



GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

AGENDA

Council Meeting

6.00pm Tuesday 8 June 2021

VENUE:
Virtual Meeting

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING
6.00pm Tuesday 29 June 2021

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 BUSINESS REPORTS FOR DECISION

5.1 2021-22 DRAFT ANNUAL BUDGET SUBMISSIONS

File Number:

Author: Fiona Rae, Manager Finance

Authoriser: Philippa O'Sullivan, Director Corporate Services

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receive and note the public submissions relating to the Draft 2021-22 Annual Budget.
2. Hear the submissions from those requesting to address Council in support of their submission lodged under Section 96 of *the Local Government Act, 2020*.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its meeting held on 20 April 2021, Council resolved to place on public exhibition the 2021-22 Draft Annual Budget in accordance with Section 96 of *the Local Government Act, 2020* (the Act).

Public submissions along with the individual submissions that have been received were recorded in a register that was previously presented to Councillors and outlined details of the submission. Fourteen (14) public submissions have been received. of which five (5) submitters have requested to be heard.

The 2021-22 Draft Annual Budget will be presented to the 29 June 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting for final adoption

BACKGROUND

Council is required to prepare a budget annually in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* which is required to be adopted by 30 June 2021 following a one month public consultation process.

Submissions from the public were invited via email, hardcopy mail or through Council's Have Your Say webpage, with a closing date of 31 May 2021. In addition, Council included a four page article in the Golden Plains Shire Gazette on the 2021-22 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 2021-22 budget.

The 2021-22 Draft Annual Budget will be presented to the 29 June 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting for final adoption.

DISCUSSION

Fourteen (14) public submissions were received, of which five (5) submitters have requested to be heard. The hearing of submissions will commence at 6.00pm on 8 June 2021, with 5 minutes being allowed for each presentation. Proposed responses to submitters are included in the attached register of public submissions.

Summary of Submissions

A total number of 14 submissions were received, summarised as follows, with 5 submitters requesting to be heard and the order of hearing submissions indicated in the table below:

Request to be heard / Order	Township	Summary of Submission
No	Shelford	What is the \$44m in services?
Yes - 1	Bannockburn	Pedestrian crossings on High Street and Milton Street need to be made safer.
No	Bannockburn	\$50 increase in rubbish removal, will the money complete the jobs specified and if so will the charge be reduced next year. Will there be an increase of mowing of roadsides and reserves to include smaller townships such as Maude Recreation Reserve.
No	Bannockburn	\$50 garbage charge increase and only fortnightly collection. And we have to also pay for the 10% pay rise for councillors.
No	Inverleigh	\$50 garbage charge increase is not 1.5% as per the rate cap, fortnightly collection is asking for disease. If increase fees should revisit what can be recycled and go back to weekly garbage collection.
No	Cambrian Hill	Bore in Heinz Road is important in the event of a dry summer my stock could not be supported from my dam. I depend on the bore for my horses and a few cows and hope it can be reopened.
Yes - 2		\$50 garbage charge increase should be \$39.50 as he doesn't believe the landfill rehabilitation costs will be as high as estimated, waste charge surplus since 17-18 totals \$1.178m and only \$868k in reserve. Should remove 85% broadacre farm differential as unreasonable load placed on residential sector. Confused how residential valuations have increased by 12.83% but only generated a 1% increase in rates. Private works budgeted to generate \$6k loss but should be a profit, Rokewood transfer station still running at large loss so should be shut down, no records management budget.
No	Dereel	Don't agree with extra garbage charge
Yes - 3	Inverleigh	Council should consider formal engagement, concerned with lack of COVID19 signage, soap and sanitiser at Council public facilities, note reduction in community facilities and community transport budgets and question the increase in the insurance budget. Strongly support Farm Broadacre differential to be the same as Residential. Believe waste management reserve should be used to reduce waste charges.
Yes - 4	Bannockburn	Deliberative consultation should be considered next year. Lomandra Drive income is propping up operating budget rather than reducing debt, continued underlying deficits not sustainable, expectation windfarm revenue would be directed toward easing the rate burden on residents. Increase in garbage charge not justified as should not include street sweeper or roadside stockpile removal costs and disappointed action not taken to significantly progress the range of waste services. Do not believe the municipal charge is providing a fair and equitable system of rating as lower valued properties are forced to pay more. Staff turnover still significantly higher than other councils.
Yes - 5	Barunah Park	Support continuation of rating differentials for farming

