

MINUTES

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

Tuesday, 10 June 2014

Held at Swan Hill Town Hall,
Council Chambers,
McCallum Street, Swan Hill
Commenced at 7:00 PM

COUNCIL:

Cr LT McPhee – Mayor

Cr JN Katis

Cr GW Norton

Cr GI Cruickshank

Cr JA Kiley

Cr CM Adamson

Cr JB Crowe

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SECTION A – PROCEDURAL MATTERS

- **Open**

Mayor, Cr Les McPhee assumed the chair and declared the meeting open at 7pm.

- **Acknowledgement of Country**

Mayor, Cr Les McPhee read the Acknowledgement to Country.

- **Prayer**

Cr Kiley read the prayer.

- **Apologies**

Cr Katis

10/14 Motion

MOVED Cr Kiley

That the apologies be accepted.

SECONDED Cr Adamson

The Motion was put and CARRIED

- **Confirmation of Minutes**

- 1) Ordinary Meeting held on 20 May 2014

11/14 Motion

MOVED Cr Cruickshank

That the minutes be confirmed.

SECONDED Cr Crowe

The Motion was put and CARRIED

- **Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

- **Receptions and Reading of Petitions, Memorials, Joint Letters and Deputations**

- **Public Question Time**

SECTION B – REPORTS

B.14.30 QUARTERLY REVIEW OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AND FINANCIAL POSITION TO 31 MARCH 2014

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate Services
File Number: 42-20-00
Attachments: 1 Statement of Income & Expenditure 31-3-14
 2 Summarised Balance Sheet as at 31-3-14

Declarations of Interest: Officer
 David Lenton - as the responsible officer, I declare that I have no disclosable interests in this matter.

Summary

A review of Council’s Financial Performance (income and expenditure) and Financial Position (balance sheet) to the adopted Budget for the nine months to 31 March 2014 has been conducted and the results are summarised in this report.

Discussion

A summarised Statement of Income and Expenditure and a summarised Balance Sheet for the nine months ended 31 March 2014 are included with this report.

Major variations to budget as at 31 March 2014 are explained by way of notes on the attached report.

The forecast result is expected to be better than budget. The predicted surplus assumes completion of Major Projects and Capital Works during the last three months of the financial year within budget. The forecast result excludes any possible costs from the organisational restructure.

Significant forecast variations to budget include:

| | Previous Forecast Variances | | Current Forecast Variances | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Rates Early Payment Discount | \$92,600 | Unfavourable | \$92,600 | Unfavourable |
| Grants Commission | \$23,900 | Favourable | \$23,900 | Favourable |
| Income Grants/Charges received13/14– expected 12/13 | \$2,211,000 | Favourable | \$2,211,000 | Favourable |
| Workcover costs | \$113,400 | Unfavourable | \$128,200 | Unfavourable |
| Rates | \$42,400 | Favourable | \$42,400 | Favourable |
| Employee Costs | \$196,600 | Favourable | \$297,000 | Favourable |
| Interest on Investments & Rates | \$62,000 | Favourable | \$116,500 | Unfavourable |
| Loan Repayments and Loan Interest | \$130,000 | Favourable | \$95,200 | Favourable |
| Parking Enforcement | \$30,000 | Unfavourable | \$29,000 | Unfavourable |
| Regional Livestock Exchange (net) | \$20,000 | Favourable | \$20,000 | Favourable |

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Fire Services Levy | \$33,000 | Unfavourable | \$12,700 | Unfavourable |
| Town Hall Usage Fees | \$30,000 | Unfavourable | \$26,000 | Unfavourable |
| Building Permit Income | \$30,000 | Favourable | \$38,000 | Favourable |
| Additional Costs Depot Office Building (net) | \$22,900 | Unfavourable | \$22,900 | Unfavourable |
| Land Sales (net) | \$69,000 | Unfavourable | \$69,000 | Unfavourable |
| Insurance | \$10,300 | Unfavourable | \$11,300 | Unfavourable |
| Electricity | \$15,000 | Favourable | \$17,300 | Favourable |
| Legal Costs | \$17,000 | Unfavourable | \$16,000 | Unfavourable |
| Home Care Result (net) | - | - | \$68,000 | Favourable |
| Plant & Vehicle costs (net) | - | - | \$108,400 | Favourable |
| Library Grants & Contributions | \$14,200 | Favourable | \$9,800 | Favourable |
| Pioneer Settlement (net result) | - | - | \$89,900 | Unfavourable |
| Other Variances (net) | \$7,100 | Unfavourable | \$30,100 | Favourable |
| | | | | |
| Variations to 2013/14 Budget | \$2,319,800 | Favourable | \$2,347,000 | Favourable |
| Less: Grants owing from Previous Year | \$2,267,700 | Unfavourable | \$2,267,700 | Unfavourable |
| | | | | |
| Net Variation to 2013/14 Budget | \$52,100 | Favourable | \$79,300 | Favourable |

Consultation

Consultation occurred as part of the Budget preparation process.

Financial Implications

The report shows a predicted rates determination surplus of \$79,300 better than budget for the 2013/14 financial year.

Possible costs resulting from the organisation restructure are not included in the above amount.

Social Implications

Not relevant to this item.

Economic Implications

Not relevant to this item.

Environmental Implications

Not relevant to this item.

