



AGENDA

Council Meeting

6:00 PM Tuesday 1 April 2025

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

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING
6:00 PM Tuesday 22 April 2025

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.

Membership

Councillors

Cr Sarah Hayden, Mayor
Cr Des Phelan
Cr Brett Cunningham
Cr Emma Robbins
Cr Helena Kirby
Cr Owen Sharkey
Cr Gavin Gamble

Officers

Steve Sagona, Interim Chief Executive Officer
Phil Josipovic, Director Infrastructure and Environment
Lynnere Gray, Director Corporate Services
Jo Wilson, Director Community, Planning and Growth
Governance Coordinator

Members of the Gallery

Welcome to a Golden Plains Shire Council meeting and thank you for joining us.

MEETING PROCEDURES

The procedures for this Council meeting are provided in Council's Governance Rules. A copy of the Governance Rules can be found on Council's [website](#).

MEETING FACILITIES

Council meetings are generally held at:

- Golden Plains Shire Council Civic Centre (2 Pope Street, Bannockburn)
- The Well, Smythesdale (19 Heales Street, Smythesdale)

EXPECTATIONS OF THE GALLERY

Council meetings are decision-making forums and it is important that they are open to the community to attend and view proceedings. Community members may participate in Council meetings in accordance with Chapter 2, Division 7 of the Governance Rules.

At each meeting, there is an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions of the Council. Questions must be submitted to Council no later than 10:00am on the day of the meeting in order to be asked at the meeting.

Members of the public present at Council meetings must remain silent during the proceedings except when specifically invited to address the meeting. Mobile devices are permitted for silent use but must not be used for recording, talking or any usage that generates noise, unless permission is granted by the Chairperson of the meeting.

The Chairperson of the meeting may remove a person from the meeting if the person continues to interject or gesticulate offensively after being asked to desist. The Chairperson may cause the removal of any object or material that is deemed by them to be objectionable or disrespectful.

The Chairperson may call a break in a meeting for either a short time or to resume another day if the behaviour at the Council table or in the gallery is significantly disrupting the meeting.

RECORDING OF MEETINGS

Council meetings are recorded and streamed live on the internet. Recordings are archived and available on Council's [Youtube page](#).

All care is taken to maintain your privacy however as a visitor in the public gallery, your presence may be recorded.

Order Of Business

1	Opening Declaration.....	7
2	Acknowledgement of Country	7
3	Apologies and Leave of Absence	7
4	Declaration of Conflict of Interest.....	7
3	Business Reports for Decision	8
3.1	2025-26 Draft Annual Budget - Noting of Budget Submissions.....	8

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 Peoples.

Council acknowledges them as the Traditional Owners and Custodians and pays its respects to both Wadawurrung and Eastern Maar Elders past, present and emerging.

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

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**4 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

4 BUSINESS REPORTS FOR DECISION

3.1 2025-26 DRAFT ANNUAL BUDGET - NOTING OF BUDGET SUBMISSIONS

File Number:

Author: Fiona Rae, Manager Finance

Authoriser: Lynne Gray, Director Corporate Services

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the nine (9) public submissions relating to the 2025-26 Draft Annual Budget.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Public submissions received were recorded in a register that was previously presented to Councillors which outlined details of the submissions. Nine (9) public submissions have been received of which two have requested to be heard.

The 2025-26 Draft Annual Budget will be presented to the 27 May 2025 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 2025 following a public consultation process in accordance with Council's community engagement policy.

Submissions from the public were invited via email, hardcopy mail or through Council's Have Your Say webpage, with a closing date of 5 March 2025. In addition, Council included an article in the Golden Plains Shire Gazette on the 2025-26 Draft Annual Budget Submissions, with distribution to residents across the Shire. Social media was also used as a medium to promote and communicate the key points from the draft 2025-26 budget.

A primary focus of the budget is to continue to deliver more than 70 services within the 3.00% maximum rate cap, with investment in roads, infrastructure and local community projects outlined.

Council will consider public submissions received and the 2025-26 Draft Annual Budget will be presented to the 27 May 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting for final adoption.

DISCUSSION

Nine (9) public submissions have been received, of which two have requested to be heard.

The table below outlines the themes/issues that the submissions cover:

Summary of Submissions

Township or Organisation	No. received	Summary of Submissions
Sheoaks/Bannockburn/Unable to determine	3	Requests to reinstate recycling collection service to pre-2025 arrangements. What savings will we see with glass? Undertake a full cost analysis and show what actually paying for.
Inverleigh	1	Request to commence and complete in full without delay the "Inverleigh - Faulkner, King and Argyle Park Flood Mitigation Project" and it not be staged over multiple years.

Batesford	1	Request to increase drainage on hill side of Oxley Rise, dig out the blocked drains and road drains that have filled up with dirt and silt.
Inverleigh	1	Request to fund the replacement of the greens at Inverleigh Bowls Club.
Bannockburn	1	Request to establish a clubroom as a Senior Citizens meeting room for activities for retirees to enjoy.
Bannockburn	1	Request to \$80,000 to be included in the 2025-26 budget to develop a comprehensive Bruces Creek Master Plan which will guide future development while protecting and enhancing the creek's environmental, cultural and social values.
On behalf of Anglican Parish of Inverleigh, Bannockburn & Meredith	1	Request to consider either: waiving bin collection charges to all Op Shops, NFP shops and charitable shops, or alternatively reducing the collection charges to the equivalent domestic rate. Consider providing and funding small yellow commercial skips to smaller towns and communities. Consider establishing a transfer station more convenient to Bannockburn, Teesdale, Inverleigh and Batesford.

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
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GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

The 2024-26 Draft Budget is being 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

Deliberative engagement was undertaken in conjunction with the Council Plan, Financial Plan and Asset Plan in November 2024, plus a informative engagement community information session regarding the draft budget and the budget submissions processes and timelines held virtually in February 2025.

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 2025-26 Draft Budget is being prepared ensuring alignment with the 2021-2025 Council Plan.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The 2025-26 Draft Budget is being 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 2025-26 Draft Budget is being 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

Public submissions are being considered at the 1 April 2025 Council meeting, and adoption of the budget at the 27 May 2025 Council meeting. All submitters will receive a written response after the adoption of the final 2025-26 Budget.

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 notes the nine (9) budget submissions received

This option is recommended by officers as the budget submissions are being considered at this Council meeting.

Option 2 – Council does not note the nine (9) budget submissions received

This option is not recommended by officers as the budget submissions have been received through the consultation process and are being considered at this Council meeting.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

CONCLUSION

Public submissions have been received for consideration in the 2025-26 Draft Budget development.