

LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL - MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBERS, SERPENTINE – TUESDAY 22 July 2014

The meeting commenced at 3.00pm with the Prayer.

Present

Cr Gavan Holt (Mayor)
 Cr Colleen Condliffe
 Cr Geoff Curnow
 Cr Cheryl McKinnon
 Cr Neil Beattie

In Attendance

Mr John McLinden, Chief Executive Officer
 Mr Ian McLauchlan, Director Operations
 Mr Bryan McEwan, Director Economy and Community
 Mrs Wendy Gladman, Director Community Wellbeing
 Ms Lynne Habner, Acting Director Corporate Services

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. APOLOGIES	2
2. PREVIOUS MINUTES	2
2.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	2
2.2 REVIEW OF ACTION SHEET	2
3. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS	4
3.1 MAYORAL REPORT	4
3.2 COUNCILLORS' REPORT.....	6
4. DECISION REPORTS	11
4.1 ROAD MANAGEMENT PLAN 2014	11
5. INFORMATION REPORTS	13
5.1 INWARDS CORRESPONDENCE	13
5.2 COUNCIL INSURANCE EXCESSES FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS.....	14
5.3 INTERIM FINANCE REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30 JUNE 2014	16
5.4 MONTHLY PLANNING ACTIVITY REPORT	17
5.5 EVENT SPONSORSHIP ALLOCATIONS.....	19
5.6 BUILDING DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY STATISTICS - APRIL TO JUNE 2014	21
5.7 PYRAMID HILL – VICTORIA STREET AMENITY IMPROVEMENT.....	23
5.8 LODDON MALLEE REGION FOOTBALL (SOCCER) DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2013	26
6. COMPLIANCE REPORTS.....	28
6.1 DOCUMENTS FOR SIGNING AND SEALING.....	28
6.2 SECTION 86 COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT MEMBERSHIP DETAILS – WEDDERBURN ENGINE PARK.....	29
7. GENERAL BUSINESS	31
8. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS	31

1. **APOLOGIES**

Nil

2. **PREVIOUS MINUTES**

2.1 **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

SUMMARY

Seeking approval of the unconfirmed minutes of the previous Council Forum and Meetings.

Author: John McLinden - Chief Executive Officer

Council Plan ref: Core business 8: Compliance

File No: 02/01/001

Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council confirm:

1. *the minutes of the Council Briefing of 24 June 2014*
2. *the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 24 June 2014*
3. *The minutes of the Council Special Meeting of 8 July 2004*
4. *The minutes of the Council Forum of 8 July 2014*

MOTION

Moved: Cr Beattie

Seconded: Cr Condliffe

That Council confirm:

1. the minutes of the Council Briefing of 24 June 2014
2. the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 24 June 2014
3. The minutes of the Council Special Meeting of 8 July 2004
4. The minutes of the Council Forum of 8 July 2014

Carried

2.2 **REVIEW OF ACTION SHEET**

SUMMARY

Approval of Action Sheet.

Author: John McLinden - Chief Executive Officer

Council Plan ref: Core business 8: Compliance

File No: 02/01/001

Attachment: 2.2 Action Sheet

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Action Sheet.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Curnow

Seconded: Cr Condliffe

That Council receive and note the Action Sheet.

Carried

UNCONFIRMED

3. **COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

3.1 **MAYORAL REPORT**

SUMMARY

Approval of the Mayoral Report.

Author:	John McLinden, Chief Executive Officer
Council Plan ref:	Core business 1: Leadership
File No:	02/01/001
Attachment:	Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Mayoral Report.

Municipal Association of Victoria	
Section 86 Committees: Donaldson Park Committee of Management, Wedderburn Community Centre Committee of Management, Wedderburn Engine Park Committee of Management, Wedderburn Mechanics Institute Hall Committee of Management, Wedderburn Tourism Inc.	
Audit Committee	
Other Council Activities	
DATE	Activity
25.6.14	Attended meeting of Wedderburn Development Association
26.6.14	Officially handed over keys to new mower provided to Bridgewater Recreation Reserve by Council
27.6.14	Attended meeting of the Wedderburn Hostel steering committee coordinated by Wedderburn Lions Club
28.6.14	Attended Wedderburn v St Arnaud winter sports program at St Arnaud
30.6.14	Chaired meeting at Wedderburn between community representatives and Amanda Miller MLC for Northern Victoria and Federal candidate for the seat of Ripon, Louise Staley

