

Minutes

Of the Ordinary Council Meeting

Location: Carboor Soldiers Memorial Hall
150 High St
Carboor, VIC 3678

Date: 28 March 2017

Time: 6pm



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**

Councillors:

Mr Ken Clarke OAM - Mayor, Mr David Fuller, Mr Dean Rees, Mr Harry Bussell, Mr Harvey Benton – Deputy Mayor, Mr Mark Currie, Mrs Ruth Amery.

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. **CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY**

Nil

7. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

RECOMMENDATION:

(Moved: Councillor H Benton/Councillor R Amery)

That Council reads and confirms the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 21 February 2017 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of the meeting.

Carried

8. 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.

- Cr Harvey Benton disclosed a Direct Conflict of Interest as an employee of a livestock agent to a notice of Motion regarding the Wangaratta Saleyards No.61.

9. RECEPTION OF PETITIONS

10. HEARING OF DEPUTATIONS

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

11. COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Nil

OFFICERS' REPORTS

12. EXECUTIVE SERVICES

Nil

13. CORPORATE SERVICES

13.1 MAYORAL AND COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES

Meeting Type: Ordinary Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 28 March 2017
Author: Governance and Risk Advisor
File Name: GOVERNANCE - Councillor Management - Councillor Allowances
File No: F17/142

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 set the allowances payable to the Mayor and Councillors effective from 1 July 2017.

RECOMMENDATION:

(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor M Currie)

That Council:

- 1. In accordance with Section 74 of the Local Government Act 1989, provides public notice of Council's intention to set the Councillor allowance at \$24,730 and the Mayoral allowance at \$76,521 effective from 1 July 2017;***
- 2. Stipulates in the public notice that persons may make a submission on the Councillor and Mayoral allowances in accordance with Section 223 of the Act and that written submissions must be received by 5.00pm, Friday 21 April 2017;***
- 3. If submissions are received under section 223 of the Act:***
 - a) Convenes a Special Council Meeting to hear from any person or persons who request to be heard in support of their written submission; and***
 - b) Receives a report on any section 223 submissions and any hearings held and resolves the levels of Councillor and Mayoral allowances to be paid effective 1 July 2017 at the Ordinary Council Meeting of 16 May 2017; and***
- 4. If no submissions are received under section 223 of the Act, resolves to set the Councillor allowance at \$24,730 and the Mayoral allowance at \$76,521, effective from 1 July 2017 without further resolution of Council.***

Carried

Background

Under section 74(A)(2) of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act), Council is required to pay an allowance to each of its councillors (except where a councillor does not wish to receive an allowance). The allowance is in addition to any out-of-pocket expenses incurred by councillors while performing their duties as members of the Council. Councillors who believe that the remuneration is not warranted have the option of declining its acceptance.

The Minister for Local Government conducts an annual review of the limits and ranges of Mayoral and Councillor allowances. The most recent review approved an adjustment factor of 2.5% and became effective on 1 December 2016.

2968 G 47 24 November 2016

Victoria Government Gazette

Local Government Act 1989

MAYORAL AND COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES ADJUSTMENT

In accordance with section 73B(4)(a) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, notice is hereby given that an adjustment factor of 2.5% applies to Mayoral and Councillor allowances.

In accordance with section 73B(4)(b) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, the new limits and ranges of Mayoral and Councillor allowances, adjusted in accordance with the adjustment factor, are:

Category 1	Councillors: \$8,324 – \$19,834 per annum	Mayors: up to \$59,257 per annum
Category 2	Councillors: \$10,284 – \$24,730 per annum	Mayors: up to \$76,521 per annum
Category 3	Councillors: \$12,367 – \$29,630 per annum	Mayors: up to \$94,641 per annum

This notice does not apply to the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and Councillors of the Melbourne City Council, and the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of the Greater Geelong City Council.

The new adjusted limits and ranges take effect on 1 December 2016.

Dated 15 November 2016

NATALIE HUTCHINS MP
Minister for Local Government

Councillor allowances for Category 2 Councils (which includes Wangaratta Rural City Council) are able to be set within the range between \$10,284 and \$24,730 per annum with Mayors able to be paid an allowance of up to \$76,521 per annum.

A review of allowances paid by 60 Councils has identified that 95% of Councils pay the maximum allowable amount within the applicable range to Councillors and 90% of Councils pay the maximum allowable amount within the applicable range to Mayors. Consequently, it can be seen that Wangaratta is significantly out of step with the vast majority of Councils regarding recognition of the time and effort devoted by elected members to their roles.

It is arguable that the current allowance settings at Wangaratta are inadequate, are not fair and reasonable and do not compensate for the 'opportunity cost' of taking up the role. On a conservative estimate the role requires 20 hours a week average in reading papers, attending Council meetings, Council committees, meeting with community organisations and meeting residents and ratepayers. The role of the Mayor is even more demanding with additional demands for attendance and officiating at events within and outside the municipality.

The amount of allowances can also have a significant impact on the decision to stand for Council and to return for a second or third term. In particular, surveys have shown that women, single parents and young adults with or without children can be under-represented in candidacies as well as business owners and young professionals due to the time and effort required for the role.

Implications

Policy Considerations

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

Financial/Economic Implications

Council's Budget contains provision for the payment of Councillor and Mayoral allowances.

There are no financial implications for the 2016/17 budget that relate to this report as the proposal does not relate to this financial year.

The 2017/18 budget will need to accommodate an additional \$21,440 for Councillor and Mayoral allowances if comparing the total of the proposed amounts, \$227,525, with maintenance of the status quo, \$206,085.

Legal/Statutory

Section 74(1) of the Act requires that Councils must review and determine the level of Mayoral and Councillor allowances within the period of six months after a general election or by next 30 June, whichever is later.

This report ensures Council is meeting this legislative requirement.

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.

2013 – 2017 Council Plan (2016 Revision)

This report supports the 2013-2017 Council Plan:

Goal

We are Sustainable

The non-negotiables

All legislative and compliance requirements are met.

Consultation/Communication

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

Conclusion

Wangaratta is significantly out of step with the vast majority of Councils regarding recognition of the time and effort devoted by elected members to their roles. Consequently, it is recommended that Councillors and the Mayor receive the maximum amount allowed, and that annual increases to allowances be applied once authorised by the Minister for Local Government.

Attachments

Nil.

13.2 AUDIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

Meeting Type: Ordinary Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 28 March 2017
Author: Executive Assistant Corporate Services
File Name: Audit Advisory Committee
File No: F16/2078

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 the outcome of the Expressions of Interest and make recommendations for membership of Council's Audit Advisory Committee.

RECOMMENDATION:

(Moved: Councillor M Currie/Councillor R Amery)

That Council:

- 1. appoints Dr Rowan O'Hagan as a representative on the Rural City of Wangaratta Audit Advisory Committee, for a three year appointment expiring in March 2020; and***
- 2. advises all applicants of the results of the Expression of Interest process and subsequent appointment to the Audit Advisory Committee.***

Carried

Background

The Audit Advisory Committee (AAC) Charter states that the primary objective of the AAC is to assist Council in the effective conduct of its responsibilities for financial reporting, management of risk, maintaining a reliable system of internal controls and facilitating the organisation's ethical development.

The Committee comprises a minimum of five members – two Councillors and three external independent persons. Appointments of external persons shall be made by Council by way of a public advertisement and be for a maximum term of three years. A vacancy now exists due to the end of an independent member's three year term.

