



# AGENDA

## ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

Tuesday, 9 June 2015

To be held Council Meeting Room  
Town Hall McCallum Street, Swan Hill  
Commencing at 2:00 PM

**COUNCIL:**

Cr CM Adamson – Mayor

Cr JN Katis

Cr GW Norton

Cr GI Cruickshank

Cr JA Kiley

Cr LT McPhee

Cr JB Crowe

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**SECTION A – PROCEDURAL MATTERS**

- **Open**
- **Acknowledgement to Country**
- **Prayer**
- **Apologies**
- **Confirmation of Minutes**
  - 1) Ordinary Meeting held on 19 May 2015
- **Declarations of Conflict of Interest**
- **Receptions and Reading of Petitions, Memorials, Joint Letters and Deputations**
- **Public Question Time**

## **SECTION B – REPORTS**

### **B.15.39 RECEIVE AND HEAR SUBMISSIONS TO THE DRAFT 2015/16 ANNUAL BUDGET**

**Responsible Officer:** Director Corporate Services  
**File Number:** 42-09-72  
**Attachments:** Nil

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

#### **Summary**

The purpose of this item is to enable Council to formally receive and hear submissions to the Draft 2015/16 Budget.

#### **Discussion**

Council advertised for submissions to its Draft 2015/16 Budget in the Swan Hill Guardian on Friday 8 May 2015 and the Robinvale Sentinel on Thursday 14 May 2015.

The Statutory period for making submissions has now passed. As required under the Local Government Act, Council is now in a position to formally receive any submissions and allow submitters to speak to any issues they have raised.

Consideration of any submissions will be dealt with at a Special Council Meeting to be held on 23 June 2015 at 1pm.

#### **Consultation**

The submission process is part of the consultation process for the Budget.

#### **Financial Implications**

Nil

#### **Social Implications**

Nil

#### **Economic Implications**

Nil

### **Environmental Implications**

Nil

### **Risk Management Implications**

Nil

### **Council Plan Strategy Addressed**

***Economic Growth*** - A prosperous, growing and diverse local and regional economy.

### **Options**

Nil

### **Recommendations**

#### **That Council:**

- 1. Receive any submissions to the Draft 2015/16 Budget.**
- 2. Enable any submitters to speak to their submission.**

## **B.15.40      AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Responsible Officer:**             Director Corporate Services  
**File Number:**                        **42-02-03**  
**Attachments:**                        1      Confidential Minutes 14-5-15

### **Declarations of Interest:**

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

### **Summary**

Council's Audit Committee met on 14 May 2015 and this report summarises the items that were discussed at the meeting.

### **Discussion**

The Audit Committee met on 14 May 2015 and as well as the usual procedural items the agenda items included:-

1. VAGO Audit Strategy 2014-15 – no issues reported.
2. Interim Audit Management Letter – no issues with this were reported.
3. Internal Audit progress report – on track. Rates Modelling review will be presented at the next Audit Committee meeting for discussion.
4. IT Disaster Recovery Review – two recommendations remain outstanding. Actions are in progress to address the recommendations.
5. Internal Audit – Outcomes of Animal Control Review – The recommendations have been accepted and actions are in progress.
6. Internal Audit – Progress of IT Security Review – All recommendations will be completed by end of June 2015.
7. Internal Audit – Progress of Fleet Management Review – All recommendations are expected to be completed by September 2015.
8. Quarterly Review of Financial Performance and Financial Position to 31 March 2015.

### **Consultation**

Not relevant to 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**

The Audit Committee helps to oversee Council's risk management practices. Internal and other audits are routinely done to reduce the risk to Council.

### **Council Plan Strategy Addressed**

*Governance and Leadership* - Effective and efficient utilisation of resources.

### **Options**

Nil

### **Recommendation**

**That Council note the contents of this report.**

## **Attachment**

- Confidential Audit Committee Minutes  
14 May 2015



**B.15.41 DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS COUNCIL LAND – SWAN HILL REGIONAL LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE**

**Responsible Officer:** Director Corporate Services  
**File Number:** 86-06-00  
**Attachments:** 1 Aerial map

**Declarations of Interest:**

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

**Summary**

This report seeks Council approval to dispose of surplus Council owned land at the Swan Hill Regional Livestock Exchange (SHRLE).

