



MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, NHILL ON WEDNESDAY 19 JULY 2017, COMMENCING AT 3:00PM

AGENDA

1. Acknowledgement of the Indigenous Community and Opening Prayer

2. Apologies

3. Confirmation of Minutes

4. Declaration of Interests

5. Public Question Time

6. Deputations

7. Activity Reports

8. Correspondence

9. Assembly of Councillors

9.1 Record of Assembly

10. Planning Permit Reports

No report

11. Reports Requiring a Decision

11.1 Draft 2017/2018 Budget

11.2 Draft Council Plan, Strategic Resource Plan and Health, and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021

12. Special Committees

No report

13. Late Reports

13.1 Jeparit Town Committee

14. Other Business

No report

15. Confidential Matters

No report

16. Meeting Close

Present: Crs. D. Nelson (Mayor), R. Lowe, D. Colbert, T. Schneider, R. Gersch

In Attendance:

Anne Champness (Director Infrastructure Services), Monica Revell (Acting Director Corporate Services), Philip King (Acting Director Community Services), Taegan Salt (Executive Assistant),

11.1: Janelle Reichelt (Finance Coordinator).

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY AND OPENING PRAYER

Cr Nelson opened the meeting at 3:00pm by acknowledging the Indigenous Community and offering the opening prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Cr R. Ismay

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 5 July 2017 in the Council Chamber, Nhill as circulated to Councillors be taken as read and confirmed.

MOVED: CRS T. Schneider/R.Lowe

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 5 July 2017 in the Council Chamber, Nhill as circulated to Councillors be taken as read and confirmed.

CARRIED

Attachment: 1

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council changes the Ordinary Council Meeting from 3pm, 16 August 2017 to 3pm, 23 August 2017 to enable consideration of the 2017-21 Council Plan and 2017/18 Budget.

MOVED: CRS T. Schneider/R. Lowe

That Council changes the Ordinary Council Meeting from 3pm, 16 August 2017 to 3pm, 23 August 2017 to enable consideration of the 2017-21 Council Plan and 2017/18 Budget.

CARRIED

4. DECLARATION BY COUNCILLORS OR OFFICERS OF ANY DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST IN ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA.

- Direct; or
- Indirect interest
 - a) by close association;
 - b) that is an indirect financial interest;
 - c) because of conflicting duties;
 - d) because of receipt of an applicable gift;
 - e) as a consequence of becoming an interested party; or
 - f) because of an impact on residential amenity.

Declaration of direct or indirect interest must also be advised by Councillors at the commencement of discussion of the specific item.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

6. DEPUTATIONS

No deputations

7. ACTIVITY REPORTS

COUNCILLOR ACTIVITIES: JUNE 2017

Cr NELSON, MAYOR

Attended:

- 02/06/2017 Citizenship ceremonies, Nhill
- 03/06/2017 Military Vehicle Rendezvous,
- 04/06/2017 New Residents welcome event
- 05/06/2017 Town Committee meeting, Dimboola
- 06/06/2017 Mayor / CEO meeting, Nhill
- 07/06/2017 Briefing meeting, Nhill
- 07/06/2017 Council Meeting, Nhill
- 07/06/2017 Farewell dinner for Adrian, Nhill
- 08/06/2017 Playgroup, Dimboola
- 13/06/2017 Wimmera Development Association meeting, Horsham
- 15/06/2017 Hindmarsh Shire Council Audit Committee, Nhill
- 18-22/06/2017 National General Assembly , Canberra
- 19/06/2017 Dinner meeting with Andrew Broad, Canberra
- 23/06/2017 Mayor / CEO Meeting with VLGA, Horsham
- 23/06/2017 Wimmera Mayors Lunch meeting, Horsham
- 27/06/2017 Career Expo, Longerenong
- 28/06/2017 NDIS information meeting, Nhill
- 29/06/2017 WSMLLEN meeting, Horsham
- 30/06/2017 Regional Living Victoria Launch, Ballarat

Cr LOWE, DEPUTY MAYOR

Attended:

