussion

During most tree assessments, it is normal to find a range of trees at different stages of their life cycles often with varying attributes. Visual Tree Assessment, (VTA) is used as a guide to determine varying characteristics of a particular specimen.

Measurements and observations are taken, and the amount of information gathered will often depend on the scope and timing of the assessment. This information is then used to determine ratings on characteristics such as health, structure, safety and amenity value amongst others.

With the use of VTA and SULE it is possible to establish required remedial works, retention value and long-term viability of individual trees. Specific trees can then be managed to ensure the safety of the site, and to retain the sites significance and natural characteristics.

All trees on the site were considered to be safe and viable at the time of the inspection, due a combination of tree vigour, health and the lack of noticeable targets at the site.

Appropriate strategies will need to be implemented in the near future to properly manage site vegetation. These management strategies are listed in the recommendations.

9. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. **Trees numbered 1 to 9 shown on the site plan are protected due to their outstanding historical, environmental, habitat value and age. (Ref; Aerial Map of Site)**
2. **The Loddon Shire undertakes the systematic removal of weed species such as *Gazania* on the site to promote the growth of indigenous species as recommended in vegetation report. (Foreman 2024)**
3. **Guidelines for Tree Protection Zones as described in Australian Standard, *Protection of Trees on Development Sites (AS4970 2009)* to be adhered to at all times to ensure tree protection public safety.**
4. **Native plants on the site should be protected and encouraged to thrive. Slashing should be undertaken for fire prevention only and done in a timely manner to encourage the survival of native plants and the recruitment of indigenous trees.**
5. **Any disturbance works or dumping of materials on the site should cease immediately, and signs be erected to advise of the above.**
6. **Any pruning works (e.g. canopy reduction) should be done by a qualified arborist in**
7. **accordance with AS4373 – Pruning of Amenity Trees.**
8. **Install Tree Protection Zone fencing to Australian Standards (if required) prior to any works undertaken on the site, particularly adjacent to the significant trees.**
9. **Minor deadwooding of mature trees that does not compromise or reduce animal habitat should be undertaken by experienced and qualified personnel.**

10. Conclusion

Trees within the site comprises of two indigenous species of eucalypt varying in age, size and condition, none are considered immediately dangerous.

The existing trees provide screening, aesthetics, recreational space, wildlife habitat that have community health and wellbeing benefits.

Any damage or clearing of the native vegetation on the site would also have a highly detrimental effect on the biological and zoological values of the site and devalue properties in the surrounding areas.

Due to the location of the significant trees, it is highly unlikely that the site can be sold for residential development without the majority of the old growth trees and habitat trees being removed or adversely affected. Mature Eucalypt trees are highly susceptible to root damage and disturbance.

Furthermore, it is highly likely that the removal and or destruction of trees and wildlife habitat would be in contravention to Victorian State Legislation, including but not limited to the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act and the Wildlife Protection Act.

The Loddon Shire is legally obligated to adhere and fulfil specific legislative responsibilities.



Aerial Map of Site



Photo 1. Reserve as seen from Kerr Street



Photo 2. Historic Holy Trinity, Anglican Church



One of the numerous tree hollows



300-year-old tree with multiple hollows



One of the local residents



Church as seen from park.



One of the majestic old growth trees, 100 + yrs.



Old but healthy and vigorous

10.2 12-14 ALLEN STREET, KORONG VALE - INTENTION TO SELL

File Number: FOL/19/144306

Author: Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer

Authoriser: Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer

- Attachments:**
- 1. Objection 1, 12-14 Allen Street**
 - 2. Objection 2, 12-14 Allen Street**
 - 3. Korong Vale and District Community Citizens Centre management agreement of hand over to Loddon Shire Council**
 - 4. Valuation report - 12-14 Allen Street Korong Vale - Confidential**

This attachment is designated as confidential in accordance with Section 3(1)(a) and (g(ii)) of the *Local Government Act 2020*. It contains Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released; AND private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

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. **(under separate cover)**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. Sell 12-14 Allen Street, Korong Vale, within 10% of the independent valuation price as attached to this report, and
2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to undertake the necessary administrative actions to complete the sale.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

At the Council meeting of 23 February 2021 Council resolved to sell the property at 12-14 Allen Street, Korong Vale as it was considered to be surplus. At that time the proposed sale was publicly advertised in accordance with section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* with no objections received. The property has not been sold and as such it remains on the surplus property list for disposal.

Properties identified as being surplus to Council and community needs were discussed at the September 2023 Council Forum and the January 2024 Council Briefing, this property was included in those reports/discussions.

At the Council meeting of 23 January 2024 Council resolved to sell additional properties. As part of the land disposal process outlined in the *Local Government Act 2020*, these properties were advertised and submissions requested. Allen Street was included as one of the properties proposed for sale.

Councillors discussed the property at the April Council Forum. The objector who requested to present their submission was invited to present at the briefing session held prior to the Council meeting.

BACKGROUND

The building located on the property of 12-14 Allen Street Korong Vale was formerly used as a Community Health Centre by Inglewood and District Health Service (IDHS) for planned activity group sessions for seniors one day per week until the building was closed due to COVID-19 in March 2020. IDHS were contacted to discuss alternative venues for the holding of the activity group, and the session was moved to the Korong Vale Town Hall when it resumed.

It is usual practice for Councils to review the property stock and consider the need to purchase or dispose of properties to best serve the community. Consideration is taken into if the land/building does not or will not support, facilitate or contribute to current or future service delivery outcomes as identified.

Identification of properties as surplus is based on the following:

- lack of any significant identifiable and demonstrable community need
- if the asset is surplus to the needs of Council
- have no strategic value to Council on a long term basis
- ongoing cost to maintain the asset or the service provided by the asset
- any cultural or historical significance of the asset
- site location only being suitable for consolidation of titles with a neighbouring property.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Korong Vale have recently reinstated a community planning committee, with the group discussing priorities for action within the township. One of the items discussed is the reinstatement of the building located on this parcel of land, for community purpose.

Korong Vale currently have two community asset committees, delegated to support the management of assets within the township, those being:

- Korong Vale Sports Centre - to administer, manage and control the facility known as Korong Vale Sports Centre.
- Korong Vale Mechanics Hall - to administer, manage and control the facility known as the Korong Vale Mechanics Hall.

The Korong Vale Mechanics Hall, has recently undergone major repair, works including, wall cladding, painting and a new roof.

If this property, and building, were to be retained, a community asset would be required to be formed by resolution of Council to manage the asset. Responsibilities of Community Asset Committees, as set out in the Community Asset Committee Policy are:

- fulfilling any roles, responsibilities and functions as required by Council and as set out in the Instrument of Delegation and the Governance Manual
- managing these roles, responsibilities and functions, subject to Council's policy and direction and in accordance with the Act, the Instrument of Delegation and the Governance Manual
- carrying out the management, general operations and regulating the usage of the facility
- facilitating patronage, accepting bookings for the facility subject to Council's policy and direction
- managing risks associated with the operation of the facility in accordance with Council's policy and developing and reviewing the facilities where required
- raising funds, where required, to provide for the ongoing management, operation and purpose of the committee including, maintenance of the facility in accordance with the Building Asset Management Plan

- providing an Annual Report to the CEO in a format approved by the CEO
- advising Council immediately of fraud or suspected fraud
- reviewing and minuting the receipt of the Council policies at a committee meeting.

COST/BENEFITS

The Former Korong Vale and District Community Citizens Centre Committee of Management in its signed agreement of 2020, requested that Council treat the proceeds of any sale of the Centre and its land to the benefit of the Wedderburn Aged Care Facility project. Funds from the sale of land and buildings reserve would generally be held in reserve for use toward future purchase or development of Council land and buildings, for example residential housing development or industrial land.

Council agreed to this request as a part of the resolution in 2020, that profits from the sale proceeds would be held in reserve to be used for contribution to a Wedderburn Aged Care Facility project, if the project was permitted for building commencement prior to 30 June 2024. Officers considered that it was important that a date be stated to provide guidance as to how long the funds would be held in reserve, enabling adequate time for feasibility, planning and permit stages prior to funds be required for project contribution. It was noted that, if the funds remained in reserve after the date, they would then be available for use by Council as guided by the Financial Reserve Policy.

All aspects of the building would require basic repair and/or updating if use of the building was to be reinstated by a Community Planning Committee or Council, such as painting, floor covering, undercover area and external cladding replacement.

Council is currently paying Fire Services Levy on this property; sale would be a benefit to Council in eliminating this ongoing cost. Council's townscapes team also maintain the landscape at this site.

Council has building assets with a replacement value of just over \$60 million as part of an asset base valued in the order of \$530 million. Council has insufficient income to meet the renewal of these assets and it is therefore important that Council maximises use of assets and minimises costs. Given the service level needs for Korong Vale can be met this facility is considered surplus and it is financially responsible to dispose of the asset.

Costs to-date have included valuation, advertising, and legal fees in 2021 and advertising in 2024. Costs are taken from the Land and Buildings Reserve.

There is a general economic development benefit to Council in offering a property for sale.

RISK ANALYSIS

The sale of the property is pertaining to be a reputational risk from statements being shared by community members through social media and the local press.

The unused building holds a risk of public liability.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Prior to Council resolving to sell the property in 2021, IDHS were contacted to inform them of Councils intention to sell and to discuss options available for the continuance of their program that they had previously run in the building. The Committee of Management confirmed cessation of its control of the building.

Following the January briefing properties were advertised with the intention to sell. As a long period had lapsed from the initial advertisement of intention to sell, this property was again publicly advertised for intent to sell as per the current community engagement steps in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, and unlike 2017 the neighbouring land holders for this particular property were notified of the intention.

During the intention to sell period two objections were received as attached.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 February 2024 3:19 PM
To: Loddon Shire Executive
Subject: Korong Vale Community Building

To Christine Coombes and Or CEO, This Email Outlines the Objection of the Sale of the Korong Vale Community Citizens Building by Loddon Shire. As it has been noted the Property in Question is being held in Trust and as a Trust with the Shire been listed as Owners/Trustees, And the Korong Vale Community as being Beneficiaries. The Property is on Donated Land to the Community with Building and Works Funded by the Community. I Advise that Any Future Sale of the Property at 12-14 Allen St Korong Vale that the proceeds of such a sale need to be distributed back to the Community as Beneficiaries Or the Property handed back to the Korong Vale Community as Owners for Future Use Outlined by the Korong Vale Planning Committee. On Behalf of the Korong Vale Planning Committee and Myself as Chairman we request a meeting with the Shire to discuss the future of the Korong Vale Community Citizens building at a Date to be Affixed by the Shire. Your Response will be highly regarded and wish to hear from you at the Earliest Convenience Regards [REDACTED] (Chairman of Korong Vale Planning Committee) [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Intention to sell land

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Thu, Feb 1, 2024 at 4:33 PM
Subject: Intention to sell land
To: <executive@loddon.vic.gov>

Dear sir madam

I am writing by way of submission in relation to the "Intention to sell land" article Loddon Herald Feb 1 2024.

12-14 Allan Street, Korong Vale formally the Korong Vale Senior Citizens Centre.

Korong Vale has recently reinstated a Planning Committee under the guidance of Martin Mark. This Committee has been recognised by the council. During November the committee conducted a survey of local residents, under the guidance of Martin Mark in order to create a community plan; the number 1 priority of the community is the reopening of the citizens centre as a community hub. The Korong Vale planning document has not yet been completed and released. A plan to open 12-14 Annal St as a community hub is being formulated and a Tiny Town grant application is being developed as the main funding vehicle.

I would like the executive to consider that the asset 12-14 Allan St Korong Vale does indeed have a council and community purpose.

Correspondence has passed between the secretary of the committee and your community development officer in relation to insurance quotes on 12-14 Allan St.

I personally attended the asset review meeting at the Mechanics Institute. I personally accompanied the facilitator to the street front of the building after informing him of the committee's intentions.

I request the council suspend intention to sell and consider the possibility 12-14 Allan St may have a community purpose.

I request the council consider that the Korong Vale Community Planning Committees community survey identified 12-14 Allan St as its highest priority.

I request the council to consider that Korong Vale has seen an increase in its population from outside the area, mostly from outside the local area, mostly from major centres including Melbourne and that these people need a local focus to build a community identity that is positive and healthy.

I request the council to support the planning committee in its endeavour to revitalise Korong Vale through support for its Tiny Town grant application to open 12-14 Allan St as a community hub; which is due on the 25th of February.

If you need or want any extra information in regard to this submission please don't hesitate to call.

[REDACTED]



Municipal Offices:
41 High Street, Wedderburn, Victoria
PO Box 21, Wedderburn VIC 3518

Telephone: (03) 5494 1200
Facsimile: (03) 5494 3003
National Relay Service: 133 677

Email: loddon@loddon.vic.gov.au
ABN: 90 925 450 534

www.loddon.vic.gov.au

Committee of Management Agreement


I, Graeme Horn, President of the Korong Vale and District Community Citizens Centre, along with the committee of management listed below:

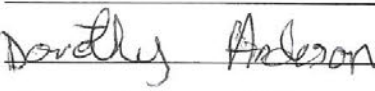
1.1 agree to hand over the management responsibility of the Korong Vale and District Community Citizens Centre to the Loddon Shire Council

1.2 request that Council treat the proceeds of any sale of the Centre and its land to the benefit of the Wedderburn Aged Care Facility project

By signing this, I agree that I have read, understood and will comply with this undertaking.

Signature:  Date: 16.7.20
Print Name: Graeme Horn - President

Signature:  Date: 16.8.20
Print Name: Betty Horn - Secretary

Signature:  Date: 20-7-20
Print Name: Dorothy Anderson - Treasurer

No upcoming Bookings
Current users: I.P.H.S
ELDERLY CITIZENS

10.3 DELEGATION REVIEW - COUNCIL TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

File Number: FOL/19/126337
Author: Lisa Clue, Manager Governance
Authoriser: Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer
Attachments: 1. Instrument of Delegation - Council to the Chief Executive Officer - April 2024

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolves:

1. To delegate to the person holding, acting in or performing the duties of Chief Executive Officer the powers, duties and functions set out in the attached *Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer*, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that instrument.
2. The instrument comes into force immediately when signed by the Chief Executive Officer and Mayor.
3. On the coming into force of the instrument, all previous delegations to the Chief Executive Officer are revoked.
4. The duties and functions set out in the instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instrument must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.

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 last formally reviewed its Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer at the June 2022 Council meeting.

At its February 2023 meeting, Council authorised the Chief Executive Officer to purchase and pay for goods, services and works under Contract 556 to the value of \$750,000 for the purpose of delivering flood restoration works.

Councillors most recently discussed this matter at the April 2024 Council Forum.

BACKGROUND

As a legal entity and not a 'natural person', Council can act in only one of two ways: by resolution or through others acting on its behalf. The power for Council to act by resolution is set out in section 59 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act).

Alternatively, a Council can act through others. A number of acts and regulations provide for Council to delegate certain powers, duties or functions to members of Council staff. Where this is to occur, appointments are formalised through a written 'instrument of delegation'.

Delegations to the Chief Executive Officer are provided for under section 11 of the Act, which also prescribes a number of powers, duties and functions not able to be delegated.

In addition to the legislative requirement for all delegations to be reviewed within 12 months after a general election, delegations are reviewed regularly as, at times Council decisions are the subject of legal scrutiny, which calls for precision about what decision was made, who made it and when it was made.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

This report seeks the following updates to the Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer:

1. An increase to the Chief Executive Officer expenditure limit for entering into a contract - from \$300,000 to \$825,000, inclusive of GST [Conditions and Limitations 1.1]
2. Increasing the limitation on making expenditure from \$300,000 to \$825,000, inclusive of GST [Conditions and Limitations 1.2]
3. Adding one additional situation where expenditure may exceed the above amount, being fire services property levy expenditure [Conditions and Limitations 1.2 c)]
4. Limiting expenditure made in situations described under 1.2 a), b) and c) to \$1,200,000, inclusive of GST [Conditions and Limitations 1.2]

Proposed changes are incorporated into the Instrument of Delegation attached to this Agenda report.

COST/BENEFITS

Amending the Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer will not have any financial impacts for Council.

RISK ANALYSIS

Routine review of delegations ensures that council staff, including the Chief Executive Officer are able to act on behalf of Council in accordance with relevant and current legislation and regulations.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Council subscribes to the Maddocks Authorisations and Delegations Service, which provides advice regarding legislative amendments and template instruments.

Governance staff, in consultation with Councillors, the Chief Executive Officer and Director Corporate have initiated this delegation review.

Loddon Shire Council

Instrument of Delegation

to

The Chief Executive Officer

Instrument of Delegation

In exercise of the power conferred by s 11(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020 (the Act)* and all other powers enabling it, the Loddon Shire Council (**Council**) delegates to the member of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the position of Chief Executive Officer, the powers, duties and functions set out in the Schedule to this Instrument of Delegation,

AND declares that

- 1. this Instrument of Delegation is authorised by a Resolution of Council passed on [date of resolution];
- 2. the delegation
 - 2.1 comes into force immediately upon signing of this delegation by the Chief Executive Officer and the Mayor in the presence of witnesses;
 - 2.2 is subject to any conditions and limitations set out in the Schedule;
 - 2.3 must be exercised in accordance with any guidelines or policies which Council from time to time adopts; and
 - 2.4 remains in force until Council resolves to vary or revoke it.

Signed by the Chief Executive Officer of Council)
in the presence of:)

.....
Witness

Date:

Signed by the Mayor in the presence of:)
)

.....
Witness

Date:

SCHEDULE

The power to

1. determine any issue;
2. take any action; or
3. do any act or thing

arising out of or connected with any duty imposed, or function or power conferred on Council by or under any Act.

Conditions and Limitations

The delegate must not determine the issue, take the action or do the act or thing

1. if the issue, action, act or thing is an issue, action, act or thing which involves
 - 1.1 entering into a contract exceeding the value of \$825,000¹;
 - 1.2 making any expenditure that exceeds \$825,000², unless
 - a) it is expenditure made under a contract already entered into, or
 - b) it is expenditure which Council is required to make, by or under legislation, or
 - c) it is fire services property levy expenditure
 in which case it must not exceed \$1,200,000³;
 - 1.3 appointing an Acting Chief Executive Officer for a period exceeding 28 days;
 - 1.4 electing a Mayor or Deputy Mayor;
 - 1.5 granting a reasonable request for leave under s 35 of the Act;
 - 1.6 making any decision in relation to the employment, dismissal or removal of the Chief Executive Officer;
 - 1.7 approving or amending the Council Plan;
 - 1.8 adopting or amending any policy that Council is required to adopt under the Act;
 - 1.9 adopting or amending the Governance Rules;
 - 1.10 appointing the chair or the members to a delegated committee;
 - 1.11 making, amending or revoking a local law;
 - 1.12 approving the Budget or Revised Budget;
 - 1.13 approving the borrowing of money;

¹ Value is inclusive of GST

² Value is inclusive of GST

³ Value is inclusive of GST

- 1.14 subject to section 181H(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, declaring general rates, municipal charges, service rates and charges and specified rates and charges;
- 2. if the issue, action, act or thing is an issue, action, act or thing which is required by law to be done by Council resolution;
- 3. if the issue, action, act or thing is an issue, action or thing which Council has previously designated as an issue, action, act or thing which must be the subject of a Resolution of Council;
- 4. if the determining of the issue, taking of the action or doing of the act or thing would or would be likely to involve a decision which is inconsistent with a
 - 4.1 policy; or
 - 4.2 strategyadopted by Council;
- 5. if the determining of the issue, the taking of the action or the doing of the act or thing cannot be the subject of a lawful delegation, whether on account of s 11(2)(a)-(n) (inclusive) of the Act or otherwise; or
- 6. the determining of the issue, the taking of the action or the doing of the act or thing is already the subject of an exclusive delegation to another member of Council staff.

10.4 FEES AND CHARGES FOR THE YEAR 1 JULY 2024 TO 30 JUNE 2025

File Number: FOL/23/3754
Author: Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services
Authoriser: Michelle Stedman, Director Corporate
Attachments: 1. Draft Fees and Charges Schedule 2024/25

ECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. Approves the Fees and Charges for the year spanning 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 for the purposes of seeking public comment with the Draft Budget;
2. Provide preliminary notification of residential accommodation charge changes to tenants.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

A draft Fees and Charges Schedule (Schedule) was provided to Councillors for consideration at the Council Forum held on 13 February 2024.

BACKGROUND

Each year as a part of the budget process a Schedule is prepared and submitted for approval by Council. This year it is proposed that the Fees and Charges for the year 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 be advertised together with the Draft Budget so that the community is able to see the whole suite of Council finances in context.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The approach for the 2024/25 schedule was to review fees and charges in line with the Financial Plan, which includes an indexation of 2.75% to discretionary fees and charges.

Some cost areas within the Schedule have a proposed increase of more than 2.75% due to rounding to nearest dollars (or five dollars).

Swimming pool fees are expected to remain the same as the previous year given existing service performance, however given the comparatively low fees and end of contract this may need to increase in future years.

Landfill and transfer stations are also expected to remain the same.

Generally, the new Schedule would take effect from the start of the 2024/25 financial year, however, included in the Schedule are residential accommodation charge changes. These would require a minimum notice period of 60 days. Notification would be forwarded to tenants as soon as practicable after consideration of Council with any approved price increase receiving its required notice period.

COST/BENEFITS

The adoption of the Schedule provides a transparent process and allows the community to provide feedback about the proposed fees and charges prior to approval by Council.

Raising fees and charges on particular services helps to provide an equitable contribution of revenue towards the cost of service delivery.

RISK ANALYSIS

There is a minor risk of avoidance of payment by customers.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The Fees and Charges provided in the Schedule have been considered in detail by the Management Executive Group and Council.

LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL

FEES AND CHARGES FOR THE YEAR 1 JULY 2024 TO 30 JUNE 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: | |
| VERSION NUMBER: | 1 |
| REVIEW DATE: | Click here to enter a date. |
| DATE RESCINDED: | |
| RELATED STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS, POLICIES OR PROCEDURES: | |
| RELATED LEGISLATION: | Local Government Act 1989 Local Government Act 2020 Australian Taxation Office Goods and Services Tax Act (GST) |
| EVIDENCE OF APPROVAL: | |

Chief Executive Officer

FILE LOCATION: K:\FINANCE\Budget\2024-25\Fees and Charges\STR
Fees and Charges 2024-25 DRAFT - To Council
Forum.DOCX

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

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

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1 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 2024 to 30 June 2025.

2 BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The fees and charges included in the document are incorporated into Council's 2024/2025 Budget.

