

WANGARATTA RURAL CITY COUNCIL



BUSINESS PAPER FOR THE ORDINARY MEETING  
OF THE WANGARATTA RURAL CITY COUNCIL, TO BE HELD  
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL OFFICES,  
62-68 OVENS STREET, WANGARATTA  
ON **MONDAY, 27 JUNE 2011** COMMENCING AT 7.00PM

Doug Sharp  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

As at 17/06/11 1:44 PM



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1. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS**

2. **OPENING PRAYER**

3. **PRESENT**

4. **ABSENT**

5. **ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES & GRANTING OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

6. **CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY**

The Australian Citizenship ceremony (when applicable).

7. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Recommendation:**

***That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 17 May 2011 and the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 31 May 2011 be taken as read and confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of the meeting.***

8. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE**

## **9. RECEPTION OF PETITIONS**

### **9.1.1.1 PETITION RE THE DRAFT RURAL LAND STRATEGY**

Draft Rural Land Strategy

73.030.055

#### **Background**

A petition/joint letter has been received containing some 202 signatures from community members in support of the Whorouly Memorial Park Committee submission objecting to the draft Rural Land Strategy.

A copy of the petition has been provided to Councillors under separate cover.

#### **Issues**

In accordance with Local Law No. 2 of 1999 – Meeting Procedures a petition presented to the Council must lay on the table until the next ordinary meeting of the Council and no motion, other than to receive the petition, may be accepted by the Chairperson, unless Council agrees to deal with it earlier.

#### **Recommendation:**

***That the petition regarding the draft Rural Land Strategy be received and a report about the issues raised be considered as part of Council's deliberation in regards to the draft Rural Land Strategy.***

#### **Communication**

The first named signatory of the petition/joint letter will be advised on Council's determination on this matter.

## **10. HEARING OF DEPUTATIONS**

## **11. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS**

### **11.1 COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS**

## **11.2 OFFICER'S REPORTS**

### **11.2.1 EXECUTIVE SERVICES**

#### **11.2.1.1 ADVISORY COMMITTEE REVIEW**

Review of Committees

10.020.005

#### **Introduction**

Council determined to conduct a review of its advisory committees to ensure their structure and governance arrangements are fit for purpose. The review is now complete. Council's Audit Advisory Committee as a statutory committee was exempted and therefore not part of this review.

#### **Background**

Council currently has eight, non-statutory, advisory committees established under the Local Government Act 1989 for the purpose of receiving advice from members of the community. They are:

- Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee
- Community Pride Advisory Committee
- Place Naming Committee
- Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee
- Tourism Advisory Board (Committee)
- Wangaratta Livestock Exchange Complex Advisory Committee
- Wangaratta Unlimited Board (Advisory Committee)
- Youth Council Advisory Committee (Youth Council)

As part of the review process, Council has sought to determine whether each of the Advisory Committees:

- adds value to Council's decision making;
- can be improved and how;
- has functions which could be transferred to another committee without loss to Council's decision making; and
- has a charter consistent with its needs as well as Council's and other statutory requirements.

#### **Issues**

In conducting the review a number of issues have been identified including:

1. A need for adequate resourcing of the committees to ensure that advice provided by committees is available to Council and management in a timely manner. To enable this it is proposed that the Chief Executive Officer appoint a director and /or executive manager to regularly attend meetings of each Committee.
2. A requirement for good governance in relation to the declaration of interests held and conflicts of interest. In keeping with obligations imposed by the

Local Government Act on Councillors and officers, it is proposed that members of Advisory Committees of Council also meet these provisions.

3. Whilst the review of each committee has been undertaken on a case by case basis, the review has identified areas in which a consistent approach to management of the committees could be applied. It is proposed to update each of the charters to ensure consistency.
4. There are anomalies related to the active role some committees have in advising Council on the distribution of community grants. To ensure a consistent and strategic focus for the Community Grants program it is proposed to develop a new process which more closely aligns the program to Community Planning outcomes. This process is subject to a separate report to Council.
5. Ensuring an appropriate spread of skills between committee members. To achieve this it is proposed to develop a matrix of skills for each of the committees to be utilised when selecting new committee members.
6. Currently there is no regular review protocol for Council's Advisory Committees and their charters. It is proposed to incorporate into each of the committee charters provision for a full review every four years.
7. The Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee, the Place Naming Committee, the Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee and the Youth Council Advisory Committee are providing Council with timely advice and their objectives and functions are discrete. However as previously noted, the charters of these committees are no longer consistent with some of Council's governance requirements and business practices. To resolve these anomalies it is proposed to amend the charters of these committees.
8. A prominent function of the Tourism Advisory Board (Committee) has been to advise on the outcome of Council's Tourism Grants Program. It is proposed that this function be carried out by a different process. With regard to the other functions of this committee, as an industry sector, these could be taken up by the Wangaratta Unlimited Board.

It is proposed to merge the strategic components of the Tourism Advisory Board into the Wangaratta Unlimited Board charter and treat it that level. By doing so it is considered that there will be no loss of decision making capacity. Indeed it is expected that greater synergies will be created around business development and product support.

Specific, strategic components identified for inclusion in the Wangaratta Unlimited Board charter are:

- communication;
- food and wine;
- events / conferencing; and
- tourism / hospitality.



Currently the Community Pride Advisory Committee performs at a hands-on, operational level supporting the Community Environment Awards Program and to a lesser degree the Keep Australia Beautiful awards. This is not the role of an advisory committee and these functions can be taken up administratively.

Further, issues associated with conflict of interest and levels of governance and propriety which are proposed to be imposed, become even more difficult at an operational level.

Currently the Wangaratta Livestock Exchange Complex Advisory Committee performs at a hands-on, operational level. This is not the role of an advisory committee and these functions can be taken up administratively.

Again, issues associated with conflict of interest and levels of governance and propriety which are proposed to be imposed, become even more difficult at an operational level.

Further, in recent times there have been developments that give rise to the view that more should be done to connect with the agricultural / agribusiness sector, including:

- Rural Land Strategy;
- Demise of Alpine Valleys Agribusiness Forum.

To address these issues it is proposed to establish an Agriculture and Agribusiness Advisory Committee to advise Council on matters relating to this sector. Such a committee could advise on:

- Strengthening and developing the agricultural base;
- Land and water use issues;
- Policy and planning in relation to agriculture and agribusiness;
- Emerging risks to the agricultural / agribusiness sector;
- Strategic development of the Wangaratta Livestock Exchange Complex; and
- Provide a format for engagement with the agricultural / agribusiness community.

It is proposed that the charter for this committee will embrace the key agricultural industry segments of:

- Livestock Marketing;
- Horticulture;
- Viticulture;
- Dairy;
- Cropping;
- Meat and Wool Production;
- Agribusiness;
- Agricultural Services;
- Natural Resource Management;
- Alternative / Niche;
- Timber, and
- Agricultural Science and Research.

## **Outcomes**

To ensure that Council's Advisory Committee structure and governance arrangements are fit for purpose, the outcomes of the review are that there be:

- A streamlining of the following charters to incorporate Conflict of Interest provisions and consistency of approach - Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee, Place Naming Committee, Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee and Youth Council Advisory Committee (refer attachment);
- An extension of the charter of the Wangaratta Unlimited Board (Advisory Committee) to provide for strategic tourism development functions and objectives as well as incorporate Conflict of Interest provisions and consistency of approach with other committee charters (refer attachment);
- The dissolution of the Tourism Advisory Board (Committee)
- The establishment of an Agriculture and Agribusiness Advisory Committee to advise Council on matters relating to this sector (refer attachment).
- The dissolution of the Wangaratta Livestock Exchange Complex Advisory Committee;
- The dissolution of the Community Pride Committee;
- The development of a skills matrix for each committee to ensure appropriate representation (refer attachment);
- The resourcing of committees to the Director / Executive Manager level (refer attachment);
- provision for a full review of each of the committee charters every four years (refer attachment); and
- A new community grants distribution mechanism developed.

## **Implications**

### **Council Plan Outcomes**

Review Council's Advisory Committees to ensure their structure and governance arrangements are fit for purpose

### **Community Engagement**

As part of the review process each of the committees has been surveyed and the preliminary outcomes of the review have been discussed with each committee.

### **Review**

In view of the Conflict of Interest provisions being imposed on the Advisory Committees, a review of this implication on the operation of these committees will be undertaken in 12 months.

## **Recommendation:**

***That:***

1. ***the amended charters of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee, the Place Naming Committee, the Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee and the Youth Council as proposed, be adopted;***

2. *the amended charter of the Wangaratta Unlimited Board (Advisory Committee) incorporating the strategic components, communication, food and wine, events / conferencing and tourism / hospitality, of the Tourism Advisory Board (Committee) as proposed, be adopted;*
3. *the charter of the Tourism Advisory Board (Committee) be revoked;*
4. *an Agriculture and Agribusiness Advisory Committee to advise Council on matters relating to this sector be created and its charter as proposed be adopted;*
5. *the charter of the Wangaratta Livestock Exchange Complex Advisory Committee be revoked;*
6. *the charter of the Community Pride Committee be revoked;*
7. *the members of the Wangaratta Livestock Exchange Complex Advisory Committee, the Community Pride Committee and the Tourism Advisory Board (Committee) be written to expressing appreciation for their contribution; and*
8. *a new community grants distribution mechanism be developed.*

### **Communication**

A forum of Council's standing Advisory Committees will be held to explain charter obligations, statutory responsibilities and Council expectations.

