



9 May 2017

To: Golden Plains Shire

Re: Council Plan 2017 -2021 (incorporating the Municipal Public Health & Wellbeing Plan)

From: Janice Lane - Director Health and Wellbeing – G21

To Whom it may concern,

On behalf of the G21 Health and Wellbeing Team, please find our response to the draft Golden Plains Shire Council Plan.

Firstly, congratulations to Golden Plains Shire for incorporating the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan into your new Council Plan. Having an integrated plan makes sense from a number of aspects as it strengthens health and wellbeing issues into your higher-level statutory document and it also raises awareness around health and wellbeing matters in your Council plan that affects all residents. Local Councils have a key role to play in improving the health and wellbeing outcomes for its community but of course, it cannot do this alone.

It is pleasing to see the following:

- Recognition and acknowledgement of the relationship between GPS and the Central Highlands Primary Care Partnership and G21 PCP. The shared health prevention priority of Healthy Eating and Active Living in your draft plan is an excellent acknowledgement of the work undertaken by multiple agencies in late – 2016 and the health and wellbeing team looks forward to working with relevant staff on this issue.
- Your plan is easy to read and simply spells out the key health and wellbeing priorities under particular themes. We believe that the healthy eating and active living aspirations can be measured when a shared measurement tool is established and we look forward to work with you on how and what to measure that has meaning to the GPS community.
- Acknowledgement and inclusion of Family Violence and gender equity in your draft plan and the aspiration to address this difficult problem over the course of the next 4 years.

We look forward to working with GPS over the course of your plan implementation and thank you for the opportunity to respond.

Kind Regards,

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Golden Plains Shire Council	
BluePoint	
File No(s)	01-01-014
10 MAY 2017	
Owner	Jan
Manager	Richard
Reader(s)	
Doc Ref	

Please type your submission in the box below.: Response to Council Plan as provided in a separate document.

Thank you

Upload documents here: Response to GPS Draft Council and HWB Plan 2017-2021.docx

Do you wish to be heard by Council in relation to your submission?: No, I do not wish to present to Council

Golden Plains Shire Council
Council Plan 2017-2021

Golden Plains Shire Council	
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File No(s)	01-01-014
23 MAY 2017	
Owner	_____
Manager	_____
Reader(s)	_____
Doc Ref	_____


Submission on Draft Council Plan Community Reference Group

May 2017

Submitted by:

Des Joyce

Name



Signature

23 May 2017

Date

On behalf of Community Reference Group members:

Adam Liversage
Alan Stork
Alan Tipper
Bill Mundy
Cameron Steele
Cherie Draper
Christopher Hosie
David Bruce
Dean McDonald

Des Joyce
Doug Gadd
Genevieve Stout
Glenn Harris
Julie Lee
Ken Butler
Kenneth Russell
Kirsty Clark
Marcus Bavin

Mark Lomas
Noel Barlow
Robin Sterlson
Shelley Lehman
Sonya Macdonald
Stewart Marshall
Susan Morgan
Suzanne Metcalfe
Tracey McInerney

The Community Reference Group also requests the opportunity to be represented by Des Joyce to present this submission at the Special Council 'Hearing of Submissions' meeting to be held on Tuesday 13 June 2017, 6pm at the Bannockburn Shire Hall. Des can be contacted on 0419 295966.

Feedback on the Draft Council Plan overall....

1. Develop and provide a plain English version of the plan suitable for young people and broader distribution.
2. Educate Councillors and officers on engagement with the community.
3. Where possible establish a direction connection with what the community said and objectives/strategies across the four key pillars (pages 14-21) e.g:
 - Aligning objectives, strategies and measures of success (e.g. table format).
 - Present the community voice first followed by strategic direction, objectives and strategies.
4. Use a consistent style for bullet points illustrating strategies, objectives and measures of success (pages 14-21).
5. Demonstrate how the Council Plan translates into action (pages 4, 22, 23).
6. Health and Wellbeing priorities (page 11 and throughout).
 - The priority for 'Family violence and gender equity' could be separated into distinct priorities.
 - Replace the 'shield' icon for the 'Family violence and gender equity' priority.
7. The leadership team photo (page 12) could become outdated with staff changes.
7. 'How the plan will be implemented' (page 22) does not, and could, reference 'listening' amongst the roles for Council – 'listening' is extensively referenced throughout the document.
8. Document requires comprehensive proof read for consistency, punctuation and presentation as a seamless document.
9. The organisation chart (p12) shows 'Environment and Sustainability' under Development in the Assets and Amenity portfolio – the weight of community feedback on the importance of the environment should be reflected in more prominent positioning in the organisation structure.
10. The development of a new Civic Centre is a significant item in the Strategic Resource Plan and should be identified in the body of the Council Plan document.
11. There is a view that the directions, objectives and strategies across the four pillars 'miss' many points reflected in the community feedback e.g. specific reference to bushfire risk and management.
12. Not enough plain language – put it through a plain language review. Document needs to be more accessible for ordinary readers and those less literate.
13. Make the 'pillars' more present in operations, communications, web structure, gazette reporting etc. to assist community understanding.

14. Include an action plan. Include more detail on 'how we are going to deliver'. More operational information or an indication of the operational implementation plan.

Feedback on Strategic Directions....

1. Promoting Healthy & Connected Communities (pages 14-15)

Relevance of objectives and strategies and reflection of community feedback

- 1.1 Objectives and strategies may be relevant to those living in built up areas, families with children, and those with sporting interests, but less so to others (page 14).
- 1.2 The strategic direction statement reference to '....their local community' is too narrow and would be more relevant as '....their local and broader community' (page 14).
- 1.3 The document does not reflect the importance of community feedback on the need for 'after school programs and activities for local secondary students' (page 17). This calls for greater emphasis and a specific strategy in the Plan in either this section (page 16) or 'Enhancing Local Economies' section.
- 1.4 Strategy 1. of 'How we will go about it' refers to 'people of all ages...' (page 14). A separate and additional strategy emphasising approaches for ensuring the health and wellbeing of young people/youth is required.
- 1.5 Aligning objectives and strategies with and in the same order as the community feedback and statistical information would assist clarity and readability (e.g. present as a table/map). (As for point 3. above)
- 1.6 Overall, objectives and strategies reflect the community feedback.

Proposed additions or changes

- 1.7 Objectives and strategies are too general – where is the specific reference to 'actions' identifying next steps? A clearer picture of what happens next is required (page 14)
 - Include information about an Action Plan in 'About the Council Plan' (page 4) and/or 'How the Plan will be implemented' (page 22) – see also point 13. in this submission.
- 1.8 Consider hyperlinking objectives and strategies to a more specific action plan.
- 1.9 Gambling to be recognised as an issue and an advocacy opportunity – specifically in terms of what we are going to do about it e.g. restricting signage at community facilities. (pages 14 and 15)
- 1.10 Strategy 1 in 'What we are going to do' stating 'Provide and support programs, activities, and spaces ' to be amended to 'Develop a strategy to provide and support programs, activities and spaces relevant to demographic profiles... (page 14).

