

WANGARATTA RURAL CITY COUNCIL



RURAL CITY OF
WANGARATTA

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE WANGARATTA RURAL CITY COUNCIL, HELD
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
62-68 OVENS STREET, WANGARATTA
ON **MONDAY, 4 MAY 2015** AT 5.00PM

Brendan McGrath
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

*We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we are meeting.
We pay our respects to their Elders and to Elders from other communities who
may be here today.*

2. OPENING PRAYER

*Almighty God, we humbly ask thee to bless and guide this council in its
deliberations so that we may truly preserve the welfare of the people whom we
serve. Amen*

3. PRESENT

Administrators:

Ms Ailsa Fox, Chair; Ms Irene Grant, Mr Rod Roscholler.

Officers Present:

Mr Brendan McGrath, Chief Executive Officer, Mr Donald Mace, Manager –
Finance, Mr Alan Clark, Director – Infrastructure Services, Ms Jaime Carroll,
Director – Community Wellbeing.

4. ABSENT

Nil.

5. ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES & GRANTING OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

6. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

In accordance with sections 77A, 77B, 78 and 79 of the *Local Government Act 1989* Councillors are required to disclose a 'conflict of interest' in a decision if they would receive, or could reasonably be perceived as receiving, a direct or indirect financial or non-financial benefit or detriment (other than as a voter, resident or ratepayer) from the decision.

Disclosure must occur immediately before the matter is considered or discussed.

7. BUSINESS

7.1 DRAFT 2013-2017 COUNCIL PLAN – 2015 REVISION

Meeting Type: Special Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 4 May 2015
Author : Manager – Communications and Customer Service
File Name: Draft 2013-2017 Council Plan – 2015 Revision
File No.: 20.030.009

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

Executive Summary

Sections 125 and 126 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act) require that Council must annually review its Council Plan and Strategic Resource Plan and submit them for approval to the Minister for Local Government by 30 June.

Council must provide the opportunity for the community to make submissions on any adjusted Plan.

RECOMMENDATION:

(Moved: Administrator A Fox/ Administrator R Roscholler)

That Council:

- 1. prepares the Draft 2013–2017 Council Plan – 2015 Revision as presented**
- 2. authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:**
 - a) give public notice of the preparation of the Draft 2013-2017 Council Plan – 2015 Revision**
 - b) invite submissions in respect of this matter in accordance with Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989**
 - c) make available for public inspection the draft 2013-2017 Council Plan – 2015 Revision**
 - d) receive submissions until 5pm Friday 5 June 2015.**
- 3. forms a committee comprising the Council Administrators to hold a meeting on Tuesday 9 June 2015 at the Wangaratta Government Centre to hear any person wishing to be heard in support of their submission on any proposal or proposals contained in the draft 2013-2017 Council Plan – 2015 Revision in accordance with section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989**

4. considers all submissions on any proposal contained within the reviewed 2013-2017 Council Plan and

5. considers the adoption of the reviewed 2013-2017 Council Plan with or without amendment at an Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on Tuesday, 16 June 2015 at 6.00 pm.

Carried

Background

A review of the 2013-2017 Council Plan (Council Plan) has been prepared (*refer attachment*).

While the objectives and strategies within the draft 2013-2017 Council Plan – 2015 Revision remain consistent with the original plan, the language and appearance of the document has changed dramatically. A concerted effort has been made to make the Council Plan easier to read and the objectives and actions easier to understand.

The new look plan is community focused and is now broken into themes rather than the organisation's directorate structure. Objectives are clearly stated as non-negotiables and actions are categorised into things we will research and advocate for - things we will create and deliver - things we will plan for in the future - and things we will focus on to improve our business.

Implications

Policy Considerations

Various Council policies may be impacted by the outcomes of this Council Plan review.

Financial Implications

Budgets through to 2016-17 will all be aligned with the key elements of the Council Plan through the Strategic Resource Plan, which forms part of the attached draft 2013-2017 Council Plan.

Legal/Statutory

The review of the Council Plan is consistent with sections 125 and 126 of the Act.

Social

The objectives and actions contained in the draft 2013-2017 Council Plan are designed to provide positive social outcomes.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

The objectives and actions contained in the draft 2013-2017 Council Plan are designed to enhance sustainability and provide positive environmental outcomes.

Economic Impacts

The objectives and actions contained in the draft 2013-2017 Council Plan are designed to provide positive economic outcomes.

