

Minutes

Of the Special Council Meeting

Location: Council Chambers, Municipal Offices
62-68 Ovens Street, Wangaratta

Date: 3 May 2016

Time: 5.30pm



RURAL CITY OF
WANGARATTA

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:

MRS ALISA FOX, CHAIR, MS IRENE GRANT, MR ROD ROSCHOLLER.

OFFICERS:

BRENDAN MCGRATH, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER; RUTH KNEEBONE , DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES; ALAN CLARK, DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES; JAIME CARROLL , DIRECTOR COMMUNITY WELLBEING; BARRY GREEN, DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENT SERVICES.

4. ABSENT

NIL

5. ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES & GRANTING OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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.

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

OFFICERS' REPORTS

7. CORPORATE SERVICES

7.1 DRAFT 2013-2017 COUNCIL PLAN - 2016 REVISION

Meeting Type: Special Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 3 May 2016
Author: Manager - Customer Service and Communications
File Name: DRAFT 2013-2017 COUNCIL PLAN - 2016 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. This will be the final review of the 2013-2017 Council Plan prior to the election of a new Council in October 2016 and therefore will contain only nominal change. Council must provide the opportunity for the community to make submissions on any adjusted Plan.

RECOMMENDATION:

(Moved: Chair Administrator A Fox/Administrator I Grant)

That Council:

- 1. Prepares the draft 2013–2017 Council Plan – 2016 Revision as presented***
- 2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:***
 - a) give public notice of the preparation of the draft 2013-2017 Council Plan – 2016 Revision***
 - b) make available for public inspection the draft 2013-2017 Council Plan – 2016 Revision***
 - c) invite submissions in respect of this matter in accordance with Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989***
 - d) receive submissions until 5pm Friday 3 June 2016.***

- 3. Form a committee comprising the Council Administrators to hold a meeting on Tuesday 7 June 2016 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 – 2016 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, 21 June 2016 at 6.00 pm.**

Carried

Background

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

The focus of the review is to make minor adjustments to key actions and timeframes in accordance with the latest status assessments and to enable Council to meet new opportunities and challenges which have arisen since this Council Plan was originally adopted. This will be the final review prior to the election of the Council in October 2016.

In addition to a small number of minor wording changes the following changes have been made:

WE ARE HEALTHY

We will plan and make decisions for the future

Dot points combined.

Our targets

Minor adjustments to target for the Home and Community Care Service.

WE ARE GROWING

We will research and advocate

Specific reference to Rural Industries Campus removed as it is covered in a subsequent action regarding higher education opportunities.

We will create and deliver

Wangaratta Saleyards upgrade removed as this project is now complete

The fine print

The Wangaratta Project – CBD Masterplan added.

WE ARE CONNECTED**We will plan and make decisions for the future**

Minor wording changes and the addition of a reference to the Wangaratta Project – CBD Masterplan.

The non-negotiables

Additional action added “Maximising the use of technology to enhance our business”.

What we do every day

“We develop Rural Community Plans” removed.

The fine print

Wangaratta Project - CBD Masterplan added.

Freight Strategy added.

Our Targets

100% delivery of Capital Works program – moved to the goal ‘We are sustainable’.

WE ARE CREATIVE**We will research and advocate**

Action broadened to cover a wider range of events.

What we do every day

Individual reference made to the Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre and Wangaratta Gallery rather than combined.

Reference made to the provision of Library Services.

The fine print

Wangaratta Project - CBD Masterplan added.

Our Targets

Targets for the Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre and Gallery separated.

Target added for community use of the Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre.

WE ARE SUSTAINABLE

We will focus our business

Inclusion of reference to the Our Future financial sustainability project in appropriate actions.

What we do every day

The action “We strive to achieve the operational parameters framed in the Annual Budget” added.

Our targets

Action “To achieve a favourable net operating surplus compared to budget” added.

100% delivery of capital works program moved from the goal “We are connected”.

Implications**Policy Considerations**

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

Financial/Economic 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 – 2016 revision.

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 – 2016 revision are designed to provide positive social outcomes.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

The objectives and actions contained in the draft 2013-2017 Council Plan – 2016 revision are designed to enhance sustainability and provide positive environmental outcomes.

Strategic Links**a) Rural City of Wangaratta 2030 Community Vision**

The objectives and actions contained in the draft 2013-2017 Council Plan – 2016 revision are guided by the objectives identified in the Rural City of Wangaratta 2030 Community Vision.