- 1.11 Strategy 2 in 'What we are going to do' stating 'Facilitate increased access to local health and community services..... ' to incorporate the concepts of 'equitable and increased access to local and other health and community services' based on the lack of public transport across the Shire to support access to services (page 14.)
- 1.12 Council to take a more formal role in providing a local context (input and information) to the State Government on relevant state managed issues – rather than specific 'cause' related advocacy.
 - Advocate and support improved and relevant research on public transport needs across the Shire.
- 1.13 Consider how we are going to respond to 'individual' crisis situations in local and remote areas outside of normal service hours.
- 1.14 Plan needs to recognise the impact of the natural environment in terms of health, wellbeing and social benefits to the community.
- 1.15 The concept of 'connected communities' to be extended to and acknowledge improved internet connectivity – potential strategy (page 14).

2. Enhancing Local Economies (pages 16-17)

Relevance of objectives and strategies and reflection of community feedback

- 2.1 For the most part the objectives and strategies are relevant and reflect community feedback (pages 16, 17)
- 2.2 Do the measures actually reflect whether the work done is having an impact on the people who need our support the most and deliver improvements in lifestyles? (page 16)
- 2.3 Raise the importance of the community feedback around 'Advocating for a vocational focus for the new secondary school, after school programs and activities for local secondary students' – consider including this as a strategy (pages 16, 17).
- 2.4 Objectives and strategies are not as specific as the community feedback – there needs to be a balance i.e. reference to public transport and internet access (pages 16, 17).
- 2.5 Ensure that infrastructure meets community growth – provide more specific information in the research section (page 17).

Proposed additions or changes

- 2.6 A strong balance between the environment (sustainable industries) and economic growth based on good planning supported by strong consultation (page 16).
- 2.7 Longer term planning (10-25years) – specific to this pillar and more broadly - future proofing (page 16)
- 2.8 Specific reference to controlled business and tourism growth to maintain the rural feel of the Shire where appropriate (page 16).
- 2.9 For strategy point 1. – add an element of connection between businesses as a way of strengthening the sector (page 16).
- 2.10 Include community and business access to technology (internet) as a strategy (page 16).
- 2.11 Avoid broad motherhood statements – be clear about strategies i.e. internet access (page 16).
- 2.12 Public transport is not given enough weight in the current plan in connection with economic growth and sustainability (page 16).
- 2.13 Controlling where business and tourism growth occurs and the types of businesses that are encouraged – the need for good planning (page 16).
- 2.14 Strong consultation around rezoning within the Shire (page 16).

3. Managing the Natural and Built Environment (pages 18-19)

Relevance of objectives and strategies and reflection of community feedback

- 3.1 Include specific reference to paths (walking/cycle/horse) and accessible communities under objectives - 'What we are going to do' (page 18).
- 3.2 Reference Council to work **in partnership** with small allotment owners to control pests and invasive species under strategies - 'How we will go about it' point 3. (page 18).
- 3.3 Identify a more proactive and systematic approach to the management of pests and invasive species - 'How we will go about it' point 3. (page 18).
- 3.4 Use smarter technology, materials and processes in relation to road works – do it better – (page 18).

Proposed additions or changes

- 3.5 Separation of this pillar into two separate pillars for 'Natural Environment' and 'Built Environment' (page 18-19).
- 3.6 Amend the strategic direction to add the words 'preserve and enhance' to create 'We work to promote, preserve, enhance and protect the natural environment.....' (page 18).
- 3.7 Include a strategy to ... educate the community about aboriginal heritage (page 18).
- 3.8 Include a strategy to ... encourage land owners to connect natural habitat areas (including Council owned areas) to allow natural propagation and diversification (page 18).
- 3.9 Include a strategy to ... include young people in environmental initiatives e.g. after school engagement, cubs and scouts (page 18).
- 3.10 Define a pathway to achieving carbon neutrality for Council operations - 'How we will go about it' point 2. (page 18).
- 3.11 Enhance the 'strategy' response (How we will go about it) on biodiversity e.g. MSS review, appropriate zoning, remnant vegetation, training of planners (page 18).
- 3.12 Tourism initiative – install an RV Dump Point at Smythesdale – grow tourism visitation and increase local investment
- 3.13 Include reference to an Annual Action Plan and how progress reporting back to the community on the Council Plan will work.
- 3.14 Emergency management (particularly bushfire safety/re-zoning) to be included as a strategy – 'How we will go about it' (page 18).

4. Delivering Good Governance and Leadership (pages 20-21)

Relevance of objectives and strategies and reflection of community feedback

- 4.1 Council to take a stronger advocacy role within the plan to ensure objectives and strategies are not lost in translation (pages 20-21).
- 4.2 Councillor education - ensure new Councillors are well trained to be able to do their job in governance.
- 4.3 Riding (ward) Councillors perform better for community, relate better to resident concerns, and better represent local areas.
- 4.5 Important to support the 25 year plan for stability across Council terms so that each new Council is guided by the overall long term plan – strategy 1. 'How we will go about it' (page 20).

Proposed additions or changes

- 4.6 Be more explicit about the use of technology, digitisation and innovation linked to advancement of good governance (page 20).
- 4.7 Good governance requires good prioritisation of funding for strategic actions. The Strategic Resource Plan should include the capacity to cope with the cost of unanticipated events such as fire or flood.
- 4.8 We must report on what we are doing - how we are delivering the plan. The reporting must be multi-platform and accessible. People will not go looking; we must make it easily accessible. The community has the right to know.
- 4.9 Please report on key activities e.g. Golden Plains Food Production Precinct.
- 4.10 Make sure facility and infrastructure provision is ahead of community growth. Look at the future demand on facilities in the north of the Shire by the growing population in south Ballarat.
- 4.11 Waste coupons should be available as in other Shires – they may prevent dumping in road and other public reserves.
- 4.12 Make sure letters etc. from the community are answered.
- 4.13 Make sure promises are kept e.g. township maintenance.
- 4.14 Staff to be more approachable. More face to face staff interaction in community.
- 4.15 Provide access to questions for Council through the website.
- 4.16 Provide easy access to Councillor contact information on the website and in the Gazette.
- 4.17 Improve access for councillors to community - more face to face contact.
- 4.18 Objective 2 'What we are going to do' reference to 'Doing what we say' can be read as a directive of Council to the community. Needs revision to 'Doing what we say we will do' to convey the intention.
- 4.19 Staff turnover is a factor of good governance e.g. Golden Plains 13%, Surf Coast 7%? It should be a measure of improved governance or improved management performance.
- 4.20 Include 'open' as a key statement as it is different to transparent. Open implies a willingness to allow the community into the process. (page 20 and broader document).



DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN 2017-2021 SUBMISSION FORM

The draft Council Plan 2017-2021, incorporating the Council Plan and the Health and Wellbeing Plan, sets out the priorities and objectives of Council for the next four years. Any person can make a submission. Submissions close on Monday 29 May 2017.

You can view the draft online: <https://www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations> or in person at Council's Customer Service Centres from 8.30am - 5.00pm, Monday to Friday: 2 Pope Street, Bannockburn; 68 Sussex Street, Linton; or at the Bannockburn Library during opening hours.

Please return this submission to Council via post: PO Box 111, Bannockburn VIC 3331, or in person at Council's Customer Service Centres.

File No(s)

01-01-014

25 MAY 2017

Owner

Jan.

Manager

Reader(s)

Doc Ref

YOUR DETAILS

Full name (required)

Noel Barlow

Postal address (required)

304 Scarsdale Pitfield Rd, Newtown.

Email address

noelbarlow.68@hotmail.com

Phone number

0419 017 163

YOUR SUBMISSION

This is your submission to the draft Council Plan 2017-2021.

