

LODDON BULLETIN

A resilient, sustainable and prosperous community of communities.



Budget maintains commitment to services

Loddon Shire Council's draft 2022/23 Budget maintains Council's approach of being financially responsible, while ensuring its commitment of providing a large range of services to the community.

The draft budget includes a rate increase of 1.75 per cent – in line with the Victorian Government's Fair Go Rates System. Council remains debt-free, with no loan repayments, and a continued strong cash position.

The draft budget allocates a capital expenditure program of \$7.34 million, which includes \$3.4 million towards roads, \$350,000 for urban and road drainage, and \$426,000 for footpaths.

Additionally, the budget includes a \$400,000 allocation for works associated with the Building Asset Management Plan and full funding of Council's ongoing commitment to community planning of \$750,000.

Due to the increased cost of kerbside waste and recycling disposal and new licensing requirements and contractor costs, waste services charges will increase. The cost of a 140 litre bin will increase to \$389 (from \$354) and a 240 litre bin to \$529 (from \$481). The cost for a 240 litre kerbside recycling bin will increase to \$147 (from \$134).

Financial reports are available on Council's website at <https://www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Our-Council/Financial-reports>. Copies are also available from Council's Wedderburn office during business hours or can be posted out by calling Council's Customer Service on (03) 5494 1200.

Submissions to the draft budget have closed. Council will now meet to review and consider any community feedback. The final draft documents including any changes will then be presented to the Council Meeting on Tuesday 28 June seeking adoption.



The draft 2022/23 budget includes \$3.4 million towards roads.

QUARTERLY BULLETIN
JUNE 2022

FEATURED

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Citizenship ceremony congratulations

On 26 April, Mayor Dan Straub officiated at a Citizenship Ceremony.

Cr Straub presented citizenship certificates to our newest Australian citizens, who included Ms Neethu Aamed, formerly from India, Mr Filippo Daddelli formerly from Italy, and Mrs Kate Wheatley, formerly from South Africa.

Also, formerly from the Philippines, Ms Helenita Garchitorea, Ms Emma Dotollo, Ms Abigail Umali, Ms Maria Umali and Mr Raphael Umali.

Cr Straub congratulated our new citizens, who made the Australian Citizenship Pledge during the ceremony at the Council Chambers.



A word from our Mayor

As we head into the winter months in our Loddon Shire it is fantastic to see the continued support of local sport, sporting events and other events right across our region. This includes regular crowds of locals getting out there and supporting their teams each weekend.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those who contribute so much behind the scenes – much of it on a volunteer basis – to ensure our local sporting competitions and events continue to thrive.

It is great to see the completion of the Bridgewater Raywood Road upgrade – a long-term project that saw a total of 18 kilometres of the road be progressively upgraded as funding became available.

This road is not only one of our busiest in the Shire, but serves as an important transport route for freight. You can read more about this project in the article below.

Also highlighted on the front page of this bulletin is the 2022/23 draft budget.

As Councillors, it is our job to listen to community opinions and understand your priorities. During and following the Council elections in 2020 we have consistently heard that Council's services are valued by the community, and that Council also needs to be financially responsible.

In response, Council has continued an organisation-wide approach to identifying savings and organisational improvements that provide increased value for money to ratepayers.

A number of significant strategic documents have been adopted by Council during the past months.

These include the Bridges and Major Culverts Asset Management Plan, Stormwater Drainage Asset Management Plan, Road Asset Management Plan and Building Asset Management Plan.

At the time of writing, Council was also in the process of seeking feedback on the draft Asset Plan 2022. The Asset Plan guides how Council manages assets such as roads, buildings, bridges, footpaths and drainage.

The plan provides an overview of Council assets, their current condition, and how Council plans to manage them now and into the future.

It was also an honour to preside over a Citizenship Ceremony on 26 April, where I was privileged to present eight community members with their Citizenship Certificates on the day: Ms Neethu Aamed, Mr Filippo Daddelli, Mrs Kate Wheatley, Ms Helenita Garchitorea, Ms Emma Dotollo, Ms Abigail Umali, Ms Maria Umali and Mr Raphael Umali.

Further details of the Citizenship Ceremony and our newest citizens are on the front page of this *Loddon Bulletin*.



Loddon Shire Council Mayor
Cr Dan Straub.

Bridgewater Raywood Road upgrade completed

Following progressive works as funding became available over a period of 10 years, the Bridgewater Raywood Road upgrade is now complete.

One of the bigger road-making projects handled by Loddon Shire over recent years, the upgrade included widening 18 kilometres of the road to a two-lane sealed road. This has allowed two vehicles to pass on either side safely, without having to move to the road's shoulders.