**Discussion**

A key recommendation of previous reports for the on-going development of the SHRLE is that 1.38 hectares of surplus land be sold for commercial development.

The sale of the surplus land will help to fund the proposed redevelopment of the SHRLE.

It is now an appropriate time to commence the statutory process to dispose of the surplus land.

**Consultation**

The relevant stakeholders have been directly consulted and the community has been informed through the local media and through previous Council reports and recommendations.

Council's intention to sell the land by private treaty, seeking submissions for consideration on the proposed disposal pursuant to S189 and S223 of the Local Government Act 1989 will be advertised in local media and on Council's website.

**Financial Implications**

Income from the net proceeds of the property will be allocated to the redevelopment of the SHRLE.

**Social Implications**

Nil

### **Economic Implications**

The sale of the land will have a positive economic impact by enabling the SHRLE to provide a modern facility with greater capacity that can generate greater income for vendors and the region as a whole.

The surplus land, once sold, will enable a business to establish itself on the land.

### **Environmental Implications**

Nil

### **Risk Management Implications**

The disposal of the land will reduce Council's exposure to ongoing maintenance and assist with the modernisation and maintenance of existing facilities.

### **Council Plan Strategy Addressed**

***Governance and Leadership*** - Effective and efficient utilisation of resources.

### **Options**

Council has the option to proceed with the disposal of this land or retain for a future use that is yet to be determined.

### **Recommendations**

#### **That Council:**

- 1. Give public notice to sell part of Lot 1 on PS400972 being 120 Karinie Street Swan Hill by private treaty, seeking submissions on the proposed sale pursuant to Section 189 of the Local Government Act 1989.**
- 2. Negotiate with suitable person(s) to sell Lot 1 on PS400972 by private treaty if no submissions are received.**

**ATTACHMENT: PROPOSED SALE OF SURPLUS LAND SWAN HILL REGIONAL LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE**



## **B.15.42 ROAD CLOSURE - ANNUELLO FLORA AND FAUNA RESERVE**

**Responsible Officer:** Director Infrastructure  
**File Number:** 84-04-01  
**Attachments:** Nil

### **Declarations of Interest:**

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

### **Summary**

A request has been received from Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP) requesting road closures of government roads intended to be included in the Annuello Flora and Fauna Reserve.

### **Discussion**

DELWP is in the process of implementing Victorian Environment Assessment Council designation of various Crown Land parcels including within the Parishes of Wemen and Geera in the Swan Hill Rural City Council as a Flora and Fauna Reserve.

A recent survey by the Department has identified unused and apparently not required government road known as WM02 shown coloured green on attached plan. It is proposed to formally close this road under the provisions of the Land Act 1958 to then be included into the reserve.

Council consent is requested for the closure of roads by DELWP.

### **Consultation**

Consultation will be carried out by DELWP in accordance with Section 349 of the Land Act 1958.

### **Financial Implications**

As this road is not constructed and remains unused, Council and the public will not be disadvantaged in anyway.

