

Capital works focus in draft budget



The 2018/19 Draft Budget contains \$4.2m for works on infrastructure projects, including road reseals and construction.

Released for public comment on 14 May, Council's 2018/19 Draft Budget has seen Council remain in a strong cash position, with a small surplus and no new borrowings. It proposes a 2.25 per cent average rate rise in line with the State Government's rate capping level.

Similar to last year's budget, kerbside rubbish collection charges will increase by five per cent – ensuring management of waste remains cost neutral. These waste management costs include the operation of landfills and transfer stations across the Shire as well as kerbside collection services.

The budget contains \$11.76 million in capital works including \$4.2 million for works on infrastructure projects – such as road reseals and construction, shoulder resheets, footpaths and drainage. The capital works budget also incorporates \$2.8 million for the Donaldson Park redevelopment and \$1.08 million for caravan park improvements (both projects are conditional on external funding, which is included in these totals).

There is an ongoing commitment to Council's Community Planning program of \$750,000 and continued support for aged services and early youth programs.

The draft budget also contains \$660,000 to upgrade Council's information systems to enable the community to engage with Council more efficiently and to improve operations and achieve greater productivity.

Comments to the draft budget closed on 8 June 2018. Council will meet to consider submissions received at the Council Forum on Tuesday 12 June.

Council will then consider adoption of the draft budget at its Ordinary Meeting on Tuesday 26 June 2018 at 3.00pm at the Council Chambers in Serpentine. Council will give public notice of its decision.

Copies of the 2018/19 Draft Budget can be accessed from Council's website at www.loddon.vic.gov.au/our-documents.

New Inglewood pipeline connection

A new connection to the existing Inglewood Reservoir pipeline has been completed, providing a cost-effective means of watering Inglewood Bowling Club, Inglewood Town Hall surrounds and the Inglewood Primary School sports oval.

The new connection runs about 500 metres from the corner of Verdon and Sullivan Street, through to Inglewood Bowling Club. It provides improved water security through an alternative and more cost-effective water supply to ensure shared spaces are kept in optimal condition, even during dry periods.

The extension was made possible thanks to a \$132,740 State Government grant through the Sustainable Water Fund Community Sport and Recreation Program.



Inglewood Bowling Club (pictured), Inglewood Town Hall surrounds and the Inglewood Primary School sports oval have benefited from the new connection to the existing pipeline.

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Bridgewater Foreshore Project update

Stage 1 of the Bridgewater Foreshore Project has commenced with initial works to turf and irrigate selected sections of the foreshore underway.

Works for Stage 1 include installation of shelters and seating, interpretive signage and a mooring jetty behind the Bridgewater Motel.

The project will improve infrastructure and the appearance of the Loddon River Foreshore in

Bridgewater, providing visitors, travellers and residents with an attractive, accessible and welcoming entry to the Shire.

It will encourage travellers to take a break in the town, while promoting return visitation. Tourists will also be able to easily access and enjoy the river.

The project adds to and enhances work already completed along the Loddon River at Bridgewater.

These works involved the redevelopment of the swimming hole, connection of the pathway along the foreshore, an all-abilities jetty, foreshore redevelopment opposite the caravan park and boat ramp redevelopment.

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.

Inglewood pool changerooms under construction

Works to construct new multi-use facilities at the Inglewood Swimming Pool are in progress with the project anticipated to be completed by September.

The upgrade will provide the swimming pool with a universally-accessible change room facility for swimming pool patrons and netball players, public toilets, canteen, first aid office and administration areas, and landscaping.

All aspects of the project are being constructed to current day standards in line with Disability Discrimination Act compliance. Solar heating infrastructure for the swimming pool will also be installed on the roof of the new facilities.

The project has been funded through grants from Sport and Recreation Victoria.



The beginning of construction for new multi-use facilities at the Inglewood Swimming Pool.

Upcoming 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 14 June

9.30am Inglewood
11.30am Dingee
2.15pm Pyramid Hill

Thursday 12 July

9.15am Serpentine
11.15am Boort

Thursday 9 August

9.30am Inglewood
11.30am Dingee
2.15pm Pyramid Hill

Thursday 13 September

9.15am Serpentine
11.15am Boort

To make an appointment for an infant's immunisation, call Council's Serpentine office on 5437 7999.

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. Go to "Services for our younger residents" from the "Live" dropdown box at the top of the page.

Work to start on Janevale Bridge

Rehabilitation works to Janevale Bridge in Laanecoorie are expected to get underway in June.

The rehabilitation works will involve repairing concrete spalling, minor cracks and expansion joints.