3 FEES AND CHARGES

The fees and charges contained in this document apply for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025. 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? | 2023/2024 Adopted fee | 2024/2025 Draft fee |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| New dwellings, dwelling additions, sheds, carports, veranda | Application | D | Yes | \$530.00 + (Cost Of Building Works (COBW) / \$200.00) | \$545.00 + (Cost Of Building Works (COBW) / \$200.00) |
| Fences, retaining walls and swimming pools (including safety barriers) | Application | D | Yes | \$475.00 | \$490.00 |
| Other classes - fee will be determined depending on type of building e.g. factory, retail shop, workshop etc. | Application | D | Yes | On request | On request |
| Demolitions | Application | D | Yes | \$555.00 | \$570.00 |
| Re-erection of a dwelling | Application | D | Yes | \$945.00 + (COBW / \$200.00) | \$970.00 + (COBW / \$200.00) |
| Retention of building works (Works less than \$5,000) | Application | D | Yes | \$545.00 | \$560.00 |
| Retention of building works (Works more than \$5,000) | Application | D | Yes | \$1,090.00 | \$1,120.00 |
| Additional inspections | Inspection | D | Yes | \$205.00 | \$210.00 |

| Building fees | Unit rate | M or D | Is GST applicable? | 2023/2024 Adopted fee | 2024/2025 Draft fee |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Extensions of time on permits | Application | D | Yes | \$290.00 | \$300.00 |
| Application to register swimming pool | Application | M | No | \$34.20 | \$34.20 |
| Swimming pool archive search fee | Application | M | No | \$50.70 | \$50.70 |
| Lodgement of swimming pool certificate of compliance | Lodgement | M | No | \$21.90 | \$21.90 |
| Lodgement of swimming pool certificate of non-compliance | Lodgement | M | No | \$413.40 | \$413.40 |
| Swimming pool safety barrier inspection fee | Initial inspection | D | Yes | \$535.00 | \$535.00 |
| Swimming pool safety barrier inspection fee | Additional inspection | D | Yes | \$205.00 | \$210.00 |
| State Building Levy | Application | M | No | 0.128% | 0.128% |
| Re-erection of a dwelling – bond / surety | Application | D | No | \$10,000.00 | \$10,000.00 |
| Lodgement fee (Section 30) | Lodgement | M | No | \$130.90 | \$130.90 |
| Property information | Per application | M | No | \$50.70 | \$50.70 |
| Report and consent fee | Application | M | No | \$311.80 | \$311.80 |
| Minor amendment fee | Application | D | Yes | \$106.00 | \$109.00 |
| File retrieval from archive system (photocopying additional) | Application | D | Yes | \$91.00 | \$94.00 |
| Application under section 29A of the Building Act 1993 | Application | M | No | \$91.40 | \$91.40 |
| Point of discharge for stormwater | Application | M | No | \$155.30 | \$155.30 |
| Inspection compliance report | Application | D | Yes | \$533.00 | \$548.00 |
| PoPE fee with a paid entry event (per event) | Application | D | Yes | \$656.00 | \$674.00 |
| Temporary structure within paid entry PoPE event | Application | D | Yes | \$127.00 | \$130.00 |
| PoPE fee with a free entry event (per event) | Application | D | Yes | \$327.00 | \$336.00 |
| Temporary structure within free entry PoPE event | Application | D | Yes | \$63.00 | \$65.00 |
| Application for Protection of Public Regulation 116(4) | Application | M | No | \$316.40 | \$316.40 |
| Application to build above or below Public Facilities Regulation 134(2) | Application | M | No | \$311.80 | \$311.80 |

3.2 Rental properties

3.2.1 Elderly persons units

The fee stated in this document will apply on the tenancy anniversary as per the Residential Tenancies Act

| Elderly persons units | Unit rate | M or D | Is GST applicable? | 2023/2024 Adopted fee | 2024/2025 Draft fee |
|-----------------------|-----------|--------|--------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Dingee | | | | | |
| Unit 1 | Per week | D | No | \$101.00 | \$104.00 |
| Unit 2 | Per week | D | No | \$101.00 | \$104.00 |
| Unit 3 | Per week | D | No | \$101.00 | \$104.00 |
| Unit 4 | Per week | D | No | \$101.00 | \$104.00 |
| Unit 5 | Per week | D | No | \$101.00 | \$104.00 |
| Pyramid Hill | | | | | |
| Unit 1 | Per week | D | No | \$86.00 (\$94.00 new tenant) | \$88.00 (\$96.00 new tenant) |
| Unit 2 | Per week | D | No | \$94.00 | \$96.00 |
| Unit 3 | Per week | D | No | \$86.00 (\$94.00 new tenant) | \$88.00 |
| Unit 4 | Per week | D | No | \$86.00 (\$94.00 new tenant) | \$88.00 |
| Serpentine | | | | | |
| Unit 1 | Per week | D | No | \$101.00 | \$104.00 |
| Unit 2 | Per week | D | No | \$101.00 | \$104.00 |
| Unit 3 | Per week | D | No | \$101.00 | \$104.00 |
| Unit 4 | Per week | D | No | \$101.00 | \$104.00 |
| Unit 5 | Per week | D | No | \$101.00 | \$104.00 |

3.3 Public health

3.3.1 Food Act registration fees

| Food premises | Unit rate | M or D | Is GST applicable? | 2023/2024 Adopted fee | 2024/2025 Draft fee |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------|--------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Businesses | | | | | |
| Registration of premises (class 1) | Each | D | No | \$410.00 | \$421.00 |
| Registration of premises (class 2) | Each | D | No | \$316.00 | \$325.00 |
| Registration of premises (class 3) | Each | D | No | \$197.00 | \$202.00 |
| Notification of premises (class 4) | | | | | |
| Not permitted under the Food Act 1984 | Each | M | No | N/A | N/A |

| Food premises | Unit rate | M or D | Is GST applicable? | 2023/2024 Adopted fee | 2024/2025 Draft fee |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------|--------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Temporary Food Premises – 12 month registration | For the year | | | 50% of applicable class fee | 50% of applicable class fee |
| Temporary Food Premises – Short Term Registration | For registration period | | | 25% of applicable class fee | 25% of applicable class fee |
| Temporary Food Premises - with a Fixed Premises registered with Loddon Shire | For the Year | | | 25% of applicable class fee | 25% of applicable class fee |
| Mobile Food Premises - Business | For the year | | | As per class fee above | As per class fee above |
| Mobile Food Premises - with a Fixed Premises registered with Loddon Shire | For the year | | | 25% of applicable class fee | 25% of applicable class fee |
| Community Groups | | | | | |
| Community group with Liquor Licence Fixed Premises (class 2) | Each | D | No | \$169.00 | \$173.00 |
| Community group without Liquor Licence Fixed Premises (class 2) | Each | D | No | \$117.00 | \$120.00 |
| Community group with Liquor Licence Fixed Premises (class 3) | Each | D | No | \$106.00 | \$109.00 |
| Community group without Liquor Licence Fixed Premises (class 3) | Each | D | No | \$79.00 | \$81.00 |
| Notification of premises (class 4) | | | | | |
| Not permitted under the Food Act 1984 | Each | M | No | N/A | N/A |
| Temporary Food Premises – Community Group (yearly and short term fee) | For the year | D | No | \$30.00 | \$31.00 |
| Temporary Food Premises – Community Group with a Fixed Premises | | | | No charge | No charge |
| Mobile Food Premises – Community Group | For the year | D | No | \$30.00 | \$31.00 |
| All Groups | | | | | |
| Inspection and report | Each | D | Yes | \$218.00 | \$224.00 |
| Transfer of registration (includes mandatory inspection charge) | Each | D | No | \$202.00 | \$208.00 |
| Late payment of annual registration fee (additional charge added to annual registration fee) | Each | D | No | 50% of applicable fee | 50% of applicable fee |
| Additional inspection fee (applied to each subsequent inspection beyond the 3 allowed in each registration year) | Each | D | Yes | \$218.00 | \$224.00 |

3.3.2 Public Health and Wellbeing Act registration fees

| Health premises | Unit rate | M or D | Is GST applicable? | 2023/2024 Adopted fee | 2024/2025 Draft fee |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Registration of premises (prescribed accommodation) | Each | D | No | \$227.00 | \$233.00 |
| Registration of health premises (undertaking 1 activity) | Each | D | No | \$161.00 | \$165.00 |
| Registration of health premises (undertaking 2 or more activities) | Each | D | No | \$185.00 | \$190.00 |
| Registration of low risk premises (life time registration unless premises relocates) | Each | D | No | \$161.00 | \$165.00 |
| Swimming Pools (class 1) | Each | D | No | \$220.00 | \$226.00 |
| Inspection and report | Each | D | Yes | \$218.00 | \$224.00 |
| Late payment of annual registration fee | Each | D | No | 50% of applicable fee | 50% of applicable fee |
| Transfer of registration | Each | D | No | 50% of applicable fee | 50% of applicable fee |

3.3.3 Residential Tenancies Act and Regulations (caravan parks)

| Caravan parks | Unit rate | M or D | Is GST applicable? | 2023/2024 Adopted fee | 2024/2025 Draft fee |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Registration - as per schedule in regulations | Per site | M | No | As set within Regulation | As set within Regulation |
| Transfer of premises - as per schedule in regulations | Each | M | No | As set within Regulation | As set within Regulation |
| Transfer inspection report | Each | D | Yes | \$218.00 | \$224.00 |
| Application to install a moveable dwelling / rigid annex | Each | D | Yes | \$75.00 | \$77.00 |

3.3.4 Environment Protection Act application fees

| Onsite wastewater management | Unit rate | M or D | Is GST applicable? | 2023/2024 Adopted fee | 2024/2025 Draft fee |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Installation of new onsite wastewater management system or significant alterations | Each | M | No | \$777.20 | \$777.20 |
| Minor amendments to recently issued permits and completion of expired permit without inspection | Each | M | No | \$592.30 | \$592.30 |
| Transfer of permit | Each | M | No | \$157.90 | \$157.90 |
| Alteration to an existing onsite wastewater management system | Each | M | No | \$165.00 | \$165.00 |

| Onsite wastewater management | Unit rate | M or D | Is GST applicable? | 2023/2024 Adopted fee | 2024/2025 Draft fee |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Exemption fee for on-site wastewater management system | Each | M | No | \$233.30 | \$233.30 |
| Renew a permit | Each | M | No | \$132.10 | \$132.10 |
| Inspection fee | Each | D | Yes | \$218.00 | \$224.00 |
| File retrieval from archive system (photocopying additional) | Application | D | Yes | \$91.60 | \$94.10 |

3.4 Local laws

3.4.1 Domestic Animals Act 1994

Animal registration period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

| Domestic animals | Unit rate | M or D | Is GST applicable? | 2023/2024 Adopted fee | 2024/2025 Draft fee |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------|--------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Registration fee - unsterilized animal | Per animal | D | No | \$130.77+ \$4.23 levy | \$133.61+ \$4.39 levy |
| Registration fee - unsterilized animal - pensioners' concession | Per animal | D | No | 50% of above fee | 50% of above fee |
| Registration fee - reduced fee (refer criteria) | Per animal | D | No | \$30.77+ \$4.23 levy | \$31.61+ \$4.39 levy |
| Registration fee - reduced fee (refer criteria) - pensioners' concession | Per animal | D | No | 50% of above fee | 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 | \$130.77+ \$4.23 levy | \$133.61+ \$4.39 levy |
| Impounding or surrendering of dog or cat | Per animal | D | No | \$81.00 | \$83.00 |
| Daily feeding of impounded dog or cat | Per animal | D | No | \$12.00 | \$13.00 |
| Annual licence fee for Domestic Animal Business Registration | Per licence | D | No | \$165.00+ \$20.00 levy | \$170.00+ \$20.00 levy |
| Transfer from another council (registration must be for current period) | Per animal | M | No | \$4.23 levy | \$4.39 levy |

- 2024/2025 Fees are now split to include the applicable Levy fee and legislated by the State Government.

3.4.2 Domestic Animals Act 1994 - reduced fee criteria

| |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Registration fee for an animal registered for the first time after 10 October will be one half the applicable annual fee, plus the state government levy fee component</i> |
| <i>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 (excluding the state government levy fee component)</i> |
| <i>Animal desexed</i> |
| <i>Animal over 10 years old</i> |
| <i>Farm working dog</i> |
| <i>Animal kept as part of a registered domestic animal business or applicable organisation</i> |
| <i>A dog that has undergone approved obedience training in accordance with Regulation 52 of the Domestic Animals Regulations</i> |
| <i>Dogs and cats registered with an 'applicable organisation' in accordance with the Domestic Animals Act 1994</i> |

3.4.3 Impounding of Livestock Act 1994

| Livestock | Unit rate | M or D | Is GST applicable? | 2023/2024 Adopted fee | 2024/2025 Draft fee |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------|--------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Sheep or goat (per head, up to 10 head) | Impoundment | D | No | \$81.00 | \$83.00 |
| Sheep or goat (per head, more than 10) | Impoundment | D | No | \$1.70 | \$1.80 |
| Sheep or goat (per head) | Daily feeding | D | Yes | \$2.70 | \$2.80 |
| Horse, cow or ram (per head) | Impoundment | D | No | \$81.00 | \$83.00 |
| Horse, cow or ram(per head) | Daily feeding | D | Yes | \$12.00 | \$13.00 |
| Other livestock (per head) | Impoundment | D | No | \$81.00 | \$83.00 |
| Other livestock (per head) | Daily feeding | D | Yes | \$12.00 | \$13.00 |
| NLIS tags (if required) | Per tag | D | Yes | \$20.00 | \$21.00 |
| Transport (either by staff or contractor) | Per kilometre | D | Yes | Cost of transport | Cost of transport |

With regard to the items below, also see the Community Local Law or associated Act for fees, fines and penalties, along with definitions of fee types.

3.4.4 Community Local Law / Road Management Act 2004

| Permits | Unit rate | M or D | Is GST applicable? | 2023/2024 Adopted fee | 2024/2025 Draft fee |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|--------|--------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Advertising signs | Per sign | D | No | \$56.70 | \$58.30 |
| Flags (up to two flags) | Per 2 flags | D | No | N/A | No charge (permit still required) |
| Roadside / public place trading | Per day | D | No | \$56.70 | \$58.30 |
| Display of goods | Per site | D | No | \$56.70 | \$58.30 |
| Street furniture and outdoor eating | Per permit | D | No | \$10 per chair \$20 per table | \$11 per bench or stool e.g. with no table \$21 per table and chair setting e.g. picnic bench or a table with 2 or 4 chairs |

3.4.5 Local law permit application / release fees

| Application/release fees | Unit rate | M or D | Is GST applicable? | 2023/2024 Adopted fee | 2024/2025 Draft fee |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|--------|--------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Local law permit application fee | Per application | D | No | \$28.80 | \$29.60 |
| Impounded vehicle / item release fee | Per vehicle/item | D | No | \$81.00 plus towing costs | \$83.00 plus towing/transport costs if applicable |

3.4.6 Clearing fire hazard blocks

| Fire hazard blocks | Unit rate | M or D | Is GST applicable? | 2023/2024 Adopted fee | 2024/2025 Draft fee |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|--------|--------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Clearing of fire hazards – blocks | Per block | D | Yes | At cost plus \$120.00 admin fee plus GST | At cost plus \$123.00 admin fee plus GST |

3.5 **Town planning**

3.5.1 Planning fees

| Permits | Unit rate | M or D | Is GST applicable? | 2023/2024 Adopted fee | 2024/2025 Draft fee |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Use only | Application | M | No | \$1,415.10 | \$1,415.10 |
| VicSmart applications (confirm with Planning Officer if your application qualifies) | | | | | |
| Less than \$10,000 | Application | M | No | \$214.70 | \$214.70 |

| Permits | Unit rate | M or D | Is GST applicable? | 2023/2024 Adopted fee | 2024/2025 Draft fee |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| More than \$10,001 | Application | M | No | \$461.10 | \$461.10 |
| Application to subdivide or consolidate land (as permitted by VicSmart regulations) | Application | M | No | \$214.70 | \$214.70 |
| Single dwelling and ancillary to dwelling (based on value of development) | | | | | |
| Less than \$10,000 | Application | M | No | \$214.70 | \$214.70 |
| \$10,001 to \$100,000 | Application | M | No | \$675.80 | \$675.80 |
| \$100,001 to \$500,000 | Application | M | No | \$1,383.30 | \$1,383.30 |
| \$500,001 to \$1,000,000 | Application | M | No | \$1,494.60 | \$1,494.60 |
| \$1M > \$2M | Application | M | No | \$1,605.90 | \$1,605.90 |
| Other development (based on value of development) | | | | | |
| \$10,001 to \$100,000 | Application | M | No | \$1,232.30 | \$1,232.30 |
| \$100,001 to \$1,000,000 | Application | M | No | \$1,661.60 | \$1,661.60 |
| \$1M to \$5M | Application | M | No | \$3,665.00 | \$3,665.00 |
| \$5M to \$15M | Application | M | No | \$9,341.30 | \$9,341.30 |
| \$15M to \$50M | Application | M | No | \$27,546.80 | \$27,546.80 |
| \$50M to \$100M | Application | M | No | \$61,914.60 | \$61,914.60 |
| Subdivision | | | | | |
| To subdivide an existing building | Application | M | No | \$1,415.10 | \$1,415.10 |
| To subdivide land into 2 lots | Application | M | No | \$1,415.10 | \$1,415.10 |
| To subdivide land into <u>more than</u> 2 lots | Application | M | No | \$1,415.10 per 100 lots | \$1,415.10 per 100 lots |
| To remove a restriction (within the meaning of the Subdivision Act 1988) over land | Application | M | No | \$1,415.10 | \$1,415.10 |
| 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 | \$1,415.10 | \$1,415.10 |
| 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 | \$1,415.10 | \$1,415.10 |
| Secondary consent | Application | M | No | \$209.50 | \$209.50 |
| Extension of time to permit | Application | M | No | \$214.70 | \$214.70 |
| Certification of plan of subdivision | Application | M | No | \$187.60 | \$187.60 |
| Alteration of a plan under Section 10(2) prior to Certification | Application | M | No | \$119.30 | \$119.30 |
| Amendment of a certified plan under section 11(1) of the Act | Application | M | No | \$151.10 | \$151.10 |
| Planning enquiry | Application | D | Yes | \$45.00 | \$46.00 |

| Permits | Unit rate | M or D | Is GST applicable? | 2023/2024 Adopted fee | 2024/2025 Draft fee |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| File retrieval from archive system (photocopying additional) | Application | D | Yes | \$92.00 | \$95.00 |

3.6 Swimming pools

3.6.1 Pool fees

| Pool fees | Unit rate | M or D | Is GST applicable? | 2023/2024 Adopted fee | 2024/2025 Draft fee |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|--------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| *Concession cards accepted: Heath Care, Student, Veterans Affairs, Victorian Carers, Pension and Seniors Cards | | | | | |
| Season tickets | | | | | |
| Family | Per season | D | Yes | \$132.00 | \$132.00 |
| Family concession* | Per season | D | Yes | \$105.00 | \$105.00 |
| Adult | Per season | D | Yes | \$77.00 | \$77.00 |
| Adult concession* | Per season | D | Yes | \$62.00 | \$62.00 |
| Child | Per season | D | Yes | \$51.00 | \$51.00 |
| Entrance fees | | | | | |
| Family (for 1 or 2 adults and their dependent children under 18) | Per entry | D | Yes | \$10.50 | \$10.50 |
| Family concession* | Per entry | D | Yes | \$8.50 | \$8.50 |
| Adult | Per entry | D | Yes | \$5.00 | \$5.00 |
| Adult concession* | Per entry | D | Yes | \$4.00 | \$4.00 |
| Child | Per entry | D | Yes | \$2.50 | \$2.50 |
| School groups | Per entry | D | Yes | \$1.30 | \$1.30 |
| Adult - non-swimmer | Per entry | D | Yes | Nil | Nil |
| Companion Card holder | Per entry | D | Yes | Nil | Nil |
| Child - non-swimmer | Per entry | D | Yes | Nil | Nil |
| One lifeguard in attendance | Per hour | D | Yes | \$20.10 | \$20.10 |
| Two lifeguards in attendance | Per hour | D | Yes | \$60.00 | \$60.00 |
| Swimming lessons / exercise classes | | | | | |
| One lifeguard in attendance | Per hour | D | Yes | \$20.10 | \$20.10 |
| Two lifeguards in attendance | Per hour | D | Yes | \$60.00 | \$60.00 |
| Out of session hire | | | | | |
| Includes one lifeguard | Per hour | D | Yes | \$55.00 | \$55.00 |
| For profit – during public operating hours | | | | | |
| Lane hire / per lane | Per hour | D | Yes | \$11.50 first hour \$6.50 every hour after | \$11.50 first hour \$6.50 every hour after |

3.7 Roads

3.7.1 Road reinstatement fees

| Roads | Unit rate | M or D | Is GST applicable? | 2023/2024 Adopted fee | 2024/2025 Draft fee |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Minimum charge | Event | D | Yes | \$125.10 | \$128.50 |
| Sealed pavement (surface only) | Per m ² | D | Yes | \$153.80 | \$158.00 |
| Unsealed pavement | Per m ² | D | Yes | \$102.70 | \$105.50 |
| Trench off pavement | Per m ² | D | Yes | \$51.40 | \$52.80 |
| Footpath (100-200mm concrete) | Per m ² | D | Yes | \$164.70 | \$169.20 |
| Footpath (other sealed asphalt) | Per m ² | D | Yes | \$164.70 | \$169.20 |

3.7.2 Application for consent to work within municipal road reserve

| Roads | Unit rate | M or D | Is GST applicable? | 2023/2024 Adopted fee | 2024/2025 Draft fee |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Fee structure determined pursuant to the Roads Management (Works and Infrastructure) 2015 Regulations. Current fee unit rate is available at vicroads.vic.gov.au | Application | M | Yes | See relevant legislative document | See relevant legislative document |

3.7.3 Application for permit to conduct non-road activity

| Roads | Unit rate | M or D | Is GST applicable? | 2023/2024 Adopted fee | 2024/2025 Draft fee |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Fee structure determined pursuant to the Roads Safety (Traffic Management) Regulations 2019. Current fee unit rate is available at vicroads.vic.gov.au | Application | M | Yes | See relevant legislative document | See relevant legislative document |

3.8 Tourism

3.8.1 Loddon tours

- Loddon 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 tour brochures available on Council's website.
- These prices stated are subject to minimum booking numbers.

3.8.2 Loddon Valley Website

| Website | Unit rate | M or D | Is GST applicable? | 2023/2024 Adopted fee | 2024/2025 Draft fee |
|--------------|-----------|--------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Subscription | Per year | D | Yes | \$58.80 | \$60.4 |

3.9 Waste management

3.9.1 Domestic waste, e-waste and recyclables

| Waste, e-waste and recyclables | Unit rate | M or D | Is GST applicable? | 2023/2024 Adopted fee | 2024/2025 Draft fee |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Minimum Fee | Min. charge | D | Yes | \$10.00 | \$10.0 |
| General waste (up to 4m ³) | Per m ³ | D | Yes | \$35.00 | \$35.0 |
| Recyclable materials (up to 1m ³) | Per m ³ | D | Yes | Nil | N |
| Recyclable materials (1m ³ to 4m ³) | Per m ³ | D | Yes | \$10.00 | \$10.0 |
| Domestic green waste (up to 4m ³) | Per m ³ | D | Yes | \$15.00 | \$15.0 |
| Refrigerators, freezers, and air conditioners (e-waste) | Each | D | Yes | \$15.00 | \$15.0 |
| Televisions and computer monitors (e-waste) | Each | D | Yes | \$15.00 | \$15.0 |
| Uncontaminated bricks and concrete (up to 4m ³) | Per m ³ | D | Yes | \$35.00 | \$35.0 |
| Mattress (single) | Each | D | Yes | \$20.00 | \$20.0 |
| Mattress (double or larger) | Each | D | Yes | \$25.00 | \$25.0 |
| Metals (up to 4m ³) | Per m ³ | D | Yes | Nil | N |
| Cars (complete or close) | Each | D | Yes | \$30.00 | \$30.0 |

- 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.