### **Social Implications**

Nil

### **Economic Implications**

Nil

### **Environmental Implications**

Nil

### **Risk Management Implications**

Nil

### **Council Plan Strategy Addressed**

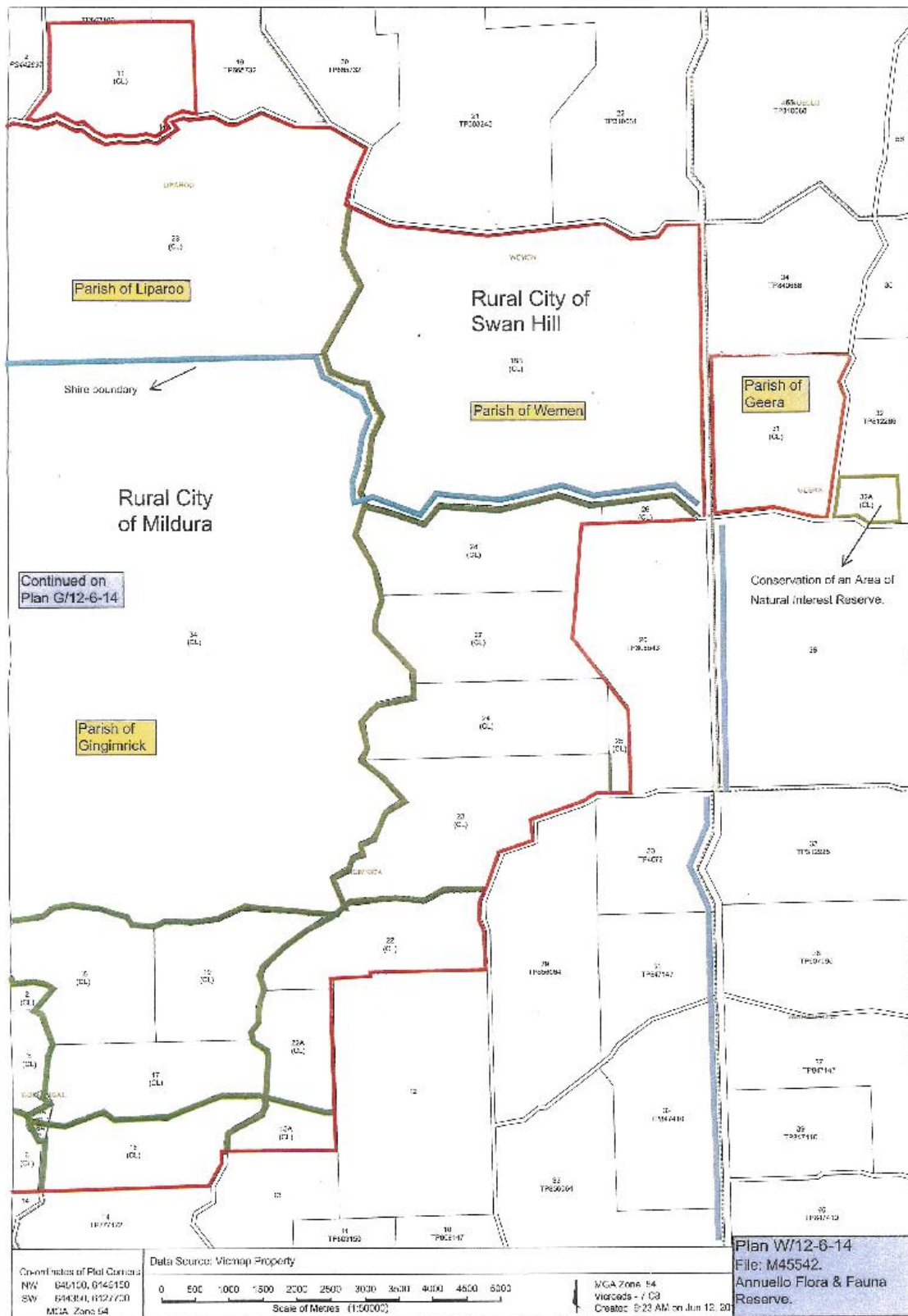
***Built and Natural Environment*** - Sound policies and practices that protect and enhance our natural and built environment.