#### 11.2.1.2 **ADOPTION OF 2009 - 2013 COUNCIL PLAN ADJUSTED 2011**

Council Plan

20.030.009

### **Introduction**

At its meeting on 19 April 2011, Council resolved to prepare a Council Plan for the period 2009 – 2013 adjusted 2011 (the Plan).

### **Background**

Council resolved to give notice of the preparation of the Plan, make the Plan available for public inspection and to consider any submissions on any proposal or proposals contained in the Plan, at a meeting of a committee of Council to be held on 14 June 2011 at 5:30 pm at the Wangaratta Government Centre.

One public submission was received in response to the public notice. This was from Mr Jim Lewis.

### **Issues**

1. There are four actions within the exhibited Plan where Councillors are involved at a community group board level and potentially represent a conflict of interest. These actions are:
  - 3.1.2.10 – Continue to support the development of the Wangaratta and District Community Foundation;

- 3.3.1.1 –Support the Youth Council to develop skills in areas of leadership, civic service, community service and advocacy for youth issues;
- 5.2.4.2 (dot point 4) – Build on the key brand strengths of Food and Wine, Cycling, Ned Kelly and Jazz by collaborating with the Jazz Festival Board to ensure longevity and continued success of the event; and
- 6.1.1.1 – Participate in the development of the Regional Catchment Strategy and link to Council programs.

To comply with the Local Government Act, these actions will be dealt with separately and in isolation from the remainder of the Plan, in the first instance by replacing them in the draft Plan as presented, with actions that represent no conflict of interest to Councillors (***refer attachments***).

2. Updated long term financial plan figures reflecting the outcomes of the 2011 / 2012 Budget review process have been incorporated into the draft Plan as presented.
3. Council must take into consideration all submissions made and after it has made a decision must notify in writing every person who has made a submission and the reasons for that decision, in accordance with the responses set out in the report.

A summary of the submission follows:-

SUBMISSION	SUGGESTED RESPONSE
The submission makes reference to aspects of the document including language style and the way information and changes are reported.	No specific adjustments made to Council Plan.

A copy of the full submission is attached.

Mr Jim Lewis presented in person and elaborated on his submission as outlined above.

A copy of the draft Council Plan is attached (***refer attachment***).

**Recommendation:**

***That***

1. ***the draft Council Plan for the period 2009 – 2013 adjusted 2011 as presented be adopted subject to:***
  - a) ***the deletion of actions 3.1.2.10, 3.3.1.1, dot point 4 of 5.2.4.2 and 6.1.1.1; and***
  - b) ***the updating of the “Long Term Financial Plan” incorporated in the Strategic Resource Plan, to reflect the outcomes of the 2011 / 2012 Budget review process***

2. ***the adopted Council Plan be amended to include a new action 3.1.2.10 to: “Resolve a position on the future of the Wangaratta and District Community Foundation”;***
3. ***the adopted Council Plan be amended to include a new action 3.3.1.1 to: “Support the Youth Council to develop skills in areas of leadership, civic service, community service and advocacy for youth issues”;***
4. ***the adopted Council Plan be amended to include a new dot point 4 in action 5.2.4.2 to: “Build on the key brand strengths of Food and Wine, Cycling, Ned Kelly and Jazz by collaborating with the interim Jazz Festival Board to ensure longevity and continued success of the event”;***
5. ***the adopted Council Plan be amended to include a new action 6.1.1.1 to: “Encourage the development of the Regional Catchment Strategy and link to Council programs”;***
6. ***having regard to the submission received and the response tabulated in the report, no further amendments be made to the adopted Council Plan; and***
7. ***each person who made a submission be notified in writing of the decision and of the reasons for that decision, in accordance with the responses set out in this report.***

### **Communication**

Copies of the Council Plan for 2009 - 2013 adjusted 2011 will be available through Council's Customer Service Centre and electronically on Council's website at [www.wangaratta.vic.gov.au](http://www.wangaratta.vic.gov.au)

## **11.2.2 SUSTAINABILITY**

### **11.2.2.1 FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY AND LANDFILL OPERATING AND REMEDIATION COSTS**

Bowser Landfill

72.020.003

#### **Introduction**

Landfill remediation costs and landfill levies imposed by the State Government are forecast to increase significantly in future years and significantly weaken Council's financial position.

#### **Background**

The Bowser Landfill is the only operating landfill in the Rural City of Wangaratta. The landfill is operated pursuant to a Licence issued by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA). The licence also contains other conditions to do with future remediation. In addition, there are a number of other sites, dispersed across the municipality, that were previously operated as landfills. The EPA has signalled its intention to force Council to remediate these sites in the near future. At the same time the standards applying to the remediation process have been significantly increased.

The costs of most of these remediation works have now been estimated with reasonable accuracy and included as long-term liabilities in the financial statements. The effect of this is to significantly increase Council's indebtedness ratio and the level of financial risk.

Over the past year the EPA has been involved in a dispute with City of Casey and residents around a former landfill at Cranbourne. In recent time, a settlement has been reached that required the EPA to contribute \$10m in compensation.

The timing of the introduction of the increased remediation standards, through the revised Landfill Best Practice Environmental Management (BPEM) would suggest that the EPA is seeking to ensure it does not incur any further liabilities.

At the same time the State Budget significantly increased the levy imposed on waste deposited at landfills. The Budget papers disclose that revenue from the levy is expected to increase from \$48.4m in 2009/10, to \$94.9m in 2010/11 to \$131.5m in 2011/12.

NevRwaste have estimated that Council's landfill levy will increase from \$301,000 in 2009/10 to \$852,000 in 2010/11 and \$1.140m in 2011/12.

#### **Issues**

The introduction of the new remediation standards contained in the Landfill BPEM minimises the risk of the EPA facing further claims. This is achieved by imposing increased standards, together with the financial obligation, on Council.

The estimated future financial obligation, for the Rural City of Wangaratta, is expected to be almost \$12 million. This is amount made up of almost \$9 million for Bowser and \$3 million for rural landfills.

These expected costs are extremely large amounts in the context of our current budget. For example, our long term borrowing debt is currently around \$9 million and our annual expenditure on renewal of infrastructure assets is currently around \$4 million. These additional costs seriously weaken the immediate financial outlook and undermine the successful management of the long-term infrastructure renewal obligations.

There are a number of important issues involved with this matter.

Firstly, the EPA has power to issue Pollution Abatement Notices (PAN) that effectively requires Council to carry out works to the satisfaction of the EPA. If Council does not respond appropriately the EPA can institute a process resulting in significant fines although there is an avenue of appeal to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Appeals Tribunal. The effect of this arrangement is that the Council Plan and Budget process is usurped. By issuing the PAN, the EPA is effectively dictating Council's priorities.

Secondly, the EPA is retrospectively applying a new, higher standard. The current closed landfills were operated in accordance with the standards and requirements of the time. To impose a higher standard today raises questions about intergenerational equity and about the appropriateness of Council's rating and charging powers to fairly distribute these costs.

Thirdly, the standards required to be implemented for the remediation works are not contained in the Licence but are set out in Landfill Licensing Guidelines tied to the Landfill BPEM. Importantly, the BPEM are not put in place through any established statutory process. The BPEM were developed within EPA although Council did have the opportunity to comment.

Fourthly, the remediation process can be considered in the context of a "cost-shift" from the State to Local Government. The EPA, and the State, are minimising their future financial risk by imposing higher standards on the local Council and community.

Fifthly, the State Government, according to a recent media release, has committed to provide \$24 million to the City of Casey to support the remediation costs of the Cranbourne landfill. Clarification is necessary to establish the criteria that related to this decision.

Finally, the State Budget papers reveal that the increased landfill levy is intended to "provide incentives to reduce the level of waste and further best practice in waste management".

In the past, this objective was, in part, achieved by returning a proportion of the landfill levy to NevRwaste and to regional projects. The Environment Protection Authority (Distribution of Landfill Levy) Regulations 2010 provided for distribution of the \$94.9m in 2010/11

\$1.8m Metropolitan Waste Management  
\$2.6m Regional Waste Management  
(\$228,000 to NevRwaste)  
\$18.9m Sustainability Victoria  
\$14.5m EPA  
Balance estimated to be \$67.1m to Sustainability Fund.

The regulations also require that from 1 July 2011 there will be no transfer to Waste Groups and all funds from landfill levy will be transferred to the Sustainability Fund.

This Council is being seriously disadvantaged by being required to provide increased funds through the landfill levy without seeing any increased return for local projects.

