



**Date:** Friday, 22 October 2021  
**Time:** 9.00am  
**Location:** Virtual meeting, video live streamed to the public

# **MINUTES**

## **Special Council Meeting**

**22 October 2021**

**MINUTES OF LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD VIA VIRTUAL MEETING, VIDEO LIVE STREAMED TO THE PUBLIC  
ON FRIDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2021 AT 9.00AM**

**PRESENT:** Cr Neil Beattie (Mayor), Cr Gavan Holt, Cr Linda Jungwirth, Cr Wendy Murphy, Cr Dan Straub

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Jude Holt (Acting Chief Executive Officer), Wendy Gladman (Director Community Wellbeing), Steven Phillips (Director Operations), Lynne Habner (Manager Executive and Commercial Services)

**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**

Nil

**4 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Nil

## 5 DECISION REPORTS

### 5.1 ADOPTION OF COUNCIL'S ROAD MANAGEMENT PLAN

**File Number:** FOL/19/432732

**Author:** David Southcombe, Manager Assets and Infrastructure

**Authoriser:** Steven Phillips, Director Operations

- Attachments:**
1. **Attachment 1- Update to defect intervention levels and response times for roads and bridges**
  2. **Attachment 2 - Update to defect intervention levels and response times for footpaths**
  3. **Attachment 3 - Road Management Plan**

#### RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Adopt the Road Management Plan
2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to certify that the proposed changes to the Road Management Plan results in a standard that is higher than a relevant standard previously determined under section 41 of the Road Management Act 2004.

#### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

#### PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The Draft Road Management Plan was discussed at the October 2021 Council Forum.

#### BACKGROUND

Council has adopted a Road Management Plan (the Plan) in accordance with the Section 54 of the Road Management Act 2004 (the Act) to manage the operation and maintenance of its road and footpath assets. This plan outlines the inspection regime, defect intervention and allowable time for Council to respond to any defect in the road and footpath assets.

Pursuant to Section 54 of the Act and Part 3, Division 1 of Road Management (General) Regulations 2016 (the Regulation), if a municipal Council develops and publishes a Road Management Plan, it is required to conduct and complete a review of its Road Management Plan during the same period as it is preparing its Council Plan under the Local Government Act 2020.

In addition, pursuant to Part 3, Division 2, Regulation 10(1) and (2) of the Regulation, any amendment that decreases the standard previously determined under Section of 41 of the Act, must be published in the Government Gazette and local newspaper, and any person who is aggrieved by the proposed amendment shall be given an opportunity to make a submission on the proposed amendment.

However, pursuant to Part 3, Division 2, Regulation 11(1) a road authority is not required to give notice under Regulation 10 if the Chief Executive Officer of the road authority certifies in writing that the proposed amendment to the Road Management Plan results in a determination under section 41 of the Act of a standard that is higher than a relevant standard previously determined under section 41 of the Act.

## ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The significant proposed changes following Council officer's review are new categories of inspection. The new categories are:

- Creation of the "Fallen branches/trees on road shoulder" category for defect intervention levels and response times for roads and bridges, see Attachment 1 for details.
- Creation of inspection frequencies for pedestrian bridges under the defect intervention levels and response times for footpaths, see Attachment 2 for details.

These changes result in an increase in inspection frequency and consequently the service levels as determined under Section 41 of the Act will not require Council to provide a notice of amendment.

An update was undertaken on Table 5 within the plan to the gravel collector roads, gravel access roads, and gravel minor roads grading frequency categories by adding "Inspected to confirm if grading is required" prior to the frequencies listed. For example, the gravel collector roads category previously was "Twice per year" and has been updated to "Inspected to confirm if grading is required twice per year". This was to reduce confusion between the descriptors in this table and the text description in section 9.4.3 where it says:

*Prior to commencing grading on an individual road the road is inspected by the Team Leader or grader driver to confirm that grading is required, based on the intervention standards in appendix 12.6 - Defect intervention levels and response times for roads and bridges.*

*Completed maintenance grading is recorded in Reflect and updated by Works Department. For each individual road the grading crew identify as requiring grading, the date on which grading was undertaken is recorded.*

There is no material change on levels of service as a result of the updated text in Table 5.

## COST/BENEFITS

The proposed amendments will not create any additional cost to the Council. The service levels defined in the Plan are mainly unchanged from its previous version and the amendments formalise any practice that Council has been undertaking in managing its road and footpath assets.

The proposed changes in the Plan reflect the changes occurred in the organisation in the past few years, making the Plan a more accurate and reliable document.

## RISK ANALYSIS

There is no risk identified in the adoption of the proposed Plan. However, it is a statutory and a regulatory requirement for Council to review its Road Management Plan in accordance with the Act.

The impact of the proposed changes in the risk matrix and the service levels are deemed to be insignificant and will remain largely unchanged in relation to the existing plan.

## CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The proposed changes are because of significant discussion and consultation between the Assets & Infrastructure Department and the Works Department. In addition, the Plan was discussed at the Management Executive Group meeting and the October Council Forum.

