



Council Meeting Minutes

Linton Customer Service Centre

**Tuesday 28 June 2016
4.00pm-5.39pm**

Our Vision

Golden Plains Shire offers a lifestyle and opportunities that foster social, economic and environmental wellbeing.

In partnership with the community we will provide strong leadership, encourage sustainable development and ensure quality services, to continue to improve the quality of life of residents.

Opening Prayer

Almighty God,

Help us to undertake our duties impartially and honestly, in the best interests of the people of the Golden Plains Shire.

We make this prayer through Jesus Christ Our Lord.

Amen.

Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians

Council acknowledges the traditional Wadawurrung owners of this land. Council pays its respects to Wadawurrung Elders both past and present and extends that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People who are part of Golden Plains Shire.

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.

Table of Contents

1.	PRESENT	6
2.	APOLOGIES.....	6
3.	DECLARATIONS, MINUTES & ASSEMBLIES	7
3.1.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	7
3.2.	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.....	7
3.3.	ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCILLORS	8
3.3.1	Council Workshop: Sport & Recreation Victoria 2017-18 (24 May 2016).....	8
3.3.2	Site Visit: Planning Committee (14 June 2016)	8
3.3.3	Council Workshop: Community Engagement Strategy 2016-2020 (14 June 2016)..	9
3.3.4	Council Workshop: Municipal Strategic Statement Review (14 June 2016).....	9
3.3.5	Council Workshop: Submissions 2016-17 Draft Budget, 2013-2017 Council Plan & 2017-2020 Strategic Resource Plan (14 June 2016).....	10
3.4.	SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL.....	11
3.4.1	Planning Committee (14 June 2016)	11
3.5.	ADVISORY COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL	12
3.5.1	Audit & Risk Committee	12
3.5.2	Confidential: Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Review Committee.....	12
4.	REPORTS.....	13
4.1.	KEY RESULT AREA – CITIZEN & CUSTOMER SERVICE	13
4.2.	KEY RESULT AREA – CIVIC LEADERSHIP	14
4.2.1	Women’s Health Grampians: Communities of Respect & Equality	14
4.2.2	Mullagh Wills Foundation: ‘Journey to the G’ Event	18
4.3.	KEY RESULT AREA – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.....	21
4.4.	KEY RESULT AREA – ENVIRONMENT & LAND USE PLANNING.....	21
4.5.	KEY RESULT AREA – FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT	22
4.5.1	Adoption of 2016-17 Golden Plains Shire Council Budget, 2013-2017 Council Plan and 2016-2020 Strategic Resource Plan	22
4.6.	KEY RESULT AREA – HUMAN SUPPORT SERVICES	63
4.6.1	Age-Friendly Victoria Declaration: Statement of Support & Partner Endorsement	63
4.7.	KEY RESULT AREA – RECREATION & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.....	65
4.7.1	Contract GPS-T1/2016: Cleaning of Public Amenities & BBQs	65
4.7.2	Draft Community Engagement Strategy 2016-2020: Release for Public Consultation.....	68
4.8.	KEY RESULT AREA – ROADS & STREETS INFRASTRUCTURE	72
4.9.	KEY RESULT AREA – WASTE MANAGEMENT	72
5.	NOTICES OF MOTION	73
6.	PETITIONS.....	74

7.	OTHER BUSINESS.....	75
7.1.	MAYOR’S REPORT	75
7.2.	CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT	75
7.3.	MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA (MAV) REPORT.....	76
7.4.	COUNCILLOR REPORTS	76
7.5.	IN CAMERA MEETING	77
8.	ATTACHMENTS	77
9.	CLOSE OF MEETING	78
10.	CERTIFICATION	78

1. PRESENT

Cr Des Phelan, Mayor
Cr Jenny Blake
Cr Andrew Cameron
Cr Nathan Hansford
Cr Helena Kirby
Cr Bill McArthur
Cr Greg Vaughan

Rod Nicholls
Jillian Evans
Richard Trigg
Peter Cameron
Tim Waller
Jason Clissold
Louisa White
Petra Neilson (Minutes)

Chief Executive Officer
Director Community Services
Director Corporate Services
Works Manager
Development Manager
Finance Manager
Community Development Manager
Council Support Officer

Gallery

David Head
David Evans
Owen Sharkey
Peter Cook
Marlene Ryan

2. APOLOGIES

Nil

3. DECLARATIONS, MINUTES & ASSEMBLIES

3.1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors must disclose a conflict of interest in accordance with Section 79 of the Local Government Act 1989.

Nil

3.2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved Crs McArthur/Kirby

- 1. That the Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Council held 24 May 2016, as circulated, be confirmed.**
- 2. That the Minutes of the Special meeting of Council held 14 June 2016, as circulated, be confirmed.**

Carried

3.3. ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCILLORS

File: 02-03-004

3.3.1 Council Workshop: Sport & Recreation Victoria 2017-18 (24 May 2016)

Meeting type and name	Council Workshop: Sport & Recreation Victoria 2017-18
Meeting date and time	2.30pm Tuesday 24 May 2016
Matters discussed	Projects for Sport and Recreation Victoria, Community Sports Infrastructure Fund 2017-18 – Major Facilities, Minor Facilities, Female Friendly Facilities & Cricket Facilities
Councillor information	Nil
Councillors & Independent Members	Cr Des Phelan, Chairperson Cr Jenny Blake Cr Andrew Cameron Cr Nathan Hansford Cr Helena Kirby Cr Bill McArthur Cr Greg Vaughan
Apology	Nil
Staff	Richard Trigg, Acting Chief Executive Officer Greg Anders, Director Assets & Amenity Jillian Evans, Director Community Services Kim Manley, Acting Director Corporate Services Mike Barrow, Manager Executive Unit Louisa White, Community Development Manager Dean Veenstra, Recreation Team Leader Paul Owen, Community Recreation Officer Brodie Marston, Recreation Development Officer Petra Neilson, Council Support Officer
Guests	Nil
Declarations of Interest	Nil

3.3.2 Site Visit: Planning Committee (14 June 2016)

Meeting type and name	Planning Committee site visit
Meeting date and time	1.00pm Tuesday 14 June 2016
Matters discussed	1. PPA15-277 & PPA16-011 for Intensive Animal Husbandry (Piggery) at Gumley Road Mt Mercer 2. PPA16-070 for a Telecommunications Facility at 3 Moore Street Bannockburn
Councillor information	Nil
Councillors	Cr Andrew Cameron Cr Nathan Hansford (first site visit only) Cr Helena Kirby Cr Bill McArthur Cr Greg Vaughan
Apology	Cr Des Phelan Cr Jenny Blake
Staff	Laura Wilks, Planning Team Leader Peter O'Brien, Town Planner
Guests	Nil
Declarations of Interest	Nil

3.3.3 Council Workshop: Community Engagement Strategy 2016-2020 (14 June 2016)

Meeting type and name	Council Workshop: Community Engagement Strategy 2016-2020
Meeting date and time	14 June 2016
Matters discussed	Draft Community Engagement Strategy 2016-2020
Councillor information	1. Draft Community Engagement Strategy 2016-2020 (Part A) 2. Draft Community Engagement Strategy 2016-2020 Action Plan (Part B)
Councillors	Cr Des Phelan Cr Andrew Cameron Cr Nathan Hansford Cr Helena Kirby Cr Bill McArthur Cr Greg Vaughan
Apology	Cr Jenny Blake
Staff	Rod Nicholls, Chief Executive Officer Jillian Evans, Director Community Services Greg Anders, Director Assets & Amenity Mike Barrow, Manager Executive Unit Louisa White, Community Development Manager Christine Lamb, Community Engagement Officer Melinda Mitchell, Executive Assistant
Guests	Michelle Feenan, Consultant (Engagement Plus)
Declarations of Interest	Nil

3.3.4 Council Workshop: Municipal Strategic Statement Review (14 June 2016)

Meeting type and name	Council Workshop: Municipal Strategic Statement Review
Meeting date and time	14 June 2016
Matters discussed	Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) & Local Planning Policy Framework (LPPF) Rewrite
Councillor information	1. LPPF provisions with desktop review comments
Councillors	Cr Des Phelan, Mayor Cr Andrew Cameron Cr Nathan Hansford Cr Helena Kirby Cr Bill McArthur Cr Greg Vaughan
Apology	Cr Jenny Blake
Staff	Rod Nicholls, Chief Executive Officer Jillian Evans, Director Community Services Greg Anders, Director Assets & Amenity Mike Barrow, Manager Executive Unit Tim Waller, Development Manager Alicia te Wierik, Strategic Planner Melinda Mitchell, Executive Assistant
Guests	Nil
Declarations of Interest	Nil

3.3.5 Council Workshop: Submissions 2016-17 Draft Budget, 2013-2017 Council Plan & 2017-2020 Strategic Resource Plan (14 June 2016)

Meeting type and name	Council Workshop: Submissions 2016-17 Draft Budget, 2013-2017 Council Plan & 2017-2020 Strategic Resource Plan
Meeting date and time	7.00pm Tuesday 14 June 2016
Matters discussed	Discussion on Submissions Received for the 2016-17 Council Budget, 2013-2017 Council Plan & 2017-2020 Strategic Resource Plan
Councillor information	1. Submissions 2. Response to Voice & Action GPS Inc questions
Councillors	Des Phelan, Mayor Cr Jenny Blake Cr Andrew Cameron Cr Nathan Hansford Cr Helena Kirby Cr Bill McArthur Cr Greg Vaughan
Apology	Nil
Staff	Rod Nicholls, Chief Executive Officer Jillian Evans, Director Community Services Greg Anders, Director Assets & Amenity Mike Barrow, Manager Executive Unit Jason Clissold, Finance Manager
Guests	Nil
Declarations of Interest	Nil

Moved Crs Blake/McArthur

That Council notes the record of assemblies of Councillors:

- 1. Council Workshop: Sport and Recreation Victoria 2017-18 (24 May 2016)***
- 2. Planning Committee Site Visit (14 June 2016)***
- 3. Council Workshop: Community Engagement Strategy 2016-2020 (14 June 2016)***
- 4. Council Workshop: Municipal Strategic Statement Review (14 June 2016)***
- 5. Council Workshop: Submissions 2016-17 Draft Budget, 2013-2017 Council Plan and 2017-2020 Strategic Resource Plan (14 June 2016)***

Carried

3.4. SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

3.4.1 Planning Committee (14 June 2016)

Cr Bill McArthur, Chairperson

File: 02-01-005

Meeting type and name	Planning Committee Meeting
Meeting date and time	4.15pm Tuesday 14 June 2016
Matters discussed	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. PPA 16-034 Variation to Restrictive covenant M023 623L at 80 Warrak Drive, Bannockburn (Lot 28, PS149217H)2. PPA15-277 and PPA16-011 for Intensive Animal Husbandry (Piggery) at Gumley Road, Mt Mercer3. PPA16-070 for a Telecommunications Facility at 3 Moore Street Bannockburn
Councillor information	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. P16-034 locality plan2. P16-034 covenant M023623L3. P16-034 objection4. P15-277 application and plans5. P16-011 application and plans6. Locality map7. Referral responses8. Objections9. P16-070 application and plans10. P16-070 locality map11. P16-070 objections
Councillors	Cr Bill McArthur, Chairperson Cr Des Phelan, Mayor Cr Andrew Cameron Cr Nathan Hansford Cr Helena Kirby Cr Greg Vaughan
Apology	Cr Jenny Blake
Staff	Rod Nicholls, Chief Executive Officer Richard Trigg, Director Corporate Services Jill Evans, Director Community Services Greg Anders, Director Assets & Amenity Mike Barrow, Manager Executive Unit
Guest	Stuart McCallum
Declarations of Interest	Nil

3.5. ADVISORY COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

3.5.1 Audit & Risk Committee

No meeting held.

3.5.2 Confidential: Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Review Committee

No meeting held.

4. REPORTS

4.1. KEY RESULT AREA – CITIZEN & CUSTOMER SERVICE

No report

4.2. KEY RESULT AREA – CIVIC LEADERSHIP

4.2.1 Women's Health Grampians: Communities of Respect & Equality

Directorate	Chief Executive
Unit	Chief Executive's Office
Senior Manager	Rod Nicholls, Chief Executive Officer
Responsible Manager	Greg Anders, Director Assets & Amenity
Author	Greg Anders, Director Assets & Amenity
File References	BluePoint File: 03-05-055
Council Plan Link	Advocate for public health and wellbeing
Relevant Council Strategies	Nil
Relevant Policies & Legislative Frameworks	Nil
Attachments	1. Communities of Respect and Equality (CoRE) Plan 2. Core Alliance Membership Form

Declarations of Interest: Councillors & Officers

Rod Nicholls: In providing this advice as the senior manager, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Greg Anders: In providing this advice as the responsible manager and author, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider supporting a plan which seeks to prevent violence against women and their children across the Golden Plains Shire.

Background

The Victorian Government has committed to addressing the issue of family violence in the first instance through the appointment of the Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence, Fiona Richardson MP. In 2015 the Minister announced the 'Victoria Against Violence' education and prevention awareness campaign, and has allocated funds to women's health associations to raise awareness and develop prevention strategies.

Following the Royal Commission into Family Violence report, the Andrews government committed to the implementation of all 227 recommendations contained in the Royal Commission report and, as part of its 2016-17 budget, allocated \$572m over three years for such things as housing and crisis refuges, more counsellors, more prevention programs and more support for children who are victims of family violence.

Women's Health Grampians (WHG) is one of 9 women's health services to share \$660k from the Victorian government to develop a regional strategy for the prevention of family violence. Council's Director Assets & Amenity represents Council on this group.

WHG has recently brought a range of community and local government organisations together to develop the plan for the Grampians Region. The following is an excerpt from the plan that sets out the reasons for the Plan being developed and what it seeks to achieve:

“The Communities of Respect and Equality (CoRE) Plan has been developed to enhance the capacity and ability of organisations, businesses, clubs, groups and networks in the Grampians Region to work effectively, collectively and genuinely towards the eradication of violence against women. It has been developed to elicit broad engagement and commitment from all organisations in the region wanting to take action towards the vision and goals expressed in this Plan. It provides an overarching framework to connect locally based messages, initiatives and actions across the Grampians Region that are mutually reinforcing and reflect a collective impact model.

This Plan helps organisations to identify their own roles in ending violence against women in the Grampians Region. It is envisaged it will provide a platform whereby organisations that believe in building communities of respect and equality are better able to pursue those values in their everyday core work. While activities and efforts may be undertaken independently, the measures and outcomes will be developed collectively and gathered and collated to reflect regional level achievement and progress.

The Plan is intended to facilitate inclusion and participation according to capacity. In other words, it recognises that organisations and groups are at varying stages of readiness and levels of capacity to engage in this work and it will be flexible to accommodate this.”

Discussion

The CoRE Plan is evidence-based and references the statistics outlined below:

“Women experience violence in any number of contexts, settings, locations and forms, including physical, sexual, emotional and financial. It is pervasive and not linked to age, socio-economic context or location. It occurs at home, at work, in clubs, in social settings and in the community.

In Victoria, Police responded to over 65,000 family incidents in 2013-14, an increase of eight per cent on the previous year. That is over 1,000 per week, and nearly 200 (178) per day.

- *Since the age of 15 ... 1 in 3 Australian women have experienced physical violence.*
- *1 in 5 Australian women have experienced sexual violence.*
- *1 in 4 Australian women have experienced physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner.*

Violence against women is pervasive in the Grampians Region. Of the 65,000 family incidents responded to by Police in 2013-14, more than 3,000 of these were in the Grampians region, or five per cent of the State’s total. Grampians region contains approximately four per cent of the Victorian population.

Women and children living in rural and regional areas are often at an increased risk of family violence.

Moreover, rural and regional women often experience barriers that make it more difficult for many to report violence.”

Gender inequality is considered an underlying cause of violence against women.

“Gender inequality is the social condition through which unequal value is afforded to men and women, and there is an unequal distribution of power, resources and opportunity between them. While forms of gender inequality vary between different places, countries and communities, and are not experienced in the same way by every woman, the association of men with greater power and authority is common across most societies.

There are many ways in which gender inequality drives violence against women. This can be directly through attitudes and behaviours of individuals or broadly by systems and structures that create a culture that supports these attitudes and behaviours.”

WHG is seeking community organisations, including the Councils in the Grampians Region, to commit to the Grampians Communities of Respect and Equality (CORE) Alliance to collaborate and participate in the alliance. The CoRE Plan was officially launched in Ballarat on 30 May 2016 by the Minister for Agriculture and Regional Development, Jaala Pulford MP.

Golden Plains Shire Council has already been very proactive in its commitment towards raising awareness of the need for urgent action to prevent violence against women and their children in Australia. To this end a White Ribbon Group (Act@Work) was formed in November 2014 (now known as GPS Act @ Work Group) and since that time the Group has undertaken a significant number of activities aimed at raising awareness internally and in the larger term, to have a positive influence on attitudes towards preventing violence against women both internally and in the wider Golden Plains community. The more significant of these are briefing summarised below:

- Town signage displayed
- CEO's and staff launched Month of Action
- Raising awareness with staff
- Outdoor staff toolbox meeting with CEO presentation
- White Ribbon Day 2014 event with guest speakers White Ribbon Ambassadors: Graham Ken (Victorian Police, Ghair YMCA Victorian Board), Luke Ablett (former Sydney Swans) and Cr Bill McArthur (MAV president)
- Development of Prevention of Violence Against Women service provider information card and distribution throughout the community
- Kath Deakin (Women's Health Grampians) presentation
- Prevention of Violence Against Women segment in staff newsletter 'Plain Talking'.
- Men's Group formed and facilitated by Andrew Edgar
- Identifying Family Violence Training
- Statement added into the staff code of conduct
- Weekly Women's Health Grampians 'Snap Shots' sent out weekly in Human Resources report
- Bystander Training conducted for staff
- White Ribbon signature added to staff emails for the Month of Action
- What's Going On? Campaign. Initiated by the Men's Group program – distributed internally and to public health venues throughout the Shire
- White Ribbon Day 2015 – white ribbons handed out at evening held in Bannockburn with guest speaker Phil Cleary
- 16 days of Activism campaign – 'Hands Up' Campaign
- Planning and reflection day with facilitator: Natalie Russell

Community Engagement

A formal community consultation process is not required.

Financial & Risk Management Implications

Council's participation in the Alliance requires low level resource commitment in officer time.

Economic, Social & Environmental Implications

It is considered that there are no economic or environmental implications. Violence against women is a complex social problem, yet one that is preventable through the range of actions and initiatives contained in the CoRE Plan.

Communications

It is considered that a communication plan is not required.

Conclusion

The issue of violence against women and children is widespread. The Victorian government has provided funding to support women's associations to develop strategies to address the issue. WHG has developed an Alliance and a CoRE Plan, and is seeking the support and participation of community organisations across the region.

Moved Crs Blake/McArthur

That Council:

- 1. Acknowledges and expresses its support for the Communities of Respect and Equality (CoRE) Plan to prevent violence against women and their children across the Grampians Region; and***
- 2. Commits to being a member of the Grampians Communities of Respect and Equality (CoRE) Alliance with the intention of working towards the vision outlined in the CoRE Plan, by undertaking activities that will support progress against one or more of the four strategic goals noted in the Plan.***

Carried

4.2.2 Mullagh Wills Foundation: 'Journey to the G' Event

Directorate	Community Services
Unit	Community Development
Senior Manager	Jill Evans, Director Community Services
Responsible Manager	Louisa White, Community Development Manager
Author	Louisa White, Community Development Manager
File References	BluePoint: 03-04-005; 78-12-001; 86-02-001
Council Plan Link	Facilitate and support community celebrations of important national events and days
Relevant Council Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recreation Strategy ▪ Health and Wellbeing Plan ▪ Community Engagement Strategy
Relevant Policies & Legislative Frameworks	
Attachments	Nil

Declarations of Interest: Councillors & Officers

Jill Evans: In providing this advice as the senior manager, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Louisa White: In providing this advice as the responsible manager and author, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to:

1. Formally recognise the 150 year commemoration of the 1866 Aboriginal Cricket Team tour originating from Western Victoria culminating in the Boxing Day match at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) in December 1866; and
2. Participate in the 2016 'Journey to the G' event.