Strategic Links

a) Rural City of Wangaratta 2030 Community Vision

The objectives and actions contained in the draft 2013-2017 Council Plan are guided by the objectives identified in the Rural City of Wangaratta 2030 Community Vision.

Consultation/Communication

Public notification, inviting the community to make submissions on the reviewed draft Council Plan, will be given in the local media in accordance with Section 223 of the Act.

In addition, three Community Information Sessions are proposed to be held:

Dates 2015	Time	Location	Venue
11 May	6.00pm	Wangaratta	Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre
12 May	6.00pm	Boorhaman	Boorhaman Recreation Reserve
18 May	6.00pm	Whitfield	Whitfield AC Swinburne Pavilion

The draft 2013-2017 Council Plan – 2015 Revision will also be available from the Wangaratta Government Centre and Council's website www.wangaratta.vic.gov.au

Conclusion

The 2013-2017 Council Plan was developed with vital input from our community. It is revised each year after discussion with senior staff and Councillors/Administrators, and with further feedback from the community. This allows the document to continue to reflect community aspirations and act as a measure of our progress against the agreed priorities in the plan.

Attachments

1. Draft 2013-2017 Council Plan – 2015 Revision

Gallery questions

Jim Lewis referred to the 5 sections within the revised Council Plan and asked what we call them.

Jaime Carroll, Director - Community Wellbeing responded that they are referred to as 'our goals'.

Jim Lewis expressed his concern that there are now fewer targets than there were actions in the past and it seemed there are less targets than actions. Jim asked if Council could explain why?

Brendan McGrath, Chief Executive Officer responded that Council have taken the view that there are fewer actions that need to sit in the Council Plan; previously there were a number of actions that were operational and day-to-day things that should not sit in a strategic plan. They have been trimmed back to the more essential strategic things. Consultation will commence next week. Measures will be reported against the new State Government Performance Reporting Framework.

Ray Butters raised that he felt there was no consultation with communities prior to the Council Plan review.

Brendan McGrath, Chief Executive Officer responded that community planning will not be progressing in the same way as before.

Jaime Carroll, Director Community Wellbeing added that community plan priorities were not filtered into the Council Plan in the past. A new project to be rolled out in the new financial year will be place based working with communities.

Ray Butters added that since 2005 no priorities for Peechelba had progressed.

Jaime Carroll, Director – Community Wellbeing responded that this has been made known to CMT and Administrators and the new project will see results sooner.

Administrator Ailsa Fox added that the new process will be tied to capital works and budgets going forward.

7.2 [DRAFT 2015-16 BUDGET](#)

Meeting Type: Special Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 4 May 2015
Author (title): Manager Finance
File Name: Draft Council Budget 2015-16
File No.: 51.060.22

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

Executive Summary

This report is presented to Council to prepare the Draft 2015/16 Budget for a public exhibition period concluding on 5 June 2015.

RECOMMENDATION:

(Moved: Administrator I Grant / Administrator R Roscholler)

That Council:

- 1. *prepares the draft 2015/16 Budget as presented***
- 2. *authorises the Chief Executive Officer to***
 - a) *give public notice of the preparation of the Draft 2015/16 Budget in accordance with section 129(1) of the Local Government Act 1989***
 - b) *invite submissions in accordance with section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989***
 - c) *make available for public inspection the Draft 2015/16 Budget***
 - d) *receive submissions until 5pm Friday 5 June 2015.***
- 3. *forms a committee comprising the Council Administrators to hold a meeting on Tuesday 9 June 2015 at the Wangaratta Government Centre, to hear any person wishing to be heard in support of their submission on any proposal or proposals contained in the Draft 2015/16 Budget in accordance with section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989***
- 4. *considers all written submission on any proposal contained within the Draft 2015/16 Budget and***
- 5. *considers the adoption of the 2015/16 Budget with or without amendment at the Ordinary Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 16 June 2015 at 6.00pm.***

Carried

Background

The Draft 2015/16 Budget for the Rural City of Wangaratta has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act) and relates to the financial year commencing on 1 July 2015.

The budget preparation process commenced in January 2015 and involved the preparation of operational and capital budgets by Council officers.

The Draft 2015/16 Budget has been prepared to make the best use of Council resources whilst taking a conservative approach to future income and expenditure streams.