3.9.2 Tyres

| Tyres | Unit rate | M or D | Is GST applicable? | 2023/2024 Adopted fee | 2024/2025 Draft fee |
|----------------------------------|-----------|--------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Car tyre | Each | D | Yes | \$15.00 | \$15.00 |
| Car tyre on rim | Each | D | Yes | \$30.00 | \$30.00 |
| 4 wheel drive / light truck tyre | Each | D | Yes | \$20.00 | \$20.00 |
| Truck tyre | Each | D | Yes | \$35.00 | \$35.00 |
| Super single tyre | Each | D | Yes | \$55.00 | \$55.00 |
| Truck tyre on rim | Each | D | Yes | \$55.00 | \$55.00 |
| Small tractor tyre | Each | D | Yes | \$130.00 | \$130.00 |
| Large tractor tyre | Each | D | Yes | \$215.00 | \$215.00 |

3.10 **Miscellaneous**3.10.1 Rates

| Rates | Unit rate | M or D | Is GST applicable? | 2023/2024 Adopted fee | 2024/2025 Draft fee |
|-------------------------------|-------------|--------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Land information certificates | Application | M | No | \$28.90 | \$28.90 |
| Rates search | Application | D | Yes | \$56.70 | \$58.30 |

3.10.2 Photocopying, faxing and printing

| Photocopying, faxing and printing | Unit rate | M or D | Is GST applicable? | 2023/2024 Adopted fee | 2024/2025 Draft fee |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|--------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Black and white - single sided | Per page | D | Yes | \$0.60 | \$0.70 |
| Black and white - double sided | Per page | D | Yes | \$1.00 | \$1.10 |
| Colour - single sided | Per page | D | Yes | \$1.00 | \$1.10 |
| Colour - double sided | Per page | D | Yes | \$1.40 | \$1.50 |
| Loddon Shire area maps – A1 | Per page | D | Yes | \$10.00 | \$10.50 |

3.10.3 Private works

| Private works | Unit rate | M or D | Is GST applicable? | 2023/2024 Adopted fee | 2024/2025 Draft fee |
|-----------------------|-----------|--------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| For community groups | Per job | D | Yes | At cost | At cost |
| For private residents | Per job | D | Yes | At cost plus 30% | At cost plus 30% |

3.10.4 Insurance

| Public Liability Insurance | Unit rate | M or D | Is GST applicable? | 2023/2024 Adopted fee | 2024/2025 Draft fee |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Casual hirer's of Council Owned or Controlled Facilities – limit \$20M | Per hire | D | Yes | \$16.00 | \$17.00 |
| Performers/Stallholders/Artists/Buskers/Street Stalls/Participants – limit \$20M | Per event | D | Yes | \$28.00 | \$29.00 |

| Public Liability Insurance | Unit rate | M or D | Is GST applicable? | 2023/2024 Adopted fee | 2024/2025 Draft fee |
|------------------------------|------------|--------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Permit holders – limit \$20M | Per trader | D | Yes | \$21.00 | \$22.00 |

3.10.5 Freedom of information requests

| Freedom of information | Unit rate | M or D | Is GST applicable? | 2023/2024 Adopted fee | 2024/2025 Draft fee |
|---------------------------------|----------------|--------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Freedom of information requests | Per request | M | No | \$31.80 | \$31.80 |
| FOI search charge | Hourly | M | No | \$23.85 | \$23.85 |
| FOI supervision charge | Quarter hourly | M | No | \$5.95 | \$5.95 |

3.10.6 Water charges

| Water | Unit rate | M or D | Is GST applicable? | 2023/2024 Adopted fee | 2024/2025 Draft fee |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|--------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Water via standpipes (Inglewood, Tarnagulla, Mitiamo, Pyramid Hill and Wedderburn) | Per kilolitre | D | No | \$5.60 | \$5.80 |
| Emergency water supply point - Bridgewater (non-potable water) | Per kilolitre | D | No | \$3.50 | \$3.60 |
| Truck wash facility use | Per minute | D | No | \$1.00 | \$1.10 |

3.10.7 Senior citizens room hire

| Room hire | Unit rate | M or D | Is GST applicable? | 2023/2024 Adopted fee | 2024/2025 Draft fee |
|------------------------------|-------------|--------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Community group session | Per session | D | Yes | \$19.00 | \$20.00 |
| Private / commercial session | Per session | D | Yes | \$78.00 | \$80.00 |
| Government session | Per session | D | Yes | \$47.00 | \$48.00 |
| Daily government rate | Per day | D | Yes | \$91.00 | \$93.00 |
| Weekly government rate | Per week | D | Yes | \$120.00 | \$123.00 |
| Monthly government rate | Per month | D | Yes | \$448.00 | \$460.00 |

3.10.8 Civic offices room hire

| Room hire | Unit rate | M or D | Is GST applicable? | 2023/2024 Adopted fee | 2024/2025 Draft fee |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Large meeting rooms in Wedderburn Council Chamber or Serpentine Office | | | | | |
| Community group session | Per session | D | Yes | \$28.00 | \$29.00 |
| Private / government session | Per session | D | Yes | \$53.00 | \$54.00 |
| Daily government rate | Per day | D | Yes | \$106.00 | \$109.00 |
| Weekly government rate | Per week | D | Yes | \$172.00 | \$177.00 |
| Monthly government rate | Per month | D | Yes | \$459.00 | \$472.00 |
| Small meeting room in Wedderburn Office (sits up to 4 people) | | | | | |
| Community group session | Per session | D | Yes | \$15.00 | \$16.00 |
| Private / government session | Per session | D | Yes | \$27.00 | \$28.00 |

| Room hire | Unit rate | M or D | Is GST applicable? | 2023/2024 Adopted fee | 2024/2025 Draft fee |
|-------------------------|-----------|--------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Daily government rate | Per day | D | Yes | \$53.00 | \$54.00 |
| Weekly government rate | Per week | D | Yes | \$92.00 | \$95.00 |
| Monthly government rate | Per month | D | Yes | \$342.00 | \$351.00 |

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

3.10.9 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 |
| 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 |

10.5 SEEKING FEEDBACK FOR THE 2024/25 DRAFT ANNUAL BUDGET

File Number: FOL/23/3754
Author: Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services
Authoriser: Michelle Stedman, Director Corporate
Attachments: 1. Loddon Shire Council DRAFT Annual Budget 2024-25

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. seek feedback on the Draft Annual Budget in accordance with the Community Engagement Policy
2. adopt the proportion of rates raised within various valuation categories as follows:
 - Rural Production to have a differential rate 12% lower than the General (Residential, Commercial and Other) differential rate
3. agree that the above distribution of rates raised demonstrates fairness and equity across the municipality
4. implement a differential rate to be struck between categories of Rural Production and General as follows:
 - General (Residential, Commercial and Other) - 0.19408 Cents in the Dollar of Capital Improved Value
 - Rural Production - 0.17083 Cents in the Dollar of Capital Improved Value
5. apply a Municipal Charge of \$243 to all properties, except where an exemption has been granted for a Single Farm Enterprise under the *Local Government Act 1989*
6. apply a Garbage Charge of \$401 per Residential Garbage Service (140 Litre Bin) and \$545 per Commercial Garbage Service (240 Litre Bin)
7. apply a Kerbside Recycling Service Charge of \$151 per service (240 Litre Bin)
8. create a 'Flood Restoration Reserve' within the Financial Reserves Policy v11, using the transfer to and from detailed within this Council Report
9. alter the Draft Annual Budget to include a transfer to the 'Flood Restoration Reserve' of \$2.50 million.

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 2024/25 Draft Annual Budget (the Draft Budget) at a Council Forum on 9 April 2024.

BACKGROUND

The Draft Budget has been prepared following discussions with Councillors and senior officers.

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

A number of financial reports have also been developed outlining expected income and expenditure for all areas of Council in 2024/25 and comparing these to the forecast actual results for 2023/24.

The Draft Budget includes:

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

Council's rating increase for 2024/25 is in line with the Victorian State Government's Rate Capping Policy which has been set at 2.75% on the 2023/24 forecast budget rate income.

Council has discretion over increases relating to garbage and recycling charges, and has included a nil increase in the Draft Budget. An increase in individual bin services and adjustments to the costing of public space bins continue to ensure a cost neutral position for waste collection services while responding to the introduction of additional statutory requirements.

This Draft Budget includes the second year of flood recovery and asset restoration as a result of the major flooding in 2022. In response to this and to strengthen Council's ability to financially contribute as required, an alteration to the Financial Reserves Policy is proposed to assist in funding flood restoration works that are deemed ineligible for funding via State or Federal Government funding streams, or through insurance. The proposed adjustment to the Policy is detailed below:

Flood Recovery Reserve – To be added to Section 3.2.1 of the Financial Reserves Policy v11.

Council transfers to the reserve: annually an amount determined during the budget process.

Council transfers from the reserve: the net cost of unfunded flood restoration projects.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Subject to Council approval, the Draft Budget will be advertised seeking feedback from the community. Council would receive submissions until close of business on Monday 27 May 2024. This is the same timeframe proposed for feedback on the Draft Fees and Charges Schedule.

It is proposed that Council would consider any feedback received at the Council Forum to be held on Tuesday 11 June 2024 and consider formally adopting the Budget at the Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on Tuesday 25 June 2024.

COST/BENEFITS

The benefits to Council and the community are that a consultative budget process complies with the *Local Government Act 1989* and the *Local Government Act 2020*. The Budget provides a measure for accurate planning, and ensures that Council can deliver services and projects included in the document.

RISK ANALYSIS

The risk to Council of not considering and then advertising the Draft Budget is that it will not comply with requirements under the *Local Government Act 1989* and the *Local Government Act 2020*.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The Community Engagement Policy outlines community engagement as an ongoing dialogue with our community to identify civic issues and opportunities and assist Council with planning and informed decision-making.

The feedback and input from community engagement promotes:

- transparency in decision making
- relationship building with communities and stakeholders
- increased community and stakeholder capacity to understand issues facing Council.

Council acknowledges and adheres to the Community Engagement Principles contained in section 56 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

**LODDON
SHIRE COUNCIL
DRAFT BUDGET
FOR YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2025**



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL****BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025****CONTENTS**

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**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL****BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025****MAYOR INTRODUCTION**

The Councillors and I are pleased to present the 2024/25 Budget to the community. This is our final Budget to deliver the Community Vision 2031 of "Creating a community where everyone is welcome and has the opportunity to live, work and thrive". We will achieve this by delivering the Council Plan 2021-25 which focuses on the four key themes in that Council Plan:

- A sustainable built and natural environment
- A growing and vibrant community
- A diverse and expanding economy
- A supported and accessible community.

The Council Plan 2021-25 sets out Council's strategic plan to deliver our vision over the full term of the Council. The focus over the next year will be on completing major multi-year capital projects, delivering flood restoration of our assets, the planning and design activities required to deliver 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. 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. We have also heard that our community wants to recover from the October 2022 floods and increase our mitigation against and resilience to future flood events.

The budget includes a rate increase of 2.75 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 continued delivery of flood restoration works
- Council's desire to continue to support Community Planning to drive strategic outcomes from a community level.

Some of the highlights contained in the 2024/25 Budget include:

- full funding of Council's ongoing commitment of community planning of \$750K
- an increased commitment to investment in information technology and cyber security
- strong investment in local road and related infrastructure maintenance
- \$300K allocation for works associated with the Building Asset Management Plan
- continued support for early years programs
- capital expenditure program of \$6.96 million
- no loan repayments with Council remaining debt free
- continuation of a strong cash position.

This budget was developed through a rigorous process of consultation and review and Council endorses it as financially responsible. I encourage the community to read through this document, in conjunction with the Council Plan 2021-25.

Cr. Gavan Holt
Mayor

**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL****BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025****CEO INTRODUCTION**

Council has prepared a Budget for 2024/25 which continues to align the work of Council with the Community's vision for the future as laid out in the Council Plan 2021-25. The Budget sets out our path for the future, seeking to maintain the services and infrastructure that are valued by the community, all while keeping the Shire resilient in the face of challenges.

There are many areas of good news for our residents in the 2024/25 Budget including Council's \$6.96M investment in capital projects across roads (\$3.51M), parks and streetscapes (\$0.1M), and recreational, leisure and community facilities (\$0.5M).

Individual Waste Service charges will also see no increase this year as the Shire absorbs contract increases and adjusts methodology for cost allocation of waste collection in public areas in line with new Ministerial Guidelines.

The average rate rise of 2.75% is again in line with the order by the Minister for Local Government in December 2023 under the Fair Go Rates System.

However, scattered underneath these positives are some ever-present challenges which the organisation and Councillors continue to be mindful about in how they plan for the future.

In the ongoing response to the October 2022 floods, the Shire is expecting to receive \$20M to contribute toward reconstruction of flood damaged assets, but the continued recovery effort from this major event puts increasing pressure on Council's financial position; resilience and betterment of dated infrastructure still comes at a cost that is not entirely met by external funding or insurance claims.

Inflationary pressures remain stubborn across the construction sector seeing the impact of rates income lessen where we all get less for our dollar in the current financial climate. The pace of revenue growth for the sector is not keeping up with the growth in expenses.

These factors combined with a large, ageing asset base make it increasingly challenging to deliver our services in the same way that we always have. Underneath Council's positive cash result of \$2.91M is an \$8.59M deficit and that is not an isolated story. Deficits are forecast to continue in coming years as we draw down on cash reserves to deliver projects and programs of benefit to the community. But these reserves are not infinite.

Council and the organisation are committed to working towards a financially sustainable future and we continue to advocate for increased supports being made available to rural councils from other levels of Government. We also look to grow efficiencies throughout our business by exploring shared services and different ways of working. Ongoing strategic work to deepen our understanding of the Shire's asset base will allow us to identify further improvements in how we manage these important conduits for how service levels are delivered to the community.

I am very pleased to be able to present to the Loddon community this year's Budget, which should be read in conjunction with other key documents including the Schedule of Fees and Charges. I know that the organisation looks forward to working with the Councillor group to leverage our current cash position to best deliver the outcomes of the Council Plan 2021-25 while navigating the complex challenges that face us now and into the future.

Lincoln Fitzgerald
Chief Executive Officer



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

ECONOMIC ASSUMPTIONS

| | Notes | Forecast Actual | Budget | Projections | | | Trend +/-/0 |
|------------------------------|-------|-------------------------|---------|-------------|---------|---------|----------------|
| | | 2023/24 | 2024/25 | 2025/26 | 2026/27 | 2027/28 | |
| Rate cap increase | 1 | 3.50% | 2.75% | 2.75% | 2.75% | 2.75% | 0 |
| Population growth | | 0.20% | 0.20% | 0.20% | 0.20% | 0.20% | 0 |
| Investment interest rate | | Based on available cash | | | | | + |
| Borrowing interest rate | | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 0 |
| Consumer Price Index | 2 | 3.90% | 3.00% | 3.00% | 3.00% | 3.00% | 0 |
| User fees | 3 | 3.50% | 2.75% | 2.75% | 2.75% | 2.75% | 0 |
| Grants - recurrent | | 2.00% | 2.00% | 2.00% | 2.00% | 2.00% | 0 |
| Grants - non-recurrent | | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0 |
| Contributions | | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0 |
| Proceeds from sale of assets | | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | 0 |
| Finance costs | | 3.90% | 3.00% | 3.00% | 3.00% | 3.00% | 0 |
| Other revenue | | 3.90% | 3.00% | 3.00% | 3.00% | 3.00% | 0 |
| Employee costs | 4 | 2.80% | 2.20% | 2.20% | 2.20% | 2.20% | 0 |
| Contractors and materials | | 3.90% | 3.00% | 3.00% | 3.00% | 3.00% | 0 |
| Software and insurance | 5 | 10.00% | 10.00% | 10.00% | 10.00% | 10.00% | 0 |
| Bad and doubtful debts | | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0 |
| Depreciation | | 2.00% | 2.00% | 2.00% | 2.00% | 2.00% | 0 |
| Other expenses | | 3.90% | 3.00% | 3.00% | 3.00% | 3.00% | 0 |

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 with allowance for movement within the bands.

5 *Software and insurance* - This category was increased by a higher rate in line with increasing costs incurred from providers due to increased claims and or increased security processes.



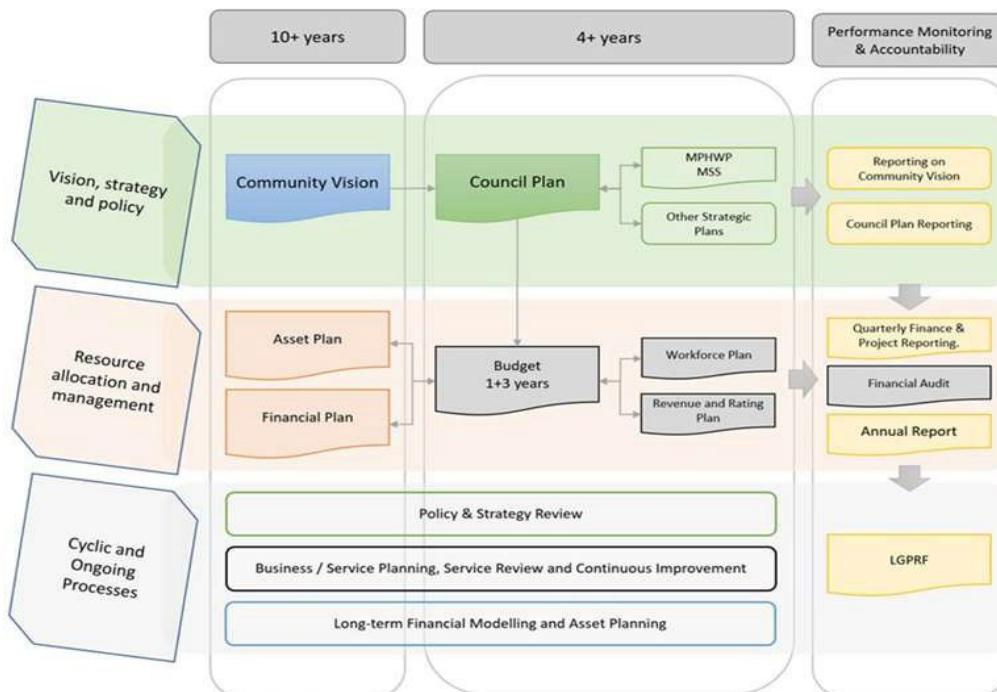
**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

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 2025

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

Community vision

"Creating a community where everyone is welcome and has the opportunity to live, work and thrive."

Loddon vision

"Loddon will be a resilient, sustainable and prosperous community of communities."

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 2021-2025 Council Plan identifies four high level strategic themes and strategic objectives. These are:

A sustainable built and natural environment

A growing and vibrant community

A diverse and expanding economy

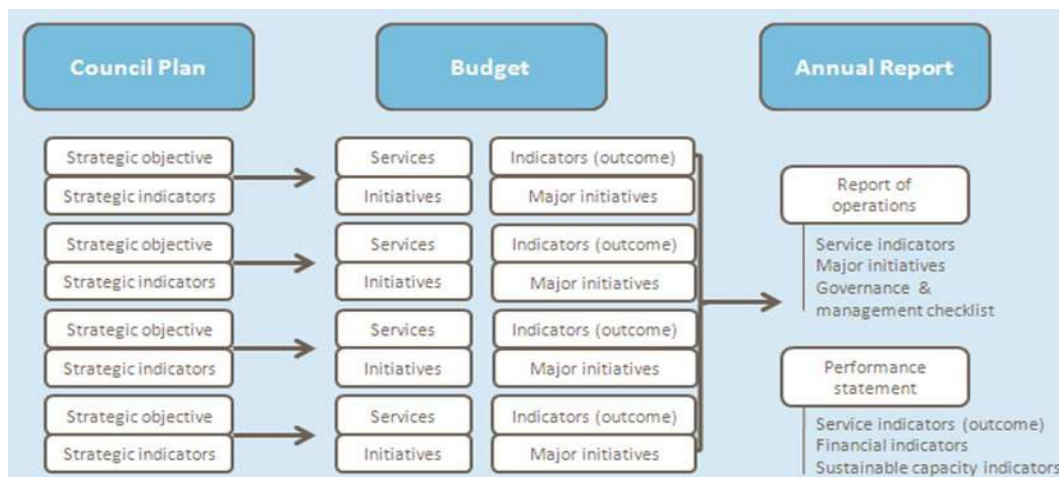
A supported and accessible community.



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

2 SERVICES AND SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

This section provides a description of the services and initiatives to be funded in the Budget for the 2024/25 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 2025

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 - A sustainable built and natural environment

Objective:

Infrastructure: *We will implement financially and environmentally sustainable infrastructure that supports our social and economic needs.*

Environment: *We will work with our partners to preserve and protect our local environment. We will support our community to respond to the impacts of climate change.*

Key priorities:

- a) plan for future facilities and infrastructure that meet community need
- b) our built and natural environment are accessible
- c) maintain sports and recreation and open public spaces to enable and promote access and participation
- d) plan for and build community capacity to mitigate, respond and adapt to climate change
- e) work with our partners to support biodiversity and habitat in our area
- f) promote reduction of waste to landfill
- g) plan and prepare for adverse weather events.

Services

| Service area | Surplus/(deficit) \$ | Income \$ | Expenditure \$ |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Community support | 896,330 | - | 896,330 |
| Community planning - Boort | 50,000 | - | 50,000 |
| Community planning - Inglewood | 50,000 | - | 50,000 |
| Community planning - Tarnagulla | 50,000 | - | 50,000 |
| Community planning - Terricks | 50,000 | - | 50,000 |
| Community planning - Wedderburn | 50,000 | - | 50,000 |
| Emergency management | 13,793 | 5,000 | 18,793 |
| Grants and community planning | 310,000 | - | 310,000 |
| Project and contract management | 383,473 | - | 383,473 |
| Roads to recovery | (2,507,112) | 2,507,112 | - |
| Parks and townships | 1,047,785 | - | 1,047,785 |
| Waste management | 2,105,346 | 44,679 | 2,150,025 |
| Waterways management | 51,811 | 11,751 | 63,562 |
| Gravel pits | (114,057) | 170,809 | 56,752 |
| Total | 2,437,369 | 2,739,351 | 5,176,720 |



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

2 SERVICES AND SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (Continued)

2.1 Strategic themes and objectives (continued)

2.1.2 Strategic theme 2 - A growing and vibrant community

Objective:

Population: We will promote population growth to support a growing and diverse community.

Community: We will support a connected and inclusive community that provides opportunities for current and new community members at all ages, abilities, and stages of their life.

Youth: We will support our youth to access pathways for education and employment and the ability to connect and actively engage with their community.

Key priorities:

- maximise opportunities to grow our population by taking advantage of all available development opportunities to expand the existing urban footprint
- support community groups and volunteers
- promote welcoming and safe communities
- support youth by working to improve local learning and employment pathways.

Services

| Service area | Surplus/(deficit) \$ | Income \$ | Expenditure \$ |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Strategic and statutory planning | 258,660 | 81,925 | 340,585 |
| Community wellbeing projects | - | - | - |
| Youth | - | - | 0 |
| Risk management | 1,006,426 | 14,744 | 1,021,170 |
| Building regulation | 221,070 | 86,312 | 307,382 |
| Local laws and animal management | 403,778 | 76,867 | 480,645 |
| Public health | 155,646 | 52,321 | 207,967 |
| Total | 2,045,580 | 312,169 | 2,357,749 |

2.1.3 Strategic theme 3 - A diverse and expanding economy

Objective:

Tourism: We will promote our unique tourism opportunities and support our local tourism industry to increase visitation to our area.

Economy: We will support established businesses and seek to attract new businesses to grow our local economy.

Key priorities:

- increase the volume and value of tourism visitation
- provide support for economic development opportunities in the Shire
- increase the volume and value of the local economy.

Services

| Service area | Surplus/(deficit) \$ | Income \$ | Expenditure \$ |
|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Economic development | 110,399 | 39,912 | 150,311 |
| Caravan parks | (81,520) | 131,969 | 50,449 |
| Loddon Discovery Tours | - | - | - |
| Tourism | 441,763 | - | 441,763 |
| Total | 470,642 | 171,881 | 642,523 |



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

2 SERVICES AND SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (Continued)

2.1 Strategic themes and objectives (continued)

2.1.4 Strategic theme 4 - A supported and accessible community

Objective:

Services: We will deliver our core services and advocate for access to other services for our community that support the health, wellbeing and liveability of our community.

Communication: We will listen to our community about how they wish to communicate with us and implement effective communication methods to achieve this. We will provide our community with opportunities to engage with us.

Key priorities:

- ensure services are available for our community
- review Council's internal services and processes to ensure we are operating efficiently
- enhance the community's opportunity to maintain good health and wellbeing, including mental health
- we will increase the opportunity for residents to engage with Council about decisions that impact their community.