### **Options**

1. Allow DELWP to close roads and include area in the Flora and Fauna Reserve.
2. Retain roads status.

### **Recommendation**

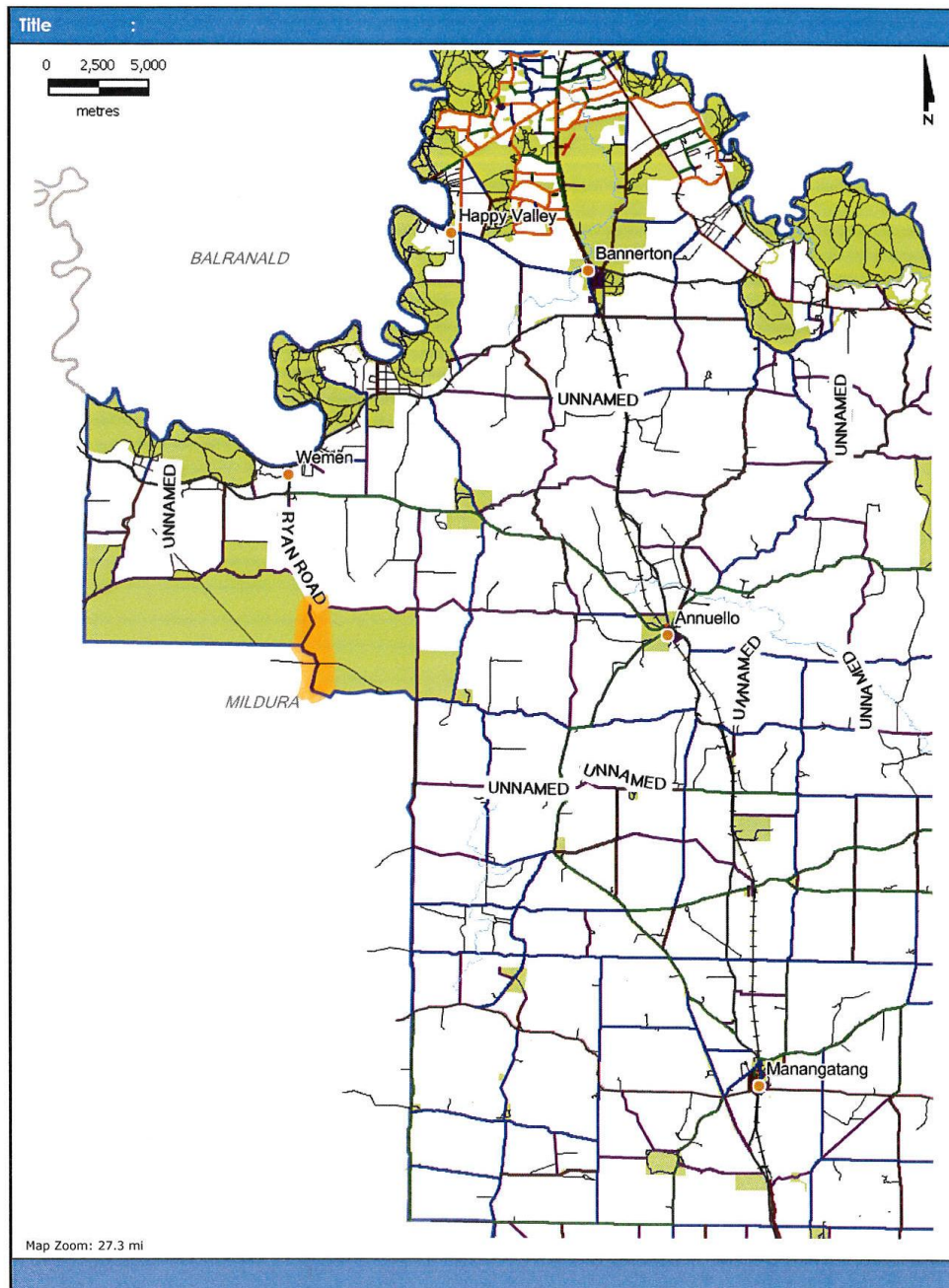
**That Council allow DELWP to close road segments under Section 349 of the Land Act 1958 and return to Annuello Flora and Fauna Reserve.**



Created by SWANHILL\gcutajar on Wednesday, 22 April 2015



**SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL  
PROPERTY MAP**



## **B.15.43 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**Responsible Officer:** Chief Executive Officer  
**File Number:** 71-02-02  
**Attachments:** Nil

### **Declarations of Interest:**

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

### **Summary**

The Australian Local Government Association has asked every Council in Australia to pass a resolution acknowledging the importance of the Commonwealth's Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) in assisting Council to provide important community infrastructure.

### **Discussion**

FAGs are a vital part of the revenue base of all councils, and this year will receive \$2.3 billion from the Australian Government under this important program.

The Government's decision in 2014 Federal Budget to freeze the indexation of FAGs for three years beginning in 2014-15 will unfortunately cost councils across Australia an estimated \$925 million by 2017-18.