Risk Management Implications

The anticipated surplus is subject to income and costs trending as expected over the final three months of the year.

Council Plan Strategy Addressed

Responsible management of resources - We will continually improve the management of our finances, assets, systems and technology to achieve and maintain Best Value in our operations.

Options

Nil

Recommendation

That Council note the contents of this report.

12/14 Motion

MOVED Cr Norton

That Council note the contents of this report.

SECONDED Cr Kiley

The Motion was put and CARRIED

**SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE
FOR THE 9 MONTHS ENDING 31/03/2014**

| | Actual Year To Date 31/03/2014 \$000 | Budget Year To Date 31/03/2014 \$000 | \$ Variance To Budget \$000 | % Variance To Budget | Original Annual Budget 2013/14 \$000 | Notes |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------|
| OPERATING INCOME :- | | | | | | |
| Rates, Garbage Charges and Marketing Levy | 23,155 | 23,260 | (105) | -0.5% | 23,260 | |
| Statutory Fees & Fines | 752 | 779 | (27) | -3.5% | 1,038 | |
| User Fees | 3,385 | 3,704 | (319) | -8.6% | 4,939 | |
| Grants - Recurrent | 6,698 | 7,763 | (1,065) | -13.7% | 10,351 | 1 |
| Grants - Non-recurrent | 4,159 | 10,096 | (5,937) | -58.8% | 13,461 | 2 |
| Contributions - Cash Non Recurrent | 704 | 443 | 261 | 58.9% | 590 | 3 |
| Reimbursements | 218 | 149 | 69 | 46.3% | 198 | 4 |
| Interest Income | 301 | 653 | (352) | -53.9% | 870 | 5 |
| Proceeds From Disposal of Assets | 153 | 491 | (338) | -68.8% | 654 | 6 |
| Other Revenue | 1,516 | 1,032 | 484 | 46.9% | 1,376 | 7 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 41,041 | 48,370 | (7,329) | -15.2% | 56,737 | |
| OPERATING EXPENSES (Excluding Depreciation) :- | | | | | | |
| Employee Benefits | 13,906 | 14,289 | (383) | -2.7% | 19,052 | |
| Contract Payments Materials & Services | 10,047 | 10,750 | (703) | -6.5% | 14,333 | |
| Agency Payments and Community Grants | 3,029 | 4,316 | (1,287) | -29.8% | 5,754 | 8 |
| Bad & Doubtful Debts | 3 | 5 | (2) | -40.0% | 6 | |
| Finance Costs | 262 | 315 | (53) | -16.8% | 420 | 9 |
| Other Expenses | 864 | 694 | 170 | 24.5% | 925 | 10 |
| TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES (Excl. Deprn.) | 28,111 | 30,369 | (2,258) | -7.4% | 40,490 | |
| OPERATING RESULT (Excl. Deprn.) | 12,930 | 18,001 | (5,071) | -28.2% | 16,247 | |
| CAPITAL ITEMS :- | | | | | | |
| Capital Works/Asset Purchases - Funding Sourced | 4,534 | 7,796 | (3,262) | -42% | 10,395 | 11 |
| Capital Works/Asset Purchases - Funding Not Sourced | 54 | - | 54 | 0.0% | 13,016 | |
| | 4,588 | 7,796 | (3,208) | -41% | 23,411 | |
| SURPLUS (DEFICIT) AFTER CAPITAL ITEMS | 8,342 | 10,205 | (1,863) | -18.3% | (7,164) | |
| ADD FINANCING TRANSACTIONS | | | | | | |
| Loan Principal Redemption | (836) | (898) | 62 | -6.9% | (1,197) | |
| Transfers to/from Reserves | 2,831 | - | 2,831 | 0.0% | 7,045 | |
| Proceeds from Loans | - | - | - | 0.0% | 4,655 | |
| TOTAL FINANCING TRANSACTIONS | 1,995 | (898) | 2,893 | -322.2% | 10,503 | |
| BUDGET RESULT SURPLUS | 10,337 | 9,307 | 1,029 | 11.1% | 3,339 | |

- 1 Due to changes in the payment processing of CACP grants, funds from January to March had been delayed. The outstanding grants were received on the 1st of April.
- 2 Non-Recurrent Grants includes funding for the Swan Hill Aerodrome (\$6.425M), Heartbeat of the Murray (\$1.125M) and Chisholm Reserve Upgrade (\$2.0M). The forecast allows for these to be received throughout the year, but these grants are yet to be secured.
- 3 Contributions - Cash Non-recurrent is currently above forecast due to the contribution for the Swan Hill Community Hub (\$341K) being received. The forecast had allowed for this to be received throughout the year. Contributions for the Heartbeat of the Murray and Chisholm Reserve are only expected to be received once the funding has been secured.
- 4 Reimbursement of insurance costs from sporting/community groups that occupy Council buildings have been charged for 2013/14. The forecast allowed for the collection of this income over the financial year. Reimbursements for Paid Parental leave are \$25K above forecast and \$33K of insurance claims on Council buildings have been received.
- 5 As at 31 March 2014 Council had accrued \$104K of interest income in addition to the \$301K already received. Due to historically low interest rates, the income received on investments is currently lower than forecast.
- 6 Proceeds from the sale of plant and equipment are \$206K below forecast due to a number of vehicle replacements still to be conducted in the 2013/14 year. Sale of Council land is currently \$131K below forecast.
- 7 Tower Hill land sales are above forecast.
- 8 The payments to the CACP and EACH consortium members for January to March were yet to be paid due to payment issues from the funding body. Refer note 1.
- 9 The loan budgeted to be borrowed in June 2013 was not required, resulting in a lower than forecast interest expense this year.
- 10 This variance can be attributed to software licence fees that had been forecast over the financial year, however the licence fees are paid upfront at the beginning of the year.
- 11 A number of significant roads works were nearing completion at the end of March. Projects on Woorinen Road, Culgoa-Ultima Road and Lake-Boga Ultima Road are expected to have contractor payments made in April and the resealing program is expected to be complete in April. A significant project on Karinie St has also just begun.

**SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL
SUMMARISED BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31/03/2014**

| | This Year Actual As At 31/03/2014 \$000 | Last Year Actual As At 31/03/2013 \$000 | \$ Movement Y.T.D. \$000 | % Movement Y.T.D. | Budget As At End 2013/14 \$000 | Notes |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------|
| CURRENT ASSETS:- | | | | | | |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents | 13,327 | 15,235 | (1,908) | -12.5% | 10,822 | 1 |
| Trade & Other Receivables | 5,614 | 3,721 | 1,893 | 50.9% | 1,638 | 2 |
| Inventories | 49 | 46 | 3 | 6.5% | 48 | |
| Non Current Assets Classified as held for sale | 102 | 133 | (31) | -23.3% | 158 | 3 |
| Other Assets | 201 | 277 | (76) | -27.4% | 356 | 4 |
| TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS | 19,293 | 19,412 | (119) | -0.6% | 13,022 | |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES:- | | | | | | |
| Trade & Other Payables | 916 | 724 | 192 | 26.5% | 4,037 | 5 |
| Trust Funds & Deposits | 448 | 371 | 77 | 20.8% | 230 | 6 |
| Provisions | 4,353 | 3,995 | 358 | 9.0% | 3,721 | |
| Interest Bearing Loans & Borrowings | 2,279 | 1,179 | 1,100 | 93.3% | 1,438 | 7 |
| TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES | 7,996 | 6,269 | 1,727 | 27.5% | 9,426 | |
| NET CURRENT ASSETS | 11,297 | 13,143 | (1,846) | -14.0% | 3,596 | |
| NON-CURRENT ASSETS:- | | | | | | |
| Trade & Other Receivables | 118 | 174 | (56) | -32.2% | 179 | |
| Property, Plant, Equipment & Infrastructure | 407,363 | 351,672 | 55,691 | 15.8% | 392,144 | 8 |
| Intangible Assets | 768 | 973 | (205) | -21.1% | 973 | 9 |
| TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS | 408,249 | 352,819 | 55,430 | 15.7% | 393,296 | |
| NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES:- | | | | | | |
| Interest Bearing Loans & Borrowings | 2,706 | 5,012 | (2,306) | -46.0% | 8,913 | 10 |
| Provisions | 1,683 | 1,748 | (65) | -3.7% | 1,792 | |
| TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES | 4,389 | 6,760 | (2,371) | -35.1% | 10,705 | |
| TOTAL NET ASSETS | 415,157 | 359,202 | 55,955 | 15.6% | 386,187 | |
| EQUITY:- | | | | | | |
| Accumulated Surplus & Reserves | 276,444 | 199,272 | 77,172 | 38.7% | 210,365 | 11 |
| Asset Revaluation Reserve | 138,713 | 159,930 | (21,217) | -13.3% | 175,822 | 11 |
| TOTAL EQUITY | 415,157 | 359,202 | 55,955 | 15.6% | 386,187 | |

- 1 The use of reserve cash for capital works in 2013/14 and flood recovery funds still outstanding at the end of March.
- 2 This value will be reduced upon the receipt of the May rate instalments.
- 3 The continued sales of Tower Hill land has reduced the value of land held for sale.
- 4 Other Assets represents GST due to Council.
- 5 Timing issue.
- 6 The majority of this variance is due to the \$54K Council is holding on behalf of the Central Murray Regional Transport Group.
- 7 Council has two loans that are due for renegotiation during 2013/14. One loan for \$718K is to be renegotiated for a further 6 years and the other loan of \$858K is to be renegotiated for a further 5 years. These loans will then show as non current liabilities.
- 8 Revaluations and condition based assessments conducted in 2012/13 resulted in an increase in asset values of sealed roads (\$12.1M), Kerb and Channel (\$1.4M) and Drainage (\$3.7M). Land under roads was also recognised for the first time in 2012/13 which resulted in a \$35.9M increase in Fixed Asset values.
- 9 The value of permanent water rights has decreased.
- 10 Refer note 7.
- 11 During 2012/13, Audit determined that part of the 2011/12 asset valuation changes should have been adjusted through Accumulated Surplus rather than Revaluation Reserves.

B.14.31 AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Responsible Officer: **Director Corporate Services**
File Number: **42-02-03**
Attachments: **1 Confidential Minutes**

Declarations of Interest: Officer

David Lenton - as the responsible officer, I declare that I have no disclosable interests in this matter.

Summary

Council's Audit Committee met on 29 May 2014 and this report summarises the items that were discussed at the meeting.