Background

The Mullagh Wills Foundation was established to recognise the achievements of the Aboriginal Cricket Team in the 1860s and is named in honour of Johnny Mullagh, the star of the team, and Tom Wills the original coach of the team. In 1868, the Aboriginal Cricket Team became the first Australian cricket team to play in England – the first Australian Test team of cricketers.

The launch of the Mullagh Wills Foundation 'Journey to the G' was held in Harrow on Sunday 13 March 2016 and celebrates the achievements of the 1866 Aboriginal Cricket Team which travelled from Western Victoria to the MCG in Melbourne to play against the Melbourne Cricket Club on Boxing Day 1866.

The 13 March launch was part of the annual Johnny Mullagh Championship weekend in Harrow, Western Victoria, and is the result of over two years planning and research in conjunction with the Melbourne Cricket Club.

The launch involved local Aboriginal community leaders and descendants of the 1866 Aboriginal Cricket Team, together with descendants of the pastoralists who taught the Aboriginals to play cricket. Guests from the Melbourne Cricket Club, Cricket Victoria, Councils and Federal and State Governments joined the Mullagh Wills Foundation Committee, the Harrow First XI 1868 Committee, local community representatives and participants in the Johnny Mullagh Cricket match.

The Foundation seeks to celebrate the involvement of communities and recognise the incredible achievements of the Aboriginal Cricket Team 150 years ago, as well as helping to bring communities together.

A highlight from the launch was the writing of the first message in the commemorative 'Message Book' which has been presented to the West Wimmera Shire Council.

Discussion

The Golden Plains Shire comprises a number of towns through which the Aboriginal Cricket Team travelled on their way to the MCG match in December 1866. These towns were Linton, Scarsdale and Smythesdale.

Each municipality along the route, commencing with West Wimmera, has been invited to pass a formal motion of reconciliation and support of the Aboriginal Cricket Team and their achievements at a Council Meeting during 2016. The Message Book will be in each of the municipalities for up to three weeks and during this time schools, local sporting and community groups will be invited to include a message of reconciliation and support in the book.

The delivery of the Message Book from Council to Council will be completed by the respective Mayors and Aboriginal community leaders at the following Councils between March and December 2016 before being presented to the Melbourne Cricket Club on Boxing Day 2016 at the MCG.

- West Wimmera Shire Council
- Southern Grampians Shire Council
- Ararat Rural City
- Corangamite Shire Council
- Pyrenees Shire Council
- Golden Plains Shire Council
- City of Ballarat
- Moorabool Shire Council
- Melton City Council
- Brimbank City Council
- City of Melbourne

The Foundation invites Golden Plains Shire and its community to help commemorate this significant event and to be part of the 'Journey to the G'. It invites Council to receive and recognise messages of goodwill from sporting groups within the municipality as well as pass a formal motion recognising the Aboriginal Cricket Team tour and the leadership roles played by Johnny Mullagh and Tom Wills, together with the contribution this made to sport, the community and the significant role sport continues to play in reconciliation.

In addition to the involvement of local sporting and community groups, the involvement of local Aboriginal communities along the journey is a key to the success of this project. Recognition of the Aboriginal Cricket Team and culture by local Aboriginal community representatives will be part of the formal function at each Council.

If Council agrees to participate in the event, the Mullagh Wills Foundation will provide Golden Plains Shire with a detailed information pack, including a generic media release to assist in attracting coverage of the 'Journey to the G' in the municipality and will include ideas for community involvement.

The formal motion of reconciliation and support of the Aboriginal Cricket Team and the delivery of the Message Book will take place at the Council meeting in Linton on 23 August 2016.

Community Engagement

A formal consultation process is not required however Council will need to invite local sporting and community groups to include a message of reconciliation and support in the Message Book.

Financial & Risk Management Implications

It is considered that there are no financial or risk implications.

Economic, Social & Environmental Implications

It is considered that there are no economic or environmental implications.

The social implications of these commemorations are important. Given the significant sporting achievements in the lead up to the first Aboriginal Cricket Team to tour England in 1868, and the origins of the team formation in Western Victoria, the region has cause to lead the commemoration and formal recognition of these events. As important, the message and promotion of reconciliation will be a lasting legacy of the commemorations.

Communications

A communications strategy would be required. The Mullagh Wills Foundation will provide Golden Plains Shire with a generic media release to assist attracting coverage of the 'Journey to the G' event in Golden Plains Shire and in particular the work Council is doing in the community to help promote reconciliation.

Conclusion

Council's recognition and formal motion is a meaningful way that Council can formally recognise the achievements of the Aboriginal Cricket Team of 1866 and subsequent tour of England in 1868. This commemoration also provides Council a means to celebrate our early sporting historical achievements and reinforces the powerful message of reconciliation through sport.

Moved Crs Cameron/Kirby

That Council:

- 1. At its 23 August 2016 Council meeting, formally recognise the sporting achievements of Johnny Mullagh, Tom Wills and the Aboriginal Cricket Team touring party of 1866, in their travels through regional Victoria culminating in the Boxing Day 1866 match between the Aboriginal Cricket Team and the Melbourne Cricket Club at the Melbourne Cricket Ground;***
- 2. Recognise the powerful message of reconciliation through sport that this significant sporting event provided in early colonial times, and the current day inspiration that the commemoration provides;***
- 3. Encourage and promote the opportunity for local sporting and community groups to leave their message of goodwill and reconciliation in the Message Book that will travel regional Victoria and be presented at the Boxing Day Test Match in December 2016; and***
- 4. Hand over the Mullagh Wills Message Book to the City of Ballarat for their formal commemoration as part of the 'Journey to the G'.***

Carried

4.3. KEY RESULT AREA – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

No report

4.4. KEY RESULT AREA – ENVIRONMENT & LAND USE PLANNING

No report

4.5. **KEY RESULT AREA – FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

4.5.1 **Adoption of 2016-17 Golden Plains Shire Council Budget, 2013-2017 Council Plan and 2016-2020 Strategic Resource Plan**

Department	Corporate Services
Unit	Finance
Senior Manager	Rod Nicholls, Chief Executive Officer
Responsible Manager	Richard Trigg, Director Corporate Services
Author	Jason Clissold, Finance Manager
File References	Blueprint: 40-01-013
Council Plan Link	Financial Management
Relevant Council Strategies	
Relevant Policies & Legislative Frameworks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Local Government Act 1989▪ Local Government Amendment (Fair Go Rates) Act 2015▪ Valuation of Land Act 1960
Attachments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">3. Submissions4. Response to Voice & Action GPS Inc. questions

Declarations of Interest: Councillors & Officers

Rod Nicholls: In providing this advice as the senior manager, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Richard Trigg: In providing this advice as the responsible manager, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Jason Clissold: In providing this advice as the author, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to formally adopt the:

- 2016-17 budget pursuant to Section 127 of the Local Government Act 1989;
- 2013-2017 Council Plan, pursuant to Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1989; and
- 2016-2020 Strategic Resource Plan pursuant to Section 126 of the Local Government Act 1989

Background

The Act requires Council to adopt the Annual Budget, updated Council Plan and Strategic Resource Plan (SRP) by 30 June 2016. To achieve this Council has undertaken the following process:

Budget Process	Timing
1. Community Engagement Sessions	Nov - Dec
2. Reporting and analysis of Community Engagement Sessions	Dec - Jan
3. Officers prepare draft budget, Council Plan and SRP	Dec – Mar
4. Council receives draft budget, Council Plan and SRP for review	Mar
5. Council workshops conducted to review draft budget, Council Plan and SRP	Mar / Apr
6. Proposed budget, Council Plan and SRP submitted to Council for 'in principle' approval	April
7. Public notice advising intention to adopt budget, Council Plan and SRP	April
8. Budget, Council Plan and SRP available for public inspection and comment	April
9. Submissions period closes (28 days)	May
10. Submissions considered by Council	June
11. Budget, Council Plan and SRP and submissions presented to Council for adoption	June
12. Copy of adopted budget submitted to the Minister	June

During this process Council has been able to inform itself on the key issues and challenges impacting the Golden Plains community. Understanding these issues has allowed Council to set the strategic direction of Council and set the desired service levels to be delivered to an ever growing and ever changing community, whilst ensuring financial sustainability.

The preparation of the Council Plan, SRP and Annual Budget is underpinned by these decisions made by Council.

After making the documents available for public inspection and inviting submissions under Section 223 of the Local Government Act, Council received a total of ten submissions.

A Special Meeting of Council was held on Tuesday 14 June 2016 to hear from three submitters who requested to address Council in support of their submission. Immediately following the Special Meeting on 14 June 2016 a Council Workshop was held to consider all ten submissions received.

Discussion

Council Plan 2013-2017 and Strategic Resource Plan 2016-2020

Under Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1989 Council is required to consider whether the current Council Plan requires any adjustment each financial year and make any adjustments it considers necessary. Section 126 requires Council to then review the SRP during the preparation of the Council Plan and adopt the SRP no later than 30 June each year.

The strategies and actions contained within the 2013-2017 Council Plan were updated as a result of the above review process. The assumptions within the SRP were also updated to ensure it reflected the resources required to achieve the strategic objectives contained within the Council Plan.

These were discussed during a series of Council workshops prior to Council placing them for public comment on 2 March 2016 and again on 26 April 2016.

2016-17 Budget

The 2016-17 draft budget has been prepared within a significantly different landscape. As has been widely publicised, the State Government's election promise of capping Council rates has been delivered and a cap of 2.5% will apply for the first time in 2016-17. The cap will be announced each December by the Minister for Local Government and for the purposes of the SRP it is assumed to remain at 2.5% for the next four years, which is consistent with the State Government CPI projections.

While the legislation limits Council's ability to raise revenue, it does recognise the differing challenges faced by the 79 Councils across the state by including the provision for Councils to apply to the Essential Services Commission (ESC) for a variation to the cap. Golden Plains Shire Council did not be applying for a variation for the 2016-17 year.

Over the coming 12 months Council will undertake a review of its services and strategies contained within its Council Plan to develop a long term plan on how it can maintain a sustainable financial position under the State Government's rate capping framework.

In 2016-17 the State Government rate cap will only apply to general rates and municipal charges, not to other revenue such as service rates and charges (i.e. garbage services). Such charges are to be calculated based on 'full cost recovery'. However, these charges will be monitored by the ESC with provision within the legislation for the Minister to extend the application of the rate cap to other rates or charges in future.

Similarly, User Fees and Charges are not included in the rate cap; however Council has generally kept increases in non-statutory fees to 2.5%.

For more information, please visit <http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au/fairgorates>

As mentioned earlier there were 10 submissions received by the closing date (refer attached). The submitters in alphabetical order were:

1. Anderson, John and Denise
2. Bannockburn & District Men's Shed
3. Brockway, John
4. Head, David*
5. Keays, Peter
6. Madden, Warwick
7. Sharkey, Owen*
8. Turner, Hayley
9. Voice & Action GPS Inc. (V&A)*
10. Young, David and Suzanne

*These submitters took the opportunity to speak in support of their submission at the Special Meeting held on 14 June 2016.

Each submission will be addressed specifically, but as the majority of these submissions made some reference to the level of rates and charges the following commentary is provided.

Level of Rates & Charges

Many of the submissions expressed general concerns over the level of rates and charges. The significant growth Golden Plains has experienced over the last ten to fifteen years has not only resulted in the need for additional services, but an increased demand in the quality of service. This includes, but is not limited to, new and improved footpaths, roads, street lighting, recreation activities, child care, etc. This demand will continue as new residents come to expect similar services that are delivered in neighbouring or metropolitan municipalities.

Council is required to balance these demands for services against the cost of providing them. This is achieved by developing a four year Council Plan, which identifies the key service areas Council wishes to focus on. From this plan, an annual Budget is developed to deliver these services. This process is now even more challenging with the introduction of the State Government's 'Fair Go Rates' system.

In 2016-17 Council was required to limit the 'Average Capped Increase' in rates to 2.5%. This draft budget provides for an increase of 2.32%. Table 2 provides a summary of the calculation, according to the formula prescribed by the State Government.

Table 2

Forecast annualised rate revenue at 30 June 2016	\$17,793,200
Forecast number of assessments at 30 June 2016	10,665
Forecast base average rate 2015-16 per assessment	\$1,668.37
Budget rate revenue 2016-17	\$18,206,859
Capped average rate 2016-17 per assessment	\$1,707.16
Average capped increase per assessment	2.32%

It is important to note that this is only an average increase and actual increases will vary depending on the relative value of individual properties. As required by legislation, the rate burden must be distributed based upon the value of a property which will result in higher valued properties increasing by more than 2.32% and lower valued properties increasing by less than 2.32%. This will be further impacted due to the fact that 2016-17 is a municipal revaluation year under the Act.

Some of the interim initiatives Council has implemented for 2016-17 to ensure it complies with the State Government cap in 2016-17 are:

- No additional or improved services;
- No additional staff resources;
- No replacement of fleet vehicles;
- No replacement of non-critical computer hardware; and
- Cease planning for the redevelopment of the Bannockburn Customer Service Centre.

It is important to note that these are only short term options and appropriate planning must be undertaken to ensure Council's long term sustainability. This may or may not require a future application/s for a variance to the cap.

The following discussion provides a specific response to each submission.

Submission 1 – John and Denise Anderson

John and Denise are Batesford residents and have raised concerns over the equitable spread of rates across the Shire. This reflects a perceived lack of services being provided in Batesford in comparison to the rate revenue contributed from this locality.

It must be noted that Batesford residents have access to all of Council services and make a contribution according to the State Government legislated rating system. The rating system is based on a philosophy of supporting the entire Shire and there is no direct link between the amount of rates paid and the level of Council services received by individuals.

The services provided and available include home and community care, long day care, family day care, maternal and child health services, libraries, arts and culture, recreation facilities, community facilities and infrastructure. These services are identified in the four year Council Plan, which is supported by a Strategic Resource Plan and an annual Budget.

The budget does not detail services by locality. Therefore, ratepayers should not conclude that services are not being provided within a particular location on the basis that the expenditure line does not contain the locality name. For instance, road maintenance, drainage, mowing, lighting, etc. are all services provided Shire wide based on an assessment criteria.

As has been raised previously, a key point relates to the lack of open space and playgrounds in the Batesford area. Council is aware of this issue and has been working with residents to support them in utilising existing open space, such as:

- Running a number of bush playgroups; and
- Supporting community members in the organisation of a community fun run.

Council has recently delivered new footpath infrastructure in Batesford and is in the process of submitting an expression of interest for funding for a playground in Batesford in 2017-18. If successful, a full application for funding is required in July 2016.

It is important to note that Council rates do not represent a direct user pays system because local government provides services and infrastructure for public benefit.

- Rates are distributed between ratepayers based on the relative value of properties within a municipality
- Properties are revalued every two years to maintain a fair distribution of the rates burden between property owners within a municipality
- There is a direct relationship between property holdings and disadvantage – less wealthy people tend to own lower valued housing stock
- Property rates do not take into account individual debt levels or income
- Differential rates are used by a Council to help determine a fair contribution from each type of property (e.g. residential, commercial, industrial, farm)

Council rates are built around the principle that those with a higher valued property relative to others within a municipality generally contribute a larger amount in rates. This is clearly demonstrated by the most recent valuation data which shows that the average residential Capital Improved Value (CIV) in Batesford is approximately \$790k compared to Bannockburn \$398k and Smythesdale \$296k.

For example, the following table summarises the differences in average CIV and residential rate income between some common localities.

	Average Residential Rates & Municipal Charge			Average Capital Improved Value (CIV)		
	2015-16	2016-17	Movement	2015-16	2016-17	Movement
Batesford	\$3,257	\$3,260	\$3	\$778,372	\$789,849	\$11,477
Bannockburn	\$1,715	\$1,753	\$38	\$396,614	\$398,454	\$1,840
Inverleigh	\$1,800	\$1,911	\$111	\$405,130	\$440,528	\$35,398
Rokewood	\$821	\$856	\$35	\$152,956	\$167,263	\$14,307
Smythesdale	\$1,321	\$1,363	\$42	\$281,446	\$296,293	\$14,847

Submission 2 – Bannockburn Men's Shed

This submission requested that the group's application for a Community Grant be reviewed and included in the 2016-17 Council Budget after it was deemed not to meet the necessary criteria.

Each application is assessed against a set criteria and the submission in question was not able to satisfy all of the criteria. In particular, the development has not yet received planning permit approval. The group will be encouraged to apply again in 2017-18 once their project and plans have been approved and finalised.

Submission 3 – John Brockway

John is a Meredith resident who has requested that an allocation be made to improve the lighting at the Meredith Recreation Reserve. Firstly, to install additional lighting on existing light poles to light the cricket net area and, secondly, that the lighting on the main oval be improved.

Further investigation would be required to determine the level and cost of lighting. However, there are currently other ovals within the Shire that require improved lighting, which are utilised more and are of a greater priority. Other options will be investigated.

Submission 4 – David Head

In his submission David also raised similar concerns to those addressed in the response to Submission 1 regarding equity for Batesford residents. David's main concern, both in his written and verbal submission related to the Waste Management costing.

Waste management program and budget

The Garbage Charge for kerbside collection is set at \$246.50 which represents full cost recovery of the service, as required under the rate capping framework.

The 2016-17 budget proposes total expenditure of \$2.250 million and total income of \$2.254 million for the annual waste management program.

The expenditure items include:

- Council staff
- Garbage collection and transportation
- Garbage disposal (at landfill)
- Recyclables collection and transport
- Mobile bin purchases, replacement and repairs
- Public education and awareness
- Provision for waste collection at events
- Corporate overheads
- Rokewood landfill operation
- Litter collection
- Depreciation

The income sources are limited to:

- The Garbage Collection Charge
- Sale of bins
- The Recycling contribution
- Rokewood landfill gate fees

The Garbage Collection Charge (of \$246.50) in 2016-17 will generate \$2.127 million in income from the 8,630 serviced properties.

The budget provides for an estimated expenditure of \$590,844 during the year to meet the costs of disposing of garbage collected from serviced properties at landfill. This budget allocation is based on 8,630 properties generating an average of 0.4582 tonnes of garbage each year, and an average disposal fee at landfill of \$149.41 per tonne (*i.e.*, $8,630 \times 0.4582 \times \$149.41 = \$590,844$).

Households in Golden Plains Shire are now generating an average 0.4582 tonnes per year of waste. This compares very favourably with the average of 0.75 tonnes per year that households were generating when the 240 litre garbage bins were being collected weekly.

Accordingly, Council would had to have budgeted for an amount of \$967,056 in 2016-17 (*i.e.*, $8,630 \times 0.75 \times \149.41) to meet the costs of disposing of this waste at landfill if households were still generating garbage at former levels.

