



AGENDA

Council Meeting

6.00pm Tuesday 7 June 2022

VENUE:
Golden Plains Civic Centre
Council Chamber
2 Pope Street, Bannockburn

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING
6.00pm Tuesday 28 June 2022

Copies of Golden Plains Shire Council's Agendas & Minutes
Can be obtained online at www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au

Code of Conduct Principles

WORKING TOGETHER

We Councillors will:

- acknowledge and respect that a diversity of opinion exists among us;
- recognise that each of us has different life experience, knowledge and values, and that all of these contribute collectively to our discussions;
- behave with courtesy towards each other, Council officers and our citizens;
- conform to the policy and precedents that guide the conduct of meetings;
- attend punctually and participate in all relevant meetings, workshops and briefings;
- share reasonably in the representation, ceremonial and hosting tasks of the full Council; and
- honour the majority decisions made by the Council, irrespective of our own position, and explain these decisions frankly to the community, once made.

BEHAVING WITH INTEGRITY

We Councillors will:

- identify our financial and personal interest, or potential interest, in any matter that comes before the Council;
- be honest and truthful;
- comply with laws and the regulations deriving there from;
- respect Council property and be frugal in its use, where allowed;
- avoid using our position for personal gain or to achieve advantage over others or to obtain preferential treatment;
- be sympathetic to the legitimate concerns of our citizens;
- act impartially when making decisions and have due regard to the needs of the community as a whole, rather than that of narrow vested interest; and
- acknowledge the role of Council officers in providing advice to us and in implementing Council decisions.

MAKING COMPETENT DECISIONS

We Councillors will:

- without diminishing the short term focus, approach decisions with due regard to the long term needs of the municipality;
- form policies with regard to the needs of the entire Shire;
- direct our attentions to the strategic and statutory needs of the municipality rather than short term, transient, operational issues;
- seek to fully inform ourselves on the issues before Council before making a decision;
- take all reasonable steps to improve our knowledge of matters relevant to our municipal duties; and
- use and respect the professional knowledge of Council officers and other advisers to Council.

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1 OPENING DECLARATION

We the Councillors of Golden Plains Shire declare that we will undertake, on every occasion, to carry out our duties in the best interest of the community and that our conduct shall maintain the standards of the code of good governance so that we may faithfully represent and uphold the trust placed in this Council by the people of Golden Plains Shire

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Golden Plains Shire spans the Traditional lands of the Wadawurrung and Eastern Maar people. We acknowledge them as the Traditional Owners and Custodians. Council pays its respects to Wadawurrung Elders past, present and emerging. Council also respects Eastern Maar Elders past, present and emerging.

Council extends that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People who are part of the Golden Plains Shire.

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**4 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST****5 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

6 BUSINESS REPORTS FOR DECISION

6.1 2022-23 DRAFT ANNUAL BUDGET SUBMISSIONS

File Number:

Author: Fiona Rae, Manager Finance

Authoriser: Simon Rennie, Director Corporate Services

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the public submissions relating to the Draft 2022-23 Annual Budget.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council resolved at the scheduled Council Meeting on 26 April 2022 to place on public exhibition the 2022-23 Draft Annual Budget in accordance with Section 96 of the *Local Government Act, 2020* (the Act).

Public submissions received were recorded in a register that was previously presented to Councillors and outlined details of the submission. Five (5) public submissions have been received of which none have requested to be heard.

The 2022-23 Draft Annual Budget will be presented to the 28 June 2022 Ordinary Council Meeting for final adoption.

BACKGROUND

Council prepares a budget annually in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* which is required to be adopted by 30 June 2022 following a one month public consultation process.

Following feedback from the public during the 2021-22 budget process Council has held additional public consultation earlier this year in the formulation of the 2022-23 budget with two public engagement workshops run in February.

Submissions from the public were invited via email, hardcopy mail or through Council's Have Your Say webpage, with a closing date of 30 May 2022. In addition, Council included a four page article in the Golden Plains Shire Gazette on the 2022-23 Draft Annual Budget, with distribution to residents across the Shire. The primary focus of the budget being to continue to deliver services more than 70 services under the rates cap, with investment in roads, infrastructure and local community projects outlined. Social media was also used as a medium to promote and communicate the key points from the draft 2022-23 budget.

Council will consider public submissions received and the 2022-23 Draft Annual Budget will be presented to the 28 June 2022 Ordinary Council Meeting for final adoption.

DISCUSSION

Five (5) public submissions were received, of which none have requested to be heard.