Please indicate which section/s of the draft Council Plan your submission refers to, by using the relevant headings or page numbers from the draft Plan. If you would like to provide supporting documentation for your submission, please attach them to this form.

Please note: Your submission will be provided in full to Council prior to the 'Hearing of Submissions' to ensure full and proper consideration of your submission. All submissions will appear in full, including names and addresses, in the Council minutes which will be publicly available.

Managing the natural and built environments.

- toilet dump point at the Smythesdale gardens camping ground would increase tourism and stop people dumping sewerage waste in the bush.

- utilising existing buildings and infrastructure use for local organisations instead of letting them go to waste.
- involve local groups on the maintenance of the rail trail. Ask them to help.

HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS

Council convenes a special Council 'Hearing of Submissions' meeting for community members or stakeholders who wish to speak to Council regarding their submission. The Hearing of Submissions will be held on Tuesday 13 June 2017, 6pm at the Bannockburn Shire Hall.

Do you wish to be heard by Council in relation to your submission? Please choose one of the below options:

- Yes, I would like to present to Council in person
- Yes, but I would like to be represented by another person: _____
Full name required
- No, I do not wish to present to Council

PRIVACY STATEMENT

The Golden Plains Shire Council considers that the responsible handling of personal information is a key aspect of democratic governance, and is strongly committed to protecting an individual's right to privacy. Council will comply with the Information Privacy Principles as set out in the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014.

Council has in place a standard operating procedure that sets out the requirements for the management and handling of personal information.

If you have any queries regarding this Privacy Statement, please contact the Information Privacy Officer on 03 5220 7104.

Thank you for your submission, Council welcomes your feedback.

Full name: Glenn Harris

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Postcode : 3213

Email address: glennharris98@gmail.com

Phone number: 0427259376

Please type your submission in the box below.:

Managing Built and Natural environment.

My submission is to add extra strength into the plan to ensure the Natural environment and lands scape is not damaged for ever.

) My submission is based on past meetings and agreements with golden plain shire and Jim Ramsey approx 15 years ago.

- the dogs rock subdivision was sold to the people as a rural area that had a covernant stopping future smaller lots in the area,

This was discussed and agreed after several meetings at the batesford tennis court hall which included an external group to carry out a study. I thank the shire for including the residence in this process, then a border was put together that would adopt this plan which covered both sides of the dog rocks and north of the highway where new housing is being built now, this ran within 1000m from Gheringhap as there is a buffer zone in place.

-Then Jim Ramsey seeks to create smaller blocks on the north side and shire agrees to a plan which included a percent put on 1, 2, 3, 5 acre blocks , each size has a percentage put on it, I sent a letter to shire to object, as per normal Mr Ramsey rang me very quickly and wanted to talk, as per normal he made some offers which i did not accept, this is the same man who rang me to put a letter in against bill honey wanting to subdivide the south side of the rocks several years ago. I agreed to accept the percentage of blocks after talking to shire as i wouldnt stand a chance in court.

) - Then shire of their own back decided to change the plan again BUT THIS TIME DIDNT INVOLVE THE people who supported them 15 years ago, SO completely against shire words of involving the people and maintaining the environment OR IS THAT THE NORM when it suits them, I have alot of past meetings and questionairs that shire sent out and as always the report back from shire after the results has always been, is a high number of people wanting to keep the environment and rural look. Your changes to the plan of lots sizes is against all these things. I was told by two shire working that the planning minister directed shire to change the plan, i have a recorded discussion with shire on this, I also have another shire working telling me no thats not true we got sick of loosing in Vcat, so which is it.

I have a letter from the minister stating he did not make that decision and knew nothing about it. My Submission is for shire to adopt the past and present comments of there rate payers wishes to maintain a rural look by putting back the previous plan, border and rules on subdivisions. I am luck to have a large bird life, Koala beers, lizards,even a turtle once and many other little animals visit my place due to the way we have managed it. Governments all over the world now realise they must keep good size buffers of rural land availabe for the benifit of man kind and all

creatures to ensure the damage rate slows down. Keep you word and do the correct thing, NOT the correct thing for money people like Ramsey.

The people did accept the percentage of lot sizes as it still enforced most blocks over 2 acres but to allow all 1 acre is unacceptable, they all know the south side of the rocks will become this if they dont stand up now.

I am joining up with others to see if we can hold somebody individually or as a group in the shire for these lies and changes without involving the people as per the past.

Glenn Harris

Upload documents here:

Do you wish to be heard by Council in relation to your submission?: No, I do not wish to present to Council

Golden Plains Shire Plan 2017-2012

Submission by Julie Lee

I will be presenting a submission regarding Biodiversity and Risk Management pertaining to Bushfire Risk.

In the shire plan p.18 Natural and Built Environment

" Preserve and protect.....land use planning" No mention on how to achieve this in How we will achieve this?

p.19 Community told us what is important

" Fire Prevention....for community safety"

Again no mention on how this is to be achieved

Research tells us

" Rich in biodiversity...ad fauna" p.19

A number of... Risk Register". P19

Again no mention on how this is to be achieved?

Working as a town planner, ecologist and bushfire planner I see many issues regarding biodiversity and fire prevention that can be greatly improved.

There is a serious lack of knowledge/planning in these areas in Statutory and Strategic Planning. This often means that permit applications are lacking in documentation, surveys are not asked for and proper documented reports are misunderstood. (

Strategic Planning to promote safer towns/cities which should be of paramount importance- see Royal Commission 2009) are to be addressed later when the shire does not have an elevated level of available land and when funds are available. Other comments are to address these needs once permit applications markedly increase which needs to be proactive not reactive. Often reactive responses come too late in elevated risk areas.

A much safer community can be achieved and better environmental outcomes to protect our biodiversity and ensure compliance to state and catchment issues require a more informed statutory/ strategic department.

It is imperative that these needs are met to achieve objectives in the planning scheme. They are of high importance for human safety and to meet environmental outcomes. They should form part of strategic planning for existing elevated risk settlement. Better outcomes with planning permits will deliver in required documentation and permit conditions will provide a pathway to achieve good environmental condition. These both also apply to community engagement and need to form part of the Shires strategy to move forward

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Town/Suburb : Ballarat

Postcode : 3350

Email address: julie@nrlinks.com.au

Phone number: 0406459522

Please type your submission in the box below.:

I would like to make a submission that pertains to biodiversity and bushfire risk and management.

Upload documents here: Community Planning submission.pdf

Do you wish to be heard by Council in relation to your submission?: Yes, I would like to present to Council

Do you wish to present your submission in person?: Yes, I would like to appear in person

Dear Mr Nicholls CEO, Councilors and relevant officers,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Council Plan 2017-2022.

I write in support of a separate pillar for the natural environment within the plan. This initiative has been flagged a number of times within the community consultation process and also been favourably received by certain Councilors and staff.

The current draft continues the historical approach by the Golden Plains Council of integrating the natural and built environments. The result is the natural environment often appears to be something Council should be mindful of when considering development rather than standing alone and being valued in its own right. This is illustrated in the Organisational Structure graphic shown on Page 12 where the Environment and Sustainability is captured under Development.

I submit that the wider community has developed a strong and growing appreciation of the importance of protecting and enhancing the natural environment, not only for its own sake but also for the positive impacts on the health and well-being of community members.

The Golden Plains community wants to see the Council "Preserving and enhancing the natural environment and open space" and "Promoting and educating the community on caring for our environment" (page 19).