### **Implications**

#### **Sustainability**

Increased landfill remediation standards have very serious negative implications for Council's financial sustainability but it would seem only very small improvements to the local environment.

### **Conclusion**

As a consequence of all the above, and considering this matter has state-wide significance, that the Municipal Association of Victoria be requested to raise the issues highlighted in this report with the Victorian Government.

### **Recommendation:**

***That the Municipal Association of Victoria be requested to raise the matters contained in this report with the State Government because of their serious implications for Council's financial sustainability and possible State-wide implications.***

#### 11.2.2.2 **NEW LOAN**

Loans

51.050.001

### **Introduction**

This report deals with the borrowings for the 2010/2011 Budget adopted by Council on 6 July 2010.

### **Background**

At its meeting held on Tuesday, 17 May, 2011, Council authorised the Chief Executive Officer to conduct a tender process, accept a tender and execute any necessary documentation to take up a loan of \$1,000,000.



## **Issues**

Competitive bids for the financing of a \$1,000,000 loan were invited in local and metropolitan press. Tenders for this loan closed on 2 June 2011.

In response, the following tenders were received:

	<b>Rate</b>
National Australia Bank Limited	7.50%
Commonwealth Banking Group	7.86%

The Commonwealth Bank submitted additional non-conforming tenders that were not considered as part of the tender evaluation.

## **Implications**

### **Council Plan Objectives**

Council's objective is to ensure that its plans and budgets are both responsible and sustainable.

### **Local Community**

The loan will provide for the following capital project in accordance with the 2010/2011 budget.

Showgrounds Redevelopment	\$1,000,000
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### **Council's Financial Position**

Provision has been made for the repayment of the loan in Council's budget and long term financial plan.

The loan will be secured against the general rates of the municipality by execution of a Deed of Charge with the National Australia Bank.

## **Conclusion**

The National Australia Bank loan bid for a ten year term has been assessed as the most beneficial for the Council.

The loan details are as follows:

Amount:	\$1,000,000
Term:	Ten (10) years
Interest Rate:	7.50%
Settlement:	3rd June 2011

The loan offer of the National Australia Bank has been accepted under delegated authority in accordance with Council's previous determination.

### **Recommendation:**

***That the action taken to accept the loan financing proposal from the National Australia Bank for a loan of \$1,000,000 as outlined in this report be endorsed.***

### **Communication**

All tenderers have been advised of the outcome of the tender process.

#### **11.2.2.3 PLANNING PERMIT APPLICATION NO. 11-025 - PROPOSED TWO (2) LOT SUBDIVISION AT 9 MEGAN COURT, WALDARA**

Planning Application

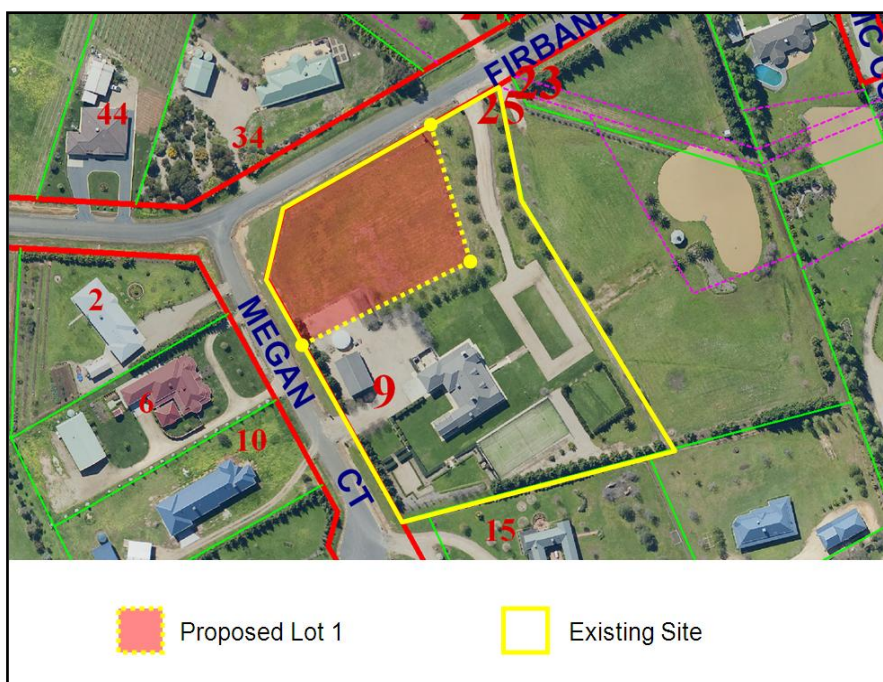
11-025

### **Introduction**

This report deals with planning permit application 11-025 for a two (2) lot subdivision. A recommendation is made to consent to the application.

### **Background**

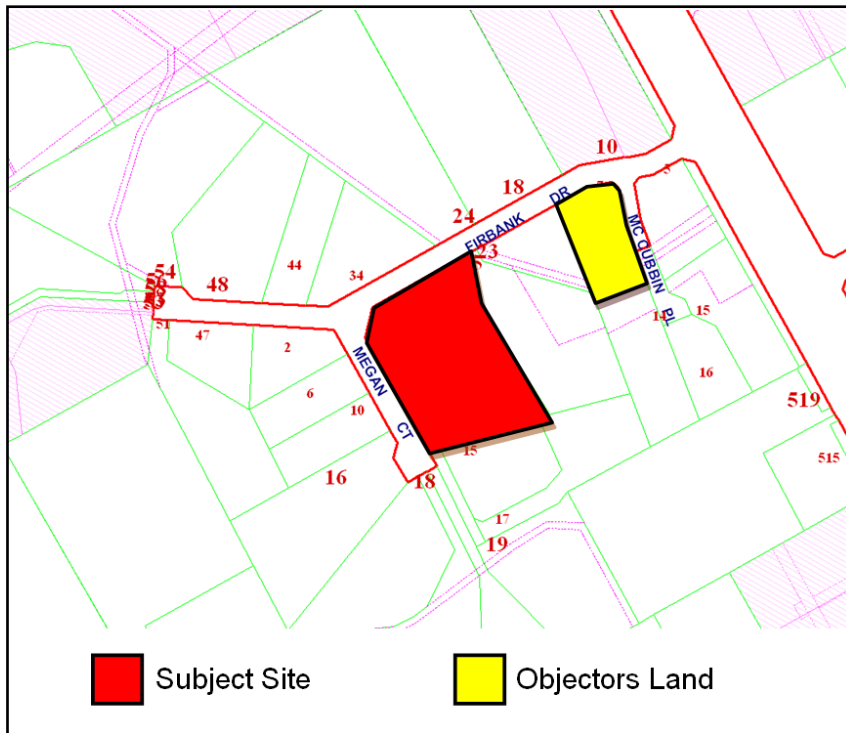
Applicant: Oxley & Company  
Owner: Nicole Dunstan  
Address: 9 Megan Court Waldara - Lot 1 PS 633370  
Zoning: Low Density Residential Zone  
Overlays: Nil  
Permit Trigger: Subdivision of land



## **Proposal**

The proposal is to subdivide an existing 1.58 hectare lot in the Low Density Residential Zone into two parcels. Lot 1 comprises of a vacant parcel of 4,223m<sup>2</sup> and Lot 2 a 11,630m<sup>2</sup> parcel containing the existing house tennis court and garden.

Access to Lot 2 is through existing crossovers from Megan Court and a second access to Firbank Drive. The proposed access to Lot 1 is via creation of a new crossover from Megan Court.



## **Site and Surrounds**

The site has an area of 1.58 hectares and is currently occupied by a single dwelling with associated shedding and gardens.

The land slopes slightly from the south towards Firbank Drive along the northern boundary of the site.

## **Issues**

The application was put to public notice and one objection was received. Whilst the Planning and Environment Act 1987 allows a Council to delegate the responsibility of issuing a decision to officers of that Council, the instrument of delegation made by this Council does not allow applications with one or more objections to be decided by Council officers. In accordance with this, any application that has one or more outstanding objections shall be referred to a full Council meeting for a decision.