Discussion

The Audit Committee met on 29 May 2014 and as well as the usual procedural items the Agenda items included:-

1. A Presentation by Council's IT Manager on the Alfresco Cloud based system.
2. An Audit Strategy Presentation from external Auditors
3. A discussion on the Interim Management Letter 2013-14 from external Auditors
4. The Internal Audit Report – Final Report Food Premises Inspection
5. The Internal Audit Report - Swan Hill WorkCover Declaration Insight Report

Points to note from the discussion on these topics are:

1. Audit Committee members will be able to access their documentation from the internet cloud reducing the need to print out documents.
2. The interim audit has been completed. The testing of systems and processes during the interim visit revealed that controls are working appropriately.
3. The interim audit management letter contained only one new item which will be actioned over the next few months. The other items in the interim audit management letter will be cleared when the final audit takes place.
4. The Food Premises Inspection Internal audit has been completed. A number of improvements or actions will be implemented.
5. The WorkCover Declaration Insight internal audit report was presented. Improved documentation of procedures will result from the report.
6. The new Local Government Performance Framework is now in place. Council officers are preparing the Budget to reflect the new requirements and

developing processes to capture the information. The new Regulations will involve more work.

Consultation

Not required for this item.

Financial Implications

The recommendation in the report will not affect existing resource allocations.

Social Implications

Nil

Economic Implications

Nil

Environmental Implications

Nil

Risk Management Implications

Audits are routinely done to reduce the risk to Council.

Council Plan Strategy Addressed

Councillor and Staff accountability - We will represent the interests of our community and will conduct our affairs openly and with integrity, reflecting high levels of good governance.

Options

Nil

Recommendation

That Council note the contents of this report.

13/14 Motion

MOVED Cr Crowe

That Council note the contents of this report.

SECONDED Cr Adamson

The Motion was put and CARRIED

Confidential Attachment

- Minutes Audit Committee 29 May 2014

B.14.32 2014/15 DRAFT BUDGET

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate Services
File Number: 42-09-70
Attachments: Nil

Declarations of Interest: Officer

David Lenton - as the responsible officer, I declare that I have no disclosable interests in this matter.

Summary

Councillors and Officers have been working on a draft 2014/15 Budget for a number of months. The draft 2014/15 Budget is now ready to be prepared by Council.

Discussion

The Local Government Act requires Council to prepare the Budget, invite submission, and then formally adopt the Budget after considering any submissions. The submission period under the Act is a minimum of 28 days.

Council's process to adopt the Budget will be as follows:

- 15 July 2014 – Receive and hear submissions at the Ordinary Meeting.
- 22 July 2014 – Consider any submissions or amend and adopt the budget if no submissions are received at a Special Meeting held at 12:30pm.
- 29 July 2014 - Amend or adopt the Budget at Special Meeting held at 1pm.

These meetings will be conducted at the Swan Hill Town Hall, Council Chambers, McCallum Street Swan Hill.

Once adopted the Budget will establish the financial parameters and targets for the organisation and enable rate notices to be issued.

Consultation

The recommendations will enable the draft 2014/15 Budget to be advertised for comment and formal submissions can then be received.

Financial Implications

The 2014/15 Budget will establish the financial parameters within which Council intends to deliver its works and services during 2014/15.

Social Implications

The services to be funded in the draft Budget will have a positive outcome for the community in all areas of the Council Plan.

Economic Implications

As above

Environmental Implications

As above

Risk Management Implications

The Budget enables the financial performance of Council to be better managed and therefore reduce the financial risks to Council.

Council Plan Strategy Addressed

Responsible management of resources - We will continually improve the management of our finances, assets, systems and technology to achieve and maintain Best Value in our operations.

Options

Council may either resolve to prepare the Budget in its current form or make further amendments.

Recommendation

That Council advertise the draft 2014/15 Budget and call for submissions in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989.

14/14 Motion

MOVED Cr Cruickshank

That Council advertise the draft 2014/15 Budget and call for submissions in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989.

SECONDED Cr Norton

The Motion was put and CARRIED

B.14.33 TURTLE LAGOON PROPOSED WORKS

Responsible Officer: Director Infrastructure
File Number: 42-52-65
Attachments: 1 Turtle Lagoon Path Map

Declarations of Interest: Officer

David Leahy - as the responsible officer, I declare that I have no disclosable interests in this matter.

Summary

This report aims to advise Council of planned works to take place at and around Turtle Lagoon, Lake Boga and to seek approval for these works and budgetary expenditure.

Discussion

Background

Turtle Lagoon was constructed in 2007 by Council for the express purpose of providing a safe breeding ground for local freshwater turtle populations. The lagoon experienced significant flooding in 2010/11, resulting in erosion of the constructed ponds and bank. Funding has been secured from Regional Development Victoria (RDV) to carry out restoration works on the area, to ensure that it is functioning optimally for turtle habitat and breeding success, while maintaining its purpose as a floodway.

Works had been scheduled to take place in July 2013 as part of the Lake Boga Foreshore Restoration. However, due to a high volume of rainfall and unexpected early flows into Lake Boga, works had to be postponed until lake levels permitted.