- 02/06/2017 Citizenship Ceremony, Council Chambers.
- 03/06/2017 Military Vehicle Display, Nhill Aerodrome.
- 07/06/2017 Council Briefing,
- 07/06/2017 Council Meeting, Council Chambers, Nhill
- 07/06/2017 Farewell Dinner for Adrian Gasperoni, Nhill.
- 11/06/2017 Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Rally, Jeparit.
- 12/06/2017 Jeparit Town Committee Meeting, Jeparit.
- 13/06/2017 Catch up with CEO, Nhill.
- 16/06/2017 VORRA Community Meeting, Rainbow.
- 21/06/2017 Council Briefing, Nhill.
- 21/06/2017 Council Meeting, Nhill.
- 28/06/2017 NDIS Information Evening, NMCC, Nhill.
- 29/06/2017 Australian Government Mobile Service Centre, Nhill.

Cr GERSCH

Attended:

- 13/06/2017 WDA board meeting
- 20/06/2017 Federation University presentation
- 21/06/2017 Council meeting
- 23/06/2017 Inspect lighting Davis Avenue
- 27/06/2017 Attend Govt. announcement at Northern Grampians

- 30/06/2017 Attend Victorian Living campaign, Ballarat
- 30/06/2017 Nhill Urban Fire Brigade AGM

Cr COLBERT

Attended:

- 07/06/2017 Briefing and Council meeting, Nhill
- 17/06/2017 Nhill Town Committee
- 21/06/2017 Briefing and Council meeting, Nhill
- Various Nhill Golf Club

Cr ISMAY

Attended:

- 07/06/2017 Council and Briefing Meeting, Nhill
- 09/06/2017 Sea lake Mallee Rally inspection
- 10/06/2017 Sea lake Mallee Rally inspection
- 15/06/2017 Ross lakes inspection with Barengi Gadgin archaeologists
- 16/06/2017 Enduro meeting with Parks, DWELP and land owners
- 17/06/2017 Working bees with VORRA off road committee
- 18/06/2017 Working bee with VORRA
- 20/06/2017 WM Tourism meeting Dimboola caravan park
- 21/06/2017 Council meeting
- 26/06/2017 Rainbow Town Committee
- 30/06/2017 Discussion with owner of Eureka hotel regarding brewery

Cr SCHNEIDER

Attended:

- 07/06/2017 Briefing and Council meeting, Nhill
 - 07/06/2017 Farewell dinner for Director Infrastructure, Nhill
 - 15/06/2017 Hindmarsh Shire Council Audit Committee, Nhill
 - 19/06/2017 DMSC School Council, Dimboola
 - 21/06/2017 Briefing and Council meeting, Nhill
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SENIOR MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: JUNE 2017

GREG WOOD, Chief Executive Officer:

Attended:

- 02/06/2017 Citizenship ceremony Nhill
- 03/06/2017 Military Vehicle Rendezvous, Nhill
- 04/06/2017 New residents welcome event, Nhill
- 05/06/2017 RDV, Nhill
- 06/06/2017 Mayor / CEO meeting, Nhill
- 07/06/2017 Council Briefing and Meeting, Nhill
- 07/06/2017 Farewell dinner for Adrian, Nhill
- 08/06/2017 Wimmera Regional CEO Meeting
- 08/06/2017 WSM Regional Partnership Meeting
- 13/06/2017 Deputy Mayor/CEO meeting, Nhill
- 13/06/2017 WDA Meeting, Horsham
- 15/06/2017 Audit Committee
- 18-22/06/2017 ALGA National General Assembly, Canberra
- 19/06/2017 Dinner meeting with Andrew Broad, Canberra
- 30/06/2017 Cinema Volunteer, Nhill

ANNE CHAMPNESS, Director Corporate and Community Services:

Attended:

- 03/06/2017 Military Vehicle Rendezvous, Nhill
 - 05/06/2017 Dimboola kindergarten meeting
 - 05/06/2017 Dimboola Town Committee
 - 07/06/2017 Council Briefing and Meeting, Nhill
 - 09/06/2017 Resources Division Website Redevelopment Project Interview, Nhill
 - 11/06/2017 Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Vintage Rally, Jeparit
 - 15/06/2017 Hindmarsh Shire Council Audit Committee meeting, Nhill
 - 21/06/2017 Council Briefing and Meeting, Nhill
 - 23/06/2017 Wimmera Uniting Care, Horsham
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8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