## **Planning Considerations and Assessment**

The **decision guidelines** of the Low Density Residential Zone include the mandatory requirement to consider:

*“The State Planning Policy Framework (SPPF) and the Local Planning Policy Framework (LPPF) including the Municipal Strategic Statement and any local planning policies.”*

### **State Planning Policy Framework (SPPF)**

Clause 19.01 – Subdivision

*“To ensure the design of subdivisions achieves attractive, liveable and sustainable neighbourhoods.”*

### **Municipal Strategic Statement**

Clause 21.06 – Urban Development and Central Activities

- *“Protect residential amenity and the environment while providing for economic growth*
- *Provide a range of affordable housing options”*

### **Zones and Overlays**

The subject land is located within the **Low Density Residential Zone** which has a scheduled minimum lot size for subdivision of 1 hectare unsewered and 4,000m<sup>2</sup> for lots with access to reticulated sewerage. The **purpose of the zone** is:

- *“To implement the State Planning Policy Framework and the Local Planning Policy Framework, including the Municipal Strategic Statement and local planning policies.*
- *To provide for low-density residential development on lots which, in the absence of reticulated sewerage, can treat and retain all wastewater.”*

Specific **decision guidelines** include:

- *“The protection and enhancement of the natural environment and character of the area including the retention of vegetation and faunal habitat and the need to plant vegetation along waterways, gullies, ridgelines and property boundaries.*
- *The availability and provision of utility services, including sewerage, water, drainage, electricity, gas and telecommunications.*
- *In the absence of reticulated sewerage:*
  - *The capability of the lot to treat and retain all wastewater in accordance with the State Environment Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria) under the Environment Protection Act 1970.*
  - *The benefits of restricting the size of lots to the minimum required to treat and retain all wastewater in accordance with the State Environment Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria).*

- *The benefits of restricting the size of lots to generally no more than 2 hectares to enable lots to be efficiently maintained without the need for agricultural techniques and equipment.*
- *The relevant standards of Clauses 56.07-1 to 56.07-4.”*

The proposal meets the requirements of the Low Density Residential Zone. The minimum lot size as defined within the Schedule is ‘1 hectare for any land that is not supplied with reticulated sewerage’. In this case the site is currently unsewered and the proposed lot sizes are 4,223m<sup>2</sup> and 11,630m<sup>2</sup>.

The applicant has been in communication with North East Water Authority in regard to the provision of sewer to Lot 1. The application was referred to North East Water and they have provided conditions requiring connection to reticulated sewer and water prior to Statement of Compliance. This would be gained through the extension of town sewer along the Wangaratta-Yarrowonga Road which is currently proposed as a result of several other planning approvals around this area.

### **Consultation**

Surrounding owners and occupiers of the land were notified in accordance with Section 52 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987. One (1) objection was originally received.

A conciliation meeting was scheduled to be held on the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2011. The objector outlined that they would not attend any meeting as the issue he was presenting regarding drainage issues had been previously heard by Council to little avail. As such the meeting was cancelled in agreement with the applicant.

The objection is summarised below: (Grounds of objection are underlined Council Officer’s response to the objections are provided below each ground of objection.)

The new development will contribute to extra water being put into the drains and easements from their hard areas (Buildings, roads, effluent discharge areas)

The objection raised a number of issues with Councils existing drainage infrastructure in this area and this point has been raised with Councils Engineering department in the past.

If the proposed subdivision is granted, it will allow a dwelling to be constructed on this lot ‘as of right.’ Any future dwelling is expected to increase the hardstand areas therefore stormwater runoff to an extent. The excess stormwater from any future buildings may have a slight impact on the current drainage system within the neighbourhood however this is not expected to impact significantly on the adjoining neighbours.

A condition on the permit requiring a Section 173 Agreement be entered into requiring a 20,000 litre rain water tank will reduce stormwater in the current drainage system.

The introduction of sewerage into the area would also reduce the amount of water within the neighbourhood reducing the reliance on septic systems.

The objection is supported in part however; provision of reticulated sewer and rainwater tanks will ensure this development does not increase current drainage issues.

### **Assessment**

It is considered that the subdivision meets the requirements of the State and Local Planning Policy Framework and the decision guidelines of the zone. The newly created lot is proposed to be connected to reticulated water and sewerage as per the requirements of the zone.

It is considered that the subdivision is appropriate.

### **Implications**

#### **Council Plan Objectives**

The Council plan has a strategy to “*apply quality land use planning policy that protects residential amenity and the environment while providing for economic growth.*” It is considered this development meets this objective.

### **Recommendation:**

***That Planning Permit Application No.11-025 for the Two (2) Lot Subdivision at 9 Megan Court, Waldara be approved and that a Notice of Decision to Grant a Permit be issued subject to the following conditions:***

#### **Rural City of Wangaratta’s Conditions**

- 1. the subdivision permitted by this permit as shown on the endorsed plan(s) and/or described in the endorsed documents must not be altered or modified (for any reason) except with the prior written consent of the Responsible Authority;***
- 2. all surface and stormwater on the subject land shall be controlled, collected in underground pipes and drained to an approved outlet to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority;***
- 3. prior to a Statement of Compliance being issued, the owner of the subject land must, at no cost to the responsible authority, enter into an agreement (in a form satisfactory to the responsible authority) with the responsible authority pursuant to Section 173 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987. This agreement must provide the following:***
  - (i) Storm water retention capacity of 20,000 litres tank must be retained and maintained for any dwelling on lot 1;***

***It is further required that this agreement must be registered at the Office of Titles pursuant to Section 181 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.***

4. **prior to the issue of a Statement of Compliance a Stormwater Property Drain inlet to Lot 1 is to be constructed in underground pipes extending from the legal point of discharge to within the property boundary, and to the specification and satisfaction of the Responsible Authority;**
5. **prior to the issue of a Statement of Compliance drainage infrastructure required by the proposed subdivision is to be constructed in accordance with plans and specifications approved by the Responsible Authority;**
6. **prior to the issue of a Statement of Compliance all roof water from buildings and surface water from hard paved areas of Lot 2 must be collected and conveyed to the legal point of discharge so as to prevent storm water nuisance to adjoining land;**
7. **prior to the issue of a Statement of Compliance the applicant is to obtain a permit from Council for the construction of an access crossover to Lot 1, and this crossover as shown on the endorsed plan is to be constructed to the standards specified and to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority;**
8. **the owner of the land must enter into agreements with the relevant authorities for the provision of water supply, drainage, sewerage facilities, electricity, gas and telecommunication services to each lot shown on the endorsed plan in accordance with the authority's requirements and relevant legislation at the time;**
9. **all existing and proposed easements and sites for existing or required utility services and roads on the land must be set aside in the plan of subdivision submitted for certification in favour of the relevant authority for which the easement or site is to be created; and**
10. **the plan of subdivision submitted for certification under the Subdivision Act 1988 must be referred to the relevant authority in accordance with Section 8 of that Act.**
11. **this permit will expire if:**
  - (a) **the subdivision is not certified under the Subdivision Act within two (2) years of the date of this permit; and**
  - (b) **provided (a) is complied with the subdivision must be registered with the Lands Titles Office within five (5) years of the certification date**

**The Responsible Authority may extend the periods referred to, if a request is made in writing before the permit expires or within three months afterwards.**

#### **North East Rural Water Authority Conditions**

12. **prior to issue of Statement of Compliance the applicant must provide:**
  - (a) **Payment to the North East Region Water Corporation of a contribution of money (Headwork's) towards the water supply system supplying the area as determined by North East Water's policy for development charges;**
  - (b) **that the owner/applicant enters into an agreement with North East Water to construct all necessary works to provide water supply to**

- serve all lots of the proposed subdivision, at the applicant's cost, and in accordance with the Corporation's specifications and requirements;***
- (c) payment to North East Region Water Corporation of a contribution of money (Headwork's) towards the Corporation's sewers and disposal systems serving the area as determined by North East Water's policy for development charges; and***
- (d) that the owner/applicant enters into an agreement with North East Water to construct all necessary works to provide sewerage to serve all lots of the proposed subdivision, at the applicant's cost, and in accordance with the Corporation's specifications and requirements.***

### **Communication**

That the applicant and objector/s be advised of Council's decision.

#### **11.2.2.4 PLANNING PERMIT NO. 04-322 - EXTENSION REQUEST - REIDS LANE, MILAWA**

Reids LN Milawa

4162

### **Introduction**

A written request has been received to extend a planning permit for use and development of a dwelling at Reids Lane, Milawa.

This permit has been subject to one extension previously.

The land is within a Farming zone and covered wholly by the Land Subject to Inundation overlay.

### **Background**

A planning permit was issued on the 11 February, 2005 for use and development of a dwelling. At the time of the permit the land was in a Rural zone with a Rural Flood Overlay.

The land is a triangular block having an area of 6.18 hectares with frontage to Reids Lane and the Milawa-Tarrawingee Road.

The conditions of the permit in addition to standard matters required a 45,000 litre water tank with a draw off level providing a minimum of 10,000 litres reserve for fire fighting purposes. Additionally a condition requiring a Section 173 agreement acknowledging that the adjoining and surrounding land is zoned rural and accept that the owners of adjoining and surrounding land have the right to farm and as such maybe subject to seasonal agricultural practices such as noise, odour, spray drift etc which may impinge on the amenity. The floor level of the dwelling must be constructed at least 300mm above the 1% flood level of 156.1 m AHD, that is no lower than 156.4m AHD. The boundary between this lot and



CA 39 also had to be fenced prior to commencement of construction of the dwelling.

The permit did not have a condition regarding the life of the permit so it defaults to the standard provisions on the back of the permit in accordance with the provisions of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 which state that:

*“A permit for development and use of land expires if:-*

- *The development or any stage of it does not start within the time specified in the permit, or*
- *The development or any stage of it is not completed with the time specified in the permit, or if no time is specified, within two years after the issue of the permit, or*
- *The use does not start within the time specified in the permit, or if no time is specified, within two years after the completion of the development, or*
- *The use is discontinued for a period of two years.*

A request to extend a permit can be made within the life of the permit or for a period of three months afterwards. The owner or occupier of the land may ask the responsible authority for an extension of time under Section 69 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.