ALGA and state local government associations are seeking the support of Council for advocacy to have the Federal Government reverse the decision to freeze the indexation of FAGs.

While the FAGs are paid through each State's Local Government Grants Commission, the funding originates with the Commonwealth and it is important it is recognised as such. Council, and every other council in Australia, has been asked to pass a resolution acknowledging the importance of the Commonwealth's Financial Assistance Grants in assisting Council to provide important community infrastructure.

Council is also being asked to acknowledge the receipt of FAGs from the Commonwealth in media releases and Council publications, including our annual report, and to highlight to the media a Council project costing a similar size to the FAGs received by Council so that the importance and impact of the grant can be more broadly appreciated.

### **Consultation**

N/A



### **Financial Implications**

The loss of FAGs indexation will likely cost Council about \$940k in total over the next three years, and a permanent loss of \$451k per annum. These figures are based on a projected CPI increase of 2 percent per annum. Using a CPI estimate of three percent, the total loss over three years becomes \$1.1 million with a permanent loss of \$590k per annum.

### **Social Implications**

N/A

### **Economic Implications**

N/A

### **Environmental Implications**

N/A

### **Risk Management Implications**

N/A

### **Council Plan Strategy Addressed**

***Economic Growth*** - A prosperous, growing and diverse local and regional economy.

### **Options**

Council may or may not choose to support the campaign recommended by ALGA.

### **Recommendations**

#### **That Council:**

- 1. Acknowledges the importance of federal funding through the Financial Assistance Grants program for the continued delivery of Council's services and infrastructure;**
- 2. Acknowledges that Council will receive \$6,157,599 million in 2015/16; and**
- 3. Will ensure that this federal funding, and other funding provided by the Federal Government under relevant grant programs, is appropriately identified as Commonwealth grant funding in Council publications, including annual reports.**

**SECTION C – DECISIONS WHICH NEED ACTION/RATIFICATION**

## **SECTION D – NOTICES OF MOTION**

### **D.15.1 YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELLING**

Having given due notice, **Councillor Greg Cruickshank MOVED that:**

- 1. Council write to Hon. Jill Hennessey MLA, Minister for Health and Hon. Martin Foley MP, Minister for Mental Health requesting the immediate re-funding of a youth mental health counsellor position in Swan Hill.**
- 2. Swan Hill Rural City Council lead a multi-agency approach to advocate to State Government for the ongoing funding of this position.**

#### ***Preamble***

The funding for Swan Hill's only generalist youth mental health worker will cease on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

There have been issues with the continuing and recurrent funding for this position since 2012 when the position first came under Swan Hill District Health's counselling banner. Each time there has only been a short term solution to a long term problem, and has relied on cooperation of multiple agencies contributing to the role.

If ongoing and recognised funding is not realised for this much-needed position there will be a gaping hole in the delivery of mental health services desperately required by young people across the Swan Hill Region.

The youth mental health issues across the Swan Hill Region have been widely publicised and the increased need for intervention into youth wellbeing has never been greater.

This fact is described in the following extract from the findings of a Youth Mental Health Study conducted recently by Loddon Mallee Murray Medicare Local.

"Inference from the data is that Swan Hill's young people are presenting multiple times to the emergency department to have their mental health needs met. One explanation may be that young people are not receiving effective treatment or management for their mental health problems in the community resulting in them having to seek interventions from the hospital. If young people cannot access co-ordinated community based supports they cannot manage their mental health and prevent future acute mental health presentations."

As a community we cannot allow this reduction in service when all indicators point to a need for it (the service) to in fact be increased. Yes, the Swan Hill region has been allocated a headspace, but this will not come on line until 2016. There is a desperate need for youth mental health practitioners here and now so I ask Council to support this motion.

**SECTION E – URGENT ITEMS NOT INCLUDED IN AGENDA**

**SECTION F – TO CONSIDER & ORDER ON COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

## **SECTION G – IN CAMERA ITEMS**

### **Recommendation**

**That Council close the meeting to the public on the grounds that the following report(s) include contractual matters**

#### **B.15.44 IN CAMERA CONSIDERATION OF CONFIDENTIAL REPORT**