1.7.14	Attended meeting at Cohuna conducted by North Central Catchment Management Authority to inform the public about the use of environmental water. There were representatives present from the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder and the Victorian Environmental Water Holder
4.7.14	Attended as guest speaker at the Wedderburn Lions Club Changeover Dinner
5.7.14	Attended the Wedderburn v Charlton winter sports program at Wedderburn
8.7.14	Chaired Councils Budget forum held at Wedderburn
10.7.14	Attended Rural Councils Victoria strategic directions workshop in Melbourne
11.7.14	Attended at Boort the announcement by Health Minister Daniel Davis of \$14 million of funding for Boort hospital and aged care facility
12.7.14	Attended the Wedderburn v Donald winter sports day at Donald
13.7.14	Attended the Loddon Darts Association Fossickers Gold Cup darts tournament at Wedderburn. This event receives funding under Councils "events sponsorship" program.
17.7.14	Attended a series of events at Boort, information session with representatives of National Broadband Network Co to update us on the progress of the roll out. Proposed that the majority of Loddon will be operational by late 2015.
17.7.14	Announcement by Minister Walsh of Federal and State government funding for flood bank studies for Boort, Pyramid Hill and Serpentine
17.7.14	Announcement by Minister Walsh of State Government funding to draw up streetscape plan for Boort, Pyramid Hill, Inglewood and Bridgewater
18.7.14	Attended meeting at Wedderburn with the CEO John McLinden and Councillors Condliffe and Curnow and the Labour candidate for Ripon Daniel McGlone
18.7.14	Attended the Wedderburn Community Plan review public meeting conducted by the Wedderburn Development Association/Community Plan Committee. This has been a very well conducted program.
19.7.14	Attended the Wedderburn v Boort winters ports program at Wedderburn

MOTION

Moved: Cr Curnow

Seconded: Cr Condliffe

That Council receive and note the Mayoral Report.

Carried

3.2 COUNCILLORS' REPORT

SUMMARY

Approval of Councillors' Reports.

Author: John McLinden, Chief Executive Officer

Council Plan ref: Core business 1: Leadership

File No: 02/01/001

Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Councillors' Report.

Cr Beattie

Murray Darling Association	
Rail Freight Alliance	
Section 86 Committees: Boort Aerodrome Committee of Management, Boort Development Committee Inc., Boort Memorial Hall Committee of Management, Boort Resource Information Centre Committee Inc., Boort Tourism Committee Inc., Korong Vale Mechanics Hall Committee of Management, Korong Vale Sports Centre Committee of Management, Little Lake Boort Management Committee Inc., Yando Public Hall Committee of Management	
1.7.14 NCCMA Cohuna – Loddon River flows, Gunbower Creek	
Recreation Strategy Implementation Steering Committee	
16.7.14 Recreation Strategy meeting Serpentine	
Other Council Activities	
DATE	Activity
7.7.14	Attended Boort Development Committee meeting
8.7.14	Council forum Wedderburn

11.7.14	Minister for Health David Davis announced funding for new hospital-hostel for Boort. Minister Peter Walsh also in attendance
15.7.14	Recreation strategy meeting Serpentine
17.7.14	Minister Peter Walsh announced funding for Flood prevention design, streetscape design and learning projects B.R.I.C>
19.7.14	Attended opening Boort Golf Club annual tournament opening of which Loddon Shire is a sponsor
19.7.14	Attended sports day at Wedderburn where Wedderburn clearly has one of the best country football sides going around. Visited social rooms after the game

Cr Condliffe

Calder Highway Improvement Committee	
Section 86 Committees: Bridgewater Memorial Hall Committee of Management, Bridgewater on Loddon Development Committee of Management, Campbells Forest Hall Committee of Management, Inglewood Community Sports Centre Committee of Management, Inglewood Riding Club, Inglewood Lions Community Elderly Persons Units Committee of Management, Inglewood Town Hall Committee of Management, Inglewood Reservoir Committee of Management	
16.7.14 BOLD AGM – Geoff Walker Hay Australia guest speaker	
Australia Day Committee	
Loddon Youth Committee	
Healthy Minds Network	
Other Council Activities	
DATE	Activity
24.6.14	I attended the Inglewood and Districts Community Bank meeting

25.6.14	Mens Health day held at Bridgewater Sports Club, David Parkin was guest speaker and IDHS also spoke on health issues
8.7.14	Forum Council Wedderburn, budget forum
8.7.14	Inglewood Resource Centre meeting
10.7.14	Inglewood and Districts Community Bendigo Bank Sponsorship evening held at Serpentine Bowling Club
15.7.14	Kooyoora Womens dinner guest speaker was Brian Rodwell on 150 years Inglewood Fire Brigade
12.7.14	I attended 125 years of Mitiamo Football Club celebration
17.7.14	Womens Health Loddon Mallee meeting
18.7.14	I attended in Wedderburn to meet the ALP candidate along with Cr Curnow & Cr Holt and CEO
22.7.14	Council today Serpentine

Cr Curnow

Central Murray Region Waste Management Group	
Section 86 Committees: Eddington Community Centre Committee of Management, Kingower Development and Tourism Committee Inc.	
Municipal Emergency Management Plan Committee and Municipal Fire Prevention Committee	
Other Council Activities	
DATE	Activity
26.6.14	Meeting at Wedderburn to discuss the management of the Tarnagulla Community Centre