The attributes of an effective committee member as set out by the Audit Advisory Committee include:

- Shows good judgement and is balanced in their consideration of issues and takes a whole of entity perspective;
- Knows the business of the entity; understands the role of the committee and the expectations of Council; takes the time to understand changes that affect how the entity operates and its risks;
- Brings knowledge and expertise to bear in committee deliberations;
- Displays a constructive and positive attitude in dealings with other committee members, committee advisors and observers;
- Is a good communicator, builds effective networks and relationships while maintaining necessary confidences;
- Devotes sufficient time to committee business; and
- Displays independence of mind on committee deliberations and asks the 'hard' questions when necessary.

Implications

Policy Considerations

Advisory Committee Charters set out the terms and key dates for appointment on an annual basis.

Financial/Economic Implications

Advisory Committees provide a positive outcome for the sustainability of the local community.

Legal/Statutory

The appointment of Advisory Committees is provided for in the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Social

Advisory Committees provide the opportunity for 2-way engagement between Council and Community members.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

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

2013 – 2017 Council Plan (2016 Revision)

This report supports the Council Plan (revised 2016).

Goal

We are connected

We are sustainable

We will research and advocate:

On behalf of our groups and committees to ensure they have the resources and knowledge to do the things they need to do.

We will plan and make decision for the future:

Maintaining a responsible and transparent Long Term Financial Plan.

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.

The best use of Council's resources.

All legislative compliance requirements are met.

Strategic Links

a) Rural City of Wangaratta 2030 Community Vision

N/A

b) Other strategic links

N/A

Risk Management

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
The committee does not achieve its objectives	Unlikely	Moderate	Medium	Re-advertise membership

Consultation/Communication

Expressions of Interest were publicly called to fill this position. Two expressions of interest were received, both from new nominees. Both candidates displayed excellent business acumen and possessed considerable financial backgrounds.

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Tools/Techniques
Inform	Keep informed	Newspaper advertisements

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

The applicants will be notified of Council's decision and thanked for their interest.

Options for Consideration

1. Council appoint Dr Rowan O'Hagan as recommended by officers as a new representative on the Rural City of Wangaratta Audit Advisory Committee for the term specified.
2. Council does not appoint either candidate as a representative on the Rural City of Wangaratta Audit Advisory Committee. This option will require re-advertisement of this vacancy.

Conclusion

Following consideration of the Expressions of Interest application for Council's Audit Advisory Committee, the new appointment will assist the committee in continuing to provide Council with advice, feedback and guidance.

Attachments

- 1 AAC 2017 - Nomination 1 - Confidential
- 2 AAC 2017 - Nomination 2 - Confidential

14. COMMUNITY WELLBEING

14.1 SECTION 86 COMMITTEES OF MANAGEMENT

Meeting Type: Ordinary Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 21 March 2017
Author: Community and Recreation Officer
File Name: COUNCIL COMMITTEES
File No: 10.020.008

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 seek endorsement for new nominations of community members to represent a number of Special Committees of Management (COM).

The Special Committees of Council are responsible for the management, promotion and maintenance of facilities under their control.

RECOMMENDATION:

(Moved: Councillor R Amery/Councillor D Fuller)

That Council:

1. *appoints the following representatives to the Section 86 Special Committees of Management as follows:-*

- ***Wangaratta Showgrounds Special Committee***
Mick Wilson - Murray Bushrangers Football Club
- ***Whitfield Recreation Reserve Special Committee***
Nikki Hartrey - Community representative
- ***Whorouly Public Hall Special Committee***
Charles Hajek - Community Representative

Carried

Background

Council has 16 COMs established under Section 86 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act) for the purpose of managing and controlling activities at Council owned/managed facilities. Section 86 of the Act provides that Council may delegate certain functions, duties or powers to a COM.

Committee of management nominees serve limited terms based on the requirements of their charter. All committee charters establish a minimum required number of positions but allow for larger membership if there is an interests from community members to serve. These nominations represent either new nominees resulting from resignations or additional interest from local community members.

When member terms expire the nomination process is advertised in local media, through rural newsletters and via community word-of-mouth. The vacancies are a result of other members' terms expiring.

Implications

Policy Considerations

Council's policy 'Appointment to Council Committees' applies to this matter. At its discretion, where there are more nominations than vacancies and the nominees address the requirements of the relevant COM, Council may appoint a number of members to the committee greater than that specified in the charter.

Financial/Economic Implications

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

Legal/Statutory

Council must make formal appointments to Section 86 Special Committees as required by the Act. The appointment of members to Special Committees by formal resolution of Council ensures that the powers, functions and duties delegated to these COMs are able to be exercised legally.

Social

Closer links between Council and COMs create greater awareness of the needs of the community and of the facilities being managed on Council's behalf. The responsibilities delegated to the COMs promote the exchange of information between the committee and Council. Promotion of the facility by the COM facilitates increased community use.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

COMs are responsible for the management of any environmental issues relating to the land upon which their facilities are situated.

2013 – 2017 Council Plan (2016 Revision)

This report supports the 2013-2017 Council Plan:

We are healthy:

we can move around and be active, get medical attention and join in social, cultural and recreational activities with our friends and family.

We are growing:

our economy and community are growing because we offer exciting opportunities and potential.

we have quality offerings for existing and new businesses and as a region we continue to attract visitors, investors and new residents.

We are connected:

our community has developed to make sure that we can connect and interact with each other – via effective communication and planning, by our roads and pathways, and in active community centres that provide activity and purpose.

We will research and advocate:

On behalf of our groups and committees to ensure they have the resources and knowledge to do the things they need to do.

We will create and deliver:

A focus on making it easy for people to volunteer in our community by connecting people, promoting opportunities and celebrating the brilliant contributions our volunteers make.

The non-negotiables

Our rural community is supported and recognised as a significant contributor to the economic and social character of the municipality.

Risk Management

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
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Governance risk associated with the delegation of Council powers to a committee	Possible	Major	High	The appointment of members by a formal resolution of the Council reduces governance risks by ensuring that all members appointed to a committee are covered by Council's public liability insurance
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Consultation/Communication

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Tools/Techniques
Inform	Keep informed	Emails to the COM
Consult	Listen and acknowledge	Council will consult with the COMs prior to making decisions that relate to the facilities and Sport and Recreation matters.
Involve	Work with the respective COMs to obtain feedback	COMs provide an important source of feedback for Council to manage these facilities and provide relevant information pertaining to sport and recreation.
Collaborate	Feedback will be incorporated into decisions as far as possible	Council collaborates with its COMs prior to making decisions that relate to the facilities
Empower	Implementation in conjunction with the COM	COMs have delegated powers to make decisions in relation to the day-to-day management of the facilities.

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

Conclusion

The appointment of the nominations detailed herein to the relevant COMs will delegate the management, function and duties of the activities and facilities under the COMs and will uphold Council's requirements under the Act.

Attachments

Nil

15. INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

15.1 WASTE CHARGE POLICY

Meeting Type:	Ordinary Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	21 March 2017
Author:	Waste Management Coordinator
File Name:	Waste Charge Policy
File No:	16995

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 consider placing the recently reviewed Waste Charge Policy (the Policy) on exhibition seeking feedback from the community. The policy sets out the basis of charges and fees applied for kerbside waste collection and waste received at Council's waste sites. It also sets out the basis for any exemptions to these services and associated costs.

RECOMMENDATION:

(Moved: Councillor D Rees/Councillor M Currie)

That Council:

- 1. places the Draft Waste Charge Policy on exhibition seeking feedback from the public, until close of business 28 April 2017;***
- 2. establishes a Special Committee of Council to hear submissions on the Draft Waste Charge Policy, if required, at a time to be determined; and***
- 3. reports back to Council at the Ordinary Council meeting on 16 May 2016, taking into consideration all of the submissions received.***

Carried

Background

Each year, coinciding with the adoption of the revised Council fees and charges the Waste Charge Policy is updated to reflect the operational nature of the waste services that Council delivers. The policy itself sets out the services that will attract fees and charges for kerbside waste collection and waste received at Council's waste sites. It also sets out the basis for any exemptions to these services and associated costs.