The Draft 2015/16 Budget has an Income Statement surplus of \$3.0M and a capital spend budget of \$19.3M.

We will increase rates by 6% in the 2015/16 financial year in accordance with our adopted Strategic Resource Plan. This budget will not allow us to recover, but it will aid in the recovery of the previously incurred governance costs, maintain existing service levels, fund a small number of new initiatives and continue to allocate additional funds to renew our infrastructure.

Council is challenged with significant budget impacts including rates capped from 2016-17, loss of Country Roads & Bridges funding, a freeze in indexation of the Victorian Grants Commission and cost increases that exceed the Consumer Price Index.

Implications

Policy Considerations

The Draft 2015/16 Budget has been prepared on the following bases:

- Ensuring that key strategies, such as footpath, transport, waste management and recreation, etc., are responded to.
- Maintaining waste management, the Wangaratta Public Cemetery, the Wangaratta Children's Services Centre, the Wangaratta Livestock Selling Complex, the Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre, Wangaratta aquatic facilities, the Visitor Information Centre, Community Support North East and plant & fleet services as stand-alone operations with any general subsidy clearly identified.
- Providing for property and plant purchases on a self-funding basis through asset sales and the use of reserve funds.

Financial Implications

The Draft 2015/16 Budget contains the following financial implications:

- Recurrent expenditure increase contained to 2.3% including increased service levels in some areas.

- Rate rise of 6% in accordance with our adopted Strategic Resource Plan;
- Capital expenditure commitment of \$19.5M, including infrastructure renewal of \$7.8 million. Major capital expenditure items include:
 - Aquatic Plan (\$1.5 million) and Mitchell Avenue Splash Park (\$0.6 million)
 - Completion of roofing the Livestock Selling Complex (\$1.6 million)
 - Introduction of organic waste collection (\$2.5 million)
 - CBD Masterplan implementation (\$1.0 million)
 - Roads (\$5.3 million) – including reconstructions, roads to recovery projects, resheeting, bridges, footpaths, bikepaths and kerbing
 - Drains (\$1.0 million) – including road drainage replacement works and new works in rural townships and development areas
 - Land Improvements (\$0.6 million) – including the South Wangaratta Pitch Re-alignment, Barr Two Oval lighting development and South Wangaratta Irrigation Improvement
 - Buildings (\$1.5 million) – City Oval tennis precinct and Everton Hall precinct redevelopment
 - Plant and equipment (\$2.0 million) – including plant replacement, continuation of the replacement of Street Parking Ticket Machines and scheduled replacement of Council's vehicle fleet

The following aspects of the Budget are required to be disclosed:

- the estimated total amount to be raised by general rates is \$23,717,058
- the estimated total amount to be raised by a municipal charge is Nil
- the estimated total amount to be raised by waste collection charges (general, recycling and organics) is \$4,481,146
- that an amount of \$3.3M to be borrowed for the balance of the Livestock Selling Complex, to support the Aquatic Plan and CBD Masterplan implementation
- the cost of servicing the borrowings during the financial year will be \$0.5M
- the total amount of loans proposed to be redeemed during the financial year will be \$1.2M
- the total amount of borrowings at 30 June 2016 will be \$13.1M.

- the proposed 2015/16 Fees and Charges are listed in Appendix E to the Budget Report.

Detailed information on all aspects of the Draft 2015/16 Budget are contained in the Draft 2015/16 Budget Report annexed to this report (***refer attachment***).

Legal/Statutory

In accordance with s127 of the Act, Council must prepare a budget for each financial year.

Social

The Draft 2015/16 Budget contains a number of programs and on-going services that enhance and support the social fabric of Council's community. Such initiatives include Council support of the Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre, the Wangaratta Gallery, the High Country Library Corporation, HACC and Packaged Care programs, community facility maintenance and children's services.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

The Draft 2015/16 Budget contains a number of programs and initiatives that support and protect the environment. These include the roadside weed management program, Domestic Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP) - detailed risk assessment and the Energy Efficient Street Light Changeover project.

Economic Impacts

The Draft 2015/16 Budget contains support for Council's Economic Development and Tourism operations and also for Planning and Building functions. The budget includes the completion of the roofing project for the Wangaratta Livestock Selling Complex.