8.7.14	Council meeting at Wedderburn to approve the Draft Budget, as well as Forum meeting
11.7.14	Attended the announcement by Minister Peter Walsh of State Government funds for the Agrifoods National Regional initiative at Ross Gordon's dairy farm at Cohuna
10.7.14	Attended a dinner in Bendigo of Agrifood Skills Australia representatives and Jan Boynton of RDV
16.7.14	Serpentine – Municipal Emergency Management Plan Committee to discuss Loddon Shires Flood Emergency Plan presented by Mal Ross from SES
16.7.14	Chaired Triennial meeting of Tarnagulla Hall Committee
17.7.14	Attended the Draft Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy Presentation at Latrobe University in Bendigo, along with Ian McLauchlan and Kim Isbister
18.7.14	Met at Wedderburn office with Crs Holt, Condliffe and Mr McLinden for discussions with the ALP Candidate for Rippon Seat in State election
19.7.14	Attended the winter sports day at Newbridge Reserve
22.7.14	Attended July Loddon Shire Council Meeting at Serpentine

Cr McKinnon

North Central Goldfields Regional Library

Section 86 Committees: Dingee Progress Association, East Loddon Community Centre Committee of Management, Mitiamo Municipal Recreation Reserve Committee of Management, Pyramid Hill Memorial Hall Committee of Management, Pyramid Hill Swimming Pool Committee of Management, Serpentine Bowls and Tennis Pavilion and Reserve Committee of Management

Nature Tourism Advisory Team

Other Council Activities

DATE	Activity
25.6.14	Attended Pyramid Hill Lions changeover dinner
26.6.14	MAV – Good Governance workshop in Melbourne

27.6.14	GRL board meeting in Castlemaine
30.6.14	CEO of GRL, Chris Kelly, visited PHNH to inspect the library and meet with staff and volunteers, with Pam Howard, outreach services manager
11.7.14	Met with NCCMA, Graeme Smith LSC, and members of PPA to discuss 7 months Creek weed management. Brad Drust will work with the community to address the problems
8.7.14	Council forum Wedderburn
9.7.14	Mitchell Park C of M AGM
12.7.14	Attended Football & Netball at Mitiamo for their 125 th Anniversary then PHFNC goods and services auction
14.7.14	Met with Wendy Gladman and Senior Citizens executive committee to discuss shared use of their facilities
16.7.14	VRCLP annual conference for LP boards and Eos in Shepparton
22.7.14	Council at Serpentine

MOTION

Moved: Cr Beattie

Seconded: Cr McKinnon

That Council receive and note the Councillors' Report.

Carried

4. **DECISION REPORTS**

4.1 **ROAD MANAGEMENT PLAN 2014**

SUMMARY

Provides Council with a summary of the results from the recent public exhibition period; and recommends subsequent adoption of the revised Road Management Plan 2014.

Author	Terry Watson, Manager Infrastructure (Policy Development)
Council Plan ref:	Strategic enabler: Sustainability focus to asset management
File no:	14/01/034
Attachment:	Road Management Plan 2014

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the revised Road Management Plan 2014.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council adopted a Road Management Plan Review Report on 24 June 2013. A draft of the revised Road Management Plan (RMP) was presented to the Council forum on 13 May 2014. Council approved advertising of the revised RMP at its meeting on 27 May 2014.

BACKGROUND

Council first adopted its RMP on 22 November 2004. The RMP was subsequently amended on 26 June 2006.

In accordance with the requirements of the Road Management Act 2004 (the Act), a review of the RMP was undertaken in 2013 with Council subsequently adopting a Road Management Plan Review Report on 24 June 2013.

Based upon the recommendations identified during the RMP review in 2013, a draft revised RMP was presented to the Council forum on 13 May 2014 with Council approving the public exhibition of the revised RMP on 27 May 2014.

Council's intention to amend its RMP and associated call for public submissions to be received by Friday 4 July was advertised in the following:

- Victorian Government Gazette on Thursday 5 June 2014
- Bendigo Advertiser on Saturday 7 June
- Loddon Times on Tuesday 10 June 2014.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The revised RMP was produced in consideration of issues raised during several workshops with Infrastructure and Works department Officers, matters raised in a public workshop on 22 March 2013 and details outlined in the RMP Review Report adopted by Council in 2013.

The revised RMP includes the following changes:

- railway level crossings inspections added
- minor gravel road inspections added
- inspection frequencies revised
- intervention levels for various defects improved
- bridge defects and intervention standards added
- railway crossing defects and intervention standards added

- response times for hazards improved
- specific response times have replaced “as resources permit” responses for low and very low risk defects
- road maintenance grading program added
- response to tree trimming on minor gravel roads improved
- clause for management of unused roads added
- clause for responsibility for driveways on unused roads added
- statement that the risk management matrix for road maintenance is a tailored version of the corporate risk matrix added
- exceptional circumstances clause added
- plan simplified by amalgamating road defect intervention levels and response times into a single table.