		properties.
No		Farm differential should stay the same or be reduced.
No	Lethbridge	Do not agree with raising the rates for Broadacre Farming from 85% to 100%
No	Bannockburn	Strongly object to raising the farming rates to 100%

Key Points

Pedestrian Crossings

Submission requesting the pedestrian crossings on High Street and Milton Streets be made safer for children and the public to cross.

Waste Management Charge

Four submissions queried the \$50 increase in the annual garbage charge and 2 commented on the garbage collection service changed from weekly to fortnightly.

One submission stated that the annual garbage charge increase is higher than the 1.5% rate cap increase.

Broadacre Farm Rate

Submission stating the broadacre farm rating differential should be the same as the residential rating differential as we are placing an unreasonable load on the residential sector. The rating review completed in 2019-20 resulting in the removal of all growth differentials which had the impact of reducing the rate shock in growth areas as each rating category now has the same rate differential applied (e.g. all residential customers now have the same rate differential applied). The review also resulted in three farming differentials with a new differential created for farms under 40 hectares, with a lower rate differential applied to broadacre and intensive farm categories to provide support for those farming industries within the Shire.

Other submissions received strongly supporting the continuation of the farming differentials to support the farming sector.

Councillor Pay Rise

Submission opposing pay rise for Councillors. The change in allowance category was justified due to the increase in number of residents in the Shire and the increase in the revenue numbers.

COVID-19 public supplies

One submission raised the concern on a lack of COVID-19 signage, soap and sanitiser provided at public facilities.

Other Income Sources

One submission suggested that the income from Lomandra Drive land sales should be used to repay debt and concerns the budget is relying on this income source. The suggestion was made that there is an expectation that windfarm income would be directed towards easing the rate burden on residents.

Public Engagement Process

Two submissions raised the point that deliberative engagement with the public should commence much earlier than the current timing of May when the budget is to be adopted by the end of June. A formal engagement process involving key stakeholder is requested to allow more input from the budget into the budget process.

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

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 2021-22 Annual Budget has been placed on public exhibition as part of the legislated four week consultation period. The draft budget will be made available for inspection and comment up to the 31 May 2021. Any person can make written comment on any proposal contained in the budget. Feedback will be heard at a council meeting on 8 June 2021.

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 2021-22 Draft Budget has been prepared ensuring consistency with Council's long term financial plan, and also ensuring alignment with the 2021-2025 Council Plan.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The 2021-22 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 2021-22 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 2021-22 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 2021-22 Draft Budget has been placed on public exhibition for a four week period up to 31 May 2021, with public submissions considered at the 8 June 2021 Council meeting, and adoption of the budget at the 22 June 2021 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).

OPTIONS**Option 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 8 June 2021.

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 2021-22 Draft Budget will be considered at the 8 June 2021 Council meeting and any members of the public who have requested to be heard at the meeting will be provided with a 5 minute time allocation to speak, with responses to public submissions provided following the 8 June 2021 meeting.

5.2 MAYOR AND COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES SUBMISSIONS

File Number:

Author: Emily Chapman, Governance and Corporate Services Administration Officer

Authoriser: Philippa O'Sullivan, Director Corporate Services

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receive and note the public submissions on the review of Mayoral and Councillor allowances.
2. Hear the submissions from those requesting to address Council in support of their submission lodged under Section 96 of *the Local Government Act, 2020*.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its 27 April Council Meeting, Council endorsed an increase to the Mayoral and Councillor allowances to reflect the increasing population that the Mayor and Councillors now represent and serve. The proposed allowances, which include the 9.5% superannuation equivalent are:

- Mayoral allowance: \$72,268.40
- Councillor allowances: \$25,237.58

At the same meeting, Council also resolved to invite public submissions on the remuneration levels for Mayoral and Councillor allowances between 27 April 2021 and 25 May 2021, in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989 and as part of the public consultation was an opportunity for submitters to present at the 8 June Council meeting

As a result of the public consultation period a total of 5 submissions were lodged using the online submission form. A table of the submissions along with the individual submissions received has been previously provided to Council for consideration. All 5 submitters have requested not to be heard at the meeting.