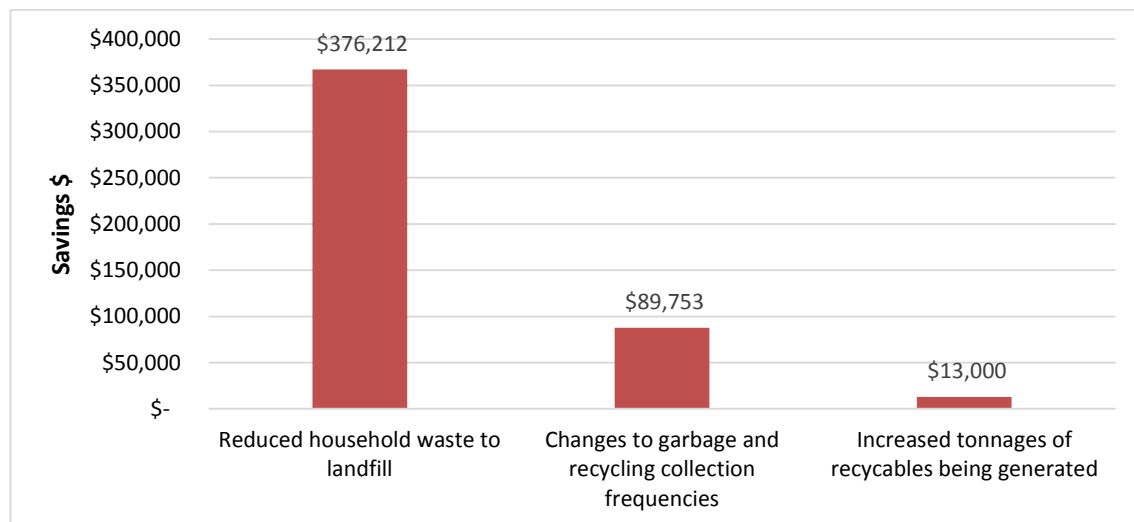
This represents an annual saving in the order of \$376,212 ($\$967,056 - \$590,844$).

Further savings associated with the changes to the garbage and recycling collection services can be directly attributed to the contractor's bin collection rates in 2016-17, being \$2.04 for garbage and \$1.64 for recycling. The total annual collection costs under the new service arrangements will be \$1,193,702, compared to \$1,283,454 if the changes had not been made – *i.e.*, a further \$89,753 in savings associated with garbage being collected fortnightly and recyclables weekly, as opposed to garbage weekly and recyclables fortnightly.

The 2016-17 budget also includes a contribution from collected recyclables of \$56,500, based on average household yields now being 0.26 tonnes per year. Prior to the changes to the waste collection services, households were generating an average of 0.20 tonnes per year. This increase in household recyclables generation equates to additional income during 2016-17 in the order of \$13,000.

In summary, the changes made by Council to the garbage and recyclables collection services have resulted in savings for the 2016-17 budget in the order of \$478,965 – or \$55.50 per household. Because of these savings Council has been able to set the annual garbage charge at \$246.50, rather than at \$302 per household if there had not been any changes made to the collection services.

The estimated savings in the 2016-17 waste management program are shown again in the chart below.



The Landfill Levy Charge

Under the provisions of the *Environment Protection Act* the landfill levy for waste deposited at licensed landfills will be \$62.03 per tonne during 2016-17. The managers of the licensed landfills pay the levy to the State Government via Sustainability Victoria. The levy was \$60.52 in 2015-16.

Golden Plains Shire deposits the waste collected from households and public places (estimated to be 3,970 tonnes in 2016-17) to the regional landfills operated by the City of Wyndham and City of Ballarat; and each of those Councils includes the landfill levy costs in their respective gate fees.

If Golden Plains Shire was to continue to have a separate “landfill levy” charge, it would be in the order of \$28.50 per household and the garbage collection charge would have been \$218.

The \$28.50 would have been derived from the 3,970 tonnes of households and public places waste estimated to be deposited at landfill, multiplied by the \$62.03 State levy, divided by the 8,630 serviced households.

Council has decided to simplify determination of the garbage collection charge for 2016-17 by not continuing with a separate landfill levy charge – which in reality Council does not actually pay directly to the State Government.

The current 2015-16 budget provides for a garbage charge of \$200 and a State Landfill Levy charge of \$38 – *i.e.*, \$238 total charges.

If Council was to continue with having the two separate charges, the comparisons between 2015-16 and 2016-17 would be as follows:

Financial Year	EPA Levy \$/tonne	Garbage Charge	Landfill Levy	Total of Council Garbage Charge
2015-16	\$60.52	\$200.00	\$38.00	\$238.00
2016-17	\$62.03	\$218.00	\$28.50	\$246.50

To avoid the confusion (associated with decreasing volumes of waste being deposited at landfill) of having an increase in the garbage charge in 2016-17 but a decrease in the landfill levy charge, Council has decided not to continue with the two charges system.

Submission 5 – Peter Keays

Peter is a Gheringhap resident who has raised a number of concerns in relation to the budget. The first relates to the value being attributed to the farming land in his area and has requested Council to review them.

It must be noted that Council is not responsible for setting the Capital Improved Value (CIV) of properties. The valuations are undertaken by an experienced and qualified independent third party and all valuations must be approved by the Victorian Valuer-General.

Residents have the opportunity to lodge an objection to the Valuer-General's valuation, within two months of receiving their rates notice. This option, and how to proceed, is detailed on the rates notice.

Peter has queried the level of staff and associated costs. Golden Plains Shire is a service delivery organisation and it is reasonable to expect that a large proportion of Council's expenditure would be on employee costs. This is not only consistent with other Councils but also other service delivery organisations.

The 2016-17 Budget is proposing a slight decrease in FTE from 204 to 203, maintaining the commitment of no additional staff in the budget. The majority of Council employee costs are funded from means other than rates and charges. In 2016-17 approximately 39% of employee costs will be funded by grants, 8% by user fees, 3% by contributions and 2% from other income, leaving only 48% funded from rate revenue.

Council's level of FTE/ population ratio of 9.9 per 1,000 is much less than similar sized Councils. In addition, Council is supported by approximately 600 volunteers who undertake the equivalent of 73 effective full time staff, without whom Council would require additional staff to deliver its adopted strategies and plans. The additional cost to do this would be in the order of \$5m per annum.

In relation to Council staff wage increases, the current Enterprise Agreement was negotiated in 2013 and provides for an annual increase of 3.7%. This agreement expires on 30 June 2017 at which point it will be re-negotiated. The State Government is forecasting the Wage Price Index to increase by 3.5% p.a. in 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19.

Peter has also raised similar concerns that have been addressed in the response to Submission 1, relating to the level of service being provided in the Batesford, Gheringhap and Stonehaven areas.

Finally, Peter states that the cost of waste management has increased as a result of the change to the service. As detailed in the response to Submission 4 the waste charge of \$246.50 is still \$3.50 less than what it was in 2014-15 (\$250) prior to making the changes to the waste service. This reduction is in despite of the dramatic increase in the cost per tonne of disposing waste to landfill over recent years.

Without the change to the service, the garbage charge for 2016-17 would have been \$302 per tenement (\$55.50 higher), or \$478,965 in total.

Submission 6 – Warwick Madden

Warwick is a resident from Happy Valley. His submission was general in nature and reflected on the culture he experienced in his time as a 'Public Servant'. He believes flexibility, innovation, efficiency and cost cutting was something he never bore witness to in his time as a public servant. He also provides examples of many poor practices from the past, including poor budget management, 'spend it or lose it' attitudes and 'willy nilly' spending. Golden Plains Shire Council does not support these practices.

While Council has always had a large focus on cost minimisation and has implemented a number of service reviews including maternal and child health, waste management, risk management and customer service, in 2016 it has embarked on a more formal program to ensure it is embedded within the culture of the organisation, with the establishment of the 'Community First' strategy.

Community First is a community-centred strategy for Golden Plains Shire that fosters collaboration, innovation and continuous improvement. Features of the Community First Strategy include:

- Engagement of both staff and community in influencing the processes of change;
- Innovation strategies to sponsor an organisational culture of collaboration and innovation;
- LEAN management principles applied to Council services to drive efficiencies and reduce costs; and
- Service improvements through strategy and service reviews to help balance resident aspirations with what Council has to spend.

LEAN management principles will be applied over the coming 12 months to find efficiency in processes that will enable cost and resource savings. Service improvements will be found through critical reviews that will focus the most effective ways to maintain service levels without increasing costs.

In addition, Council is part of the G21 driven Apollo Project which seeks to find efficiencies of scale, particularly in procurement.

Submission 7 – Owen Sharkey

Owen is a Batesford resident who requested to speak to his submission at the Special Meeting on Tuesday 14 June.

Owen briefly raised similar concerns to those addressed in the response to Submission 1 regarding equity for Batesford residents, but primarily focused on his request for the Municipal Charge to be increased in line with the average rate rise.

Owen's submission makes comparison to the fact that Geelong, Surf Coast and Corangamite have all increased their Municipal Charge by 2.5%, 2.56% and 2.5% respectively in 2016-17. However, it must be noted that the highest charge from these three Councils is \$200 at Surf Coast, which only comprises 10.13% of its total rate revenue, compared to 12.52% at Golden Plains. The following table summarises the four Councils in question.

	Total Revenue from MC and General Rates ‘\$000	Total Revenue from Municipal Charge ‘\$000	Percentage of MC to Total Rate Revenue (Max. 20%)	Municipal Charge per Property
Golden Plains	18,207	2,280	12.52%	\$225.00
Surf Coast	40,735	4,126	10.13%	\$200.00
Corangamite	18,549	1,591	8.58%	\$189.50
Geelong	172,574	11,342	6.57%	\$ 96.65

This data, in addition to the strategic work Council invests in developing its Rating Strategy, suggests the level of Council's Municipal Charge is currently at a reasonable level.

It should be noted the Municipal Charge is part of the adopted Rating Strategy of Council and is forecast to remain at \$225 for the next four years in the SRP. Council will review this at the next Rating Strategy review to take place in 2017.

It is not intended to be a variable charge that moves with other rate movements, but a fixed charge that is applied in order to ensure that all properties make a minimum contribution towards Council's base costs. By maintaining the charge at \$225 it does have the effect of increasing the proportion of rate revenue that is required to be raised from General Rates. Hence, the higher a property's Capital Improved Value (CIV), the greater proportion of increased rates it will be allocated.

The Local Government Act 1989 enables Councils to levy a municipal charge. The total amount raised from the municipal charge cannot be more than 20% of the total raised from the combination of Municipal Charge and General Rates.

Had the Municipal Charge increased by 2.5%, the movement in average rates would be minimal. Utilising two typical properties in the Shire, the following example shows that the higher valued property would save \$5.43 p.a. while the lower valued property would experience a \$3.25 p.a. increase.

Example: \$790,000 Residential Growth property in Batesford

	Current	2.5% Increase in Municipal Charge
Municipal Charge	\$225.00	\$230.63
Rates	\$3,035.97	\$3,024.91
Total	\$3,260.97	\$3,255.54

Example: \$170,000 Residential Growth property in Rokewood

	Current	2.5% Increase in Municipal Charge
Municipal Charge	\$225.00	\$230.63
Rates	\$653.31	\$650.93
Total	\$878.31	\$881.56

Submission 8 – Hayley Turner

Hayley is a Batesford resident and also raises the issue that was addressed in the response to Submission 1, relating to the level of rates in the Batesford area and the perceived lack of services and open space in the area, in comparison to the level of rates paid.

Submission 9 – Voice & Action GPS Inc.

The Voice & Action GPS Inc. group made a very detailed submission covering many specific areas. The group also requested that David Evans speak, on their behalf, to the submission at the Special Meeting of Council on 14 June 2016.

For ease of explanation this report will detail each response in the order contained within the written submission (attached). Also, particular detail has been included to address David's allegations regarding the professionalism and expertise of Council's finance staff.

Mayor's Introduction

V&A would like the CPI figure quoted (2.5%) to be updated to a more current figure.

The 2.5% relates to the figure dictated to all Victorian Councils under the 'Fair Go Rates System' and was disclosed in the Minister for Local Government's determination in December 2015.

No additional staff resources

V&A believe the policy should go further and include a reduction in staff resources.

This request would require Council to implement a change to its strategic direction, as a reduction in staff resources would have a negative impact on agreed service levels.

Council undertakes considerable community consultation and planning in developing a range of strategies, its Council Plan, Strategic Resource Plan and annual Budget to ensure it is delivering the services demanded of a growing municipality.

While such an initiative would result in cost savings, it would impact service delivery and not allow Council to deliver the strategic objectives set out in its Council Plan.

The Rate Increases

V&A state that ***'Not increasing the Municipal charge per [Sic.] rata only raises the burden on the residential ratepayers more.'*** This is an incorrect statement and as demonstrated in the response to Submission 7, the effect of not increasing the Municipal Charge pro rata raises the burden on higher than average valued properties, whether they are residential, farm, vacant or industrial.

V&A state that the according to page 74 of the budget the Residential Improved Growth Area properties will see a revaluation rise of approx. 5.8% on average. It continues on to state ***'Reducing the CIV for this sector of ratepayers should be a priority to help return financial capacity to this sector'***

The reference to 5.8% growth is a correct statement and reflects strong capital growth on properties classified in this differential. In response to the request to reduce the CIV, as outlined in the response to Submission 5 Council is not responsible for setting the Capital Improved Value (CIV) of properties and residents have the opportunity to lodge an objection to the Valuer-General's valuation, within two months of receiving their rates notice. This option, and how to proceed, is detailed on the rates notice.

V&A also state that the rates on an average \$348,000 Residential Improved Growth Area property will increase by 4.35%. It is important to note that undertaking calculations on an 'average' property is fraught with danger when trying to make comparisons to an individual property, as all properties are valued independently of each other and averages can be skewed by an influx of new development or unexpected growth in a particular locality.

Hypothetically, if an 'average' property in this classification was to increase by the 'average' growth from \$348,000 to \$368,000 the increase in rates and municipal charge would be 3.73%, rather than the 4.35% quoted by V&A.

	2015-16	2016-17
Capital Improved Value	\$348,000	\$368,000
Cents in the dollar	0.3895	0.3843
Rates	\$1,355	\$1,414
Municipal Charge	\$225	\$225
Total Rates and Municipal Charge	\$1,580	\$1,639

This average increase is higher than the 'average capped increase' of 2.32% due to the fact these properties have experienced stronger capital growth 'on average' than other properties 'on average', namely farming land which has experienced little or negative growth.

Staff Salaries

V&A express concern over the level of salary increases in the current and future EBA. In addition to the information provided in the response to Submission 5, management is well aware of the challenges in negotiating EBA's and every effort will be made to achieve a fair and reasonable outcome.

\$3.50 of each \$100 in Taxes is Shire Rates

V&A strongly refutes the statement, on page 6 of the draft budget, that ***'for every \$100 in taxes paid by Victorian residents, Council rates only make up approximately \$3.50. The other \$96.50 goes to the State and Federal Governments'***. The submission goes on to provide some worked examples for individuals and makes some basic assumptions in regard to tax levels and Golden Plains Shire Council rate payments. These show much higher figures than \$3.50.

Firstly, it must be noted that this figure is quoted as a Victoria wide figure and is not specific to Golden Plains residents.

Secondly, this figure has resulted from detailed analysis undertaken by the Municipal Association of Victoria and takes into consideration all taxes, duties and excises collected by the State and Federal Government including income tax, stamp duty, land tax, capital gains tax, superannuation tax, fuel excise, luxury car tax, etc., just to name a few.

Grants

V&A have requested that **'previous decisions on capital projects should be on hold'**. This is in relation to the level of grants being obtained to deliver these projects (\$7.4m quoted) and Councils level of contribution (\$1.0m quoted) and the extra maintenance costs that will result from these projects.

It is unclear what funding and projects the submission is referring to specifically, but again such action would require Council to implement a change to its strategic direction. There is no doubt such action would result in considerable savings, but would also have a detrimental impact on Council's ability to deliver the strategies contained in its Council Plan.

Adjusted Underlying Surplus

V&A queries the purpose of the 'Adjusted Underlying Surplus' and what it actually means.

This is a calculation specific to Victorian Local Government and is prescribed within the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014. It is a calculation Council must undertake to fulfil its legislative requirements in relation to the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework.

In basic terms, its purpose is to remove the 'non-recurrent' and 'non-monetary' contributions that are utilised to deliver capital projects which also have the effect of inflating a Council's 'Total Comprehensive Result'. The \$498k surplus is included in Council's retained earnings balance and is required to maintain Council's financial sustainability and to ensure it can meet its future obligations. It is not considered a liquid asset as suggested by the V&A submission.

In relation to this topic, V&A also states that:

'Our accountant is also baffled by the fact you refer to depreciation as an expense. Depreciation is a change of assets. An item is paid for at purchase time and is then depreciated over a period of time. It is not an expense because it is not paid for twice.'

This statement is clearly contrary to basic accounting principles. The initial purchase of an asset is not treated as an expense, but debited to the Balance Sheet as an asset. The annual depreciation is then allocated as an expense (as required under Australian Accounting Standards).

By treating depreciation as an expense, it has the effect of systematically allocating the assets value to Council's retained earnings balance, allowing Council to replace/renew the asset once it reaches the end of its useful life. AASB 116 defines Depreciation as 'the systematic allocation of the depreciable amount of an asset over its useful life.'

The submission goes on to state ***'The cost of replacing it is in the future from future funds and in councils they do not store cash for that. They simply take it out of future revenue (Rates).'***

This statement is incorrect as Council utilises retained earnings to replace or renew assets that have come to the end of their useful lives.

During David's verbal presentation he went on to suggest that Council should be preparing its Annual Budget differently from the way it prepares its Annual Statements. Victorian Councils are heavily regulated and audited in relation to the way they prepare and report their financial data, even to the point that they are now legislated to prepare their Annual Statements in accordance

with the Local Government Model Financial Report. Further information can be found on Local Government Victoria's Planning and Reporting website - <http://www.dtpli.vic.gov.au/local-government/publications-and-research/planning-and-reporting>

Capital works

In this section of V&A's submission, they make a number of recommendations to reduce service delivery and in turn reduce costs at Council's community facilities. These include:

- Placing the Bannockburn Civic Heart project on hold;
- Limit or reduce services at the Bannockburn Cultural Centre; and
- Review the business model at The Well in Smythesdale.

While a reduction in service delivery would generally result in reducing costs, again it would require a change to Council's strategic direction and any significant change to service within these facilities in particular would have a large impact on the community.

The following facts must also be clarified in relation to the submission:

Bannockburn Civic Heart

The Bannockburn Civic Heart Precinct has been developed with extensive community engagement over the past three years. There is strong support for the development of a community space in the centre of Bannockburn to complement the Cultural Centre and library buildings. As Bannockburn grows it is important that there is a civic precinct to identify the township and provide a sense of place. The numerous community led activities over the recent months has brought the space to life for families living in the southern communities of the Shire.

Council is required to allocate funding in the budget as a demonstration of its capacity to apply for both State and Federal grants in order to progress this multi-faceted project. The timing of the project is subject to receiving appropriate levels of government funding.

Bannockburn Cultural Centre (BCC)

Council has set the fees at levels that enable community groups to make best use of the facility. There are currently 16 regular user groups and numerous casual users. In the first three months of 2016 (January – March) 1,500 people attended some activity at the BCC.

Council does not employ a full time manager as suggested in the submission. A community development worker uses the office at the centre and is employed to manage a range of health promotion activities across the southern part of the Shire. This person is not required to be at the BCC on a full time basis which means people making enquiries may need to call or email to make a booking. Regular users are invoiced monthly while casual users are required to pay at the Council office in Pope Street. In future years this system will be an on-line one, managing both bookings and payments.

Council does not employ the library staff as they are employed by the Geelong Regional Library Corporation. The library is not open during business hours as the service is designed to cater for all residents, particularly students and families who leave Bannockburn and surrounding areas for work commitments.

The maintenance costs and operating costs noted in the budget are for the entire Cultural Centre, including the library.

