



Date: Tuesday, 26 April 2022
Time: 3pm
Location: Loddon Shire Council Chambers, Wedderburn

MINUTES

Council Meeting

26 April 2022

**MINUTES OF LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEDDERBURN
ON TUESDAY, 26 APRIL 2022 AT 3PM**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Lincoln Fitzgerald (Chief Executive Officer), Jude Holt (Acting Director Community Wellbeing), Steven Phillips (Director Operations), Amanda Wilson (Director Corporate), Lynne Habner (Manager Executive and Commercial Services)

1 OPENING AFFIRMATION

“We, the Councillors of the Loddon Shire, declare that we will carry out our duties in the best interests of the community, and through collective leadership will maintain the highest standards of good governance.”

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

“The Loddon Shire Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we are gathered and pays its respects to their Elders both past and present.”

3 APOLOGIES

Nil

4 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil

5 PREVIOUS MINUTES**5.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES****File Number:** 02/01/001**Author:** Christine Coombes, A/Manager Executive and Commercial Services**Authoriser:** Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer**Attachments:** Nil**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council confirm:

1. The minutes of the Council Briefing of 22 March 2022.
2. The minutes of the Council Meeting of 22 March 2022.
3. The minutes of the Confidential Council Meeting of 22 March 2022.
4. The minutes of the Council Forum 12 April 2022.

REPORT

Seeking approval of the unconfirmed minutes of the previous meetings.

RESOLUTION 2022/54

Moved: Cr Gavan Holt

Seconded: Cr Wendy Murphy

That Council confirm:

1. The minutes of the Council Briefing of 22 March 2022.
2. The minutes of the Council Meeting of 22 March 2022.
3. The minutes of the Confidential Council Meeting of 22 March 2022.
4. The minutes of the Council Forum 12 April 2022.

CARRIED

6 ADVISORY MEETINGS**6.1 RECORD OF ADVISORY MEETINGS****File Number: 02/01/001****Author: Christine Coombes, Executive and Commercial Services Officer****Authoriser: Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer****Attachments: Nil****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council note the record of the following advisory meetings :

1. Council Briefing 22 March 2022.
2. Council Forum 12 April 2022.

In accordance with Clause 51 of Council's Governance Rules, records of Councillor Briefings and Forums must be reported to the next Council Meeting and confirmed in the minutes.

The record is therefore presented for Council's noting.

Meeting details	Briefing
Date	22 March 2022
Councillor Attendees	Cr Beattie Cr Holt Cr Jungwirth Cr Murphy Cr Straub
Staff/Stakeholder representatives	Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer Wendy Gladman, Director Community Wellbeing Jude Holt, Acting Director Corporate Services Steven Phillips, Director Operations Lynne Habner, Manager Executive and Commercial Services Casey Shelton, Human Resources Coordinator Janine Jackson, Manager Organisation Development Louise Johnston, Statutory Planning Coordinator Glenn Harvey, Manager Development and Compliance Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services
Items discussed.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. UPDATE DRAFT ANNUAL BUDGET 2022/23 AND FINANCIAL PLAN 2022/23 – 2031/32 2. REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL RESERVES POLICY 3. PLANNING PERMIT 5725 – - DISPLAY OF A DOUBLE SIDED, EXTERNALLY ILLUMINATED MAJOR PROMOTION SIGN AT LOT 2 PS 612125, BOORT-CHARLTON ROAD, BOORT 4. GENDER EQUALITY ACTION PLAN 5. General business: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Royal Hotel Inglewood • Disability Access and Inclusion Plan • Impacts of power outage on Telstra exchange • Business venture in Bridgewater Hall • Child Care requirements
Conflict of Interest Disclosures - Councillor/officer making disclosure	Nil
Councillor/officer left room	

Meeting details	Forum
Date	12 April 2022
Councillor Attendees	Cr Beattie Cr Holt Cr Jungwirth Cr Murphy Cr Straub
Staff/Stakeholder representatives	Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer Wendy Gladman, Director Community Wellbeing Steven Phillips, Director Operations Amanda Wilson, Director Corporate Lynne Habner, Manager Executive and Commercial Services Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services Jude Holt, Project Officer David Southcombe, Manager Assets and Infrastructure Louise Johnston, Statutory Planning Coordinator Glenn Harvey, Manager Development and Compliance Phillip Walker, Project Officer Amy Holmes, Manager Community Wellbeing Kate Pallister, Community Wellbeing Officer Birchip Cropping Group representatives
Items discussed.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM MONTHLY PROGRESS 2. CARAVAN PARK UPGRADES – CONSIDERATION OF FURTHER WORKS 3. PLANNING PERMIT APPLICATION 5652 4. BIRCHIP CROPPING GROUP 5. ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2019-21 UPDATE 6. AGED CARE REFORM – BACKGROUND AND PROPOSED NEXT STEPS 7. COMMUNITY BASED DISASTER RESILIENCE PROJECT 8. PRIORITIES 2022 9. DRAFT ASSET PLAN – 2022 10. DRAFT ANNUAL BUDGET 2022/23 AND FINANCIAL PLAN 2022/23 TO 2032/32 11. UPDATE ON COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES 12. DIPSOAL OF COUNCIL ASSETS V2 13. PRESENTATION OF STRATEGIC RISK REPORT 14. INTRODUCTION OF RISK APPETITE STATEMENT 15. COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP SURVEY RESULTS 16. SMALL TOWNS POLICY PROPOSED CONSULTATION AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN 17. COMMUNITY SUPPORT POLICY DEVELOPMENT 18. General business: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil

Conflict of Interest Disclosures - Councillor/officer making disclosure	Nil
Councillor/officer left room	

RESOLUTION 2022/55

Moved: Cr Wendy Murphy

Seconded: Cr Gavan Holt

That Council note the record of the following advisory meetings :

1. Council Briefing 22 March 2022.
2. Council Forum 12 April 2022.

CARRIED

7 REVIEW OF ACTION SHEET**7.1 REVIEW OF ACTIONS****File Number:** 02/01/002**Author:** Christine Coombes, Executive and Commercial Services Officer**Authoriser:** Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer**Attachments:** 1. Action sheet**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receive and note the action sheet.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

REPORT

Refer attachment.

RESOLUTION 2022/56**Moved:** Cr Neil Beattie**Seconded:** Cr Wendy Murphy

That Council receive and note the action sheet.

CARRIED

8 MAYORAL REPORT**8.1 MAYORAL REPORT**

File Number: 02/01/001

Author: Christine Coombes, Executive and Commercial Services Officer

Authoriser: Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Mayoral Report

REPORT

The Mayor will present a report at the meeting.