Summary of Submissions

Township	Summary of Submission
Inverleigh	Would like to see improved street lighting in the commercial precinct of Inverleigh including outside the public hall, would also like to see a pathway established to connect the north and south side of the service roads between the hardware store and shops opposite on the south. The bushes located on the Dundas St/Hamilton Highway intersection need to be removed to improve visibility as there have been a number of serious accidents at this intersection.
Bannockburn	Elderly safety being ignored as it is not safe to cross High Street and Milton

	Street.
Inverleigh	The Inverleigh Progress Association (IPA) requests all 27 public toilet blocks across the Shire to be fitted with vandal-proof soap dispensers and paper towel dispensers and acknowledges that Council may choose to run a trial or pilot program for 12 months at Inverleigh. This request is in the interest of public health and Covid-19 impacts.
Bannockburn	Congratulate Council on decreasing the municipal charge. Windfarm revenue should be included in the rates table and this income should be used to ease the rate burden within the Shire. Staff turnover ratios missing in budget, and note they were provided on request as 19% 21/22 forecast, 17% 22/23 budget, 15% 23/24 projection, 14% 24/25 projection and 13% 25/26 projection. Note 19% forecast is below the 24% of last year and hope it will continue to improve as this is a hidden but real cost to Council. Do not see the commitment to markedly reduce debt levels translated in the 22/23 budget and would welcome a more concerted effort at reducing the debt levels.
Batesford	Provide the following items for consideration to support the Batesford community: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding to undertake an update to the Batesford township structure plan (detailing future residential developments and land uses; future road rail pathways and public transport connectivity opportunities; defined opportunities for future active recreation/community facilities; identification of Geelong Western Growth Zone land uses and conflicts; future drainage challenges; defined future pedestrian connectivity across township). Funding to complete detailed master planning, design and delivery of natural environment improvements in the new public open space (Riverstone Estate) to align to national and state best practice for passive recreation and cultural heritage preservation through - (extensive local community engagement; supporting the aspirations of the Kitjarra-dja-bull Bullarto Langi-ut initiative via the CCMA; evidence based management through traditional knowledge science and research; ecologically sustainable use to enhance social and economic well-being; partnerships and working together with all community stakeholders to support delivery of innovative programs to benefit future generations of Batesford residents).

REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS

Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)

Implications	Applicable to this Report
Governance Principles (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
Policy/Relevant Law (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
Environmental/Sustainability Implications (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	No
Community Engagement (Consideration of Community Engagement Principles under s.56 LGA 2020)	Yes
Public Transparency (Consideration of Public Transparency Principles under s.58 of LGA 2020)	Yes

Strategies and Plans (Consideration of Strategic Planning Principles under s.89 of LGA 2020)	Yes
Financial Management (Consideration of Financial Management Principles under s.101 of LGA 2020)	Yes
Service Performance (Consideration of Service Performance Principles under s.106 of LGA 2020)	Yes
Risk Assessment	Yes
Communication	Yes
Human Rights Charter	Yes
Gender Equality (Gender Impact Assessment required by S.9 of Gender Equality Act 2020)	No

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

The 2021-22 Draft Budget has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

POLICY/RELEVANT LAW

Local Government Act 2020

Local Government Amendment (Fair Go Rates) Act 2015

Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020

Financial Plan

Annual Budget

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Draft 2022-23 Annual Budget has been placed on public exhibition for a four week consultation period. The draft budget was made available for inspection and comment up to the 30 May 2022. Any person was able to submit a written comment on any proposal contained in the budget. Feedback will be heard at a council meeting on 7 June 2022.

PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

The public consultation process facilitates transparency of the budget submitted for adoption and all Council reports are available for the public to access.

STRATEGIES/PLANS

The 2022-23 Draft Budget has been prepared ensuring alignment with the 2021-2025 Council Plan.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The 2022-23 Draft Budget has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*, Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements. Financial sustainability is monitored by considering the financial result for the period and key financial indicators within Council's long term financial plan.

SERVICE PERFORMANCE

Service performance levels are considered when developing the annual budget to ensure sufficient funds are available to meet required levels of performance.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The 2022-23 Draft Budget has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* incorporating long term financial plan requirements to ensure financial sustainability over the short and long term.

COMMUNICATION

The 2022-23 Draft Budget has been reported to Council as it has been formulated with a series of workshops held with Council to facilitate the development of the draft budget. The 2022-23 Draft Budget was placed on public exhibition for a four week period up to 30 May 2022, with public submissions considered at the 7 June 2022 Council meeting, and adoption of the budget at the 28 June 2022 Council meeting.

HUMAN RIGHTS CHARTER

It is considered that this report does not impact negatively on any rights identified in the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (VIC).

OPTIONSOption 1 – Council note the budget submissions received

This option is recommended by officers as the budget submissions will be considered at the special Council meeting to be held on 7 June 2022.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officer involved in preparing this report has any conflicts of interest in regards to this matter.

CONCLUSION

Public submissions to the 2022-23 Draft Budget will be considered at the 7 June 2022 Council meeting.

7 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

8 PETITIONS

Nil

9 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS FOR DECISION

Nil