Council Plan-Key Strategic Activity/Action

The Draft 2013 - 2017 Council Plan contains the following Goal - *'To ensure our long-term viability and capacity to deliver quality services and infrastructure, we will continue to meet the changing and complex challenges that face us.'*

This Goal contains a non-negotiable aspiration to make *'the best use of Council's resources.'*

The Draft Council plan also contains the following action - *'We will plan and make decisions for the future maintaining a responsible and transparent Long Term Financial Plan.'*

Strategic Links

Rural City of Wangaratta 2030 Community Vision

The Draft 2015/16 Budget supports the aspiration that the Wangaratta municipality exists in a 'Liveable Region'.

'We are immensely proud and privileged to live in the Rural City of Wangaratta – a place of great liveability. The health services, learning options, environmental circumstances, sporting facilities, social engagement, public safety, personal safety, entertainment, the arts, festivals, transport options and standards and other factors make our community what it is today.'

b) Other strategic links

N/A

Risk Management

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Budget not adopted within statutory timeframes	Low	High	Medium	Ensure proposed timetable for adoption is adhered to.
Budget adopted without consideration of Long Term Financial implications	Low	High	Medium	Ensure completion of Council's Long Term Financial Plan as part of budgetary process
Budget adopted without consideration of ratepayer input	Low	High	Medium	Undertake extensive community consultation

Consultation/Communication

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Tools/Techniques
Inform	Budget Document to be publicly available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandatory S 223 of the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i> public exhibition period to be undertaken. rural and urban presentation forums to be undertaken during public exhibition period.
Consult	Public meetings/presentations	
Involve	Public meetings/presentations	
Collaborate	Hearing of submissions	
Empower	Submissions considered by Council	

Officers believe that appropriate consultation will occur and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

Options for Consideration

Council must prepare a Budget for the 2015/16 financial year in order to comply with the Act.

Conclusion

Council's Draft 2015/16 Budget has been prepared by Council officers and is now ready for endorsement by Council. This endorsement will precede a public exhibition period concluding on 5 June 2015. Consideration of submissions by a Committee comprising the Council Administrators will take place on 9 June 2015, and adoption of Council's Budget for the 2015/16 financial year will take place at its Ordinary Meeting scheduled for 16 June 2015.

Attachments

1. Draft 2015/16 Budget Report

Gallery questions

Brian Fox expressed that he would like to see all properties (including non-rateable land) have a value/rate allocated to them; rates notice could show property value but reduced to zero for non-rateable land. Balance sheet would then show revenue available in dollars and what is paid in rates. This could provide the percentage of rateable properties versus subsidised properties.

Brendan McGrath, Chief Executive Officer responded that rated land is set by the State Government. Council cannot rate State or Federal Government property or recreation reserve land. To have values properly allocated it needs to be done by a registered Valuer that would attract a cost.

A Balance Sheet is set out under particular standards; estimates are not acceptable. Concessions are available to some residents as set by the government. Rates are not entered to the Balance Sheet until they become an asset. It is not clear to me why Council would want to do this.

Ray Butters asked for Councils consideration of differentials on rural residential properties.

Brendan McGrath, Chief Executive Officer responded that this is considered in the Rating Strategy. The differentials are very generous compared to other municipalities. This is done to assist agricultural properties.

Ray Butters added that he can understand urban areas but when rural residents have to travel to facilities; that should be taken into account.

Administrator Ailsa Fox responded that she did not agree. A majority of roads funding goes towards rural areas.

7.3 [COUNCIL PLAN PROGRESS REPORT – 1 JANUARY 2015 – 31 MARCH 2015](#)

Meeting Type: Special Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 4 May 2015
Author (title): Executive Assistant Corporate Services
File Name: Council Plan
File No.: 20.030.01

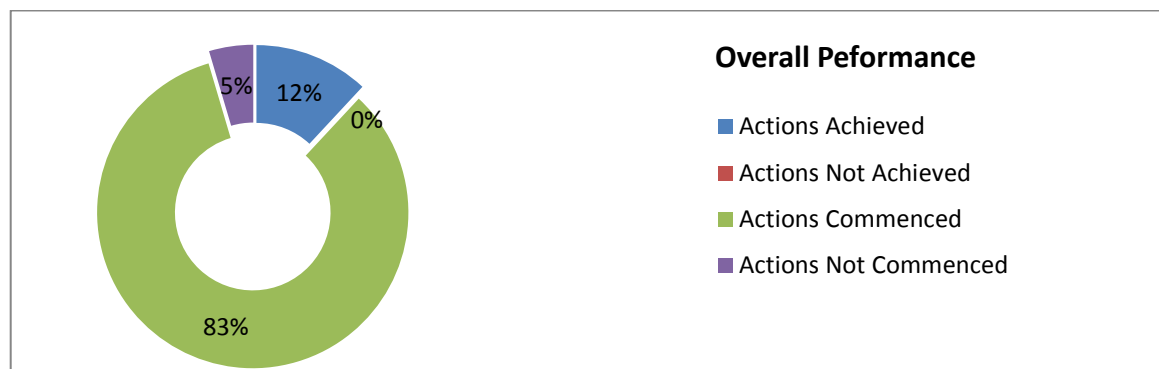
No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