Since the issue of the permit the boundary fence has been constructed, repair and maintenance to the crossover has occurred and preliminary earthworks undertaken. In 2007 it was decided that the works undertaken were enough to be considered as commencement and that the permit did not need to be extended.

The Section 173 Agreement was signed and lodged In June, 2007.

The permit was extended via delegation on 13 January, 2009. In the covering letter to this extension it was clearly indicated that the permit would not be extended beyond 11 February, 2011 due to the introduction of the Farming zone and that it would be very unlikely that a new application in the form of what was approved by the permit would be issued.

### **Issues**

An inspection of the site did not identify further works since January 2009.

Council in considering an extension request can have regard to matters established by various VCAT cases seeking extensions of permit. These matters are:

- whether there has been a change of planning policy;
- whether the landowner is seeking to “warehouse” the permit;
- intervening circumstances as bearing upon the grant or refusal;
- the total elapse of time;
- whether the time limit originally imposed was adequate;
- the economic burden imposed on the landowner by the permit;
- the probability of a permit issuing should a fresh application be made.

For Council to consider this matter it needs to consider each of these matters and the following is submitted:

- There has been a change of planning policy. The land is now within a Farming zone where the objectives have been strengthened towards retaining productive land for agriculture and discouraging non-agricultural uses, particularly dwellings. An application for a dwelling would now need to be accompanied by a report addressing the dwelling decision guidelines as follows:
  - Whether the dwelling will result in the loss or fragmentation of productive agricultural land.
  - Whether the dwelling is reasonably required for the operation of the agricultural activity conducted on the land.
  - Whether the dwelling will be adversely affected by agricultural activities on adjacent and nearby land due to dust, noise, odour, use of chemicals and farm machinery, traffic and hours of operation.
  - Whether the dwelling will adversely affect the operation and expansion of adjoining and nearby agricultural uses.
  - The potential for the proposal to lead to a concentration or proliferation of dwellings in the area and the impact of this on the use of the land for agriculture.
- The landowner in their extension request has cited economic pressures as the reason why the dwelling has not been constructed. The permit has been in existence for 6 years and little appears to have been carried out on the site since the extension was granted in 2009. In this regard the permit may be being warehoused.
- The timing of expiry of the permit and the exhibition of the Draft Rural Land Strategy which proposes to change the permit triggers for dwellings in the Farming zone can be considered an intervening factor but in itself is not significant to the request as it is a draft strategy only at this stage.
- It must be considered that the time limit as originally proposed was adequate having regard to Council still using this timeframe for most permits granted.
- It is considered that the economic burden posed by the permit in itself was not so great as to require additional time beyond the extension already granted.
- The probability of a fresh application being granted under the current provisions of the Wangaratta Planning Scheme remote having regard to the size at the land holding and the dwelling decision guidelines of the Farming Zone.

In considering whether or not the extension request should be granted the site and locality has been inspected. The locality is within a local flood plain, there are a variety of lot sizes and lot ownership. The area still appears predominantly farming, however within a 1km radius there are:

- 19 lots with most of the lots less than 40 hectares.
- 9 of those have dwellings.

To extend this radius by another 200 metres would include another 8 dwellings all on lots less than 40 hectares.

However, the character of the area is still essentially agricultural.

## **Implications**

### **Council Plan Outcomes**

To undertake a strategic approach to land use planning to provide balanced outcomes for growth, existing land use, environment, heritage and community aspirations.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, it is considered that the permit has had a long life and it is now unlikely that under the planning framework and Farming zone a permit would be granted. In addition, the last written advice to the owner was clear and unambiguous in that the permit would not be extended beyond 11 February, 2011. As no substantial new works have occurred by way of commencement of construction of the dwelling, it is recommended that the request for extension be refused.

## **Recommendation:**

***That Council refuse to extend Planning Permit No. 04-322 under the provisions of Section 69 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.***

## 11.2.3 COMMUNITY WELLBEING

### 11.2.3.1 EVALUATION REPORT AND COMMUNITY PLANNING FRAMEWORK

#### Introduction

This report encompasses a recent evaluation undertaken on the Community Planning program and the development of a Five Year Strategic Plan.

#### Background

##### Community Planning Evaluation

A comprehensive evaluation of Council's Community Planning program was undertaken in late 2010 (*refer attachment*). The process undertaken engaged both Council staff and community members in the process.

The aim of the evaluation was to provide Council with a better understanding of the impact the Community Planning Program has had on the participating communities, internal planning, strategy development and resource allocation.

The evaluation examined the extent to which Council has been able to achieve its objective through Community Planning of more comprehensively understanding the needs and priorities of the community. –This will enhance Council's capacity to deliver services, advocate and plan for the future.

##### Community Planning Framework

A Community Planning Framework has been developed which followed the evaluation process to purposefully feed in and consider the evaluation results. The purpose of the framework is to provide the future directions for the Community Planning program over the next five years (*refer attachment*). The recommendations in the Framework have been based on the findings of the evaluation, current practise trends and the aspirations identified in the 2030 Community Vision.

#### Issues

The feedback from the community respondents was generally positive and supported the continuation of the Community Planning program. The results highlighted the following:

- A high level of participation in the community planning process by respondents;
- Communication about the community planning process has been mostly by word of mouth;
- Most participants became involved in community planning because they want to see their community progress and see things happen;
- There was only a moderate level of satisfaction that the respondents original aim for getting involved had been met;
- The respondents felt the aims of their community are important;

- Although the level of satisfaction in the initial stages of community planning were high this deteriorated as the process progressed as it was perceived that Council had less involvement; and
- There was a significant majority of the respondents who felt the Community Planning program should continue.

In consideration of the responses from Council officers it was found that although almost 90% of officers knew about the Community Planning program only 55% had had involvement and the remainder had not much or no involvement.

The Evaluation report highlights issues and makes recommendations in key theme areas including:

- Communication;
- Clarity of purpose and role;
- Council involvement;
- Representation of rural communities at a Council level; and
- Long term sustainability.

The Community Planning Framework proposes:

1. Better define and promote Community Planning: what it is and isn't, and its value.
2. Better define and communicate the Community Planning process to all involved.
3. Better understand the critical success factors in sustainable and effective Community Planning.
4. Establish a vision for Community Planning in the Rural City of Wangaratta.
5. Establish a clear commitment to Community Planning in the Rural City of Wangaratta.
6. Develop a systematic and integrated mechanism for Council to:
  - (a) periodically consider community-identified Community Planning priorities and;
  - (b) identify where and how Council could support their implementation.
7. Establish a dedicated annual fund through Council's budget, aligned with community grants, to support the implementation of community-identified Community Planning priorities.
8. Continue to implement a local rural community focussed program in 21 localities, as the centrepiece of the Rural City of Wangaratta Community Planning program.
9. Establish a mechanism to periodically bring local rural community needs, issues, opportunities and priorities together where they have a common interest.
10. Establish an urban-focussed Community Planning process for the Wangaratta community.
11. Focus on supporting one or more community-identified priorities in each of the communities over the next 12 months – getting 'runs on the board'.
12. Review the template used for local Community Plans.

13. Develop a regular email based circular / newsletter for distribution to all communities involved in Community Planning, councillors and senior staff

### **Implications**

Both the Evaluation report and the Community Planning Framework provide important feedback and information for the future directions of the Community Planning program. The outcomes identified in both these documents will inform the business plan directions and goals for the Community Planning Unit.

It is clearly indicated in both reports that Council needs to consider how to better support the aspirations of the community.

The Community Planning Framework also recommends that Council identify an allocation of funding to assist in achieving the projects identified in the Community Plans. This will actively strengthen the communities and will encourage greater resilience.

### **Council Plan Outcomes**

Integrate the outcomes of the Community Planning Program within Council's planning process and other agencies and levels of government.

### **Sustainability**

By providing support and acknowledgement of the community's effort will achieve better outcomes for the community and value add to Council's efforts in these communities.

The approach proposed in a later report in this agenda for the application of Council's Community Grants will provide a means of support and assistance to the communities to achieve the projects they have deemed to be important. This will have both a positive health and economical outcome.

### **Community Engagement**

The evaluation process included surveys and one on one telephone discussions with community members and staff which provided an opportunity for a response to specific questions and broader discussions.

### **Conclusion**

This next phase of the Community Planning process is vital to achieving the ultimate outcomes of the philosophy and intent of this approach as outlined in the Community Planning Framework. In achieving this it is important for Council to demonstrate its support for the community which will realise a stronger and healthier community and achieve greater value for Council funds.

The support of this process by Council will underpin the direction and commitment of Council officers and an improved response to community needs.

**Recommendation:*****That Council:***

- 1. receive the Evaluation report for the Community Planning Program; and***
- 2. adopt the Five Year Strategic Plan Community Planning Framework.***

**Communication**

Feedback will be provided to participants of the evaluation process and on Council's resolution.