MOVED: CRS R. Gersch/R. Lowe

That Council writes to:

- 1) The Nhill Urban Fire Brigade thanking and congratulating all the volunteers on their contribution to Nhill and the community along with all the service awardees.***
- 2) Wimmera and Southern Mallee Careers Association, Annie Mintern, Project Officer congratulating them on a successful careers expo.***

CARRIED

9. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Attachment: 2

Introduction:

The attached Assembly of Councillors Record is presented as an attachment to the Council agenda for the information of Councillors and recorded at the Council meeting as required under s80A Local Government Act 1989.

Options:

1. That Council accept the Assembly of Councillors Record as presented.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council accepts the Assembly of Councillors Record as presented.

MOVED: CRS R. Lowe/T. Schneider

That Council accepts the Assembly of Councillors Record as presented.

CARRIED

Attachment: 2

10. PLANNING PERMITS

No report

11. REPORTS REQUIRING A DECISION

11.1 DRAFT 2017/2018 BUDGET

Responsible Officer: Acting Director Corporate Services

Attachment: 3

Introduction:

The purpose of this report is for Council to formally prepare the 2017/18 Budget.

Discussion

Council is required under section 127(1) of the Local Government Act 1989 to formally prepare a budget. Council must ensure that the budget contains:

- (a) the financial statements in the form and containing the matters required by the regulations;
- (b) a description of the activities and initiatives to be funded in the budget;
- (c) a statement as to how the activities and initiatives described under paragraph (b) will contribute to achieving the strategic objectives specified in the Council Plan; and
- (d) separately identified Key Strategic Activities to be undertaken during the financial year and performance targets and measures in relation to each Key Strategic Activity
- (e) service performance indicators that are required to be reported against in the performance statement, and the prescribed measures relating to those indicators.

The budget document is based on the four Key Result Areas used in the Council Plan, namely;

- Community Liveability;
- Built and Natural Environment;
- Competitive and Innovative Economy; and
- Our People, Our Processes.

The 2017/18 budget document reflects the requirements of the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework and revised Local Government Planning and Reporting Regulations (LGPRF). It has been developed in consideration of the Institute of Chartered Accountants' Australia and New Zealand Victorian City Council Model Budget 2017/18.

The budget balances the retention of existing community service levels, maintenance and renewal of assets, and new initiatives designed to grow our economy, improve amenity and make Hindmarsh a better place to live in a challenging financial environment.

Council's challenge is twofold:

(1) Council's ability to increase its revenue is compromised by:

- The capping of increases to our largest revenue stream, rates and charges, to 2% combined with our existing low rate base.
- The reduction of our second largest revenue stream, state and federal government funding, over time. Examples are the discontinuation of the \$1m state government Country Roads and Bridges Program and the federal government's freeze of the Financial Assistance Grants' indexation which took more than half a million dollars out of our budget over three years.

- Our small population, severely restricting our ability to develop alternative revenue streams.
- (2) Council’s ability to contain costs is impacted by environmental factors outside our control:
 - The large geographic area (7,500km²) we cover and small, dispersed population (5,721), compromising our ability to create economies of scale.
 - The significant amount of required infrastructure (including 3,177km of roads, six bridges and 27km of pipes/drains).

In addressing this substantial challenge, Council is taking a three-pronged approach of (1) continually creating efficiencies and savings within the business, (2) continuing to seek additional funding from the state and federal governments, and (3) pursuing a variation of the average rate cap set by the state government.

Rates and Charges

The rates and charges calculated for 2017/18 are based on revaluation figures as at 1 January 2016. The Rating Strategy includes differentials for farms and commercial properties (10 percent discount), recreational properties (50 percent discount), and non-farm vacant land (100 percent penalty).

In 2016/17 the State Government introduced rate capping which set out the maximum amount councils may increase rates in a year. For 2017/18 the rate cap has been set at 2%. The cap is applied to both general and municipal charges and is calculated on the basis of council’s average rates and charges. In December 2016, Council moved to submit an application to the Essential Services Commission to increase rates by a further 2% on top of the cap, meaning rates for 2017/18 be increased by 4%. The increase for one year will allow Council to move forward renewal projects.

