

# LODDON

# BULLETIN

A PROSPEROUS  
VIBRANT AND  
ENGAGED COMMUNITY



## Budget focus on services, works

Council's 2019/20 draft budget has seen Council remain in a solid cash position with a small surplus and no new borrowings.

The budget proposes a 2.5 per cent average rate rise, in line with the State Government's Fair Go Rates System capping level. Kerbside rubbish collection charges will increase by 2.5 per cent – this is to assist in ensuring management of waste remains cost neutral.

In addition to ongoing delivery of services to the community,

the budget contains a capital expenditure program of \$13.68 million. This includes \$4.71 million for roads, \$4.51 million for recreational, leisure and community facilities, \$0.92 million for urban and road drainage, \$0.26 million for footpaths and \$0.55 million for parks, open space and streetscapes.

There is a continuing commitment to Council's Community Planning program of \$750,000 as well as support for aged services and early years programs.

Submissions to the draft budget have closed. Council will meet to consider any submissions received at the Council Forum on Tuesday 11 June 2019. Council will then consider adoption of the Draft Budget at its Ordinary Meeting on Tuesday 25 June 2019.



*The 2019/20 draft budget includes \$4.71 million for roads.*

## Funding success for projects

In March, Council received the news that the Our Region, Our Rivers project joint infrastructure project was successful in gaining funding from the Federal Regional Growth Fund.

Loddon's share of the funding is more than \$760,000, which will help deliver over \$1.5 million worth of works. This funding will enable Council to undertake significant redevelopment of three of its caravan parks in Pyramid Hill, Boort and Wedderburn, and implement Stage 2 of the Bridgewater Foreshore Project.

The joint application involved Swan Hill Rural City (lead Council), Gannawarra, Buloke, Loddon, Balranald, Murray River and Edward River councils.

You can read more about these projects in this edition of the Loddon Bulletin.

## QUARTERLY BULLETIN

JUNE 2019

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## A word from our Mayor

It was an honour to join the Mitiamo community for an announcement of \$14.5 million in funding towards the Mitiamo pipeline, enabling the project to go ahead.

Not only is this a great outcome for the community, it is also recognition of the resilience and dedication of the Mitiamo Pipeline Committee which has been working hard for a long time to achieve this successful outcome.

It was also fantastic to receive the news that the Our Region, Our Rivers joint infrastructure project was successful in gaining funding from the Federal Regional Growth Fund.

Council very much welcomes this funding announcement, which will enable Council to undertake redevelopment works at three caravan parks in Pyramid Hill, Boort and Wedderburn. The funding will also see Stage 2 of the Bridgewater Foreshore Project go ahead.

On behalf of Council, I'd also like to recognise and thank Swan Hill Rural City Council, which coordinated the significant amount of work that went into the joint funding application.

For more Shire news, visit Council's website [www.loddon.vic.gov.au](http://www.loddon.vic.gov.au) and its Facebook page [www.facebook.com/LoddonShire/](https://www.facebook.com/LoddonShire/)

You can also read my weekly Mayoral Column in *The Loddon Times* each Tuesday, as well as on Council's website. Selected items from the column are also published in local community newsletters.



## Upgrades for caravan parks

Three caravan parks in Pyramid Hill, Boort and Wedderburn will undergo significant redevelopments, thanks to funding from the Federal Regional Growth Fund.

The redevelopment will see new caravan park facilities such as amenities blocks, entrance upgrades, improvements to some cabins and powerheads, water and sullage points.

These long-awaited improvements are expected to increase tourism patronage and use of short-term accommodation in Pyramid Hill, Boort and Wedderburn, increasing overnight stays in our towns and bringing wider economic benefits to those communities and the broader region.

A tender process is currently in development for design and construction of the caravan park improvements.

## Bridgewater foreshore update

Stage 1 of the Bridgewater Foreshore Project is nearing completion. The installation of shelters and seating and formal landscaping will make this section of the foreshore a focal gathering point for community and visitors looking to enjoy the Loddon River.

This first stage of the project has been made possible thanks to \$300,000 from Regional Development Victoria and \$100,000 from Loddon Shire Council.

Stage 2 of the Bridgewater Foreshore Project is currently undergoing detailed project design. Funding from the Federal Regional Growth Fund will continue the redevelopment of the foreshore into a premier recreation space for community and visitors alike.

Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Bridgewater Foreshore Project will deliver new and upgraded infrastructure that is accessible, easily maintained and safe, including seating areas and shelters, community gathering spaces, pathways, interpretive/cultural signage and improved access points to the foreshore.

## Active Living Census out now

In late April, Mayors and Chief Executive Officers from six local government areas (including Loddon Shire) launched the Healthy Heart of Victoria 2019 Active Living Census.

Residents are encouraged to take the time to fill out the census online at [www.srcentre.com.au/ALC](http://www.srcentre.com.au/ALC) or via Council's website [www.loddon.vic.gov.au](http://www.loddon.vic.gov.au) by 16 June 2019. The census was also delivered to more than 117,000 homes in the Loddon Campaspe region in late May.