Community Planning staff will be advised of the outcome of this report and if adopted they will commence development of a business plan in response to the Community Planning Framework.

**11.2.3.2 COMMUNITY GRANTS PROCESS**

Rural Towns Development Program / Community Planning

68.020.003

**Introduction**

A process of review has been undertaken to reconsider the delivery of Council's Community Grants Program to better align with Council's Community Planning Program and to increase effective outcomes for the community.

**Background**

In reference to an earlier report in this agenda regarding the Evaluation and development of a Community Planning Framework for the Community Planning program, the outcomes have presented an opportunity for Council to consider how the Community Grants funding and the Rural Towns funding can better target projects that will more directly respond to community plans.

Of particular consideration when undertaking a review of Council's Community Grants are the following recommendations made within the Community Planning Framework.

- *To develop a systematic and integrated mechanism for Council to:
  - (a) periodically consider community-identified Community Planning priorities and;
  - (b) identify where and how Council could support their implementation.*
- *Establish a dedicated annual fund through Council's budget, aligned with community grants, to support the implementation of community-identified Community Planning priorities.*
- *Continue to implement a local rural community focussed program in 21 localities, as the centrepiece of the Rural City of Wangaratta Community Planning program.*

- *Establish an urban-focussed Community Planning process for the Wangaratta community.*
- *Focus on supporting one or more community-identified priorities in each of the communities over the next 12 months – getting ‘runs on the board’.*

There have been a number of small reviews undertaken of Council’s Community Grants program over the past 3-4 years. These reviews have really only refined the process and not taken a ‘clean piece of paper’ approach. In considering the future of Community Planning it became apparent that it provided an opportunity to think radically about how Council provides Community Grants and other State Government funding administered by Council, i.e. Community Facility Infrastructure, Small Towns Development fund etc.

Previous reviews saw the adoption of a process to include relevant Council Advisory Committees in the assessment of applications received for Council’s Community Grants. In consideration of the outcomes of the review of Council’s Advisory Committees, as reported earlier in this agenda, a process is now proposed which removes this responsibility from the Committees.

### **Issues**

To achieve a true community focused strategic response there is an opportunity for Council to consider allocating a total budget amount that includes Council’s Community Grants and the Rural Towns program funding. It is proposed these funds be combined and allocated as follows:

#### **Minor Category**

An amount of \$50,000 remain available for a competitive application process for a contribution from Council of up to \$5,000 for each eligible project. These funds will continue to assist communities in achieving small projects unable to be funded through other means but demonstrating a benefit for the community; and

#### **Major Category**

An allocation of \$125,000 be provided to support at least five significant projects. To maintain the previous commitment of Council to the funding of rural projects previously provided through the Rural Towns Program an amount of \$100,000 will be targeted for projects that are aligned with a community plan priority. The remaining \$25,000 will be available for projects identified in the urban area using Council’s Engagement Strategy and a partnership approach to identify suitable projects.

### **Outcome**

The overall intent is to better align the Community Grants with Community Planning and Engagement for both rural and urban areas.

The proposed more detailed process provided for each category now includes an Expression of Interest (EOI) submission with a formal application following. There are several layers of scrutiny and assessment that will provide greater ability to:



- Identify projects that could be funded through other means;
- Identify opportunities where resources can be shared;
- Ensure there is a community approach; and
- Provide input from across the organisation so to consider a broader range of interests and potential opportunities.

### **Process**

The Guidelines have also been reviewed to include the proposed changes and include the proposed timelines for 2011/2012 (***refer attachment***).

The process used for the engagement of the urban and the rural communities respectively is proposed as follows:

Urban – Council’s Community Engagement Strategy will be used to work with community groups and organisations in identifying projects for consideration.

Rural – The Community Planning program already established will continue to engage with the current 21 communities. The rural communities will be encouraged to interact and share ideas and experiences.

The timelines provided in the attachment does not reflect the timelines to be used for future years as the process for 2011/2012 will need to be expedited given the timing of this report.

The preliminary assessment for each of the categories is proposed to be undertaken internally before referral to Council. If Council determine there is a need to receive further community input advice may be sought from an Advisory Committee of Council however these Committees will not be expected to be part of the assessment of the applications.

### **Implications**

#### **Council Plan Outcomes**

Consider Community Planning outcomes when delivering the Community Grants Program.

#### **Sustainability**

By implementing the proposed approach for Council’s Community Grants this will provide a means of support and assistance to the communities to achieve the projects they have deemed to be important. This will have a positive health and economical outcome.

#### **Community Engagement**

The redevelopment of the Community Grants program has considered the feedback received through the Evaluation of the Community Planning program which engaged the community and Council officers.

Anecdotal feedback from the community through the Community Planning program identifies some frustration from those communities who have identified

the need for projects that are important to that community but find there are no funding opportunities for the project to progress.

### **Conclusion**

The proposed Community Grants process provides an opportunity for Council to support the community's aspirations in a far more proactive and obvious way. This will strengthen the communities and will encourage greater resilience.

The support of this process by Council will underpin the direction and commitment of Council officers and an improved response to community needs.

### **Recommendation:**

- 1. that Council adopt the revised process and guidelines for the Community Grants Program for implementation in 2011/2012; and***
- 2. that Council undertake a review of the Community Grants Program in 12 months to ensure the process and intention of the program is being achieved.***

### **Communication**

A media release, articles in community newsletters and a mail out to community groups listed in the Community Directory will be undertaken to promote the Community Grants Program.

#### **11.2.3.3 PROPOSED INDIGENOUS INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE**

Ovens River Faithfull Street Precinct (Northbank) Development (Precinct)

25.010.010

### **Introduction**

It is proposed that Council pursue funding to establish interpretive signage along the proposed riverside shared path from the Ovens Riverside Precinct to the H.P Barr Reserve.

### **Background**

The local indigenous people of the Pangerang tribe once lived along the banks and surrounds of the Ovens and King Rivers.

An opportunity has been identified to incorporate recognition of the indigenous community's heritage and legacy as part of the Riverside Project. It is proposed that interpretive boards be developed to depict the life and beliefs of the Pangerang people as a feature along the riverside to H.P Barr Reserve shared path.

Recent discussion with Mr Freddie Dowling, Pangerang Elder, has highlighted traditional stories which would provide an interesting depiction and representation of Australia's indigenous people in Wangaratta.

## **Issues**

The Department of Planning & Community Development's Regional Indigenous Advisor has identified that there are funding programs available for Council to access to support the development of indigenous heritage recognition and representation.

## **Implications**

### **Council Plan Outcomes**

Plan for the inclusion of public art, design and cultural features throughout the Rural City of Wangaratta.

### **Sustainability**

This proposed project to establish interpretive signage of indigenous heritage will acknowledge the belonging and significance of indigenous people of this area and region.

At this stage it is unknown whether a contribution from Council will be required.

### **Community Engagement**

Initial discussion has been undertaken with Mr Dowling who has provided agreement to this proposal on behalf of the Pangerang people. Mr Dowling has also expressed a willingness to provide the stories to include on the interpretive boards. Mr Dowling has also proposed a name for the shared pathway being Pangerang Way (to be confirmed).

Contact has also been made with the Dirrawarra Indigenous Network and a representative of the Yorta Yorta further discussion will occur with both parties as the project progresses.

## **Conclusion**

According to Mr Dowling, the Ovens Riverside area is steeped in indigenous cultural history. This proposal is a great opportunity to recognise our past and present indigenous community and provide education on our regions heritage for locals and visitors alike.

## **Recommendation:**

- 1. that Council support further work being undertaken to pursue funding to develop the interpretive signage and pathway in recognition of the Pangerang people; and***
- 2. that Council consider the implementation of the proposed project once further information is made available.***

## **Communication**

The Local Indigenous Network and Mr Freddie Dowling will be advised of Council's decision.

#### 11.2.3.4 APPOINTMENT OF YOUTH COUNCIL 2011/12

Youth Council

10.020.010

##### **Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval for the appointment of the 2011/12 Youth Council members.

##### **Background**

Through the Youth Council program, young people are given opportunities to represent their peers, to become involved in community activities, to gain a wider understanding of community issues and to enhance their leadership skills.

The program is strongly supported by the local secondary schools, youth agencies and the wider community.

Nominations were recently invited for membership on the Rural City of Wangaratta Youth Advisory Committee (Youth Council) for the 2011/12 term. Seventeen candidates applied, fifteen have been interviewed and twelve have been invited to participate in the Youth Council program.

The process used to establish the final participants involved the submission of a nomination for the candidate, consideration of the nominations and then a panel who interviewed each of the candidates. Each interviewee was scored against a set criterion and consideration was given to the interviewee's suitability, availability and the potential attributes that they could bring to Youth Council.