In addition to improving safety, the upgrade will reduce maintenance costs associated with the road. Widening the seal has also allowed heavy vehicles and machinery to turn into and out of farming properties more safely and permit the carriage of greater vehicle loads.

The Bridgewater-Raywood Road has been identified as one of the Shire's busiest local roads, including for heavy vehicles, providing a link between a number of important arterial roads and a northern freight route around Bendigo between Bridgewater to Shepparton and beyond.

Funding for the road's upgrades over the years was provided by the Federal Government and Council.



Bridgewater Raywood Road following the upgrade (left) and before the upgrade works (right)

Loddon Healthy Minds Network Art Competition

In an effort to continue to raise awareness of mental health within the Loddon community, the Loddon Healthy Minds Network is conducting its art competition again in 2022.

Categories include an Open Age section, Senior Students (years 9 to 12) and middle school students (grades 5 to Year 8). There are also two junior students' categories – grades 3 and 4 and grades Prep to 2.

The two themes for the Open Age section and Senior Students categories are *Find the joy in the ordinary* and *Tune into your mental wellbeing*.

Entrants in these categories may instead choose to submit a literary entry in essay form using one of the two themes. The essay must be between 500 to 1000 words.

Themes for the middle school students' category are: *Find the joy in the ordinary* and *Thinking healthy thoughts*.

The junior students' categories will be a colouring competition (poster provided to the region's schools), with the theme *Find the joy in the ordinary* (grades 3 and 4) and *Thinking healthy thoughts* (grades Prep to 2).



Loddon Healthy Minds Network Art Competition Best in Show winner for 2021 was Samantha Arnup. Samantha's artwork involved the imaginative use of UV paint which glowed in the dark when illuminated under a black light UV lamp.

All entries are to be completed and delivered to the Loddon Shire office at Wedderburn by 1 August 2022.

To find out more visit www.loddonhealthyminds.com.au/events-2/2022-art-competition

The Loddon Healthy Minds Network Art Competition is proudly sponsored by Community Bank Inglewood & Districts.

Healthy Heart of Victoria update

Construction is underway at the Healthy Heart of Victoria funded community garden at Bridgewater Railway Station. Kooyoora Women's Network is leading the project. The 12 garden beds were built during a working bee on Saturday 7 May.



The Network has ordered soil and mulch from local businesses.

Once the gardens are full of soil, Bridgewater, Inglewood and St Mary's Primary Schools will plant them, guided by a horticulturist.

Healthy Heart of Victoria (HHV) is working with local fitness trainer Sherryn O'Flaherty to create outdoor fitness equipment exercise programs for Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced fitness levels.

The programs will help residents build their confidence and encourage use of the equipment.

Outdoor fitness equipment is currently located in Boort, Wedderburn and Pyramid Hill, with new equipment also coming to Inglewood soon. The exercise programs will be available for download from Council's website in the coming weeks.

Residents from across Loddon Shire came together at Pyramid Hill Neighbourhood House, Wedderburn Community House and Inglewood Community Neighbourhood House to learn healthy cooking skills with Jamie's Ministry of Food.

The five-week course provided participants with the opportunity to cook a range of healthy recipes and develop their cooking skills using simple, cost-effective ingredients. HHV also supplied equipment and ingredient packs to help participants continue to cook healthy meals into the future.

Three new water refill stations will be provided in Boort, Pyramid Hill and Serpentine. These are in addition to the two installed at the Bridgewater Swimming Hole and Inglewood Park in 2019.

The water refill stations will include a water bubbler and drink bottle refill tap, as well as a water bowl for dogs. The collaboration between Coliban Water, HHV and Loddon Shire aims to provide the region with greater access to tap water.

Loddon Valley Arts Trail

Following the cancellation of the event in 2021 due to COVID-19, the first official Loddon Valley Arts Trail will be launching on 22 to 23 October 2022.

The Loddon Shire is currently accepting expressions of interest from artists and venues that are willing to host artists.

Council would love to see representation across the entire Loddon Valley to encourage visitors to stay overnight for the duration of the Arts Trail weekend.

To submit an expression of interest go to bit.ly/3vNO2j3

Expressions of interest close at 5pm 30 June 2022.



Community projects update

Donaldson Park Community Hub

The tender for the construction of the pavilion and carpark for the Donaldson Park Community Hub project has closed and is currently being evaluated.

The project will upgrade facilities at Wedderburn's Donaldson Park, including construction of a new multisport and community-focused pavilion, car parking, new multi-faceted playspace for all abilities, landscaping and internal paths, and large solar installation with batteries.