As no public submissions were received by the closing date, no changes resulting from submissions are required.

However in addition to the changes listed above, a new clause has been included and defects added in relation to weed and rabbit control on local roads as detailed in Council’s Roadside Weed and Rabbit Control Plan.

It is recommended that Council resolves to adopt the Road Management Plan 2014.

COSTS/BENEFITS

The adoption of the RMP will benefit Council by providing the final step in satisfying the statutory requirement to review its RMP under the Act.

RISK ANALYSIS

The lack of an up to date RMP may leave Council with a limited defence against litigation in respect to road condition and maintenance activities.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Road management matters were discussed with the public at a workshop conducted on 22 March 2013. Internal consultation with Works and Infrastructure Officers was undertaken during the revision of this plan.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Curnow

Seconded: Cr Condliffe

That Council adopts the revised Road Management Plan 2014.

Carried

5. INFORMATION REPORTS

5.1 INWARDS CORRESPONDENCE

SUMMARY

Relevant correspondence received by Council since previous meeting.

Author: John McLinden - Chief Executive Officer

Council Plan ref: Strategic enabler: Transparent communication

File No: various

Attachment: Copies of inwards correspondence

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Inwards Correspondence.

Nil

UNCONFIRMED

5.2 COUNCIL INSURANCE EXCESSES FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

SUMMARY

This report provides Council with information about insurance excesses for community groups.

Author	Carol Canfield, Manager Organisational Development
Council Plan ref:	Core business 6: Financial stability
File no:	08/07/001
Attachment:	Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Council Insurance Excesses for Community Group's Report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

An overview of Council's insurances was provided to the Council Forum on 28 October 2013. At that forum, Council asked that information be sought from the insurer about the possibility of reduced insurance excesses for community groups.

BACKGROUND

Council's building and contents insurance policy that covered community groups had an excess of \$5,000 per event.

Community groups which manage facilities insured by Council have found it difficult to access Council's insurance due to the high excess attached to the policy. Council insures DEPI and privately owned facilities as well as Council owned and controlled assets. There are 55 non-Council controlled facilities that Council insures.

Building and contents excess of \$5,000 is significant, particularly if the damage is due to vandalism or an accidental window break.

At the request of the Council, the insurer was contacted in respect of the possibility of reducing the excess for the building and contents insurance as a show of support for small community groups.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Council has received the 2014/15 insurance renewal documentation and has been advised that the standard excess remains at \$5,000 for Council assets, however claims relating to community assets will now attract a \$1,000 excess at no charge to Council.

COSTS/BENEFITS

There are no direct costs associated with this report.

The benefit to Council and the community groups managing community facilities would be easier access to insurance for lower level claims.

RISK ANALYSIS

Council's risk management framework seeks to minimise risks as much as possible but recognises that insurance and other mechanisms are required to operate effectively.

Insurance coverage is a risk treatment whereby the risk is transferred to the insurance company.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Nil

MOTION

Moved: Cr McKinnon

Seconded: Cr Beattie

That Council receives and notes the Council Insurance Excesses for Community Group's Report.

Carried

UNCONFIRMED

5.3 INTERIM FINANCE REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30 JUNE 2014

SUMMARY

This report provides Council with interim financial information for the period ending 30 June 2014.

Author	Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services
Council Plan ref:	Strategic enabler: Sound financial management protocols
File no:	08/06/001
Attachment:	Interim Finance Report for Period Ending 30 June 2014

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the 'Interim Finance Report for the period ending 30 June 2014'.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council is provided with Finance Reports on a monthly basis.

BACKGROUND

The Interim Finance Report for the period ended 30 June 2014 does not include comparisons of budget to actual results. These will be provided to Council once the financial statements have been finalised, with the external auditors expected to arrive on the 28 July 2014.

This report contains information on creditors, debtors, cash and investments only. Financial data quoted in the report is subject to change as the end of the financial year adjustments are effected.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Nil

COSTS/BENEFITS

The benefit to Council and the community is that accurate and regular financial reporting is being disclosed.

Provision of financial reports on at least a quarterly basis is a requirement of the Local Government Act.

RISK ANALYSIS

The provision of regular and accurate finance reports to Council minimises the risk of Council not delivering projects within the approved budget.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

There has been considerable consultation internally with respective managers in understanding their budget responsibilities and keeping within budgetary constraints.

External engagement with the community was undertaken during the submission period of the budget, and regular reporting provides a mechanism of monitoring the financial outcomes of Council against that expectation.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Curnow

Seconded: Cr McKinnon

That Council receives and notes the 'Interim Finance Report for the period ending 30 June 2014'.

Carried

5.4 MONTHLY PLANNING ACTIVITY REPORT

SUMMARY

Provides Council with an update on planning applications currently under consideration and a register of planning permits issued between 6-06-2014 and 03-07-2014.