Many of the nearby rural councils have in the past succeeded in giving the environment its own theme or pillar within their plans. Examples include the Surf Coast, Moorabool, and the Corangamite Shires. They have recognised that environmental considerations attend most areas of Council business.

The Council has a role in not only managing its own reserves, roadside areas and open spaces but also partnering with our many community groups and with other agencies who are dedicating time, money and other resources to protecting the Shire's many environmental assets. It continues to play an indispensable role in the fight against invasive species including educating new residents about their environmental responsibilities and will need to address the challenges inherent in a changing climate.

Having its own pillar would allow a natural environmental perspective to inform other policies of Council. For instance continuing to foster renewable energy projects within the Shire and exploring agricultural opportunities for the growing recycled water resource are sensible initiatives for Economic Development. Programs such as the Council's Trailblazer Walkers foster community interaction with and appreciation of our natural environment and open spaces while promoting Healthy and Active communities.

Dear Mr Nicholls CEO, Councilors and relevant officers,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Strategic Resource Plan 2017-2022.

There are two areas of concern which I wish to address.

The first is the ratio of interest bearing loans and borrowings / rate revenue which is projected to move from 37.2% in the 2017-18 period to 64.8% and 62.7% in the 2019-20 and 2020-21 periods respectfully (page 12). This will put the figures outside the limit of 60% which I understand is currently accepted as best practice.

I am sympathetic to the need of new facilities for Council staff and the Civil Center in general. I respect the difficult decision faced by the current Councilors in contemplating nearly doubling council debt, especially those who campaigned on the promise to seek its reduction. However I ask that you examine ways of keeping the above ratio with the bounds of best practice perhaps by delaying other projects or by spreading this series of borrowings over a greater period.

Exceeding prudent best practice guidelines in my opinion should be an option only to be contemplated in extraordinary circumstances since the value of any limit is markedly diminished whenever it is transgressed.

The second is the seemingly high budgeted staff turnover figure of 13% (page 12). This appears to be higher than all comparable neighbouring Councils and nearly double that of the Surf Coast Shire. Staff retention is quite rightly regarded as an efficiency issue. I would encourage Council to contemplate measures that will seek to reduce this figure and bring it within single figures over the life of this plan.

Regards,

Cameron Steele
P.O. Box 12
Bannockburn 3331

Full name: Robyn Reeves

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Phone number: 03 5338 4500

Please type your submission in the box below.:

Ballarat Community Health (BCH) congratulates Golden Plains on its decision to incorporate its Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan into its broader Council Plan in recognition of the concept that 'health and wellbeing is everyone's responsibility' (Draft Council Plan p10) and looks forward to working with the Shire to support the implementation of the Shire's Health and Wellbeing Priorities. BCH would like to take this opportunity to make a few comments on specific aspects of the draft plan

ACCESS TO LOCAL HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

BCH notes that improving access to community and health services and facilities and the provision of social infrastructure to support community health and wellbeing was a key theme arising from the community consultation and is aware that limited access to health and community services, particularly in the Northern end of the Shire, is a key issue for Golden Plains Shire.

BCH congratulates Golden Plains for its proactive approach in planning for the provision of quality infrastructure across the Shire for the delivery of health, sporting and community facilities. BCH was pleased to partner with the Shire and other relevant stakeholders in the planning for a business, health and community Hub in Smythesdale, funded through Federal and State government funding, with a significant contribution from the Shire, which commenced in 2004. Since 2009 BCH has been operating a General Practice clinic from this hub. BCH has also provided a number of other programs and initiatives to promote and support community health and wellbeing from the Smythesdale hub, known as 'The Well', since the facility opened in 2009 and is keen to continue to do so.

It should be noted though, that our ability to partner with Golden Plains Shire in the provision of health and wellbeing services from the Well and/or other Shire premises is predicated on a partnership arrangement whereby BCH provides the health service, program or activity in the Shire facility but the Shire does not expect BCH to pay market prices for the hire of this facility. BCH is unable to sustain health service delivery in the Golden Plains Shire without this support due to low population numbers in the northern end of the shire; rising costs of service delivery and dwindling government income.

HIGHER PROPORTIONS OF PEOPLE SMOKING THAN THE STATE AVERAGE

BCH is aware that the smoking rates in Golden Plains are higher than the state average and

indeed higher than the rate in other local government areas in the Central Highlands Primary Care Partnership region, including the City of Ballarat. Smoking is still one of the biggest causes of premature death and preventable illness in Australia. BCH notes that the Shire makes mention of this in the draft plan under the section entitled: What the research tells us about the Shire (p 15) but does not address this at all in the draft Council plan.

There are a number of strategies that BCH encourages the Shire to take in relation to the Victorian Health and Wellbeing Plan's (2015-2019) priority Tobacco-free living – particularly given the higher than average rates of smoking in Golden Plains Shire, even if the Shire determines not to include this as a specific action area in the Council plan. These include but are not limited to:

- Banning smoking not only in but also around any Council owned premises and not providing any materials that facilitate smoking outside Council owned premises (such as ashtrays)
- Ensuring 'no smoking' signage is displayed prominently in Council owned buildings
- Developing a smoke-free events policy
- Promoting and participating in awareness raising events around tobacco free living such as World No Tobacco Day.

BCH is happy to support Golden Plains Shire with any work it might choose to do to advance the priority of Tobacco free living.

Upload documents here:

Do you wish to be heard by Council in relation to your submission?: No, I do not wish to present to Council



**Submission to Golden Plains Shire Council
in response to the Council Plan 2017-2021,
incorporating the Municipal Health and
Wellbeing Plan.**

Dear Mr Nicholls,

Women's Health Grampians (WHG) is a regional leader in women's health advocacy with the aim of improving women's equality, as the most significant way of enhancing their health and wellbeing. Our priorities are to prevent violence against women and improve women's sexual and reproductive health; underpinning these issues is the promotion of gender equality. Our role is to support a range of organisations including local government, to apply a gender lens to achieve healthy public policy and improve service provision for women.

In 2016, WHG led the development of the *Communities of Respect and Equality (CoRE) Plan: A plan to prevent violence against women and their children in the Grampians region 2016-2020*. Golden Plains Shire Council is a member of the CoRE Alliance and has committed to supporting activities that align with this plan. We want to encourage you to ensure your commitment, and the activities you will undertake as a member, are represented in the Council Plan. The key contact person for CoRE at Golden Plains Shire Council is Greg Anders, Director of Assets and Amenities.

Council Plan

WHG would like to congratulate Golden Plains Shire Council on the development of the Golden Plains Shire Council Plan 2017-2021, which also incorporates the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan.

This Plan aligns with WHG's Strategic Plan and we were pleased to see this Plan highlight the importance of the prevention of family violence (pg.11). With Golden Plains Shire Council being a signatory to the CoRE Plan and a member of the CoRE Alliance, we would encourage the council to formally cite this commitment in the Plan, as currently there is no specific reference. Such a statement reinforces that the council's investment in this issue is part of a broader, collective and integrated response to addressing violence against women by stakeholders across the Grampians region.

Preventing Violence Against Women

The Plan states an "integrated response to support those experiencing family violence" (pg. 11) will be prioritised by council. Whilst this response is undoubtedly necessary considering shire residents

have to frequently visit other regional cities (i.e. Geelong and Ballarat) to access family violence services, prevention of the issue is equally paramount and we would encourage council to consider explicit reference to primary prevention in the Plan.