The Loddon Campaspe region (which includes Loddon Shire, City of Greater Bendigo, Campaspe, Mount Alexander, Macedon Ranges and Central Goldfields councils) has some of the worst health outcomes in Victoria.

The census aims to seek valid local and regional level data on the community's health behaviours, activity levels, preferences and needs. The findings from the census will be used for an overarching report for the Loddon Campaspe region and individual reports unique to each of the six local government areas.

The initiative will help local councils, health agencies, sporting clubs and government departments to better plan, develop and enhance recreational facilities and health promotion services to improve the future health and wellbeing of our local communities.

The 2019 census is funded by Healthy Heart of Victoria, an initiative of the Loddon Campaspe Regional Partnership that aims to improve health outcomes for residents living in Central Victoria.



Council's Acting Director Community Wellbeing Stephen Mahon, Health Broker—Healthy Heart of Victoria Amy Holmes and Loddon Shire Mayor Cheryl McKinnon at the census launch.

## Community projects update

A snapshot of the many community projects happening around our Shire:

- Approvals for the extension of the boat ramp at the Laanecoorie foreshore have been obtained. It is anticipated that works on the extension will start in June.
- Works on the Bridgewater Town Hall are in progress. The works include replacing lining in the roof of the supper room, new kitchen, and heating and cooling. The project is anticipated to be completed in June.
- Consultation is currently underway for the masterplan and feasibility study to investigate the future use of the Pyramid Hill Senior Citizens building.
- The new storage shed at Tarnagulla Town Hall will be completed in July.
- All canoe trails are now complete and open. The canoe trails are located at Durham Ox, Serpentine and Laanecoorie.
- With the end of the swimming pool season, shade sails will be installed at Boort Swimming Pool and also over the playground in Korong Vale's Borella Park.
- Repairs continue to take place at the Newbridge Hall, including to the existing back deck, replacement of doors and painting.



*Loddon River Canoe Trail at Serpentine*

- Permits are being obtained and footings ready to install for the replacement of two timber light towers at the Bridgewater Recreation Reserve. The towers will be replaced with the latest light tower and LED lights for better lighting and efficiency. Works are expected to be completed by end of July.
- New playground equipment has been installed at Dingee Recreation Reserve and Rheola Recreation Reserve.
- The playground redevelopment at Pyramid Hill between the tennis courts and pool is in progress. The redevelopment includes a new barbecue area and shade structures.
- A power upgrade is underway at the Pyramid Hill Hall. The upgrade is expected to be completed in June.
- Solar panels were installed at the Llanelly Public Hall in April.

## Event Sponsorship Scheme

Applications are open for Council's Event Sponsorship Scheme. The scheme, which started in 1999, provides assistance to community groups organising events within the Shire.

Under the scheme, community groups can submit applications for funding under the Major Event Category or Minor Event Category.

The Major Event Category provides \$1,000 towards events of regional or state significance. For example, state sporting events and/or major festivals that attract a significant number of visitors from outside the region.

The Minor Event Category provides \$400 towards events of local and sub-regional significance, such as annual sporting tournaments or local community festivals.

Applications for the Event Sponsorship Scheme must be received at least one month prior to the event for which you are seeking support.

For more information and to download an application form, visit [www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Live/Community-support/Council-grants](http://www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Live/Community-support/Council-grants) or contact Council's Community Support team on 5494 1200.

## Activating Open Space Strategy

The draft Activating Open Space Strategy is a key strategic planning tool that aims to develop and maintain public open spaces throughout our Shire. It provides strategies designed to activate and optimise the use of reserves and open spaces to maximise the wider health and wellbeing, social, and recreation objectives of residents.

Development of the strategy saw significant consultation; including 273 residents throughout the Shire (involving youth, school children, senior citizens, community groups and the general community), other stakeholders and Council officers.

An audit of all public spaces in the Shire was also undertaken to assess the type of infrastructure available in our Shire, its condition and opportunities for improvement.

Feedback to the draft strategy closed at the end of May 2019. Council will consider public submissions and adoption of the draft strategy at an upcoming Ordinary Meeting.



## Did you know?

There are 113 or more parcels of public open spaces located within our Shire.

This diversity of public open spaces includes parks, playgrounds, sports ovals, bushland, footpaths, cycling/walking tracks, rivers and lakes.

## Next free waste disposal days

The next free waste disposal days are scheduled for the following dates:



### Saturday 17 August

**Inglewood** Transfer Station 8am - 12pm

### Sunday 18 August

**Wedderburn** Transfer Station

8am - 12pm

**Pyramid Hill** Landfill 8am - 12pm

**Dingee** Transfer Station 10am - 2pm

**Boort** Landfill 1pm - 5pm

**Newbridge** Landfill 1pm - 5pm

You can dispose of up to four cubic metres of general domestic waste free of charge. This includes green waste, mixed recyclables, general household waste, e-waste, television and computer screens, home appliances, electronic items, microwaves and air conditioners, and white goods. You can also dispose of battery operated products that have reached their end of life.

Charges still apply for tyres, bricks and concrete, and mattresses, as these items have additional third party costs associated with their disposal.

## Inglewood pool multi-use facilities complete

New multi-use facilities at the Inglewood Swimming Pool are now complete.