Risk Management

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Council Plan review not adopted within statutory timeframes	Low	High	Medium	Ensure proposed timetable for adoption is adhered to.
Council Plan review adopted without consideration of community input	Low	High	Medium	Undertake extensive community consultation

Consultation/Communication

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Tools/Techniques
Inform	Draft 2013-2017 Council Plan – 2016 revision 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	

We will undertake a range of consultation and engagement activities with the community including one rural and one urban presentation, also on-street discussions during May 2016 and a presentation at the Victorian Farmers Federation meeting in June.

Public notification, inviting the community to make submissions on the reviewed draft 2013-2017 Council Plan – 2016 revision, will be given in the local media in accordance with Section 223 of the Act.

The draft 2013-2017 Council Plan – 2016 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 - 2016 REVISION

7.2 COUNCIL PLAN PROGRESS REPORT - 1 JANUARY - 31ST MARCH 2016

Meeting Type: Special Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 3 May 2016
Author: 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 presented to Council to communicate Council's performance against the Council Plan for the period 1 January – 31 March 2016.

RECOMMENDATION:

(Moved: Administrator R Roscholler/Administrator I Grant)

That Council receives the Council Plan 2013-2017 Progress Report for the period 1 January – 31 March 2016.

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 against the outcomes that we hope our work will achieve assists to achieve this mission. These results measure our progress against what is important and allow both ourselves and everyone in our community to understand the impact that we are having.

Implications

There are 19 indicators included in the progress report. When compared to the results for October - December 2015:

1. five indicators are favourable
2. five indicators are equal to the previous quarter
3. five indicators are unfavourable
4. three indicators require annual community satisfaction survey data. This survey will commence in February 2016, with results due to be released in late May 2016.
5. one indicator requires data that is unavailable at this time.

Favourable or improved indicators include utilisation of aquatic facilities, number of businesses, major events attracted and staged, reduction in time taken to decide planning applications and delivery of capital works program.

In relation to major events, 61 events were staged in the March 2016 quarter compared to 46 events in the same quarter for 2015.

Whilst the indicator for participation in Home and Community Care service has reduced, Council is required to meet the targets set by the Department of Health and Human Services in Victoria rather than an increase in participation.

A minor reduction in the number of food and safety assessments can be attributed to an increase in the number of class 1 and 2 premises. A number of these new premises will need multiple inspections to achieve compliance.

Fewer attendances have been recorded at the Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre and Wangaratta Galley compared to the same quarter in 2016, with a reduction of 7.22%. When attendances for July 2015 to March 2016 are compared to July 2015 to March 2016, total attendances have remained static with a small reduction.

Policy Considerations

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

Financial/Economic Implications

There is no immediate financial impact related to this report; however, resourcing of some actions that are necessary to achieve our targets will require consideration in future Council budgets.

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.

2013 – 2017 Council Plan (2015 Revision)

This report supports the 2013-2017 Council Plan:

Goal

We are Connected.

We will plan and make decisions for the future:

developing strategies to ensure an exceptional customer experience and to enhance, communication and engagement.

The non-negotiables

We consult and engage effectively with the community and provide information that is clear, accessible and easy to understand about local 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.

Risk Management

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Council Plan targets not achieved leading to reputational risk	Low	High	Moderate	Identified unfavourable variances are being examined and addressed. Regular monitoring and reporting

Conclusion

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

Attachments

- 1 COUNCIL PLAN - REPORTING JAN-MAR 2016

7.1 DRAFT BUDGET 2016/17

Meeting Type: Special Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 3 May 2016
Author: Director - Corporate Services
File Name: COUNCIL BUDGET 2016/17
File No: 51.060.024

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 16/17 Budget for a public exhibition period concluding on 3 June 2016. Details of key budget highlights are provided in the report and indicate that Council has achieved significant savings as a result of its 'Our Future' program that is designed to make Council a more efficient and responsive organisation, reflective of the needs of its community, while ensuring its financial sustainability in the long-term. As part of this program, Council has achieved savings in salaries and wages through its voluntary redundancy program of over \$1.2 million and a reduction in material and services expenditure of 5 per cent compared to its revised budget position.