Services

| Service area | Surplus/(deficit) \$ | Income \$ | Expenditure \$ |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Flood management | - | 20,000,000 | 20,000,000 |
| Administration and management | 3,129,416 | - | 3,129,416 |
| Council administration | 564,781 | 110,030 | 674,811 |
| Library services | 238,425 | - | 238,425 |
| Media | 121,553 | - | 121,553 |
| Aged care services | 455,477 | - | 455,477 |
| Elderly persons units | 16,404 | 67,113 | 83,517 |
| Rural access | 40,000 | - | 40,000 |
| Seniors | 54,554 | 5,790 | 60,344 |
| Municipal health and wellbeing | 8,700 | 1,500 | 10,200 |
| Swimming pools | 715,045 | - | 715,045 |
| Maternal and child health | 177,631 | 268,034 | 445,665 |
| Early years | 44,234 | 143,913 | 188,147 |
| Immunisation | 34,948 | 6,800 | 41,747 |
| Global kinders | (12,350) | 753,968 | 741,618 |
| Corporate governance | 570,283 | 239,742 | 810,025 |
| Financial services | (6,022,470) | 7,175,625 | 1,153,155 |
| Rates and property | 145,128 | 63,082 | 208,210 |
| Customer service | 272,387 | - | 272,387 |
| Information management | 105,491 | - | 105,491 |
| Information technology | 1,755,422 | - | 1,755,422 |
| Human resources and development | 1,595,909 | 49,196 | 1,645,105 |
| Council engineering and technical services | 164,332 | 58,799 | 223,131 |
| Local roads and community infrastructure program | - | - | - |
| Management and administration | 491,028 | - | 491,028 |
| Air strips | 12,882 | - | 12,882 |
| Building and property maintenance | 1,018,125 | 109 | 1,018,234 |
| Plant and fleet | (1,763,357) | - | (1,763,357) |
| Roads | 2,301,994 | 5,006,408 | 7,308,402 |
| DoT routine maintenance contract | - | - | - |
| Total | 6,235,972 | 33,950,109 | 40,186,080 |



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

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 |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Governance | | |
| Satisfaction | Satisfaction with Council Decisions (Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed in making decisions in the interests of the community) | Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with the performance of Council in making decisions in the interest of the community |
| Statutory planning | | |
| Decision making | Council planning decisions upheld at VCAT (Percentage of planning application decisions subject to review by VCAT and that were not set aside) | [Number of VCAT decisions that did not set aside Council's decision in relation to a planning application / Number of VCAT decisions in relation to planning applications] x100 |
| Roads | | |
| Satisfaction | Satisfaction with sealed local roads (Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed on the condition of sealed local roads) | Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed on the condition of sealed local roads |
| Libraries | | |
| Participation | Active library borrowers (Percentage of the municipal population that are active library members) | [The sum of the number of active library borrowers in the last 3 financial years / The sum of the population in the last 3 financial years] x100 |
| Waste collection | | |
| Waste diversion | Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill (Percentage of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins that is diverted from landfill) | [Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins] x100 |
| Aquatic facilities | | |
| Utilisation | Utilisation of aquatic facilities (The number of visits to aquatic facilities per head of municipal population) | Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Municipal population |
| Animal management | | |
| Health and safety | Animal management prosecutions (Number of successful animal management prosecutions) | Number of successful animal management prosecutions |



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

2 SERVICES AND SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (Continued)

2.3 Service performance outcome indicators (continued)

| Indicator | Performance measure | Computation |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Food safety | | |
| Health and safety | Critical and major non-compliance notifications (Percentage of critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications that are followed up by Council) | [Number of critical non-compliance notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises followed up / Number of critical non-compliance notifications and major non-compliance notifications about food premises] x100 |
| Maternal and child health | | |
| Participation | Participation in the MCH service (percentage of children enrolled who participate in the MCH service) | [Number of children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of children enrolled in the MCH service] x 100 |
| Participation | Participation in MCH service by Aboriginal children (Percentage of Aboriginal children enrolled who participate in the MCH service) | [Number of Aboriginal children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of Aboriginal children enrolled in the MCH service] x100 |

2.4 Reconciliation with budgeted operating result

| Activity | Surplus/(deficit) \$ | Income \$ | Expenditure \$ |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Flood management | - | 20,000,000 | 20,000,000 |
| Administration and management | 3,129,416 | - | 3,129,416 |
| Economic development | 110,399 | 39,912 | 150,311 |
| Council administration | 564,781 | 110,030 | 674,811 |
| Library services | 238,425 | - | 238,425 |
| Media | 121,553 | - | 121,553 |
| Caravan parks | (81,520) | 131,969 | 50,449 |
| Loddon Discovery Tours | - | 0 | 0 |
| Tourism | 441,763 | - | 441,763 |
| Aged care services | 455,477 | 0 | 455,477 |
| Elderly persons units | 16,404 | 67,113 | 83,517 |
| Rural access | 40,000 | - | 40,000 |
| Seniors | 54,554 | 5,790 | 60,344 |
| Community wellbeing projects | - | - | - |
| Community support | 896,330 | - | 896,330 |
| Community planning - Boort | 50,000 | - | 50,000 |
| Community planning - Inglewood | 50,000 | - | 50,000 |
| Community planning - Tarnagulla | 50,000 | - | 50,000 |
| Community planning - Terricks | 50,000 | - | 50,000 |
| Community planning - Wedderburn | 50,000 | - | 50,000 |
| Emergency management | 13,793 | 5,000 | 18,793 |

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LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

2 SERVICES AND SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (Continued)

2.4 Reconciliation with budgeted operating result (continued)

| Activity | Surplus/(deficit) \$ | Income \$ | Expenditure \$ |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Grants and community planning | 310,000 | - | 310,000 |
| Municipal health and wellbeing | 8,700 | 1,500 | 10,200 |
| Swimming pools | 715,045 | - | 715,045 |
| Maternal and child health | 177,631 | 268,034 | 445,665 |
| Early years | 44,234 | 143,913 | 188,147 |
| Immunisation | 34,947 | 6,800 | 41,747 |
| Global kinders | (12,350) | 753,968 | 741,618 |
| Youth | - | - | 0 |
| Corporate governance | 570,283 | 239,742 | 810,025 |
| Financial services | (6,022,470) | 7,175,625 | 1,153,155 |
| Rates and property | 145,128 | 63,082 | 208,210 |
| Customer service | 272,387 | - | 272,387 |
| Information management | 105,491 | - | 105,491 |
| Information technology | 1,755,422 | - | 1,755,422 |
| Human resources and development | 1,595,909 | 49,196 | 1,645,105 |
| Local roads and community infrastructure program | - | 0 | 0 |
| Risk management | 1,006,426 | 14,744 | 1,021,170 |
| Council engineering and technical services | 164,332 | 58,799 | 223,131 |
| Project and contract management | 383,473 | - | 383,473 |
| Roads to recovery | (2,507,112) | 2,507,112 | - |
| Building regulation | 221,070 | 86,312 | 307,382 |
| Local laws and animal management | 403,778 | 76,867 | 480,645 |
| Public health | 155,646 | 52,321 | 207,967 |
| Strategic and statutory planning | 258,660 | 81,925 | 340,585 |
| Air strips | 12,882 | - | 12,882 |
| Building and property maintenance | 1,018,125 | 109 | 1,018,234 |
| Plant and fleet | (1,763,357) | 0 | (1,763,357) |
| Gravel pits | (114,057) | 170,809 | 56,752 |
| Management and administration | 491,028 | - | 491,028 |
| Parks and townships | 1,047,785 | - | 1,047,785 |
| Roads | 2,301,994 | 5,006,408 | 7,308,402 |
| DoT routine maintenance contract | - | 0 | 0 |
| Waste management | 2,105,346 | 44,679 | 2,150,025 |
| Waterways management | 51,811 | 11,751 | 63,562 |
| Total | 11,189,562 | 37,173,510 | 48,363,072 |
| Expenses added in: | | | |
| Depreciation | | | 10,514,936 |
| Surplus/(deficit) before funding sources | | | 21,704,499 |
| Funding sources added in: | | | |
| Rates and charges revenue | | | (10,966,663) |
| Waste charge revenue | | | (2,148,367) |
| Operating surplus/(deficit) for the year | | | 8,589,468 |



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

3 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

This section presents information in regard to the Financial Statements and Statement of Human Resources. The budget information for the year 2024/25 has been supplemented with projections to 2027/28.

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 2028

| | NOTES | Forecast | Budget | Projections | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | | Actual 2023/24 \$ | 2024/25 \$ | 2025/26 \$ | 2026/27 \$ | 2027/28 \$ |
| Income / Revenue | | | | | | |
| Rates and charges | 4.1.1 | 12,756,419 | 13,115,030 | 13,617,487 | 14,234,349 | 14,808,858 |
| Statutory fees and fines | 4.1.2 | 272,543 | 300,412 | 308,693 | 317,179 | 325,901 |
| User fees | 4.1.3 | 594,435 | 610,970 | 660,597 | 689,006 | 697,933 |
| Grants - operating | 4.1.4 | 21,833,563 | 32,962,484 | 13,105,492 | 13,464,193 | 13,920,012 |
| Grants - capital | 4.1.4 | 17,657,219 | 2,507,112 | 2,507,112 | 2,507,112 | 2,507,112 |
| Contributions - monetary | 4.1.5 | 30,000 | - | - | - | - |
| Reimbursements | 4.1.6 | 398,152 | 357,532 | 172,602 | 177,141 | 181,807 |
| Regional Roads Victoria | 4.1.7 | 357,882 | - | - | - | - |
| Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment | | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other income | 4.1.8 | 1,635,000 | 435,000 | 435,000 | 435,000 | 435,000 |
| Total income / revenue | | 55,535,214 | 50,288,540 | 30,806,984 | 31,823,980 | 32,876,623 |
| Expenses | | | | | | |
| Employee costs | 4.1.9 | 14,264,282 | 15,826,019 | 14,529,675 | 14,860,056 | 15,277,487 |
| Materials and services | 4.1.10 | 38,543,000 | 32,160,468 | 12,664,285 | 13,577,725 | 13,984,831 |
| Allowance for impairment losses | | - | - | - | - | - |
| Depreciation - right of use assets | 4.1.11 | 10,308,760 | 10,514,936 | 10,725,234 | 10,939,657 | 11,158,202 |
| Borrowing costs | | - | - | - | - | - |
| Finance costs - leases | | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other expenses | 4.1.12 | 364,176 | 376,584 | 389,114 | 415,485 | 429,387 |
| Total expenses | | 63,480,219 | 58,878,008 | 38,308,308 | 39,792,923 | 40,849,908 |
| Surplus/(deficit) for the year | | (7,945,004) | (8,589,468) | (7,501,324) | (7,968,942) | (7,973,285) |
| Other comprehensive income | | | | | | |
| Other comprehensive income | | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total other comprehensive income | | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total comprehensive result | | (7,945,004) | (8,589,468) | (7,501,324) | (7,968,942) | (7,973,285) |

 **LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL**
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

3 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**3.2 BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE FOUR YEARS ENDED 30 JUNE 2028**

| | NOTES | Forecast | Budget | Projections | | |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | | Actual 2023/24 \$ | 2024/25 \$ | 2025/26 \$ | 2026/27 \$ | 2027/28 \$ |
| Assets | | | | | | |
| Current assets | | | | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | | 19,814,333 | 15,114,814 | 12,372,209 | 7,841,337 | 3,981,939 |
| Trade and other receivables | | 1,062,884 | 989,920 | 603,988 | 624,237 | 645,196 |
| Other financial assets | | 2,807,790 | 2,807,790 | 2,807,790 | 2,807,790 | 2,807,790 |
| Inventories | | - | - | - | - | - |
| Prepayments | | - | - | - | - | - |
| Non-current assets classified as held for sale | | 311,958 | 311,958 | 311,958 | 311,958 | 311,958 |
| Total current assets | 4.2.1 | 23,996,965 | 19,224,482 | 16,095,945 | 11,585,322 | 7,746,883 |
| Non-current assets | | | | | | |
| Trade and other receivables | | - | - | - | - | - |
| Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment | | 412,884,088 | 421,509,675 | 429,435,747 | 439,135,491 | 448,443,108 |
| Right of use assets | | - | - | - | - | - |
| Intangible assets | | 292,782 | 292,782 | 292,782 | 292,782 | 292,782 |
| Total non-current assets | 4.2.1 | 413,176,870 | 421,802,457 | 429,728,529 | 439,428,273 | 448,735,890 |
| Total assets | | 437,173,835 | 441,026,939 | 445,824,474 | 451,013,595 | 456,482,773 |
| Liabilities | | | | | | |
| Current liabilities | | | | | | |
| Trade and other payables | | 1,167,215 | 976,111 | 391,602 | 419,796 | 432,426 |
| Trust funds and deposits | | 349,379 | 331,910 | 315,314 | 299,549 | 284,571 |
| Provisions | | 2,686,101 | 2,598,013 | 2,516,875 | 2,433,869 | 2,348,952 |
| Interest bearing loans and borrowings | 4.2.3 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Lease liabilities | | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total current liabilities | 4.2.2 | 4,202,695 | 3,906,034 | 3,223,791 | 3,153,214 | 3,065,949 |
| Non-current liabilities | | | | | | |
| Provisions | | 2,156,094 | 2,499,446 | 2,825,900 | 3,162,110 | 3,508,414 |
| Interest bearing loans and borrowings | 4.2.3 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Unearned income/revenue | | - | - | - | - | - |
| Lease liabilities | | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total non-current liabilities | 4.2.2 | 2,156,094 | 2,499,446 | 2,825,900 | 3,162,110 | 3,508,414 |
| Total liabilities | | 6,358,789 | 6,405,480 | 6,049,691 | 6,315,324 | 6,574,363 |
| NET ASSETS | | 430,815,046 | 434,621,459 | 439,774,783 | 444,698,271 | 449,908,410 |
| Equity | | | | | | |
| Accumulated surplus | | 108,721,964 | 99,925,806 | 91,184,806 | 83,884,427 | 75,607,682 |
| Asset revaluation reserve | | 313,333,466 | 325,729,347 | 338,383,996 | 351,276,427 | 364,459,851 |
| Other reserves | | 8,759,616 | 8,966,306 | 10,205,981 | 9,537,417 | 9,840,877 |
| TOTAL EQUITY | | 430,815,046 | 434,621,459 | 439,774,783 | 444,698,271 | 449,908,410 |



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

3 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

3.3 STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE FOUR YEARS ENDED 30 JUNE 2028

| 2024 Forecast Actual | Total \$ | Accumulated surplus \$ | Revaluation reserve \$ | Other reserves \$ |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Balance at beginning of the financial year | 427,276,599 | 91,709,883 | 301,850,014 | 33,716,702 |
| Surplus / (deficit) for the year | (7,945,004) | (7,945,004) | - | - |
| Net asset revaluation gain / (loss) | 11,483,452 | - | 11,483,452 | - |
| Transfer to other reserves | - | (2,256,953) | - | 2,256,953 |
| Transfer from other reserves | - | 27,214,038 | - | (27,214,038) |
| Balance at end of financial year | 430,815,046 | 108,721,964 | 313,333,466 | 8,759,616 |

| 2025 Budget | Total \$ | Accumulated surplus \$ | Revaluation reserve \$ | Other reserves \$ |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Balance at beginning of the financial year | 430,815,046 | 108,721,964 | 313,333,466 | 8,759,616 |
| Surplus / (deficit) for the year | (8,589,468) | (8,589,468) | - | - |
| Net asset revaluation gain / (loss) | 12,395,881 | - | 12,395,881 | - |
| Transfer to other reserves | - | (1,887,267) | - | 1,887,267 |
| Transfer from other reserves | - | 1,680,577 | - | (1,680,577) |
| Balance at end of financial year | 434,621,459 | 99,925,806 | 325,729,347 | 8,966,306 |

| 2026 Projection | Total \$ | Accumulated surplus \$ | Revaluation reserve \$ | Other reserves \$ |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Balance at beginning of the financial year | 434,621,459 | 99,925,806 | 325,729,347 | 8,966,306 |
| Surplus / (deficit) for the year | (7,501,324) | (7,501,324) | - | - |
| Net asset revaluation gain / (loss) | 12,654,649 | - | 12,654,649 | - |
| Transfer to other reserves | - | (1,892,936) | - | 1,892,936 |
| Transfer from other reserves | - | 653,261 | - | (653,261) |
| Balance at end of financial year | 439,774,783 | 91,184,806 | 338,383,996 | 10,205,981 |

| 2027 Projection | Total \$ | Accumulated surplus \$ | Revaluation reserve \$ | Other reserves \$ |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Balance at beginning of the financial year | 439,774,783 | 91,184,806 | 338,383,996 | 10,205,981 |
| Surplus / (deficit) for the year | (7,968,942) | (7,968,942) | - | - |
| Net asset revaluation gain / (loss) | 12,892,431 | - | 12,892,431 | - |
| Transfer to other reserves | - | (1,908,761) | - | 1,908,761 |
| Transfer from other reserves | - | 2,577,325 | - | (2,577,325) |
| Balance at end of financial year | 444,698,271 | 83,884,427 | 351,276,427 | 9,537,417 |

| 2028 Projection | Total \$ | Accumulated surplus \$ | Revaluation reserve \$ | Other reserves \$ |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Balance at beginning of the financial year | 444,698,271 | 83,884,427 | 351,276,427 | 9,537,417 |
| Surplus / (deficit) for the year | (7,973,285) | (7,973,285) | - | - |
| Net asset revaluation gain / (loss) | 13,183,424 | - | 13,183,424 | - |
| Transfer to other reserves | - | (1,904,746) | - | 1,904,746 |
| Transfer from other reserves | - | 1,601,286 | - | (1,601,286) |
| Balance at end of financial year | 449,908,410 | 75,607,682 | 364,459,851 | 9,840,877 |



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

3 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

3.4 STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE FOUR YEARS ENDED 30 JUNE 2028

| | NOTES | Forecast | Budget 2024/25 \$ | Projections | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | | Actual 2023/24 \$ | | 2025/26 \$ | 2026/27 \$ | 2027/28 \$ |
| Cash flows from operating activities | | | | | | |
| Receipts | | | | | | |
| Rates and charges | | 13,267,190 | 13,436,871 | 13,994,856 | 14,446,554 | 15,023,852 |
| Statutory fees and fines | | 255,711 | 313,717 | 353,460 | 321,498 | 330,323 |
| User fees | | 1,438,587 | 656,023 | 847,478 | 693,674 | 702,460 |
| Grants - operating | | 22,270,234 | 33,621,734 | 13,367,602 | 13,733,477 | 14,198,412 |
| Grants - capital | | 14,834,087 | 2,557,254 | 2,557,254 | 2,557,254 | 2,557,254 |
| Contributions - monetary | | 30,600 | - | - | - | - |
| Interest received | | 2,346,733 | 435,000 | 435,000 | 435,000 | 435,000 |
| Trust funds and deposits taken | | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other receipts | | 771,155 | 364,683 | 176,054 | 180,684 | 185,443 |
| Net GST refund/payment | | (208,270) | (210,352) | (212,456) | (214,580) | (216,726) |
| Operating receipts | | 55,006,027 | 51,174,930 | 31,519,248 | 32,153,561 | 33,216,018 |
| Payments | | | | | | |
| Employee costs | | (14,537,836) | (15,601,486) | (14,315,704) | (14,638,824) | (15,048,712) |
| Materials and services | | (40,576,569) | (33,510,852) | (13,932,896) | (14,282,874) | (14,729,331) |
| Trust funds and deposits repaid | | (18,388) | (17,469) | (16,596) | (15,765) | (14,978) |
| Short-term, low value and variable lease payments | | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other payments | | - | - | - | - | - |
| Operating payments | | (55,132,793) | (49,129,807) | (28,265,196) | (28,937,463) | (29,793,021) |
| Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities | 4.4.1 | (126,766) | 2,045,123 | 3,254,052 | 3,216,098 | 3,422,997 |
| Cash flows from investing activities | | | | | | |
| Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment | | (29,239,623) | (6,744,642) | (5,996,657) | (7,746,970) | (7,282,395) |
| Decrease in term deposits | | - | - | - | - | - |
| Loans and advances made | | - | - | - | - | - |
| Payments of loans and advances | | - | - | - | - | - |
| Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities | 4.4.2 | (29,239,623) | (6,744,642) | (5,996,657) | (7,746,970) | (7,282,395) |
| Cash flows from financing activities | | | | | | |
| Finance costs | | - | - | - | - | - |
| Repayment of lease liabilities | | - | - | - | - | - |
| Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities | 4.4.3 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | | (29,366,389) | (4,699,519) | (2,742,605) | (4,530,872) | (3,859,398) |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year | | 49,180,722 | 19,814,333 | 15,114,814 | 12,372,209 | 7,841,337 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year | | 19,814,333 | 15,114,814 | 12,372,209 | 7,841,337 | 3,981,939 |



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

3 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

3.5 STATEMENT OF CAPITAL WORKS
FOR THE FOUR YEARS ENDED 30 JUNE 2028

| | NOTES | Forecast | Budget | Projections | | |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | Actual 2023/24 \$ | 2024/25 \$ | 2025/26 \$ | 2026/27 \$ | 2027/28 \$ |
| Capital works areas | | | | | | |
| Land and buildings | | 1,742,750 | 305,000 | 405,000 | 405,000 | 405,000 |
| Office furniture and equipment | | 190,700 | 157,200 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 |
| Plant and equipment | | 3,990,299 | 1,318,296 | 427,008 | 1,853,308 | 1,186,857 |
| Footpaths | | 2,202,301 | 716,343 | 532,217 | 547,670 | 551,938 |
| Roadworks | | 9,239,146 | 3,510,222 | 3,873,679 | 4,154,475 | 4,191,671 |
| Urban and road drainage | | 2,383,600 | 350,000 | 350,000 | 350,000 | 350,000 |
| Recreation, leisure and community facilities | | 7,699,435 | 500,000 | 500,000 | 500,000 | 500,000 |
| Parks, open space and streetscapes | | 2,474,080 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 |
| Other infrastructure | | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total capital works | 4.5.1 | 29,922,311 | 6,957,061 | 6,287,904 | 8,010,453 | 7,385,466 |
| Represented by: | | | | | | |
| New asset expenditure | | 4,198,999 | 1,475,496 | 527,008 | 1,953,308 | 1,286,857 |
| Asset renewal expenditure | | 12,335,703 | 4,981,565 | 5,260,896 | 5,557,145 | 5,598,609 |
| Asset expansion expenditure | | 10,074,983 | - | - | - | - |
| Asset upgrade expenditure | | 3,312,626 | 500,000 | 500,000 | 500,000 | 500,000 |
| Total capital works expenditure | | 29,922,311 | 6,957,061 | 6,287,904 | 8,010,453 | 7,385,466 |

| | Forecast | Budget | Projections | | |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Actual 2023/24 \$ | 2024/25 \$ | 2025/26 \$ | 2026/27 \$ | 2027/28 \$ |
| Expenditure type | | | | | |
| Labour | 252,107 | 238,700 | 265,025 | 295,700 | - |
| Creditors | 19,115,343 | 4,427,636 | 3,794,657 | 5,422,133 | 4,220,257 |
| Contractors | 10,554,861 | 2,290,725 | 2,228,222 | 2,292,620 | 3,165,209 |
| Total capital works expenditure | 29,922,311 | 6,957,061 | 6,287,904 | 8,010,453 | 7,385,466 |

| | Forecast | Budget | Projections | | |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Actual 2023/24 \$ | 2024/25 \$ | 2025/26 \$ | 2026/27 \$ | 2027/28 \$ |
| Funding sourced represented by | | | | | |
| Grants / contributions | 14,902,613 | 2,507,112 | 2,507,112 | 2,507,112 | 2,507,112 |
| Council cash | 6,660,069 | 2,994,453 | 3,273,784 | 3,570,033 | 3,611,497 |
| Reserves | 2,389,682 | 1,243,077 | 215,761 | 1,669,825 | 1,163,786 |
| Sale of assets | 327,989 | 212,419 | 291,247 | 263,483 | 103,071 |
| Total capital works expenditure | 24,280,353 | 6,957,061 | 6,287,904 | 8,010,453 | 7,385,466 |



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

3 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

3.6 STATEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES FOR THE FOUR YEARS ENDED 30 JUNE 2028

| | Forecast | Budget 2024/25 | Projections | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Actual 2023/24 | | 2025/26 | 2026/27 | 2027/28 |
| | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Staff expenditure | | | | | |
| Employee labour - operating | 12,453,894 | 13,715,824 | 12,575,220 | 12,861,681 | 13,234,125 |
| Employee labour - capital | 252,107 | 238,700 | 265,025 | 295,700 | - |
| Total staff expenditure* | 12,706,001 | 13,954,524 | 12,840,245 | 13,157,381 | 13,234,125 |
| | | | | | |
| Staff numbers EFT** | EFT | EFT | EFT | EFT | EFT |
| Employees | 147.86 | 150.80 | 137.80 | 137.80 | 137.80 |
| Total staff numbers EFT | 147.86 | 150.80 | 137.80 | 137.80 | 137.80 |

* 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 2024/25 | Permanent Full Time | Permanent Part Time |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Staff cost | | | |
| Executive and commercial services | 1,334,417 | 888,180 | 446,238 |
| Community wellbeing | 2,752,066 | 1,573,914 | 1,178,152 |
| Corporate services | 2,300,097 | 1,818,159 | 481,938 |
| Operations | 7,329,243 | 7,022,805 | 306,438 |
| Total permanent staff expenditure | 13,715,824 | 11,303,057 | 2,412,766 |
| Other employee related expenditure | - | | |
| Capitalised labour costs | 238,700 | | |
| Total expenditure | 13,954,524 | | |

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

| Directorate | Budget 2024/25 | Permanent Full Time | Permanent Part Time |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Staff EFT | | | |
| Executive and commercial services | 9.79 | 5.00 | 4.79 |
| Community wellbeing | 28.66 | 15.00 | 13.66 |
| Corporate services | 24.07 | 18.00 | 6.07 |
| Operations | 88.28 | 85.00 | 3.28 |
| Total staff | 150.80 | 123.00 | 27.80 |



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

3 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

3.6 STATEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES (Continued)
FOR THE FOUR YEARS ENDED 30 JUNE 2028

| | Budget 2024/25 \$ | Projections | | |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | | 2025/26 \$ | 2026/27 \$ | 2027/28 \$ |
| Executive and commercial services | | | | |
| Permanent - Full time | | | | |
| - Female | 342,970 | 353,259 | 363,857 | 374,773 |
| - Male | 545,210 | 561,566 | 578,413 | 595,765 |
| Permanent - Part time | | | | |
| - Female | 300,966 | 309,995 | 319,295 | 328,874 |
| - Male | 145,272 | 149,630 | 154,119 | 158,742 |
| Total executive and commercial services | 1,334,417 | 1,374,450 | 1,415,683 | 1,458,154 |
| Community support | | | | |
| Permanent - Full time | | | | |
| - Female | 493,463 | 708,267 | 729,515 | 751,401 |
| - Male | 916,727 | 264,229 | 272,155 | 280,320 |
| Permanent - Part time | | | | |
| - Female | 1,069,434 | 1,101,517 | 1,134,562 | 1,168,599 |
| - Male | 108,719 | 111,980 | 115,340 | 118,800 |
| Total community support | 2,588,342 | 2,185,993 | 2,251,573 | 2,319,120 |
| Corporate services | | | | |
| Permanent - Full time | | | | |
| - Female | 1,407,209 | 1,149,425 | 1,183,908 | 1,219,425 |
| - Male | 410,950 | 423,278 | 435,977 | 449,056 |
| Permanent - Part time | | | | |
| - Female | 444,873 | 458,219 | 471,965 | 486,124 |
| - Male | 37,066 | 38,178 | 39,323 | 40,503 |
| Total corporate services | 2,300,097 | 2,069,100 | 2,131,173 | 2,195,108 |
| Operations | | | | |
| Permanent - Full time | | | | |
| - Female | 863,323 | 889,223 | 915,899 | 943,376 |
| - Male | 6,323,206 | 5,740,824 | 5,822,253 | 5,983,514 |
| Permanent - Part time | | | | |
| - Female | 133,605 | 137,613 | 141,742 | 145,994 |
| - Male | 172,833 | 178,018 | 183,358 | 188,859 |
| Total operations | 7,492,967 | 6,945,678 | 7,063,252 | 7,261,743 |
| Casuals and temporary staff | - | - | - | - |
| Capitalised labour costs | 238,700 | 265,025 | 295,700 | - |
| Total staff expenditure | 13,954,524 | 12,840,245 | 13,157,381 | 13,234,125 |