Local Turtle ecology

Ecology Australia Pty Ltd was engaged in February 2014 to provide technical advice and management recommendations, so that the best outcome for local turtle populations could be achieved. The report indicates that the area is functioning as a suitable breeding ground for local turtle populations with several nests observed. Predation by the European Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) posed the greatest threat to successful turtle breeding. Other threats include road mortality, reduced connectivity for overland migration and interference by public use of the area.

Proposed Turtle Lagoon works

From the information received in this report, it was summarised that the engineering works due to take place to increase the outer bank of the lagoon would provide little benefit to the turtle populations.

It would be more cost efficient and beneficial to the turtle population to implement the following management actions:

1. Undertake a long term treatment program to reduce the local fox population.
2. Construct an informal, gravel pathway from the boat ramp at the east of the lagoon, through to connect with the proposed walking path extension at the west (see below).
3. Implement a targeted maintenance program, in partnership with Council's Works department and interested local community groups to address invasive weeds on site.

Extension of Lake Boga Walking Path

In lieu of spending the RDV funding on reinstatement of the lagoon outer bank, it is proposed that this money be used to continue the Lake Boga Walking Path to the west, from the lagoon to Winlaton Rd (map attached).

Consultation

None undertaken at this time.

Financial Implications

\$140,000 is available under the Lake Boga Foreshore Restoration project, funded by RDV.

\$101,375 is available under the *Increase Height of Turtle Lagoon Bank* project, drawn from Council reserves.

Estimated costs:

RDV funding

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Continuation of walking path | \$140,000 |
|------------------------------|-----------|

Council reserves

| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Fox control program | \$10,000 |
|---------------------|----------|

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| Weed control program | \$20,000 |
|----------------------|----------|

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Gravel pathway | \$10,000 |
|----------------|----------|

Approximately \$61,000 to be returned to Council reserves.

Social Implications

The current state of the lagoons is not what was originally intended when constructed, with an invasive reed dominating the area. Some members of the community feel that Council is not doing enough to remediate the area. However, the area has undergone a period of negligence following the flooding of 2010/11 and the

cost of returning the area to optimal condition would be excessive and would not provide a positive cost-benefit outcome.

Economic Implications

Works to improve the accessibility and amenity of the walking track that currently exists at Turtle Lagoon will draw visitors and locals to the area as a continuation of the Lake Boga Walking Path.

Environmental Implications

Turtle Lagoon is functioning as a suitable environment for local turtle populations. The suggested management actions would reduce threats to these populations and increase the likelihood of breeding success. The benefit of conserving and protecting these local populations is immeasurable.

The Turtle Lagoon area is dominated by Giant Reed (*Arundo donax*). This invasive species is widespread around Lake Boga and surrounding land. Advanced infestations such as this have extensive, vigorous root systems that are difficult to successfully eradicate. Treatment of the reed at Turtle Lagoon is not considered viable within the scope of this project.

Risk Management Implications

Access to the walking path at Turtle Lagoon is limited due to a soft, uneven walking surface and heavily overgrown vegetation. It is necessary to improve this area to ensure the safety of the public.

It is also necessary to ensure that a long term maintenance program is established to minimise future risk.

Council Plan Strategy Addressed

Contributing to good environmental outcomes for the natural environment -

We recognise community wellbeing is linked to a healthy, sustainable natural environment. We will reduce any detrimental impact our works and services have on the natural environment and encourage others to do the same.

Options

Nil

Recommendations

That Council:

- 1. Undertake a long term treatment program to reduce the local fox population.**
- 2. Construct an informal, gravel pathway from the boat ramp at the east of the lagoon, through to connect with the proposed walking path extension at the west.**
- 3. Implement a targeted maintenance program, in partnership with Councils Works department and interested local community groups to address invasive weeds on site.**
- 4. Officers liaise with RDV to alter the proposed works under the Lake Boga Foreshore Restoration funding.**
- 5. Use RDV funding to continue the Lake Boga Walking Path to Winlaton Road.**
- 6. Use funding under the Increase Height of Turtle Lagoon Bank project to undertake recommendations 1-3, with remaining funds returned to Council reserves.**

15/14 Motion

MOVED Cr Norton

That Council:

- 1. Undertake a long term treatment program to reduce the local fox population.**
- 2. Construct an informal, gravel pathway from the boat ramp at the east of the lagoon, through to connect with the proposed walking path extension at the west.**
- 3. Implement a targeted maintenance program, in partnership with Councils Works department and interested local community groups to address invasive weeds on site.**
- 4. Officers liaise with RDV to alter the proposed works under the Lake Boga Foreshore Restoration funding.**

- 5. Use RDV funding to continue the Lake Boga Walking Path to Winlaton Road.**
- 6. Use funding under the Increase Height of Turtle Lagoon Bank project to undertake recommendations 1-3, with remaining funds returned to Council reserves.**
- 7. Obtain costings for a boardwalk through the lagoon, and refer this to the Major Projects Plan.**

SECONDED Cr Kiley

The Motion was put and CARRIED



B.14.34 ACTIVE TRANSPORT STRATEGY 2014-2034

Responsible Officer: Director Infrastructure
File Number: 42-52-206
Attachments: 1 Draft ATS

Declarations of Interest: Officer

David Leahy - as the responsible officer, I declare that I have no disclosable interests in this matter.

Summary

The Active Transport strategy (ATS) aims to make walking, cycling and using public transport easier for more trips in the Swan Hill municipality. The ATS is a 20 year strategy, with a four year implementation plan in line with the Council Plan review timeframe.