The Essential Services Commission (ESC) expects to notify Council of the outcome of the submission by 31 July 2017.

The draft annual budget has been set based on a 4% rates increase. Should the application to the ESC be unsuccessful, the budget will be amended prior to adoption in August 2017.

It is proposed that the kerbside waste / recycling collection charge increase by 2%; raising total rates and charges for 2017/18 of \$8.3m. These rates and charges will go toward maintaining service levels and delivering on capital works programs. General rates and charges represent 47% of Hindmarsh Shire’s income.

The following table summarises the rates to be determined for the 2017/18 year. A more detailed analysis of the rates to be raised is contained in the budget document, Appendix B ‘Statutory Disclosures’.

Type or class of land		2016/17	2017/18	Change
Residential rates	Cents/\$ CIV	0.56412	0.58634	3.94%
Farm Land	Cents/\$ CIV	0.50771	0.52771	3.94%
Business, Industrial & Commercial Land	Cents/\$ CIV	0.50771	0.52771	3.94%
Recreational and Cultural Land	Cents/\$ CIV	0.28206	0.29317	3.94%

Urban Vacant Land		1.12824	1.17268	3.94%
Municipal charge	\$/ property	\$190	\$197	3.68%
Kerbside collection charge	\$/ property	\$317	\$329	1.86%

Hindmarsh Shire Council is responsible for community infrastructure worth over \$125 million. If this infrastructure is not adequately maintained, replacement costs will be much higher. When assets deteriorate faster than councils can fund their maintenance and renewal there is an infrastructure renewal gap. This is a significant financial challenge, particularly in an environment where Council costs are increasing at a rate greater than Council's ability to raise revenue. As a small rural council with limited capacity to raise this additional revenue from other sources, increasing general rates is the only mechanism available to cover these costs.

Council's previous year's budget and Long Term Financial Plan projected rates increases of 6% in 2015/16, 5.5% in 2016/17, 5.0% in 2017/18 and 4.5% in 2018/19, showing its intent to minimise rate increases in the long term. However, the State Government's introduction of rate capping from 2016/17 will see a reduction of future increases to CPI, for planning purposes assumed at 2% from 2018/19.

This significant reduction of one of Council's major revenue lines will have an ongoing negative impact on our ability to provide services and activities into the future.

Capital Works

- This is the fourth year in which Council has included a three year view of proposed capital works projects, and the first year of including a four year proposed list of capital works projects. The first of the four years are the initiatives locked in and included in the 2017/18 budget, with the proposed second, third and fourth year capital works listed as an addendum at the rear of the document. This is a guide to projects proposed in future years, improving transparency and providing the community with an opportunity to comment. As seen in this budget, circumstances may transpire that require an alteration of the previously proposed works. In this instance, the significant reduction in external funding has rendered a large part of the upgrade works previously proposed unattainable.

Key Initiatives

Community Infrastructure

- Development of a new Dimboola Community, Civic and Business Hub. Council has obtained funding from the state government's "Living Libraries" program and will seek further funding from the federal government to construct the Hub. The project is estimated at \$1.6m.
- Construction of new skate parks at Dimboola and Rainbow, supported by state government funding of \$200,000.

Tourism Development

- \$10,250 towards the purchase of bicycles for the Riverside Holiday Park in Dimboola.
- \$6,500 to support the inaugural Rainbow Desert Enduro in August 2017.

Economic Development:

- Business Assistance Grants. The Business Assistance Grants Program (BAGP) aims to support local businesses expanding their operations or new businesses, large and small, to establish in the Shire. It will provide assistance to offset costs associated with expanding or establishing a business in Hindmarsh Shire. \$20,000 has been included in the 2017/18 budget for this project.
- \$50,000 in recurrent and \$100,000 in capital as seed funding for grant opportunities arising from the Economic Development Strategy and \$50,000 in capital as seed funding for opportunities arising from the Precinct Plans and Recreation Strategy.