Smythesdale Hub

Council owns the Smythesdale Hub. The Hub is a community facility with a business component to complement a 'wellbeing' focus. The existing components include a medical centre, a pharmacy, and community usage.

The pharmacy has a 3 year lease with Council which is currently under review. Ballarat Community Health Centre employ doctors and administrative staff and pay a user fee, this is part of a partnership with Council to bring medical services to the northern communities.

The Woody Yallock Historical Society has a memorandum of understanding and pay according to their community status.

The facility is currently undergoing an upgrade with additional consulting rooms (Maternal and Child Health Nurse, plus other health practitioners) and a community space for meetings. This facility is constantly booked by groups and provides a central point for many of the small communities surrounding Smythesdale.

Transfer Station

V&A would like to see the construction of the Transfer Station put on hold and implies this would result in a saving of \$290,000. However, it must be noted that \$140,000 of this will be funded by grants, costing Council only \$150,000. This project has been in direct response to the community who are frustrated in not having a transfer station available within the Shire.

The schedule of fees for disposing of waste materials at the new transfer station will be based as far as possible on full cost recovery. The costs associated with continuing to operate the Rokewood landfill in accordance with the EPA's Best Practice Environmental Management (BPEM) guidelines are quite prohibitive and well beyond the financial capacity of Council and the community.

Gravel pit operations

V&A also raise a query in relation to the cost of materials and services (\$122k) and depreciation (\$47k) allocated to the operations of the Gravel Pit. The \$122k purely relates to the cost of plant, machinery and man hours required to extract and push the gravel up ready for sale or transport. According to Australian Accounting Standards the Gravel Pit must be recognised as an asset and depreciated accordingly. Hence, the \$47k relates to the annual depreciation amount. This depreciation charge will ensure Council has sufficient retained earnings to rehabilitate the pit at the end of its useful life.

In relation to the gravel pit there were also concerns raised around the budgeted income of \$200k and that this figure did not include the gravel utilised by Council internally. \$150k of sales relate to internal charges for the gravel Council utilises on some of its own road network, with \$50k expected to be sold to third parties. These figures are consistent with sales from prior years and hence why the budget is set at \$200k each year.

The \$150k of internal sales does not generate any cash, but this transaction is required to recognise the true cost of maintaining Council's road network.

The submission queries the cost of carting gravel from Sago Hill to Bannockburn and the fact that there are private quarries closer to Bannockburn. In response to this Council does not acquire all of its gravel from Sago Hill and has a panel of suppliers for crushed rock and quarry products that it utilises on a regular basis. This allows them to minimise cartage costs and acquire the most appropriate product for the works being undertaken.

Cost Shifting

The submission suggests Councillors and staff do not do enough to avoid the impact of cost shifting and that Council should make the hard decision to cease or reduce such services where this has occurred and ***'let complaints be addressed at the ballot box'***.

It must be noted that this is a sector wide issue that is not isolated to Golden Plains. The sector as a whole continues to lobby the State and Federal Governments to resolve such shortfall, but as Local Government is an instrument of State Government it is very difficult to gain traction.

It is further complicated by the fact that the services in question generally relate to community health and safety. For example, Maternal and Child Health, Home and Community Care and School Crossing Supervisors.

Reducing or removing such services would again require a substantial change in strategic direction for Council and impact its ability to deliver the strategies within the Council Plan, not to mention the negative impact on the community.

Financial Management

The submission incorrectly states that

'The cost of our loans and their repayment instalments in this budget will amount to \$357,000. The figure the council will actually pay on instalments are \$245,000 the rest \$112,000 is for administration.'

The submission goes on to suggest that Council would be better to use a private chartered accountant to do the work. This statement shows a clear lack of understanding, when it comes to basic accounting principles.

The 'Borrowing Costs' of \$357k in Council's Comprehensive Income Statement relates solely to interest payments, as summarised in Note 11 on page 47 of the draft budget. The loan repayments (or instalments) of \$245k are accounted for separately in the Balance Sheet. A full reconciliation is provided on page 65 of the draft budget.

All loan repayments are processed automatically by the bank, without any 'administration' cost to Council.

Car Fleet

The V&A submission provides some positive feedback in relation to the change made to Council's fleet management policy. It still raises concerns over the cost of providing a vehicle to an employee and the frequency of turnover.

In response to these concerns it must be noted that employees are not 'given' vehicles to use 24/7. While selected staff are permitted private use of the vehicle they are required to contribute to the cost of their vehicle based on the type of vehicle and on the basis of the vehicle is being used for 50% business and 50% private. All Council vehicles are 'pooled' for staff use, once they arrive at the office each day.

While confidential, Council can confirm that the salary sacrificed by each employee is significantly more than the amount David quoted at the Special Meeting and is consistent with the amounts sacrificed by employees at other Victorian Councils.

In regards to the frequency of turnover, Council undertook some detailed analysis in 2015-16 and identified that two years is the optimum time for Golden Plains to change vehicles over. Given the size of the Shire, most Council vehicles travel between 40,000 and 50,000km's each year, which allows Council to dispose of vehicles at a reasonable price, before their warranty expires and hopefully before maintenance costs begin to become excessive.

These arrangements are consistent with the local government industry trends and supported by the findings from the Victorian Auditor General's Report (November 2009).

Utes

V&A requested some clarification regarding the policy for the replacement of utilities and suggested that no utilities be replaced in 2016-17.

Council have a total of 16 utilities and generally replaces them on a three year cycle. While there were 11 utilities budgeted to be replaced in 2015-16, only 4 were replaced and a further 7 will be replaced in 2016-17. The 2016-17 draft budget provides for \$259k for the replacement of 7 utilities. The draft budget inadvertently referred to 11.

Trucks

V&A requested that Council clarify its policy on the replacement of trucks and heavy plant and whether the exercise has been done in regards to having them replaced by private contractors.

The replacement of trucks and heavy plant varies from 7 to 15 years, depending on the condition of each asset. Before any item is included in the budget for replacement a detailed assessment is undertaken to determine if the replacement can be deferred, they are not simply replaced as originally scheduled.

The assessment includes an evaluation of whether the asset is still required or whether better value could be achieved by purchasing alternate items of plant or externally hire the item.

As part of Council's Best Value service reviews, an independent review of work practice arrangements applying to Councils tandem trucks and road rollers was conducted in 2013 and has been used as a guide in the acquisition of these plant items since that time.

A further review of Council's heavy vehicle fleet will be undertaken, commencing in 2016-17 and completed in 2017-18

Computer Hardware and Software

The V&A submission suggests that Council currently upgrades computer hardware and software every year and if it was to defer this in 2016-17 there would be a saving of \$145k. Council's normal policy is to replace hardware on a three yearly cycle as this is widely regarded as the most efficient use of technology. After three years warranties expire and the speed and capacity of technology begins to affect productivity.

However, as mentioned previously, Council has already made the decision to defer the replacement of PC's and laptops for 12 months and bear the risk of increased maintenance costs and potential productivity loss, in order assist in meeting the rate cap in 2016-17.

The \$145k relates to critical infrastructure (i.e. servers and mass storage) renewal that cannot be deferred, legislative software licencing and software improvement. The software improvement is in lieu of commencing a full replacement of Council's corporate software, which would cost in the vicinity of \$1m.

Bannockburn Public Toilet

The V&A submission suggests closing the Bannockburn public toilet and directing patrons to the toilets located at the Cultural Centre, saving Council the \$25k that is proposed in the draft budget to improve the appearance of the toilet block.

A community arts project was identified as a priority project, through the extensive consultation undertaken regarding the Civic Heart development.

After further investigation it was decided that the public toilet is in need of 'beautification', particularly given it is one of the first buildings people see when entering Bannockburn. A group of residents along with a Councillor representative are overseeing the project.

It should be noted that the Bannockburn Cultural Centre's opening hours are limited, which would impact residents and visitors to the town needing to utilise the toilets after hours and on weekends.

Council Debt

The final suggestion contained within the V&A submission is to utilise the possible savings identified throughout their submission to reduce Council's borrowings. In his verbal presentation David mentioned to the gallery that Council debt was 'going up', when in fact debt will be reduced by \$95k in 2016-17.

Council's borrowings balance at 30 June 2017 is proposed to be 36.6% of rate revenue. This is considered to be well within prudential limits and is consistent with other growth Council's in Victoria.

Council only utilises debt to fund capital projects and borrowing funds allows Council to spread the cost of growth over different generations of rate payers, rather than imposing the cost of large capital projects on the ratepayers of the day.

This practise is supported by the State Government, as under the 'Fair Go Rate System' they are promoting greater use of debt by Victorian Council's.

Submission 10 - David and Suzanne Young

David and Suzanne are also Batesford residents that have raised the issue that was addressed in the response to Submission 1, relating to the level of rates in the Batesford area and the perceived lack of services and open space in the area, in comparison to the level of rates paid.

They also raised concerns over a drainage issue for Daruma Way. The drainage improvement works in progress for Daruma Way and Tarraford Way have been split into stages to suit available budgets and provide for the works to be undertaken across multiple financial years. Stage 1 and stage 2 works have been completed, with further works still to be carried out in 2016-17.

Community Engagement

As required under the Local Government Act 1989, the draft Budget, Council Plan and SRP were released for public inspection and comment for a period of at least 28 days. Council also undertook a number of community engagement sessions prior to the preparation of the draft Budget, Council Plan and SRP.

The Chief Executive Officer has also engaged with Voice & Action GPS Inc. by providing them with a response to their list of thirty questions in relation to the preparation of the budget (refer attachment 2 for details).

Financial & Risk Management Implications

The financial outcomes included in the 2016-17 budget, Council Plan and SRP are critical in ensuring Council's long term financial sustainability.

The Financial Performance Indicators disclosed in the budget reflect Council's ongoing commitment to sound financial management. The indicators Council considers critical are outlined in Table 3 and show that the 2016-17 results are generally positive when compared to best practice and Council's preferred targets. However, it must be noted that many of these indicators include \$2.6m of Federal Assistance Grant funding budgeted to be received in advance.

As mentioned earlier, it is critical that the strategies included within the Council Plan and SRP are adhered to in order to achieve the financial outcomes detailed in the plan. Council's strong financial performance during recent periods has been achieved by adhering to Council's long term strategy of decreasing its reliance on grant revenue and increasing the level of rates and charges. Council's revenue from rates and charges is budgeted to be 47.9%. As previously stated, the state average in 2015-16 was 61.9%. Table 3 below compares some key indicators to best practice and GPS targets.

It is considered that there are no risk management implications.

Table 3

Indicator	Budget 2016-17	Best Practice	GPS Target	Traffic Light Position
Surplus ¹	\$5,173k	>\$0	>\$5,000k	
Adjusted Underlying Result ²	\$498k	>\$0	>\$0	
Working Capital (%) ³	217%	>100%	>180%	
Discretionary Retained Earnings ⁴	\$4,766k	>\$1,000k	>\$2,000k	
Borrowings (% of Rates and Charges) ⁵	36.6%	<60%	<30%	
Cash Balance ⁶	\$7,400k	>\$0	>\$5,000k	
Rate Determination ⁷	(\$832k)	>\$0	>\$0	

Indicators that meet both Best Practice and GPS Target are given a 'Green' light, one of the two targets 'Amber' and neither target a 'Red' light.

Economic, Social & Environmental Implications

It is considered there are no economic, social or environmental implications.

Communications

Council's communications plan includes a range of methods including media releases, newsletters, published Fact Sheets and inviting submissions from the public.

Conclusion

While negatively impacted by the introduction of the State Government's rate capping framework, the 2016-17 Draft Budget still delivers the core services required of Council, while maintaining a sustainable financial position. This has only been achieved by implementing several short term initiatives that cannot be sustained in the long term.

Council's financial discipline over recent years has allowed it to implement the strategies and deliver the services detailed within its Council Plan, during a challenging period, without placing its financial sustainability at risk. This has built a strong foundation to commence operating within a rate capping environment.

The strategies and long-term financial plans adopted by Council underpin the preparation of the 2016-17 budget. It is also framed by the Shire's unique demographics, increased demand for services, growing rating base, extensive local road network of 1,800 kilometres and the competing interests between rural and urban communities. It is also important to note that a key ingredient in delivering budgeted outcomes continues to be the hard work of the Shire's many volunteers.

The budget decisions made by Council today will impact not only on the next 12 months, but will set the scene for Council's continued long-term viability and strategic direction. Continuing to manage in a steady and decisive manner will set Golden Plains Shire Council up to deliver on its aspirations to work towards a more healthy, vibrant and sustainable future. This is the key to creating and delivering greater value for our communities over the longer term.

Council has a clear direction and the capacity to make Golden Plains Shire a great regional municipality where opportunities for residents, businesses and investors continue to grow.

¹ Surplus – The net result of total revenue and expenditure, including non-cash items such as depreciation.

² Adjusted Underlying Result – Surplus less non-recurrent capital grants, non-monetary asset contributions and other contributions to fund capital expenditure. These items have the potential to incorrectly inflate the operating surplus.

³ Working Capital – This is a measure of Council's ability to meet its short term commitments.

⁴ Discretionary Retained Earnings – The component of total equity that is not committed (includes proceeds from sale of land at Bakers Lane and VGC received in advance).

⁵ Borrowings – Balance of total interest bearing loans and liabilities as a percentage of rates and charges (including garbage charges). The prudent limit is considered to be 60%.

⁶ Cash Balance – The total cash and cash equivalents.

⁷ Rate Determination – This calculation demonstrates Council's ability to fund its capital program from operations. A deficit means retained earnings will be depleted further.

Moved Crs McArthur/Blake

That Council, having considered all verbal and written submissions received resolves as follows:

- 1. That the 2013-2017 Council Plan pursuant to Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1989 be adopted.***
- 2. That the 2016-2020 Strategic Resource Plan pursuant to Section 126 of the Local Government Act 1989 be adopted.***
- 3. That the 2016-17 budget pursuant to Section 127 of the Local Government Act 1989 be adopted with the following declaration of rates;***

Amount intended to be raised

An amount of \$20,334,154 (or such other amount as is lawfully raised as a consequence of this resolution) be declared as the amount which Council intends to raise by general rates, the municipal charge and the annual service charges (described later in this resolution), which amount is calculated as follows:

General Rates \$15,926,934
Municipal Charge \$2,279,925
Annual Service (Garbage) Charge \$2,127,295

4. General Rates

- 4.1 A general rate be declared in respect of the 2016-17 Financial Year.***
- 4.2 It be further declared that the general rate be raised by the application of differential rates.***
- 4.3 A differential rate be respectively declared for rateable land having the respective characteristics specified below, which characteristics will form the criteria for each differential rate so declared:***
 - 4.3.1 Residential Improved***
Any land which:
 - 4.3.1.1 is used primarily for residential purposes; and***
does not have the characteristics of Residential Improved (Growth Area).
 - 4.3.2 Residential Improved (Growth Area)***
Any land which:
 - 4.3.3.1 is used primarily for residential purposes;***
 - 4.3.3.2 is located within any of the areas bounded by the continuous and unbroken lines in the plans attached to this resolution; and***
 - 4.3.2.3 is designated as such in Council's rating database.***
 - 4.3.3 Business, Industrial and Commercial***
Any land which:
 - 4.3.3.1 is used primarily for commercial or industrial (including extractive industry) purposes; and***
 - 4.3.3.2 does not have the characteristics of Business, Industrial and Commercial (Growth Area).***
 - 4.3.3 Business, Industrial and Commercial (Growth Area)***
Any land which:
 - 4.3.4.1 is used primarily for commercial or industrial (including extractive industry) purposes;***
 - 4.3.4.2 is located within any of the areas bounded by the continuous and unbroken lines and the plans is attached to this resolution; and***
 - 4.3.4.3 is designated as such in Council's rating database.***

4.3.5 Farm Land

Any land which:

4.3.5.1 *is not less than 40 hectares in area; and*

4.3.5.2 *is used primarily for grazing, dairying, pig-farming, poultry-farming, fish-farming, tree-farming, bee-keeping, viticulture, horticulture, fruit-growing or the growing of crops of any kind or for any combination of those activities; and*

4.3.5.3 *is used by a business that:*

4.3.5.3.1 *has a significant and substantial commercial purpose or character; and*

4.3.5.3.2 *seeks to make a profit on a continuous or repetitive basis from its activities on the land; and*

4.3.5.3.3 *is making a profit from its activities on the land, or that has a reasonable prospect of making a profit from its activities on the land if it continues to operate in the way that it is operating.*

Or

Any land which:

4.3.5.4 *is not less than 2 hectares in area and not more than 40 hectares in area; and*

4.3.5.5 *is intensively farmed; and*

4.3.5.6 *is used by a business that:*

4.3.5.6.1 *has a significant and substantial commercial purpose or character; and*

4.3.5.6.2 *seeks to make a profit on a continuous or repetitive basis from its activities on the land; and*

4.3.5.6.3 *is making a profit from its activities on the land, or that has a reasonable prospect of making a profit from its activities on the land if it continues to operate in the way that it is operating.*

4.3.6 Farm Land (Growth Area)

4.3.6.1 *is not less than 40 hectares in area; and*

4.3.6.2 *is used primarily for grazing, dairying, pig-farming, poultry-farming, fish-farming, tree-farming, bee-keeping, viticulture, horticulture, fruit-growing or the growing of crops of any kind or for any combination of those activities; and*

4.3.6.3 *is used by a business that:*

4.3.6.3.1 *has a significant and substantial commercial purpose or character; and*

4.3.6.3.2 *seeks to make a profit on a continuous or repetitive basis from its activities on the land; and*

4.3.6.3.3 *is making a profit from its activities on the land, or that has a reasonable prospect of making a profit from its activities on the land if it continues to operate in the way that it is operating. and*

4.3.6.4 *is located within any of the areas bounded by the continuous and unbroken lines in the plans attached to this resolution; and*

4.3.6.5 *is designated as such in Council's rating database.*

Or

Any land which:

4.3.6.6 *is not less than 2 hectares in area and not more than 40 hectares in area; and*

4.3.6.7 *is intensively farmed; and*

4.3.6.8 *is used by a business that:*

4.3.6.8.1 *has a significant and substantial commercial purpose or character; and*

4.3.6.8.2 *seeks to make a profit on a continuous or repetitive basis from its activities on the land; and*

4.3.6.8.3 *is making a profit from its activities on the land, or that has a reasonable prospect of making a profit from its activities on the land if it continues to operate in the way that it is operating. and*

4.3.6.9 *is located within any of the areas bounded by the continuous and unbroken lines in the plans attached to this resolution; and*

4.3.6.10 *is designated as such in Council's rating database*

- 4.3.7 Non Farm Vacant Land**
Any land which:
- 4.3.7.1** *is not used primarily for residential, commercial or industrial (including extractive industry) purposes; and*
- 4.3.7.2** *does not have the characteristics of Farm Land, Farm Land (Growth Area), Non Farm Vacant Land (Growth Area), Vacant Land Non Developable or Vacant Non Developable Land (Growth Area)*
- 4.3.8 Non Farm Vacant Land (Growth Area)**
Any land which:
- 4.3.8.1** *is not used primarily for residential, commercial or industrial (including extractive industry) purposes; and*
- 4.3.8.2** *does not have the characteristics of Farm Land, Farm Land (Growth Area), Vacant Land Non Developable or Vacant Non Developable Land (Growth Area); and*
- 4.3.8.3** *is located within any of the areas bounded by the continuous and unbroken lines in the plans attached to this resolution; and*
- 4.3.8.4** *is designated as such in Council's rating database.*
- 4.3.9 Vacant Land Non Developable**
Any land which:
- 4.3.9.1** *is located in the Farming Zone (as zoned within the Golden Plains Planning Scheme); and*
- 4.3.9.2** *does not have the characteristics of Farm Land or Farm Land (Growth Area), and*
- 4.3.9.3** *cannot be used for residential, commercial or industrial (including extractive industry) purposes due to the constraints of the Golden Plains Planning Scheme.*
- 4.3.10 Vacant Land Non Developable (Growth Area)**
Any land which:
- 4.3.10.1** *is located in the Farming Zone (as zoned within the Golden Plains Planning Scheme); and*
- 4.3.10.2** *does not have the characteristics of Farm Land or Farm Land (Growth Area); and*
- 4.3.10.3** *cannot be used for residential, commercial or industrial (including extractive industry) purposes due to the constraints of the Golden Plains Planning Scheme; and*
- 4.3.10.4** *is located within any of the areas bounded by the continuous and unbroken lines in the plans attached to this resolution; and*
- 4.3.10.5** *is designated as such in Council's rating database.*
- 4.4** *Each differential rate will be determined by multiplying the Capital Improved Value of each rateable land (categorised by the characteristics described in paragraph 2.3 of this resolution) by the relevant cents in the dollar indicated in the following table:*