Discussion

Background - Swan Hill Rural City Council was approached by Robinvale District Health Services (RDHS) aiming to highlight the need for a more collaborative approach to address high numbers of lifestyle diseases within the municipality. As a result Council partnered with RDHS and Swan Hill District Health in 2011 and were successful in receiving funding through the National Partnership Agreement on Preventative Health to deliver community-based physical activity programs, as well as developing improved policy environments, an Active Transport Strategy (ATS) in particular, to support healthy lifestyle behaviours.

The ATS will replace the current Swan Hill Strategic Bicycle Plan – Final Report (2007).

Consultation

Surveys, meetings and presentations were used to collect data from the community. All town community planning groups were provided the opportunity to provide information and 277 surveys were completed across the municipality.

Financial Implications

The ATS Implementation Plan (2013-2017) is identified in existing budgets and staff roles unless the need for external funding is indicated. Actions addressing improvements in current practices will be considered as part of future infrastructure renewal and upgrade works.

Social Implications

Active transport is the most economically accessible form of transport. An environment that deters walking and cycling can contribute greatly to inequity in our communities. The implementation of an ATS will assist the community increase levels of physical activity, reducing the rates of lifestyle related diseases such as obesity and type 2 diabetes. It will also increase opportunities for residents without independent access to cars (all children, many older people and the economically disadvantaged) which will increase quality of life and ability for more people to become more involved in the wider community.

Economic Implications

A Sydney study found that investing in cycling gave an approximate return of \$4 on every dollar spent, compared with just \$2 for road projects.

Benefits include reduced wear on roads, reduced traffic congestion, improved liveability, improved tourism opportunities, increased productivity and reduced healthcare costs.

Environmental Implications

The ATS will increase access to and promote sustainable transport options (walking, cycling and public transport).

Risk Management Implications

Actions will be implemented as per Australian Standards and best practice guidelines (see Appendix 2 of ATS).

Council Plan Strategy Addressed

Facilitate and provide services for health and wellbeing - We will provide or facilitate a range of services that maintain community health, and provide opportunities and infrastructure that contribute to the educational, recreational, cultural and leisure needs of our community.

Options

N/A

Recommendation

That Council present the Draft Active Transport Strategy 2014-2034 for a 21 day public comment period.

16/14 Motion

MOVED Cr Adamson

That Council present the Draft Active Transport Strategy 2014-2034 for a 42 day public comment period.

SECONDED Cr Kiley

The Motion was put and CARRIED

Attachment 1

- Active Transport Strategy

B.14.35 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS - FEDERAL BUDGET

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer
File Number: 42-43-00
Attachments: 1 ALGA Document

Declarations of Interest: Officer

Dean Miller - as the responsible officer, I declare that I have no disclosable interests in this matter.

Summary

This report recommends that Council ask the Federal Government to reverse its decision not to index Financial Assistance Grants.

Discussion

The federal budget was handed on Tuesday 13 May. It proposes a significant reduction in real terms in the financial assistance grants (fags). Currently the Government indexes fags with movements in the consumer price index and adjusts for population growth. The federal budget proposes no indexation for the next three years.

The accumulative cost to Swan Hill Rural City of this proposal will be \$1.55 million over the next four years, and result in a permanent reduction in our grant allocation of about \$500,000. The permanent reduction in our grant equates to about 2 percent of Council annual rate revenue.

The accumulative effect of these cuts to all Victorian councils is equivalent to 95 percent of the *Roads to Recovery* grants provided by the Commonwealth.

Consultation

The Municipal Association of Victoria is working with the Australian Local Governance Association to implement an advocacy campaign to reverse key funding cuts to local government.

Financial Implications

If these measures are not reversed, Council will need to either increase rates revenue by another 2 percent or cut expenditure by \$1.55 million over four years.

Social Implications

N/A

Economic Implications

The economic impact of the federal budget will be a permanent loss of \$500,000 from our local economy, which could be up to \$5 million taking into account the multiplier effect.

Environmental Implications

N/A

Risk Management Implications

N/A

Council Plan Strategy Addressed

Councillor and Staff accountability - We will represent the interests of our community and will conduct our affairs openly and with integrity, reflecting high levels of good governance.

Options

N/A

Recommendations

That Council write to the Prime Minister, the Federal Treasurer, and the Member for Mallee seeking a reversal of the reduction in financial assistance grants.

17/14 Motion

MOVED Cr Cruickshank

That Council write to the Prime Minister, the Federal Treasurer, and the Member for Mallee seeking a reversal of the proposal not to index financial assistance grants.

SECONDED Cr Norton

The Motion was put and CARRIED

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AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



20 May 2014

Swan Hill Rural City Council
PO Box 488
SWAN HILL VIC 3585

26 MAY 2014

| | | |
|----------|--|----------|
| | | 42-43-00 |
| EA | | |
| CEO, DCS | | |

Dear Mayor

I am writing to you and the mayor and shire president of every council across Australia to ask you to join the Australian Local Government Association's (ALGA) call to have the Government restore the indexation of the local government Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) which has been frozen for three years until 2017-18.