Author	Tyson Sutton, Manager Planning and Local Laws
Council Plan ref:	Strategic Platform 2: Grow our population through appropriate development
File no:	02/01/001
Attachment:	(a) List of Active Planning Applications (b) List of Applications Approved under Delegation

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the monthly Planning Activity Report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council is provided with a monthly report identifying the status of planning applications currently under consideration or those permits which have been issued within the preceding month.

BACKGROUND

The Loddon Shire's Planning Scheme sets out Council's objectives for the Shire with regard to land use and development via the Municipal Strategic Statement and Local Policies, and specifies which uses and developments require planning approval via zones and overlays.

As the responsible Authority it is Loddon Shire Council's duty to administer and enforce its planning scheme.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The associated attachments provide Council with a full list of planning applications currently under consideration and those planning permits issued between 6-06-2014 and 03-07-2014.

COSTS/BENEFITS

Encouragement of appropriate development within the Shire is considered to offer a variety of benefits including population growth, economic diversity and development, infrastructure improvement or increased community and private services.

RISK ANALYSIS

Failure to process planning applications in a timely manner or undertake rigorous assessment of development or works proposals is considered to pose the following risks:

- Barrier to development and associated economic growth within the Shire
- Proliferation of incompatible land use development
- Council's reputation as a regulatory authority
- Infrastructure, service provision or regulatory and enforcement pressures
- Protection of zones to accommodate intended activities or reduction of surrounding property amenity

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Consultation and engagement with planning permit applicants is routinely conducted at the required periods throughout the assessment and permit approval process.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Beattie

Seconded: Cr Condliffe

That Council receive and note the monthly Planning Activity Report.

Carried

UNCONFIRMED

5.5 EVENT SPONSORSHIP ALLOCATIONS

SUMMARY

Provides a summary of allocations made under the Event Sponsorship Scheme to community groups staging events. These allocations have been made during the period 1 March and 1 June 2014.

Author	Allan Stobaus, Manager Community and Recreation
Council Plan ref:	Strategic Platform 4: Make our towns liveable and memorable
File no:	16/07/009
Attachment:	Summary of Allocations – Loddon Shire Events Sponsorship Scheme

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Event Sponsorship Update report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

At its Ordinary Meeting in February 2014, Council resolved to implement changes to the application and administration process for the Loddon Shire Event Sponsorship Scheme.

BACKGROUND

Changes to the Event Sponsorship scheme in February 2014 included:

- That to be eligible for funding, applications to the scheme must be received no later than 30 days prior to the event.
- That, Council Officers be given the discretion to approve or refuse applications based on the assessment of each application against the guidelines.
- That information reports be provided to Council as required and advising of the following;
 - Which applications have been approved or not approved for funding and why.
 - A summary of each event funded under the scheme i.e. content and timing of the event.
 - A summary of the status of the Event Sponsorship budget.

It was expected that these changes would result in the following outcomes;

- Reduced time between application deadlines and the event date thus alleviating the issue associated with community groups having to make applications up to 6 months prior to the event taking place.
- By providing Council Officers with discretionary powers to approve applications and allocate funds, this will result in a streamlined internal management process.
- By providing Council with a monthly information report, councillors will still be informed on what events are coming up in the municipality in the following month.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

In total 9 applications have been received for events held between 1 March and 1 June 2014.

Of these applications six requested financial assistance from the Major Event Category, from these 2 applications have received full funding of \$1,000.

The four applications that were downgraded were assessed as being "Minor Events" as per the guidelines. The applications that were downgraded from \$1,000 to \$400 are as follows:

- Loddon Darts Association "Gold Fossickers Cup"
- Loddon Darts Association "White Twenty Darts Tournament"
- Boort Tourism Group "Boort War and Peace Exhibition"
- Wedderburn Community House "Naturally New Age Festival"

COSTS/BENEFITS

The Event Sponsorship allocations are for promoting events held within the municipality. This promotion is designed to provide the following benefits;

- The attraction of more participants/spectators to events.
- Economic benefits resulting from increased visitation to Loddon
- The promotion of Loddon's organisations and clubs, both locally and to wider areas.

For the applications received between 1 March and 1 June 2013, approval has been provided for the allocation of \$4,800 in funding towards the nominated events. This brings the total expenditure for the 2013/14 Annual Event Sponsorship Scheme to \$24,800.

RISK ANALYSIS

A risk exists that Councils may receive some negative feedback as four applicants have been allocated a lesser amount than requested.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Eligible community organisations and event organisers regularly provide written applications to Council seeking funding for eligible events under the event sponsorship scheme. All applications are now considered in accordance with the program guidelines and Council Officers make decisions on funding eligibility and quantum.

Following the Officers assessment, which includes consultation with other internal staff as required, notification of the outcome is provided to all applicants.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Curnow

Seconded: Cr Beattie

That Council receive and note the Event Sponsorship Update report

Carried

5.6 BUILDING DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY STATISTICS - APRIL TO JUNE 2014

SUMMARY

Provides information on the level of building activity within the municipality.