Executive Summary

This report is provided to Council to communicate Council's performance against the Council Plan for the period 1 January 2015 – 31 March 2015.

The following table provides a summary of achievement against the Council Plan actions:

Target Date	Number of actions	Achieved	Commenced	Not Achieved	Not Commenced
2014	6	2	5	0	0
2015	73	7	65	0	1
2016	19	2	14	0	3
2017	6	0	5	0	1
Annual	4	2	2	0	0
Total	109	13	91	0	5



RECOMMENDATION:

(Moved: Administrator R Roscholler / Administrator I Grant)

That Council receive the Council Plan 2013-2017 Progress Report for the period 1 January 2015 – 31 March 2015.

Carried

Background

Part of Council's Mission is to provide the leadership necessary to maintain open communication and community engagement. Providing regular reports to the community on Council's progress in achieving the objectives and strategies of the Council Plan supports this Mission.

Implications

Policy Considerations

There are no specific Council policies or strategies that relate to this report.

Financial Implications

There is no immediate financial impact related to this report; however, resourcing of some actions will require consideration in Council budget preparation.

Legal/Statutory

The *Local Government Act 1989* requires Council to prepare and approve a Council Plan within the period of 6 months after each general election or by the next 30 June, whichever is later.

Social

The Council Plan 2013-2017 provides for the achievement of a number of social objectives.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

The Council Plan 2013-2017 provides for the achievement of a number of Environmental/Sustainability objectives.

Economic Impacts

The Council Plan 2013-2017 provides for the achievement of a number of economic and tourism objectives.

Council Plan-Key Strategic Activity/Action

The Council Plan 2013-2017 contains an objective to 'Ensure we consult and engage effectively with the community in our decision making'.

Strategic Links

a) Rural City of Wangaratta 2030 Community Vision

The Council Plan supports the aspirations and objectives of the Rural City of Wangaratta 2030 Community Vision.

b) Other strategic links

The development of a number of strategies have been identified as actions in the Council Plan 2013-2017. For example,

Actions:

- 2.1.1.3 Facilitate the undertaking of a Wangaratta CBD Master Plan that will comprehensively plan for the future use, growth and development of the CBD
- 3.7.1.1 Prepare an Environmental Sustainability Strategy for Council consideration and commence approved actions

Risk Management

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Council Plan Objectives not achieved	Low	High	Moderate	Ensure continued monitoring and reporting

Consultation/Communication

Officers believe that appropriate consultation has occurred and the matter is now ready for Council consideration.

Options for Consideration

Council must now consider the progress report for the period 1 January 2015 – 31 March 2015 against the 2013-2017 Council Plan.

Conclusion

This report assists Council to monitor its performance in achieving the actions prescribed within the Council Plan.

Attachments

1. Council Plan Progress Report.

Gallery questions

Nil.

7.4 [RESPONSE SUBMISSION ON ELECTORAL REPRESENTATION REVIEW FOR RURAL CITY OF WANGARATTA](#)

Meeting Type: Special Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 4 May 2015
Author (title): Manager Business & Governance
File Name: ELECTION 2014/2015
File No.: 50.050.017

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

Executive Summary

This report is presented to Council to provide for a response submission to the 2015 Wangaratta Rural City Council Electoral Representation Review currently being undertaken by the Victorian Electoral Commission.

RECOMMENDATION:

(Moved: Administrator I Grant / Administrator R Roscholler)

That Council:

- 1. Make a response submission to the 2015 Wangaratta Rural City Council Electoral Representation Review preliminary report, supporting retention of the existing unsubdivided electoral structure with seven councillors.***
- 2. Requests the opportunity to be heard in support of its submission at the public hearing on Tuesday 26 May 2015.***

Carried

Background

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) is currently conducting an Electoral Representation Review (the Review) of the Wangaratta Rural City Council.