Category	Cents in the dollar on CIV
Residential Improved	0.3636 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value
Residential Improved (Growth Area)	0.3843 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value
Business, Industrial and Commercial	0.3636 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value
Business, Industrial and Commercial (Growth Area)	0.3843 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value
Farm land	0.3273 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value
Farm land (Growth Area)	0.3479 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value
Non Farm Vacant Land (Growth Area)	0.7479 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value
Vacant Land Non Developable	0.3636 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value
Vacant land Non Developable (Growth Area)	0.3843 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value

- 4.5** *It be recorded that Council considers that each differential rate will contribute to the equitable and efficient carrying out of Council functions, and that*
- 4.5.1** *the respective objectives of each differential rate be those specified in the Schedule to this resolution;*
- 4.5.2** *the respective types or classes of land which are subject to each differential rate be those defined in the Schedule to this resolution;*
- 4.5.3** *the respective uses and levels of each differential rate in relation to those respective types or classes of land be those described in the Schedule to this resolution; and*
- 4.5.4** *the relevant*
- 4.5.4.1** *uses of;*
- 4.5.4.2** *geographical locations of;*
- 4.5.4.3** *planning scheme zonings of; and*
- 4.5.4.4** *types of buildings on;*
the respective types or classes of land be those identified in the Schedule to this resolution.
- 5. Municipal Charge**
- 5.1** *A municipal charge be declared in respect of the 2016-17 Financial Year.*
- 5.2** *The municipal charge be declared for the purpose of covering some of the costs of Council.*
- 5.3** *The municipal charge be in the sum of \$225 for each rateable land (or part) in respect of which a municipal charge may be levied.*
- 5.4** *It be confirmed that the municipal charge is declared in respect of all rateable land within the municipal district in respect of which a municipal charge may be levied.*
- 6. Annual Service (Garbage) Charge**
- 6.1** *An annual service charge be declared in respect of the 2016-17 Financial Year.*
- 6.2** *The annual service charge be declared for the collection and disposal of refuse (including recyclables).*
- 6.3** *The annual service charge be:*
- 6.3.1** *in the sum of \$246.50 for each rateable land (or part) in respect of which the annual service charge may be levied; and*
- 6.3.2** *based on ownership of any land used primarily for residential purposes within the area designated for waste collection in the plan, which are the criteria for the annual service charge so declared.*
- 7. Consequential**
- 7.1** *It be recorded that Council requires any person to pay interest on any amount of rates and charges to which:*
- 7.1.1** *that person is liable to pay; and*
- 7.1.2** *have not been paid by the date specified for their payment*
- 7.2** *The Chief Executive officer be authorised to levy and recover the general rates, municipal charge and annual service charge in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989.*
- 7.3** *The Chief Executive officer be authorised to make so much of Council's rating database available as is reasonably necessary to enable any person to ascertain the designation of any land located within any of the areas bounded by the continuous and unbroken lines in the plans attached to this resolution.*

SCHEDULE

Residential Improved

Objective:

To encourage commerce and industry, and to ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council, including the:

- *Construction and maintenance of public infrastructure;*
- *Development and provision of health and community services; and*
- *Provision of general support services.*

Types and Classes:

Rateable land having the relevant characteristics described in the recommendation.

Use and Level of Differential Rate:

The differential rate will be used to fund some of those items of expenditure described in the budget adopted by Council. The level of the differential rate is the level which Council considers is necessary to achieve the objectives specified above.

Geographic Location:

Wherever located within the municipal district.

Use of Land:

Any use permitted under the relevant Planning Scheme.

Planning Scheme Zoning:

The zoning applicable to each rateable land within this category, as determined by consulting maps referred to in the relevant Planning Scheme.

Types of Buildings:

All buildings which are now constructed on the land or which are constructed prior to the expiry of the 2016-17 Financial Year.

Residential Improved (Growth Area)

Objective:

To enable more resources to be devoted to strategic planning of Residential Improved (Growth Area) (including planning for the infrastructure and community needs of those residing on Residential Improved (Growth Area)), and to ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council, including the:

- *Construction and maintenance of public infrastructure;*
- *Development and provision of health and community services; and*
- *Provision of general support services.*

Types and Classes:

Rateable land having the relevant characteristics described in the recommendation.

Use and Level of Differential Rate:

The differential rate will be used to fund some of those items of expenditure described in the budget adopted by Council. The level of the differential rate is the level which Council considers is necessary to achieve the objectives specified above.

Geographic Location:

Wherever located within the municipal district.

Use of Land:

Any use permitted under the relevant Planning Scheme.

Planning Scheme Zoning:

The zoning applicable to each rateable land within this category, as determined by consulting maps referred to in the relevant Planning Scheme.

Types of Buildings:

All buildings which are now constructed on the land or which are constructed prior to the expiry of the 2016-17 Financial Year.

Business, Industrial and Commercial

Objective:

To encourage commerce and industry, and to ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council, including the:

- ***Construction and maintenance of public infrastructure;***
- ***Development and provision of health and community services; and***
- ***Provision of general support services.***

Types and Classes:

Rateable land having the relevant characteristics described in the recommendation.

Use and Level of Differential Rate:

The differential rate will be used to fund some of those items of expenditure described in the budget adopted by Council. The level of the differential rate is the level which Council considers is necessary to achieve the objectives specified above.

Geographic Location:

Wherever located within the municipal district.

Use of Land:

Any use permitted under the relevant Planning Scheme.

Planning Scheme Zoning:

The zoning applicable to each rateable land within this category, as determined by consulting maps referred to in the relevant Planning Scheme.

Types of Buildings:

All buildings which are now constructed on the land or which are constructed prior to the expiry of the 2016-17 Financial Year.

Business, Industrial and Commercial (Growth Area)

Objective:

To enable more resources to be devoted to strategic planning of Business, Industrial and Commercial (Growth Area) (including planning for the infrastructure and community needs of those operating businesses on Business, Industrial and Commercial (Growth Area)), to encourage commerce and industry and to ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council, including the:

- Construction and maintenance of public infrastructure;
- Development and provision of health and community services; and
- Provision of general support services.

Types and Classes:

Rateable land having the relevant characteristics described in the recommendation.

Use and Level of Differential Rate:

The differential rate will be used to fund some of those items of expenditure described in the budget adopted by Council. The level of the differential rate is the level which Council considers is necessary to achieve the objectives specified above.

Geographic Location:

Wherever located within the municipal district.

Use of Land:

Any use permitted under the relevant Planning Scheme.

Planning Scheme Zoning:

The zoning applicable to each rateable land within this category, as determined by consulting maps referred to in the relevant Planning Scheme.

Types of Buildings:

All buildings which are now constructed on the land or which are constructed prior to the expiry of the 2016-17 Financial Year.

Farm Land

Objective:

To encourage farming activity, and to ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council, including the:

- ***Construction and maintenance of public infrastructure;***
- ***Development and provision of health and community services; and***
- ***Provision of general support services.***

Types and Classes:

Rateable land having the relevant characteristics described in the recommendation.

Use and Level of Differential Rate:

The differential rate will be used to fund some of those items of expenditure described in the budget adopted by Council. The level of the differential rate is the level which Council considers is necessary to achieve the objectives specified above.

Geographic Location:

Wherever located within the municipal district.

Use of Land:

Any use permitted under the relevant Planning Scheme.

Planning Scheme Zoning:

The zoning applicable to each rateable land within this category, as determined by consulting maps referred to in the relevant Planning Scheme.

Types of Buildings:

All buildings which are now constructed on the land or which are constructed prior to the expiry of the 2016-17 Financial Year.

Farm Land (Growth Area)

Objective:

To enable more resources to be devoted to strategic planning of Farm Land (Growth Area) (including planning for the infrastructure and community needs of those operating farms or residing on Farm Land (Growth Area)), to encourage farming activity and to ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council, including the:

- *Construction and maintenance of public infrastructure;*
- *Development and provision of health and community services; and*
- *Provision of general support services.*

Types and Classes:

Rateable land having the relevant characteristics described in the recommendation.

Use and Level of Differential Rate:

The differential rate will be used to fund some of those items of expenditure described in the budget adopted by Council. The level of the differential rate is the level which Council considers is necessary to achieve the objectives specified above.

Geographic Location:

Wherever located within the municipal district.

Use of Land:

Any use permitted under the relevant Planning Scheme.

Planning Scheme Zoning:

The zoning applicable to each rateable land within this category, as determined by consulting maps referred to in the relevant Planning Scheme.

Types of Buildings:

All buildings which are now constructed on the land or which are constructed prior to the expiry of the 2016-17 Financial Year.

Non Farm Vacant Land

Objective:

To enable more resources to be devoted to strategic planning of Non Farm Vacant Land (including planning for the infrastructure and community needs of those who may come to occupy Non Farm Vacant Land), to encourage development of that land and to ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council, including the:

- *Construction and maintenance of public infrastructure;*
- *Development and provision of health and community services; and*
- *Provision of general support services.*

Types and Classes:

Rateable land having the relevant characteristics described in the recommendation.

Use and Level of Differential Rate:

The differential rate will be used to fund some of those items of expenditure described in the budget adopted by Council. The level of the differential rate is the level which Council considers is necessary to achieve the objectives specified above.

Geographic Location:

Wherever located within the municipal district.

Use of Land:

Any use permitted under the relevant Planning Scheme.

Planning Scheme Zoning:

The zoning applicable to each rateable land within this category, as determined by consulting maps referred to in the relevant Planning Scheme.

Non Farm Vacant Land (Growth Area)

Objective:

To enable more resources to be devoted to strategic planning of Non Farm Vacant Land (Growth Area) (including planning for the infrastructure and community needs of those who may come to occupy Non Farm Vacant Land (Growth Area), to encourage development of that land and to ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council, including the:

- *Construction and maintenance of public infrastructure;*
- *Development and provision of health and community services; and*
- *Provision of general support services.*

Types and Classes:

Rateable land having the relevant characteristics described in the recommendation.

Use and Level of Differential Rate:

The differential rate will be used to fund some of those items of expenditure described in the budget adopted by Council. The level of the differential rate is the level which Council considers is necessary to achieve the objectives specified above.

Geographic Location:

Wherever located within the municipal district.

Use of Land:

Any use permitted under the relevant Planning Scheme.

Planning Scheme Zoning:

The zoning applicable to each rateable land within this category, as determined by consulting maps referred to in the relevant Planning Scheme.

Vacant Land Non Developable

Objective:

To enable more resources to be devoted to strategic planning of Non Farm Vacant Land (including planning for the infrastructure and community needs of those who may come to occupy Non Farm Vacant Land), to ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council, including the:

- ***Construction and maintenance of public infrastructure;***
- ***Development and provision of health and community services; and***
- ***Provision of general support services.***

Types and Classes:

Rateable land having the relevant characteristics described in the recommendation.

Use and Level of Differential Rate:

The differential rate will be used to fund some of those items of expenditure described in the budget adopted by Council. The level of the differential rate is the level which Council considers is necessary to achieve the objectives specified above.

Geographic Location:

Wherever located within the municipal district.

Use of Land:

Any use permitted under the relevant Planning Scheme.

Planning Scheme Zoning:

The zoning applicable to each rateable land within this category, as determined by consulting maps referred to in the relevant Planning Scheme.

Vacant Land Non Developable (Growth Area)

Objective:

To enable more resources to be devoted to strategic planning of Vacant Land Non Developable (Growth Area) (including planning for the infrastructure and community needs of those who may come to occupy Vacant Land Non Developable (Growth Area), to ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council, including the:

- *Construction and maintenance of public infrastructure;*
- *Development and provision of health and community services; and*
- *Provision of general support services.*

Types and Classes:

Rateable land having the relevant characteristics described in the recommendation.

Use and Level of Differential Rate:

The differential rate will be used to fund some of those items of expenditure described in the budget adopted by Council. The level of the differential rate is the level which Council considers is necessary to achieve the objectives specified above.

Geographic Location:

Wherever located within the municipal district.

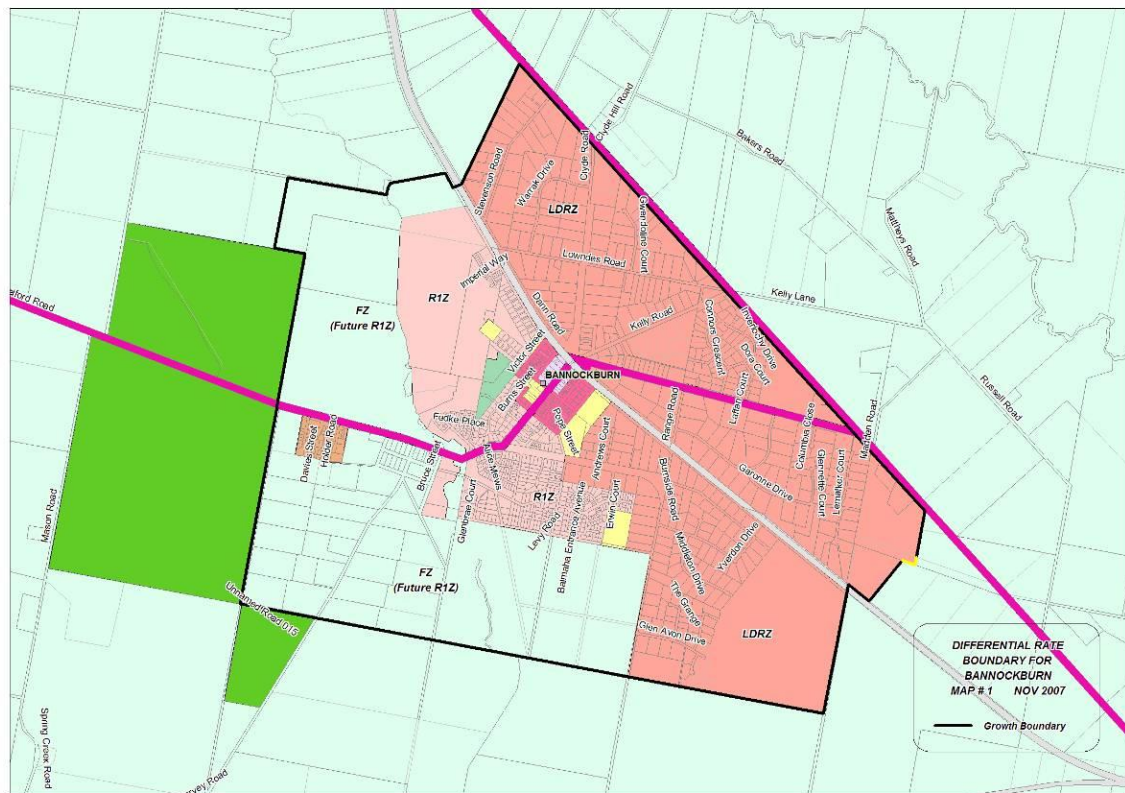
Use of Land:

Any use permitted under the relevant Planning Scheme.

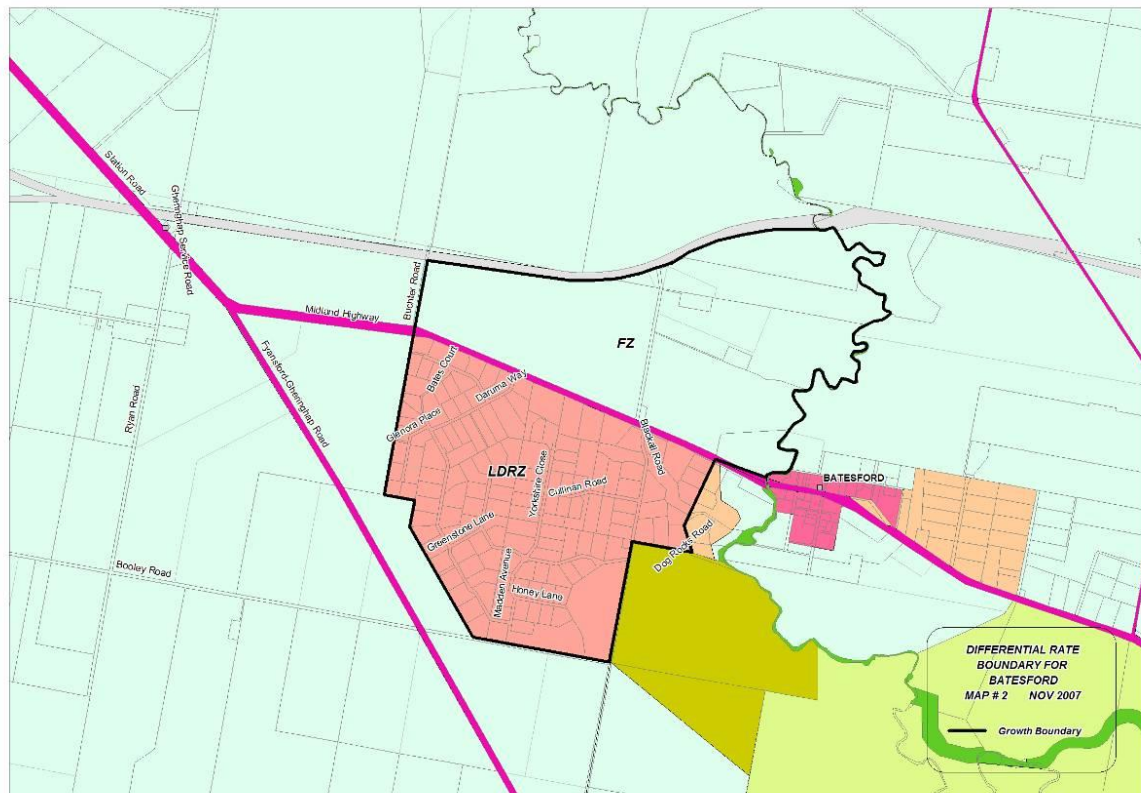
Planning Scheme Zoning:

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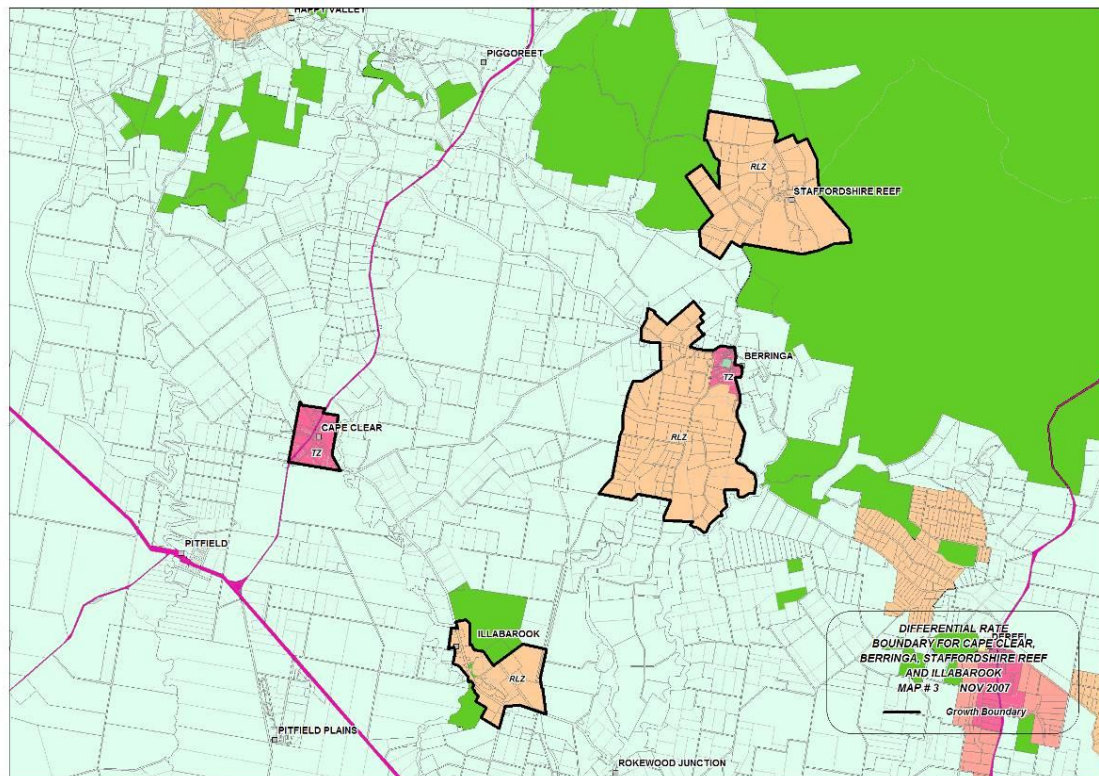
Bannockburn Differential Rate Area



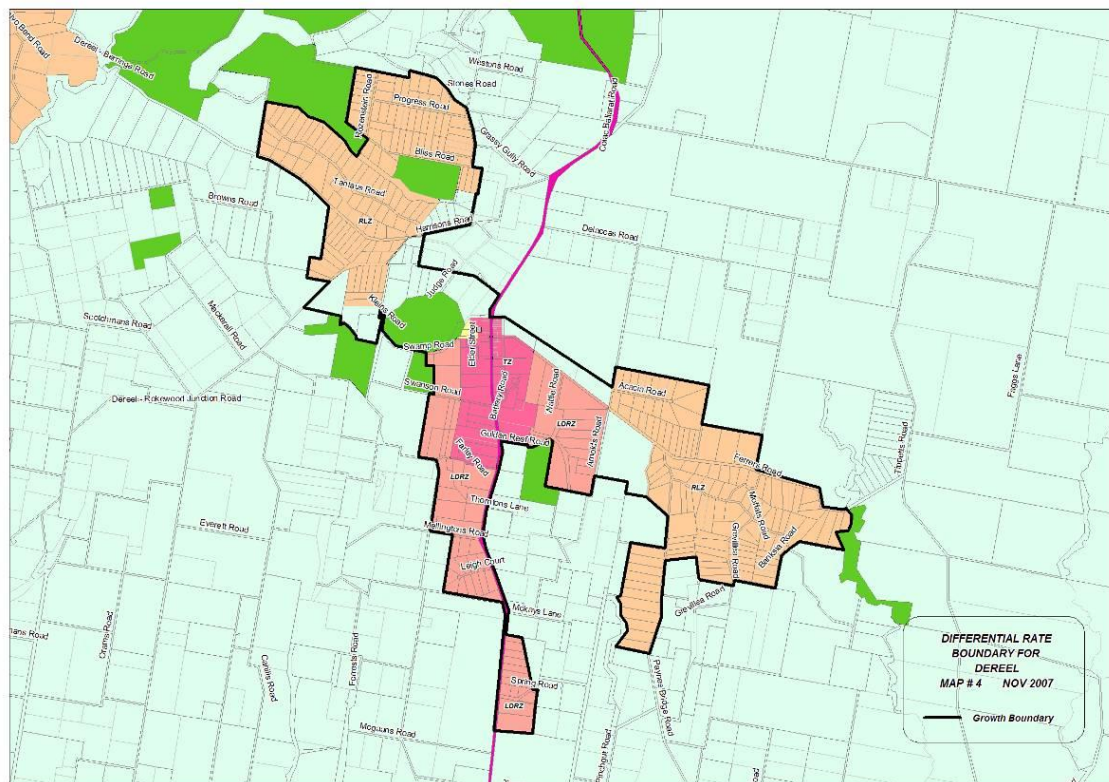
Batesford Differential Rate Area



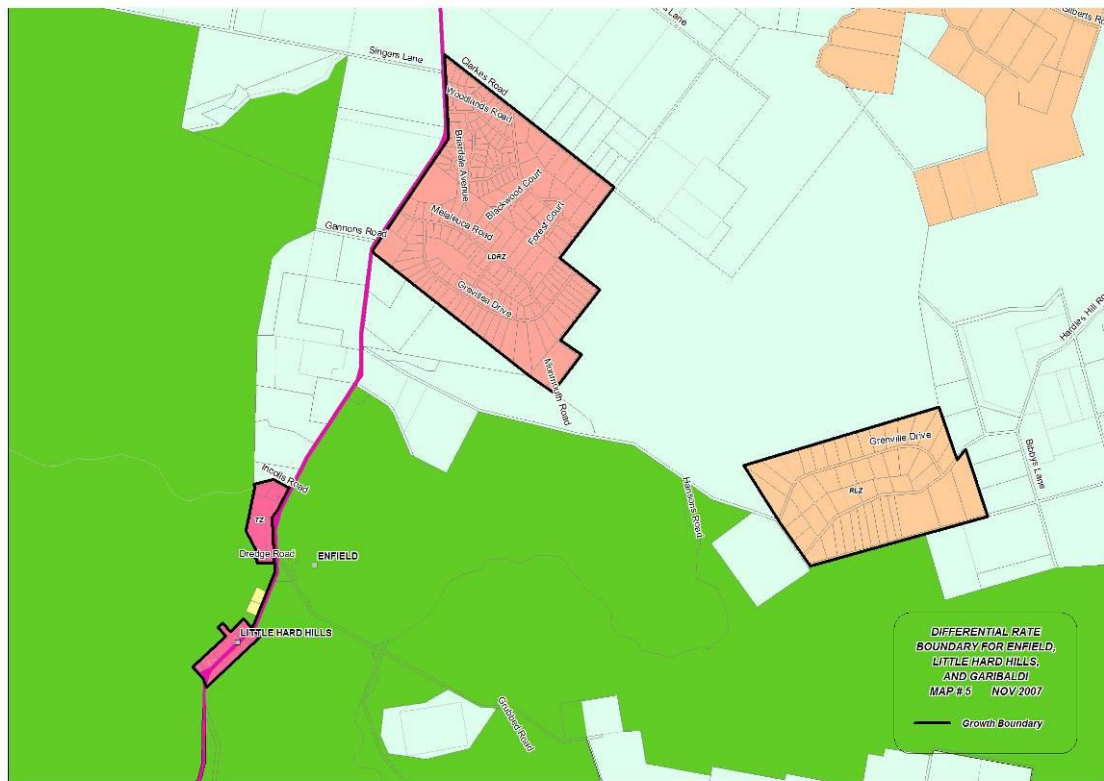
Berringa, Cape Clear, Staffordshire Reef and Illabarook Differential Rate Area



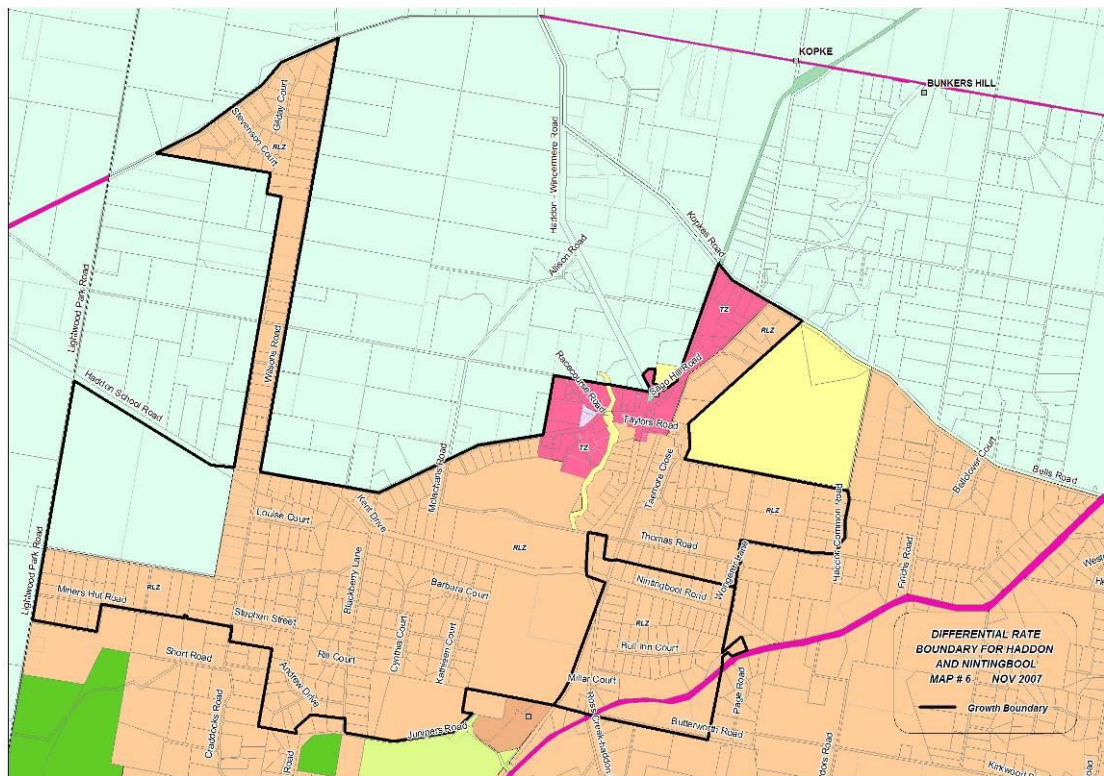
Dereel Differential Rate Area



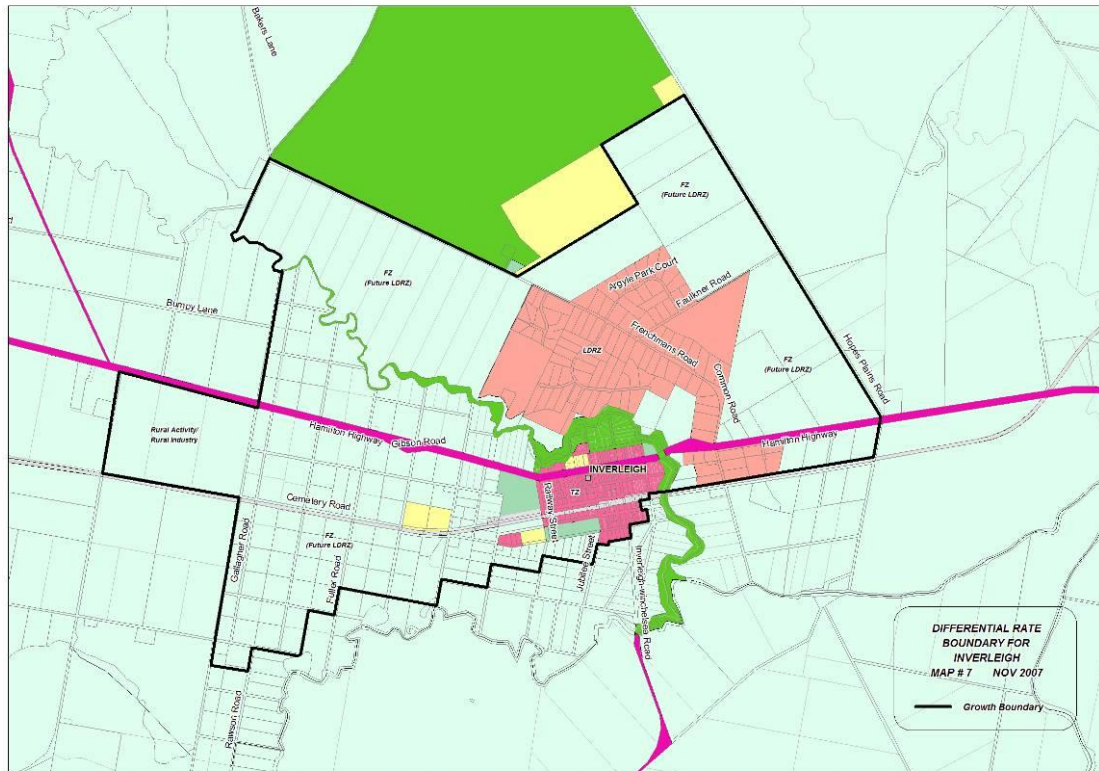
Enfield, Little Hard Hills and Garibaldi Differential Rate Area



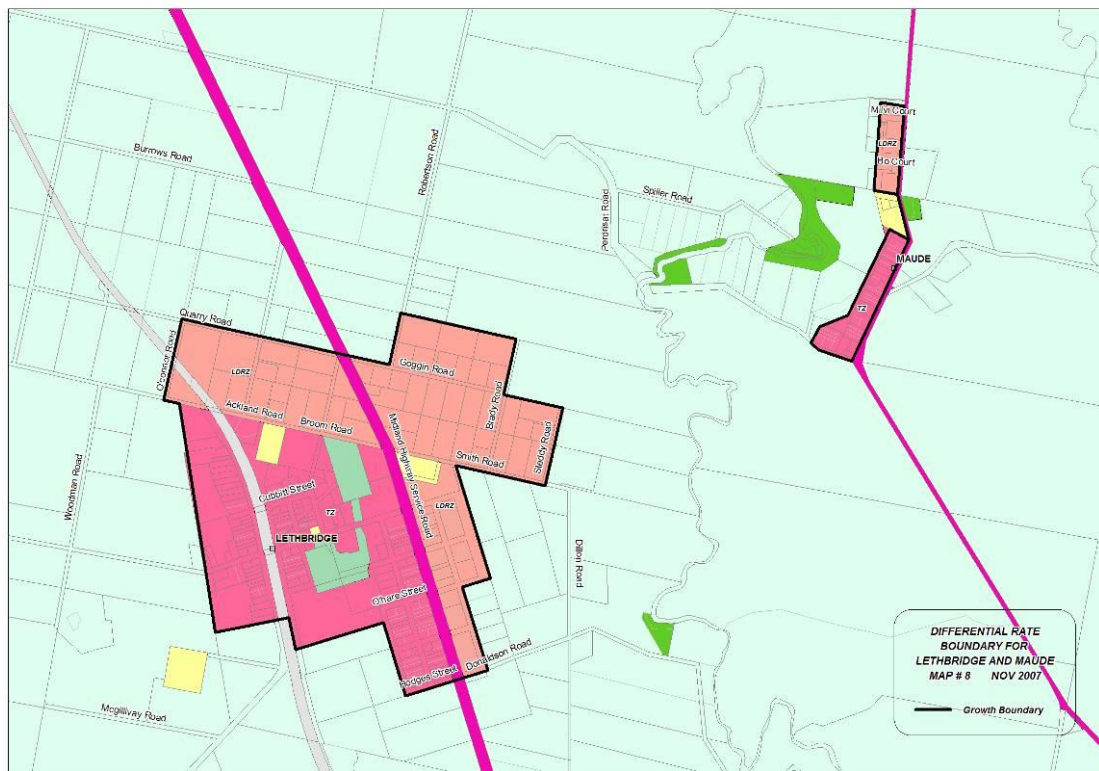
Haddon and Nintingbool Differential Rate Area