Cr Straub

Loddon Campaspe Councils	
Murray River Group of Councils	
North Central Goldfields Regional Library	
North Central Local Learning and Employment Network	
Special Committees Of Council (Section 65 Community Asset Committees):	
East Loddon Community Centre Community Asset Committee	
Pyramid Hill Memorial Hall Community Asset Committee	
Pyramid Hill Swimming Pool Kiosk Community Asset Committee	
Other Council activities	
DATE	Activity
22/3/22	CEO catch-up, followed by SRC from Wedderburn P12 College
	Council Briefing and Council Meeting
25/3/22	Loddon Campaspe Councils meeting, online

28/3/22	Met with Loddon Herald in Inglewood to discuss Loddon Shire Prospectus
31/3/22	Attended MAV online training – Chairing meetings and meetings procedures
4/4/22	Cr Beattie and I met with landowner at Kow Swamp to discuss a third party's plans for a farming project and what it will mean for his farming practice
5/4/22	East Loddon Lions Club meeting
6/4/22	North Central LLEN FAR Committee meeting at the Lions Den
7/4/22	Met with independent candidate for Mallee, Sophie Baldwin (with Wendy Gladman)
8/4/22	I joined in an MAV Rural North Central Regional Meeting online with Cr Holt and CEO Lincoln Fitzgerald
12/4/22	Council Forum, North Central LLEN Board meeting
14/4/22	Loddon Campaspe Councils Group meeting
	Lions Club Coffee Break Driver Reviver
23/4/22	Pyramid Hill Football Netball Club unveiling of new scoreboard
24/4/22	Opening of the Celtic Connections Festival, Bridgewater
25/4/22	ANZAC Day, Mologa and Pyramid Hill

RESOLUTION 2022/57

Moved: Cr Dan Straub (Mayor)

Seconded: Cr Linda Jungwirth

That Council receive and note the Mayoral Report.

CARRIED

9 COUNCILLORS' REPORT**9.1 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS****File Number:** 02/01/001**Author:** Christine Coombes, Executive and Commercial Services Officer**Authoriser:** Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer**Attachments:** Nil**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receive and note the Councillors' reports

REPORT

Each Councillor will present a report at the meeting.

Cr Beattie

Rail Freight Alliance	
Special Committees Of Council (Section 65 Community Asset Committees):	
Boort Aerodrome Community Asset Committee	
Boort Memorial Hall Community Asset Committee	
Boort Park Community Asset Committee	
Korong Vale Mechanics Hall Community Asset Committee	
Korong Vale Sports Centre Community Asset Committee	
Little Lake Boort Community Asset Committee	
Yando Public Hall Community Asset Committee	
DATE	Activity
12/4/22	Council Forum, Wedderburn
16/4/22	Boort Tennis Club Annual Easter Tournament
21/4/22	Ankle reconstruction surgery
26/4/22	Council meeting, online
4/4/22	Attended meeting at Kow Swamp with Mayor Straub

Cr Holt

Municipal Association of Victoria	
Audit and Risk Committee	
Special Committees Of Council (Section 65 Community Asset Committees): Donaldson Park Community Asset Committee Wedderburn Community Centre Community Asset Committee Wedderburn Engine Park and Market Square Reserve Community Asset Committee Wedderburn Mechanics and Literary Institute Hall Community Asset Committee Hard Hill Tourist Reserve Community Asset Committee	
Other Council activities	
DATE	Activity
30/3/22	Attended a meeting of the Wedderburn Development Association/Community Planning Committee
8/4/22	Participated in an online meeting of the MAV Rural North Central Zone
12/4/22	Attended Council Forum in Wedderburn
19/4/22	Attended a general meeting of the Wedderburn/Korong Vale RSL sub branch
22/4/22	Participated in an MAV rules review online round table meeting
25/4/22	Attended the Wedderburn/Korong Vale RSL sub branch Anzac Day dawn service at Soldiers' Memorial Park Wedderburn where I laid a wreath on behalf of Council
25/4/22	Attended the feature Wedderburn Korong Vale RSL sub branch Anzac Day Service at Soldiers' Memorial Park Wedderburn where I again laid a wreath
26/4/22	Participated in a Loddon Shire Caravan Park Leasing Committee meeting where again sound progress was made towards establishing the Shire's park leasing proposals.

Cr Jungwirth

Loddon Mallee Local Government Waste Forum	
Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance	
Municipal Emergency Management Plan Committee	
Other Council activities	
DATE	Activity
22/3/22	Council Briefing and Meeting
23/3/22	Tarnagulla Community Centre Committee meeting
24/3/22	Circular Economy Webinar
26/3/22	Eddington Sprints
27/3/22	Bendigo Historic Motor Cycle Club Swap Meet
26 and 27/3/22	Women on Farms
28/3/22	Strengthening Volunteerism
31/3/22	Chairing meetings for Mayors training
5/4/22	Greater Bendigo Coalition for Gender Equity Forum
5/4/22	Tarnagulla Recreation Reserve meeting
12/4/22	Council Forum
13/4/22	Interview for Tarnagulla Microgrid Study
15/4/22	RCH Good Friday Appeal
23/4/22	Tiny Towns Art expo, quilts, high tea
24/4/22	Bendigo Goldfields Chrysanthemum Club display, Laanecoorie
	Celtic Connections, Bridgewater
25/4/22	Anzac Day, Soldiers' Memorial Park – first Dawn Service

Cr Murphy

Calder Highway Improvement Committee	
25/3/22: Attended the CHIC meeting at Sunshine. I travelled down with Cr Pollard of Buloke Shire	
Local Government Women's Charter	
Australia Day Committee	
Healthy Minds Network	
Special Committees Of Council (Section 65 Community Asset Committees):	
Campbells Forest Hall Community Asset Committee	
Inglewood Community Sports Centre Community Asset Committee	
Inglewood Community Elderly Persons Units Community Asset Committee	
Inglewood Town Hall Hub Community Asset Committee	
Jones Eucalyptus Distillery Site Community Asset Committee	
3/4/22: I attended the Inglewood Community Sports Centre CAC meeting	
4/4/22: I attended the Inglewood Town Hall Hub CAC meeting	
Other Council activities	
DATE	Activity
25/3/22	I attended the Women on Farms Gathering dinner at St Marys Primary School, Inglewood. The dinner included a fantastic display of Filipino dancing
28/3/22	I met with Ms Perry, Manager of Community Support, to discuss and walk along the Bridgewater Foreshore Project Stage 2
29/3/22	I attended the Loddon Shire's Strengthening Volunteers session held at Inglewood. There were 5 attendees but a good discussion was had. Lisa McCoy of Local Logic Place facilitated the discussion well and allowed things to flow.
31/3/22	I attended the Inglewood Development and Tourism Committee meeting where Loddon Shire CEO Mr Fitzgerald and Manager of Community Support, Ms Perry were guests
4/4/22	I viewed the Rural Councils Victoria Federal Election Launch 2022 online
5/4/22	I attended the online Greater Bendigo Coalition for Gender Equity forum
12/4/22	Attended Council Forum
24/4/22	Attended the Kooyoora Women's Network Celtic Festival at Bridgewater on Loddon

25/4/22	Attended the Anzac Day dawn service at Bridgewater and the morning service at Inglewood. Both were very well attended and congratulations go to the Inglewood-Bridgewater RSL sub branch, Bridgewater on Loddon Committee for the gunfire breakfast and Inglewood Lions Club for the BBQ, and all others who took part
26/4/22	Loddon Shire Council Citizenship Ceremony and Council Briefing and meeting