**RESOLUTION 2021/216**

Moved: Cr Linda Jungwirth

Seconded: Cr Wendy Murphy

That Council:

1. Adopt the Road Management Plan
2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to certify that the proposed changes to the Road Management Plan results in a standard that is higher than a relevant standard previously determined under section 41 of the Road Management Act 2004.

**CARRIED**

**5.2 ADOPTION OF MUNICIPAL PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN 2021-2025****File Number:** FOL/20/2848**Author:** Wendy Gladman, Director Community Wellbeing**Authoriser:** Jude Holt, Acting Chief Executive Officer**Attachments:** 1. Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. adopt the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025
2. forward a copy of the approved plan to the Department Health Prevention and Population Health Branch.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

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

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

Council was provided with a copy of the draft Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025 (the Plan) at the September 2021 Forum prior to being placed on public display and inviting feedback.

Council was provided with a copy of the final content to be included in the Plan at the October 2021 Forum.

**BACKGROUND**

Council is required to prepare a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (the Plan) under Section 26 of the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008.

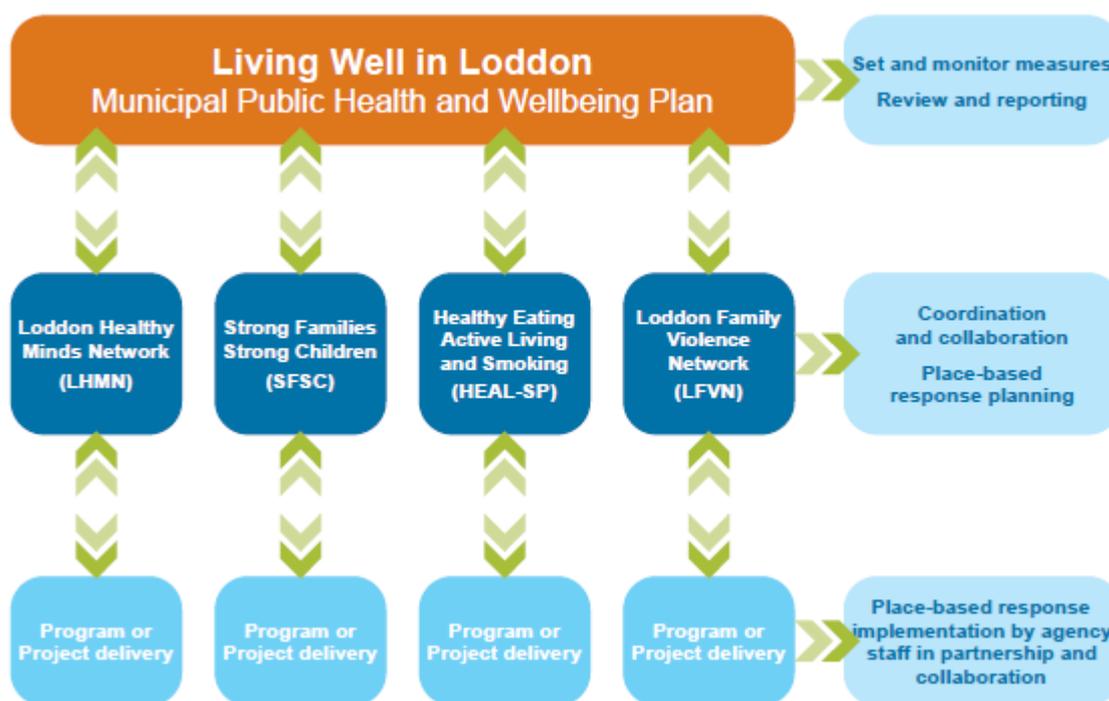
The Plan is a key strategic planning tool that aims to maintain and improve public health and wellbeing at a local community level. When developed the plan becomes the pivotal document informing the health and wellbeing priority areas for the next four years.

Council changed the format and context of the Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021 to provide a platform for all agency health and wellbeing planning and to encompass all relevant agencies in the delivery of actions that contributed to achieving the agreed outcomes, and thus delivery of the strategic focus areas.

The 2017-2021 plan introduced an Implementation Framework that identified and established four pillars to support and strengthen the collaborative and coordinated environment needed to ensure that the individual and combined effort of agencies was maximised.

The four pillars, Strong Families Strong Children, Loddon Healthy Minds Network, Family Violence Network, and Healthy Eating Active Living, provided the structure and authorising environment to create action plans specific to each pillar, with a direct link to the identified outcomes in the plan.

The development of an all agency collaborative approach has facilitated leadership of three of the four pillars by other sector agencies, such as health and education, rather than solely by Council.



**ISSUES/DISCUSSION**

The Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025 provides for the retention of the four pillars to continue to consolidate the initial establishment and early work undertaken by these groups. It is acknowledged that the results of much of the work undertaken in these early stages may not be evident in our health and wellbeing data profile for many years to come.