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

3 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

3.6 STATEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES (Continued)
FOR THE FOUR YEARS ENDED 30 JUNE 2028

| | Budget 2024/25 EFT | Projections | | |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | | 2025/26 EFT | 2026/27 EFT | 2027/28 EFT |
| Executive and commercial services | | | | |
| Permanent - Full time | | | | |
| - Female | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 |
| - Male | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 |
| Permanent - Part time | | | | |
| - Female | 3.42 | 3.42 | 3.42 | 3.42 |
| - Male | 1.37 | 1.37 | 1.37 | 1.37 |
| Total executive and commercial services | 9.79 | 9.79 | 9.79 | 9.79 |
| Community support | | | | |
| Permanent - Full time | | | | |
| - Female | 6.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 |
| - Male | 9.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 |
| Permanent - Part time | | | | |
| - Female | 12.56 | 12.56 | 12.56 | 12.56 |
| - Male | 1.10 | 1.10 | 1.10 | 1.10 |
| Total community support | 28.66 | 21.66 | 21.66 | 21.66 |
| Corporate services | | | | |
| Permanent - Full time | | | | |
| - Female | 14.00 | 8.00 | 8.00 | 8.00 |
| - Male | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 |
| Permanent - Part time | | | | |
| - Female | 5.80 | 5.80 | 5.80 | 5.80 |
| - Male | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 |
| Total corporate services | 24.07 | 18.07 | 18.07 | 18.07 |
| Operations | | | | |
| Permanent - Full time | | | | |
| - Female | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| - Male | 70.00 | 70.00 | 70.00 | 70.00 |
| Permanent - Part time | | | | |
| - Female | 1.63 | 1.63 | 1.63 | 1.63 |
| - Male | 1.65 | 1.65 | 1.65 | 1.65 |
| Total operations | 83.28 | 83.28 | 83.28 | 83.28 |
| Casuals and temporary staff | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Capitalised labour costs | 5.00 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 5.00 |
| Total staff expenditure | 150.80 | 137.80 | 137.80 | 137.80 |



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

3 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

3.7 STATEMENT OF RESERVES
FOR THE FOUR YEARS ENDED 30 JUNE 2028

| | Forecast Actual 2023/24 \$ | Budget 2024/25 \$ | Projections | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | | 2025/26 \$ | 2026/27 \$ | 2027/28 \$ |
| Discretionary | | | | | |
| Capital expenditure reserve | 8,784 | 8,784 | 8,784 | 8,784 | 8,784 |
| Caravan park development reserve | 383,834 | 465,354 | 549,191 | 635,405 | 724,056 |
| Community planning reserve | 969,030 | 969,030 | 969,030 | 969,030 | 969,030 |
| Gravel and sand pit reserve | 108,043 | 222,100 | 339,509 | 366 | 124,171 |
| Heritage loan scheme reserve | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 |
| Land and buildings reserve | 1,229,592 | 1,229,592 | 1,229,592 | 1,229,592 | 1,229,592 |
| Little Lake Boort water reserve | 17,604 | 17,604 | 17,604 | 17,604 | 17,604 |
| Major projects reserve | 298,485 | 298,485 | 298,485 | 298,485 | 298,485 |
| Reserves improvement reserve | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 |
| Superannuation liability reserve | 1,000,000 | 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 grants reserve | 958,829 | 958,829 | 958,829 | 958,829 | 958,829 |
| Waste management reserve | 345,320 | 379,510 | 413,700 | 447,890 | 482,080 |
| Fleet replacement reserve | 704,570 | 691,227 | 711,760 | 674,893 | 739,879 |
| Information technology reserve | 521,057 | 433,857 | 403,857 | 373,857 | 343,857 |
| Plant replacement reserve | 308,570 | 336,036 | 1,299,742 | 866,784 | 838,012 |
| Professional development reserve | 18,214 | 18,214 | 18,214 | 18,214 | 18,214 |
| Swimming pool major projects reserve | - | 50,000 | 100,000 | 150,000 | 200,000 |
| Urban drainage reserve | 1,587,684 | 1,587,684 | 1,587,684 | 1,587,684 | 1,587,684 |
| Total discretionary reserves | 4.3.2 8,759,616 | 8,966,306 | 10,205,981 | 9,537,417 | 9,840,277 |



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

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 2024/25 the FGRS cap has been set at 2.75%. 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 2.75% in line with the rate cap.

This will raise total rates and charges for 2024/25 of \$13.12 million.

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

| | Forecast Actual 2023/24 \$ | Budget 2024/25 \$ | Change \$ | Change % |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| General rates* | 9,256,189 | 9,503,074 | 246,885 | 2.7% |
| Municipal charge* | 1,416,962 | 1,463,589 | 46,627 | 3.3% |
| Garbage charge | 1,536,577 | 1,594,801 | 58,224 | 3.8% |
| Kerbside recycling charge | 546,691 | 553,566 | 6,875 | 1.3% |
| Total rates and charges | 12,756,419 | 13,115,030 | 358,611 | 2.8% |
| Interest on rates and charges | 35,000 | 35,000 | - | 0.0% |

* 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 | 2023/24 cents/\$CIV | 2024/25 cents/\$CIV | Change |
|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------|
| General | 0.213716 | 0.194080 | -9.2% |
| Rural | 0.188070 | 0.170831 | -9.2% |



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

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 | 2023/24 \$ | 2024/25 \$ | Change |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------|
| General | 2,532,418 | 2,448,182 | -3.3% |
| Rural | 6,723,771 | 7,054,892 | 4.9% |
| Total amount to be raised by rates | 9,256,189 | 9,503,074 | 2.7% |

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 | 2023/24 number | 2024/25 number | Change |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| General | 4,444 | 4,444 | 0.0% |
| Rural | 3,595 | 3,595 | 0.0% |
| Total number of assessments | 8,039 | 8,039 | 0.0% |

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 | 2023/24 \$ | 2024/25 \$ | Change |
|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| General | 1,179,268,100 | 1,261,428,300 | 7.0% |
| Rural | 3,573,036,200 | 4,129,761,200 | 15.6% |
| Total value of land | 4,752,304,300 | 5,391,189,500 | 13.4% |

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 2023/24 \$ | Per rateable property 2024/25 \$ | Change |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------|
| Municipal | 237 | 243 | 2.5% |

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

| Type of charge | 2023/24 \$ | 2024/25 \$ | Change |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|--------|
| Municipal | 1,416,962 | 1,463,589 | 3.3% |



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

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 2023/24 \$ | Per rateable property 2024/25 \$ | Change |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------|
| Garbage collection 140 litre | 401 | 401 | 0.0% |
| Garbage collection 240 litre | 545 | 545 | 0.0% |
| Kerbside recycling 240 litre | 151 | 151 | 0.0% |

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 | 2023/24 \$ | 2024/25 \$ | Change |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Garbage charge | 1,536,577 | 1,594,801 | 3.8% |
| Kerbside recycling charge | 546,691 | 553,566 | 1.3% |
| Total | 2,083,268 | 2,148,367 | 3.1% |

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

| | 2023/24 \$ | 2024/25 \$ | Change |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| General rates | 9,256,189 | 9,503,074 | 2.7% |
| Municipal charge | 1,416,962 | 1,463,589 | 3.3% |
| Garbage and kerbside recycling charge | 2,083,268 | 2,148,367 | 3.1% |
| Total rates and charges | 12,756,419 | 13,115,030 | 2.8% |

4.1.1 (l) Fair Go Rates System Compliance

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

| | 2023/24 \$ | 2024/25 \$ |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Total rates base | 10,077,936 | 10,673,151 |
| Number of rateable properties | 7,981 | 8,039 |
| Base average rate | 1,262.74 | 1,327.67 |
| Maximum rate increase (set by State Government) | 3.50% | 2.75% |
| Capped average rate | 1,306.94 | 1,364.18 |
| Maximum general rates and municipal charges revenue | 10,430,664 | 10,966,663 |
| Budgeted general rates and municipal charges revenue | 10,430,664 | 10,966,663 |



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

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 1989.

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

- a general rate of 0.001941 cents in the dollar of CIV for all rateable general properties
- a rural rate of 0.001708 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 2024/25 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 2023/24 \$ | Budget 2024/25 \$ | Change \$ | Change % |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Rates and property | 14,414 | 14,810 | 396 | 2.7% |
| Risk management | 12,257 | 12,594 | 337 | 2.7% |
| Building regulation | 63,951 | 83,984 | 20,033 | 31.3% |
| Local laws and animal management | 57,510 | 61,192 | 3,682 | 6.4% |
| Public health | 44,678 | 45,907 | 1,229 | 2.8% |
| Strategic and statutory planning | 79,733 | 81,925 | 2,192 | 2.7% |
| Total statutory fees and fines | 272,543 | 300,412 | 25,677 | 10.2% |

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 2025

4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

4.1 Comprehensive income statement (continued)

4.1.3 User fees

| | Forecast Actual 2023/24 \$ | Budget 2024/25 \$ | Change \$ | Change % |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Economic development | 38,844 | 39,912 | 1,068 | 2.7% |
| Caravan parks | 128,436 | 131,969 | 3,533 | 2.8% |
| Elderly persons units | 70,154 | 67,113 | (3,041) | -4.3% |
| Seniors | 3,605 | 3,190 | (415) | -11.5% |
| Emergency management | 7,376 | 5,000 | (2,376) | -32.2% |
| Municipal health and wellbeing | 1,500 | 1,500 | - | 0.0% |
| Early years | 2,300 | 2,300 | - | 0.0% |
| Financial services | 500 | 500 | - | 0.0% |
| Human resources and development | 42,419 | 43,586 | 1,167 | 2.8% |
| Council engineering and technical services | 50,400 | 58,799 | 8,399 | 16.7% |
| Building regulation | 2,212 | 2,328 | 116 | 5.2% |
| Building and property maintenance | 106 | 109 | 3 | 2.8% |
| Gravel pits | 165,834 | 170,809 | 4,975 | 3.0% |
| Roads | 42,098 | 43,256 | 1,158 | 2.8% |
| Waste management | 38,651 | 40,599 | 1,948 | 5.0% |
| Total user fees | 594,435 | 610,970 | 16,535 | 2.8% |

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

4.1.4 Grants

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

| | Forecast Actual 2023/24 \$ | Budget 2024/25 \$ | Change \$ | Change % |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Grants were received in respect of the following: | | | | |
| Summary of grants | | | | |
| Commonwealth funded grants | 23,139,341 | 34,125,389 | 10,986,048 | 47.5% |
| State funded grants | 16,351,441 | 1,344,207 | (15,007,234) | -91.8% |
| Total grants received | 39,490,782 | 35,469,596 | (4,021,186) | -10.2% |



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

4.1 Comprehensive income statement (continued)

4.1.4 Grants (Continued)

| | Forecast Actual 2023/24 \$ | Budget 2024/25 \$ | Change \$ | Change % |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| (a) Operating grants | | | | |
| Recurrent - Commonwealth Government | | | | |
| VLGGC - local roads | 196,638 | 4,878,152 | 4,681,514 | 2380.8% |
| VLGGC - general | 268,148 | 6,740,125 | 6,471,977 | 2413.6% |
| Recurrent - State Government | | | | |
| Seniors | 2,600 | 2,600 | - | 100.0% |
| Maternal and child health | 262,779 | 268,035 | 5,256 | 2.0% |
| Early years | 66,866 | 112,853 | 45,987 | 68.8% |
| Pre-schools | 521,625 | 541,502 | 19,877 | 3.8% |
| Immunisation | 6,667 | 6,800 | 133 | 2.0% |
| Rates and property | 47,325 | 48,272 | 947 | 2.0% |
| Local laws and animal management | 13,118 | 15,675 | 2,557 | 19.5% |
| Public health | 6,289 | 6,414 | 125 | 2.0% |
| Roads | 85,000 | 85,000 | - | 0.0% |
| Waste management | 4,000 | 4,080 | 80 | 2.0% |
| Waterways management | 11,750 | 11,750 | - | 0.0% |
| Total recurrent grants | 1,492,805 | 12,721,258 | 11,228,453 | 752.2% |
| Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government | | | | |
| Flood management | 20,000,000 | 20,000,000 | - | 0.0% |
| Non-recurrent State Government | | | | |
| Community wellbeing | 100,000 | - | (100,000) | -100.0% |
| Community support | 3,000 | - | (3,000) | -100.0% |
| Grants and community planning | 30,000 | - | (30,000) | -100.0% |
| Pre-schools | 167,573 | 241,226 | 73,653 | 44.0% |
| Project and contact management | 21,500 | - | (21,500) | -100.0% |
| Public health | 18,685 | - | (18,685) | -100.0% |
| Total non-recurrent grants | 340,758 | 241,226 | 468 | -29.2% |
| Total operating grants | 21,833,563 | 32,962,484 | 11,228,921 | 51.0% |

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



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

4.1 Comprehensive income statement (continued)

4.1.4 Grants (Continued)

| | Forecast Actual 2023/24 \$ | Budget 2024/25 \$ | Change \$ | Change % |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| (b) Capital grants | | | | |
| Recurrent - Commonwealth Government | | | | |
| Roads to Recovery | 2,674,555 | 2,507,112 | (167,443) | -6.3% |
| Recurrent - State Government | | | | |
| Caravan parks | 273,968 | - | (273,968) | 0.0% |
| Total - recurrent capital grants | 2,948,523 | 2,507,112 | (441,411) | -15.0% |
| Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government | | | | |
| Nil | - | - | - | 0.0% |
| Non-recurrent - State Government | | | | |
| Grants and community planning | 5,366,974 | - | (5,366,974) | -100.0% |
| Local roads community infrastructure funding | 7,514,950 | - | (7,514,950) | -100.0% |
| Projects and contract management | 1,826,772 | - | (1,826,772) | -100.0% |
| Total - non-recurrent capital grants | 14,708,696 | - | (14,708,696) | -100.0% |
| Total - capital grants | 17,657,219 | 2,507,112 | (15,150,107) | -85.8% |

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 2023/24 \$ | Budget 2024/25 \$ | Change \$ | Change % |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Monetary | 30,000 | - | (30,000) | 100.0% |
| Non-monetary | - | - | - | 0.0% |
| Total contributions | 30,000 | - | 30,000 | 100.0% |

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

4.1.6 Reimbursements

| | Forecast Actual 2023/24 \$ | Budget 2024/25 \$ | Change \$ | Change % |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Council administration | 107,373 | 110,030 | 2,657 | 2.5% |
| Corporate governance | - | 239,742 | 239,742 | #DIV/0! |
| Human resources and development | 55,000 | 5,610 | (49,390) | -89.8% |
| Risk management | 88,137 | 2,150 | (85,987) | -97.6% |
| Plant and fleet | 147,642 | - | (147,642) | -100.0% |
| Total reimbursements | 398,152 | 357,532 | (40,620) | -10.2% |

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 2025

4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

4.1 Comprehensive income statement (continued)

4.1.7 Regional Roads Victoria

| | Forecast Actual 2023/24 \$ | Budget 2024/25 \$ | Change \$ | Change % |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Approved maintenance | 29,713 | - | (29,713) | -100.0% |
| Provisional sum items | 52,381 | - | (52,381) | -100.0% |
| Routine maintenance | 275,788 | - | (275,788) | -100.0% |
| Total Regional Roads Victoria | 357,882 | - | (357,882) | -100.0% |

Council's contract with Regional Roads Victoria includes an "as of right" amount for routine maintenance works. The current contract expired at 31 December 2023.

4.1.8 Other income

| | Forecast Actual 2023/24 \$ | Budget 2024/25 \$ | Change \$ | Change % |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Interest | 1,600,000 | 400,000 | (1,200,000) | -75.0% |
| Reversal of impairment losses | - | - | - | 0.0% |
| Total other income | 1,600,000 | 400,000 | (1,200,000) | -75.0% |

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

4.1.9 Employee costs

| | Forecast Actual 2023/24 \$ | Budget 2024/25 \$ | Change \$ | Change % |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Wages and salaries | 12,453,894 | 13,715,824 | 1,261,930 | 10.1% |
| Workcover | 362,232 | 406,563 | 44,331 | 12.2% |
| Superannuation | 1,339,640 | 1,565,632 | 225,992 | 16.9% |
| Fringe benefits tax | 108,516 | 138,000 | 29,484 | 27.2% |
| Total employee costs | 14,264,282 | 15,826,019 | 1,561,737 | 10.9% |

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 2025

4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

4.1 Comprehensive income statement (continued)

4.1.10 Materials, services and contracts

| | Forecast Actual 2023/24 \$ | Budget 2024/25 \$ | Change \$ | Change % |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Administration and management | 178,893 | 96,682 | (82,211) | -46.0% |
| Flood management | 22,905,633 | 19,258,899 | (3,646,734) | -15.9% |
| Economic development | 159,053 | 150,311 | (8,742) | -5.5% |
| Council administration | 274,838 | 333,573 | 58,735 | 21.4% |
| Library services | 229,918 | 238,425 | 8,507 | 3.7% |
| Media | 76,730 | 79,421 | 2,691 | 3.5% |
| Caravan parks | 99,355 | 46,364 | (52,991) | -53.3% |
| Tourism | 255,134 | 205,653 | (49,481) | -19.4% |
| Elderly persons units | 73,382 | 76,628 | 3,246 | 4.4% |
| Rural access | 85,031 | 40,000 | (45,031) | -53.0% |
| Seniors | 44,018 | 54,493 | 10,475 | 23.8% |
| Community wellbeing projects | 118,515 | 0 | (118,515) | -100.0% |
| Community support | 441,515 | 246,724 | (194,791) | -44.1% |
| Emergency management | 42,954 | 14,736 | (28,218) | -65.7% |
| Grants and community planning | 1,619,825 | 560,000 | (1,059,825) | -65.4% |
| Municipal health and wellbeing | 53,253 | 10,200 | (43,053) | -80.8% |
| Swimming pools | 651,539 | 658,501 | 6,962 | 1.1% |
| Maternal and child health | 352,475 | 105,832 | (246,643) | -70.0% |
| Early years | 460,830 | 43,461 | (417,369) | -90.6% |
| Pre-schools | 30,504 | 25,413 | (5,091) | -16.7% |
| Immunisation | 196,175 | 118,977 | (77,198) | 100.0% |
| Youth | 14,557 | - | (14,557) | -100.0% |
| Corporate Governance | 118,577 | 358,441 | 239,864 | 202.3% |
| Financial services | 451,845 | 358,657 | (93,188) | -20.6% |
| Rates and property | 41,053 | 42,017 | 964 | 2.3% |
| Customer service | 60,893 | 63,146 | 2,253 | 3.7% |
| Information management | 10,090 | 10,463 | 373 | 3.7% |
| Information technology | 1,356,911 | 1,449,729 | 92,818 | 6.8% |
| Human resources and development | 639,637 | 595,981 | (43,656) | -6.8% |
| Risk management | 910,141 | 847,725 | (62,416) | -6.9% |
| Local roads and community infrastructure projects | 295,599 | - | (295,599) | -100.0% |
| Council engineering and technical services | 200,720 | 223,131 | 22,411 | 11.2% |
| Project and contract management | 250,500 | 151,110 | (99,390) | -39.7% |
| Building regulation | 10,527 | 10,547 | 20 | 0.2% |
| Local laws and animal management | 135,891 | 29,850 | (106,041) | -78.0% |
| Public health | 109,570 | 51,713 | (57,857) | -52.8% |
| Strategic and statutory planning | 68,186 | 8,304 | (59,882) | -87.8% |
| Air strips | 8,863 | 9,220 | 357 | 4.0% |
| Building and property maintenance | 719,207 | 765,680 | 46,473 | 6.5% |
| Plant and fleet | (2,329,542) | (2,122,777) | 206,765 | -8.9% |
| Gravel pits | 214,950 | 42,019 | (172,931) | -80.5% |
| Management and administration | 72,000 | - | (72,000) | -100.0% |
| Parks and townships | 414,728 | 435,258 | 20,530 | 5.0% |



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

4.1 Comprehensive income statement (continued)

4.1.10 Materials, services and contracts

| | Forecast Actual 2023/24 \$ | Budget 2024/25 \$ | Change \$ | Change % |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Roads | 4,367,461 | 4,501,067 | 133,606 | 3.1% |
| DOT routine maintenance contract | 156,847 | - | (156,847) | -100.0% |
| Waste management | 1,832,645 | 1,902,498 | 69,853 | 3.8% |
| Waterways management | 61,574 | 62,396 | 822 | 1.3% |
| Total materials, services and contracts | 38,543,000 | 32,160,468 | (6,382,532) | -16.6% |

Materials, services and contracts include the purchase of consumables, payments to contractors for the provision of services and utility costs.

4.1.11 Depreciation - right of use assets

| | Forecast Actual 2023/24 \$ | Budget 2024/25 \$ | Change \$ | Change % |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Roads | 5,630,505 | 5,743,116 | 112,611 | 2.0% |
| Buildings | 1,994,457 | 2,034,346 | 39,889 | 2.0% |
| Plant and equipment | 1,382,917 | 1,410,576 | 27,658 | 2.0% |
| Bridges | 373,708 | 381,182 | 7,474 | 2.0% |
| Urban drains | 256,884 | 262,022 | 5,138 | 2.0% |
| Furniture and equipment | 119,791 | 122,186 | 2,396 | 2.0% |
| Footpaths | 202,826 | 206,882 | 4,057 | 2.0% |
| Kerb and channel | 131,984 | 134,624 | 2,640 | 2.0% |
| Landfills | 179,685 | 183,279 | 3,594 | 2.0% |
| Street furniture | 33,341 | 34,007 | 667 | 2.0% |
| Quarries | 2,661 | 2,715 | 53 | 2.0% |
| Total depreciation - right of use assets | 10,308,760 | 10,514,936 | 206,176 | 2.0% |

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 2023/24 \$ | Budget 2024/25 \$ | Change \$ | Change % |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Councillors' emoluments | 272,555 | 281,974 | 9,419 | 3.5% |
| Internal audit remuneration | 43,827 | 45,287 | 1,460 | 3.3% |
| External audit remuneration | 47,794 | 49,323 | 1,529 | 3.2% |
| Impairment of interest free loans | - | - | - | 0.0% |
| Total other expenses | 364,176 | 376,584 | 12,408 | 3.4% |

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



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

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 \$4.70 million during the year mainly due the expectation to have most capital projects complete by 30 June offset by the timing of income as to when some grants income will be received.

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 \$8.65 million increase in this balance is attributable to the net result of the capital works program (\$29.92 million in 2023/24 and \$6.96 million in 2024/25), depreciation of assets (\$10.31 million in 2023/24 and \$10.51 million in 2024/25) 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 increase by \$0.19 million in 2023/24 levels due to an increase in material and services costs incurred during the financial year as a result of flood restoration works.

Employee benefits include accrued long service leave, annual leave and rostered days off owing to employees. These employee entitlements are expected to decrease by \$0.09 million (current liability) and increase by \$0.34 million (non current liability) due to increases in employee service years.



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

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 2023/24 \$ | Budget 2024/25 \$ |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Total amount borrowed as at 30 June of the prior year | - | - |
| Total amount to be borrowed | - | - |
| Total amount projected to be redeemed | - | - |
| Total amount proposed to be borrowed as at 30 June | - | - |

Amount (of opening balance) to be refinanced -

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 2024/25 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 2023/24 \$ | Budget 2024/25 \$ |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Right-of-use assets | | |
| Property | - | - |
| Total right-of-use assets | - | - |
| Lease liabilities | | |
| Current lease liabilities | | |
| Land and buildings | - | - |
| Total current lease liabilities | - | - |
| Non-current lease liabilities | | |
| Land and buildings | - | - |
| Total non-current lease liabilities | - | - |
| Total lease liabilities | - | - |

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 on short term leases is 4.43%.