Author:	David Turner, Municipal Building Surveyor
Council Plan ref:	Core Business of Council – Item 8 Compliance
File no:	13/06/001
Attachment:	(a) Building Permit Approvals (b) Occupancy Permits Issued (c) Certificates of Final Inspection Issued (d) Graph Sheets of Comparisons- 2005 to 2013 including inspection summary

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the 'Building Department Activity Statistics Report'

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council is provided with a quarterly report regarding building activity statistics within the Shire.

BACKGROUND

Loddon Shire provides a range of building advisory and control functions through its building department. The role of the Municipal Building Surveyor encompasses the provision of building advice, administration, issuing or review of relevant permits and approvals, advisory and consultancy services as well as performing regulatory administration and enforcement activities.

Capturing and reporting statistics relating to building activity within the Shire also forms part of the Municipal Building Surveyors role. Accordingly this information is provided to Council as an indicator of the local development and investment.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

For the period 1 April to 30 June 2014 the available statistics indicate that there has been a reasonable increase in the number of building permits issued and approximately 127% increase in the total value of building works as compared with the previous three (3) months. This increase in value is generally attributed to the large Hay processing facility near Bridgewater and a number of new Fire Stations about the municipality along with the increase in permits issued by private building surveyors for dwellings.

A comparison with the same period in 2013 indicates a substantial increase in the number of building permits issued along with approximately a 70% higher value of works

COSTS/BENEFITS

By providing the activity statistics, Councillors are better informed about the level of building activity in the municipality

RISK ANALYSIS

Because this report is only providing statistics to Council it is considered that there is no risk involved.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

No internal or external consultation has to occur for this information to be prepared.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Curnow

Seconded: Cr McKinnon

That Council receive and note the 'Building Department Activity Statistics Report'

Carried

UNCONFIRMED

5.7 PYRAMID HILL – VICTORIA STREET AMENITY IMPROVEMENT

SUMMARY

Provides Council with notification of action taken by Council Officers in respect to an opportunity which arose as part of a Goulburn Murray Water channel replacement project. Action taken by Officers involves the making of a financial contribution towards the GMW project so as to achieve improvements in the local streetscape, being Victoria Street Pyramid Hill.

Author	Ian McLauchlan, Director Operations
Council Plan ref:	Core business 5: Providing quality infrastructure
File no:	14/01/004
Attachment:	Aerial Plan View – Victoria Street Channel

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the action taken by Council Officers in respect to funding the extension of the recent Goulburn Murray Water Channel modernisation project on Victoria Street, Pyramid Hill so as to achieve improved streetscape amenity.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council has not previously discussed this matter, however has flagged potential streetscape improvement works in Pyramid Hill within the recent Community Infrastructure Program planning discussions.

BACKGROUND

Goulburn Murray Water (GMW) is currently undertaking a program of channel modernisation and improvements throughout their network. As part of their 2013/14 program GMW allocated funding for the replacement of the channel crossing on the 12/5/1 Channel Victoria Street, Pyramid Hill.

The scope of works for this project involved the installation of a 1650mm diameter culvert to replace the existing channel/bridge structure, construction of associated inlet and outlet rock headwalls and associated road pavement re-instatement.

The proposed culvert replacement to be undertaken by GWM only extended between the boundaries of the VicRoads Road Reserve. Accordingly the area of Victoria Street under Council control was not identified for any improvement works. As such the existing pedestrian footbridge across the channel adjacent to Victoria Street was to be retained.

As an easement through the Council controlled land exists, and the status of this land is not considered to be road reserve, GWM did not require prior Council approval before commencing the project, nor was Council able to stipulate any conditions upon the project. Approval was however obtained from VicRoads for the element of the project located within the road reserve.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Immediately prior to commencing works on this Channel, GMW contacted Council Infrastructure Officers to provide notification of the proposed works and discuss proposed finishing works/profile within the easement contained on the area of land under Council control along Victoria Street Pyramid Hill. At this time it was made clear to Officers that the scope of works would not extend across the full width of both the VicRoads Road Reserve and the Council controlled land which effectively operated as a service road (see attachment).

Discussions with GMW identified that should Council wish to extend the scope of works for this channel upgrade to encompass the full width of VicRoads and Council controlled land, a contribution of

approximately \$44,000 would be required. This was due to the fact that the GMW project had no further funding available to accommodate further improvement works in this location and that the requested extension works were not considered critical to the function of local channel or traffic systems.