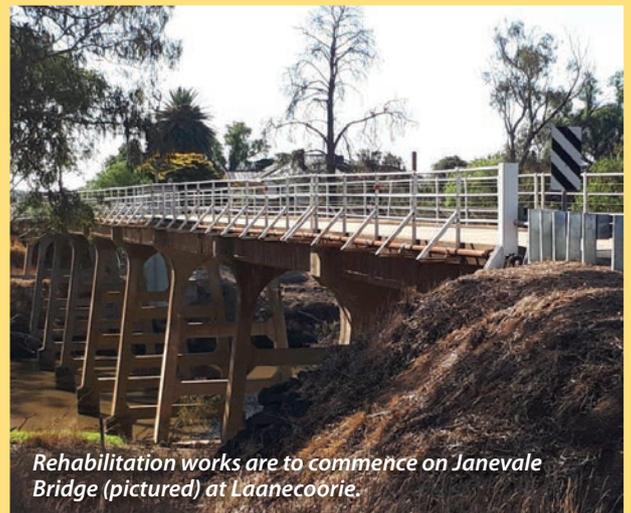
The current 12-tonne load limit on the bridge will remain following the works. Rehabilitation works to the Kingower Brenanah bridge at Kingower are also planned. Works will involve replacement of bearers, the running deck and termite treatment.

Tenders are expected to be advertised in the new financial year for replacement works to Murphy Creek bridge.

Council has received \$350,000 in funding from the Commonwealth Government under the Bridges Renewal Program to assist with the cost of replacing the bridge, which has been matched by Council.

The replacement infrastructure will ensure the road and bridge will have adequate capacity to incorporate all classes of heavy vehicles.

Murphy Creek bridge is located approximately one kilometre north of Bendigo-Maryborough Road on a sealed section of Woodstock West Road.



Rehabilitation works are to commence on Janevale Bridge (pictured) at Laanecoorie.

Forum to address suicide prevention

An upcoming forum regarding suicide prevention will be the first of its kind in this region to focus solely on rural mental health.

Suicide Prevention – it's everyone's business will be held at the Inglewood Town Hall on 30 August. The event, which is for staff and volunteers working in the mental health industry, is being organised through the Loddon Healthy Minds Network.

Former Australian Rules Football player and commentator Wayne Schwass, who played the game for 14 years with North Melbourne and Sydney Swans, will be the forum's keynote speaker.

Mr Schwass is the founder and former Chief Executive Officer of Sunrise Foundation, which was launched after he became one of the first footballers to speak openly about depression. He is also the founder of Puka Up, a social enterprise launched in 2017 focusing on mental health, emotional wellbeing and suicide prevention.

Council's Director Community Wellbeing Wendy Gladman emphasised the importance of the forum's rural focus.

"We have often had people working in the rural mental health industry going to large conferences or conferences that are metro-based, and often not providing strategies or approaches that can be easily transferred to a rural context" Mrs Gladman said.

"This forum is a first in that it is focused solely on suicide prevention for rural areas. Having this rural focus is important, as we know there are additional stressors and challenges affecting people living in rural areas that impact on mental health.

"We hope the forum not only raises the profile and focus on mental health and suicide prevention, but also takes a strong step towards addressing the stigma that surrounds mental health in rural areas. We want to use it as a way to raise awareness and get the conversation out there in our communities."



The forum has been made possible thanks to \$20,000 in funding from the Australian Government's Building Better Regions fund.

A range of sponsorship opportunities for the forum will be available, including an entry-level sponsorship for businesses or organisations which will enable volunteers working in mental health or suicide prevention to attend the event.

More details regarding the suicide prevention forum will be released in the coming weeks. For more information and updates, visit www.loddon.vic.gov.au.

Strategy looks to our volunteers

Council is in the process of developing a Volunteer Strategy, which will guide its approach around supporting and encouraging volunteering in our Shire.

To help develop the strategy, residents were asked via a short survey to give their thoughts on volunteering in our community.

The survey, which closed on 12 June, asks questions about volunteering in our Shire, including type of activities, reasons for volunteering, benefits and training.

The survey also asks about informal volunteering (providing unpaid help directly to people – not through a group or organisation), non-volunteering and ideas to improve the rate of volunteering into the future.

Community workshops were held on 24 and 25 May, where residents gave their thoughts and ideas on volunteering in our Shire.

Feedback from the surveys and workshops will be incorporated into the draft Volunteer Strategy. It is anticipated the draft strategy will go to November's Council meeting for consideration for its release for public comment.

To find out more about the Volunteer Strategy visit Council's website www.loddon.vic.gov.au.