The panel established to consider these nominations included:

- Councillor McCully, portfolio holder for Community Wellbeing;
- Councillor Webb
- Youth Mayor Amanda Roberts, and
- Katy Hawkins, Community / Youth Development Officer

##### **Issues**

The following young people have been invited to represent their peers in the Youth Council 2011/12 program:

Aidan Dean	Cathedral College
Bec Barnewall	Wangaratta HS
Bekk Hoppach	Galen College
Elizabeth Hindle	Wangaratta HS
Erin Ritchie	Wangaratta HS
Hazel Vaughan	Galen College
Jack Seymour	Wangaratta HS

James Hill	Borinya
Lachie Thomas	Wangaratta HS
Natasha Young	Wangaratta HS
Samuel Burbury	Wangaratta HS
Timothy Van der Leeuw	Galen College

Those nominees that were unsuccessful in being selected for the 2011/2012 Youth Council were advised of the very competitive process and are encouraged to renominate next year.

It should be noted that there are three current Youth Councillors being recommended for a further term: Bec Barnewell, Erin Ritchie and Jack Seymour.

### **Implications**

#### **Council Plan Outcomes**

The Youth Council program realises Council's objective to 'maintain and enhance links between Council, young people and local youth networks and to involve young people in the planning of their environment and activities within the community'.

#### **Community Engagement**

Nominations were sought from the four local secondary education institutions and other youth agencies within the Rural City of Wangaratta. A public advertisement was also distributed to newspapers, placed on Council's website and included on the Youth Council Facebook social media site.

### **Conclusion**

The process undertaken to select the 2011/12 Youth Council members has provided a very capable and enthusiastic group of young people to represent the youth sector for the Rural City of Wangaratta.

### **Recommendation:**

***That Council appoint the following young people as Youth Councillors to the Rural City of Wangaratta Youth Advisory Committee for the term commencing 1 July 2011 and concluding on 30 June 2012:***

<b><i>Aidan Dean</i></b>	<b><i>Cathedral College</i></b>
<b><i>Bec Barnewall</i></b>	<b><i>Wangaratta HS</i></b>
<b><i>Bekk Hoppach</i></b>	<b><i>Galen College</i></b>
<b><i>Elizabeth Hindle</i></b>	<b><i>Wangaratta HS</i></b>
<b><i>Erin Ritchie</i></b>	<b><i>Wangaratta HS</i></b>
<b><i>Hazel Vaughan</i></b>	<b><i>Galen College</i></b>

***Jack Seymour***

***Wangaratta HS***

***James Hill***

***Borinya***

***Lachie Thomas***

***Wangaratta HS***

***Natasha Young***

***Wangaratta HS***

***Samuel Burbury***

***Wangaratta HS***

***Timothy Van der Leeuw***

***Galen College***

**Communication**

The nominated Youth Councillors will be formally advised of Council's decision

## 11.2.4 INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

### 11.2.4.1 FLOOD RESTORATION PROGRAM STATUS

Wangaratta Major Flood 2010

82.110.017

#### Introduction

This report is to provide an update to Council on the progress of flood rehabilitation works caused by the major floods in September and December 2010.

#### Background

The flooding in September and December 2010 caused extensive damage to road and bridge infrastructure across the municipality. Immediate following the emergency response a process was undertaken to identify the extent and nature of the damage and to initiate repair work. The initial estimate for repair works was \$5.2M, but this is likely to now exceed \$6M.

Due to the requirements of the Australian Government's Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA), Council officers utilised consultants and contractors to undertake the project management, inspection and remediation works. This was done to maximise potential reimbursement under the NDRRA, as well as enabling Council's own resources the opportunity to complete the planned capital works and maintenance programs.

The various works to be undertaken have been arranged into the following categories:

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
Major structures	Bridge works, such as Gentle Annie Bridge, abutment stabilisation.
Sealed Roads	Shoulder reinstatement, pavement repairs, drains, minor culverts.
Priority Gravel Roads	Gravel resheeting, fix drains, clean out & repair minor culverts.
Major Culverts	Restoration of significant culverts.
Shared Paths	Bicycle and walking path repairs.
Bushland Reserves	Reinstate pathways, fences, clear fallen trees, reinstate banks.
Landslips	Reinstate landslips at Burrowes Road and Bella Vista Drive.
Minor Repairs	Various minor repairs – town street repairs, patching, safety fixes.

### Major Structures

Work on the Gentle Annie Bridge structure is essentially complete, with works on the banks and river continuing on behalf of NECMA. Attention can now be given to other structures including, although not limited to:

- Paradise Falls Road culvert (survey completed and preliminary design prepared);
- Evans Lane bridge (abutment repairs done, still to do beaching & upgrade railing);
- Pettifers Rd (Turnbulls Bridge) (abutment repairs to be finalised);
- Forges Lane (make abutment repairs permanent, further erosion protection required);
- Irelands Bridge, Mohyu (erosion protection needed);
- River Rd footbridge (commenced preliminary design for replacement bridge); and
- Christophers Rd culvert (concept to upgrade structure under development).

### Road Network – Sealed/Unsealed/Culverts

Council recently completed an extensive investigation of damage to the road network due to the 2010 flood events and has prepared programs to restore road and drainage infrastructure. Every rural road in the municipality was inspected, flood damage catalogued and appropriate restoration works determined. This painstaking task has enabled works packages to be tendered and restoration programs initiated. This process will also ensure that Council is substantially compensated under the Australian Government Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements.

The extent of the works required to repair the damage done to the road networks includes:

- 200km of gravel shoulder reinstatement along sealed roads;
- 3km of edge patching;
- 160km of gravel road resheeting;
- 90km of table drain cleaning;
- 225 culverts to be cleaned and/or repaired; and
- 100,000 tonnes of gravel for roadworks.

Contracts have been let, and commence from mid-May, for:

- Sealed Roads - road shoulders, drains and minor culverts;
- Priority Gravel Roads - resheeting, drains and minor culverts; and
- Major Culverts –clean/relay pipes, headwall/beaching works.

<b>SEALED ROADS</b>
Whitfield
Greta West
Everton & Whorouly
Eldorado & Boorhaman
Warby Ranges & Peechelba



<b>TOTAL \$1,839,068</b>
<b>PRIORITY GRAVEL ROADS</b>
Rocky Creek Rd, Byawatha Rd, Nankervis-Eldorado Rd
Sanderson Rd
Cemetery Lee Morrison Rd
Rose River Rd
Upper Rose River Rd
Pettifers, Black Range, Lake Buffalo, Whitfield Rd
Baileys Middle Creek Roads
Swinburnes Wattle Range Hardys Whittys Pieper Roads
<b>TOTAL \$311,827</b>
<b>MAJOR CULVERTS</b>
Phillips La @ Ch 370m from Snow Rd
Kilfeera Rd @ Ch 22.2km from Snow Rd
Upper King River Rd @ Ch 3.8km from King Valley Rd
Upper King River Rd @ Ch 5.6km from King Valley Rd
Markwood-Everton Rd @ Ch 2.8km from Snow Rd
Top Plain Rd @ Ch 4.3km from Boggy Ck Rd
<b>TOTAL \$ 250,639</b>

Gravel road

reinstatement works have been tendered and are currently being evaluated for the following areas:

- Edi, Cheshunt, Tolmie, Carboor;
- Everton, Eldorado, Murrungee, Oxley, Whorouly;
- Springhurst, Killawarra, Peechelba, Boorhaman; and
- Greta, Great West, Great South, Hansonville.

These works will likely not commence until spring, unless weather permits. The major determinant is whether damage would be caused to the gravel roads over which the construction trucks would travel.

#### Landslips

Landslips occurred at Bella Vista Road, Myrree and in two sections of Burrowes Road, Cheshunt. Emergency works were undertaken to make the roads passable and as safe as practicable. Boreholes and geotechnical investigations have since been completed and Council is waiting on the final report to provide information that will enable engineering designs for permanent restoration work to be prepared.

## Other Works

### **Shared Paths**

Significant damage was incurred along various sections of the shared path network, with much of the damage due to pavement being inundated over a period of time. Debris also blocked drains, exacerbating the problem. Over 400m of paths had to be reinstated with asphalt or concrete, with the Oxley-Milawa trail and the Frank Garth Reserve-Apex Park path particularly impacted. Restoration has been substantially completed, although a 180m section of gravel path is yet to be reinstated in the Evans St area.

### **Bushland Reserves**

Work has been completed at North Beaches (pathway repairs), Old School Block (fencing repairs, debris removal) and Walnut Grove (fencing repairs, debris removal). Consultation with the Kaluna Park conservation stakeholders determined the best treatment solution for fallen tree removal and path repairs; the main concern was introducing weeds into the area. Path repairs have been deferred due to the site being too wet.

Repairs at Sydney Beaches and eastwards along the Ovens River bank include: reinstatement of a stormwater pipe headwall, beaching around another pipe outfall, path repairs and making safe an area adjacent to a shared path where the root bowl of a fallen tree left depressions. Council's application to NECMA for a Works on Waterways Permit to undertake repairs in this location has been approved and a contractor has been engaged. Works will be programmed around other urgent Council works being undertaken by the contractor.