Gender inequality is nationally and internationally recognised as the underlying cause of violence against women, thus preventing gender-based violence begins with promoting gender equality. Whilst the Plan informs the audience that family violence will be addressed through gender equity measures (i.e. the council will *"proactively address gender equity issues in our organisation and our community"* pg.11), we believe this statement needs to be transparent in implying that a gender equity approach is indeed primary prevention. Often the role of gender equity in the prevention of family violence is not easily communicated or understood by the community; therefore it is important that council extend every effort to articulate that the prevention of violence is at the forefront of its rhetoric and that gender equity is the conduit to achieving such prevention parameters.

A statement around council's inclusion in CoRE, words to the effect of 'council will support, encourage and act on the CoRE plan to prevent violence against women' could be included under the heading of *how we will go about it* (pg.14).

Gender Equality

It is very pleasing to note the council will *"proactively address gender equity issues in our organisation and our community"* (pg. 11). In light of 'Safe and Strong: A Victorian Gender Equality Strategy', released by the state government, which emphasises gender inequality as the key cause of violence against women, it is comforting to see this consistency reflected within a local council.

If the council is inclined to expand on the aforementioned statement, we would recommend the Plan consider specific reference to how gender equity issues would be addressed, such as through the application of a gender analysis to key projects, strategies and services, and/or the provision of training and resources to support culture change. Notably, the council have already begun work on a Gender Equity Action Plan through their CoRE involvement, and referencing this strategy serves to inform the community of the systematic approach taken by council to create an equal, valued, diverse and inclusive community and workforce.

Sexual and Reproductive Health

The Victorian Government recently released the first Victorian Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy. The strategy acknowledges that while access to sexual and reproductive health services is a fundamental right for every Victorian woman, there is often little or no access to the information, support and services that women require, particularly in rural and regional areas. It also recognises that family violence is associated with poor sexual and reproductive health outcomes with women being at greater risk of reproductive coercion, unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infection.

The strategy calls for partners across the health system, including primary health, women's health services and local government, to work together to improve access to services. Opportunities for collaboration with local government in the strategy include working with existing youth groups to

provide youth-friendly sexual health information, or to improve access to contraceptive choices, for example expanding access to condom vending machines in community-based settings.

WHG have begun work on a sexual and reproductive health plan for the Grampians region and can assist Golden Plains Shire Council to consider strategies and partnership opportunities to complement this state-wide strategy.

Health Profile and Data

The Council Plan has included data from the Municipal Scan Summary, providing snapshots on characteristics such as health and wellbeing outcomes, economic outcomes, and built environment issues across the shire. Whilst such data highlights for example that there is *"lower proportion of people undertaking physical activity on four or more days than for Victoria"* or *"high proportion of adults (57%) not eating enough fruit and vegetables"* (pg.15), this data is not separated by sex.

Only through the collection of sex-disaggregated data can we identify gender differences, thereby allowing the proper allocation of resources, programs and services to address such inequalities. We would encourage council to consider its methodology for collecting, analysing and presenting health profile data.

Gender is not only a determinant of health but also affects areas such as employment, education, access to the built environment, and leadership, therefore we advise a gender lens be applied to all four areas of which the council has nominated as its strategic priorities – *promoting healthy and connected communities; enhancing local economies; managing built and natural environments; and delivering good governance and leadership* (pg.13). WHG will continue to support council to consider gender in these areas.

The Plan's intention for evaluating improvements in the areas of family violence aims to rely on *"increased community safety indicators"* and *"reduced prevalence of family violence"* (pg. 14). While both data collection mediums are useful markers of progress, the limitations associated with these measures restrict a holistic understanding of progress in these areas. We would encourage council to broaden its assessment of perceptions of safety by using sex-disaggregated data, and broaden its monitoring of family violence prevalence through indicators of culture change such as using the VicHealth Indicators Survey, which measures gender equality in relationships.

Other key documents and policies to consider:

The [Victorian Public Health Plan 2015-2019](#) outlines the government's key priorities and strategies for improving health and wellbeing over four years. The Plan identifies 'Preventing Violence and Injury' and 'Sexual and Reproductive Health' as key health issues for the state. We therefore recommend that all Councils include these as issues in their Council Plans that also incorporate their Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plans.

The [Royal Commission into Family Violence Summary and Recommendations](#) report provides an extensive summary of the findings from the Royal Commission and outlines 227 recommendations to address family violence in Victoria. For Local Government, recommendation 94 is relevant for Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plans, as follows:

Recommendation 94: The Victorian Government amend section 26 of the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 (Vic)— which requires that councils prepare a municipal public health and wellbeing plan—to require councils to report on the measures the council proposes to take to reduce family violence and respond to the needs of victims. Alternatively, the Victorian Government could amend section 125 of the Local Government Act 1989 (Vic)—which requires each council to prepare a council plan—to require councils to include these measures in their council plan (rather than their health and wellbeing plans) [within 12 months]. (source: [Royal Commission into Family Violence Summary and Recommendations](#) March 2016, page 71.)

VICTORIAN STRATEGY FOR PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

[Free from Violence: Victoria's strategy to prevent family violence and all forms of violence against women](#) sets out the Victorian Governments response to the Royal Commission recommendations and provides a strategic direction for addressing both violence against women and family violence. The focus of this strategy is on primary prevention and long term structural and behavioural change at a population level.

VICTORIAN SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH STRATEGY

A Victorian Government Strategy '[Women's sexual and reproductive health: key priorities 2017-2020](#)' has been developed to improve the sexual and reproductive health of all Victorian women. This plan is relevant to regional and rural areas and WHG encourages local government to engage and collaborate with local services and organisations to provide greater education and access to sexual and reproductive health services for women in the region.

INQUIRY INTO WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SPORT AND ACTIVE RECREATION – A FIVE YEAR GAME PLAN FOR VICTORIA

Local Government has a key role in supporting recreation and sporting activities within the community and therefore can have a significant influence over the representation of women in recreation and sporting groups. WHG supports the Victorian Governments recommendations from the '[Inquiry into Women and Girls in Sport and Active Recreation – A Five Year Game Plan for Victoria](#)'. A recommendation from this is to 'Mandate gender balance and good governance principles'. This includes that a minimum quota of 40% should be set for female representation on governing bodies. WHG recommends that the Ararat Rural City Council reflects this requirement by the Victorian Government in the Council Plan.

Conclusion

The Golden Plains Shire Council Plan provides a comprehensive plan for the future health and wellbeing of the residents within its 56 vibrant rural communities.

Women's Health Grampians and Golden Plains Shire Council are partners in the implementation of the CoRE Plan and we look forward to working with the Council to implement key activities that support both the CoRE Plan and the Council Plan 2017-2021.

We look forward to seeing the implementation of the Council Plan and working in partnership with Golden Plains Shire Council. Please contact Dee Angelina Micevski, Regional Consultant- Central Highlands on 5322 4100 if you need any further information.

Regards,



Marianne Hendron
Chief Executive Officer
Women's Health Grampians



From John Anderson<j.anderson@bigpond.com>
Date Mon May 29 10:15:46 AM EST 2017
To Enquiries<Enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au>;
cc
bcc
Subject Budget Submission

I would like to ask why there is no target for reducing staff numbers?

A comment for supporting the proposed extension to the service centre will be an improvement in staff efficiency.

If this is the case I would have expected this to result in a reduction in staff.

I would like to hear your comments on this.