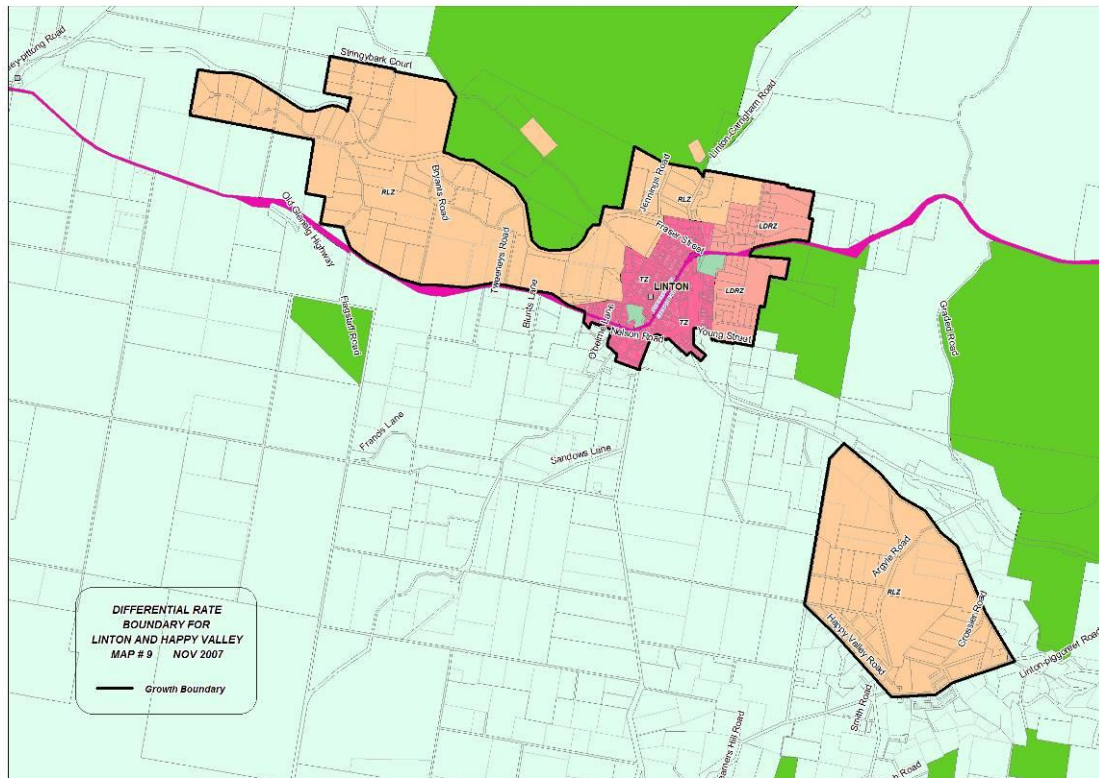
Inverleigh Differential Rate Area



Lethbridge and Maude Differential Rate Area



Linton and Happy Valley Differential Rate Area

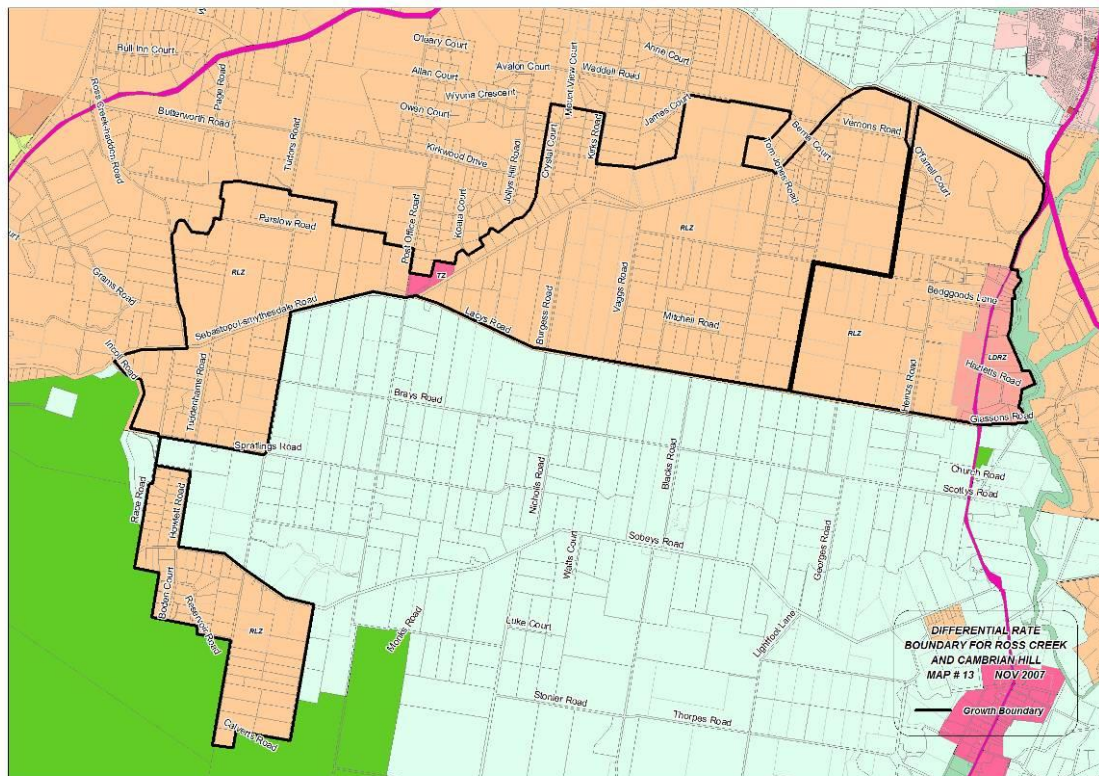


Meredith Differential Rate Area

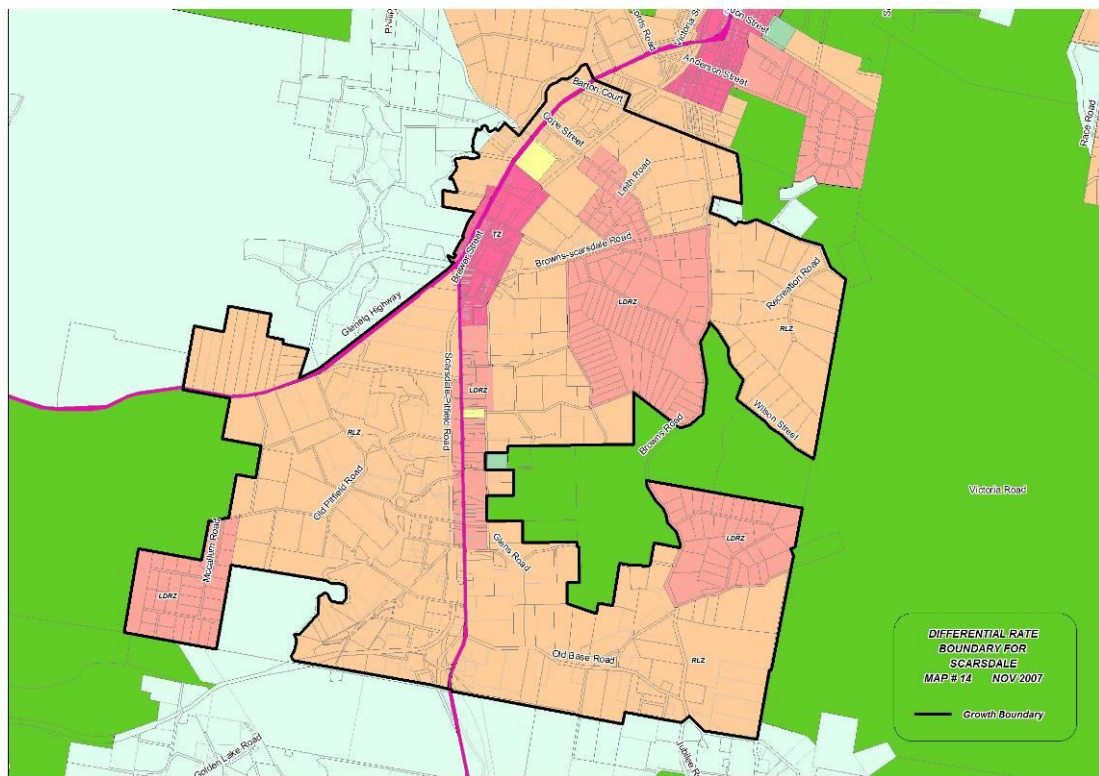


Map 12: Differential Rate Boundary for Rokewood and Corindhap. The map shows a pink-shaded area representing the differential rate boundary. Key roads include Thomas Hill Road, Dark Road, Cam's Road, Rokewood Road, and Main Street. The map also shows the Rokewood and Corindhap areas, with a legend indicating the Growth Boundary.

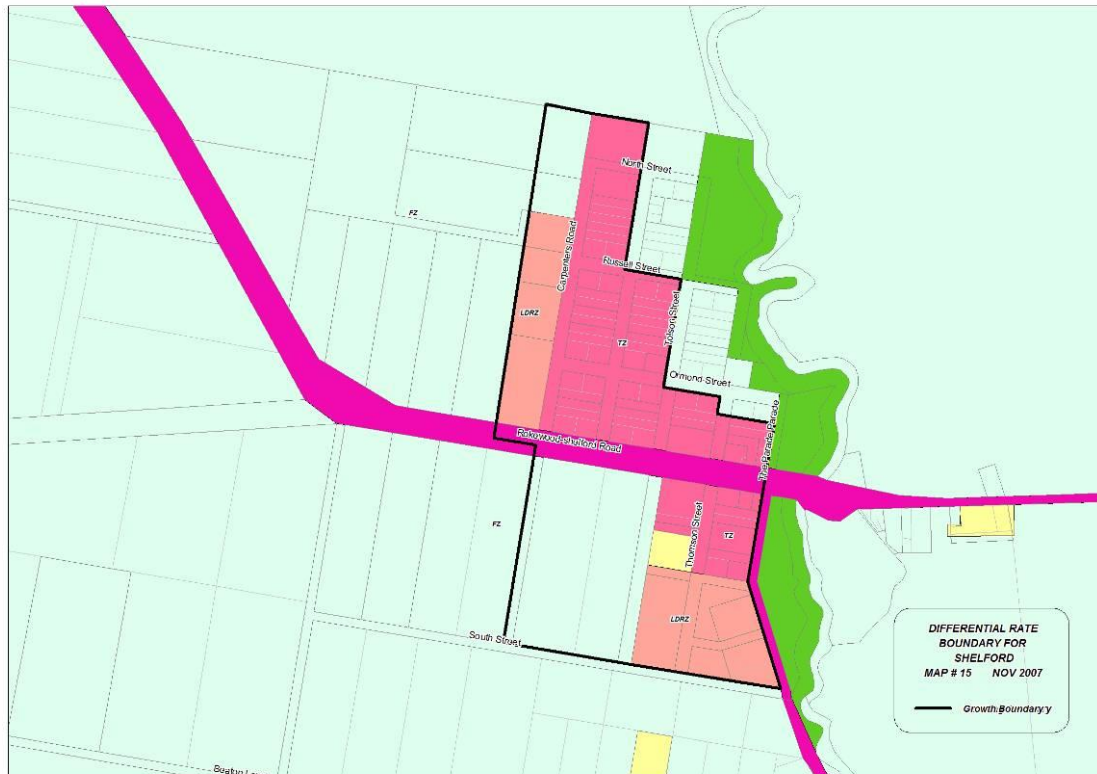
Ross Creek and Cambrian Hill Differential Rate Area



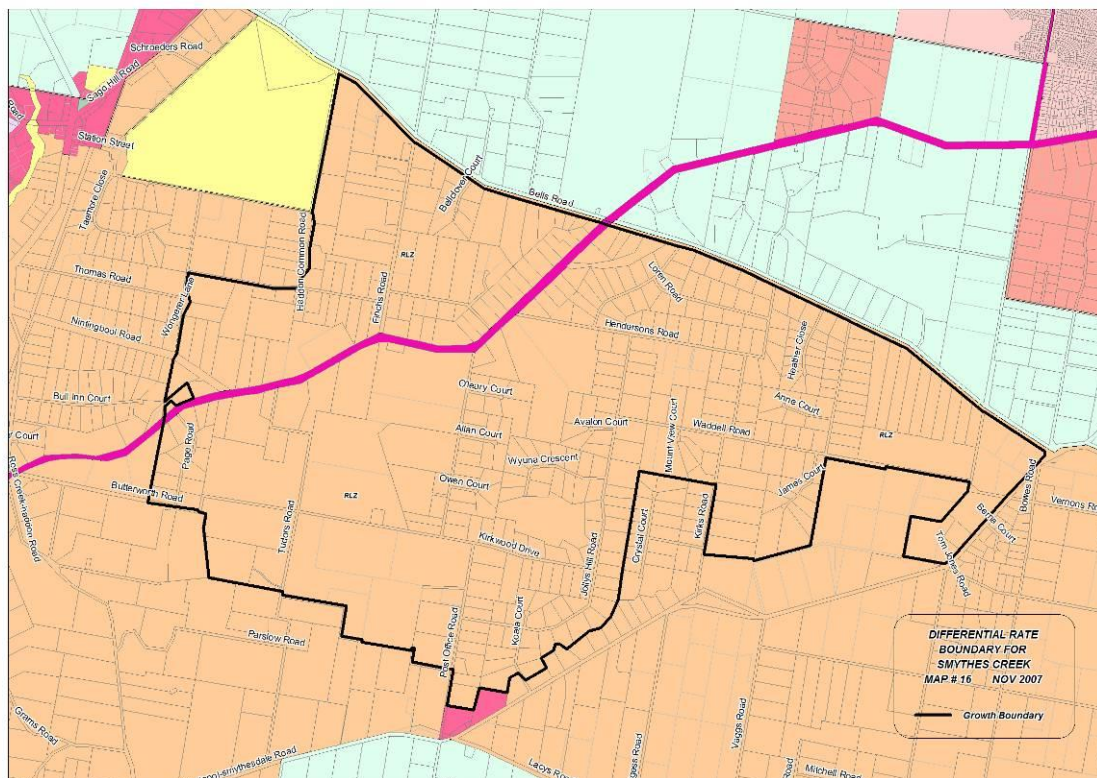
Scarsdale Differential Rate Area



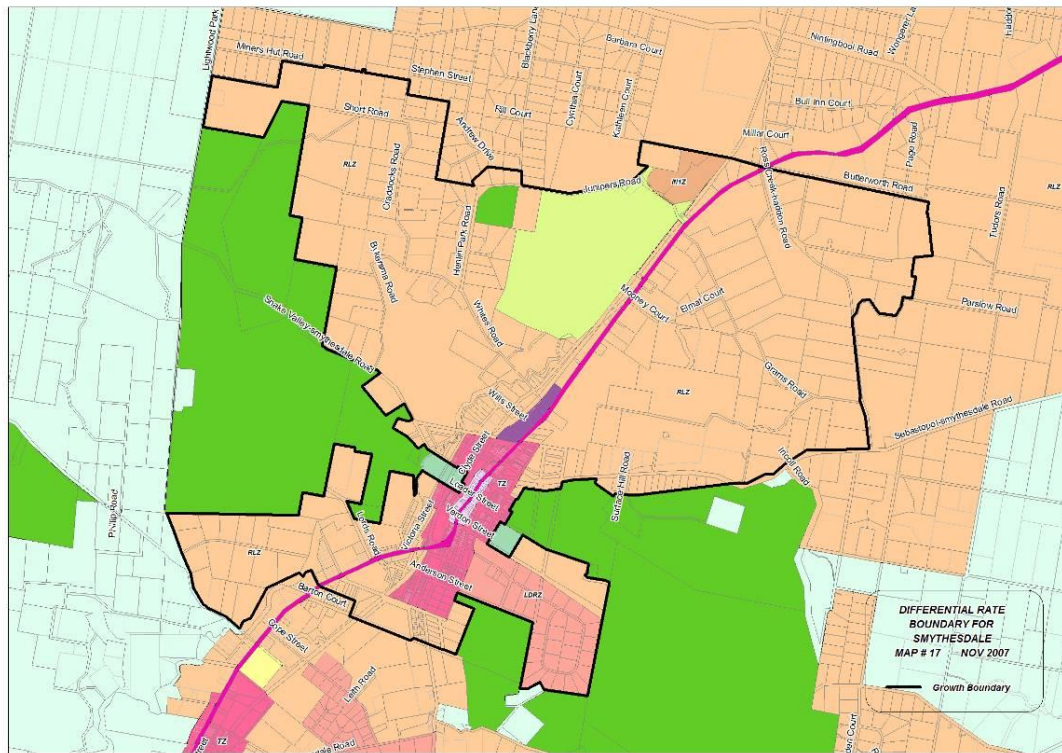
Shelford Differential Rate Area



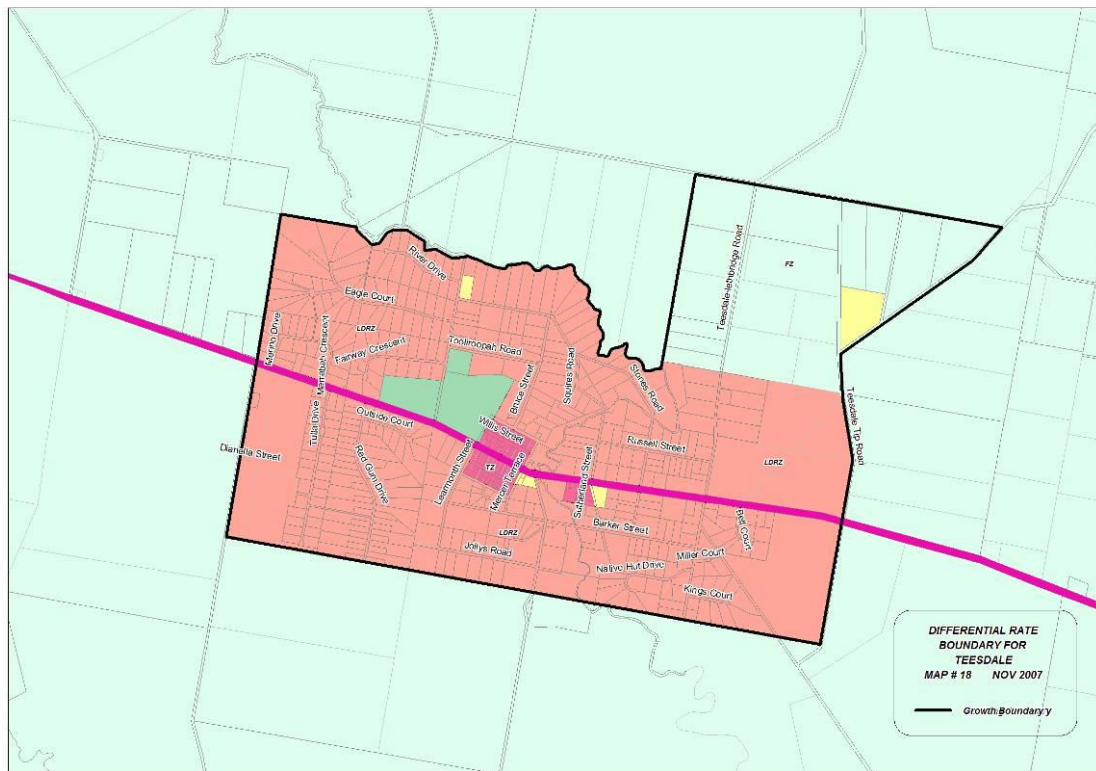
Smythes Creek Differential Rate Area



Smythesdale Differential Rate Area



Teesdale Differential Rate Area



Carried

Cr Vaughan called for a Division.

Division: For: Crs Blake, Cameron, Hansford, Kirby, McArthur and Phelan
Against: Cr Vaughan

4.6. KEY RESULT AREA – HUMAN SUPPORT SERVICES

4.6.1 Age-Friendly Victoria Declaration: Statement of Support & Partner Endorsement

Directorate	Community Services
Unit	Human Services – Aged & Disability Services
Senior Manager	Jillian Evans, Director Community Services
Responsible Manager	Jillian Evans, Director Community Services
Author	Jillian Evans, Director Community Services
File References	BluePoint: 75-08-002
Council Plan Link	Implement the Ageing Well Strategy
Relevant Council Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ageing Well in Golden Plains Strategy 2012-2016 Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-2017
Relevant Policies & Legislative Frameworks	
Attachments	5. The Age-Friendly Victoria Statement of Support and Partner Endorsement

Declarations of Interest: Councillors & Officers

Jillian Evans, Director Community Services: In providing this advice as the senior manager, responsible manager and author, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement to sign the Age-Friendly Victoria declaration, confirming its commitment to create an age-friendly community.

Background

Golden Plains Shire received communication from the MAV on 19 May 2016 outlining the initiative of the World Health Organization (WHO) and inviting Councils to sign the Age-Friendly Victoria Declaration Statement of Support and Partner Endorsement.

The age-friendly journey is a valued and important direction for Councils and their communities. To date, six Victorian Councils have declared their commitment to becoming age-friendly by joining the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities. The age-friendly declaration signed by the MAV on the 14 April provides another option for Victorian Councils who may be interested in starting the age-friendly journey or making a public statement of commitment to age-friendliness.

The Age-Friendly Victoria Declaration Statement of Support and Partner Endorsement can be signed by Councils, and celebrated as a good news story in local press, Council newsletters and on Council's website. It can also be shared through statewide promotion on the Seniors Online website administered by the State Government. Signing up to the declaration is an important step for Golden Plains Shire to work towards age-friendly outcomes.

In signing the Age-Friendly Victoria Declaration, the State Government has made a commitment to deliver \$2.2m over four years in grants for age-friendly projects led by Councils. The MAV will keep Councils informed about these resources as they become available.

Discussion

The Age-Friendly Victoria Declaration provides a commitment to working together with the State on creating age-friendly communities by:

- promoting an age-friendly Victoria;
- addressing loneliness and social isolation experienced by seniors;
- providing local government with access to advice, expertise and support;
- supporting state and local planning processes;
- empowering and encouraging seniors' involvement; and
- valuing stakeholder engagement and collaboration.

This commitment by Golden Plains Shire will advocate the Ageing Well in Golden Plains Strategy and allow another avenue for Golden Plains Shire to engage with local communities. Golden Plains Shire is already committed to creating liveable communities for the elderly. Signing this declaration and working with the State Government will open the doors even further for Golden Plains to offer and adapt to the ever changing demographic.

Community Engagement

A formal consultation process is not required.

Financial & Risk Management Implications

It is considered that there are no financial or risk management implications.

Economic, Social & Environmental Implications

Golden Plains Shire offers the community a range of services and activities to assist older people, people with a disability and their carers to stay in their homes longer and enhance their quality of life.

It is considered there are no economic or environmental implications.

Communications

On signing of the Age-Friendly Victoria Declaration, officers will forward a signed copy to the MAV for inclusion on the MAV website. Additionally, the signed declaration can join the virtual wall of commitments, co-ordinated by the State Government through the Seniors Online website. Council's internal marketing team will also promote the signing of the declaration.

Conclusion

Golden Plains Shire has been invited by the MAV to sign the Age-Friendly Victoria Declaration Statement of Support and Partner Endorsement. This declaration will demonstrate Council's commitment to creating liveable communities for older Victorians. In signing the Age-Friendly Victoria Declaration, the State Government has made a commitment to deliver \$2.2m over four years in grants for age-friendly projects led by Councils.