The Donaldson Park Community Hub project has been made possible thanks to funding from the Commonwealth Government, Victorian Government, Donaldson Park Committee of Management, the user groups, community, and Council.

Pyramid Hill Community Centre Development

Antarctica Architects have been engaged to undertake the detailed design for the Pyramid Hill Community Centre Development.

Stage 1 of the project will include construction of the allied health wing, standalone senior citizens room, new toilet facilities and renovation of the existing hall and kitchen.

The funding will also enable the expansion of storage for kitchen and user groups, development of breakout space and associated landscaping, and installation of car parking, kerb and channel and associated drainage infrastructure.

The funding was received through the Victorian Government's Regional Infrastructure Fund – Stimulus Round.

Pyramid Hill Streetscape Revitalisation Project

Works are anticipated to commence on the Pyramid Hill Streetscape Revitalisation Project in July.

The project aims to unify the township via themed works along the town approaches and pedestrian navigation. It will achieve this by improving pedestrian safety, linking key public spaces and providing additional landscaping and shade.

The project has been made possible thanks to \$800,000 in funding from the Victorian Government's Building Works package and Council.

Boort Bowling Club

The installation of synthetic turf is currently in progress at the Boort Bowling Club. The World Bowls-approved synthetic turf will replace the previous irrigated turf.

The synthetic turf installment is Stage 1 of the Lake Boort Foreshore Recreation Precinct Project, which was endorsed by Council in March this year.

Funding for Stage 1 is from the Boort Ward Strategic Fund, allocated to the Boort Foreshore Sporting Recreation Precinct by Council resolution at the September 2020 Meeting.

Stage 2 of the project includes the planning, design and costing of the pump track and basketball half-court, tennis fencing and lighting and potentially works at the croquet club.

Stage 3 is the funding and construction of the works as identified in Stage 2.

Floodlighting upgrade project

Council has welcomed funding of \$200,000 from the Victorian Government's Country Football and Netball Funding Program towards lighting upgrades for the Serpentine Recreation Reserve and Mitiamo Recreation Reserve.

Delivered through Sport and Recreation Victoria, the funding will see the Serpentine and Mitiamo recreation reserves receive new fit-for-purpose light towers and sustainable LED floodlighting.

The funding is in addition to a contribution from the Federal Government through the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program. Council, the Serpentine and Mitiamo Recreation Reserves and respective football netball clubs which will also provide funding towards the project.

The project will result in a significant upgrade to the standard of lighting available for training at the Serpentine and Mitiamo recreation reserves. It will also provide the opportunity for further activation opportunities at these reserves for the community and users.

Recreation Open Space and Aquatic Strategy

Council will be commencing the Recreation Open Space and Aquatic (ROSA) strategy from July.

The strategy will consider the current and future needs of residents at all ages and stages of life. It will also take into account the upgrade and renovation requirements of existing pools, recreation reserves and parks, Council's long term financial sustainability, and future population trends.

When complete, the strategy will replace the Recreation Strategy, Open Space Strategy and Swimming Pool Improvement Plan and combine both these into one document that will strategically support the provision of quality recreation, leisure and open space facilities and services across the Shire.



Artistic impression of the front of the Donaldson Park Community Hub.

Works update

A glance at some of the works around Loddon Shire:

Roads

Council's annual reseal works program has been completed for the year.

Township street improvements

- Footpath construction works are expected to be complete at the end of June. Works are taking place in Wedderburn in Kerr Street (between Wilson and High Street) and in High Street (between Godfrey and Rede streets). Footpath construction works are also underway in Commercial Road (between Poverty and Wayman streets) in Tarnagulla.
- Works have been completed on the installation of kerb and channel and associated works at Lake View and Andrews Street in Boort.
- The installation of a pedestrian crossing at Coutts Street in Boort has been completed. Lighting will be installed in the coming months.
- Works for kerb and channel, underground drainage and sealing upgrades in Grant Street (between Houston Street and the railway line), Inglewood are expected to start in July.
- The tender for underground drainage works in Inglewood at the primary school and Verdon Street are anticipated to commence in December.

Local bridge and culvert construction

Works for the replacement of a culvert at Godfrey Street in Wedderburn are underway.

Other

Restoration works at the Korong Vale Hall are nearing completion. The works include recladding of the hall's exterior and roof, window replacements, exterior painting, roof fret work, and switchboard works.

Maintenance inspection summary:

From 1 July 2021 to 31 March 2022, 592 inspections were completed (3,054 defects raised), with 98.1 per cent of all inspections completed before their due date.