RESOLUTION 2022/58

Moved: Cr Linda Jungwirth

Seconded: Cr Neil Beattie

That Council receive and note the Councillors' reports

CARRIED

10 DECISION REPORTS**10.1 PLANNING PERMIT APPLICATION 5652 - WILD GAME PET MEAT PROCESSING FACILITY, 194 DUNOLLY INGLEWOOD ROAD, INGLEWOOD****File Number:** 52706800**Author:** Carolyn Stephenson, Statutory / Strategic Planner**Authoriser:** Glenn Harvey, Manager Development and Compliance**Attachments:** 1. Decision report - Planning application 5652 - use and development of the land for wild game meat processing facility**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council, having considered all matters which the Planning and Environment Act, 1987 requires it to consider, determines to issue a Notice of Decision to Refuse planning permit application 5652 for the use and development of the land for a wild game pet meat processing facility on the following grounds:

1. The proposed use falls within the definition of 'industry' and as such is a prohibited use in the Rural Living Zone.
2. The proposal is not consistent with the objectives of the Planning Policy Framework and Local Policy Framework relating to the use of land within the Rural Living Zone.
3. The proposal is contrary to the decisions guidelines at Clause 35.03-5 of the Rural Living Zone particularly as the use is not compatible with adjoining and nearby uses.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

This matter was discussed with Council at its April 2022 Forum.

BACKGROUND

The application seeks approval for the use of the land for processing (skinning and boning) of field killed and dressed kangaroo, deer and other wild game. This meat will be further processed and packaged at another site and used for pet food.

The subject property is located on the southern boundary of the Inglewood Township. The property has previously been used as an abattoir, however any former entitlements to use this land in this way have expired.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 (the Act) the Minister of Planning delegates a municipal council power to become the planning authority for any planning scheme in force in its municipal district.

A municipal council is obligated to enforce and administer the relevant Planning Scheme and must use the scheme to determine applications. The Loddon Planning Scheme is the relevant Planning Scheme for Council. An application is referred to Council for determination, which:

- receive one or more objections, and/or
- are to be recommended for refusal by the Planning officer.

Pursuant to Section 52 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, notices were sent to owners and occupiers of adjoining land as well as land opposite and surrounding the site. A notice was also placed in the Loddon Herald. Council has received 106 objections as the result of the public notification process and the Officers Recommendation is to refuse the application as such, the matter is being brought to Council for determination.

The application relies on the proposed use falling within the definition of 'rural industry' as defined by the Loddon Planning Scheme. A review of VCAT decisions has resulted in an officer recommendation that the proposal cannot be defined as rural industry, and instead falls within the broader definition of industry, which is prohibited in the Rural Living Zone.

A decision report detailing this application has been prepared and can be found in Attachment 1.

COST/BENEFITS

There are various costs associated with having a delegated Planning Officer consider an application and make a recommendation as well as with the time of the Councillors to consider this recommendation.

The benefits associated with this report is the ability of Council to fulfil its requirement under law and provide the community with a statutory service that delivers well-managed and appropriate development.

RISK ANALYSIS

The risks of Council not fulfilling its statutory obligation under the Act include:

- inappropriate use and development which could endanger life and property
- Council's reputation as a Responsible Authority
- breaches of the Planning & Environment Act 1987 requiring compliance action.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Refer to decision report for further detail on the application.

RESOLUTION 2022/59

Moved: Cr Wendy Murphy
Seconded: Cr Linda Jungwirth

That Council, having considered all matters which the Planning and Environment Act, 1987 requires it to consider, determines to issue a Notice of Decision to Refuse planning permit application 5652 for the use and development of the land for a wild game pet meat processing facility on the following grounds:

1. The proposed use falls within the definition of 'industry' and as such is a prohibited use in the Rural Living Zone.
2. The proposal is not consistent with the objectives of the Planning Policy Framework and Local Policy Framework relating to the use of land within the Rural Living Zone.
3. The proposal is contrary to the decisions guidelines at Clause 35.03-5 of the Rural Living Zone particularly as the use is not compatible with adjoining and nearby uses.

CARRIED

10.2 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE REMUNERATION REPORT

File Number: FOL/20/612
Author: Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services
Authoriser: Jude Holt, Acting Director Corporate
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. increases the quarterly remuneration paid to independent members of the Audit and Risk Committee to \$505.00, effective the quarter commencing 1 May 2022
2. maintains payment of an extra quarter remuneration to the Chair during a one year term
3. maintains a travel reimbursement for independent members of the Audit and Risk Committee, paid at the rate that Councillors are reimbursed for travel.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council was provided with an Audit and Risk Committee Remuneration Report at the Ordinary Meeting held on 27 April 2021, where Council resolved as follows:

1. *increases the quarterly remuneration paid to independent members of the Audit Committee to \$490, effective the quarter commencing 1 May 2021*
2. *maintain payment of an extra quarter remuneration to the Chair during a one year term*
3. *maintain a travel reimbursement for independent members of the Audit Committee, paid at the rate that Councillors are reimbursed for travel.*

BACKGROUND

The Consumer Price Index for *All Groups – Melbourne for December Quarter to December Quarter* seasonally adjusted is used annually to determine increases to Audit and Risk Committee members' remuneration. The indexation was sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics for December 2020 to December 2021, and the increase is 2.5%.

Application of 2.5% to the Audit and Risk Committee's current remuneration of \$490.00 per quarter calculates to \$502.25 per quarter. This report recommends that this amount be rounded up to \$505.00 per quarter.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Last year's report confirmed Council's commitment of an extra quarterly payment to the Chair during a one-year term. This payment recognises the additional responsibility held by the Chair. It also confirmed a travel reimbursement to be paid to independent members at the same rate as the Councillors' travel reimbursement.

This report recommends that the travel reimbursement and extra payment for the Chair be maintained.

COST/BENEFITS

There is a small financial cost to Council resulting from this report that can be accommodated within Council's budget.

RISK ANALYSIS

Council increases the likelihood of recruiting and retaining quality Audit and Risk Committee members by ensuring that remuneration is reviewed on a regular basis.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Nil

RESOLUTION 2022/60

Moved: Cr Gavan Holt

Seconded: Cr Wendy Murphy

That Council:

1. increases the quarterly remuneration paid to independent members of the Audit and Risk Committee to \$505.00, effective the quarter commencing 1 May 2022
2. maintains payment of an extra quarter remuneration to the Chair during a one year term
3. maintains a travel reimbursement for independent members of the Audit and Risk Committee, paid at the rate that Councillors are reimbursed for travel.

CARRIED

10.3 FEES AND CHARGES FOR THE YEAR 1 JULY 2022 TO 30 JUNE 2023**File Number:** FOL/22/665**Author:** Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services**Authoriser:** Jude Holt, Acting Director Corporate**Attachments:** 1. Draft Fees and Charges Schedule 2022/23**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council approves the Fees and Charges for the year 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 for the purposes of seeking public comment with the Draft Budget and Draft Financial Plan, and notification of residential accommodation charges.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

A draft Fees and Charges Schedule was submitted for consideration at the Council Forum held on 8 March 2022.