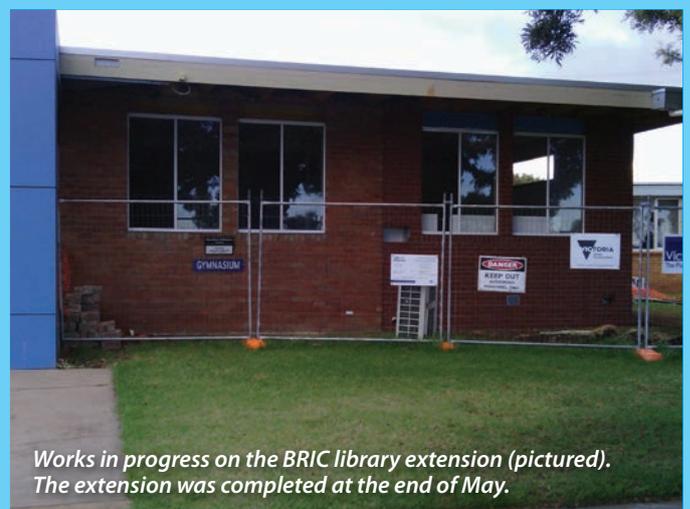
BRIC library extension complete

Works on the library at the Boort Resource and Information Centre (BRIC) were completed at the end of May.

The works, which were carried out by OT McLoughlan Constructions, included an extension of around 62m² to the eastern end of the existing building. The extension will house a library room, computer area and children's activity area.

The new extension will enable BRIC to provide around three times more onsite books, magazines and other items. It will also improve access to library programs, such as children's story time. A static library agency operates from the building 25 hours per week.

As well as providing a practical and functional area for the Boort library agency (as part of the Goldfields Library Service) the project will provide upgraded facilities and improvements to the amenity at BRIC. This will complement the other services at the centre including Neighbourhood House, Rural Transaction Centre, Learn Local and community hub.



Works in progress on the BRIC library extension (pictured). The extension was completed at the end of May.

Funding for the \$280,000 project has been made possible thanks to the Victorian Government's Living Libraries Infrastructure Program (\$240,000), the Boort Resource and Information Centre (\$20,000) and Council (\$20,000).

Borella-Jacka Victoria Cross Commemorative Sculpture unveiled



Relatives of Albert Chalmers Borella and Albert Jacka unveiled the commemorative sculpture on Anzac Day. Pictured are Richard Chalmers Borella and Rowan Chalmers Borella (left) and Stephen Rowe (right).

A commemorative sculpture paying tribute to two prominent residents of Loddon Shire – Albert Chalmers Borella and Albert Jacka was unveiled on Anzac Day at the Wedderburn Soldiers' Memorial Park.

The Borella-Jacka Victoria Cross Commemorative Sculpture, which was created by Everlon Bronze, captures both men during the First World War, for which they were awarded the Victoria Cross in recognition of their service.

Following the 2015 Anzac centenary commemorations in Serpentine and across Loddon Shire, the Loddon Anzac Centenary Organising Committee wanted to honour the remarkable occurrence of having two Victoria Cross recipients in the Shire.

Loddon Shire Anzac Centenary Organising Committee Chair and Loddon Shire Councillor Gavan Holt said the commemorative sculpture recognised the significant achievements of both men.

"It is quite remarkable that both these men, who were recipients of the Victoria Cross for their service during the First World War, grew up in the former Shire of Korong, which was centred on Wedderburn and now forms part of the Loddon Shire Council," Cr Holt said.

"All throughout this process we liaised with the Borella and Jacka families, and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank both families for their invaluable contribution in helping get these prominent men recognised."

Information boards telling the history of Albert Chalmers Borella and Albert Jacka complement the commemorative sculpture. New flag poles, seating, lighting and drinking fountains have also been installed, making the area a place for people to gather and spend time.

The project was made possible due to funding from the Australian Government's Anzac Centenary Local Grants Program, the Victorian Government, the Victorian Veterans Council and Loddon Shire Council. The Borella-Jacka Project Steering Group also helped guide and support the development of the sculpture.

Landscaping works completed for Wedderburn streetscape



Landscaping works have been completed for the Wedderburn streetscape.

Landscaping works for the Wedderburn streetscape have been completed, with the planting of trees along the street and in its verges.

The works also incorporate grassed areas and garden beds with native vegetation, installation of street furniture

(including park benches) and an increased number of waste bins.

Funding for the Wedderburn Streetscape Improvement Project was provided by the Federal Government (\$1.3m) and Regional Development Victoria (\$500,000) as well as Council.