RECOMMENDATION:

(Moved: Administrator R Roscholler/Administrator I Grant)

That Council:

- 1. prepares the draft 2016/17 Budget as presented***
- 2. authorises the Chief Executive Officer to***
 - a) give public notice of the preparation of the Draft 2016/17 Budget in accordance with section 129(1) of the Local Government Act 1989***
 - b) make available for public inspection the Draft 2016/17 Budget***
 - c) invite submissions in accordance with section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989***
 - d) receive submissions until 5pm Friday 3 June 2016.***
- 3. forms a committee comprising the Council Administrators to hold a meeting on Tuesday 7 June 2016 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 2016/17 Budget in accordance with section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989***

4. ***considers all written submission on any proposal contained within the Draft 2016/17 Budget and***
5. ***considers the adoption of the 2016/17 Budget with or without amendment at the Ordinary Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 21 June 2016 at 6.00pm.***

Carried

Questions

Ron Summers – Wangaratta

In section 12.1.4 page 67, the title is Infrastructure. In the 3rd paragraph it mentions that \$5.7 million will be spent on community projects and most of this is the aquatic centre of \$5.3 million. In 12.1.5 it mentions expenditure on new assets of \$6.2 million. Are we talking about different items?

Ruth Kneebone, Director Corporate Services replied there is a carried forward component to the \$6.2 million figure. It is a combination of the amount that was carried forward from the 2015/16 year of \$900,000 and the \$5.3 million is the amount that is new capital expenditure for the 2016/17 year.

Ron Summers – Wangaratta

Referring to Section 8.5 on capital works, there is a graph that sets out the required and actual asset renewal over the life of the current Strategic Resources Plan and renewal backlog. In regards to the back log, I am concerned that this is ever increasing, it tapers but is on the increase.

Alan Clark, Director Infrastructure replied it is hard to totally meet the renewal gap the way things are costed and the way things are depreciated. Our modelling comes up with that dollar figure. We work closely matching the dollars with the need. We are getting better at doing the condition assessments so that nothing is missed and numbers are better reflected.

Background

The Draft 16/17 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 2016.

The budget preparation process commenced in February 2016 and involved the preparation of operational and capital budgets by Council officers.

The Draft 16/17 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 16/17 Budget contains an Income Statement surplus of \$6.2 million and a capital spend budget of \$23.8 million.

We will increase rates by 2.5 per cent in the 16/17 financial year in accordance with our adopted Strategic Resource Plan. This budget will 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 a rate increase of 2.5 per cent in line with the new Fair Go Rates System (FGRS) which has capped rates increases by Victorian councils to the forecast movement of 2.5 per cent in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). This is in addition to a freeze of indexation of the Victorian Grants Commission and cost increases that exceed the CPI. As a result of this fiscal constraint, we have implemented a program titled 'Our Future'. This program seeks to identify sustainable savings and efficiencies whilst maintaining high quality services to our community.

Implications

Policy Considerations

The Draft 16/17 Budget has been prepared on the following bases:

1. Ensuring that key strategies, such as the CBD Masterplan, environmental sustainability, footpath, economic development, transport, waste management and recreation, etc., are responded to.
2. Maintaining waste management, the Wangaratta Public Cemetery, the Wangaratta Children's Services Centre, the Wangaratta Livestock Selling Complex, the Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre, Wangaratta Library, Wangaratta aquatic facilities, Community Support North East and plant & fleet services as stand-alone operations with any general subsidy clearly identified.
3. Providing for property and plant purchases on a self-funding basis through asset sales and the use of reserve funds.
4. Accommodating a return to elected representatives in October 2016.

Financial Implications

The Draft 16/17 Budget contains the following financial implications:

5. Recurrent expenditure decrease from the forecast 2015/16 position of 1.2 per cent with over \$1.2 million savings in wages and salaries delivered through the Voluntary Redundancy Program. Council has also achieved a 5 per cent reduction in materials and services expenditure when compared to its revised budget.
6. Rate rise of 2.5 per cent in accordance with our adopted Strategic Resource Plan and state government legislation.