The decision to freeze the indexation of the grants, announced in the Budget last week, will cost councils an estimated \$925 million in FAGs by 2017-18. Unfortunately, the impact will continue beyond that date because the base level of FAGs will be permanently reduced by over 12%. In 2017-18 the estimated reduction in FAGs will be \$321 million. Even if indexation is restored in 2017-18 (at an estimated 4.2%, which reflects CPI and population growth), the gap will continue to widen and FAGs will be about \$334 m less in 2018-19 and almost \$350m less in 2019-20.

In fact, by 2018-19 when the current extension of Roads to Recovery (R2R) is due to end, the loss of FAGs will be the equivalent of 95% of R2R funding. Almost the entire value of the R2R program will be lost.

The FAGs are a vital part of the revenue base of all councils. For many smaller rural and remote councils, FAGs form the majority of their revenue. These councils are likely to be hit hardest by the reduction in grants.

The FAGs are absolutely essential to allow local communities across Australia to provide a reasonable level of services and infrastructure to local residents. These grants are used to maintain a great range of infrastructure including local roads, bridges, parks, swimming pools, libraries and community halls as well as services to the young, the elderly and community groups of all kinds.


ALGA has been fighting to have the value of the FAGs restored to a level equivalent to 1% of tax revenue, the level they were at when John Howard came to power in 1996. In recent years they slipped to 0.7% but we are shocked to see that they will decline to just 0.53% by 2017-18.

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The Government's decision will have a major impact on local services and infrastructure and it is possible that the Government has not fully comprehended the likely impact on communities and the unintended consequences of such a decision. This must be brought home in a factual and clear way to all Coalition Federal Members and Senators. I believe that this would best be done by local mayors and shire presidents writing to their Federal Government representatives, highlighting the implications of the decision for local services and asking Coalition representatives whether they continue to support the decision. I would hope that many Federal Government members would recognise the severe impact on their communities and support a review of the Government's decision.

On a related issue, ALGA is convening its 2014 National General Assembly in Canberra from 15 to 18 June. This issue is expected to be uppermost on the agenda for the Assembly and I urge you, or another representative of your council, to attend the Assembly so that together we can send the strongest possible message to the Government about the need to restore indexation of the FAGs.

Yours sincerely



Mayor Felicity-ann Lewis
President

SECTION C – DECISIONS WHICH NEED ACTION/RATIFICATION

C.14.9 SIGN AND SEAL REPORT

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: Nil.

Declarations of Interest: Officer

Dean Miller - as the responsible officer, I declare that I have no disclosable interests in this matter.

Summary

The following documents and agreements have been signed and sealed by the Councillors and the Chief Executive Officer on the respective dates. Those actions require the ratification of the Council.

Discussion

During the course of any month Council is required to sign and seal a range of documents arising from decisions made on a previous occasion(s). Examples include sale of land, entering into funding arrangements for Council programs etc.

As the decision to enter into these agreements has already been made, these documents are signed and sealed when received, with Council ratifying the signing and sealing at the next Council meeting.

Consultation

Nil

Financial Implications

Nil

Social Implications

Nil

Economic Implications

Nil

Environmental Implications

Nil

Risk Management Implications

Nil

DECISIONS WHICH NEED ACTION/RATIFICATION

10 June 2014

Issues

The following documents were signed and sealed since the last Council meeting:

| No. | Document Type | Document Description | Date signed/sealed |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 613 | Contract 14 3629 01 - Construction of the Piangil Multi-Purpose Centre | <p>Between</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swan Hill Rural City Council • Condely Homes and Construction | 16/05/14 |
| 614 | Transfer of Land – Lot 1 Parkside Ave Tower Hill (Stage 2A) | <p>Between</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swan Hill Rural City Council • Heslop | 29/05/14 |
| 615 | Section 17D Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978 Lease | <p>Between</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swan Hill Rural City Council • Swan Hill Bowls Club Inc | 29/05/14 |
| 616 | Deed of Lease renewal – Stock Selling Complex Canteen | <p>Between</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swan Hill Rural City Council • Henderson | 29/05/14 |

Conclusion

Council authorise the signing and sealing of the above documents.

Recommendations

That Council ratify the actions of signing and sealing the documents under delegation as scheduled.

18/14 Motion

MOVED Cr Norton

That Council ratify the actions of signing and sealing the documents under delegation as scheduled.

SECONDED Cr Adamson

The Motion was put and CARRIED

C.14.10 COUNCILLOR ASSEMBLIES - RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA ITEMS

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer
File Number: 22-13-12
Attachments: 1 Councillor Assemblies - Record of Attendance and Agenda Items

Declarations of Interest: Officer
Dean Miller - as the responsible officer, I declare that I have no disclosable interests in this matter.

Summary

The Local Government Act 1989 requires that the details of Councillor Assemblies be reported to Council meetings on a monthly basis.

Discussion

The State Government has amended the Local Government Act 1989 which requires Council to report on Councillor Assemblies.

Whilst Minutes do not have to be recorded, Agenda items and those in attendance must be, and a report presented to Council.

An assembly of Councillors is defined as a meeting that is planned or scheduled at which at least half of the Council and one Officer are in attendance, and where the matters being considered that are intended or likely to be the subject of a Council decision.

No formal decisions can be made at an assembly but rather direction can be given that is likely to lead to a formal decision of Council.

Details of the most recent assemblies of Council are attached.