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

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 \$500K 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 and development of land and buildings. Funds received from the sale of Council owned land and buildings are transferred to the reserve.

Little Lake Boort water reserve

The Little 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 Little 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 2025

4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

4.3 Statement of changes in equity (continued)

4.3.1 Reserves (continued)

Community loans scheme reserve

The Community Loans Scheme 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 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), Council transfers from the reserve the cost of strategic projects, compliance and long term planning within Council landfills and transfer stations.

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.

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 fixed amount 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.



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

4.3 Statement of changes in equity (continued)

4.3.1 Reserves (continued)

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.

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.

4.3.2 Transfers to and from reserves

The following is a summary of the projected reserves position for the year ended 30 June 2024:

| 2023/24 reserves - as per projected forecast | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Name of reserve | Balance at 1 July 2023 \$ | Transfers to reserves \$ | Transfers from reserves \$ | Balance at 30 June 2024 \$ |
| Capital expenditure reserve | 3,776,304 | - | 3,767,520 | 8,784 |
| Caravan park development reserve | 358,750 | 32,584 | 7,500 | 383,834 |
| Community planning reserve | 3,592,145 | - | 2,623,115 | 969,030 |
| Gravel and sand pit reserve | 171,575 | 110,843 | 174,375 | 108,043 |
| Heritage loan scheme reserve | 100,000 | - | - | 100,000 |
| Land and buildings reserve | 1,247,592 | - | 18,000 | 1,229,592 |
| Little Lake Boort water reserve | 17,604 | - | - | 17,604 |
| Major projects reserve | 398,485 | - | 100,000 | 298,485 |
| Reserves improvement reserve | 100,000 | - | - | 100,000 |
| Superannuation liability reserve | 1,000,000 | - | - | 1,000,000 |
| Unightly premises enforcement | 100,000 | - | - | 100,000 |
| Unspent grants reserve | 17,288,935 | 73,714 | 16,403,820 | 958,829 |
| Waste management reserve | 311,130 | 34,190 | - | 345,320 |
| Fleet replacement reserve | 897,753 | 150,000 | 343,183 | 704,570 |
| Information technology reserve | 641,757 | 150,000 | 270,700 | 521,057 |
| Plant replacement reserve | 2,364,395 | 950,000 | 3,005,825 | 308,570 |
| Professional development reserve | 12,214 | 6,000 | - | 18,214 |
| Swimming pool major projects reserve | 200,000 | 50,000 | 250,000 | - |
| Urban drainage reserve | 1,138,062 | 699,622 | 250,000 | 1,587,684 |
| TOTAL | 33,716,701 | 2,256,953 | 27,214,038 | 8,759,616 |



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

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 2024:

| 2024/25 reserves - as per budget | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Name of reserve | Balance at 1 July 2024 | Transfers to reserves | Transfers from reserves | Balance at 30 June 2025 |
| | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Capital expenditure reserve | 8,784 | - | - | 8,784 |
| Caravan park development reserve | 383,834 | 89,020 | 7,500 | 465,354 |
| Community planning reserve | 969,030 | - | - | 969,030 |
| Gravel and sand pit reserve | 108,043 | 114,057 | - | 222,100 |
| Heritage loan scheme reserve | 100,000 | - | - | 100,000 |
| Land and buildings reserve | 1,229,592 | - | - | 1,229,592 |
| Little Lake Boort water reserve | 17,604 | - | - | 17,604 |
| Major projects reserve | 298,485 | - | - | 298,485 |
| Reserves improvement reserve | 100,000 | - | - | 100,000 |
| Superannuation liability reserve | 1,000,000 | - | - | 1,000,000 |
| Unightly premises enforcement | 100,000 | - | - | 100,000 |
| Unspent grants reserve | 958,829 | - | - | 958,829 |
| Waste management reserve | 345,320 | 34,190 | - | 379,510 |
| Fleet replacement reserve | 704,570 | 150,000 | 163,343 | 691,227 |
| Information technology reserve | 521,057 | 150,000 | 237,200 | 433,857 |
| Plant replacement reserve | 308,570 | 950,000 | 922,534 | 336,036 |
| Professional development reserve | 18,214 | - | - | 18,214 |
| Swimming pool major projects reserve | - | 50,000 | - | 50,000 |
| Urban drainage reserve | 1,587,684 | 350,000 | 350,000 | 1,587,684 |
| TOTAL | 8,759,616 | 1,887,267 | 1,680,577 | 8,966,306 |

By including the above transfers from reserves it is expected that reserve levels increase by approximately \$0.2M million, leaving a balance of \$8.97 million in the reserves account.

4.3.3 Details of reserves

The following schedule provides details of each of the reserve transfers for 2024/25:

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------------|-----|---------|---------|
| Capital expenditure reserve | | | |
| Opening balance | | | 8,784 |
| ADD transfer to reserve | | | |
| Nil | N/A | - | - |
| LESS transfer from reserve | | | |
| Nil | N/A | - | - |
| Closing balance | | | 8,784 |
| Caravan park development reserve | | | |
| Opening balance | | | 383,834 |
| ADD transfer to reserve | | | |
| Surplus of caravan park operations | | 89,020 | 89,020 |
| LESS transfer from reserve | | | |
| Tree works | | (7,500) | (7,500) |
| Closing balance | | | 465,354 |



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

4.3 Statement of changes in equity (continued)

4.3.3 Details of reserves (continued)

| | | | |
|----------------------------------------|--|---------|------------------|
| Community planning reserve | | | |
| Opening balance | | | 969,030 |
| ADD transfer to reserve | | | |
| Nil | | - | - |
| LESS transfer from reserve | | | |
| Nil | | - | - |
| Closing balance | | | <u>969,030</u> |
| GSP restoration reserve | | | |
| Opening balance | | | 108,043 |
| ADD transfer to reserve | | | |
| Surplus of GSP operations | | 114,057 | 114,057 |
| LESS transfer from reserve | | | |
| Nil | | - | - |
| Closing balance | | | <u>222,100</u> |
| Heritage loan scheme reserve | | | |
| Opening balance | | | 100,000 |
| ADD transfer to reserve | | | |
| Nil | | - | - |
| LESS transfer from reserve | | | |
| Nil | | - | - |
| Closing balance | | | <u>100,000</u> |
| Land and buildings reserve | | | |
| Opening balance | | | 1,229,592 |
| ADD transfer to reserve | | | |
| Nil | | - | - |
| LESS transfer from reserve | | | |
| Nil | | - | - |
| Closing balance | | | <u>1,229,592</u> |
| Little Lake Boort water reserve | | | |
| Opening balance | | | 17,604 |
| ADD transfer to reserve | | | |
| Nil | | - | - |
| LESS transfer from reserve | | | |
| Nil | | - | - |
| Closing balance | | | <u>17,604</u> |



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

4.3 Statement of changes in equity (continued)

4.3.3 Details of reserves (continued)

| Major projects reserve | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|---|---------|
| Opening balance | | | 298,485 |
| ADD transfer to reserve | | | |
| Nil | | - | - |
| LESS transfer from reserve | | | |
| Nil | | - | - |
| Closing balance | | | 298,485 |

| Community loans scheme reserve | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|---------|
| Opening balance | | | 100,000 |
| ADD transfer to reserve | | | |
| Nil | | - | - |
| LESS transfer from reserve | | | |
| Nil | | - | - |
| Closing balance | | | 100,000 |

| Superannuation liability reserve | | | |
|-----------------------------------------|--|---|-----------|
| Opening balance | | | 1,000,000 |
| ADD transfer to reserve | | | |
| Nil | | - | - |
| LESS transfer from reserve | | | |
| Not required - COVID-19 response | | - | - |
| Closing balance | | | 1,000,000 |

| Unightly premises enforcement provision reserve | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--|---|---------|
| Opening balance | | | 100,000 |
| ADD transfer to reserve | | | |
| Nil | | - | - |
| LESS transfer from reserve | | | |
| Nil | | - | - |
| Closing balance | | | 100,000 |

| Unspent grants reserve | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|---|---------|
| Opening balance | | | 958,829 |
| ADD transfer to reserve | | | |
| Nil | | - | - |
| LESS transfer from reserve | | | |
| Nil | | - | - |
| Closing balance | | | 958,829 |



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

4.3 Statement of changes in equity (continued)

4.3.3 Details of reserves (continued)

| Waste management reserve | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|--------|----------------|
| Opening balance | | | 345,320 |
| ADD transfer to reserve | | | |
| Allocation to reserve | | 34,190 | 34,190 |
| LESS transfer from reserve | | | |
| Nil | | - | - |
| Closing balance | | | <u>379,510</u> |

| Fleet replacement reserve | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|-----------|----------------|
| Opening balance | | | 704,570 |
| ADD transfer to reserve | | | |
| Annual allocation to reserve | | 150,000 | 150,000 |
| LESS transfer from reserve | | | |
| Net cost of fleet replacement | | (163,343) | (163,343) |
| Closing balance | | | <u>691,227</u> |

| Information technology reserve | | | |
|----------------------------------------|--|-----------|----------------|
| Opening balance | | | 521,057 |
| ADD transfer to reserve | | | |
| Annual allocations for major purchases | | 150,000 | 150,000 |
| LESS transfer from reserve | | | |
| IT equipment purchases | | (237,200) | (237,200) |
| Closing balance | | | <u>433,857</u> |

| Plant replacement reserve | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|-----------|----------------|
| Opening balance | | | 308,570 |
| ADD transfer to reserve | | | |
| Annual allocation to reserve | | 950,000 | 950,000 |
| LESS transfer from reserve | | | |
| Net cost of plant replacement | | (922,534) | (922,534) |
| Closing balance | | | <u>336,036</u> |

| Professional development reserve | | | |
|-----------------------------------------|--|---|---------------|
| Opening balance | | | 18,214 |
| ADD transfer to reserve | | | |
| Annual allocation | | - | - |
| LESS transfer from reserve | | | |
| Nil | | - | - |
| Closing balance | | | <u>18,214</u> |



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

4.3 Statement of changes in equity (continued)

4.3.3 Details of reserves (continued)

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------------|--|-----------|-----------|
| Swimming pool major projects reserve | | | |
| Opening balance | | | - |
| ADD transfer to reserve | | | |
| Annual allocation to reserve | | 50,000 | 50,000 |
| LESS transfer from reserve | | | |
| Capital works program | | - | - |
| Closing balance | | | 50,000 |
| Urban drainage reserve | | | |
| Opening balance | | | 1,587,684 |
| ADD transfer to reserve | | | |
| Annual allocation | | 350,000 | 350,000 |
| LESS transfer from reserve | | | |
| Drainage program | | (350,000) | (350,000) |
| Closing balance | | | 1,587,684 |

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.

| | Actual | 2024/25 | Variance |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Current assets | 23,996,965 | 19,224,482 | 4,772,483 |
| Current liabilities | 4,202,695 | 3,906,034 | 296,661 |
| Working capital | 19,794,270 | 15,318,448 | 4,475,822 |
| Intended allocation assets | | | |
| - Discretionary reserves | (8,759,616) | (8,966,306) | 206,690 |
| - Leave allocations | (2,999,717) | (3,059,711) | 59,994 |
| Restricted allocation assets | | | |
| - Trust funds and deposits | (349,379) | (331,910) | (17,469) |
| Unrestricted working capital | 7,685,558 | 2,960,521 | 4,725,037 |

In addition to the restricted assets above, Council is also projected to hold \$8.97 million in discretionary reserves at 30 June 2025. 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.



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 2024/25 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 2.75%.

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 are borrowings are budgeted in 2024/25.

4.4.4 Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year

Overall, total cash and investments is forecast to decrease by \$4.7 million to \$15.1.0 million as at 30 June 2025, 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 2025 it will have unrestricted cash and investments of \$2.76 million, which has been restricted as shown in the following table.



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

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 2023/24 \$ | Budget 2024/25 \$ | Variance \$ |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Total cash and investments | | 19,814,333 | 15,114,814 | (4,699,519) |
| Intended allocation assets | | | | |
| Leave allocations | 4.4.5 | (2,999,717) | (3,059,711) | (59,994) |
| Discretionary reserves | 4.4.6 | (8,759,616) | (8,966,306) | (206,690) |
| Restricted allocation assets | | | | |
| Trust funds and deposits | | (349,379) | (331,910) | 17,469 |
| Unrestricted cash adjusted for discretionary reserves | 4.4.7 | 7,705,621 | 2,756,887 | (4,948,734) |

4.4.5 Leave allocations

Council has continued to treat funds set aside for employees long service leave, annual leave and RDO's 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 2025

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 2024/25 year.

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

- new works for 2024/25
- works carried forward from the 2023/24 year.

4.5.1 New works by asset expenditure type

| Capital works area | Project cost | Asset expenditure types | | | |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| | | New \$ | Renewal \$ | Upgrade \$ | Expansion \$ |
| Property | | | | | |
| Land | - | - | - | - | - |
| Land improvements | 5,000 | - | 5,000 | - | - |
| Total land | 5,000 | - | 5,000 | - | - |
| Buildings | | | | | |
| Building improvements | 300,000 | - | 300,000 | - | - |
| Total buildings | 300,000 | - | 300,000 | - | - |
| Total property | 305,000 | - | 305,000 | - | - |
| Plant and equipment | | | | | |
| Plant, machinery and equipment | 1,318,296 | 1,318,296 | - | - | - |
| Computers and telecommunications | 157,200 | 157,200 | - | - | - |
| Fixtures fittings and furniture | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total plant and equipment | 1,475,496 | 1,475,496 | - | - | - |
| Infrastructure | | | | | |
| Roads | 3,199,776 | - | 3,199,776 | - | - |
| Bridges | 310,446 | - | 310,446 | - | - |
| Footpaths | 716,343 | - | 716,343 | - | - |
| Drainage | 350,000 | - | 350,000 | - | - |
| Recreation, leisure and community facilities | 500,000 | - | - | 500,000 | - |
| Parks, open space and streetscapes | 100,000 | - | 100,000 | - | - |
| Other infrastructure | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total infrastructure | 5,176,565 | - | 4,676,565 | 500,000 | - |
| Total new works | 6,957,061 | 1,475,496 | 4,981,565 | 500,000 | - |



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

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 \$ |
| Property | | | | | |
| Land | - | - | - | - | - |
| Land improvements | 5,000 | - | - | 5,000 | - |
| Total land | 5,000 | - | - | 5,000 | - |
| Buildings | | | | | |
| Building improvements | 300,000 | - | - | 300,000 | - |
| Total buildings | 300,000 | - | - | 300,000 | - |
| Total property | 305,000 | - | - | 305,000 | - |
| Plant and equipment | | | | | |
| Plant, machinery and equipment | 1,318,296 | - | 1,085,877 | 20,000 | 212,419 |
| Computers and telecommunications | 157,200 | - | 157,200 | - | - |
| Fixtures fittings and furniture | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total plant and equipment | 1,475,496 | - | 1,243,077 | 20,000 | 212,419 |
| Infrastructure | | | | | |
| Roads | 3,199,776 | 2,258,156 | - | 941,620 | - |
| Bridges | 310,446 | 155,223 | - | 155,223 | - |
| Footpaths | 716,343 | 93,733 | - | 622,610 | - |
| Drainage | 350,000 | - | - | 350,000 | - |
| Recreation, leisure and community facilities | 500,000 | - | - | 500,000 | - |
| Parks, open space and streetscapes | 100,000 | - | - | 100,000 | - |
| Other infrastructure | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total infrastructure | 5,176,565 | 2,507,112 | - | 2,669,453 | - |
| Total new works | 6,957,061 | 2,507,112 | 1,243,077 | 2,994,453 | 212,419 |



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

4.5 Capital works program (continued)

4.5.3 Works carried forward from the 2023/24 year by asset expenditure type

| Capital works area | Project cost | Asset expenditure types | | | |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| | | New \$ | Renewal \$ | Upgrade \$ | Expansion \$ |
| Property | | | | | |
| Land | - | - | - | - | - |
| Land improvements | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total land | - | - | - | - | - |
| Buildings | | | | | |
| Building improvements | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total buildings | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total property | - | - | - | - | - |
| Plant and equipment | | | | | |
| Plant, machinery and equipment | - | - | - | - | - |
| Computers and telecommunications | - | - | - | - | - |
| Fixtures fittings and furniture | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total plant and equipment | - | - | - | - | - |
| Infrastructure | | | | | |
| Roads | - | - | - | - | - |
| Bridges | - | - | - | - | - |
| Footpaths | - | - | - | - | - |
| Drainage | - | - | - | - | - |
| Recreation, leisure and community facilities | - | - | - | - | - |
| Parks, open space and streetscapes | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other infrastructure | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total infrastructure | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total carried forward works | - | - | - | - | - |



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL

BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

4 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

4.5 Capital works program (continued)

4.5.4 Works carried forward from the 2023/24 year by funding source

| Capital works area | Project cost | Funding sources | | | |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | | Grants / contributions \$ | Reserves \$ | Council funded \$ | Sale of assets \$ |
| Property | | | | | |
| Land | - | - | - | - | - |
| Land improvements | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total land | - | - | - | - | - |
| Buildings | - | - | - | - | - |
| Building improvements | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total buildings | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total property | - | - | - | - | - |
| Plant and equipment | | | | | |
| Plant, machinery and equipment | - | - | - | - | - |
| Computers and telecommunications | - | - | - | - | - |
| Fixtures fittings and furniture | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total plant and equipment | - | - | - | - | - |
| Infrastructure | | | | | |
| Roads | - | - | - | - | - |
| Bridges | - | - | - | - | - |
| Footpaths | - | - | - | - | - |
| Drainage | - | - | - | - | - |
| Recreation, leisure and community facilities | - | - | - | - | - |
| Parks, open space and streetscapes | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other infrastructure | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total infrastructure | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total carried forward works | - | - | - | - | - |



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL

BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

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 2025/26 | Project cost | Asset expenditure types | | | |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| | | New \$ | Renewal \$ | Upgrade \$ | Expansion \$ |
| Property | | | | | |
| Land | - | - | - | - | - |
| Land improvements | 5,000 | - | 5,000 | - | - |
| Total land | 5,000 | - | 5,000 | - | - |
| Buildings | | | | | |
| Building improvements | 400,000 | - | 400,000 | - | - |
| Total buildings | 400,000 | - | 400,000 | - | - |
| Total property | 405,000 | - | 405,000 | - | - |
| Plant and equipment | | | | | |
| Plant, machinery and equipment | 427,008 | 427,008 | - | - | - |
| Computers and telecommunications | 100,000 | 100,000 | - | - | - |
| Fixtures fittings and furniture | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total plant and equipment | 527,008 | 527,008 | - | - | - |
| Infrastructure | | | | | |
| Roads | 3,557,335 | - | 3,557,335 | - | - |
| Bridges | 316,344 | - | 316,344 | - | - |
| Footpaths | 532,217 | - | 532,217 | - | - |
| Drainage | 350,000 | - | 350,000 | - | - |
| Recreation, leisure and community facilities | 500,000 | - | - | 500,000 | - |
| Parks, open space and streetscapes | 100,000 | - | 100,000 | - | - |
| Other infrastructure | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total infrastructure | 5,355,896 | - | 4,855,896 | 500,000 | - |
| Total capital works 2025/26 | 6,287,904 | 527,008 | 5,260,896 | 500,000 | - |



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

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 2026/27 | Project cost | Asset expenditure types | | | |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| | | New \$ | Renewal \$ | Upgrade \$ | Expansion \$ |
| Property | | | | | |
| Land | - | - | - | - | - |
| Land improvements | 5,000 | - | 5,000 | - | - |
| Total land | 5,000 | - | 5,000 | - | - |
| Buildings | | | | | |
| Building improvements | 400,000 | - | 400,000 | - | - |
| Total buildings | 400,000 | - | 400,000 | - | - |
| Total property | 405,000 | - | 405,000 | - | - |
| Plant and equipment | | | | | |
| Plant, machinery and equipment | 1,853,308 | 1,853,308 | - | - | - |
| Computers and telecommunications | 100,000 | 100,000 | - | - | - |
| Fixtures fittings and furniture | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total plant and equipment | 1,953,308 | 1,953,308 | - | - | - |
| Infrastructure | | | | | |
| Roads | 3,832,121 | - | 3,832,121 | - | - |
| Bridges | 322,354 | - | 322,354 | - | - |
| Footpaths | 547,670 | - | 547,670 | - | - |
| Drainage | 350,000 | - | 350,000 | - | - |
| Recreation, leisure and community facilities | 500,000 | - | - | 500,000 | - |
| Parks, open space and streetscapes | 100,000 | - | 100,000 | - | - |
| Other infrastructure | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total infrastructure | 5,652,145 | - | 5,152,145 | 500,000 | - |
| Total capital works 2026/27 | 8,010,453 | 1,953,308 | 5,557,145 | 500,000 | - |



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL

BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

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 2027/28 | Project cost | Asset expenditure types | | | |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| | | New \$ | Renewal \$ | Upgrade \$ | Expansion \$ |
| Property | | | | | |
| Land | - | - | - | - | - |
| Land improvements | 5,000 | - | 5,000 | - | - |
| Total land | 5,000 | - | 5,000 | - | - |
| Buildings | | | | | |
| Building improvements | 400,000 | - | 400,000 | - | - |
| Total buildings | 400,000 | - | 400,000 | - | - |
| Total property | 405,000 | - | 405,000 | - | - |
| Plant and equipment | | | | | |
| Plant, machinery and equipment | 1,186,857 | 1,186,857 | - | - | - |
| Computers and telecommunications | 100,000 | 100,000 | - | - | - |
| Fixtures fittings and furniture | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total plant and equipment | 1,286,857 | 1,286,857 | - | - | - |
| Infrastructure | | | | | |
| Roads | 3,863,193 | - | 3,863,193 | - | - |
| Bridges | 328,478 | - | 328,478 | - | - |
| Footpaths | 551,938 | - | 551,938 | - | - |
| Drainage | 350,000 | - | 350,000 | - | - |
| Recreation, leisure and community facilities | 500,000 | - | - | 500,000 | - |
| Parks, open space and streetscapes | 100,000 | - | 100,000 | - | - |
| Other infrastructure | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total infrastructure | 5,693,609 | - | 5,193,609 | 500,000 | - |
| Total capital works 2027/28 | 7,385,466 | 1,286,857 | 5,598,609 | 500,000 | - |



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL

BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

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 2025/26 | Project cost | Funding sources | | | |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | | Grants / contributions \$ | Reserves \$ | Council funded \$ | Sale of assets \$ |
| Property | | | | | |
| Land | - | - | - | - | - |
| Land improvements | 5,000 | - | - | 5,000 | - |
| Total land | 5,000 | - | - | 5,000 | - |
| Buildings | | | | | |
| Building improvements | 400,000 | - | - | 400,000 | - |
| Total buildings | 400,000 | - | - | 400,000 | - |
| Total property | 405,000 | - | - | 405,000 | - |
| Plant and equipment | | | | | |
| Plant, machinery and equipment | 427,008 | - | 115,761 | 20,000 | 291,247 |
| Computers and telecommunications | 100,000 | - | 100,000 | - | - |
| Fixtures fittings and furniture | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total plant and equipment | 527,008 | - | 215,761 | 20,000 | 291,247 |
| Infrastructure | | | | | |
| Roads | 3,557,335 | 2,249,747 | - | 1,307,588 | - |
| Bridges | 316,344 | 158,172 | - | 158,172 | - |
| Footpaths | 532,217 | 99,193 | - | 433,024 | - |
| Drainage | 350,000 | - | - | 350,000 | - |
| Recreation, leisure and community facilities | 500,000 | - | - | 500,000 | - |
| Parks, open space and streetscapes | 100,000 | - | - | 100,000 | - |
| Other infrastructure | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total infrastructure | 5,355,896 | 2,507,112 | - | 2,848,784 | - |
| Total capital works 2025/26 | 6,287,904 | 2,507,112 | 215,761 | 3,273,784 | 291,247 |



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL

BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

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 (continued)

| Capital works 2026/27 | Project cost | Funding sources | | | |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | | Grants / contributions \$ | Reserves \$ | Council funded \$ | Sale of assets \$ |
| Property | | | | | |
| Land | - | - | - | - | - |
| Land improvements | 5,000 | - | - | 5,000 | - |
| Total land | 5,000 | - | - | 5,000 | - |
| Buildings | | | | | |
| Building improvements | 400,000 | - | - | 400,000 | - |
| Total buildings | 400,000 | - | - | 400,000 | - |
| Total property | 405,000 | - | - | 405,000 | - |
| Plant and equipment | | | | | |
| Plant, machinery and equipment | 1,853,308 | - | 1,569,825 | 20,000 | 263,483 |
| Computers and telecommunications | 100,000 | - | 100,000 | - | - |
| Fixtures fittings and furniture | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total plant and equipment | 1,953,308 | - | 1,669,825 | 20,000 | 263,483 |
| Infrastructure | | | | | |
| Roads | 3,832,121 | 2,241,101 | - | 1,591,020 | - |
| Bridges | 322,354 | 161,177 | - | 161,177 | - |
| Footpaths | 547,670 | 104,834 | - | 442,836 | - |
| Drainage | 350,000 | - | - | 350,000 | - |
| Recreation, leisure and community facilities | 500,000 | - | - | 500,000 | - |
| Parks, open space and streetscapes | 100,000 | - | - | 100,000 | - |
| Other infrastructure | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total infrastructure | 5,652,145 | 2,507,112 | - | 3,145,033 | - |
| Total capital works 2026/27 | 8,010,453 | 2,507,112 | 1,669,825 | 3,570,033 | 263,483 |



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL

BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

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 (continued)

| Capital works 2027/28 | Project cost | Funding sources | | | |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | | Grants / contributions \$ | Reserves \$ | Council funded \$ | Sale of assets \$ |
| Property | | | | | |
| Land | - | - | - | - | - |
| Land improvements | 5,000 | - | - | 5,000 | - |
| Total land | 5,000 | - | - | 5,000 | - |
| Buildings | | | | | |
| Building improvements | 400,000 | - | - | 400,000 | - |
| Total buildings | 400,000 | - | - | 400,000 | - |
| Total property | 405,000 | - | - | 405,000 | - |
| Plant and equipment | | | | | |
| Plant, machinery and equipment | 1,186,857 | - | 1,063,786 | 20,000 | 103,071 |
| Computers and telecommunications | 100,000 | - | 100,000 | - | - |
| Fixtures fittings and furniture | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total plant and equipment | 1,286,857 | - | 1,163,786 | 20,000 | 103,071 |
| Infrastructure | | | | | |
| Roads | 3,876,892 | 2,249,747 | - | 1,627,145 | - |
| Bridges | 322,411 | 158,172 | - | 164,239 | - |
| Footpaths | 544,306 | 99,193 | - | 445,113 | - |
| Drainage | 350,000 | - | - | 350,000 | - |
| Recreation, leisure and community facilities | 500,000 | - | - | 500,000 | - |
| Parks, open space and streetscapes | 100,000 | - | - | 100,000 | - |
| Other infrastructure | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total infrastructure | 5,693,609 | 2,507,112 | - | 3,186,497 | - |
| Total capital works 2027/28 | 7,385,466 | 2,507,112 | 1,163,786 | 3,611,497 | 103,071 |



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

5A TARGETED PERFORMANCE INDICATORS - SERVICE

The following table highlights Council's current and projected performance across a selection of targeted service and financial performance indicators. These indicators provide a useful analysis of Council's intentions and performance and should be interpreted in the context of the organisation's objectives.