BACKGROUND

Each year as a part of the budget process a Fees and Charges Schedule is prepared and submitted for approval by Council. This year it is proposed that the Fees and Charges for the year 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 be advertised together with the Draft Budget and Draft Financial Plan, so that the community is able to see the whole suite of Council finances in context.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Generally, the new schedule takes effect from the start of the financial year; however included in the schedule are residential accommodation charges that require a minimum notice period of 60 days. Notification will be forwarded to tenants as soon as practicable after approval by Council.

The approach to the 2022/23 schedule was to index fees and charges in line with the 1.75% rate cap advised by the Minister for Local Government for 2022/23. This decision is guided by the principles located within the Revenue and Rating Plan. This indexation rate last year was 1.5%.

Some cost areas within the Fees and Charges Schedule have had an increase of more than 1.75% due to rounding to nearest dollars (or five dollars).

There is no increase to swimming pool fees and waste management fees.

COST/BENEFITS

The adoption of the Fees and Charges Schedule provides a transparent process and allows the community to provide feedback about the proposed fees and charges prior to approval by Council.

Raising fees and charges on particular services helps to provide an equitable contribution of revenue towards the cost of service delivery.

RISK ANALYSIS

There is a minor risk of avoidance of payment by customers.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The Fees and Charges provided in the schedule have been considered in detail by the Management Executive Group and Council.

RESOLUTION 2022/61

Moved: Cr Linda Jungwirth

Seconded: Cr Neil Beattie

That Council approves the Fees and Charges for the year 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 for the purposes of seeking public comment with the Draft Budget and Draft Financial Plan, and notification of residential accommodation charges.

CARRIED

10.4 SEEKING FEEDBACK FOR THE 2022/23 DRAFT ANNUAL BUDGET AND DRAFT FINANCIAL PLAN 2022/23 TO 2031/32**File Number:** FOL/22/665**Author:** Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services**Authoriser:** Amanda Wilson, Director Corporate**Attachments:**

1. Draft Financial Plan 2022/23 to 2031/32
2. Draft Budget 2022/23

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. seek feedback on the Draft Budget in accordance with the Community Engagement Policy
2. adopt the proportion of rates raised within various valuation categories as follows:
Rural Production to have a differential rate 12% lower than the General (Residential, Commercial and Other) differential rate
3. agree that the above distribution of rates raised demonstrates fairness and equity across the municipality
4. implement a differential rate to be struck between categories of Rural Production and General as follows:
 - General (Residential, Commercial and Other) - 0.002786 Cents in the Dollar of Capital Improved Value
 - Rural Production - 0.002451 Cents in the Dollar of Capital Improved Value
5. apply a Municipal Charge of \$229 to all properties, except where an exemption has been granted for a Single Farm Enterprise under the Local Government Act 1989
6. apply a Garbage Charge of \$389 per Residential Garbage Service (140 Litre Bin) and \$529 per Commercial Garbage Service (240 Litre Bin)
7. apply a Kerbside Recycling Service Charge of \$147 per service (240 Litre Bin)
8. seek feedback on the Draft Financial Plan in accordance with the Community Engagement Policy.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council was presented with the 2022/23 Draft Annual Budget (the Budget) and the Draft Financial Plan 2022/23 to 2031/32 (the Plan) at a Council Forum on 12 April 2022.

BACKGROUND

Both the Budget and the Plan have been prepared in draft following discussions with Councillors and senior officers.

Council has once again used the Best Practice Guide 'Model Budget' to assist with developing the budget. The Executive Summary is based on this model and has been prepared to provide an explanation of the major components of the budget.

Council have also reviewed the Best Practice Guide 'Financial Plan' and have made relevant updates where necessary.

A number of financial reports have also been developed outlining expected income and expenditure for all areas of Council in 2022/23, and comparing these to the forecast actual results for 2021/22.

The Budget includes:

- the continuation of a strong cash position
- the continuation of the Community Planning program
- projects and initiatives included in Council's various strategic plans
- no new borrowings
- continuation of the use of discretionary reserves.

Council's rating increase for 2022/23 is in line with the Victorian State Government's Rate Capping Policy which has been set at 1.75% on the 2021/22 forecast budget rate income. Council has discretion over increases relating to garbage and recycling charges, and has included in the Budget an increase of 10.0% to assist in ensuring a cost neutral position for waste collection services with the introduction of additional statutory requirements.

The Budget and Plan was developed during a recovery period of COVID-19. It is acknowledged that the Draft Annual Budget may change to respond to future COVID-19 relief and recovery efforts.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Subject to Council approval, both the Budget and Plan will be advertised seeking feedback. Council will receive submissions until close of business on Friday 27 May 2022. This is the same timeframe for the Draft Fees and Charges Schedule.

It is proposed that Council consider any feedback received at the Council Forum to be held on Tuesday 14 June 2022 and formally adopt the Budget and the Plan at the Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on Tuesday 28 June 2022.

COST/BENEFITS

The benefits to Council and the community are that a consultative budget process complies with the Local Government Act 1989 and the Local Government Act 2020, the budget provides a measure for accurate planning, and ensures that Council can deliver services and projects included in the document.

RISK ANALYSIS

The risk to Council of not considering and then advertising the Budget and Plan is that it will not comply with requirements under the Local Government Act 1989 and the Local Government Act 2020.

There is also a risk that the Draft Annual Budget may change as a result of Council's response to COVID-19 relief and recovery efforts.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The Community Engagement Policy outlines community engagement as an ongoing dialogue with our community to identify civic issues and opportunities and assist Council with planning and informed decision-making.

The feedback and input from community engagement promotes:

- transparency in decision making
- relationship building with communities and stakeholders
- increase community and stakeholder capacity to understand issues facing Council.

Council acknowledges and adheres to the Community Engagement Principles contained in section 56 of the Act.

RESOLUTION 2022/62

Moved: Cr Neil Beattie

Seconded: Cr Wendy Murphy

That Council:

1. seek feedback on the Draft Budget in accordance with the Community Engagement Policy
2. adopt the proportion of rates raised within various valuation categories as follows:
 - Rural Production to have a differential rate 12% lower than the General (Residential, Commercial and Other) differential rate
3. agree that the above distribution of rates raised demonstrates fairness and equity across the municipality
4. implement a differential rate to be struck between categories of Rural Production and General as follows:
 - General (Residential, Commercial and Other) - 0.002786 Cents in the Dollar of Capital Improved Value
 - Rural Production - 0.002451 Cents in the Dollar of Capital Improved Value
5. apply a Municipal Charge of \$229 to all properties, except where an exemption has been granted for a Single Farm Enterprise under the Local Government Act 1989
6. apply a Garbage Charge of \$389 per Residential Garbage Service (140 Litre Bin) and \$529 per Commercial Garbage Service (240 Litre Bin)
7. apply a Kerbside Recycling Service Charge of \$147 per service (240 Litre Bin)
8. seek feedback on the Draft Financial Plan in accordance with the Community Engagement Policy.