The proposed changes to the policy are as follows:

- **Unscheduled commercial collections.**
Currently commercial businesses requiring additional collections are charged event fees, as there is no such charge for this service. This year, Council's fees and charges will include a special unscheduled commercial collection fee.
- **\$5 hard waste voucher.**
Additional information about its purpose and issuing are included.
- **Free green waste during November.**
Additional information acknowledging the service that is offered on an annual basis is included.
- **Community events and bin hire.**
Additional information on the process is included, as follows:
 - Medium to large events will require completion of event application forms - 6 weeks prior to the event.
 - Small events <10 bins will require a customer service request, 2 weeks prior to the event.
- **Charity event bins are mentioned separately.**
These events will attract charges unless a formal exemption application is received and approved by the Director - Infrastructure Services, 2 weeks prior to the event.
- **Council's four strike policy.**
If an organics or recycling bin containing contamination is presented for collection 4 times within a 6 month period; on the fourth occasion, the bin will be removed from the premises and the charges will remain on the property's rate notice. Currently this is applicable to organics only.
- **In accordance with the Local Law Policy Disposal of Waste and Recyclable Materials 'conditions of collection' have been added to this policy.** This sets out when bins need to be presented for collection, weight restrictions etc.

Implications

Policy Considerations

Council's Waste Management Strategy is applicable to this report.

Financial/Economic Implications

The Waste Charge Policy has a direct correlation to the fees collected for waste services with the intent of recovering all costs for additional services above the base level waste service.

Legal/Statutory

There are no legal/statutory implications identified for the subject of this report.

Social

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

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

The aim of further refining the 'Four Strike Policy' is to increase the community's awareness and education of contamination of both the recycling and organics bins.

2013 – 2017 Council Plan (2016 Revision)

This report supports the 2013-2017 Council Plan:

Goal

We are Sustainable

We will research and advocate:

for a regional approach to waste management that has economic and environmental benefits.
to assist the community to reduce litter and recycle away from home in public places and at events.

We will create and deliver:

the outcomes identified in the Rural City of Wangaratta Waste Management Strategy.

We will focus on our business:

reviewing service levels while balancing community expectations with available resources.

The non-negotiables

Develop initiatives for the community to reduce resource use and waste to achieve sustainable living.

Strategic Links

a) Rural City of Wangaratta 2030 Community Vision

N/A

b) Other strategic links

N/A

Consultation/Communication

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Tools/Techniques
Consult	Seek Feedback on the draft Waste Charge Policy	Wangaratta Chronicle Council's Website

Officers believe that the draft policy is ready for consultation with the community.

Conclusion

The Waste Charge Policy governs the way Council implements its waste services. The major change to the policy, which may have a community reaction is the four strike policy changes. The other changes mentioned are to increase clarity around processes already occurring.

It is recommended that the Policy is put on public exhibition allowing for any submissions on the major Policy change. All feedback received will be reviewed and considered prior to formal adoption of the Policy at the 16 May 2017 Ordinary Council meeting.

Attachments

- 1 Draft Waste Charge Policy 2017

Anne Dunstan – Tarrawingee

Requested clarification on the proposed policy regarding a strata title owner's corporation. What is the deadline for the negotiation on the number of bins? Could this be made clearer in this policy?

It would be sufficient to have one roll per bin as opposed to one roll per resident that we are charged for.

Is this policy reviewed yearly? Will this draft policy come up again in 12 months?

Alan Clark Director Infrastructure replied the comments will be treated as a submission to the policy. The policy is reviewed at this time of year as a preliminary process to setting the fees and charges for the annual budget.

15.2 ROAD MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

Meeting Type:	Ordinary Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	21 March 2017
Author:	Manager - Infrastructure Planning and Delivery
File Name:	Road Management Plan
File No:	80.010.015

Executive Summary

This report is presented to Council to consider a review of the Road Management Plan (RMP). In accordance with Section 54 (5) of the *Road Management Act 2004* (the Act), the Rural City of Wangaratta must give notice that it is conducting a review of its RMP.

The purpose of the review, consistent with the role, functions and responsibilities of the Council as a road authority under the Act, is to ensure that the standards in relation to the inspection, maintenance and repair of roads to which the Council's Road Management Plan apply are safe, efficient and appropriate for use by the community.

The Rural City of Wangaratta is custodian to a range of road and road related assets which have been provided to service the community. As custodians, the Rural City of Wangaratta must ensure that these assets are responsibly maintained and meet the functions intended of them in terms of safety, quality and functionality.

Notable changes to the RMP include changes to the road hierarchy with the addition of a fourth classification being 'Limited Access' road. Limited Access roads provide access for residents where there are only a limited number of properties abutting the road. These roads are unsealed, not always well formed and may have only minimal drainage. The other notable change is to the levels of service for the maintenance management in relation to road assets where the response time in some instances has either been increased or decreased depending on the level of risk.

In regards to the level of service for path assets, the hierarchy has also been changed in order to remove the medium path classification. Path assets that were previously classified as 'medium' have been reclassified as 'high', thus increasing the level of service.

For more information in regards to changes made thus far as part of the RMP review please refer to the attached report summarising the changes.

RECOMMENDATION:**(Moved: Councillor H Bussell/Councillor M Currie)*****That Council:***

- 1. endorses the Draft Road Management Plan 2017 for public exhibition and places a notice to this effect in the Government Gazette and in a daily newspaper generally circulating in the area in which the Road Management Plan applies;***
- 2. invites public submissions regarding the Draft Road Management Plan 2017 in accordance with Council's "Major Council Policy Consultation Local Law No.4 of 2015" up to close of business on Friday 28 April 2017;***
- 3. establishes a Special Committee of Council to hear submissions on the Draft Road Management Plan 2017, if required, at a time to be determined; and***
- 4. reviews and considers adopting the Draft Road Management Plan 2017 at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 16 May 2017, taking into consideration all submissions made.***

Carried**Background**

Legislation such as the *Road Management Act 2004* (the Act) reformed the law relating to road management and outlines the rights and responsibilities of road authorities and road users. Council has a role to ensure that they have a maintenance management system by which they can discharge their duty to inspect, maintain and repair Public Roads and road related infrastructure for which they are responsible. Roads users have a role in ensuring that they meet their own 'duty of care'.

This RMP has been developed to establish a maintenance management system for the Rural City of Wangaratta's local roads network. This RMP is intended to encompass road users' needs and expectations within an economic framework based on meeting 'reasonable' maintenance standards relative to the function of the road network.

Implications**Policy Considerations**

This Road Management Plan (2017) replaces the Road Management Plan (2013).

Financial/Economic Implications

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

Legal/Statutory

The RMP has been developed in accordance with legislation relating to the *Road Management Act 2004*.

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.

2013 – 2017 Council Plan (2016 Revision)

This report supports the 2013-2017 Council Plan:

Goal

We are Sustainable

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.

Strategic Links

- a) Asset Management Policy
- b) Asset Management Strategy

Risk Management

The proposed Road Management Plan aims to achieve high standards of transparency, accountability and risk management.

Consultation/Communication

Copies of the draft Road Management Plan 2017 will be available on Council's website, at the Wangaratta Government Centre and be advertised in accordance with the recommendation. The submitters will receive a response addressing their issues as part of the review process.

Conclusion

The purpose of the review is to assess current road management practices and levels of service, including the inspection, maintenance and repair of all Council's roads as listed in its Register of Public Roads, with consideration of Council's resources and community expectations.