BACKGROUND

Mayors and Councillors are entitled to receive an allowance while performing their duties as an elected official.

A key reform of the Local Government Act 2020 (LGA2020) is the transfer of responsibilities in determining mayoral, deputy mayoral and councillor allowances from the Minister for Local Government to the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal (The Tribunal). However, as the Minister has not yet requested a determination by the Tribunal, Local Government Victoria has advised that the framework under the Local Government Act 1989 (LGA1989) continues to apply until the first determination is made by the Tribunal under the LGA2020.

As such, in accordance with section 74(1) of the LGA89, Council's must review and determine the level of Mayoral and Councillor allowances within 6 months of general election or by 30 June 2021, whichever is later. This also includes a period of public exhibition to allow submissions from the public before a final decision is made by 30 June 2021.

DISCUSSION

The public consultation on Mayoral and Councillor allowances was held between 27 April 2021 and 25 May 2021 with a total of 5 submissions received via Council's Have Your Say Page.

A total of 5 submissions received with 4 of the 5 stating that no increase should be paid. The other submission suggested an increase of 6% over 4 years (1.5% per annum) based on the rate cap would be fair. A summary of submissions is provided below.

Request to be heard	Suburb/Town	Summary of Submission
No	Haddon	Should not occur.
No	Bannockburn	They were elected to reduce rates not raise them. Which is what will happen if they get an allowance raise. Allowance raise is not justified.
No	Smythesdale	It appears that historically allowances have been adjusted annually, the report states in the conclusion "Council has one opportunity during its term to set the levels of remuneration for the Mayor and Councillors". Based on this I feel that an increase based on the rate cap would be fair that is a 6% increase over the 4 years at 1.5% pa
No	Enfield	As the Golden Plains Council budget is showing a loss, any new increase of allowances at this stage will put the council further in debt. At this stage the allowance is declined. I will not accept a rate increase or any increases from the Golden Plains Council to cover this allowance increase.
No	Maude	<p>There should be no increase to the Mayoral and Councillor Allowances.</p> <p>The Mayoral and Councillor allowances should remain at the current levels for the following reasons</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The current rate is already within the range recommended by the Remuneration Tribunal for category 2 councils. 2. it would be hypocritical of councillors to accept increases in allowances far above those enjoyed by the council workforce as negotiated through EBA agreements. Annual increase under the EBA are (and will continue to be) considerably less than the 10% being proposed for councillors; 3. there has been no demonstrated increase in productivity of councillors; 4. there has been no demonstrated improvement in representation of the Golden Plains constituents by councillors; 5. no independent review has been undertaken to demonstrate an increased workload is being undertaken by councillors.

When making the determination on allowances Council should also consider any feedback received directly at Councillor Conversation Posts, or via direct communication.

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)	No
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)	No
Risk Assessment	No
Communication	Yes
Human Rights Charter	No

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

In conducting this statutory review, Council will be ensuring it is giving priority to the Governance Principles contained in the Local Government Act 2020, including the need to achieve best outcomes for the municipal community.

POLICY/RELEVANT LAW

This process ensures Council's compliance with the Local Government Act 1989 which remains in force until such time as the Minister requests a determination by the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal under the new Local Government Act.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Information on the review of Mayoral and Councillor allowances and how to lodge a submission was posted to Council's website as a news story with a link to Council's Have Your Say Page. Residents were encouraged to make a submission via the online form, by email or post.

Promotion of the engagement was also included on Council's social media pages, appearing twice on Facebook, twice on Twitter, and on Linked In via a post about Council's newly launched Engage monthly newsletter.