CARRIED

10.5 DRAFT ASSET PLAN 2022**File Number:** FOL/19/432732**Author:** David Southcombe, Manager Assets and Infrastructure**Authoriser:** Steven Phillips, Director Operations**Attachments:** 1. Draft Asset Plan 2022**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council authorise public consultation for the draft Asset Plan seeking public comment for a period of 20 days.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The draft Asset Plan was discussed at the April 2022 Council Forum.

BACKGROUND

The development of an Asset Plan is a new requirement under the Victorian Local Government Act 2020.

The Victorian Local Government Act 2020 states that an Asset Plan must:

- include information about maintenance, renewal, acquisition, expansion, upgrade, disposal and decommissioning in relation to each class of infrastructure asset under the control of the Council and any other matters prescribed by the regulations
- be developed, adopted and kept in force in accordance with the Council's deliberative engagement practices.

Local Government Victoria has provided further advice regarding the requirement for deliberate engagement. The updated requirement is:

- deliberative engagement is not required for the first Asset Plan
- an Asset Plan must be developed by council in accordance with its community engagement policy.

This Asset Plan is to be read with Council's Asset Management Policy, Asset Management Strategy, Community Vision, Council Plan and asset management plans. It is the first Asset Plan developed for Council.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The structure adopted for the Asset Plan is similar to that adopted for Council's asset management plans. The plan provides detail at a whole asset base level and collates data from all asset management plans. Asset management plans have been developed for the following asset classes:

- buildings
- roads
- bridges and major culverts
- footpaths
- stormwater drainage
- recreational, leisure and community facilities

- parks, open spaces and streetscapes.

1.

Asset valuations have been completed for all asset classes except recreational, leisure and community facilities, and parks, open spaces and streetscapes. The total value of assets covered by the Asset Plan is \$526.7 million.

The Asset Plan combines financial requirements for Council's infrastructure assets by taking financial data from each of the adopted asset management plans. This includes the operations, maintenance, renewal, upgrade and new assets over the 10 year planning period for all assets. The total funding required was determined to be \$167.2 million or \$16,718,078 on average per year.

The available funding for the next 10 financial years is \$145.5 million or \$14,553,213 per year as per the current Financial Plan. This is 87% of the projected cost to sustain the current level of service. The modelling predicts that the estimated under allocation will result in a renewal gap of \$21.6 million over the next 10 years. This may have a moderate effect on the condition of Council's assets and levels of service. This can be reduced by applying for additional funding through grants and other funding streams.

The Local Government Act 2020 requires that the Asset Plan be developed in accordance with Council's community engagement policy. Council officers have referred to the community engagement policy and deemed engagement should be undertaken with the public at the consult level. It is proposed to invite public comment on the draft Asset Plan for a period of 20 days, after which a review of any public comment received can take place. The final Asset Plan will be presented to Council at its June meeting for adoption.

COST/BENEFITS

The available funds to maintaining Council's assets for the next 10 financial years is \$145.5 million. This comprises \$50.8 million for renewal, \$5.5 million for new/upgrade of assets, and \$89.2 million for operations and maintenance.

The benefits of this are numerous including providing assets and infrastructure which allow Loddon Shire communities to thrive, residents to have a high quality of life, and allow businesses to have transport corridors to trade goods and services amongst many others.

RISK ANALYSIS

There is no risk identified in the adoption of the proposed Plan. However, it is a statutory and a regulatory requirement for Council to develop an Asset Plan in accordance with the Act.

Risks associated with each of the asset classes are identified in each asset management plan and have a risk management plan identified.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The draft Asset Plan has been discussed with internal stakeholders on a number of occasions. This includes Loddon Leaders, MEG and other staff who have had opportunities to review the outcomes of both plans and provide feedback.

Other Council's have been engaged in the development of the Asset Plan. This was to assist in developing an appropriate structure and content for the document.

RESOLUTION 2022/63

Moved: Cr Wendy Murphy

Seconded: Cr Neil Beattie

That Council authorise public consultation for the draft Asset Plan seeking public comment for a period of 20 days.

CARRIED

10.6 ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2019-21 EXTENSION**File Number:** FOL/21/4721**Author:** Kate Pallister, Wellbeing Officer**Authoriser:** Wendy Gladman, Director Community Wellbeing

Attachments:

1. **Action progress, review and recommendations - Aboriginal Community Partnership Plan 2019-21**
2. **Draft 2022 Action plan - Aboriginal Community Partnership Plan 2019-21**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the extension of the Aboriginal Community Partnership Plan 2019-21 for a period of 12 months, and approve the proposed 2022 Action Plan.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council was presented with an update on the Aboriginal Community Partnership Plan 2019-21 at the Council Forum held 12 April 2022. A report reviewing the Plan and outlining the progress of the Plan's actions was provided, alongside a draft Action Plan for 2022.

BACKGROUND

The 2019-21 Aboriginal Community Partnership Plan has seen Council make some notable progress in promoting reconciliation, particularly in the areas of procurement and training staff in cultural awareness.

While it has now reached the end of its two-year term, Council did not have capacity to develop a new Aboriginal Community Partnership Plan prior to the end of this term due to a number of factors, including disruptions and service redirections resulting from lockdowns, and the absence of an Officer working solely in the reconciliation space.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The 2019-21 Aboriginal Community Partnership Plan identified three key areas/outcomes in promoting reconciliation: respect, relationships, and opportunities. An Action Plan was developed to outline activities that will help Council staff achieve each outcome and ensure the plan is implemented efficiently and effectively over its term.

In the second half of 2021, progress against the Action Plan were reported and feasibility for delivery in 2022 determined. The following proposed Action Plan includes priority actions from the previous Action Plan that have not yet been completed. Outlined are 14 items that Council will endeavour to deliver to March 2023. The complete Action Plan is attached, indicating responsible staff and partners in achieving these actions.

Priority area	Outcome	Actions
Respect	Respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, their culture, history, and experience, is	Investigate available, relevant guidelines and other resources in understanding Aboriginal protocols, to share with the community.
		Allocate \$1000 through Council's Event Sponsorship

	fundamental to gaining a deeper cross-cultural understanding and developing equal and healthy relationships.	<p>program for community groups or event organisers to apply for up to \$500 to engage a Dja Dja Wurrung or Barapa Barapa representative to perform a Welcome to Country at public events. Promote opportunity via social media.</p> <p>Implement the new Welcome to and Acknowledgment of Country Policy, to include reference to Traditional Owners by name.</p> <p>In line with the Naming Rules for Place Names in Victoria consider traditional Dja Dja Wurrung and Barapa Barapa names for new local roads, bridges and public spaces in relevant council areas in consultation with the Corporation.</p> <p>Include the traditional Dja Dja Wurrung and Barapa Barapa names of towns and places with non-Aboriginal names, or Aboriginal meaning of place names with Aboriginal names on new township entry signage when renewed from time to time (subject to approval by VicRoads).</p>
Relationships	Meaningful relationships enable the Shire and its community to understand the experience, interests and aspirations of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and work together for the wellbeing of our community.	<p>Facilitate relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents, groups and organisations for Council and the community.</p> <p>Investigate current community reconciliation groups led by residents within the region and/or state, with a view to assess feasibility of establishing a group specific to the Loddon Shire.</p> <p>Participate in and celebrate both National Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week.</p> <p>Raise awareness of this Loddon Aboriginal Partnership Plan within and externally to Council.</p> <p>Continue to provide training for Council staff, in order to raise awareness and understanding for reconciliation and education of the issues faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.</p> <p>Investigate current community reconciliation groups led by residents within the region and/or state, with a view to assess feasibility of establishing a group specific to the Loddon Shire.</p>
Opportunities	Providing opportunities that foster wellbeing through social inclusion, employment, civic participation, and cultural expression.	<p>Work with consultant and other partner councils to meet objectives of the Aboriginal Business Capability Building Initiative, to increase the level of procurement of goods, services and works from Aboriginal businesses.</p> <p>Implement the new Child Safe Standards 2022, standard number 1: <i>Organisations establish a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique</i></p>