I also note the staff turn-over of 13% or one every two weeks (page 71)

What efforts are being employed to retain staff bearing in mind that the hiring and training of staff is very

expensive and time consuming.

Regards

John Anderson

Golden Plains Draft 2017/18 Budget Submission Jen & Kevin Blake

It is with some support and equally considerable concern that we make a submission to the 2017/18 draft Golden Plains Budget.

Whilst understanding the considerable challenge that faces Council working to work within the State Governments Fair Go Rates System we wish to highlight some of the very positive initiatives as well as some of the more worrying elements of this draft budget.

It is pleasing to see development of a playground at Batesford and we trust that a suitable location has been agreed with the community to allow a swift implementation of the funding should the budget measure be passed.

It is pleasing to see considerable funds being expended on rural roads including the Wingeel Road at the Rokewood Shelford end – This road is a major link road from Winchelsea to Warrambeen and then via Lonies Road to Ballarat. The improvements to this road need, as a matter of urgency, to include the widening of the crest close the Banks property as this is very narrow and this together with the increasing size of the many trucks that now traverse this road is a death trap waiting to happen. The widening of this crest is critical to the travelling public's safety. This work needs to be supported with work to improve the drainage along each section at the same time.

The Bells road seals are critical to preserving the ability for people to travel the road especially in wet weather. This also requires improvement to the drainage along each section.

The Pitfield Cressy Road Bridge is also a critical link especially for the cartage of grain and it is hoped that will be realigned and widened as a part of this upgrade.

Drainage

Pg 25 Table of four years spending capital works

Drainage noting that in 2016/17 the spend was \$63K nil in 2017/18 and 33K for the remaining. There will be considerable concern when rural drainage is almost non-existent partially due to the reduction in investment over the past term of council in an effort to balance the budget. It also needs to be recognised that there are township drainage issues that need considerable investment.

The result of underinvestment in rural drainage is gravel roads being severely impacted during wet weather as water washes away gravel due to the total lack of rural drains in workable condition. In the recent heavy autumn rains, it was evident that work needs to be undertaken to improve drainage for example on the Cressy Shelford road and other local roads with improvements to culverts that are currently not coping. Another example is Longs Road at Inverleigh where the water has been washing on the gravel for want of a proper drain – the cost of resheeting this road with gravel could have been averted with proper drainage as historically Gumley

South Road, Rokewood in earlier years where the road washed out several times and had to be replaced. Saving money on drainage is actually coming at an unaffordable cost of subsequent gravel resheeting.

Councillors need to understand that during the drought and following dryer than normal years there was minimal rainfall similar to that that caused recent events, drains were not a priority to clean out and the combined lack of maintenance, grass growth and lack of good road grading practice now sees this as a critical issue. Golden Plains can no longer ignore rural drainage.

P36 lists drainage maintenance notes expenditure of \$445K for Rural and township drainage maintenance.

It also needs to be recognised that there are considerable issues in some townships related to drainage that also require investment.

We humbly suggest there also needs to be a capital investment in drainage in the 2017/18 year.

Redevelopment of the Shire Offices – We need to look at the true costs of this project.

Major Initiative:

Golden Plains Shire Council is focused on providing quality customer service and achieving efficiencies for residents. As part of these efforts, this Budget allocates \$500k for community engagement, and detailed architectural and engineering designs for redevelopment of the existing customer service centre located at 2 Pope Street, Bannockburn.

Buildings – specialised 505 **1,988** 7,410 7,080 2,790

Buildings – unspecialised 4,355 **665** - 750 750

Heritage buildings - - - - -

Building improvements -

This was a project that the previous council deferred due to considerable discomfort about the significant borrowings that would be required to finance such a redevelopment.

Whilst there had been some initial costings prepared in my recollection there was little support for a redevelopment without prior community knowledge and approval. We believe that the community engagement including the conduction of a ratepayer plebiscite should take place prior to any further expenditure on architectural and engineering designs are developed.

It has been recognised that the public spaces within the current buildings provide few spaces for private conversations, but do the people want to find the funds to finance a redevelopment?

Golden Plains Shire is still defined as a small rural shire and as such the question needs to be asked can we afford such a redevelopment on borrowed funds.

A Plebiscite could be forwarded with rate notices with appropriated notification.

Investigation of current city and large business practices such as working from home, hot desking and the more efficient use of existing work spaces at Linton and Smythesdale and Bannockburn should also be undertaken.

Hot desking (sometimes called "non-reservation-based hoteling") is an office organization system which involves multiple workers using a single physical work station or surface during different time periods. In some instances, lockers are provided for non-permanent deskers to enable essential storage of business related items & personal belongings.

It is recognized that within any organization there are a defined number of staff who all day, every day are bound to their workstation but in an organization, such as Local Government this is not the case with all staff many who provide services outside the office and a proper evaluation needs to be undertaken prior to any redevelopment moving forward.

Council has since 1996 moved toward a paperless operation and this would greatly enhance this objective and thus further reduce costs.

This system is now being utilised to enable a more productive workforce that enables staff who do not require a permanent workspace to utilise a workspace without having a permanent desk thus reducing the need to provide this infrastructure and freeing up spaces for utilisation for other purposes. It is being utilized by many Government and non-government entities in order to reduce the cost of providing working spaces. Modern communication technology allows staff to work not only from home, but also across an organisation not just in one space.

The question is there a real need to expand the current offices needs to thoroughly investigated and should not be proceeded until the appointment of a new CEO [understanding and respecting that Mr Nicholls has indicated that he will retire at the end of this current term]. Currently \$500K would greatly contribute to maintenance needs of the current structures.

We need to face the fact that there has been a strong voice from the Batesford community wishing to move into the City of Greater Geelong and we noted at election time and in the years leading up to, there were many in the Bannockburn township who also echoed this sentiment. Equally there is a view heard West of Bannockburn that moving those areas into the City of Greater Geelong would enable

the establishment of a stronger rural municipality that could better meet the needs of those living the farming sector and more isolated rural townships.

Given the Fair Go Rates System will place increasing pressure on current municipalities it may lead to future amalgamations and do we really need to support a building that in a few years may be redundant?

In conclusion, we wish to thank council for the effort in framing the draft budget within very difficult funding parameters and the opportunity to submit our views. We would value the opportunity to speak to council and provide answers to questions that may arise from our submission.

Regards Jen & Kevin Blake

Attached will be recent photos of roads

Cressy Shelford Road Anzac Day 2017 about 11am prior to this the water had been about 12 inches deep across the road traffic hazard needs culvert attention and possibly additional culvert



Cressy Shelford Rd



Off Cressy Shelford Road lack of Culverts



Longas Rd Inverleigh water runs on the road no drainage





Longa Rd Inverleigh Needs attention now





To Mayor Phelan and all Golden Plains Councillors.

On behalf of the Golden Plains Arts Inc. I wish to convey our appreciation of the financial and administrative support that is given to local artists by the Council . Once again the Arts Trail proved to be a most successful event and with assistance from economic and community development leaders the event captured a broader field of impact .

The Arts Grants have also played a significant part in the development of the arts in the Plains with many artists and community benefiting from this funding .The Lets Make Art series of workshops on the 13th of May engaged over 50 members of the community all very eager to acquire skills and ideas about art and craft practices , many wishing to sign up for further workshops .