Flood works update



Flood restoration works have been completed (pictured, right) at the bridge over Bullock Creek on Echuca Serpentine Road

Council continues to make progress on flood damage restoration projects across the Shire. In April 2018, approximately \$5.9 million had been committed towards flood damage restoration including completed projects, awarded projects and material costs.

A total of 16 packages were awarded at the end of April to panel contractors, resulting in a number of jobs completed or in progress. Council's Flood Damage Restoration team is scoping further works to repair all identified damages.

Works packages awarded to date include replacement of damaged drainage pipes and culverts at Loddon Plains and Calivil, clearing of drains, and restoration of floodways (such as rock beaching for erosion control). Floodway works have also been carried out at Wedderburn West, Boort, Dingee, Wehla, Woosang and Inglewood South.

Resealing of damaged sections on the sealed road network is continuing, with 26 sections identified and resealed in April 2018. Gravel resheeting packages include works at Barraport, Yando, East Loddon, Woolshed Swamp, Korong Vale and Jarklin, and shoulder resheeting at Borung and Prairie.

Bridge rehabilitation will be undertaken, with works focusing on erosion prevention, removal of fallen trees and repair of damaged roads (due to fallen trees). Asphaltting of bridge deck areas where the road surface has been affected will also take place.

Civil design for road reconstruction projects to address pavement failure are now complete, with construction likely to start by July 2018. The first priority will be to reconstruct damaged sections of Tandarra Serpentine Road followed by Rothackers Road.

Council welcomes any further information relating to flood damage needing attention that might not have been identified by the Council.

Council is working closely with VicRoads, Department of Treasury and Finance, and National Disaster Financial Assistance (the program's funding body) to undertake the flood damage restoration projects and process the payments.

The majority of flood restoration works are anticipated to be completed by the end of 2018.

All works must be completed and acquitted by 30 June 2019.

Works update

A glance at some of the works from our Technical Services department:

Local roads construction

Rehabilitation works to upgrade Cemetery Road at Bridgewater is now complete.

Local road safety

Construction to upgrade the intersection of Pyramid Yarraberb Road and Dingee Road at Dingee was completed in May 2018.

Township street improvements

The tender for footpath projects in Boort, Inglewood, Pyramid Hill and Wedderburn has been advertised and the contract expected to be awarded by June 2018.

Annual reseal

Approximately 48 kilometres of spray seal works forming a part of Council's Annual Infrastructure Program are now complete.

From our Works department:

Defect rectification:

From 1 January to March 2018, 1735 defects were rectified, with 89.9 per cent of all defects (1696 in total) completed before their due date.

Maintenance grading program

From 1 January to March 2018, 1253 maintenance grading work actions were completed resulting in 572 kilometres of grading and 760 kilometres of inspections.

Townscape services capital works

The Wedderburn office open space works were completed in May.

Traffic island treatment for the St Arnaud Road/Calder Highway in Wedderburn started in May.

14 bin surrounds were replaced in Boort.

Road capital works

Local road culverts (locations across the Shire) – all precast units have been ordered and programmed works scheduled to be completed in May.

Billings Road construction started April and is scheduled to be completed in June 2018.

Waste services

Loddon Shire Council introduced a new initiative, offering residents free waste disposal once a quarter with the first "fee" free waste days conducted in November 2017 and February 2018.

Seven hundred and thirteen residents have used the service with 366m³ of waste and 284m³ of green waste disposed across the six Council facilities.

The third "fee" free waste day took place in May 2018.

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Cr Geoff Curnow

Tarnagulla Ward

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Cr Colleen Condliffe

Inglewood Ward

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Cr Gavan Holt

Wedderburn Ward

0408 943 008

South West Loddon Pipeline Project update

Construction of the South West Loddon pipeline has commenced, with pipe installation underway in areas north of Inglewood. GMMWater's contractor Mitchell Water is currently installing about three kilometres of pipe per day and pipe deliveries are continuing ahead of the construction crews. The design of the pipeline network in other parts of the project area is continuing to be progressed based on the responses from landowners received to date.

Landowners impacted by construction activities are being contacted by GMMWater and the contractor. GMMWater thanks landowners for their cooperation during the investigation, survey and construction processes so far.

GMWater wish to remind landowners that if they have not already done so, they must immediately lodge an Expression of Interest form if interested in receiving a stock and domestic water supply from the system. The pipeline will not be constructed to service properties that are not included in an Expression of Interest. It is important to immediately register an interest to ensure that the property can be serviced.

Landowners who have already received Heads of Agreement and Land Access Permission Forms are reminded to return them signed as soon as possible to allow the system design to be finalised.

Please contact GMMWater on 1300 659 961 if you have any questions in relation to this project.

Information provided by GMMWater.