In offering the possibility of extending the scope of works, GMW's pricing was considered to offer the benefit of utilising the existing contractor who was operating on site. Accordingly a number of costs would be avoided if the works were to be undertaken in conjunction with the GMW improvement project, namely:

- Mobilisation and site establishment costs
- Project management and design
- Traffic control

In considering whether GMW's offer to extend the scope of works should be accepted, a number of factors were considered, namely:

- Extension of the culvert to the full width of Council controlled land allowed for the decommissioning of the existing pedestrian footbridge over the channel. Whilst this bridge was considered to be in acceptable condition, the decommissioning of this asset ultimately results in reduced future infrastructure liability in terms of asset renewal and maintenance requirements.
- In consideration of potential future streetscape improvement works in Pyramid Hill, installation of the extended GMW culvert offers the opportunity to incorporate the area previously occupied by the open channel into any future streetscape development plans.
- Widening of the culvert improves road safety through the removal of existing guard rail structures separating the channel from nearby traffic lanes, effectively opening up this choke point along the main arterial road.
- Whilst not an approved component of the 2013/14 Annual Infrastructure program, contribution to this project could be funded through savings identified following delivery of other infrastructure related works.

Given the benefits identified in accepting GMW's offer to extend the culvert to the full width of the Council land as part of the upgrade project, and the cost savings offered by undertaking this work in conjunction with the GMW project, it was determined that GMW's offer should be accepted.

Unfortunately given the timeframes surrounding commencement of the GMW project, an opportunity did not exist to discuss this matter with Council prior to GMW requiring instruction from Loddon Shire as to its desire accept GMW's offer and extend the scope of works.

Accordingly Council Officers took the action of instructing GMW to undertake the proposed extension works for the channel upgrade and identified the funding of this work through savings achieved in the 2013/14 Annual Infrastructure Program.

Channel improvement works have now been completed. The total cost to Council for the expansion of the project scope to include the area of roadside controlled by Loddon Shire was \$48,000 ex GST. Completion of the channel extension works has immediately improved the amenity of Victoria Street. The decommissioning of the existing footbridge and widening of the available road pavement has also created a number of opportunities which will now be available when looking at future streetscape improvement works in this area.

COSTS/BENEFITS

The total cost to Council in participating in the Channel improvement project on Victoria Street Pyramid Hill is \$48,000.

In participating in this project, Council have deferred any future maintenance or renewal costs associated with the former pedestrian footbridge across the channel.

Potential future costs and administrative requirements associated with any improvement to this channel in conjunction with streetscape improvement works have also been avoided.

RISK ANALYSIS

Risks associated with Officers decision to fund participation in the GMW channel upgrade project are as follows:

- Failure to participate could have resulted in escalated costs for similar works being incurred in the future, associated with the pending streetscape improvement project.
- Council Officer approved funding for this project utilising savings identified through delivery of the 2013/14 Annual Infrastructure Program. This decision was not ratified by Council.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Consultation with GMW was undertaken immediately prior to the commencement of the Channel improvement works. VicRoads were also consulted by GMW in the approval and planning phase of the project.

MOTION

Moved: Cr McKinnon

Seconded: Cr Condliffe

That Council note the action taken by Council Officers in respect to funding the extension of the recent Goulburn Murray Water Channel modernisation project on Victoria Street, Pyramid Hill so as to achieve improved streetscape amenity.

Carried

5.8 LODDON MALLEE REGION FOOTBALL (SOCCER) DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2013

SUMMARY

Provides a summary of recommendations contained within the recently completed Loddon Mallee Region Football (Soccer) Development Plan 2013, specifically those which are directly relevant to Loddon Shire Council. The report also seeks that Council receive and note the Plan.

Author	Allan Stobaus, Manager Community and Recreation
Council Plan ref:	Strategic Platform 4: Make our towns liveable and memorable
File no:	16/02/003
Attachment:	(a) Loddon Mallee Region Football (Soccer) Development Plan 2013 – Extract of Loddon Recommendations (b) Loddon Mallee Region Football (Soccer) Development Plan 2013 - Full

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes Loddon Mallee Regional Football (Soccer) Development Plan 2013.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council has not previously discussed the Loddon Mallee Regional Football (Soccer) Development Plan.

BACKGROUND

In July 2012 Loddon Shire Council Officers submitted a funding application to the State Government on behalf of nine (9) LGA's located in the Loddon Mallee Region as well as the Football Federation of Victoria. The purpose of this application was to access funding to develop a "Football (Soccer) Strategy" for the Loddon Mallee Region.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Development of the Loddon Mallee Regional Football (Soccer) Development Plan (The Plan) has now been completed and in order to finalise the project, including receipt of the final funding instalment of \$4,600, each participating Council is required to formally receive and note the strategy.

In total there are 11 recommendations that Council may wish to act upon in the medium to long term, a list of these is attached to this report within the Extract of Loddon Recommendations.

COSTS/BENEFITS

The cost of developing this report has been met by the State Government, participating local government authorities and The Football Federation of Victoria.

No cash contribution has been made to the cost associated with the development of the strategy, Council Officers have however provided in-kind administrative and management resources.