		<i>identities and experiences of Aboriginal children and young people are respected and valued.</i>
--	--	---

COST/BENEFITS

In acknowledging the sensitivity and complexities surrounding reconciliation and the historical treatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by government agencies, Council has committed to the Loddon Aboriginal Community Partnership Plan. Delivering the actions contained in the Plan will assist in bringing about positive change in the lives of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents.

A Wellbeing Officer position (0.6EFT) forms part of the Community Wellbeing directorate and Council's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community partnership is within the remit of this position.

The 14 items outlined within the proposed 2022 Action Plan can be achieved using existing resources and will not require additional funding.

RISK ANALYSIS

Page 1 of the Aboriginal Community Partnership Plan 2019-21, contains a detailed risk analysis of not implementing the plan.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Progress of the 2019-21 Aboriginal Community Partnership Plan was reported in consultation with staff at departmental level.

RESOLUTION 2022/64

Moved: Cr Wendy Murphy
Seconded: Cr Linda Jungwirth

That Council endorse the extension of the Aboriginal Community Partnership Plan 2019-21 for a period of 12 months, and approve the proposed 2022 Action Plan.

CARRIED

10.7 BIRCHIP CROPPING GROUP YOUNG FARMER NETWORK PROPOSAL**File Number:** FOL/20/450**Author:** Lynne Habner, Manager Executive and Commercial Services**Authoriser:** Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer**Attachments:** Nil**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council resolve to participate in the Birchip Cropping Group Young Farmer Network and contribute \$10,000 per year for three years, to be funded from the Economic Development budget.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

At the April 2022 Council Forum, Councillors received a presentation of the Young Farmer Network proposal from the Birchip Cropping Group and were given the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback.

BACKGROUND

Birchip Cropping Group Inc. (BCG) is a not-for-profit agricultural organisation led by farmers from the Wimmera, Mallee and North Central regions of Victoria with an aim to improve the prosperity of farmers and agricultural communities through farmer-driven activities.

The BCG GAPP (Growth, Adoption, Production and Profit) program was created as an opportunity for young farmers (under 35) to learn together, create and strengthen professional networks and build social fabric within rural communities. It provides an opportunity to bring in industry professionals and extend localised research and communicate with farmers about new practices, opportunities and strategies that can increase farm profitability and productivity.

The GAPP program has been re-named as the Young Farmer Network.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The project has engaged nearly 500 growers in the Wimmera and Mallee, and BCG is looking to align with local government areas in future, ideally Buloke, Yarriambiack, Hindmarsh, Loddon, Gannawarra, Swan Hill City, Mildura City Council and West Wimmera Councils.

The BGC has approached and received in-principle agreement from Buloke, Yarriambiack, West Wimmera and Gannawarra Councils to allocate \$10,000 per year for 3 years to the project.

Meetings would be held in the respective LGAs to enable farmers to give direction to the group and localise the program content. Past topics for workshops have included:

- farm business strategies
- local climate drivers and trends and how they should be used for operations and business planning
- succession planning
- human resources management
- mental and physical health

- networking and engaging with community, business, and industry representatives

Activities also include crop walks and farm tours both locally and more broadly, mentoring opportunities and on-farm trials.

COST/BENEFITS

The expected benefits to the Loddon Shire community would be for young farmers to gain the skills, knowledge and experience that the program can deliver to increase farm profitability and productivity. It would be expected that this would eventually provide flow-on benefits to the broader economy in Loddon Shire.

The BCG proposes to deliver the program with the support of funding from eight councils including Loddon Shire.

The funding sought from each council is \$10,000 per year over a three year period.

RISK ANALYSIS

There is a risk that young farmers in Loddon Shire may not take up the opportunity to participate in the Network, and Council's contribution would not realise benefits for its local community.

The BCG works in collaboration with a wide range of organisations and networks that Loddon Shire farmers are connected with, and noted that young farmers from the area are currently involved in trials and other initiatives delivered by the BCG.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Councillors were provided a presentation at the April Council Forum.

RESOLUTION 2022/65

Moved: Cr Neil Beattie

Seconded: Cr Linda Jungwirth

That Council resolve to participate in the Birchip Cropping Group Young Farmer Network and contribute \$10,000 per year for three years, to be funded from the Economic Development budget.

CARRIED

10.8 FINANCE REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 31 MARCH 2022**File Number:** FOL/21/2681**Author:** Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services**Authoriser:** Amanda Wilson, Director Corporate**Attachments:** 1. Finance Report for the quarter ending 31 March 2022**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council

1. receives and notes 'Finance Report for the quarter ending 31 March 2022'
2. approves budget revisions included in the report for internal reporting purposes only
3. approves the supplementary valuations of rateable and non-rateable properties in respect of the 2021/22 financial year, as returned by the Shire Valuer, LG Valuations Pty Ltd, and endorses them being incorporated into the Register of Rateable and Non Rateable Properties and Rate Book for 2021/22.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

A report was presented and adopted in April 2021 that recommended that Council now be provided with finance reports on a quarterly basis. The only exception is when changes to the Council Meeting timetable result in the Council Meeting occurring before the completion of the end of month finance procedures.

The last report presented was for the December 2021 quarter at the January 2022 Council Meeting.

BACKGROUND

The Finance Report for the period ended 31 March 2022 includes standard quarterly information about budget variations, cash, investments, interest, debtors and creditors, and provides a comparison of year-to-date actual results to year-to-date budget (by dollars and percentage) and total revised budget (by percentage).

The information is in the format provided in the adopted 2021/22 Budget, and includes operating results, capital expenditure and funding sources. The report now also includes a cash flow statement and the community planning program financials.

This Finance Report also includes reporting on supplementary valuations. Each year Council makes a number of additions, subtractions and alterations to the valuations contained in the annual rate book. These changes arise from various sources including:

- splitting of parcels into new rateable assessments
- development of vacant or unproductive land (urban and rural)
- consolidation of separate rateable assessments into one assessment
- re-assessment of property valuations arising from objections to the initial valuation
- additions and cancellations of licences (grazing and water frontages)
- change of use

- covenant on Title
- area amendment
- change of Australian Valuation Property Classification Code (AVPCC)
- supplementary valuation corrections.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Budgeted Surplus - Council's budgeted cash surplus has increased from \$4.02M to \$4.66M.