The combined netball and swimming pool facilities will provide users with a universally-accessible change room, public toilets, canteen, first aid office and administration areas.

The project was funded through grants from Sport and Recreation Victoria.

A new pool hoist has also been installed, enabling community members with disability or limited mobility to access the pool.

## Works update

### Resealing works

The resealing works program for 2018/19 has been completed.

### Local road construction – safety program

Safety works on Gowar Logan Road are complete. The works involved upgrading the approach and guardrail located over the road's culvert.

### Township street improvements

Construction of footpaths in Wedderburn, Boort, Newbridge, Bridgewater and Mitiamo are underway. In total, 729 metres of footpath will be constructed. The works involve the construction of concrete footpaths and other associated improvements, providing an all-weather footpath and improved connectivity and safety for pedestrians.

### Culverts and crossings

Works have started on the construction and installation of culverts and crossings on Mologa Durham Ox Road and Hudson Lane, and have been completed on Pigeonhole Road.

### Stormwater drainage Inglewood

Stormwater drainage upgrade works at Verdon Street in Inglewood have commenced. The works involve trenching and underground boring. It is expected these works will involve minimal disruptions.

### Connors Road bridge

Works on Connors Road, Leichardt (near the winery) are underway. The works will involve the bridge being replaced with culverts and other associated works.



*Upgraded floodway pavement at Pigeonhole Road.*

### Newbridge Town Hall waste treatment facility

Works to install the new waste treatment facility at Newbridge Town Hall and public toilets are complete.

### Roads

Works have been completed to restore significantly damaged sections of roads around Berrimal and Gowar East areas, following the storm event in December, including 13 kilometres of gravel resheet.

### Defect rectification

From 1 January to the end of March this year, 2,652 defects were rectified.

### Maintenance grading program

From 1 January this year to the end of March, 347 kilometres of grading has taken place on gravel roads and minor gravel roads, with 952 kilometres of inspections on these roads.



## Upcoming infant immunisation sessions

Immunisation sessions will be held at Boort Senior Citizens Centre, Dingee Bush Nursing Centre, Inglewood Maternal and Child Health Centre, Pyramid Hill Senior Citizens Centre and Serpentine Council offices on:

### Thursday 13 June

9.30am Inglewood  
11.30am Dingee  
1.45pm Pyramid Hill

### Thursday 11 July

9.15am Serpentine  
11.15am Boort

### Thursday 8 August

9.30am Inglewood  
11.30am Dingee  
1.45pm Pyramid Hill

### Thursday 12 September

9.15am Serpentine  
11.15am Boort

To make an appointment for an infant's immunisation, call Council's Serpentine Office on 5494 1201.

Please bring your Medicare card and Child Record Book to each immunisation session and allow 15 minutes waiting time following immunisation.

For information regarding immunisation, or to contact immunisation staff during sessions, call 0488 095 205. Information is also available from Council's website at [www.loddon.vic.gov.au](http://www.loddon.vic.gov.au) Go to "Services for our younger residents" from the "Live" dropdown box at the top of the page.

## South West Loddon Pipeline update

Construction of the South West Loddon Pipeline is continuing, with the current pipeline construction phase expected to be completed by July 2019. Around 950 km of pipeline has been installed to date which is 92 per cent of the design total. The service connection installation process is continuing.

Construction of the pump stations is well underway and final system commissioning is anticipated to occur around September 2019. Limited water supply is being made available to some landowners where feasible prior to final commissioning. Customers will be individually notified when water is available at their property.

The period for lodging an Expression of Interest to join the scheme under the initial terms and conditions of the project has now expired and so any future requests to connect will be managed under the standard new connections policy. Please contact GWMWater to discuss future connections to the system.

GWMWater will remain in contact with landowners who have signed up to the scheme to provide updates on when a water supply will be available and when final commissioning will occur.

*Information provided by GWMWater.*

## Upcoming Council meetings

Community members are always welcome to attend Council's monthly meetings to learn of issues affecting their community.

Meetings start at 3pm and are held at the Serpentine Council Chambers.

### Upcoming Council meetings:

- Tuesday 25 June
- Tuesday 23 July
- Tuesday 27 August
- Tuesday 24 September

### Shire offices

**Wedderburn** 41 High St, Wedderburn 3518 **T:** (03) 5494 1200 **F:** (03) 5494 3003  
Monday to Friday 8.15am to 4.45pm

**Serpentine** 37 Peppercorn Way, Serpentine 3516 **T:** (03) 5494 1201 **F:** (03) 5437 8407  
Monday to Friday 8.15am to 4.45pm

**Email:** [loddon@loddon.vic.gov.au](mailto:loddon@loddon.vic.gov.au) **Web:** [www.loddon.vic.gov.au](http://www.loddon.vic.gov.au)

### Your Councillors



**Mayor Cr Cheryl McKinnon**  
Terrick Ward  
0409 557 888



**Cr Neil Beattie**  
Boort Ward  
0427 552 468



**Cr Colleen Condliffe**  
Inglewood Ward  
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**Cr Geoff Curnow**  
Tarnagulla Ward  
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**Cr Gavan Holt**  
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