Empowered Communities

- \$7,500 to each of the Shire's four Town Committees. This funding can be used as seed funding for grants that will fund works important to the community in each town. In its third year, this funding has enabled some fantastic projects in our towns over the years.
- Hindmarsh Youth Council funding of \$10,000 to allow this successful initiative to continue.
- \$30,000 to its Community Action Grants which will enable community groups to apply for funding for events, minor facility upgrades, small equipment and community assistance.

Infrastructure

- Albacutya Bridge: Nearing 100 years of age, Albacutya Bridge is due for replacement, the cost of which is estimated at \$3,300,000. The project has a three year timeframe and Council commenced a sinking fund to accumulate cash over these three years to cover its contribution to the project. In the 2016/17 budget Council allocated \$500,000 to this fund, a further \$325,000 have been allocated in the 2017/18 budget. Council will continue to seek state and federal government funding towards the project.
- Local Roads: Lorquon East Road: \$727,397 to undertake two further reconstruction projects on the Lorquon East Rd. Council has been progressively working on this road, with reconstruction and widening works, to fulfil its long term goal of a major east west transport link through the centre of the Shire.
- Construction of Sealed Pavements: Council has budgeted for a further two major reconstruction projects - Langford Street, Nhill and Netherby Baker Road, Netherby. These projects carry a total cost of almost \$190,000.
- Two large unsealed road resheet projects, Yanac South Road, Broughton: and Halls Road, Nhill: will total more than \$260,000.
- Sealed Pavement Shoulder Resheet: In 2017/18 Council will be undertaking sealed pavement shoulder resheets on Woorak Ni Ni Lorquon Road, Winiam East Road and Winiam Road.
- Council will be undertaking 13 reseal projects in 2017/18, totalling more than half a million dollars. These projects include Albacutya Road, Kinimakatka Road, MacPherson Street, Netherby Baker Road, Nhill Murrayville Road, Park Street, Rainbow, Tarranyurk East Road, Winiam East Road, Rainbow Nhill Road, Sands Avenue / John Street, Jeparit, Anna Street, Dimboola, Arkona-Katyil Road, and Gray, King & Queen Streets, Rainbow.
- Farmer consultation projects: unsealed pavement resheet of Hazeldene Road, Jeparit.

Summary

The 2017/18 Budget provides for a broad range of services, programs and infrastructure

projects and is a reflection of the strategic direction that Council has adopted through the Council Plan. The Budget has been developed through a rigorous process of consultation and review with officers, senior management, Council and community.

Council will incur a cash deficit of \$2.11 million for the financial year, which will leave cash reserves at year-end of \$2.40m. The large deficit is due to the early payment of the Victorian Grants Commission in June 2017. Council will remain debt free and will maintain cash reserves in excess of \$2m, which is the minimum cash Council believes it needs to hold to meet its normal cash operating cycle and retain a buffer. Council has focussed specifically on cost efficiencies in the last three years and will continue to do so to ensure it delivers maximum value to its community.

Council is confident that the document presented to the community balances financial prudence and community needs. Importantly, the budget delivers key goals contained in the Council Plan.

To ensure that Council can continue to fulfil its obligation to the community to deliver services in a cost-effective manner, it is imperative that Council strengthens its rates base over time and continues to seek government grants for major projects. Of equal importance is the need to have strategic plans in place to set Council's direction and to take advantage of grant opportunities as they arise.

Council's numerous strategies and plans underpin the budget. The budget is also framed having regard to the Shire's unique demographics and challenges. It is also important to acknowledge that a key ingredient in delivering budgeted outcomes continues to be the hard work of the shire's workforce and volunteers.

The budget is prepared for approval by Council for public exhibition and receiving of any submissions under section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989. Council will be advised of any submissions received at the August Council meeting.

The Budget is required to be available for public inspection at Customer Service Centres and residents have 28 days to lodge submissions on the budget.

Options:

Council must formally prepare and advertise its 2017/18 Annual Budget pursuant to Section 127 of the Local Government Act 1989.

Link to Council Plan:

The 2017/18 Budget has direct links with the Council Plan. Each program in the Budget contains a statement about how the program will contribute to the initiatives and strategies as detailed in the Council Plan.

Financial Implications:

The 2017/18 Budget is consistent with the parameters set out in Council's ten-year financial plan.