RISK ANALYSIS

There are two identified risks associated with a failure to complete the development of the Plan, namely:

- This project will remain on the record with the State Government as being incomplete; this may impact on future funding submissions.
- Should the project remain incomplete it may result in Council forfeiting the remaining \$4,600 contribution from the State Government. Under the funding arrangement the State Government may also have recourse to request all previous funding to be returned.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Inside Edge was the consultancy firm engaged to develop the Plan and consulted with local community groups and individuals, Council Officers, schools and reviewed existing local and regional plans.

The Loddon specific recommendations in the plan have been directly formulated from this consultation and research process.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Beattie

Seconded: Cr Condliffe

That Council receives and notes Loddon Mallee Regional Football (Soccer) Development Plan 2013.

Carried

UNCONFIRMED

6. COMPLIANCE REPORTS

6.1 DOCUMENTS FOR SIGNING AND SEALING

SUMMARY

This report provides Council with a list of documents signed and sealed during the month.

Author:	John McLinden - Chief Executive Officer
Council Plan ref:	Core business 8: Compliance
File No:	02/01/001
Attachment:	Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. receive and note the 'Document for Signing and Sealing' report*
- 2. endorse the use of the seal on the documents listed*

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Nil

BACKGROUND

N/A

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Instrument of delegation Wedderburn Engine Park Committee of Management

MOTION

Moved: Cr Curnow

Seconded: Cr Condliffe

That Council:

1. receive and note the 'Document for Signing and Sealing' report
2. endorse the use of the seal on the documents listed

Carried

6.2 SECTION 86 COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT MEMBERSHIP DETAILS – WEDDERBURN ENGINE PARK

SUMMARY

This report seeks Council's approval of the membership of Wedderburn Engine Park Section 86 Committee of Management.

Author	Jude Holt, Director Corporate Services
Council Plan ref:	Strategic Platform 1: Build a network of strong communities
File no:	02/01/048
Attachment:	Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council appoints the names provided in this report as members of the Wedderburn Engine Park Section 86 committee of management, effective immediately.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Nil.

BACKGROUND

Council last adopted the Instrument of Delegation for the Wedderburn Engine Park on 22 July 2013.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The following table provides names of nominated members and the group they represent, and one community representative:

Name	Group represented
Bruce Hargreaves	Community member
Ray Borg	Wedderburn Men's Shed
Mick Crawford	Wedderburn Men's Shed
Peter Lockhart	Wedderburn Historical Engines and Machinery Society
Peter Norman	Wedderburn Historical Engines and Machinery Society

COSTS/BENEFITS

The benefit of this report is that Council has an up to date and accurate record of current committee members to ensure that contact can be made, particularly where Council is requesting committees to comply with reporting requirements under the legislation.

RISK ANALYSIS

Section 86 Committees act for and on behalf of Council which creates a risk for Council should they ever act outside their delegated authority.

Under Section 86(2) of the Act, "Council may appoint members to a special committee and may at any time remove a member from a special committee".

Council's appointment of committee members, not only satisfies the legislation, but also provides Council with the opportunity to sight the list of committee members before formally appointing them as they are the people that will be operating the committees, and in effect, acting for and on behalf of Council over the course of the year.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Nil.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Condliffe

Seconded: Cr McKinnon

That Council appoints the names provided in this report as members of the Wedderburn Engine Park Section 86 committee of management, effective immediately.

Carried

UNCONFIRMED

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

8. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Closing of Meeting to the Public

RECOMMENDATION

That the meeting be closed to the public.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Curnow

Seconded: Cr Condliffe

That the meeting be closed to the public at 4.06pm

Carried

8.1 REVIEW OF ACTION SHEET

MOTION

Moved: Cr Beattie

Seconded: Cr McKinnon

That Council receive and note the Action Sheet.

Carried

8.2 PROVISION OF A WORKCOVER AGENT AND CLAIMS ADMINISTRATOR

MOTION

Moved: Cr Condliffe

Seconded: Cr Beattie

That Council award the contract for the provision of a WorkCover Agent and Claims Administrator to CGU Workers Compensation (Vic) Ltd.

Carried

8.3 BUILDING DEPARTMENT STATUTORY ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY (PART ONE)

MOTION

Moved: Cr Curnow **Seconded: Cr Condliffe**

That Council receive and note the Building Department Statutory Enforcement Activity Report (Part One).

Carried

8.4 BUILDING DEPARTMENT STATUTORY ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY (PART TWO)

MOTION

Moved: Cr McKinnon **Seconded: Cr Curnow**

That Council receive and note the Building Department Statutory Enforcement Activity Report (Part Two).

Carried

MOTION

Moved: Cr Beattie **Seconded: Cr Curnow**

That the meeting be re-opened to the public at 4.20pm

Carried

NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on 26 August at Serpentine commencing at 3pm.
 There being no further business the meeting was closed at 4.20pm.

Confirmed this.....day of..... 2014

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