The Draft Road Management Plan 2017 and the report summarising changes thus far will be placed on display and made available for public feedback and comment.

Attachments

- 1 Draft Road Management Plan 2017
- 2 Summary of Changes - 2013 - 2017 RMP

15.3 PLACE NAMING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Meeting Type: Ordinary Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 28 March 2017
Author: Executive Assistant - Infrastructure Services
File Name: Placement Naming Advisory Committee
File No: F16/1775

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 the outcome of the Expressions of Interest and make recommendations for membership of Council's Place Naming Committee.

RECOMMENDATION:

(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor R Amery)

That Council resolves to appoint the following members to its Place Naming Committee for a term of 3 years expiring in February 2020:

- ***Julie Allen (reappointed)***
-
- ***Ken Jenvey (reappointed)***
-
- ***Benjamin Watts (new member)***

Carried

Background

Expressions of interest for appointments to Council's Place Naming Committee have been received and assessed. There were 3 positions expiring.

Expressions of Interest were publicly called to fill these positions.

Candidates were assessed against the committee's skills matrix. In doing so, the existing skills set of the incumbent committee members were also taken into consideration.

The skills matrix scores candidates in relation to their competencies in History, Heritage, Indigenous, Cultural and Other Skills.

A copy of the skills matrix completed for each candidate is attached for the information of Councillors.

Julie Allen and Ken Jenvey have been members of the Place Naming Committee for a number of years and renominated. Ben Watts has nominated for the first time. It is considered that they all have the skills required to perform the duties of the Place Naming Committee.

Implications

Policy Considerations

Advisory Committee Charters set out the terms and key dates for appointment on an annual basis.

Financial/Economic Implications

Advisory Committees provide a positive outcome for the sustainability of the local community.

Legal/Statutory

The appointment of Advisory Committees is provided for in the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Social

Advisory Committees provide the opportunity for 2-way engagement between Council and Community members.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

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

2013 – 2017 Council Plan (2016 Revision)

This report supports the 2013-2017 Council Plan:

Goal

We are Connected

We will research and advocate:

On behalf of our groups and committees to ensure they have the resources and knowledge to do the things they need to do.

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

N/A

b) Other strategic links

N/A

Risk Management

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
The recommended candidates are not appointed by Council	Unlikely	Insignificant	Low	Re-advertise

Consultation/Communication

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Tools/Techniques
Inform	Keep informed	Newspaper advertisements

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

All applicants will be notified of Council's decision and thanked for their interest.

Conclusion

The Place Naming Committee has three vacancies and three nominations were received. All three nominations are considered suitable and are thus recommended to be appointed.

Attachments

- 1 Place Naming Nominations 2017 - Confidential

15.4 PLACE NAMING POLICIES REVIEW

Meeting Type: Ordinary Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 28 March 2017
Author: Executive Assistant - Infrastructure Services
File Name: Place Naming Policies
File No: F17/183

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 seek adoption of 3 policies reviewed by the Place Naming Committee at its recent meeting. The 3 policies were due for review during 2017 and are presented here together. The three policies are the; Place Naming Policy, Naming Roads, Streets and Other Accessways Policy and Commemorative Plaques and Other Markers Policy.

RECOMMENDATION:

(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor H Benton)

That Council:

- 1. adopts the draft Place Naming Policy;***
- 2. adopts the draft Naming Roads, Streets and Other Accessways Policy; and***
- 3. adopts the draft Commemorative Plaques and Other Markers Policy.***

Carried

Background

The three Place Naming policies become due for review during 2017. The three policies have been reviewed by the Place Naming Committee at the same time to bring them into line for ease of reporting.

All naming proposals put before the Place Naming Committee must be considered against the [Naming rules for places in Victoria, Statutory requirements for naming roads, features and localities –2016](#) (the Naming rules). Secondary to this are Council's Policies which may include other rules specific to the Rural City Wangaratta.

For example, Council's policies do not allow for any new names to be duplicated within the municipality which is more specific than the Naming rules and is intended to make it less confusing to the community.

Changes made to the Place Naming Policy and Policy for Naming Roads, Streets and Other Accessways are reference to the latest naming rules (*Naming rules for places in Victoria, Statutory requirements for naming roads, features and localities – 2016*) and standards (*Australian/ New Zealand Standard. AS/NZS 4819: 2011*).

The Policy for Naming Roads, Streets and Other Accessways, Clause 2 has been changed as follows:

2. **All** Any un-named roads, streets and other accessways (**required for addressing or emergency purposes**) and, where relevant, features within a road reserve within the municipality shall be named by Council as soon as practicable.

The Responsible Officer has been changed to the Director – Infrastructure Services in both the Place Naming Policy and Commemorative Plaques and Other Markers Policy.

Policy Considerations

The three policies that are under review:

- Place Naming Policy
- Naming Roads, Streets and Other Accessways Policy
- Commemorative Plaques and Other Markers Policy

Financial/Economic Implications

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

Legal/Statutory

The Place Naming Committee must adhere to the Naming rules for places in Victoria and Council policies when considering naming proposals.

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.

2013 – 2017 Council Plan (2016 Revision)

This report supports the 2013-2017 Council Plan:

Goal

We are Connected

We will research and advocate:

On behalf of our groups and committees to ensure they have the resources and knowledge to do the things they need to do.

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**

N/A

b) Other strategic links

N/A

Consultation/Communication

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Tools/Techniques
Inform	Inform the public of changes made following the review of policies.	Council's website

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

Conclusion

The Place Naming Committee have reviewed the three policies and minor changes have been made to bring them up to date with the latest version of the Naming rules.

The Committee consider the three policies are now ready for adoption by Council.

Attachments

- 1 Draft Place Naming Policy 2017
- 2 Draft Naming Roads, Streets and Other Accessways Policy 2017
- 3 Draft Commemorative Plaques and Other Markers Policy 2017

15.5 PROCUREMENT POLICY REVIEW

Meeting Type: Ordinary Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 28 March 2017
Author: Manager - Infrastructure Planning and Delivery
File Name: Procurement Policy
File No: NA

Executive Summary

This report is presented to Council to commence the process of seeking feedback on the review of Council's procurement policy.

RECOMMENDATION:

(Moved: Councillor H Benton/Councillor H Bussell)

That Council:

- 1. endorses the Draft Procurement Policy 2017 for public exhibition;***
- 2. invites public submissions regarding the Draft Procurement Policy 2017 in accordance with Council's "Major Council Policy Consultation Local Law No.4 of 2015" up to close of business on Friday 28 April 2017;***
- 3. establishes a Special Committee of Council to hear submissions on the Draft Procurement Policy 2017, if required, at a time to be determined; and***
- 4. reviews and considers adopting the Draft Procurement Policy 2017 at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 16 May 2017, taking into consideration all submissions made.***

Carried

Background

Council adopted a procurement policy in 2016 in compliance with section 186A (1) of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act). Section 186A (7) of the Act requires Council to review its procurement policy at least once in each financial year, having regard to any guidelines made by the Minister with respect to form or content. Any changes arising from that review must be adopted by Council.

The current procurement policy has been formulated with regard to the Victorian Local Government Best Practice Procurement Guidelines 2013, the Municipal Association of Victoria Model Procurement Policy (Updated) August 2011 and Social Procurement: A Guide for Victorian Local Government Department of Planning and Community Development October 2010.

Council officers have reviewed the current procurement policy and have proposed amendments to the policy. The amendments have been incorporated into the Draft Procurement Policy (the draft policy) (*refer attachment*).