Income Statement (revenue) - Council's year to date (YTD) operating revenue is at 68% of total budget. Revenue brought to account for the quarter was \$2.78M.

Income Statement (expenditure) - Council's operating expenditure is at 61% of total budget. Payments for this quarter totalled \$7.27M.

Capital Works - The revised budget for capital works is \$23.06M and is 22% complete in financial terms for the current financial year.

Service Areas – Appendix 3 provides Council with net results for each service area. As further work is undertaken on service planning and reviews throughout the year, the cost of each service will be refined.

Balance Sheet - Council has a cash total of \$35.3M with \$2.7M in general accounts. Total debtors at the end of March are \$2.05M (\$10.27M at the end of December). Sundry debtors total \$0.79M with invoices outstanding for 90 or more days relating to community wellbeing debtors and local community groups totalling approximately \$63K.

COST/BENEFITS

The benefit to Council and the community is that accurate and regular financial reporting is disclosed, along with an accurate representation of property valuations being reflected in Council's rating system and the distribution of rate notices for the year 2021/22.

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. Council's risk exposure is increased if the rating system does not reflect the valuation changes associated with supplementary valuations as Council will not be aware of the changes, which can alter the rate revenue in the current year and in future rating years.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

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

Consultation with ratepayers and authorities that act on behalf of ratepayers occurs when a change to a property is required or occurs by virtue of a sale.

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.

RESOLUTION 2022/66

Moved: Cr Gavan Holt

Seconded: Cr Neil Beattie

That Council

1. receives and notes 'Finance Report for the quarter ending 31 March 2022'
2. approves budget revisions included in the report for internal reporting purposes only
3. approves the supplementary valuations of rateable and non-rateable properties in respect of the 2021/22 financial year, as returned by the Shire Valuer, LG Valuations Pty Ltd, and endorses them being incorporated into the Register of Rateable and Non Rateable Properties and Rate Book for 2021/22.

CARRIED

10.9 REVIEW OF THE DISPOSAL OF COUNCIL ASSETS POLICY V2

File Number: FOL/19/432511
Author: Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services
Authoriser: Amanda Wilson, Director Corporate
Attachments: 1. Disposal of Council Assets v2

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the Disposal of Council Assets Policy v2.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The first version of the Disposal of Council Assets Policy was adopted by Council on 26 November 2019.

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this Policy is to provide direction to Council staff when disposing of Council assets. This policy applies to any person or persons responsible for the identification of assets that are no longer 'fit for purpose' or excess to the current needs of Council and require disposal or rationalisation.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Effective application of this policy will ensure that any disposal of Council's assets is carried out in a transparent, fair, independent and open manner. All asset sale actions must adhere to the Levels of Authority Delegations.

Major changes to this document include:

- updates to ensure ongoing compliance with the Local Government Act 2020
- the charity/gifting disposal method has been reviewed and the process has been changed to ensure a more transparent and robust process is undertaken
- updates to the 'due diligence' checklist to ensure that all process and audit requirements are completed prior to disposal.

Along with these changes there has also been the addition of a new section titled Community Assets. This should provide further clarification on recent questions posed and is as below:

Where a Community Asset Committee or similar group has purchased minor non-fixed assets using funds raised by the committee, they may dispose of the asset using the methods outlined in Section 3.2. All excess funds are to be retained by the asset committee / group to be used for future asset purchasing or to assist with maintenance costs. The sale of any asset needs to be discussed, approved and noted in the relevant minutes.

COST/BENEFITS

There are no direct costs associated with the adoption of this policy. The benefits provided include clarification and consistency around asset disposal to both internal and external stakeholders.

RISK ANALYSIS

By providing clear direction as to what, how and when an asset can be disposed, most risks have been mitigated.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

This Policy has been reviewed by Loddon Leaders, Policy Review Group and the Management Executive Group prior to submission to Council.

The Policy will have a review timeline of two years.

RESOLUTION 2022/67

Moved: Cr Gavan Holt

Seconded: Cr Wendy Murphy

That Council adopts the Disposal of Council Assets Policy v2.

CARRIED

11 INFORMATION REPORTS

11.1 BOORT SCARRED TREES MASTERPLAN - FINALISATION

File Number: FOL/19/433077

Author: Lynne Habner, Manager Executive and Commercial Services

Authoriser: Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: 1. Lake Boort Scarred Trees Masterplan draft for public comment

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note:

1. the attached public consultation draft of the final Boort Scarred Trees Masterplan, with comments closing 26 April 2022
2. that any future ownership of actions arising from the Masterplan to implement infrastructure development of Lake Boort will be the responsibility of Parks Victoria
3. that the final Masterplan will help support Council tourism and economic development opportunities relating to Lake Boort.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

An update on development of the Masterplan and the proposed process for its finalisation was presented to the November 2021 Council Forum. At the Forum, Councillors discussed various issues regarding the use and management of Big Lake Boort, including weed management, provision of water in the lake, and concerns about mixing uses of the site for tourism and duck hunting. These matters were considered in the development of the Masterplan, and have been acknowledged and addressed in the final draft.

BACKGROUND

The Lake Boort Reserve Management Plan was launched by Parks Victoria, in partnership with the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, in April 2018. Several strategies in the Management Plan linked Loddon Shire Council and the objectives of this Masterplan project including:

- enhancing visitor awareness of the significance and sensitivity of cultural heritage
- enhancing the interpretation of the cultural heritage values of Lake Boort through on-site, hard copy and digital information
- encouraging cultural tourism initiatives that enhance community appreciation of Country and heritage values, places and landscapes
- exploring opportunities to support nature-based and cultural tourism development aspirations by Dja Dja Wurrung, Shire of Loddon and others, and investigating associated opportunities for tourism facilities and services (such as commercial eco-cabin accommodation and a boardwalk) in consultation with the community while ensuring natural and cultural values are protected.

By September 2019, Council had obtained additional funding through Regional Development Victoria (RDV), engaged a project consultant (Sharon Wells, Pan and Bacchanalia) and established a Steering Committee to deliver the Boort Scarred Trees Masterplan.

The RDV funding agreement stated:

“The Boort Scarred Tree Masterplan project will be one of the first areas in Victoria to develop a distinctly Indigenous product, a key opportunity area for growth and development as defined in the 2016 Victorian Visitor Economy Strategy, which will offer an accessible and rich experience for local, intrastate, interstate and international visitors. In summary, the project will produce a Masterplan for the site including:

- *detailed surveys of the cultural heritage as well as the potential for the preservation of key trees*
- *concept designs and quantity surveying for a visitor access and a framework for self-guided and guided tours and experiences*
- *reports and assessments including a cost benefit analysis of the social and economic contribution of this project, and environmental considerations*
- *key promotional considerations and linkages to activate the site.”*

Council contributed a \$60,000 budget for the project, in addition to \$15,000 cash and in-kind support from Dja Dja Wurrung Aboriginal Clans Corporation. The Masterplan was also made possible through accessing information (where appropriate, with permission from Dja Dja Wurrung) from a Conservation Management Plan delivered by First Peoples – State Relations (formerly Aboriginal Victoria).