The Plan has again identified two overarching areas of focus; the impacts of climate change on health and wellbeing, and the impacts inadequate digital connectivity has in widening the health inequity gap already experienced by rural communities.

Whilst there are many areas of focus that could be included in the plan, the agencies acknowledge that whilst collaboration maximises our combined efforts, optimal results will be achieved by focusing on a more targeted effort to areas that have rated as high concern in the data, that were identified by the community as concerns, and that if improved will contribute directly to the improved health wellbeing outcomes of our community.

The goals and strategies identified in the plan include:

Strategic Focus Area	Priority	Outcomes
Good Physical Health	Increase healthy start in life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the Strong Families Strong Children initiative is maintained</li> <li>all children arrive at school ready for learning</li> <li>all children have a voice and influence</li> <li>all children are happy and enjoy healthy lifestyles</li> <li>children’s connection to culture is valued and supported within service provision</li> <li>initiatives for the provision of childcare options across the Shire are identified and promoted</li> </ul>
	Reduce preventable disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>access to and participation in health screening programs is increased</li> <li>partnerships to reduce preventable disease are maintained and strengthened</li> </ul>

Strategic Focus Area	Priority	Outcomes
Good Mental Health	Increase mental wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the Loddon Healthy Minds Network is maintained</li> <li>a reduction in the stigma relating to mental health issues</li> <li>social isolation is reduced</li> <li>self-care initiatives are supported and promoted</li> <li>access to and engagement with mental health services is improved</li> <li>local capacity is increased in relation to suicide prevention within a rural context</li> </ul>
	Decrease suicide	

Strategic Focus Area	Priority	Outcomes
Protect and promote Health	Increase healthy eating and active living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the Healthy Eating Active Living and Smoking Prevention group is maintained</li> <li>understandings about the underlying drivers of high smoking rates in Loddon Shire are increased</li> <li>smoking and vaping uptake rates in youth are reduced</li> <li>rates of smoking during pregnancy are reduced</li> <li>service coordination for smoking cessation initiatives is improved</li> <li>healthy eating rates increase</li> <li>the Healthy Heart of Victoria initiative is maintained</li> <li>participation in active recreation is increased</li> <li>harmful alcohol consumption is reduced</li> <li>partnership work between schools and partner agencies in relation to these priorities is increased</li> </ul>
	Reduce tobacco-related harm	
	Reduce harmful alcohol consumption	

Strategic Focus Area	Priority	Outcomes
Feel safe and secure	Prevent all forms of family violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the Loddon Family Violence Network is maintained</li> <li>partnerships to prevent family violence and improve gender equity are supported and strengthened</li> <li>capacity to identify and respond to family violence is increased</li> <li>well-resourced and coordinated family violence services are available within Loddon Shire</li> </ul>

Overarching Strategic Focus Area	Priority	Outcomes
Climate Change	Support the community to mitigate the impacts of climate change on their health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the vulnerable persons register is maintained</li> <li>• community capacity to plan for and respond to extreme events/emergencies is increased</li> <li>• cooler space options are identified and access promoted on days of extreme heat</li> <li>• shade options are considered in facility planning and management</li> </ul>
Connectivity	Reduce the health and wellbeing inequity gap created by inadequate digital connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• opportunities for improved digital connectivity across Loddon Shire are identified and promoted</li> <li>• opportunities to enhance community members access to online services are identified, supported and promoted</li> </ul>

### **COST/BENEFITS**

The success of this plan is based on collaboration and strategic partnerships between government, health, education, community service organisations and community interest groups, such as the Loddon Healthy Minds Network.

Individually, agencies are unlikely to have the capacity to address the range of factors that influence health and wellbeing across the municipality and as such, recognise that partnerships with other key agencies and working together is paramount in order to maximise health and wellbeing outcomes.

It is anticipated that actions identified in the annual operational plans will be undertaken within existing budgets, or with sourced external funds as required.

### **RISK ANALYSIS**

Under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008, Council is required to develop and adopt a Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan within 12 months of an election being held. The adoption of this plan at Council's October Special Meeting will meet this legislative requirement.

### **CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

Council's planned methods of consultation and engagement were impacted by periods of lockdowns and then restrictive environments and involved a pivot to online consultation only.

A survey seeking community feedback was distributed electronically and in limited hardcopy, with 110 responses received.

An initial focus area information session and prioritisation tool was provided for agencies and community reference groups members. Following identification of the focus areas, agencies were invited to identify and agree on the priority areas and outcomes they would seek to achieve.

The draft plan was released for public comment from 23 September to 8 October 2021. No submissions were received prior to the 8 October closing date.

**RESOLUTION 2021/217**

Moved: Cr Gavan Holt

Seconded: Cr Linda Jungwirth

That Council:

1. adopt the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025
2. forward a copy of the approved plan to the Department Health Prevention and Population Health Branch.

**CARRIED**

**NEXT MEETING**

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on 26 October 2021 at Wedderburn commencing at 3pm.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.10am.

Confirmed this.....day of..... 2021

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**CHAIRPERSON**