The notable amendments to the draft policy are as follows:

Section 7.9: Governance

An additional sentence has been included to describe how procurement management responsibilities are structured.

Section 10.4: Panel Supply Arrangements

The table has been replaced by a simplified version.

Section 11: Quotations, Tenders and Competition Thresholds

Section 11.4 was previously titled ‘Purchasing with Estimated Total Value \$100,001 To \$150,000’ this has been changed to ‘Purchasing with Estimated Total Value > \$100,000’. New wording has also been added as follows: *When a shortlist of preferred tenderers is selected, negotiations can be conducted with those shortlisted tenderers in order to obtain the optimal solution and commercial arrangements, providing the solution and commercial terms remain within the intent and scope of the tender.*

Section 11.5 - Multi-Stage Tenders

Wording in relation to the EOI process has been deleted as it was a duplicate of Section 10.

Section 15: Procedures

The following has been deleted as it is covered in Section 6 - *This policy operates in conjunction with Council’s Tendering & Contracts Procedures Manual which describes the procedures and processes to be used in procurement activities.*

Implications

Policy Considerations

Council must review the procurement policy in this financial year ending 30 June 2017.

The guidelines have not changed since the adoption of the current procurement policy.

The proposed policy is a Major Council Policy and therefore must be subject to the consultation process set out in the Major Council Policy Consultation Local Law No. 4 of 2015.

Financial/Economic Implications

The proposed policy sets out the principles, processes and procedures that will apply to all purchases of goods, services and works made by Council. The

proposed policy aims to achieve value for money and continuous improvement in the provision of services for the community.

Legal/Statutory

Section 186A (7) of the Act requires Council to review the Policy at least once in each financial year, having regard to any guidelines made by the Minister.

Social

The draft policy has an objective to ensure that Council resources are used efficiently and effectively to improve the overall quality of life of people in the local community.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

The proposed policy gives preference to the procurement of environmentally sustainable goods, services and works.

2013 – 2017 Council Plan (2016 Revision)

This report supports the 2013-2017 Council Plan:

Goal

We are Sustainable

The non-negotiables

All legislative and compliance requirements are met.

The best use of Council resources.

Risk Management

The proposed policy aims to achieve high standards of probity, transparency, accountability and risk management.

Consultation/Communication

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Tools/Techniques
Inform	Community	Website Public notice in local newspaper
Consult	Audit Advisory Committee Community	Request advice. Request submissions.

The proposed policy is a Major Council Policy and is subject to the provisions of the Major Council Policy Consultation Local Law No. 4 of 2015 which requires a public exhibition and submission process to be undertaken.

This process is planned to commence with Council endorsement at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 28 March 2017 and conclude with adoption of the reviewed procurement policy at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 16 May 2017.

A public notice will be published in the Wangaratta Chronicle on Friday 31 March 2017 explaining the submission process. Submissions will be received up to close of business on Friday 28 April 2017.

In their written submission, a person may also request to be heard by a Committee of Council in support of their submission, prior to Council considering the proposal. A Special Committee of Council will be established to hear submissions on the proposed policy, if required, at a time to be determined.

The Audit Advisory Committee is required by its charter, to consider procurement practices and provide advice to Council on better practice. The committee was requested to consider the draft policy and offer any recommendations for Council to consider at its meeting on 7 March 2017.

Options for Consideration

The review is required by the Act and the process is governed by the Major Council Policy Consultation Local Law. There are no alternatives to the process outlined above.

Conclusion

The review process ensures compliance with the requirements of Section 186A (7) of the Act which requires a review of the procurement policy in each financial year.

Officers believe the Draft Procurement Policy is now ready to be put out for public exhibition.

Attachments

- 1 Draft Procurement Policy 2017

15.6 NAMING PROPOSAL FOR FOOTBRIDGE OVER BOGGY CREEK, MOYHU

Meeting Type: Ordinary Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 28 March 2017
Author: Executive Assistant - Infrastructure Services
File Name: Boggy Creek Footbridge Moyhu
File No: BR34040

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 resolve to advertise its intention to name the footbridge over Boggy Creek, Moyhu.

RECOMMENDATION:

(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor M Currie)

That Council:

- 1. advertise its intention to name the footbridge over Boggy Creek, Moyhu as “Ted Gearon Bridge” in recognition of the generosity and voluntary work provided by Ted Gearon.***

Carried

Background

The Place Naming Committee received a naming proposal from the Moyhu Action Group seeking to name the footbridge over the Boggy Creek, Moyhu as “Gearon Bridge” in recognition of the generosity and voluntary work provided by Ted Gearon to enable the construction of the bridge by Oxley Shire.

The Moyhu Action Group advised that Ted Gearon “*donated all the steel and the platform for the bridge, which came from GMH factory in Melbourne. He carted all the materials to the site.*” These are not the only items and work donated by Ted to the Greta and Moyhu community over the years, including the use of his fire truck in times of need.

The Place Naming Committee considered the proposal with the view that the proposal recognises Ted’s generosity and community work and sought exemption from the Geographic Names Registrar under Principle 1(H) to name the footbridge “Ted Gearon Bridge”. Sadly Ted passed away in December 2016. Ted’s family welcome the naming proposal in his honour.

Implications

Policy Considerations

Place Naming Policy

Financial/Economic Implications

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

Legal/Statutory

The Place Naming Committee must adhere to the Naming rules for places in Victoria and Council policies when considering naming proposals.

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.

2013 – 2017 Council Plan (2016 Revision)

This report supports the 2013-2017 Council Plan:

Goal

We are Connected

We will research and advocate:

On behalf of our groups and committees to ensure they have the resources and knowledge to do the things they need to do.

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

N/A

b) Other strategic links

N/A

Consultation/Communication

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Tools/Techniques
Consult	Advertise the proposal to the community	Newspaper Council's website

Officers believe that the proposal is ready for advertising to the wider community.

Conclusion

Exemption was granted by the Geographic Names Registrar to name this bridge after a living person which is normally not permitted, however it is no longer required as Ted has passed away. Ted's family are happy for the naming proposal to proceed, in recognition of his generosity. Therefore the Place Naming Committee recommend that Council advertise its intention to name the footbridge over Boggy Creek, Moyhu as "Ted Gearon Bridge".

Attachments

Nil.

16. DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

16.1 HUME CORRIDOR PASSENGER RAIL STUDY REPORT

Meeting Type: Ordinary Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 18 April 2017
Author: Manager Strategy Growth and Environment
File Name:
File No: NA

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 consider the endorsement of the Hume Corridor Passenger Rail Study Report funded by the municipalities of Albury, Benalla, Wangaratta and Wodonga, in collaboration with the Border Rail Action Group (BRAG) and the opportunity to continue to actively advocate for improved passenger rail services in partnership with regional Councils.

RECOMMENDATION:

(Moved: Councillor H Bussell/Councillor R Amery)

That Council:

- 1. endorse the Hume Corridor Passenger Rail Study Report; and***
- 2. continue participation in the collaboration and active advocacy on behalf of the community.***

Carried

Background

V/Line and NSW Trains (XPT) operate regional rail services on the Hume (Albury) line, servicing passengers between Melbourne and the cities of Benalla, Wangaratta, Wodonga and Albury.

After February 2008, V/Line services on the line terminated at Wangaratta station, with road coaches operating from Wangaratta to Albury. This was due to the deteriorating condition of the broad gauge track between Seymour and Albury.