Risk Management Implications:

The preparation of the Budget is a statutory requirement.

Conflict of Interest:

Under section 80C of the LGA officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

Officer Responsible: Monica Revell, Acting Director Corporate Services
In providing this advice as the Officer Responsible, I have no interests to disclose.

Author: Monica Revell, Acting Director Corporate Services
In providing this advice as the Author, I have no interests to disclose.

Communications Strategy:

Council must give notice of the preparation of the 2017/18 Budget under section 125 LGA, make a copy available at each Council office and on Council's website and allow submissions under section 223 LGA. It is proposed that the draft budget will be made available to the community for comment from 21 July to 18 August 2017. Comments will be considered at the August Council meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council;

1. Approves the draft 2017/18 Budget for the purpose of public consultation in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989, including the proposed declaration of the following rates and charges for 2017/18:

- **General Rate 0.58634 cents**
- **Business, Industrial and Commercial 0.52771 cents**
- **Farm Rate 0.52771 cents**
- **Recreational and Cultural 0.217 cents**
- **Urban Vacant Land 1.17268 cents**
- **Municipal Charge \$197.00**
- **Garbage Charge \$329.00**
- **Optional Garbage Charge \$164.50**

2. Gives public notice of the preparation of the draft Budget pursuant to sections 129 and 223 of the Local Government Act 1989, inviting written submissions from the public.

3. Considers public submissions and the formal adoption of the draft budget at the Council meeting on 23 August 2017.

MOVED: CRS R. Gersch/D. Colbert

That Council;

1. Approves the draft 2017/18 Budget for the purpose of public consultation in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989, including the proposed declaration of the following rates and charges for 2017/18:

- **General Rate 0.58634 cents**
- **Business, Industrial and Commercial 0.52771 cents**
- **Farm Rate 0.52771 cents**
- **Recreational and Cultural 0.217 cents**
- **Urban Vacant Land 1.17268 cents**
- **Municipal Charge \$197.00**
- **Garbage Charge \$329.00**

- ***Optional Garbage Charge \$164.50***

2. Gives public notice of the preparation of the draft Budget pursuant to sections 129 and 223 of the Local Government Act 1989, inviting written submissions from the public.

3. Considers public submissions and the formal adoption of the draft budget at the Council meeting at 3 pm on 23 August 2017.

CARRIED

Attachment: 3

Cr. D. Colbert left the room at 3:47pm and returned at 3:49pm.

11.2 DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN, STRATEGIC RESOURCE PLAN, AND HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN 2017-2021

Responsible Officer: Acting Director Corporate Services
Attachment: 4

Introduction:

The purpose of this report is to formally prepare the Council Plan, Strategic Resource Plan, and Health and Wellbeing Plan.

Discussion:

Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1989 (the Act) requires that

(1) A Council must 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.

(2) A Council Plan must include—

- (a) the strategic objectives of the Council;
- (b) strategies for achieving the objectives for at least the next 4 years;
- (c) strategic indicators for monitoring the achievement of the objectives;
- (d) a Strategic Resource Plan containing the matters specified in section 126;
- (e) any other matters which are prescribed by the regulations.

Section 125 of the Act also provides that at least once each financial year Council must consider whether the current Council Plan requires any adjustment in respect of the remaining period of the Plan. The Act provides that should Council propose to make an adjustment to those aspects outlined in s125 (2)(a)(b) and (c), then public notice of the proposal must be given and submissions invited in accordance with s223.

The Strategic Resource Plan details the resources required to achieve the strategic objectives. It must include in respect of at least the next four financial years, s126—

- (a) financial statements;
- (b) statements describing the required non-financial resources, including human resources;

It must also, “take into account services and initiatives contained in any plan adopted by the Council (so far as the plan relates to the period covered by the Strategic Resource Plan).”

A Council must review the Strategic Resource Plan during the preparation of the Council Plan; and adopt the Strategic Resource Plan no later than 30 June each year. A copy of the current Strategic Resource Plan must be available for inspection by the public at the Council office and any district offices and any other place required by the regulations. In addition, a Council must ensure that the current Strategic Resource Plan is published on the Council's Internet website.