Maintenance defect rectification:

From 1 July 2021 to 31 March 2022, 5,701 defects were rectified, with 99.4 per cent of all defects (5,667 in total) completed before their due date.

Maintenance grading program

From 1 July 2021 to 31 March 2022, Council completed 2,018 kilometres of grading and 4,966 kilometres of inspections.

VicRoads-controlled roads

Council also undertakes routine maintenance of pavement, shoulders, roadside areas, drainage systems, road furniture and structures on various arterial roads within Loddon Shire (VicRoads roads). If you have any requests or issues with VicRoads arterial roads please call 13 11 70.

From 1 July 2021 to 31 March 2022, 1,421 defects were rectified, with 91.8 per cent of all defects (1,304 in total) completed before their due date.

Capital works completed

From 1 July 2021 to 31 March 2022, 84 per cent of building projects delivered by Council's Works Department were completed (11 jobs in total).



New pedestrian crossing at Coutts Street, Boort. Lighting will be installed in the coming months.

Ninety-three per cent of road projects delivered by the Works Department were also completed, resulting in the following:

- 12.8km gravel road re-sheets and shoulder re-sheets
- 5.7km sealed road reconstruction

Hard waste

The annual kerbside hard waste collection for 2022 commenced on Monday 7 March to coincide with Clean Up Australia Day.

The annual hard waste collection of metal, e-waste, furniture and white goods for residents (excluding businesses) within township boundaries was completed over a two-week period with approximately 493 collections, including:

- 266 items of e-waste
- 154 white good items
- 140m³ of furniture
- 143m³ of metal
- 303m³ of waste

Waste vouchers

Residents are provided with four vouchers with their rates notices - one for each quarter. Each voucher can be used to dispose of up to four cubic metres of general domestic waste free of charge at Council's landfill and transfer stations.

This includes green waste, mixed recyclables, general household waste and e-waste (white goods, TVs, computers, electronic items, etc.).

Tyres, bricks and concrete, and mattresses are not included as these items have additional third party costs associated with their disposal, and will be charged as per normal disposal charges.

Each voucher can only be used once, and only one voucher used per transaction. The voucher must be presented to attendants at landfill and transfer stations. From 1 July 2021 to 31 March 2022 1,477 vouchers were used.

Each voucher must be used by its expiry date. Voucher 4 is due to expire 30 June 2022.

Your Councillors



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Suicide Prevention Forum - SPF22

The Loddon Healthy Minds Network bi-annual Suicide Prevention Forum (SPF22) will be held on Thursday 20 October from 9am to 3.30pm at the Inglewood Community Hub.

The forum will provide the opportunity to learn about suicide prevention strategies that work in rural areas.

Registrations open 1 July with an Early Bird Discount for the month of July. A limited number of free tickets are available for Loddon region community members and volunteers from 1 July.

Community members or volunteers who would like to register for a free ticket, can call Vicki Andrew during business hours on (03) 5494 1230.

For more information about the forum, please visit <https://www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Our-Services/Health-and-wellbeing/Loddon-Healthy-Minds-Network>

Council Meetings

Council Meetings are usually held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 3pm.

The meetings are held at the Loddon Shire Council Chambers in Wedderburn (entry from Peters Street), behind the Council office.

A livestream of the meeting is available to the public via Council's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/LoddonShire

Upcoming Council Meetings:

- Tuesday 28 June
- Tuesday 26 July
- Tuesday 23 August
- Tuesday 27 September

Infant immunisation sessions

Infant Immunisation sessions will be available at Boort Senior Citizens Centre, Dingee Bush Nursing Centre, Inglewood Maternal and Child Health Centre, Pyramid Hill Senior Citizens Centre and Serpentine Council offices.

Appointments are required. To make an appointment for an infant's immunisation, call Council on (03) 5494 1201.

Bookings can also be made through Council's website www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Our-Services/Services-for-our-younger-residents/Immunisations

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 or visit the link above.

Thursday 14 July

9.15am Serpentine
11.15am Boort

Thursday 11 August

9.30am Inglewood
11.30am Dingee
2.00pm Pyramid Hill

Thursday 8 September

9.15am Serpentine
11.15am Boort

Thursday 13 October

9.30am Inglewood
11.30am Dingee
2.00pm Pyramid Hill

Acknowledgement of Country

Loddon Shire Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land comprising the Loddon Shire Council area. Council would like to pay respect to their Elders both past and present.

Loddon Shire Council

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Office hours: Monday to Friday 8.15am to 4.45pm (except public holidays)

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