Moved Crs Vaughan/Hansford

That Council signs the Age-Friendly Victoria Declaration Statement of Support and Partner Endorsement.

Carried

4.7. KEY RESULT AREA – RECREATION & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

4.7.1 Contract GPS-T1/2016: Cleaning of Public Amenities & BBQs

Directorate	Assets and Amenity
Unit	Works
Senior Manager	Greg Anders, Director Assets & Amenity
Responsible Manager	Peter Cameron, Works Manager
Authors	Peter Cameron, Works Manager Henk Mensinga, Buildings & Facilities Assets Officer
File References	BluePoint: 39-111-001 Contract: GPS-T1/2016
Council Plan Link	Recreation and Community Development
Relevant Council Strategies	Improve Community Satisfaction Survey Rating
Relevant Policies & Legislative Frameworks	Community Development Strategy
Attachments	6. Confidential Attachment: GPS-T1/2016 Tender Evaluation Report

Declarations of Interest: Councillors & Officers

Greg Anders: In providing this advice as the senior manager, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Peter Cameron: In providing this advice as the responsible manager and joint author, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Henk Mensinga: In providing this advice as a joint author, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Purpose

This report provides a recommendation to Council for the appointment of an experienced contractor to undertake cleaning services on public amenities and public BBQ facilities within the municipality.

Background

Council provides cleaning services under contract for public amenity (toilet) facilities and BBQ facilities throughout the municipality. The current contract expires on 31 July 2016. This tender will provide a new contract for the cleaning of existing public toilets and BBQ facilities as described in the contract specification.

Tender Description

This contract is for a single contractor to provide the required cleaning services for the public toilets and BBQs throughout the municipality. There are currently 26 public toilets and 17 BBQs.

In order to align the new contract with the financial year (for budget management purposes), the initial contract term is for a period of two years and eleven months. The contract includes two one-year options for contract extension by agreement between Council and the contractor.

The contract is a lump sum contract with provision for annual rise or fall based on the consumer price index figure for Melbourne.

A number of service expansion and improvement changes have been made to the contract specification over the original requirements of the current contract. These include:

1. Four (4) additional public toilets have been added – Lethbridge Lake, Lethbridge Recreation Reserve, Meredith Recreation Reserve and the Enfield Harrison Reserve public toilets. The facilities at Lethbridge and Meredith are currently cleaned by a Council employee who has been engaged in a part time capacity and has undertaken these duties for a long period of time.
2. Increased frequency of cleans for high use facilities at Bannockburn, Inverleigh, Linton, Meredith and Smythesdale.
3. Changes to the cleaning requirements to clearly define service requirements and lift the standard of cleanliness and hygiene for both the regular and periodic cleans.
4. Setting a specific time-of-day for cleaning of amenities at Bannockburn, Inverleigh, Meredith and Smythesdale in preparation for weekend usage.
5. Provision of special service arrangements applying around and on public holidays and also over school holiday periods for facilities that have higher use patterns over these periods. These include additional cleans, set time-of-day for cleans and multiple cleans per day.
6. Specific cleaning requirements for application to the two (2) Meredith facilities over the period of the Meredith Music Festival and the Golden Plains Music Festival.

Public Notification

Public notices were advertised in the Geelong Advertiser and Ballarat Courier on Saturday 5 March 2016.

Discussion

Tenders Received

Nine tenders were received as follows:

1. Above All Cleaning
2. Advanced National Services Pty Ltd
3. Australian Commercial Maintenance Pty Ltd
4. Common Mans Gold
5. Dolls Cleaning Services
6. The Trustee for Tuddys Cleaning Service Unit Trust
7. KC Facility Services
8. Makkim Pty Ltd
9. Wayne Cleaning Systems Pty Ltd.

Compliant Tenders

Eight tenders were compliant. One tender, Common Mans Gold, did not meet mandatory OH&S requirements and was therefore not considered for further evaluation.

Tender Assessment and Evaluation

All of the tenders that met the mandatory compliance requirements were assessed against the following evaluation criteria and assigned weighting:

1. Project delivery – capacity to meet contract requirements 35%
2. Key personnel 30%
3. Financial assessment 35%

The tender evaluation panel conducted a thorough evaluation of all compliant tenders. A weighted score for each criteria was determined and the scores added to allow an evaluation ranking score for each tender. The highest score is deemed to provide the best value for Council and the community.

The assessment determined that Dolls Cleaning Service achieved the highest rank and is the preferred tenderer.

Community Engagement

It is considered that a formal consultation process is not required.

Financial & Risk Implications

The costs associated with cleaning of public amenities and BBQs is provided within the recreation infrastructure maintenance budget. The provision in the draft 2016-17 budget is \$230,000 (excluding GST). The recommended tender has an annual value for year one of the contract of \$156,394.45 (including GST) and is therefore within the budget provision. The 2015-16 budget allocation is \$130,000.

Changes to the contract specification for this contract have been made to address risks identified in service provision under the current contract.

A due diligence check in the form of a detailed financial performance assessment was conducted on Dolls Cleaning Service by an independent consultant, Corporate Scorecard. The report indicates that Dolls Cleaning Service has the financial capacity to undertake the works of this contract.

Economic, Social & Environmental Implications

It is considered that there are no economic implications.

The tender reflects work that has historically been undertaken to provide community use amenities throughout the municipality. Changes have been made to the contract specification to improve the hygiene standards across the contract and are expected to result in improved social outcomes.

The contract documents incorporate specific provisions relating to the use of environmentally friendly cleaning products. Increased frequency of cleaning and changes to the service standards are expected to reduce the potential for system overflows or failures that might otherwise have an environmental impact.

Communications

It is considered that a communication plan is not required.

Conclusion

Based on the information received in the tenders, additional information provided in writing and following detailed assessment, the tender from Dolls Cleaning Service is deemed to provide the best value to Council and is therefore the preferred tender. The lump sum amount of the tender from Dolls Cleaning Service for year one of the contract amounts to \$156,394.45 (including \$14,217.67 GST).

Moved Crs Cameron/Vaughan

That Council awards Contract GPS-T1/2016 Cleaning of Public Amenities and BBQs to Dolls Cleaning Service:

- 1. For an amount of \$156,394.45 for year one of the contract (including \$14,217.67 GST), with the rise and fall provisions of the contract applying for subsequent years.**
- 2. For an initial period of two years and eleven months, with the option of two one-year extensions subject to agreement between Council and the contractor.**

Carried

4.7.2 Draft Community Engagement Strategy 2016-2020: Release for Public Consultation

Directorate	Community Services
Unit	Community Development
Senior Manager	Jill Evans, Director Community Services
Responsible Manager	Louisa White, Community Development Manager
Author	Christine Lamb, Community Engagement Officer
File References	BluePoint: 95-01-002
Council Plan Link	Improve the Community Satisfaction Survey rating for community consultation above 62
Relevant Council Strategies	Not applicable
Relevant Policies & Legislative Frameworks	Not applicable
Attachments	7. Draft Community Engagement Strategy 2016-2020 (Part A) 8. Draft Community Engagement Strategy 2016-2020 Action Plan (Part B)

Declarations of Interest: Councillors & Officers

Jill Evans: In providing this advice as the senior manager, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Louisa White: In providing this advice as the responsible manager, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Christine Lamb: In providing this advice as the author, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to submit the final draft Community Engagement Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2020 for Council endorsement, to authorise the release of the documents to the community for public exhibition during July 2016.

Background

Council has committed to improving the way it involves the community when making decisions and is working to provide more opportunities for the community to have an input into the decisions that affect them.

As such, Council is developing a Community Engagement Strategy 2016-2020, which will outline how Council will deliver community engagement activities and provide opportunities for engagement with the community over the next four years. The key stages in the development of the Strategy are:

1. Project inception, including Internal Steering Committee and Community Reference Group Development
2. Desktop review and research
3. Diagnosis of current engagement practice
4. Building an Engaging Organisation – moving forward (development of draft strategy)
5. Finalisation of Community Engagement Strategy 2016-2020

Consultation and research undertaken for the development of the Draft Community Engagement Strategy has included the following steps:

1. Community consultation
 - Community Engagement Survey December 2015 – February 2016
 - 778 surveys completed by Golden Plains' community members
 - Golden Plains Shire staff briefings and workshops
 - 130 staff participated, including indoor and outdoor staff and the management team
2. Review of relevant literature and audit of previous consultation processes – February 2016
 - Community Satisfaction Survey 2015
 - 400 surveys completed (community)
 - Golden Plains Shire Speak Up Survey 2014-15
 - 400 completed surveys (including staff and community)
3. Presentation of the Research and Outcomes Paper – March 2016
 - Workshops with Councillors, staff, and the Community Reference Group
4. Building an Engaging Organisation – April 2016
 - Workshops with staff and the Community Reference Group
5. Presentation of the draft Community Engagement Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2020 – May and June 2016
 - Workshops with Councillors, staff, and the Community Reference Group

Discussion

The following feedback was provided by Councillors during the draft Community Engagement Strategy presentation and consultation, facilitated by Michelle Feenan on Tuesday 14 June.

The table below outlines Councillor feedback and a response to each item raised.

Councillor Feedback	Response
Additional information about the Community Reference Panel required.	Additional supporting information has been added to the draft Community Engagement Strategy Part B - under the 'Explanatory Notes' section, to include a more detailed overview of the set up and role of the Community Reference Panel Register.
Consideration to be given to provide payments for community to be involved in consultations.	This is not an approach that will be used for the implementation of actions set within this Strategy.
The timing of community consultations is critical – Enough time needs to be allocated to projects so that there is time for two way communications with community and Council before a decision has to be made.	<p>An additional bullet point has been added to the draft Community Engagement Strategy Part A, under the section 'Our vision for community engagement' to include:</p> <p><i>Timely engagement that enables fair and reasonable opportunity for community to give input to the engagement processes.</i></p> <p>This recommendation will also be addressed in the implementation of the following actions:</p> <p><i>3.1 – Review and consolidate the Current Community Engagement Principles within the Community Engagement Framework</i></p> <p><i>3.2 – Review Staff and Community Engagement Policy and revise the Community Engagement Framework</i></p> <p><i>3.3 – Develop CE Toolkit with relevant templates (hard copy and digital format)</i></p>

Councillor Feedback	Response
Need to get a more balanced voice / representation of the community when Council is engaging with the Community on projects.	This recommendation will be addressed within the draft Community Engagement Strategy Action Plan, Part B, under <i>Strategic Direction One – Accessible and transparent engagement Practice</i> , under the following action: <i>1.1 – Develop and implement a model for the establishment of a ‘community reference panel’</i>
Release of information to be improved.	Strategic Direction One set out in the Community Engagement Strategy Action Plan - Part B, addresses this issue and Action 1.3 proposes the development of a specific template to guide staff to plan and deliver appropriate levels of feedback to the community during any community engagement process.
A concern for council is the loss of ‘corporate memory’ and the question how can we make sure that the engagement processes from the past will be considered in future engagement planning.	There is no specific action that speaks directly to this important point, however using a good practice framework (such as the IAP2 model) would encourage the assessment of past actions or discussions about a particular project or piece of work as part of the planning process for any engagement activity. It is recommended that the redevelopment of the Community Engagement Framework (actions 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, and 1.2) should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>a question to prompt staff to consider previous engagement in relation to any project when planning an engagement activity</i> ▪ <i>a template to support and guide staff to more effectively evaluate and record outcomes of community engagement activities, so that accurate information can be recalled later if necessary.</i>
The importance for the community to be educated about Council processes so that they can have more meaningful input into strategic plans such as the Council Plan, Strategic Resource Plan and the Budget.	This important issue is addressed in the draft Community Engagement Strategy Action Plan, Part B, under <i>Strategic Direction One - Accessible and transparent engagement practice</i> , in particular within the following action: <i>1.5 – investigate and develop an approach that includes more active engagement activities in the community, including attendances at Markets, Community Events, use of mobile library and community groups meetings, or through the development of Council listening posts</i>
Need to make sure people can understand the draft Strategy.	The release of the draft Strategy will be accompanied by an infographic that will sit alongside the draft Community Engagement Strategy. It will explain: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What we did - the process for developing the Strategy ▪ What we found out - key findings from the consultation activities ▪ What we are going to do – key actions to be undertaken as part of the Strategy.

The feedback, collected from the above consultations and the workshops with Councillors, has contributed to the development of the draft Community Engagement Strategy 2016-2020.

Community Engagement

Community involvement in the development of the Community Engagement Strategy to date is as presented above. Public exhibition of the draft Community Engagement Strategy and Action Plan presents a further opportunity for the community to view the Community Engagement Strategy and provide comments and feedback to Council. The Strategy will be available for public comment during the month of July 2016. During this time the draft Strategy and Action Plan will be available to view online or in hard copy on request or at Council's Customer Service Centres in Bannockburn and Linton. There will be the opportunity for the community to make submissions online or in writing. All submissions received will be presented to Council when the final Community Engagement Strategy is submitted for adoption at the Council meeting on the 23 August 2016.

Financial & Risk Management Implications

New legislation requires that a Council that proposes to adopt a plan to provide services or take initiatives must ensure that the resources required for the plan are consistent with the Strategic Resource Plan. The draft Strategy contains a number of recommendations that are listed as either resourced or contingent. Actions listed as resourced are currently included in Council's Strategic Resource Plan. Actions listed as contingent require further funding. The contingent action items will be considered within Council's budget process.

It is considered that there are no risk management implications.

Economic, Social & Environmental Implications

It is considered that there are no economic, social, or environmental implications.

Communications

A communications plan has been created to support the development of the Community Engagement Strategy using communications channels including the GPS Gazette, Councillor Bulletin and social media. The draft Community Engagement Strategy 2016-2020 will be released for public consultation for the duration of four weeks.

Conclusion

Feedback from the community and Council has contributed to the development of the draft Community Engagement Strategy. The draft Strategy is now ready for public exhibition. The documents will be published online and be available in hard copy at the Customer Service Centres at Bannockburn and Linton. Community members will be provided with the opportunity to submit feedback either online or in writing.

All community submissions will be collated and provided to Council when the final Community Engagement Strategy is presented for adoption at the Council meeting on 23 August 2016.

Moved Crs McArthur/Vaughan

That Council releases the Draft Community Engagement Strategy Plan 2016-2020 for public consultation for a period of four weeks

Carried

4.8. KEY RESULT AREA – ROADS & STREETS INFRASTRUCTURE

No report

4.9. KEY RESULT AREA – WASTE MANAGEMENT

No report

5. NOTICES OF MOTION

File: 02-03-004 &

Nil

6. PETITIONS

Nil

7. OTHER BUSINESS

7.1. MAYOR'S REPORT

Cr Des Phelan, Mayor
File: 02-03-003

The Mayor reported on a range of meetings and activities that he was engaged in over the past month.

Date	Details
27/5/16	G21 Board meeting
8/6/16	Bannockburn Chamber of Commerce
10/6/16	Peri Urban Group of Rural Council's June meeting
10/6/16	MAV Emergency Management Committee
10/6/16	RCV Incorporation meeting
16/6/16	Lethbridge Youth Unstructured Play space project official opening with Geoff Howard MP
17/6/16	Central Highlands Councils Mayors and CEOs meeting
20-22/6/16	National General Assembly of Local Government
24/6/16	G21 Board meeting
26/6/16	Citizenship ceremony, Inverleigh
27/6/16	Bannockburn Recreation Precinct Stage 2 Football (Soccer) Development Project and Soccer Pitch Lighting Project openings

7.2. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Rod Nicholls, Chief Executive Officer
File: 02-03-004

The Chief Executive Officer (CEDO) provided an update on the success of Council's advocacy and lobbying program in the lead up to the election. Also a commitment from Sarah Henderson MP for Corangamite:

- \$10million for 6 passing lanes between Bannockburn and Meredith
- \$300k to assist with plans for duplication of the Midland Highway between Geelong and Bannockburn
- \$1.79million for road blackspots in the Shire
- \$100k for enhancement of the Golden Plains Soccer facility including coaches boxes, fencing and commercial kitchen
- \$220k for lights at the Inverleigh football park

Libby Croker Labor candidate for Corangamite committed to:

- \$100k for enhancement of the Golden Plains Soccer facility including coaches boxes, fencing and commercial kitchen
- \$220k for lights at the Inverleigh football park

7.3. **MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA (MAV) REPORT**

Cr Nathan Hansford, MAV Delegate

File: 03-05-001

No report.

7.4. **COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

Cr Andrew Cameron

- G21 Environment Pillar
- Bannockburn Recreation Precinct Stage 2 Football Development Project and Soccer Pitch Lighting Project openings
- CFA rallies in Bannockburn
- Works on gravel roads good job
- Advised that rainfall is back on track and farmers are happy

Cr Nathan Hansford

- G21 Education and Training Pillar
- MAV Emergency Management Committee
- VCOSS MAV Emergency Management Forum
- MAV Rural South Central Regional meeting
- GRLC Board meeting
- CFA rallies in Bannockburn

Cr Bill McArthur

- MAV Rural South Central Regional meeting
- Infrastructure Victoria Plan is out for comment
- Minister Wynne intensive agricultural projects
- Attended Local Government Infrastructure Asset Management Conference
- MAV School Crossing meeting and workshop at MAV
- Local Government National General Assembly in Canberra
- National Timber Councils meeting in Canberra
- MAV Rural and Regional Planning Conference in Bendigo

Cr Jenny Blake

- Seconded as representative for GPS Primary Health Care Network Reference group for Barwon South West
- Peri Urban meeting included a briefing on Infrastructure Victoria 30 Year Plan
- Meredith Community House AGM
- Farewell to Marilyn and Michael Biddle ,community coordinators, at Shelford
- Standing for Council information session in Ballarat
- Citizenship ceremony in Inverleigh

Cr Helena Kirby

- Lethbridge Youth Unstructured Play Space project official opening
- MAV Rural and Regional Planning Conference
- Bannockburn Recreation Precinct Stage 2 Football Development Project and Soccer Pitch Lighting Project openings

Cr Greg Vaughan

- Mt Mercer pig farm inspection

7.5. IN CAMERA MEETING

Should Council wish to consider any matters in camera, in accordance with Section 89 of the Local Government Act 1989, it may resolve to close the meeting to members of the public if the meeting is discussing:

- (a) Personnel matters;
- (b) The personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer;
- (c) Industrial matters;
- (d) Contractual matters;
- (e) Proposed developments;
- (f) Legal advice;
- (g) Matters affecting the security of Council property;
- (h) Any other matter which the Council considers would prejudice the Council or any person;
- (i) A resolution to close the meeting to members of the public.

8. ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1	Item 4.2.1	Communities of Respect and Equality (CoRE) Plan
Attachment 2	Item 4.2.1	Core Alliance Membership Form
Attachment 3	Item 4.5.1	Budget submissions
Attachment 4	Item 4.5.1	Response to Voice & Action GPS Inc questions
Attachment 5	Item 4.6.1	The Age-Friendly Victoria Statement of Support and Partner Endorsement
Attachment 6	Item 4.7.1	Confidential Attachment: GPS-T1/2016 Tender Evaluation Report
Attachment 7	Item 4.7.2	Draft Community Engagement Strategy 2016-2020 (Part A)
Attachment 8	Item 4.7.2	Draft Community Engagement Strategy 2016-2020 – Action Plan (Part B)

Attachments are available upon request.

9. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 5.39 pm.

10. CERTIFICATION

In accordance with Section 93(5) of the Local Government Act 1989, I hereby certify that the minutes of this Council meeting have been confirmed as a true and correct record.

Confirmed, Mayor, Cr Des Phelan

Date

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