An article on the proposed increase also appeared in the Golden Plains Times on the 6th May.

PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

Mayoral and Councillor allowances are determined in open Council with payments being published on the website and through the Council Chamber on a quarterly basis. A summary is also included in Council's Annual Report.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

A budget for Mayoral and Councillor allowances is in place to cover the costs outlined in this report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

There are no identified risk implications associated with this report.

COMMUNICATION

Once Council makes the final determination on Mayoral and Councillor allowances at the 29 June 2021 meeting, the decision will be made public via the livestreaming of the Council meeting and publishing of the minutes via Council's webpage within 7 days of the 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 – that Council support the recommendation as detailed

This option is recommended by officers as the recommendation will ensure compliance with Council's obligations under the legislation.

Option 2 – that Council do not support the recommendation as detailed

This option is not recommended by officers as failure to carry out the review in accordance with the legislation would be a compliance breach.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

CONCLUSION

Following the results of the public consultation held between 27 April 2021 and 25 May 2021 it is recommended that Council receive and note the submissions and make a final determination on the Mayoral and Councillor allowances at the Council Meeting being held on 29 June 2021.

5.3 2021-2025 DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN SUBMISSIONS

File Number:**Author:** Ben Jordan, Manager Community and Council Planning**Authoriser:** Lisa Letic, Director Community Services**Attachments:** Nil**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Receive and note the submissions received relating to the Draft Council Plan 2021-2025.
 2. Hear the submissions from those requesting to address Council in support of their submission lodged for the Draft Council Plan 2021-2025.
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its meeting held on 27 April 2021, Council resolved to place on public exhibition the Draft Council Plan 2021-2025 as prepared in accordance with Section 90 of the *Local Government Act, 2020*.

The Draft Council Plan 2021-2025 was provided for public exhibition and submission for the period 28 April to 26 May 2021. Ten public submissions have been received and recorded in a register that was previously presented to Councillors. Four of the submitters have requested to be heard at the Special Council Meeting on 8 June.

The Council Plan 2021-2025 will be presented for adoption at the Council Meeting on 29 June 2021.

BACKGROUND

The *Local Government Act 2020* requires that Council develop and adopt a new Council Plan by 31 October in the year following an election. The current Council Plan (2017-2021) comes to a close on 30 June 2021.

A number of stages were undertaken in developing the Draft Council Plan 2021-2025 from late 2020 to April 2021 including adoption of the Golden Plains Shire Community Vision 2040, gathering of internal priorities from across Council, extensive community engagement and a series of Councillor workshops.

On 27 April 2021, Council endorsed the Draft Council Plan 2021-2025 to be made available for public exhibition and submission from 28 April until 26 May 2021. Promotion and engagement of the public exhibition and submission process for the Draft Council Plan was undertaken to encourage and provide the opportunity for community feedback.

The Draft Council Plan 2021-2025 incorporates health and wellbeing matters and the legislative requirements of a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (*Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*). The ensures an integrated approach to the planning and implementing of actions is undertaken to ensure health and wellbeing is embedded as a responsibility across all areas of Council.

As per the endorsed project plan, the Council Plan 2021-2025 will be presented to the 29 June 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting for final adoption.

DISCUSSION

The public exhibition and submission process for the Draft Golden Plains Shire Council Plan 2021-2025 was extensively promoted during April and May 2021 alongside the Draft Budget. A media release, and promotion via publications (including the Gazette), online and through social media

platforms were provided. Copies of the Draft Council Plan were also made available for viewing online, at Council Customer Service Centres.

Two specific Councillor engagement events around the Draft Council Plan and Draft Budget were undertaken with the Councillors attending the Golden Plains Farmers Market on 1 May and Coffee with Councillors sessions held at nine community locations on Saturday 8 May.

Ten public submissions were received, of which four submitters have requested to be heard as follows:

- 2 have requested to speak to their submission in person
- 2 have requested to speak to their submission online due to travel distance

The hearing of submissions at the Special Council Meeting will commence at 6.00pm on 8 June 2021, with 5 minutes being allowed for each presentation.