The exhibition titled the Pairing Project saw 11 artists from many different disciplines engaged in a challenge to create work through collaboration and inspiration .This highly successfull exhibition with over 60 people attending the opening , will be staged in other venues . Once again the funding through the Arts Grants scheme enabled this event to go ahead . There are many other successful projects that could be cited .

We wish to convey our hope that funding for Arts and Culture will remain at the level it has been in past years and your support for the arts remains as strong and positive as ever .

Yours Sincerely Rosalind Lawson

President Golden Plains Arts Inc.

72 Doc Rocks Road
BATESFORD 3213
28th May 2017

Mr Rod Nicholls
CEO GPS
Bannockburn

Dear Rod,

Subject: The Draft Budget 2017-2018

I would like to make the following observations concerning the subject draft budget. I also seek leave to speak to Council on these observations at the special meeting on the 13th July inst.

Council Borrowings:

I am extremely concerned with the level of borrowings detailed in the Draft Budget for 2017-2018.

It would seem that borrowings are scheduled to increase from the current level of \$7.5M to \$14.8M in 2019-2020 despite repayments of over \$3.0M in that intervening period.

This means that the overall INCREASE in debt will be close to \$10.3M.

\$14.8M represents 65% of the Rates and charges revenue scheduled for 2019-2020. Page 8 of the draft budget suggests that the prudent limit and best practice is 60% and that the Council target is 30%

At the moment we have 10846 rateable properties. Let us assume an increase of 200 per year. That means by 2019 there would be 11246 rateable properties.

This means that the borrowings will be \$13160 per property. However, there will also be interest to pay on these loans.

The budget assumes long term borrowing will be at 4% interest.

I would suggest the borrowings as detailed would be repaid over a period of 25 years or even 30 years. A review of interest rates over the past 25 to 30 years period averages as over 7%.

I calculate that even if interest rates only increase to average 6% the overall cost of these borrowings will be in excess of \$20.0M or close to \$18,000 per assessment.

Most ratepayers cannot afford this impost.

Why are the borrowings required:

There is nothing in the budget to explain what these forward borrowings are for. Certainly there is no suggestion that it is to buy land so that Batesford can have the 5 acres it requires to facilitate a public space for a sports oval or community centre or a men's shed. Or even to re-establish forgotten and overgrown footpaths in the area.

I can only suppose that these huge borrowings comprise the second tranche for the proposed service centre expansion. And I suggest that is precisely what it is intended for.

Does that means the Council staff want to build a new service centre at a cost in excess of \$10.0M?

If so, how have they arrived at this figure? Have they already decided what they are proposing to build without public consultation?

Any new project that I have ever been involved in as a Chartered Engineer of some 55 years standing commences with a list of needs and wants. Has Council seen such a list?

Before Council spends any of our rates money, and that includes the \$500,000 in this years budget, we want to see a list of the basic needs required to meet those perceived as being necessary to house all Council staff under one roof.

I urge Council not to release any funds from the first tranche of \$500,000 until these basic needs are reviewed, underwritten by the ratepayers and approved by Council.

I also urge Council to make it a condition that any design of an extension to the existing service centre is based on the identified needs and is sent out to tender so that competitive assessments can be determined.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the subject draft budget

Yours Sincerely

signed

David Head
Ratepayer

Full name: Matt Jury

Postal address: 269 Thompson rd

Town/Suburb: Maude

Postcode: 3331

Email address: matt.jury@kalari.com.au

Phone number: 0408559946

Please type your submission in the box below.:

I would like to have a submission put in to assist with the Lethbridge Tennis club light project with a power upgrade.

this would be in Capital works section page 58

kind regards

Upload documents here:

Do you wish to be heard by Council in relation to your submission?: No, I do not wish to present to Council

Submission for the 2017-2018 Golden Plains Shire, Draft Budget.

Councillors, I would like you to reconsider two aspects of the 2017/18 Draft Budget.

Firstly the Play Space project.

Assuming it is to be located in Tolloora Way Batesford, on the north side of the Dog Rocks Reserve. As chairman of the Dog Rocks Reserve Management Committee we do not consider this area suitable for a play space.

It is located on a dangerous corner and despite the 50 kmh speed limit, many cars move along this section of roadway at a speed in excess of this. There are no footpaths in this area, therefore people and children accessing this play space must walk on the roadway. A very dangerous situation. It also detracts from the original vision of the Honey Family when they donated the land to the Trust for Nature, of an open and uncluttered view of the Dog Rocks from the surrounding area.

I therefore ask you to reconsider the location of the play space and relocate it to one of the other more suitable locations in the area.

Secondly the Redevelopment of the Shire Offices.

This project is a very large and expensive undertaking and a huge long term financial commitment for the Shire. It will place a large financial burden on the ratepayers for a very long time. To spend \$500,000 in this budget with no commitment at this point for the rest of the project may cause the \$500,000 to be totally wasted.

I realise the office staff in portable buildings need something better, but this project as proposed earlier, is far too grand for the needs of Golden Plains Shire.

I therefore ask you to reconsider the size of this project and carry out public consultation on this project before any money is spent.

This \$500,000 would be much more useful spent on roads and drainage in rural areas where there are real problems.

Peter Keays

501 Fyansford-Gheringhap Road,
Gheringhap, 3331

Full name: Pieter Kulk

Postal address: Po Box 2

Town/Suburb: Bannockburn

Postcode: 3331

Email address: kulk@netcon.net.au

Phone number: 0425140593

Please type your submission in the box below.:

On page 5 of the budget,

1 It states no additional staff resources will be funded by rates, but page 26 allows for additional staff - How will this be funded and is this funding ongoing in future years.

2 It mentions deferred replacement of fleet vehicles, but items 08000 to 08015 on page 59 and 60 refer to \$830k for vehicle purchases are these new requirements and not for replacement purposes or not classified as fleet vehicles.

Page 8

1 Mentions, surplus being the net result of total revenue and expenditure, including non-cash items such as depreciation. As the depreciation and amortization table on page 50 are non-cash items, where would the finance raised through the budget as a listed expense for these items be held or used.

Roads being the major item at over \$4m are listed as a separate component for maintenance expense in the budget.

Page 9

1 Does using debt finance where appropriate mean there could be more borrowings.

2 High population growth may be challenging but would also bring in more finance through subdivision developments and then rates and user pay items.

Page 10

1 greater demands for footpaths, curb and channel, drainage and sealed roads, surely on all new subdivision developments are now the responsibility of the developer which would limit the cost to older areas only.

Page 11

1 How does borrowing costs decrease if we plan to increase our borrowing by \$650k unless we are at the end of term for the high interest loans.

Page 13

1 Should a realistic total costing of the council facilities be done and presented to the ratepayers before the initial \$500k is approved and do we expect any grants toward the cost.

2 Why is more money spent in smaller populated areas such as Rokewood and Maude.

Page 18

1 States no call is expected to be made and no provision has been in 2017-18, does this mean there is no knowledge of anyone due to retire who could draw on the super fund.