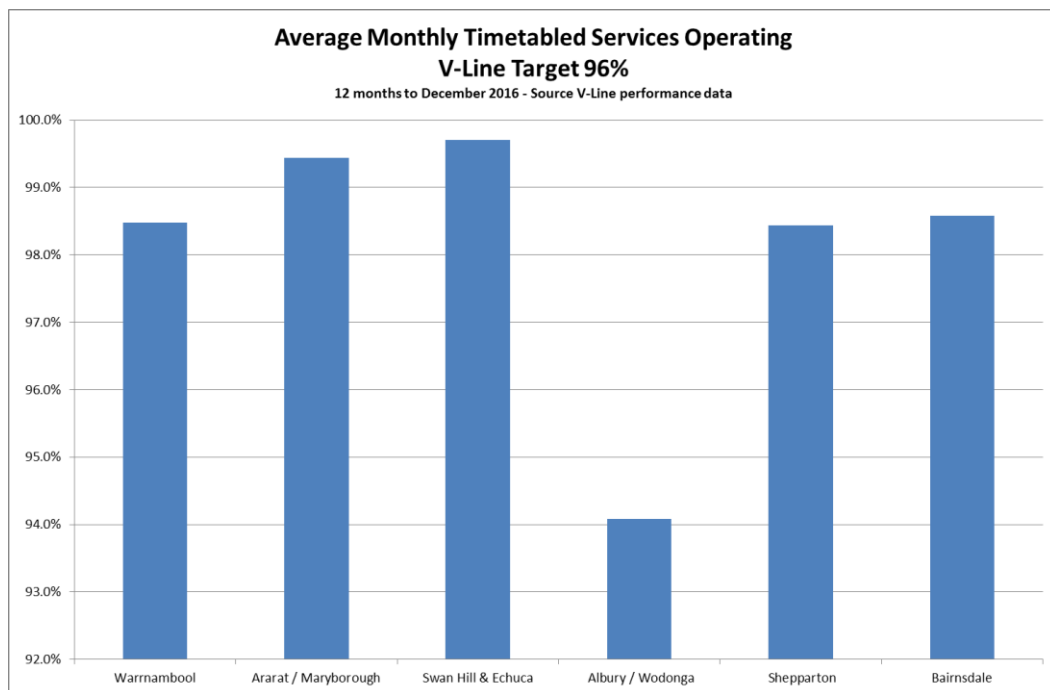
On 30 May 2008, it was announced that the broad gauge track between Seymour and Albury would be converted to standard gauge, with the project to be combined with the relocation of the railway line away from the Wodonga CBD. This was completed at the end of June 2011.

While the gauge conversion program was being carried out between 2008 and 2011, all Hume V/Line services operated as road coaches north of Seymour, connecting with trains operating between Seymour and Melbourne, impacting passenger amenity and ultimately passenger numbers during this period.

Rail services recommenced on 26 June 2011, which marked the start of V/Line phasing out road coaches, however serious problems emerged with the condition of the standard gauge track north of Seymour, meaning that the new service became very unreliable due to speed restrictions and rolling stock maintenance issues, and trains were once again regularly replaced by buses. Past performance, along with substantial negative media, has resulted in a long standing poor perception of the reliability and punctuality of passenger rail services on the Hume line by local residents and users.

Service Performance Measures

The performance of this route in terms of operating services has been demonstrated to fall below expectations for both V/Line and the communities served. The following chart provides details of the average service reliability for all long haul regional routes. The Hume line beyond Seymour is the worst performing V/Line route in terms of scheduled services not operating.



Hume Corridor Passenger Rail Collaboration

A collaboration was formed between Albury City, the City of Wodonga, Rural City of Wangaratta, Benalla Rural City and the Border Rail Action Group (BRAG) (the “Steering Group”) in order to more effectively lobby for change.

The Steering Group agreed to fund and undertake a comprehensive community study to better understand the issues and opportunities associated with passenger rail services between Albury/Wodonga and Melbourne.

Further, to ensure that over time those services meet the current and future needs of our communities in terms of reliability, punctuality, timetabling and amenity.

Both NSW Trains and V/Line agreed to actively support the study by providing access to data, information and facilities to assist in these endeavours.

Research Project Objectives

The AEC Group were engaged to conduct the research and author the Hume Corridor Passenger Rail Study Report (the “Report”). The findings and recommendations from which would then support and better inform continued lobbying efforts for improved services.

The specific objectives of the research project were to utilise the collective power and critical population mass of the four partner councils to:

- Better understand community needs and expectations with respect to both current and future passenger rail services to, through and between Albury, Wodonga, Wangaratta, Benalla and Melbourne;
- Understand the travel patterns and requirements of our communities, including inter-regional transport and connections to business, education, major events, health and professional services, domestic and international air travel;
- Quantify the potential social and economic benefits derived from improvements to services and increased patronage;
- Draw on the knowledge gained from existing and proposed research, including other relevant case studies, to prepare a comprehensive proposal to government that informs and/or supports the proposed North East rail services business planning (\$2M) to be undertaken in 2017; and
- Lobby for government investment in passenger rail to a level that capitalises on the opportunities available and maximises the social and economic benefits provided.

Implications

Policy Considerations

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

Issues

The Report provides a comprehensive understanding of the social and economic impacts of current and potential future rail services to the region. Data collected details community needs, perceptions and potential demand for rail travel. The Report discusses the reasons for travel, efficiency and productivity gains and other benefits of travel by rail, as well as the reasons why people chose not to travel by rail.

Additionally AEC carried out significant desktop research around passenger volumes, service reliability, cancellations and replacement coach services. This research included comparisons to similar routes to better understand the comparative timetables, performance statistics and the associated uplift in passenger volumes following investment in additional services.

Finally, the Report quantifies the significant economic impacts and potential future benefits for communities, owners and operators of the services which could be achieved through investment in service improvements.

In considering the Report it is important to note that it is specifically aimed at understanding the travel patterns, needs and expectations of the regional communities involved, as well as exploring the social and economic impacts of the existing rail service, and the potential benefits available from investment in improved services.

As a result, further information may need to be sourced to fully inform lobbying efforts, specifically with regard to equity of investment across the state. It is arguable as to whether the Steering Group is responsible for undertaking these investigations, or whether the focus should be to utilise the findings of this report to encourage Federal and State Governments and Rail Authorities to investigate, plan and deliver services that are comparative with those provided for other regional centres and which meet community needs and expectations and maximise social and economic benefits.

Financial/Economic Implications

Economic Uplift

If identified issues were addressed, it is reasonable to expect a 75% uplift in passenger numbers. This is evidenced by case studies relating to service upgrades to V/Line services in Geelong, Ballarat, Bendigo and Traralgon during 2000 - 2006 where reduced travel times and enhanced frequency delivered a sustained increase of 75% in train patronage.

In the event a 75% uplift was achieved on the Hume corridor, this would result in 385,000 additional trips and total passengers of approximately 900,000 per annum. The economic impact of varying increases in train patronage is detailed in Table 4.1 below.