A summary of the submissions is provided below. All submissions have been presented to Councillors in their entirety on 1 June.

Date Submitted	Request to be heard / Order	Township	Summary of Submission
5 May	Yes - 1	Teesdale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add the Teesdale to Bannockburn off road Trail to the Council Plan. This has been a community priority for around 15 years
24 May	No	Teesdale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declare a Climate Emergency • Promote a number of sustainability items - sustainable farming and agriculture, • support sustainable housing, reduce gas and promote electricity, support recycling and sustainable waste treatment • Protect old growth gums, habitat and local wildlife. • Improve public transport, provide alternative transport options.
25 May	Yes - 2	Smythes Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smythesdale Snake Valley Rd and Whites Bridge in Council Plan. • Better pedestrian links around Smythesdale joining the township and key • public/recreation areas – to link in with the Rail Tail project. • A park run in Smythesdale. • A local project to clean the river and promote community participation.
25 May	No	Teesdale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of items relating to the review of the Domestic Animal Management Plan, including: • Controlling of wandering and nuisance cats – need for a curfews, pens, enclosures • Impact of cats on native wildlife, including birds • More resources for animal management and enforcement.
24 May	No	Teesdale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controls on housing developments and their impact on natural environment • Activities to mitigate/address Climate Change

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking and cycling trails. • Increased public transport. • Animal control including consideration of a cat curfew and action on rabbit plague • Involvement of indigenous people on environmental matters.
26 May	No	Inverleigh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declare a Climate Emergency. • Assisting farms with practices and resilience to extreme weather. • Reducing household energy and carbon footprint, including waste management, energy solution, green space. • Improving and protecting rivers, streams and native wildlife habitat • Community gardens, workshops e.g. composting and tree planting. • Improved public transport. • Support for a LGBTQIA+ Youth space/service.
26 May	No	Inverleigh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaring a Climate Emergency. • Climate change actions to both mitigate and adapt. • Renewable energy and zero carbon targets and supporting businesses/farmers to switch away from fossil fuels.
26 May	Yes - 3	Teesdale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Off-road cycling and pedestrian trails. • Better public transport. • Protecting indigenous landscape and natural habitat. • Housing developments, wildlife corridors and speed limits. • Weed and feral animal control.
26 May	Yes - 4	Newtown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and wellbeing underpins everything. • Addressing climate change is critical, including a Climate Change Action Plan, emission reduction targets and clean/green technology. • Sustainable development. • Mental health initiatives. • Partnering with community on environmental issues.
27 May	No	Regional Consultant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further emphasis on preventing and responding to family violence, including measures and language. • Stronger images/references to reflect diversity. • Highlighting sexual and reproductive health. • Indicator options for community safety. • Gender equity programs and applying an intersectional gender lens. • Support and recognition of LGBTQIA+ communities.

REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS

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)	Yes
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)	No
Risk Assessment	Yes
Communication	Yes
Human Rights Charter	No

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

The governance principles in Section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, have been applied to the development of the Council Plan 2021-2025 including:

- Engaging the community in strategic planning and strategic decision making.
- Priority is given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations
- Taking into account regional, state and national plans and policies in strategic planning and decision making.
- Ensuring transparency of Council decisions, actions and information.

POLICY/RELEVANT LAW

The development, public exhibition and adoption of the Council Plan 2021-2025 (scheduled for June 2021) will ensure Council can deliver on a number of the legislative requirements in the *Local Government Act 2020* including Section 89 (Strategic Planning Principles) and Section 90 (Council Plan).

The Draft Council Plan 2021-2025 also addresses Section 27 of the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* through the inclusion of public health and wellbeing matters in the Council Plan.

ENVIRONMENTAL/SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Good governance to ensure the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district are all areas addressed in the Draft Council Plan 2021-2025.

The Victorian Health and Wellbeing Plan 2019-2023 provides the focus area of 'tackling climate change and its impact on health' that needs to be addressed in Council's Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan - this has been incorporated under the theme of Sustainability in the Draft Council Plan 2021-2025.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement in the development of the Draft Council Plan 2021-2025 was undertaken in accordance with the community engagement principles in the *Local Government Act 2020*. The processes for the development of the Council Plan have included deliberative engagement practices as defined in Council's Community Engagement Policy.