The purpose of the Review is to recommend to the Minister for Local Government the number of Councillors for the Rural City, whether the Council is to be subdivided or unsubdivided and if subdivided, the ward boundaries.

Council has previously made a preliminary submission to the Review in which it concluded that an unsubdivided structure meets all of the electoral representation criteria established by the VEC and provides for a fair and equitable outcome for the voters and community of the municipality.

The VEC has released a preliminary report, which recommends a preferred Option A where Council comprises seven Councillors and that the municipality is unsubdivided. As an alternative Option B, the VEC proposes Council comprise seven Councillors with one four member urban ward and three single member rural wards.

Council has considered the rationale behind the VEC recommendation.

Implications

Council supports the VEC preferred Option A of a seven councillor, unsubdivided municipality. This option allows Councillors to be elected from anywhere in the municipality and gives voters the broadest possible choice of who they want to represent them. It provides for the possibility that a majority of Councillors could be elected from rural areas. It fosters an environment that enables Councillors to take a whole-of-municipality approach to decision-making and as a result is considered to best meet the criteria for fair and equitable representation in that all seven Councillors represent all voters rather than specific sections of the municipality. It also provides the best opportunity for the Council to take a broader perspective of the infrastructure and service requirements of the whole community as well as a more general advocacy role on a whole of Council approach.

Council does not support the alternative option proposed by the VEC for a four member urban ward and three single member rural wards as it is considered that such a structure would divide the community on the basis of urban versus rural when the aim of Council is to represent the whole municipality on a united front. This option splits communities of interest with urban voters from the Parfitt Road, Wilson Road and Greta Road urban fringe areas attached to rural wards in the north and south of the municipality. There is also the potential that the overall pool of candidates could be limited in the single-councillor wards, and in some cases elections might be uncontested. Council also notes that planning data suggests a projected population growth in the Warby area, which may result in an imbalance of voters per councillor with these boundaries before the next scheduled representation review.

Policy Considerations

There are no specific Council policies or strategies that relate to this report.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications identified for the subject of this report.

Legal/Statutory

This report concerns Council's response submission to the legal process of review of the municipality's electoral representation conducted by the VEC.

Social

There are no social impacts identified for the subject of this report.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are no environmental/ sustainability impacts identified for this subject of this report.

Economic Impacts

There are no economic impacts identified for the subject of this report.

Council Plan-Key Strategic Activity/Action

Objective:

To ensure we consult and engage effectively with the community in our decision making.

Key Strategic Activity:

Engage the community in decision making for the development of the Rural City of Wangaratta.

Action:

Review the most appropriate electoral structure for the Rural City of Wangaratta.

Consultation/Communication

There is an opportunity for people or organisations that have made a response submission to speak about their submission at the public hearing scheduled to be held at 5.00 pm on Tuesday 26 May 2015 in the Council Chambers, Wangaratta Government Centre, 62-68 Ovens Street, Wangaratta.

Council should request the opportunity to be heard in support of its submission at the public hearing.

Options for Consideration

The alternative to the recommendation is a subdivided ward structure consisting of a four member urban ward and three single member rural wards. This option is not favoured for reasons given in the body of this report.

Conclusion

Council should make a response submission to the Preliminary Report on the 2015 Wangaratta Rural City Council Electoral Representation Review which was released by the VEC on Wednesday 22 April 2015.

The response submission should support the VEC Option A of a seven Councillor, unsubdivided municipality.

Attachments

Nil

Gallery questions

Ray Butters expressed his opposition to an undivided council. He is concerned that political minded people can be involved and consolidated in urban councillors. It worked better in the past with wards. Urban people do not care about rural areas.

Administrator Ailsa Fox advised him to provide a submission in person to the Victorian Electoral Commission.

Jim Lewis asked if there is a map better than provided in the report.

Brendan McGrath, Chief Executive Officer responded that Tony Raven (who was present) may be able to assist with a better map.

Administrator Ailsa Fox added that both options were considered by Council.

Administrator Irene Grant added that Councillors should represent everyone who elects them. It was difficult to divide fairly and decided it was best to leave undivided. The last Council had 4 rural councillors.

8. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 6.00pm.