The targeted performance indicators below are the prescribed performance indicators contained in Schedule 4 of the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020. Results against these indicators and targets will be reported in Council's Performance Statement included in the Annual Report.

| Indicator | Measure | Notes | Actual | Forecast | Budget | Trend |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|---------|----------|---------|-----------|
| | | | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | 2024/25 | + / O / - |
| Governance | | | | | | |
| Consultation and engagement (Council decisions made and implemented with community input) | Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with the consultation and engagement efforts of Council | 1 | 52 | 56 | 56 | O |
| Roads | | | | | | |
| Condition (sealed roads are maintained at the adopted condition standard) | Sealed local roads below the intervention level Number of kms of sealed local roads below the renewal intervention level set by Council / kms of sealed roads | 1 | 99.99% | 99.99% | 99.99% | O |
| Statutory planning | | | | | | |
| Service standard (planning application processing and decision are in accordance with legislative requirements) | Planning applications decided within the relevant required time Number of planning application decisions made within the relevant required time / Number of planning applications decisions made | 1 | 97.32% | 95.00% | 95.00% | O |
| Waste management | | | | | | |
| Waste diversion (amount of waste diverted from landfill is maximised) | Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins | 1 | 27.52% | 28.00% | 28.50% | + |

| Indicator | Measure | Notes | Target Projections | | | Trend |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------------------|---------|---------|-----------|
| | | | 2025/26 | 2026/27 | 2027/28 | + / O / - |
| Governance | | | | | | |
| Consultation and engagement (Council decisions made and implemented with community input) | Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with the consultation and engagement efforts of Council | 1 | 56 | 56 | 56 | O |
| Roads | | | | | | |
| Condition (sealed roads are maintained at the adopted condition standard) | Sealed local roads below the intervention level Number of kms of sealed local roads below the renewal intervention level set by Council / Kms of sealed roads | 1 | 99.99% | 99.99% | 99.99% | O |



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

5A TARGETED PERFORMANCE INDICATORS - SERVICE (Continued)

| Indicator | Measure | Notes | Target Projections | | | Trend +/-/0 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------------------|---------|---------|----------------|
| | | | 2025/26 | 2026/27 | 2027/28 | |
| Statutory planning | | | | | | |
| Service standard (planning application processing and decision are in accordance with legislative requirements) | Planning applications decided within the relevant required time Number of planning application decisions made within the relevant required time / Number of planning applications decisions made | 1 | 95.00% | 95.00% | 95.00% | 0 |
| Waste management | | | | | | |
| Waste diversion (amount of waste diverted from landfill is maximised) | Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins | 1 | 29.00% | 29.50% | 30.00% | + |

5A TARGETED PERFORMANCE INDICATORS - FINANCIAL

| Indicator | Measure | Notes | Actual | Forecast | Budget | Trend +/-/0 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|---------|----------|---------|----------------|
| | | | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | 2024/25 | |
| Liquidity | | | | | | |
| Working Capital (sufficient working capital is available to pay bills as and when they fall due) | Current assets compared to current liabilities Current assets / Current liabilities | 2 | 604.47% | 570.99% | 492.17% | - |
| Obligations | | | | | | |
| Asset renewal (assets are renewed as planned) | Asset renewal compared to depreciation Asset renewal and upgrade expenses / Asset depreciation | | 60.11% | 151.80% | 52.13% | 0 |
| Stability | | | | | | |
| Rates concentration (revenue is generated from a range of sources) | Rates compared to adjusted underlying revenue Rates revenue / Adjusted underlying revenue | | 36.34% | 33.70% | 27.45% | 0 |
| Efficiency | | | | | | |
| Expenditure level (resources are used efficiently in the delivery of services) | Expenses per property assessment Total expenses / No. of property assessments | 3 | \$3,938 | \$7,897 | \$7,324 | 0 |

| Indicator | Measure | Notes | Target Projections | | | Trend +/-/0 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------------------|---------|---------|----------------|
| | | | 2025/26 | 2026/27 | 2027/28 | |
| Liquidity | | | | | | |
| Working Capital (sufficient working capital is available to pay bills as and when they fall due) | Current assets compared to current liabilities Current assets / Current liabilities | 2 | 499.29% | 367.41% | 252.67% | - |
| Obligations | | | | | | |
| Asset renewal (assets are renewed as planned) | Asset renewal compared to depreciation Asset renewal and upgrade expenses / Asset depreciation | 3 | 53.71% | 55.37% | 54.66% | 0 |



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL

BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

5A TARGETED PERFORMANCE INDICATORS - FINANCIAL (Continued)

| Indicator | Measure | Notes | Target Projections | | | Trend +/- |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------------------|---------|---------|--------------|
| | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Stability | | | | | | |
| Rates concentration (revenue is generated from a range of sources) | Rates compared to adjusted underlying revenue Rates revenue / Adjusted underlying revenue | | 48.12% | 48.55% | 48.76% | O |
| Efficiency | | | | | | |
| Expenditure level (resources are used efficiently in the delivery of services) | Expenses per property assessment Total expenses / No. of property assessments | 4 | \$4,765 | \$4,950 | \$5,081 | O |

5B FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

| Indicator | Measure | Notes | Actual | Forecast | Budget | Trend +/- |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|---------|----------|---------|--------------|
| | | | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | 2024/25 | |
| Operating position | | | | | | |
| Adjusted underlying result (an adjusted underlying surplus is generated in the ordinary course of business) | Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit) Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit) / Adjusted underlying revenue | 5 | 3.94% | -55.60% | -17.08% | O |
| Liquidity | | | | | | |
| Unrestricted cash (sufficient cash that is free of restrictions is available to pay bills as and when they fall due) | Unrestricted cash compared to current liabilities Unrestricted cash / Current liabilities | | 53.31% | 183.35% | 70.58% | - |
| Obligations | | | | | | |
| Loan and borrowings (level of interest bearing loans and borrowings in appropriate to the size and nature of Council's activities) | Loans and borrowings compared to rates Interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue | 6 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | O |
| Loan and borrowings (level of interest bearing loans and borrowings in appropriate to the size and nature of Council's activities) | Loans and borrowings repayments compared to rates Interest and principal repayments on interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue | 6 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | O |
| Indebtedness (level of long term liabilities is appropriate to the size and nature of a Council's activities) | Non-current liabilities compared to own source revenue Non-current liabilities / Own source revenue | | 8.32% | 13.46% | 16.87% | + |



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

5B FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (Continued)

| Indicator | Measure | Notes | Strategic Resource Plan Projections | | | Trend |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| | | | 2025/26 | 2026/27 | 2027/28 | + / O / - |
| Stability | | | | | | |
| Rates effort (rating level is set based on the community's capacity to pay) | Rates compared to property values Rate revenue / CIV of rateable properties in the municipality | | 0.44% | 0.27% | 0.24% | - |
| Efficiency | | | | | | |
| Revenue level (resources are used efficiently in the delivery of services) | Average rate per property assessment General rates and municipal charges / Number of property assessments | | \$1,257 | \$1,328 | \$1,364 | O |
| Operating position | | | | | | |
| Adjusted underlying result (an adjusted underlying surplus is generated in the ordinary course of business) | Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit) Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit) / Adjusted underlying revenue | 5 | -24.35% | -25.04% | -24.25% | O |
| Liquidity | | | | | | |
| Unrestricted cash (sufficient cash that is free of restrictions is available to pay bills as and when they fall due) | Unrestricted cash compared to current liabilities Unrestricted cash / Current liabilities | | -39.39% | -164.24% | -306.26% | + |
| Obligations | | | | | | |
| Loan and borrowings (level of interest bearing loans and borrowings in appropriate to the size and nature of Council's activities) | Loans and borrowings compared to rates Interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue | 6 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | O |
| Loan and borrowings (level of interest bearing loans and borrowings in appropriate to the size and nature of Council's activities) | Loans and borrowings repayments compared to rates Interest and principal repayments on interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue | 6 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | O |
| Indebtedness (level of long term liabilities is appropriate to the size and nature of a Council's activities) | Non-current liabilities compared to own source revenue Non-current liabilities / Own source revenue | | 18.60% | 19.95% | 21.33% | + |
| Stability | | | | | | |
| Rates effort (rating level is set based on the community's capacity to pay) | Rates compared to property values Rate revenue / CIV of rateable properties in the municipality | | 0.25% | 0.25% | 0.26% | O |



**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

5B FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (Continued)

| Indicator | Measure | Notes | Strategic Resource Plan Projections | | | Trend |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------------------------------------|---------|---------|-----------|
| | | | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | 2024/25 | + / O / - |
| Efficiency | | | | | | |
| Revenue level (resources are used efficiently in the delivery of services) | Average rate per property assessment General rates and municipal charges / Number of property assessments | | \$1,391 | \$1,419 | \$1,448 | + |

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 *Various* - These are new indicators reporting within the budget. To estimate current year indicators, an average process was used to determine an acceptable range going forward.
- 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 *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.
- 4 *Efficiency* - This indicator uses the total operating expenditure and for 2023/24 and 2024/25 this includes \$20 million in each year for flood restoration works.
- 5 *Operating position* - 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.
- 6 *Obligations* - Council has repaid its final loan liability in 2015/16.



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL

BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

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 2024/25 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 2025

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 2023/24 Forecast Actuals, the 2024/25 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 2023/24 \$ | Budget 2024/25 \$ | Variance \$ |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Revenues from ordinary activities | | | |
| Rates and charges | 12,756,419 | 13,115,030 | 358,611 |
| Statutory and user fees | 866,978 | 911,382 | 44,404 |
| Operating grants | 21,833,563 | 32,962,484 | 11,128,921 |
| Capital grants | 17,657,219 | 2,507,112 | (15,150,107) |
| Operating contributions | 30,000 | - | (30,000) |
| Capital contributions | - | - | - |
| Regional Roads Victoria | 357,882 | - | (357,882) |
| Reversal of impairment losses | - | - | - |
| Reimbursements | 398,152 | 357,532 | (40,620) |
| Interest | 1,635,000 | 435,000 | (1,200,000) |
| Total revenues | 55,535,214 | 50,288,540 | (5,246,674) |
| Expenses from ordinary activities | | | |
| Labour | 12,453,894 | 13,715,824 | 1,261,930 |
| Materials and services | 24,985,237 | 21,204,707 | (3,780,530) |
| Contracts | 14,767,011 | 12,383,937 | (2,383,074) |
| Utilities | 601,139 | 682,019 | 80,880 |
| Depreciation | 10,308,760 | 10,514,936 | 206,176 |
| Interest expense | - | - | - |
| Other expenses | 364,176 | 376,584 | 12,408 |
| Total expenses | 63,480,218 | 58,878,008 | (4,602,210) |
| Net (gain) / loss on sale of assets | - | - | - |
| Surplus / (deficit) for the year | (7,945,004) | (8,589,468) | (644,464) |



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

APPENDIX A - AUDIT COMMITTEE FINANCIALS (Continued)

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME STATEMENT BY KEY DIRECTION AREA

| | Forecast actual 2023/24 \$ | Budget 2024/25 \$ | Variance \$ |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Revenues from ordinary activities | | | |
| Rates and charges | 12,756,419 | 13,115,030 | 358,611 |
| Operating grants | 21,833,563 | 32,962,484 | 11,128,921 |
| Capital grants | 17,657,219 | 2,507,112 | (15,150,107) |
| Operating contributions | 30,000 | - | (30,000) |
| Capital contributions | - | - | - |
| User fees | 866,978 | 911,382 | 44,404 |
| Reimbursements | 398,152 | 357,532 | (40,620) |
| Reversal of impairment losses | - | - | - |
| Regional Roads Victoria | 357,882 | - | (357,882) |
| Interest | 1,635,000 | 435,000 | (1,200,000) |
| Total revenues | 55,535,213 | 50,288,540 | (5,246,673) |
| Expenses from ordinary activities | | | |
| Commercial services | 975,995 | 861,262 | (114,733) |
| Executive | 1,873,686 | 2,022,197 | 148,511 |
| Aged care | 822,749 | 639,338 | (183,411) |
| Community support | 26,647,361 | 22,200,369 | (4,446,992) |
| Early years | 2,074,061 | 1,417,177 | (656,884) |
| Corporate services | 685,467 | 973,434 | 287,967 |
| Financial services | 11,615,901 | 11,876,301 | 260,400 |
| Information management | 2,179,814 | 2,133,300 | (46,514) |
| Organisational development | 2,522,898 | 2,666,275 | 143,377 |
| Assets and infrastructure | 2,305,393 | 2,120,055 | (185,338) |
| Development and compliance | 1,578,432 | 1,582,988 | 4,556 |
| Works | 10,198,460 | 10,385,312 | 186,852 |
| Total expenses | 63,480,218 | 58,878,008 | (4,602,210) |
| Net (gain) / loss on sale of assets | - | - | - |
| Surplus / (deficit) for the year | (7,945,004) | (8,589,468) | (644,465) |



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

APPENDIX A - AUDIT COMMITTEE FINANCIALS (Continued)

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

| | Forecast actual 2023/24 \$ | Budget 2024/25 \$ | Variance \$ |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Surplus / (deficit) for the year-as per income statement | (7,945,004) | (8,589,468) | (644,465) |
| Less non-cash income | | | |
| Reversal of impairment losses | - | - | - |
| Add non-cash expenditure | | | |
| Net gain on sale of assets | - | - | - |
| Loan interest accrued | - | - | - |
| Depreciation | 10,308,760 | 10,514,936 | 206,176 |
| Total funds available for capital expenditure | 2,363,756 | 1,925,468 | - 438,288 |
| Capital expenditure, transfers and loans | | | |
| Commercial services | 239,912 | - | (239,912) |
| Community support | 6,144,146 | 500,000 | (5,644,146) |
| Information management | 190,700 | 157,200 | (33,500) |
| Assets and infrastructure | 18,707,804 | 4,976,565 | (13,731,239) |
| Development and compliance | 102,121 | - | (102,121) |
| Works | 4,537,628 | 1,323,296 | (3,214,332) |
| Total capital works | 29,922,311 | 6,957,061 | (22,965,250) |
| Transfers to reserves | 2,256,953 | 1,887,267 | (369,686) |
| Loan repayments | - | - | - |
| Total capital, transfers and loans | 32,179,264 | 8,844,328 | (23,334,936) |
| Capital expenditure, transfers and loans will be financed by: | | | |
| Asset sales | 682,688 | 212,419 | (470,269) |
| Transfers from reserves | 27,214,038 | 1,680,577 | (25,533,461) |
| Accumulated cash surplus brought forward from previous year | 9,852,839 | 7,934,057 | (1,918,782) |
| Total financing of capital, transfers, and loans | 37,749,565 | 9,827,053 | (27,922,512) |
| Total accumulated cash surplus | 7,934,057 | 2,908,192 | (5,025,865) |



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

APPENDIX B- STRATEGIC ACTIONS

In 2021, Council adopted the first Financial Plan which outlines the 10-year financials resources necessary to implement the initiatives and priorities of the Council Plan and to achieve the aspirations of the Community Vision.

The first plan had a set of actions which will be used to further improve this financial position for future years. The Budget will report on any progress since adoption.

| Action | Description | Impact on the Financial Plan | Progress |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Review depreciation rates within each of the asset plans to ensure they are reflective of the useful lives of each asset class. | Adjustment: Depreciation expense and asset values. Impacts: Operating expenditure in the Comprehensive Income Statement. Also impacts the balance of the infrastructure assets group within the Balance Sheet. Desired outcome: Reduction in annual deficits. | Progressing: An audit comparing asset lives in the asset management plans to depreciation rates has been conducted. |
| 2 | Review Asset Management Plans to understand required maintenance and renewal levels to maintain the service levels of each asset class. | Adjustment: Maintenance costs and the required level of renewal/upgrade of the asset. Impacts: Operating expenditure in the Comprehensive Income Statement. Also impacts renewal/upgrade infrastructure costs within the Capital Expenditure Statement. Desired outcome: Reduction in the operating maintenance expenditure and renewal/upgrade expenditure. | Complete |
| 3 | Review and report to Council on the current operating environment to assess whether the current contingency amounts allocated for projects is appropriate. | Adjustment: Infrastructure capital project allocations. Impacts: Capital project expenditure with the Capital Works Statement. Desired outcome: Reduction in the capital works, higher delivery rates of capital works. | Not yet commenced |
| 4 | Review Financial Reserves Policy to ensure cash is not constrained unnecessarily. | Adjustment: Movement in reserve levels and available reserves. Impact: Balance Sheet and available operating expenditure. Desired outcome: Increase in cash and cash equivalents in Balance Sheet and offsetting a reduction in Other Reserves. | Complete: To continue to review each year to ensure further improvements. |



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL

BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

APPENDIX B- STRATEGIC ACTIONS - Continued

| Action | Description | Impact on the Financial Plan | Progress |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5 | Revise Project Management Framework to ensure projects are phased and costed appropriately. | <p>Adjustment: Infrastructure capital project allocations.</p> <p>Impact: Capital expenditure within the Capital Works Statement.</p> <p>Desired outcome: Improved forward financial planning for major projects within the Capital Works Statement.</p> | Progressing: Review underway. |
| 6 | Revise Strategic Documents Framework to ensure strategies are appropriately costed and indexed, and costs are embedded into this Financial Plan. | <p>Adjustment: Future plans and strategies to further highlight the true cost to deliver actions outlined.</p> <p>Impact: Operating expenditure and capital expenditure where those relevant plans sit.</p> <p>Desired outcome: Improved forward financial planning for major projects within the Capital Works Statement and operating expenditure within the Comprehensive Income Statement.</p> | Not yet commenced |
| 7 | Continue development of 'pipeline of projects' to ensure 'shovel ready' projects when funding becomes available. | <p>Adjustment: Allocation of project expenditure and income to reflect more accurate timing.</p> <p>Impact: Operating expenditure, operating income and capital expenditure.</p> <p>Desired outcome: Improved forward financial planning for major projects within the Capital Works Statement and operating expenditure within the Comprehensive Income Statement.</p> | Progressing: A project management framework has been developed and a pipeline of projects has been identified. A project selection tool is currently being finalised which will identify priority projects to progress through the pipeline and subsequently seek funding for. |
| 8 | Investigate and report to Council on alternate purchasing options for plant (e.g. leasing of plant to spread the cost over the life of the asset). | <p>Adjustment: Offset capital cost against lease operating cost.</p> <p>Impact: Increase to operating expenditure and capital expenditure.</p> <p>Desired outcome: Reduction in capital costs and held assets within the Capital Works Statement and Balance Sheet along with reduction in some of the related reserves.</p> | Complete: Report presented to Council in February 2022. With the current capital program, purchase is still the preferred option. |
| 9 | Conduct process reviews on internal services to ensure they are efficient and cost-effective, and support external services provided to the community. | <p>Adjustment: Reflect cost-effective service delivery costs.</p> <p>Impact: Operating expenditure and operating income.</p> <p>Desired outcome: More streamlined processes which will lead to a reduction in operating expenditure with the Comprehensive Income Statement.</p> | Progressing: Preliminary list of service reviews drafted, with a program based on importance to be developed. |



LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL

BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

APPENDIX B- STRATEGIC ACTIONS - Continued

| Action | Description | Impact on the Financial Plan | Progress |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10 | Complete the Transitioning Towns Policy (Small Towns Strategy) to establish minimum service levels for each town. | Adjustment: Reflect cost-effective service delivery costs. Impact: Operating expenditure and operating income. Desired outcome: Understanding the required service level which should lead to a reduction in operating expenditure with the Comprehensive Income Statement. | Progressing: In progress and expected to be finalised mid 2024. |
| 11 | Undertake service reviews in consultation with the community to determine the best mix and level of service provided by Council for services provided to the community. | Adjustment: Reflect cost-effective service delivery costs. Impact: Operating expenditure and operating income. Desired outcome: Understanding the required service level which may lead to a reduction in operating expenditure with the Comprehensive Income Statement. | Progressing: Preliminary list of service reviews completed, with a program based on importance to be developed. |
| 12 | Report to Council on the potential to borrow funds (including relevant risk assessment) for strategic and/or intergenerational projects. | Adjustment: Offset the cost of delivering projects using immediate Council funds to a long term borrowing option. Impact: Capital expenditure and balance sheet. Desired outcome: Should borrowings be used as a funding mechanism, desired outcome is a positive impact on the Financial Plan and the introduction of intergenerational equity. | Completed: Discussions held to inform Council of the options available for borrowing and a Borrowing Policy has been developed and adopted. |
| 13 | Investigate and report to Council the cost vs benefits of applying for a rate cap variation to the Essential Services Commission after above initiatives have been explored. | Adjustment: Increased rate revenue for Council. Impact: Operating income. Desired outcome: Increase to ongoing rate revenue within the Comprehensive Income Statement. | Not yet commenced |
| 14 | Explore shared services options available to Council. | Adjustment: Potential to decrease costs or improve services. Impact: Operating expenditure. Desired outcome: Reduction in operating expenditure within the Comprehensive Income Statement. | Completed: Council is a member of the Regional Procurement Network and is informed of any shared services opportunities as they arise. |

10.6 ESTABLISHING FORMAL POSITIONS OF COUNCIL POLICY V1**File Number:****Author:** Renae Colls, Executive Assistant**Authoriser:** Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer**Attachments:** 1. Establishing Formal Positions of Council Policy v1**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council adopts the Establishing Formal Positions of Council Policy.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The Establishing Formal Positions of Council Policy v1 (the Policy) was presented to Council for discussion at the 2024 April Council Forum.

BACKGROUND

Council adopted the Council Advocacy Policy v4 on 25 May 2021. That version outlines Council's advocacy actions, but does not provide any guidance on where Council will invest resources to form a position, or not form a position.

The purpose of this report is to adopt a policy that formalises how Council should respond to requests for a statement of position and/or advocacy on specific matters, where it has no existing position.

Establishing Formal Positions of Council Policy (attached) formalises Council's current unwritten approach of not adopting a position on matters that are the subject of a State or Federal referendum or are international matters over which Council has no authority or responsibility.