Engagement on the Draft Council Plan 2021-2025 also featured the public exhibition and submission process which was extensively promoted and included face to face engagement at the Golden Plains Farmers' Market and Coffee with Councillors sessions in May 2021.

PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

The development of the Draft Council Plan 2021-2025 and public exhibition and submission process provide public transparency in decision making through actions and information that are accessible and guided by members of the community.

STRATEGIES/PLANS

In undertaking development of the Draft Council Plan 2021-2025, Council has given effect to the Strategic Planning principles under Section 89 of the Act which include:

- (a) an integrated approach to planning, monitoring and performance reporting is to be adopted;
- (b) strategic planning must address the Community Vision;
- (c) strategic planning must take into account the resources needed for effective implementation;
- (d) strategic planning must identify and address the risks to effective implementation;
- (e) strategic planning must provide for ongoing monitoring of progress and regular reviews to identify and address changing circumstances.

In addition, the Draft Council Plan has been developed to incorporate the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (as required under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*) which includes addressing priorities in alignment with the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2019-2023.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, the Council Plan must take into account the resources needed for effective implementation and both the Budget and Financial Plan are required to give effect to the Council Plan and other strategic plans of the Council.

Development of the Draft Council Plan 2021-2025 has been undertaken in alignment with processes for the Draft Budget 2021-22 to ensure that both the current and future resources required for the delivery of actions and initiatives in the Council Plan are considered and provided for.

RISK ASSESSMENT

- The extensive engagement process undertaken including providing the Draft Council Plan for a public exhibition and submission process enables involvement in Council decision making and minimises the risk that the community does not substantively support the final document.
- Community engagement processes and the preparation of a Draft Council Plan 2021-2025 have directly addressed the risk of not meeting the legislative requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*.

- A comprehensive approach to incorporating the requirements of the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* into the Council Plan was undertaken to minimise the risk of not being granted an exemption from producing a stand-alone Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan. Following submission of a written request with documentation to the Department of Health, Council was granted an exemption from producing a stand-alone Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and formally advised on 20 May 2021.

COMMUNICATION

The key stages and timelines determined for developing the Council Plan 2021-2025 have been communicated internally and externally via publications, media releases, online and through social media posts.

In particular, the public exhibition and submission process was extensively promoted to encourage participation and feedback on the Draft Council Plan during April and May 2021.

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)*.

OPTIONS

Option 1 – That Council note the submissions received relating to the Draft Council Plan 2021-2025

This option is recommended by officers as the Draft Council Plan submissions will be considered and at the Special Council Meeting on 8 June 2021.

Option 2 – That Council do not note the submissions received relating to the Draft Council Plan 2021-2025

This option is not recommended by officers as Council endorsed the public exhibition and submission process in relation to the Draft Council Plan 2021-2025. In doing so, Council committed to receiving and considering community submissions at the Special Council Meeting on 8 June 2021.

Option 3 – That Council defer noting the submissions received relating to the Draft Council Plan 2021-2025

This option is not recommended by officers as the timelines for the Draft Council Plan have been developed to enable the public submissions to be received and considered. It is likely that delays will see adoption of the final Council Plan (scheduled for 29 June 2021) compromised.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

CONCLUSION

Following development of the Draft Council Plan 2021-2025, a period of public exhibition was provided from 28 April to 26 May 2021. The Draft Council Plan was advertised in publications, online, via social media and through Councillor conversations with community members.

Ten public submissions on the Draft Council Plan 2021-2025 have been received and will be considered at the 8 June 2021 Special Council Meeting. Members of the public who have requested to be heard at the meeting will be provided with a 5 minute time allocation to speak, with responses to public submissions to be provided following the 8 June Special Meeting.

Following consideration of submissions and any further amendments, the Council Plan 2021-2025 will be presented to the 29 June 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting for final adoption.