Page 24

1 Receipt from ratepayers up 3.65% does this mean that property revaluation is expected to raise it above the 2%

2 Where does the finance for the 931% increase, in the repayment of borrowings to 2019-20 come from.

Page 60 and 65

Is the Kubota 4wd tractor for \$170k on page 60 the same as the as the one on page 65 for \$89k

Upload documents here:

Do you wish to be heard by Council in relation to your submission?: Yes, I would like to present to Council

Do you wish to present your submission in person?: Yes, I would like to appear in person

31st May 2017

Mr Rod Nicholls
Chief Executive Officer
Golden Plains Shire
2 Pope Street
BANNOCKBURN VIC 3331

Golden Plains Shire Council	
BluePoint	
File No(s)	_____

	3 1 MAY 2017
Owner	_____
Manager	_____
Reader(s)	_____
Doc Ref	_____

RE: MAUDE COMMUNITY HALL BUDGET PROPOSAL

Dear Rod,

I am writing on behalf of the Maude Recreation Reserve Committee of Management and Maude Community Planning group to extend our thanks to Golden Plains Shire for the encouragement and support in progressing financial planning for construction of a new venue in Maude.

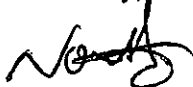
The current venue (ex-army huts) are currently in need of major repairs and maintenance which is challenging given the huge expense involved for an aging building.

Additionally, I would like to acknowledge the strong relationship the Maude and surrounding townships have enjoyed with Golden Plains Shire over many years and residents are excited about the future hall development through the current budget process.

I am pleased to advise that members of both Maude community groups endorse council budget preparation.

The Maude community through consultation with local residents have identified clear need for a new facility that reflects the changing community needs.

Yours truly,



Noel Brebner
Chairman
Maude Recreation Reserve Committee of Management

From: Murray Satchell [<mailto:mjbmsat@chariot.com.au>]

Sent: Friday, 2 June 2017 11:45 AM

To: Enquiries <Enquiries@GPLAINS.vic.gov.au>

Cc: Brebner Noel <noelb59.NB@gmail.com>; Gray Fiona <fiona.gray@deakin.edu.au>; Harper Bruce <BHarper@geelongcity.vic.gov.au>; Catherine Schurmann <catherine.schurmann@bigpond.com>; alan_pauline@skymesh.com.au

Subject: Maude Hall

Attention Rod Nicholls and Councillors

This email is to ask the Council to put the Maude Hall Project into this year's budget.

We have been Maude residents since Jan 1967 and this period of time seen the township which then consisted of the school and its residence, a church, two occupied houses and an un-occupied house. There was one farm house nearby (Knights) and another two homes (Spiller and Groot) within a mile of the township. Now there are 40 homes in the same area. As the Maude township is the focal point for the local district, She-oaks and to a lesser extent Steiglitz there will be at least another 100 homes in the area. Back in 1967 the tennis "room" was a small corrugated iron, unpowered shed which was used to store equipment.

In the early 1970's we went up market and with the help of the Shire acquired half an army hut which was then converted to a hall/clubhouse facility by the tennis club members. Over the years it has served us well, it has undergone a minor extension to facilitate a kitchen upgrade and has been reclad and reroofed. Now after almost 50 years on site this old corrugated iron shed is now fairly primitive, badly in need of repairs and inadequate for current usage.

Once it was used only as a tennis club clubrooms and for the occasional meeting. Now with the increased local population, the greater capacity for people to visit the area, the development of the Recreation Reserve, the need for a local community facility as the school no longer exists there is a real need for an upgraded facility to cater for increased usage. Most other townships in the area have their halls or community hubs and we need one as well. It is important for the identity of the district and its residents. The council has been supplied with usage details and a public meeting which has attended by Councillors Evans and Rowe was overwhelming in its support for the upgrade.

The moving of the site from the edge of the road to a site further into the site should also help to alleviate a safety and parking issue that is a concern.

I would urge all councillors to support this project. The Maude, She-oaks and Steiglitz communities are, like all the other smaller district communities, a valuable part of the Golden Plains Shire and we are in need of a replacement facility

Yours faithfully

Murray and Bettine Satchell

Message protected by MailGuard: e-mail anti-virus, anti-spam and content filtering.
<http://www.mailguard.com.au/tt>

Full name: Bill MacNeill / Smythesdale Progress Association

Postal address: C/O Post Office

Town/Suburb: Smythesdale

Postcode: 3351

Email address: billandruth59@optusnet.com.au

Phone number: 5342 8752

Glen Plains Shire Council	
BluePoint	
File No(s)	01-01-014
12 MAY 2017	
Owner	Jan
Manager	Richard
Reader(s)	
Doc Ref	PROCESSED

Please type your submission in the box below.:

Parks, Open Spaces and Streetscapes 04079 Smythesdale Gardens Public Toilet - Sewer Connection

The Smythesdale Progress Association wishes to express its enthusiastic support for this project which it has proposed to the Shire for a number of year. Usage of the Gardens has been increasing significantly in recent years which has placed great pressure on the old septic system, the drainage lines are no longer adequate for this increased usage and we have also had to pump out the tank on a more frequent basis. Recently the Shire approached the Association seeking to construct a disabled toilet however it was found that the current septic system could not cope with another toilet and also would require upgrading and relocation in order to place the toilet in the most accessible location. The development of the town sewerage system has brought many benefits to Smythesdale and the connection of the Gardens to this system presents an opportunity for a secure long term solution to the disposal of waste from the community facilities there. The Progress provides practical and effective management of the Gardens and is well placed to ensure that on-going supervision of the connection is maintained.

Upload documents here:

Do you wish to be heard by Council in relation to your submission?: No, I do not wish to present to Council

From Greg Vaughan<gregvaughan54@hotmail.com>
Date Thu May 25 11:56:39 PM EST 2017
To Enquiries<Enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au>;
cc
bcc
Subject budget submission 2017/2018

Chief Executive Officer
Golden Plains Council
Pope Street
Bannockburn 3331

Ref: 4/2017

25/5/2017

Budget Submission 2017/2018

Could I please have an update on the Mc Phillips Rd carriageway? The current visual up date for 2016/2017 of road treatment and kerbing, does not appear to be completed. From memory it was an \$80,000 priority one item. Is there any Budget Item set aside in this budget?

Community Grants. An allocation of funding is currently proposed for the coming budget. Previous concerns have been raised re the method and applications submitted. Jill EVANS indicated that a new process and application form would be revised for this year. Was this completed prior to issuing the document this year?

Regards

Greg VAUGHAN.

Please acknowledge receipt of this e mail. Previous e mail was sent on 23/05/2017.

From: David Farrell <dave.farrell7@gmail.com>
Date: 12 June 2017 at 9:02:25 pm AEST
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Cc: dveenstra@gplains.vic.gov.au
Subject: **Batesford Community Playspace - letter of support**

Dear Councillors,

As a committee representative of the BCPG (Batesford Community Planning Group) Inc. I would like to take the brief opportunity to provide a formal letter of support (attached) in regards to the funding of the first Batesford community playspace - a fantastic step forward for our young and growing community and one that has been in the plans for some time.

Unfortunately many of those in our community who have openly expressed support for the exciting recreation space are not able to make the Tuesday meeting to express support in person and fear minority objections may be louder than the true majority support. We also understand that this funding item will be only one of many to be addressed at the meeting.

BCPG met with the Golden Plains recreation team recently and were very pleased to see community feedback has been addressed within the concept design such as improved safety in design and screening vegetation for nearby residents.

In an effort to better portray the local support for this playspace, we undertook an anonymous online survey open only to Batesford residents within a Facebook group of more than 200 members. With a response rate over 30% of members, it highlights the effectiveness of social media within communities and the results were overwhelmingly supportive, with 85% of all respondents in support of the community playspace.

We look forward to seeing this development come to life in the near future with your support.

Kind Regards,

David Farrell
President,
Batesford Community Planning Group Inc.