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Timing of the delivery of the Masterplan was significantly extended due to the delivery of the above Conservation Management Plan being delayed during COVID-19 restrictions.

RDV provided for variations to the completion date as a result, however it has been challenging to complete the project within the remaining time allowed. This has required quick turnaround times, first on drafts of the concept designs and then the Masterplan itself, with the use of online sessions and social media to facilitate consultation in the time available. The final draft has been made available for public comment for a period of two weeks.

The resulting design and supporting contextual information is a comprehensive and clear document that sets out a compelling vision for the cultural and tourism offering that can be sensitively developed at Lake Boort over time.

It contains an implementation strategy which separates deliverables into logical stages to deliver the Masterplan vision.

As the project recommendations will not be the responsibility of Council to deliver, finalisation of the project will be acceptance of the final Masterplan by the Project Steering Committee (by consensus).

The attached public consultation draft is submitted to Council for noting and feedback. Any feedback received will be considered in the finalisation of the Masterplan for presentation to the Steering Committee on 29 April, which will allow for acquittal of State Government funds at the end of April 2022.

COST/BENEFITS

The Masterplan contains a cost benefit analysis which is undergoing further development during the public consultation period. The initial results show a positive benefit cost ratio (BCR) of 2.0 or 2.4 depending on high or low projected visitation levels, and a BCR of 1.6 with even the most pessimistic sensitivity testing applied.

Council will be able to benefit from the completed Masterplan by using it to support any future efforts within its responsibility relating to tourism promotion and economic development around the cultural attractions of Lake Boort.

RISK ANALYSIS

The Masterplan acknowledges and provides practical suggestions for management of risks that have been identified, while acknowledging that some are outside the scope of the Masterplan, such as water management of the lake, weed control, and managing the mixture of uses during duck hunting season.

The Masterplan reinforces the role of Parks Victoria as the land manager of the site, responsible for its ongoing management and development.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

There have been several points of consultation for the development of the Masterplan, including online public sessions to present and discuss concept designs, one-on-one and group sessions with local community stakeholders, and presentations to Councillors.

In addition, the project was guided by the ongoing involvement of a Steering Committee of key stakeholder organisations including Parks Victoria, Loddon Shire Council, Dja Dja Wurrung Aboriginal Clans Corporation, First Peoples – State Relations, Regional Development Victoria and the North Central Catchment Management Authority.

The final draft of the complete Masterplan with economic assessment and contextual information was made available for public comment from 12 April to 26 April 2022.

RESOLUTION 2022/68

Moved: Cr Neil Beattie

Seconded: Cr Gavan Holt

That Council note:

1. the attached public consultation draft of the final Boort Scarred Trees Masterplan, with comments closing 26 April 2022
2. that any future ownership of actions arising from the Masterplan to implement infrastructure development of Lake Boort will be the responsibility of Parks Victoria
3. that the final Masterplan will help support Council tourism and economic development opportunities relating to Lake Boort.

CARRIED

12 COMPLIANCE REPORTS

12.1 SECTION 65 COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP DETAILS - INGLEWOOD COMMUNITY ELDERLY PERSONS UNITS

File Number: FOL/20/7156

Author: Michelle Hargreaves, Administration Officer

Authoriser: Amanda Wilson, Director Corporate

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council appoints the persons named in this report as members of the Inglewood Community Elderly Persons Units Section 65 Community Asset Committee, effective immediately.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council previously approved committee members for Inglewood Community Elderly Persons Units Community Asset Committee on 27 April 2021 with an additional member appointed 27 July 2021.

BACKGROUND

Inglewood Community Elderly Persons Units is a recognised Section 65 Community Asset Committee under the Local Government Act 2020.

Clause 7.1 of the Instrument of Delegation establishes the composition of the committee. Clause 7.2.1 provides for the appointment of the member by name by resolution of Council for a term of one year. For community-based committees, at least six community representatives are preferred.

Clause 7.6 states that:

At the annual meeting each year nominations shall be called for proposed members of the Committee. The Committee must then elect from its proposed members the following office bearers:

- chair
- deputy chair (not mandatory, but recommended)
- secretary
- treasurer*
- booking officer*
- general members

*The treasurer and booking officer must not be the same person.

Clause 7.2.4 states that Council shall appoint members to the Committee as soon as reasonably practicable after the date upon which their annual meeting occurs.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Inglewood Community Elderly Persons Units is a community based committee with preferred representation requiring at least six community representatives. The following is a list of nominated representatives for the committee which meets the minimum requirement.

Name	Position
Robert Condliffe	Chair / Secretary
Frank Stoel	Committee member
Trevor Puckey	Treasurer
Colleen Condliffe	Committee member
Dallas Coghill	Committee member
Deb Coon	Committee member
Eddie Iob	Committee member

The Council representative for this committee is Cr Wendy Murphy.

COST/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 65 Community Asset Committees act for and on behalf of Council which creates a risk for Council should they ever act outside their delegated authority.

Clause 7.3 of the instrument of delegation provides for the removal of any committee member. This clause could be used to mitigate risk.

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.

Council is fortunate to have a community who volunteer to support community services. Without this volunteer effort it is likely that Council would not be able to continue supporting many services.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The community asset committee has provided Council with the list of proposed committee members and their positions.

RESOLUTION 2022/69

Moved: Cr Wendy Murphy

Seconded: Cr Gavan Holt

That Council appoints the persons named in this report as members of the Inglewood Community Elderly Persons Units Section 65 Community Asset Committee, effective immediately.

CARRIED

13 URGENT BUSINESS

In accordance with Council's Governance Rules, Clause 53 provides that at a scheduled or special meeting of Council, business that is not included in the agenda notice must only be considered if no more than one Councillor is absent and the Council resolves that the matter is urgent.

Despite this requirement, a matter that is not included in the agenda notice must not be considered at a Council meeting if it will:

- (a) directly and significantly affect the exercise of a person's rights;
- (b) alter the Council Plan or the budget; or
- (c) commit the Council to expenditure exceeding \$20,000.

14 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 66(1) and 66(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020:

14.1 REVIEW OF CONFIDENTIAL ACTIONS

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 3(1)(h) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with confidential meeting information, being the records of meetings closed to the public under section 66(2)(a).

Pursuant to section 66(5)(b) of the Local Government Act 2020, if released the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to this agenda item, may disclose confidential meeting information, being the records of meetings closed to the public under section 66(2)(a)

Closing of Meeting to the Public

RESOLUTION 2022/70

Moved: Cr Neil Beattie

Seconded: Cr Linda Jungwirth

That the meeting be closed to the public at 4.42pm.

CARRIED

14.1 REVIEW OF CONFIDENTIAL ACTIONS**RESOLUTION 2022/71**

Moved: Cr Wendy Murphy

Seconded: Cr Linda Jungwirth

That Council receive and note the action sheet.

CARRIED

NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on 24 May 2022 at Wedderburn commencing at 3pm.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 4.45pm.

Confirmed this.....day of..... 2022

.....

.....

CHAIRPERSON