The Policy also formalises the process for responding to requests received from other Australian Local Government Authorities where requests relate to matters which are of little direct relevance to the Loddon Shire community and/or are a relatively low priority to Council.

In instances where there may be merit in Council establishing a position on a specific matter, the policy sets out the basis on which such a decision (that is, whether to form a position or not) would be made.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

In recent years, Council has been requested to state its position on specific matters raised at State, National and International political levels. However, Councillors have been clear they consider that Council taking a position on such matters is not appropriate.

Council is also receiving an increasing number of requests for support from other councils in Victoria, particularly metropolitan and interstate councils. Our Council is asked to undertake lobbying activities to State or Federal Governments on matters of little relevance to Loddon Shire's community. To date, these have been responded to following discussions between the Mayor and CEO, concerning Councillors where it has been unclear on the likely view of Council.

A lack of adopted policy on how such matters will, or will not, be considered by Council has meant responses can appear (at least to those making the request) that Council does not support their cause, or that Council forming a position is open to negotiation.

Equally, Council's involvement in highly emotive and complex matters, over which it has no authority or ability to determine the outcome, can create greater division and negative impacts within the community, rather than enabling a more accepted outcome.

The *Local Government Act 2020* - Part 2, Division 1, Clause 8 provides that:

- (1) The role of a Council is to provide good governance in its municipal district for the benefit and wellbeing of the municipal community.*
- (2) A Council provides good governance if—*
 - (a) it performs its role in accordance with section 9;*
 - (b) the Councillors of the Council perform their roles in accordance with section 28.*
- (3) In performing its role, a Council may—*
 - (a) perform any duties or functions or exercise any powers conferred on a Council by or under this Act or any other Act; and*
 - (b) perform any other functions that the Council determines are necessary to enable the Council to perform its role.*
- (4) If it is necessary to do so for the purpose of performing its role, a Council may perform a function outside its municipal district.*

Different councils across Victoria have varying interpretations about how these provisions should be enforced. In Loddon, this has been articulated as Council focussing on the core service and asset responsibilities of Council. Broadly however, it appears that the larger metropolitan Councils, and to an extent some of the regional cities, consider it more appropriate to engage in State, Federal and International political matters than rural Councils. This is likely due, in part, to their greater levels of available resources, a stronger alignment with political parties and greater diversity within their communities when compared to rural Councils.

The Loddon Shire Council Plan 2021-2025 (page 18) states that Council will communicate our community's interests and priorities to government and other decision makers that are aligned with our objectives. The strategic direction is very clear that Council will advocate in the best interests of the Loddon community, provided it is in line with the objectives stated in the Council Plan.

Loddon Shire Council has consistently maintained that its primary focus is on ensuring that the decisions over which it has responsibility and authority are as well-informed as possible. As a small and highly resource-constrained Council, the ability to understand and analyse the complexities of national and international political matters is very limited. A further challenge associated with such requests, is the highly disruptive impact that they can have on 'business as usual' activities of Councillors and Officers. There have been extensive demands placed on the Mayor and Officers to urgently respond to matters over which Council has no control or authority. This has led to frustration for those asking for assistance and exhaustion for, already busy Councillors and Officers.

It is the view of officers that the ongoing range of legislative changes pursued at both State and Federal Government levels, where there is a direct and potentially significant implication for Council and/or the community, should be a higher priority.

Another important factor in Council's decision on whether to invest in establishing a position and undertaking advocacy on a specific matter, must be a pragmatic assessment of the extent to which the ultimate decision makers will be influenced by Council's view. It is suggested that the more remote the matter from Loddon Shire, the less impactful Council's opinion will be and therefore the less value there is in investing time and effort to form a view.

It is also often the case that overarching bodies, such as the Municipal Association of Victoria, the Australian Local Government Association, Rural Councils Victoria or the Victorian Local Government Association, are undertaking the necessary research and analysis to form and advocate a well-developed view on matters that impact this Council. In such instances, it is suggested that Council again consider the extent to which its own work to develop a position, or to undertake advocacy, is warranted.

Including provisions in the policy to reflect these considerations is therefore proposed.

COST/BENEFITS

This Policy has been developed for consideration using internal resources.

A key reason for establishing this policy, is to formalise the existing approach being taken by Council to manage its resources in the most efficient and impactful way when requests on specific matters are raised.

RISK ANALYSIS

The following risks have been considered in accordance with Council's risk appetite statement adopted January 2024.

Financial Risk: Council has moderate appetite for financial risks.

The Policy aims to manage Council's financial (and resource) risk by establishing clear boundaries on what matters it will become involved in. It also requires that, for those matters where Council may consider becoming involved, the decision-making process will include information about the financial and resource implications of doing so.

Compliance with Regulatory Obligations: Council has low appetite for compliance risks.

Council's strong focus on ensuring that it complies with laws and regulations is important in this matter, as it influences the amount of effort that goes into responding to regulatory changes proposed by the State and Federal governments. Attempting to ensure that the implications of legislative changes for Loddon Shire are understood by governments is therefore often given a high priority when allocating organisational resources. The limitations proposed by this Policy on Council's involvement in other matters are reflective of this priority.

Reputation Risk: Council has low appetite for reputational risks.

This Policy seeks to deal with reputational risk in many ways.

First, it establishes at a structural level what matters Council will not involve itself in; that is, in matters of foreign policy and those that are being prosecuted with the Australian public through State or Federal referendums. It is intended that this will help avoid community expectations for Council to become involved in such matters and remove any surprises should a request be made.

Second, it seeks to maintain a positive and respected reputation with State and Federal governments. It does so by limiting the Council's development of positions to those that have clear and strong connection to the Loddon Shire and to those that are not the subject of processes such as referendums.

Third, it sets out a review process to determine the merits of establishing a position on a new, specific matter; including the associated resource implications for Council and the likely impacts on other decision-makers if pursued. Should a decision be made to proceed to form a position, it also responds to the Council's commitment to appropriately engage with the community and other stakeholders.

Health and Safety Risk: Council has no appetite for health and safety risks.

Matters being debated or negotiated at an international and national level are quite often highly complex and deeply heart felt by those who are directly impacted, or those with friends or family who are impacted. As previously noted, the adoption of this Policy is intended to make clear that Council will not get involved in such matters and therefore reduce the expectations, and consequent frustration, that might otherwise be felt. In doing so, it is anticipated that this will better support the health and wellbeing of the community members, Councillors and staff involved in such requests by giving a clear and timely response.

The potential for Council's involvement in such matters to, of itself, raise the level of emotion felt and expressed within the community is also important to recognise when considering the health and safety impacts of this Policy. In addition to feelings of frustration that Council is going beyond its remit, those in the community who feel aggrieved by Council for other reasons may feel

compelled to express their views on a matter much more forthrightly than if the Council were not involved. Hence, this polarising effect may be more negative for those directly impacted by the matter than the potential positive impacts of feeling Council's support.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The Policy has been developed to reflect the existing informal approach that Council has taken and is therefore considered to reflect the role that this Council believes is appropriate and pragmatic. Accordingly, it is not proposed to seek community feedback on the policy at this time.

The policy notes a 1 year review timeframe.



ESTABLISHING FORMAL POSITIONS OF COUNCIL POLICY

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| DOCUMENT TYPE: | Council policy |
| DOCUMENT STATUS: | Draft |
| POLICY OWNER POSITION: | Chief Executive Officer |
| INTERNAL COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT: | Not applicable |
| APPROVED BY: | Council |
| DATE ADOPTED: | Click here to enter date of approval |
| VERSION NUMBER: | 1 |
| REVIEW DATE: | Click here to enter a date. |
| DATE RESCINDED: | Click here to enter a date. |
| RELATED STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS, POLICIES OR PROCEDURES: | Click here to enter text. |
| RELATED LEGISLATION: | Local Government Act 2020 |
| EVIDENCE OF APPROVAL: | |

Signed by Chief Executive Officer

FILE LOCATION: Document14

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

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



ESTABLISHING FORMAL POSITIONS OF COUNCIL POLICY

1 PURPOSE

Council is frequently asked to indicate its position on specific matters occurring locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. In doing so, Council is also asked to undertake advocacy in line with that position.

Often matters are deeply heart felt and immensely complex. They may also be the subject of formal processes occurring at State or Federal Government levels, and many are very remote from the Loddon Shire and the documented priorities of Council.

In most instances, Council has little or no authority to determine the outcome of the matter and often it can have little impact on the views of those making the decisions.

While wide-ranging in nature, a common characteristic of such matters is the significant commitment of Council's financial and human resources that would be needed to establish a well-informed position, and/or to undertake associated advocacy. In a highly resource constrained Council, this then has consequences for the Loddon Shire community by impacting on Council's existing efforts to support it.

Therefore, this policy aims to define when and how Council may, and when it will not, establish a formal position on a specific matter and/or undertake advocacy activities in relation to that matter.

2 SCOPE

This policy applies to circumstances in which Council is requested to state its formal position on a specific matter that is not already covered by Council policy, strategy or plans.

Such requests of Council may arise from external parties, Council Officers reports and individual Councillors' Notices of Motion at a Council meeting.

This policy does not apply to:

1. Consideration of requests for letters of support in relation to proposed projects, services and/or initiatives that may directly impact on residents and/or ratepayers in Loddon Shire.
2. Decisions made by Council and/or staff in accordance with legislative obligations and delegated authority.

3 POLICY

- 3.1 Council will not establish a formal position or undertake advocacy on specific matter that is:
 - a. or is reasonably likely to be within the term of the Council, the subject of a referendum at a State or Federal Government level in Australia; and/or
 - b. international in nature and over which Council has no legislated authority or responsibility; and/or
 - c. considered by the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to be too remote from the circumstances of Loddon Shire's ratepayers and residents and therefore, to have relatively low direct impact on them



ESTABLISHING FORMAL POSITIONS OF COUNCIL POLICY

- 3.2 In addition to Policy Statement 1, Council will not establish a formal position or undertake associated advocacy on any matter where the financial or staffing cost to do so is deemed by Council to be:
- a. prohibitive given the extent of work considered necessary to establish a well-informed position; and/or
 - b. a disproportionate use of ratepayer's funds and/or staff given the:
 - i. likely or anticipated low impact of the advocacy upon the decision makers; and/or
 - ii. existence of other more substantial advocacy efforts that align with Council's likely position; and/or
 - iii. relative low priority of the matter compared with other Council priorities establishes in policies, strategies and plans
- 3.3 In instances beyond those excluded by Policy Statements 1 and 2, Council may deem it appropriate to establish a formal position and to undertake advocacy on a specific matter. In such instances, consideration of the need for, and extent of, community input to establishing that position will be made in accordance with Council's *Community Engagement Policy 2021*.
- 3.4 Any formal position established and/or advocacy undertaken on a specific matter will be consistent with existing adopted policies, strategies and plans of Council to the extent that they apply.

4 DEFINITIONS OF TERMS OR ABBREVIATIONS USED

| Term | Definition |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Council | The Municipal Council comprising a majority of the elected Councillors |
| Advocacy | Representation on a matter to relevant decision-makers by Councillors or staff in accordance with formal positions adopted by Council; including those adopted in policies, strategies and plans. |

5 HUMAN RIGHTS STATEMENT

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

6 REVIEW

The Chief Executive Officer will review this policy for any necessary amendments no later than 1 year after adoption of this current version.

10.7 FEDERAL INQUIRY INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUSTAINABILITY**File Number:****Author:** Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer**Authoriser:** Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer**Attachments:** Nil**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Authorise the Mayor to finalise a submission to the Federal Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability on behalf of Loddon Shire Council; and,
2. That the submission be generally in accordance with the issues outlined within this report.

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

Councillors discussed this inquiry briefly during General Business at the Council Forum on 9 April 2024. Councillors also received a briefing regarding this inquiry at the Council Briefing on 23 April 2024.

BACKGROUND

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport adopted an inquiry into local government sustainability on 21 March 2024, following a referral from the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, the Hon Catherine King MP.

The Committee is seeking written submissions **by 3 May 2024** from organisations and individuals that provide recommendations relating to any or all of the inquiry's terms of reference.

Federal Government funding is critical to the ongoing financial sustainability of Loddon Shire Council. The Financial Assistance Grants provide in the order of 1/3 of Council's recurrent income to fund service provision and infrastructure.

Council has discussed its long-term sustainability for a number of years. Budget forecasts demonstrate that the current funding model is unsustainable at current service levels because service and infrastructure costs are increasing at a greater level than Council's income streams.

Committee Membership:

1. Chair - Mr Luke Gosling OAM, ALP, Solomon NT
2. Deputy Chair - Mr Tony Pasin MP, Lib, Barker SA
3. Mr Colin Boyce MP, LNP Qld, Flynn QLD
4. Hon Scott Buchholz MP, LNP Qld, QLD
5. Ms Lisa Chesters MP, ALP, Bendigo VIC
6. Dr Helen Haines MP, Ind, Indi VIC

7. Mr Rob Mitchell MP, ALP, McEwen VIC
8. Ms Tracey Robers MP, ALP, Pearch WA
9. Ms Joanne Ryan MP, ALP, Lalor VIC
10. Mr Tony Zappia MP, ALP, Makin SA

Media Release (excerpt):

Chair of the Committee, [Mr Luke Gosling OAM, MP](#), said ‘the Committee has prioritised a deeper understanding of local government financial sustainability and funding frameworks, alongside the changing infrastructure requirements and service delivery obligations for local governments. Local government sustainability is essential to supporting our Australian communities through the provision of vital infrastructure and related services. The Committee is seeking to understand the challenges faced by local governments in servicing infrastructure requirements across Australia’s regional, rural, and remote locations.’

Mr Gosling further emphasised that ‘the Committee is aware of significant public infrastructure workforce shortages, particularly in local government areas, and the importance of promoting skills development and job security for Australians. The Committee will examine labour hire and retention trends, including the impacts of labour hire practices, to identify barriers and opportunities to support our local workforce and local government sustainability and service delivery obligations.’

Media release:

[https://www.aph.gov.au/About Parliament/House of Representatives/About the House News/Media Releases/New inquiry - Australias local government sustainability](https://www.aph.gov.au/About%20Parliament/House%20of%20Representatives/About%20the%20House%20News/Media%20Releases/New%20inquiry%20-%20Australia's%20local%20government%20sustainability)

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

If Loddon Shire Council is to formally resolve upon a submission to this inquiry, a resolution will be required at the Scheduled Council meeting today to meet the written submission deadline of 3 May 2024.

Federal Government funding is critical to the ongoing financial sustainability of Loddon Shire Council. The Financial Assistance Grants provide in the order of 1/3 of Council’s recurrent income to fund service provision and infrastructure. While the deadline for submissions is short, a submission to this inquiry highlighting the critical role of Federal funding is of high importance to Loddon Shire Council and is consistent with Council’s strategic direction and risk appetite.

With expenditure inflation outpacing income growth, Council is unsustainable. If there is no change to the current funding model, local governments across Victoria will be forced to reduce services and infrastructure.

Terms of Reference:

The Committee will inquire into and report on local government matters, with a particular focus on:

- The financial sustainability and funding of local government
- The changing infrastructure and service delivery obligations of local government
- Any structural impediments to security for local government workers and infrastructure and service delivery
- Trends in the attraction and retention of a skilled workforce in the local government sector, including impacts of labour hire practices

- The role of the Australian Government in addressing issues raised in relation to the above
- Other relevant issues.

Federal Financial Assistance Grants

Financial Assistance Grants account for approximately 1/3 of Council's income. Financial Assistance Grants are allocated to each state under the Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995. The Grant program consists of two components (1) General Purpose Grants and (2) Local Roads. Both grants are untied in the hands of local government, allowing councils to spend the grants according to local priorities.

Local government grants commissions in each state and the Northern Territory recommend the distribution of the funding under the program. In accordance with the Act and National Principles for allocating grants.

The quantum of the grant pool changes annually in line with changes in population and the Consumer Price Index.

The Victorian Local Government Grants Commission is highly respected by rural Councils and has a sound financial formula to deliver a fair and equitable outcome while meeting the national principles. Metropolitan Councils are less supportive of the formula as it operates according to relative need, meaning small rural councils have a greater need for financial assistance and are therefore greater beneficiaries.

The following short notes are proposed to form the basis of a submission to the terms of reference.

- **The financial sustainability and funding of local government**

Loddon Shire Council's long term financial sustainability is challenging. Council's long term financial plan indicates deficit budgets over the coming ten year period with a cash deficit and significant asset renewal gap.

Council's Asset Plan indicates an asset base of \$527 million, however asset plans have not yet been developed for all asset classes and this value could be expected to increase. As a result of this data gap Council is currently reliant upon valuation based depreciation to understand its renewal ratio. The 2022/23 Annual Report noted a renewal ratio of just under 48% (that is renewal expenditure against depreciation). If this trend continues Council's assets will decline in condition and functionality. Council's Asset Plan forecasts a renewal gap of 13% or \$2,164,874 over the next 10 years for those assets which have an asset management plan.

Broadly, Council is funded by rates, fees/charges, recurrent grants and non-recurrent grants. Council's cost drivers are wages relating to service delivery, plant & materials and contractors. As a local government area which is amongst the largest geographic areas in Victoria, Loddon also has a small population to support its services and infrastructure costs. Additionally, due to the dispersed population across multiple settlements, costs are often significantly higher to deliver services or the service is duplicated in multiple locations to make it accessible.

Council is critically reliant upon Financial Assistance Grants to remain sustainable with these grants making up around 1/3 of Council's budget. When introduced in 1974 these grants were the equivalent of 1% of Federal taxation, however in recent decades this amount has been reduced to just below 0.5%.

In 2023/24 Council received \$10,761,000 in untied Financial Assistance Funding. This approximately 1/3 of Council's budget in an ordinary year (that is excluding flood restoration

income/expense). This funding consisted of \$6.2 million General Purpose and \$4.5 million Local Roads – refer *Cost/Benefits* below.

State Government funding is provided typically for once-off programs and projects as tied funding and are highly subject to annual change. Examples include capital grants for sporting infrastructure. Operational grants are also provided for services such as libraries, however these once \$1:\$1 funded services have generally shifted with Councils meeting the majority of costs.

Reduced federal funding, cost shifting from other levels of government, increased expectations upon Council and inflation outpacing income growth all lead to a challenging financial outlook for local government.

- **The changing infrastructure and service delivery obligations of local government**

Loddon Shire Council provides what could fairly be described as core services to our community. While there is sometimes a community desire for Council to grow and expand its service footprint, this is not financially possible due to the limited revenue and cost of service delivery over a large area.

Further limiting Council's financial capacity to expand services is the impact of severe weather events. There is a fair expectation that Council builds back better after natural disasters. After recent flood events, Council has invested significantly in building climate resilient infrastructure to reduce cost and impact of future events. This growing asset has impacted on the volume of Council's asset renewal program with individual projects being of a higher upfront financial value.

- **Any structural impediments to security for local government workers and infrastructure and service delivery**

The Victorian State Government introduced the Fair Go Rates System commonly referred to as the 'rate cap' in 2016. The cap is set annually by the Minister for Local Government before 31 December. Since introduction there is a significant cumulative difference between the rate cap and actual inflation across Council's key expenditure areas which has resulted in a compounding impact upon local government revenue and ultimately service delivery.

The Minister for Local Government is provided with advice from the Essential Services Commission (ESC) and late 2023 the ESC advised:

....In our view, the gap between the rate cap and inflation, rising construction costs, and the expectation of future wage increases have the potential to present major cost pressures on councils going forward...

The ESC advice further notes that wages across the state account for around 40% of Council expenditure. In 2022/23 the average Wages increase was 2.8% and the Victorian Budget Update in May forecasts Wages to grow by 3.5% in 2024/25.

From a sector perspective the Fair Work Ombudsman website indicates 33 councils will have expired Enterprise Agreements by the end of 2023/24. With such low rate caps against high inflation, the industry will see downward pressure on service levels and offering.

Please refer to the Essential Service Commission: Letter to Minister for Local Government – Advice on the average rate cap for 2024-25 for further information:

https://www.esc.vic.gov.au/local-government/annual-council-rate-caps/our-advice-setting-council-rate-caps#:~:text=meet%20their%20needs,-_Our%20latest%20advice%20to%20the%20Minister%20for%20Local%20Government,all%20councils%20in%202024%E2%80%9325.

Loddon Shire Council's Enterprise Agreement is tied to the rate cap meaning 2024/25 wages will grow by 2.2% cash plus 0.5% statutory superannuation contribution. This total increase of 2.7% within a rate cap of 2.75%. The other major cost driver for Loddon Shire is construction which has experienced significant escalation in recent years. These major cost drivers exceeding the income available to Council will result in service reductions and assets deteriorating faster than they are being renewed.

The Victorian Rate Cap has bipartisan support and is unlikely to be removed, however unlike some other states, there is no local government cost index upon which the Essential Services Commission can base the cap. Local government could be more sustainable if the rate cap was linked to relevant cost drivers for local government and was consistent across states. The Committee may wish to consider a national local government cost index.

- **Trends in the attraction and retention of a skilled workforce in the local government sector, including impacts of labour hire practices**

The Victorian Auditor General's 2021-22 Report into Local Government outlined:

In 2021–22 all council cohorts experienced higher staff turnover due to greater labour market opportunities. The sector's average staff turnover was 20 per cent in 2021–22. This was up from 14 per cent in 2020–21.

The report further identifies that while the average is 20% it was higher across the small rural shire grouping who have the greatest difficulty sourcing skilled labour. While Loddon has a relatively low turnover rate by comparison it is not immune to the challenges of workforce attraction. Amongst others, one such example is Loddon Shire Council has been seeking to recruit a Municipal Building Surveyor for a number of years without success. As a result, Council is contracting support for this area of operations which remains under resourced.

- **The role of the Australian Government in addressing issues raised in relation to the above**

Recommendations from Loddon Shire Council:

1. Return Financial Assistance Grants back to 1% of federal taxation.
2. The Financial Assistance Grants and National Principles for allocation are supported by Loddon Shire Council. Horizontal equalisation allows Loddon Shire Council to function effectively and without these sound principles the future viability of our municipality would be further challenged.
3. Development of a nationally consistent local government cost index to assist in setting a fair and equitable rate cap.

- **Other relevant issues.**

No further comment.

COST/BENEFITS

Loddon Shire Council is highly reliant upon Financial Assistance Grants for its sustainability. If these grants were no longer available, significant service reductions would be required and investment in roads would decline significantly.

Loddon Shire Council's Financial Assistance Grants 2023-24:

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| General Purpose Grants | \$6,244,000 |
| Local Roads Grants | \$4,517,000 |
| Total Allocation | \$10,761,000 |
| + 2022-23 underpayment | \$ 465,000 |
| Cash payment 2023-23 | \$11,225,000 |

The Victorian Local Government Grants Commission's assessment of relative expenditure needs for Loddon Shire is \$44,567,000 minus revenue raising capacity of \$7,120,000. This General Purpose Grant is therefore only 16.6% of what is required if Loddon is to meet the average expected service level. This grant is limited to 16.6% due to the funding pool available to the commission.

Local Roads Grant allocations are based on road lengths, traffic volumes, local characteristics (climate, freight and sub-grades). In Victoria the lowest is \$73,000 (Queenscliffe 43kms) and highest is \$5.97m (Wellington). Again, Loddon's \$4.5m is 16.9% of its relative need.

RISK ANALYSIS

Council's risk appetite statement (adopted January 2024) considers financial sustainability. Within the statement is the following sentence regarding financial sustainability:

...We will manage our financial position for long-term sustainability, and promote our reputation through transparent and open transactions with our communities, government, staff and other stakeholders...

Council has adopted a moderate appetite for risks associated with ongoing financial sustainability. This means Council is willing to accept a potential negative impact for pursuit of strategic objective, given equal considerations. Council takes a balanced approach to risk taking to pursue potential reward.

A Federal inquiry into local government sustainability provides both an opportunity and risk. It is an opportunity to highlight the high value for money services provided, value of federal funding and its importance to local government. The inquiry also poses a risk if any changes to funding models are not in the best interests of Loddon Shire Council as a small rural council with limited revenue opportunities.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

No consultation has been undertaken in preparing this report.

Council's Community Satisfaction Survey indicates that the community is seeking additional investment in services and infrastructure which are directly impacted by Financial Assistance Grants.

Council's submission would be published and publicly available on the inquiry website.

11 INFORMATION REPORTS

Nil

12 COMPLIANCE REPORTS

Nil

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 Appointment of Audit and Risk Committee Independent Member

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.

Personal information regarding recruitment and selection

14.2 First Right of Refusal - 2 St Arnaud Road, Wedderburn

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

Closing of Meeting to the Public

RECOMMENDATION

That the meeting be closed to the public.

NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting of Council will be held on 28 May 2024 at Wedderburn commencing at 3.00pm.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at [enter time](#).

Confirmed this.....day of..... 2024

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