Table 4.1 – Economic Impact from Socio Economic Benefits

Socio Economic Benefit	Benefit Type	Current (2015/16)	Future Total (50% Increase)	Future Total (75% Increase)	Future Total (100% Increase)
Visitor Spend	Output (\$M)	\$118.70	\$178.00	\$207.70	\$237.30
	GRP (\$M)	\$58.80	\$88.20	\$102.90	\$117.60
	Incomes (\$M)	\$34.30	\$51.50	\$60.00	\$68.60
	Employment (FTEs)	562	843	983	1,124
Rail Operator Spend ^(a)	Output (\$M)	\$32.00	\$48.00	\$56.00	\$64.00
	GRP (\$M)	\$14.90	\$22.40	\$26.10	\$29.80
	Incomes (\$M)	\$8.30	\$12.40	\$14.50	\$16.60
	Employment (FTEs)	89	133	155	177
Travel Cost Saving	Saving (\$M)	\$17.00	\$25.40	\$29.70	\$33.90
Value of Time	Work/ Business (\$M)	\$5.40	\$8.10	\$9.40	\$10.80
	Leisure (\$M)	\$13.50	\$20.20	\$23.60	\$26.90
Safety Benefit	Benefit (\$M)	\$1.80	\$2.70	\$3.10	\$3.60
Pollution Cost Saving	Saving (\$M)	\$1.20	\$1.90	\$2.20	\$2.50

The economic impact of a 75% uplift in passenger numbers can be summarised as follows:

Table 4.2 – Economic Impact: 75% Uplift

Increase in passengers	75%
Economic output	\$113M
Gross Regional Product	\$55.3M
Employment (FTEs)	487
Travel cost savings by communities using rail	\$12.7M
Productive use of time savings by using rail	\$14.1M
Rail v. road safety benefit	\$1.3M
Environmental impact cost saving	\$1.0M

Legal/Statutory

There are no legal/statutory implications identified for the subject of this report.

Social

Social accessibility and isolation

The Report examines the impact of rail travel on regional areas that are typically reliant on access to capital Cities for a range of services such as health, retail, business and entertainment.

Substandard service provision can result in considerable socio-economic losses within the regional communities they are designed to service. High quality passenger rail services, which meet the needs of the regional population, result in a reduction in social isolation and improved liveability through connectivity with infrastructure, assets, services and activities.

In the last 12 months, existing passengers in the study area made an average of 8.3 trips per year by train to access medical appointments, cultural and sporting events, retail activities, or education activities.

Travel Patterns

In examining the current travel patterns of rail users on the Hume line, the Report details the following:

- Existing rail passengers made an average of 20 trips to/from Melbourne per year with 11 via train.
- 22% of existing passenger trips to and from the study area to Melbourne were made via train/rail replacement services (i.e. buses).
- One in six existing passengers would not have made the trip if the train service was unavailable.
- Visiting friends and family was the most popular reason for train travel.
- Potential passengers made an average of 18 trips to/from Melbourne per year with travel via car the most popular mode.

Areas for Improvement

Rail users have a moderate to low satisfaction with the rail service offering on the Hume line with 27.3% likely to continue using train services and 64.8% dissatisfied with the service overall.

The most important areas identified for change related to service features, with the Top 5 areas nominated as:

1. More reliable services
2. Faster journey times with fewer stops
3. More frequent services
4. Elimination of bus replacement service
5. Consistency of travel time

If the areas for improvement were addressed, 59% of existing and 72% of potential passengers would convert their non-train trips to rail travel and 65% of existing and 57% of potential passengers would undertake additional trips.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

There are some potential environmental/ sustainability impacts with increased use of a rail service that can carry more passengers at one time compared with road transport. Increased reliance on road transport will result in an increased deterioration of road infrastructure.

2013 – 2017 Council Plan (2016 Revision)

This report supports the 2013-2017 Council Plan:

Goal

We are Connected

We will research and advocate:

- For a local and regional transport system that is fast and reliable
- With regional partners to identify and address public and community transport gaps

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

N/A

b) Other strategic links

N/A

Risk Management

Business Risk – It is not anticipated that the actions and recommendations within the Report will have financial implications for Council in relation to implementation. Council's role in the project moving forward is to inform and advocate, accordingly any costs will be primarily limited to time and travel, unless the collaboration determines that additional research is required. No further research is anticipated at the present time, however a level of flexibility may be required to capitalise on unplanned opportunities.

Corporate Risk – Council's failure to maintain a leadership role with respect to the shortcomings of passenger rail along the Hume corridor could negatively impact on its corporate brand and positive relationship with the business and broader community.

Consultation/Communication

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Tools/Techniques
Inform		
Consult		
Involve		
Collaborate		
Empower		

Considerable community engagement has taken place over the course of the study including more than 1,100 existing and potential customer surveys online, on train and station platforms, as well as random telephone surveys.

Additionally the AEC Group undertook 10 telephone interviews of key businesses to understand the differing rail needs of the business community.

Each of the partner Councils undertook extensive promotion of the study via radio and newspaper as well through social media. Information was also contained on each of the respective Council websites and distributed to databases administered by Albury City, BRAG and the Albury Northside Chamber of Commerce.

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

Options for Consideration

1. Endorse the draft Hume Corridor Passenger Rail Study Report; and
2. Continue participation in the collaboration and active advocacy on behalf of the community; or
3. Seek amendment to the draft Hume Corridor Passenger Rail Study Report; and
4. Cease any further involvement in the collaboration.

Conclusion

The substandard nature of passenger rail services between Albury/Wodonga and Melbourne is an ongoing issue for the residents of Albury, Benalla, Wangaratta and Wodonga. The study, commissioned as part of the collaboration between these Councils and the Border Rail Action Group, has identified that rail services are inadequate to meet community needs.

The key findings in the Report include:

- The sub-standard services between Albury and Melbourne are limiting socio-economic benefits and are not meeting community needs or expectations.
- During 2015/16 between 5% and 20% of trains on the Albury to Melbourne line did not meet schedules.

- Performance of passenger rail services in the study area are well below the reliability levels of other V/Line services i.e. Geelong, Ballarat, Bendigo and Traralgon, yet the Albury to Melbourne line serves a regional population greater than all but one (Greater Geelong) of these regional areas.
- The sub-standard nature of passenger rail services provided between Albury and Melbourne is estimated to have resulted in approximately 385,000 less train trips in 2015/16 than could be achieved.

In the event service improvements were made, and a resulting uplift in passenger numbers of 75% achieved, the regional economic impact would include an additional \$113M in output, \$55.3M in GRP, 487 jobs and \$29.8M in savings.

The Report outlines a number of recommendations for the improvement of the Hume Rail Corridor service that would deliver considerable benefits to the affected communities. As a result of the research outcomes, the Steering Group has commenced a range of activities to inform key stakeholders of the findings and advocate for improvements to the passenger rail services required to meet the reasonable needs and expectations of the communities of NE Victoria and Southern NSW into the future.

Attachments

- 1 Hume Corridor Passenger Rail Study
- 2 Rail Alliance Summary Document

17. SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nil

18. ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

18.1 ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

Meeting Type: Ordinary Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 28 March 2017
Author: Executive Assistant Corporate Services
File Name: N/A
File No: 10.020.002

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

Minutes of the following Advisory Committee Meetings are reported to Councillors for information (refer attachments).

1. Wangaratta Unlimited Committee
2. Audit Advisory Committee
3. Place Naming Committee
4. Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee
5. Arts, Culture & Heritage Advisory Committee

RECOMMENDATION:

(Moved: Councillor D Fuller/Councillor D Rees)

That Council notes the minutes of these committees.

Carried

Attachments

- 1 Wangaratta Unlimited Meeting Minutes - 7 February 2017
- 2 Audit Advisory Committee meeting Minutes - 20 December 2017
- 3 Place Naming Committee Meeting Minutes - 15 February 2017
- 4 Sport and Recreation Meeting Minutes - 8 February 2017
- 5 Arts, Culture & Heritage Advisory Committee Minutes - 13 February 2017

19. RECORDS OF ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCILLORS

19.1 RECORDS OF ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS

Meeting Type: Ordinary Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 28 March 2017
Author: Executive Assistant Corporate Services
File Name: Records of Assembly of Councillors
File No: F16/2117

Executive Summary

An “Assembly of Councillors” is a meeting at which matters are considered that are intended or likely to be the subject of a Council decision and is either of the following:

- a meeting of an advisory committee where at least one Councillor is present; or
- a planned or scheduled meeting that includes at least half the Councillors and at least one Council officer.