Consultation

Nil

Financial Implications

Nil

Social Implications

Nil

Economic Implications

Nil

Environmental Implications

Nil

Risk Management Implications

Nil

Council Plan Strategy Addressed

Councillor and Staff accountability - We will represent the interests of our community and will conduct our affairs openly and with integrity, reflecting high levels of good governance.

Options

Council must comply with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1989.

Recommendation

That Council note the contents of the report.

19/14 Motion

MOVED Cr Cruickshank

That Council note the contents of the report.

SECONDED Cr Kiley

The Motion was put and CARRIED

COUNCILLOR ASSEMBLIES ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA
27 May 2014 at
TOWN HALL (COUNCIL CHAMBERS), SWAN HILL

AGENDA ITEMS

- Cultural Heritage Management Plan
- Electronic Gaming Machine Application
- Active Transport Strategy

ADDITIONAL ITEMS DISCUSSED

- Mildura Rural City request for support for Motorsports Feasibility Study

ATTENDANCE

Councillors

- Cr Jessie Kiley
- Cr Michael Adamson
- Cr John Katis
- Cr Jim Crowe
- Cr Les McPhee
- Cr Gary Norton
- Greg Cruickshank

Officers

- Dean Miller, Chief Executive Officer
- Bruce Myers, Director Community & Cultural Services
- David Lenton, Director Corporate Services
- Brett Luxford, Director of Development and Planning
- David Leahy, Director of Infrastructure
- Fiona Gormann, Community Planning & Development Officer
- Erin Raggatt, Healthy Communities Coordinator
- Steve Matthews, Community Facilitation Manager
- Janelle Earle, Economic Development Manager

Other

- Jenny Donovan, Inclusive Design
- Gayle Taylor, Swan Hill District Health

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Cr Les McPhee item 2, took no part in discussion and provided no advice.

COUNCILLOR ASSEMBLIES ATTENDANCE AND AGENDA
3 June 2014 at
TOWN HALL (COUNCIL CHAMBERS), SWAN HILL

AGENDA ITEMS

- Rail Freight Alliance presentation
- Swan Hill Abattoirs – overview of expansion plans
- Murray Downs Golf & Country Club (Electronic Gaming Machines)
- Social Media Policy
- Public Health & Well Being Plan update
- Rooming Houses update
- New Years Eve Funding 2014
- Turtle Lagoon

ATTENDANCE

Councillors

- Cr Jessie Kiley
- Cr Les McPhee
- Cr Michael Adamson
- Cr John Katis
- Cr Greg Cruickshank
- Cr Gary Norton
- Cr Jim Crowe

Officers

- Dean Miller, Chief Executive Officer
- Bruce Myers, Director Community & Cultural Services
- David Leahy, Director Infrastructure
- Brett Luxford, Director of Development and Planning
- Felicia Chalmers, Media & PR Coordinator
- Melanie Bennett, Public Health Services Team Leader
- Guy Romeo, Municipal Building Surveyor
- Steve Matthews, Community Facilitation Officer
- Janelle Earle, Economic Development Manager

Other

- Reid Mather, Rail Freight Alliance
- Paul Trojar, Swan Hill Abattoirs
- Robbie Woodward, Swan Hill Abattoirs
- Greg Roberts, Murray Downs Golf & Country Club
- Di Martin, Murray Downs Golf & Country Club
- Colin Hedwards, Murray Downs Golf & Country Club

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil

SECTION D – NOTICES OF MOTION

SECTION E – URGENT ITEMS NOT INCLUDED IN AGENDA

SECTION F – TO CONSIDER & ORDER ON COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Cr Norton

Murray Darling Association Board Meeting (Swan Hill)
Funding announcement with Peter Walsh at Riverside Park
Manangatang Improvement Group meeting
Northwest Municipalities Association (meeting and AGM)
Meeting at Nyah Recreation Reserve regarding lighting

Cr Crowe

Sunraysia Institute of Tafe – Opening of the extension to the trade workshops

Cr Adamson

Kids Matter launch at Swan Hill Primary School
Funding announcement for community safety funds
VFL football match at Tyntynder oval
Leisure centre meeting
Community safety meeting - Swan Hill police station
IYAP meeting with indigenous youth
Opening of Sunitafe engineering wing
Men's health night for afghani men in the community

Cr Cruickshank

Robinvale Agribusiness Summit
Funding announcement by The Hon Peter Walsh
Opening ceremony of the Community Hub building at the Swan Hill Racecourse

Cr Kiley

Swan Hill Inc Restructure meeting
Swan Hill Regional Art Gallery Advisory Committee
Farmers market feasibility study working group
Meeting with Andrew O'Brien

Cr McPhee

ABC Radio interview
Future of Local Government Forum
3SH Radio interview
Mayor/CEO meeting
Ultima Progress Association
ABC Radio interview
Meeting with ministers in Melbourne (Ryan, Mulder and Walsh)
Anglican Art Show opening

- Citizenship ceremony
- Yamagata farewell to students
- Mayor/CEO meeting
- Summer Fruits meeting re pest free area
- ABC Radio interview
- MRGC dinner in Echuca
- MRGC Meeting Echuca
- Opening Community Hub at Swan Hill Races
- Mayor/CEO meeting

SECTION G – IN CAMERA ITEMS

There being no further business, Mayor Cr Les McPhee closed the meeting at 8:11pm.