7. Capital expenditure commitment of \$23.8 million, including infrastructure and plant and equipment renewal of \$7.4 million. Major capital expenditure items include:
 - a) Progression of development of 50 metre outdoor pool and hydrotherapy pool \$6.2 million
 - b) Completion of organic waste processing facility (\$1.7 million)
 - c) CBD Masterplan implementation (\$2.5 million)
 - d) Road renewal and upgrade (\$7.1 million) – including reconstructions, roads to recovery projects notably Cruse Street extension of \$2.8 million, resheeting, bridges, footpaths, bikepaths and kerbing. This renewal expenditure includes \$1.02 million to be spent on unsealed roads, \$175,000 to upgrade Moreton’s Bridge on the Upper Rose River Road and renewal of table drains of \$110,000
 - e) Drainage expenditure (\$1.5 million) – including road drainage replacement works (Newman Street Stage 2 - \$255,000) and new works in rural townships (Moyhu - \$50,000) and development areas (Waldara - \$500,000)
 - f) Land Improvements (\$2.6 million) – including the CBD Masterplan implementation of \$2.5 million
 - g) Buildings (\$370,000) – including renewal of buildings \$310,000
 - h) Plant and equipment (\$1.9 million) – including plant replacement, and scheduled replacement of Council’s vehicle fleet.

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

8. the estimated total amount to be raised by general rates is \$24,491,381
9. the estimated total amount to be raised by a municipal charge is Nil
10. the estimated total amount to be raised by waste collection charges (general, recycling and organics) is \$4,841,930
11. that an amount of \$3,764,000 to be borrowed to support the Aquatics Plan, CBD Masterplan implementation and energy reduction lighting program for the Wangaratta Government Centre
12. the cost of servicing the borrowings during the financial year will be \$468,000
13. the total amount of loans proposed to be redeemed during the financial year will be \$1,042,000

14. the total amount of borrowings at 30 June 2016 will be \$13,367,000.

15. the proposed 16/17 Fees and Charges are listed in Appendix E to the Budget Report.

Detailed information on all aspects of the Draft 16/17 Budget are contained in the Draft 16/17 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 16/17 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, HACC and Packaged Care programs, community facility maintenance and children's services. Specific projects supported in the 2016/17 financial year are:

16. Lighting improvements for the performing arts centre - \$19,000
17. Wangaratta skate park infrastructure upgrade - \$50,000
18. Cemetery development - \$60,500
19. Upgrade of microwave links to the Wangaratta children's services centre, Council's works depot and the Wangaratta library - \$100,000
20. Youth summit - \$10,000
21. Lighting upgrades for Wangaratta Lawn Tennis and Boorhaman Tennis clubs - \$171,000
22. West End gathering place shade sails and signage - \$17,860.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

The Draft 16/17 Budget contains a number of programs and initiatives that support and protect the environment. Specific projects that support environmental and sustainability outcomes include:

23. Storm restoration in the King Valley - \$800,000
24. Rural transfer station upgrade - \$37,500
25. Landfill phytocap trial - \$60,000
26. Landfill lids for Bowser landfill - \$62,000
27. Asbestos removal, education and labelling for Council properties - \$40,000
28. Climate change grant funded 'Achievement of environmentally sustainable design through town planning processes' - \$62,000
29. Climate change grant funded 'Resilient urban streetscapes' project - \$80,000
30. Completion of development and expansion of organics processing facility - \$1,680,000
31. Merriwa Park asbestos remediation works - \$196,000.

Economic Impacts

The Draft 16/17 Budget contains support for Council's Economic Development and Tourism operations and also for Planning and Building functions. The budget includes the following projects in support of our economy.

- 32. Improved information systems for planning and building processes - \$75,000
- 33. Development of an industrial land use strategy - \$50,000
- 34. CBD Masterplan implementation - \$2,500,000

2013 – 2017 Council Plan (2015 Revision)

This report supports the 2013-2017 Council Plan:

Goal

We are Sustainable

We will create and deliver:

our budgeted annual capital works program.

We will plan and make decisions for the future:

maintaining a responsible and transparent Long Term Financial Plan.

The non-negotiables

The best use of Council's resources.

Strategic Links

Rural City of Wangaratta 2030 Community Vision

The Draft 16/17 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.'

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	Low	High	Medium	Ensure

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
without consideration of Long Term Financial implications				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

We will undertake a range of consultation and engagement activities with the community including one rural and one urban presentation, also on-street discussions during May 2016 and a presentation at the Victorian Farmers Federation meeting in June.

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	

Options for Consideration

Council must prepare a Budget for the 16/17 financial year in order to comply with the Act.

Conclusion

Council's Draft 16/17 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 3 June 2016. Consideration of submissions by a Committee comprising the Council Administrators will take place on 7 June 2016, and adoption of Council's Budget for the 16/17 financial year will take place at its Ordinary Meeting scheduled for 21 June 2016.

Attachments

- 1 DRAFT BUDGET 2016/17 (under separate cover)

8. **CLOSURE OF MEETING**

The Meeting closed at 5.47pm.