To accommodate the state government's Fair Go Rates System and council applications for a higher rate cap to the Essential Services Commission, the Minister for Local Government has extended the date by which councils must adopt their budgets and council plans to 31 August 2017.

Under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008, Sections, 26 and 27, Local Government must plan for the health and wellbeing of its community.

For 2017-2021, Council has chosen to include public health matters in the Council Plan. Council believes the inclusion of these matters in the Council Plan will help facilitate one

of the key objectives of any local government: to improve the quality of life of the people in its community.

Council has undertaken an unprecedented amount of community consultation over the last couple of years, including for the development of Jeparit and Rainbow Community Plans, Dimboola and Nhill Community Precinct Plans, Hindmarsh Youth Strategy, Hindmarsh Shire Sport and Recreation Strategy and Economic development Strategy. Our community engagement throughout the municipality has helped us understand the needs of our community and establish consensus on priority projects, services and infrastructure with a view to Council working with communities and our other stakeholders to deliver the priorities over a period of time as described in the draft Council Plan.

Community participation for each of Councils strategic plans is detailed in the following table:

Strategic Plan	Participation and engagement
Jeparit Community Plan	9 surveys returned 2 community workshops, 20 attendees
Rainbow Community Plan	21 surveys returned 2 community workshops, 70 attendees
Dimboola Community Precinct Plan	112 online and hardcopy surveys returned 2 community workshops, 55 attendees 1:1 meetings and community listening posts
Nhill Community Precinct Plan	115 online and hardcopy surveys returned 2 community workshops, 40 attendees 1:1 meetings and community listening posts
Hindmarsh Youth Strategy 2016-2020	279 young people (50% of the target population) provided input through surveys and Hindmarsh Shire Youth Council
Economic Development Strategy	1:1 meetings, telephone interviews, community workshops and project meetings with the EDS Advisory Committee. 2 community workshops, 100 attendees
Hindmarsh Shire Sport and Recreation Strategy	Surveys and community meetings in conjunction with precinct plan consultation.
Farmer consultations (incl. feedback on Health & Wellbeing priorities)	11 community workshops, 200+ attendees
Health & Wellbeing consultation	4 regional stakeholder meetings 1 local stakeholder meeting

Summary

The 2017-2021 Council Plan provides 78 objectives and identifies four key result areas:

- Community Liveability,
- Built and Natural Environment,
- Competitive and Innovative Economy, and
- Our People, Our Processes - and specific strategies to achieve them.

The plan contains exciting initiatives that we believe will develop our community, look after our environment we live, work and play in, underpin our local economy into the future, and continually improve our business operations. The initiatives take into account

our community's aspirations and views which were gathered through community engagement. The initiatives include support for our volunteers, a commitment to continue engaging with our farming community and to broaden the engagement of our young people. They support our community's aspirations, with the inclusion of community projects like the Dimboola Community, Civic and Business Hub and new skate parks in Nhill, Rainbow and Dimboola. They recognise the importance of sport and recreation with the redevelopment of the Recreation Reserve Change Rooms and the enhancement of our river and lakes environment. The strategies finally continue Council's focus on the economic development of our communities, including some exciting tourism initiatives like the Wimmera River Discovery Trail and implementation of the Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum Master Plan.

The Council Plan is prepared for approval by Council for public exhibition and receiving of any submissions under section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989. Council will be advised of any submissions received at the August Council meeting.

The Council plan is require to be available for public inspection at Customer Service Centres and residents have 28 days to lodge submissions on the plan.

Options:

Council must formally prepare the 2017-2021 Council plan pursuant to Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1989, a person has a right to make a submission under section 223 on the proposed Council Plan.

It is proposed that the draft Plan will be made available to the community for comment from 21 July to 18 August 2017.

Financial Implications:

The delivery of Council's key policy objectives, articulated in the Plan, is reflected in the funding proposals and revenue projections detailed in the 2017/18 Budget.

The draft 2017/18 Budget has direct links with the Council Plan. Each program in the Budget contains a statement about how the program will contribute to the initiatives and strategies as detailed in the Council Plan.

Risk Management Implications:

Risk management will be considered in the development and implementation of individual initiatives.