At an assembly of Councillors, a written record is kept of:

- a) the names of all Councillors and members of the Council staff attending;
- b) the matters considered;
- c) any conflict of interest disclosures made by a Councillor attending; and
- d) whether a Councillor who has disclosed a conflict of interest leaves the assembly.

The written record of an assembly of Councillors is, as soon as practicable:

- a) reported at an Ordinary Meeting of the Council; and
- b) incorporated in the Minutes of that Council meeting.

Date	Meeting details	Refer
13 February 2017	Councillor Briefing Forum	Attachment
20 February 2017	Councillor Briefing Forum	Attachment
27 February 2017	Councillor Briefing Forum	Attachment
6 March 2017	Councillor Briefing Forum	Attachment
14 March 2017	Councillor Briefing Forum	Attachment

RECOMMENDATION:

(Moved: Councillor H Benton/Councillor H Bussell)

That Council receives the records of Assemblies of Councillors.

Carried

Attachments

- 1 Assembly Of Councillors - 13 February 2017
- 2 Assembly of Councillors - 20 February 2017
- 3 Assembly of Councillors - 27 February 2017
- 4 Assembly of Councillors - 6 March 2017
- 5 Assembly of Councillors - 14 March 2017

20. NOTICES OF MOTION

- Due to a disclosure of conflict to the Notice of Motion no.61 , Councillor Benton left the room at 6.28pm

Notice of Motion – No.61

(Moved: Councillor R Amery/Councillor H Bussell)

Councillor R Amery moved a motion:

That Council:

- 1. agrees in principle to develop a management structure which would be a Council owned entity, to ensure the facility has the flexibility to maximise its full commercial potential; and**
- 2. requests officers provide a detailed briefing report during April, which considers all relevant matters relating to the management of the Wangaratta Livestock Exchange.**

Carried

Questions

David Evans – Myrree

Is there any intention to promote the saleyards, the advantages of it and the advantages to agents and to the people who produce livestock?

The saleyards in my view are the best saleyards between Melbourne and the Murray. It is essential that they be properly promoted and I hope that the committee does exactly that.

Councillor Dean Rees replied thank you David for your report. I am interested to know if you had done a costing for cartage, for example to Barnawartha and other close saleyards to make it a more attractive incentive for people to bring their livestock to Wangaratta?

David Evans – Myrree

No I haven't Councillor Rees, but I believe that it is an issue that needs to be taken into account, as does the cost of Weigh fees and also service fess at the yards themselves. Another factor that will be coming into account is the small number of those cattle that come from small producers, some may only send one or two cattle which is certainly an issue. As well as the fact that you get more individual attention.

Councillor Mark Currie replied thank you for those comments. There is a lot to take into consideration, the timing of the weighing etc. When we do the sums and a lot of people have been doing them recently, I have concerns myself and I agree with Ruth in getting something motioned and pushed through. Currently if the numbers keep going as they are, the buyers won't turn up. We need something to drive people to come and sell. Once the buyers stop coming there will be no market at all.

David Evans – Myrree

I think one of the reasons the numbers have dropped off in the past few weeks is that the cattle are not around. On the other hand it is very clear that it is a great vealer market and it is not a good market for cattle over 600kg. We need to make known that this is the best vealer market.

Maisie Enders – Carboor

I want to send my cattle to Wangaratta and the agents say no, there's no buyers, so what do we do?

Councillor Dean Rees replied the only thing I could suggest is, like anything that doesn't sell, change your agent. Get one that wants to self-promote or promote for Wangaratta as being a great place.

Brain Fox – Wangaratta

How can Local, State or Federal Government possibly run a Saleyard?

Councillor Ruth Amery replied to David Evans question saying, one of the aims of the new management structure would be to advertise and promote more often.

Sue Davies – Docker

I agree that Wangaratta is a top spot for selling vealers, however there is concern with the big bullocks going up the road. There has to be other ways or avenues we can go about it. I wonder whether there could be a store sale at the end of the month which would be where we go to sell all of our bullocks. An additional sale so that if you only have 20 or 30 bullocks you could take them there. We could hold them off until the end of the month knowing that it would be a big Bullock sale and the buyers can fill their loads.

- **Councillor Benton** returned to the room at 6.46pm.

Notice of Motion – No.62

(Moved: Councillor H Bussell/Councillor D Fuller)

Councillor H Bussell moved a motion:

That Council writes to the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP) advising that we do not consider it is appropriate that we undertake the communication to the community about the amendment to the Bushfire Management Overlay given it is a State Amendment. It is recommended that DELWP undertake all communication with the community in relation to this amendment.

Carried

Debbie Conroy – Bobinawarrah

It sounds like there would be a cost issue, a lot of red tape and costs in doing this? I think it would be a good idea for the Government to do their own work.

Barry Green Director Development Services replied in relation to the cost for Council, there is no consultation just communication. The changes themselves will certainly increase the red tape and permit requirements. It increases the area in Wangaratta by some 1,800 properties.

21. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

22. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Robert Cook – Edi Upper

A section of the road has been repaired on the Edi-Cheshunt Road after a double fatality. I was told that the repair was contracted out and it is quite good at the moment but it won't last. Was that section of road part of one of the contracts that Council let? I have seen there are sometimes smaller roads to be included on Council's works. Cook's Gap Road is in a terrible state after the last rain and I would like to see a little bit of improvement.

Alan Clark Director Infrastructure replied in order to maximise flood recovery funding, Council must inspect and claim for particular sections of damaged road and the work must be performed by contractors. The Edi-Cheshunt Road is on our program for treatment in the next three months.

Brian Fox – Wangaratta

(Provided handout to Councillors and Officers with various photos)

I love my town and I believe it is not being looked after. A fortnight ago I took a photograph of a seat in Rowan Street and sent it to the Councillors. Now there is no seat. I cannot understand how people with university degrees cannot see what is happening to this city.

Councillor Dean Rees replied as a past councillor was the issue of the under pass an issue back then.

Brian Fox – Wangaratta

My understanding is that Rowan Street is owned by the RTA, it is not the responsibility of the Council. It is the responsibility of the Council to gnaw away at the RTA until they fix it. We cannot have somebody come and disfigure our City.

David Evans – Carboor

I believe there are people who would be interested in having somewhere to store old documents in a safe and secure place, to keep them in good condition in regards to moisture, cold and heat. If Council where to get behind such a project it might be possible to get some grants from State Government.

Brendan McGrath Chief Executive Officer replied have you spoken to the Family History Society or Historical Society? The physical means to store them is quite easy, once you start collecting important documents from people it is more complex to catalogue these things.

Councillor Dean Rees asked Council Officers what is the usual process in relation to cleanliness of infrastructure. Is there an observance team to check cleanliness?

Alan Clark Director Infrastructure replied that Council has a street sweeping, drainage crew that head out early each morning to blow the foot paths down in front of the Street Sweeper. They start at 5.30 every morning and work their way through. They do not wash down the streets every morning and on a minimal basis they will steam clean the streets. They do not actively seek out foot prints as you have mentioned Brian. We have recently order some additional butt bins for high hit areas like the bus stops. The under pass is a VIC Roads property and they removed the vines around two and a half years ago as they were having problems with the drainage at the bottom of the under pass.

Council can review their processes, costs and timing of pressure washing all the pavements.

Brian Fox – Wangaratta

Noted that he would like a computer chip in his red bin, much the same way they have chips in dogs to assist with a user pays system of charging for garbage collection.

Mayor Ken Clarke replied you have had a month or so to make a submission to the Council Plan for the next four years and it is something you might possibly put in writing.

23. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Nil

24. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Meeting closed at 7.10pm.