Conflict of Interest:

Under section 80C of the LGA officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

Author and Officer Responsible: Monica Revell, Acting Director Corporate Services
In providing this advice as the Author and Officer Responsible, I have no interests to disclose.

Communications Strategy:

Council must give notice of the preparation of the proposed Council Plan under section 125 LGA, make a copy of the proposed Council Plan available at each Council office and on Council's website and allow submissions under section 223 LGA. It is proposed that the draft Plan will be made available to the community for comment from 21 July to 18 August 2017. Comments will be considered at an August Council meeting, date to be

confirmed.

Once adopted, the Council Plan must be available at each Council office and on Council's website. If Council makes an adjustment to the Council Plan, it must within 30 days of making the adjustment advise the Minister of the details of the adjustment to the Council Plan.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council

- 1. Approves the draft 2017-2021 Council Plan for the purpose of public consultation in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989.***
- 2. Considers public submissions and the formal adoption of the draft 2017-2021 Council Plan at the Council meeting on 23 August 2017.***

MOVED: CRS T. Schneider/R. Lowe

That Council

- 1. Approves the draft 2017-2021 Council Plan for the purpose of public consultation in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989.***
- 2. Considers public submissions and the formal adoption of the draft 2017-2021 Council Plan at the Council meeting at 3 pm on 23 August 2017.***

CARRIED

Attachment: 4

12. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

No report

13. LATE REPORTS

13.1 JEPARIT TOWN COMMITTEE – REQUEST TO USE COMMITTEE FUNDS TO REPAIR ROCK WALL IN BROADWAY, JEPARIT

Responsible Officer: Acting Director Corporate Services

Introduction

The report seeks a decision on the Jeparit Town Committee's request to approve works to repair the rock wall fence surrounding Broadway at a cost of \$5,000.

Background

At its monthly meeting held on Monday 10 July 2017, the Jeparit Town Committee passed a motion to proceed with a project to repair the rock wall fence that surrounds the Broadway garden bed at the Roy Street end. The quoted price from the Contractor to perform this work is \$5,000. This is above the Committee's financial level of delegation.

Section 87 of the Local Government Act 1989 states "(7) Until approved by the Council a decision of a Special Committee which does not relate to a matter delegated to the Special Committee cannot be given effect to." The matter raised by the Jeparit Town Committee is a financial decision beyond their level of delegation being a limit of \$2,000.

Options

Council can approve or deny the Jeparit Town Committee's request.

Link to Council Plan:

- 1.1 An actively engaged community;
- 2.1.1 Re-develop and maintain attractive streetscapes, open spaces and public places.

Financial Implications:

The project will be funded through the Committee's funds with the full support of the Jeparit Town Committee.

Risk Management Implications:

Nil.

Conflict of Interest:

Under section 80c of the Local Government Act 1989 officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, *including the type* of interest.

Officer Responsible – Monica Revell, Acting Director Corporate Services

In providing this advice as the Officer Responsible, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Author – Janette Fritsch, Operations Manager

In providing this advice as the Author, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Communications Strategy:

The Secretary of the Jeparit Town Committee will be advised of Council's decision.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approves the Jeparit Town Committee's request to allocate up to \$5,000 of their funds to a project to repair the rock wall fence in Broadway Street, Jeparit.

MOVED: CRS T. Schneider/R. Lowe

That Council approves the Jeparit Town Committee's request to allocate up to \$5,000 of their funds to a project to repair the rock wall fence in Broadway Street, Jeparit.

CARRIED

14. OTHER BUSINESS

MOVED: CRS R. Lowe/R. Gersch

That Council, through the Mayor and CEO, write to the The Hon. Peter Dutton MP as the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, local Federal Member Andrew Broad MP, and copy to the Federal Opposition, explaining that Council are concerned about the changes to the Citizenship Act which may make it more difficult for people like the residents of our multi-cultural Shire to become Australian Citizens.

CARRIED

15. CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

In accordance with Section 89 (2) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, Council may close the meeting to the public if items to be discussed are deemed confidential, that is, if the items to be discussed relate to:

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

No report

16. MEETING CLOSE

There being no further business, Cr Nelson declared the meeting closed at 4:01pm.