### **Minor Works**

Council staff and contractors have undertaken various repair works around the municipality to make safe or reinstate works not included in the more significant works being put out to contract. These minor works include repairs to Pinkerton Crescent, Hoban Street and Dale Street, and making safe Kilfeera Road shoulders prior to Easter.

### **Recommendation:**

***That the report be noted.***

#### 11.2.4.2 CONTRACT NO C1011/044 - C1011/047 – UNSEALED ROAD RESHEET TENDERS

Gravel Resheeting of flood damaged roads

30.072.044-047

### **Introduction**

This report outlines the tender process undertaken for contracts C1011/044 – C1011/047 for gravel resheeting of flood affected roads.

### **Contract Details**

Tenders for the gravel resheeting of various flood damaged roads were packaged in 4 separate tenders as detailed below:

C1011/044 – Edi, Cheshunt, Tolmie & Carboor  
 C1011/045 – Everton, Eldorado, Murrumgee, Oxley & Whorouly  
 C1011/046 – Springhurst, Killawarra, Peechelba, Bundalong & Boorhaman  
 C1011/047 – Greta, Greta West, Greta South, Hansonville

Tenders were invited through advertisements as follows:

<u>Newspaper</u>	<u>Date</u>
Chronicle	6 May 2011
The Border Mail	7 May 2011

Also electronically Tenderlink	6 May 2011
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Tenders closed at 2.00pm on Thursday 26 May 2011.

### **Tenders Received**

Nine companies submitted tenders for the four tender packages as follows:

<b>Tenderer</b>	<b>Tender package</b>
Extons Pty Ltd	C1011/044 & 047
Cooks Earthmoving Laser Landforming Pty Ltd	C1011/044
Citywide Service Solutions Pty Ltd	C1011/044, 045, 046 & 047
T.A. Lindsay Pty Ltd	C1011/044, 045, 046 & 047
Global Contracting Pty Ltd	C1011/044, 045, 046 & 047
Services South East Pty Ltd	C1011/044, 045, 046 & 047
Recivil Pty Ltd	C1011/044, 045, 046
Devonten Pty Ltd (Cheshire)	C1011/045, 046
GW & BR Crameri Pty Ltd	C1011/047

All tenders were deemed by the evaluation panel to be conforming in accordance with the Conditions of Tendering.

### **Tender Evaluation**

The tenders were evaluated in accordance with evaluation criteria set out in the Conditions of Tendering. The evaluation criteria are based upon a Weighted Attribution Method as follows:

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
Tender Price	Total price of the work	50%

Criteria	Description	Weighting
Capacity to carry out contract works	Contractors capacity to perform contract works, experience and past performance in previous similar works	15%
Timeliness	Ability to mobilise onto the job and complete works within the nominated project time lines	10%
Materials	Quality of materials proposed	15%
OHS Systems	Contractor's commitment to OHS	10%
	Total	100%

Panel members assigned a score (maximum 100) to each criteria (as shown below) and then weighted the average score to produce a final Weighted Attribution Method Score.

P	Evaluation Result	Criteria
100	Exceptional	Demonstrated capacity exceeds all required standards and innovations proposed.
90	Excellent	Demonstrated capacity exceeds all required standards.
70	Good	Complies with all required standards and capacity demonstrated.
50	Satisfactory	Complies with relevant standards without qualifications.
30	Marginal	Complies with relevant standards with qualifications.
0	Unsatisfactory	Fails to satisfy required standards.

The summary of the scores obtained by this method for each tender are as follows:

Contract	Tenderer	Score	Preferred Tenderer
<u>C1011/044 – Edi, Cheshunt, Tolmie &amp; Carboor</u>	Extons Pty Ltd	75	Extons Pty Ltd
	Cook's Earthmoving Laser Landforming Pty Ltd	63	
	Citywide Service Solutions Pty Ltd	60	
	T.A. Lindsay Pty Ltd	52	
	Global Contracting Pty Ltd	41	
	Services South East Pty Ltd	37	
	Recivil Pty Ltd	45	
<u>C1011/045 – Everton, Eldorado, Murmungee, Oxley &amp; Whorouly</u>	Citywide Service Solutions Pty Ltd	68	Citywide Service Solutions Pty Ltd
	Recivil Pty Ltd	54	
	Devonten Pty Ltd (Cheshire)	51	
	T.A. Lindsay Pty Ltd	50	
	Global Contracting Pty Ltd	47	
	Services South East Pty Ltd	44	
<u>C1011/046 – Springhurst, Killawarra, Peechelba, Bundalong &amp; Boorhaman</u>	Citywide Service Solutions Pty Ltd	71	Citywide Service Solutions Pty Ltd
	Recivil Pty Ltd	66	
	Services South East Pty Ltd	58	

Contract	Tenderer	Score	Preferred Tenderer
	Global Contracting Pty Ltd	57	
	Devonten Pty Ltd (Cheshire)	26	
	T.A. Lindsay Pty Ltd	22	
<u>C1011/047 – Greta, Greta West, Greta South, Hansonville</u>	Extons Pty Ltd	91	Extons Pty Ltd
	Citywide Service Solutions Pty Ltd	68	
	Global Contracting Pty Ltd	45	
	GW & BR Crameri	42	
	T.A. Lindsay Pty Ltd	40	
	Services South East Pty Ltd	15	

The higher value reflects the more favourable assessment.

### **Budget Considerations**

These tenders fall under the flood restoration projects for Council. VicRoads have been notified about the tenders so as to access reimbursement through the Natural Disaster Relief funding.

The costs will be paid by Council and then fully reimbursed by the State Government.

### **Recommendation:**

*That Council adopt the following recommendations:*

1. *that Contract C1011/044 for gravel road resheeting at Edi, Cheshunt, Tolmie and Carboor be awarded to Extons Pty Ltd for the amount of \$256,078 (incl GST);*
2. *that Contract C1011/045 for gravel road resheeting at Everton, Eldorado, Oxley and Whorouly be awarded to Citywide Service Solutions Pty Ltd for the amount of \$1,237,077 (incl GST);*
3. *that Contract C1011/046 for gravel road resheeting at Springhurst, Killawarra, Peechelba, Bundalong and Boorhaman be awarded to Citywide Service Solutions Pty Ltd for the amount of \$1,474,283 (incl GST);*
4. *that Contract C1011/047 for gravel road resheeting at Greta, Greta West, Greta South and Hansonville be awarded to Extons Pty Ltd for the amount of \$493,198 (incl GST); and*
5. *that these Contracts (C1011/044, C1011/045, C1011/046 & C1011/047) for resheeting of gravel roads be signed and sealed when available.*

11.2.4.3 C1011-060 ELECTRICITY CONTRACT – PUBLIC LIGHTING  
C1011-061 ELECTRICITY CONTRACT – SMALL SITES  
C1011-062 ELECTRICITY CONTRACT – LARGE SITES

Projects & Contracts

84.040.001

### **Introduction**

Procurement Australia's last contract with AGL for the electricity supply to small sites and large sites (for example, Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre, Wangaratta Government Centre and Wangaratta Indoor Sports & Aquatic Centre), and public lighting (3 separate contracts) had been negotiated with a 3 year term plus 2 x 1 year extension options. The contract gave the ability to extend on new prices for the old negotiated terms.

It should be noted that these contracts are for the 'Retailing' component of the electricity supply. The network charges which are paid to SP Ausnet are not contestable and are not included in these contracts.

### **Current Contract review**

In late 2010, the electricity market presented an opportunity where prices were at the lowest point in more than 5 years. Consequently, Procurement Australia sought revised pricing from AGL for small and large metered sites as well as Public lighting (PL).

Procurement Australia also sought competitive prices for the purpose of benchmarking of the AGL prices from TRU Energy, Origin, Momentum Energy and Simply Energy before determining whether to recommend resigning with AGL.

Procurement Australia also looked at comparable contracts in the market at the time there had been a large multisite contract that we could compare to. The Procurement Australia's prices were better than the compared contracts.

TRU Energy submitted for public lighting and large sites and Origin submitted for small sites, large sites and public lighting.

AGL had best pricing for small sites by 6% over Origin.

AGL had the best pricing for large sites by 1% over TRU Energy.

In this benchmarking exercise, AGL did not demonstrate best value for Public Lighting and the offers from other suppliers were very competitive.

On this basis, Procurement Australia recommended the extension of the small and large sites for both contract extension options. However, they deemed that the market test for public lighting had failed (any price that was better would have meant an instant failure) and that as a consequence it needed to go out to tender.

### **Request for tenders for Electricity Contract for Public Lighting**

The request for tenders was advertised in The Herald Sun newspaper on 13 April 2011 and scheduled to close on 4 March 2011. An amendment to the Closing Date was issued to all registered parties on 29 April 2011 extending the closing date until Monday 9 May 2011.

#### **Tenders received**

The following **5 (five)** tenders were received to provide services to the nominated state of Victoria:

<b>Tenderer</b>		<b>VIC</b>
1	<b>AGL</b>	Retail Electricity and GreenPower
2	<b>Origin Energy</b>	Retail Electricity, GreenPower "TBA"
3	<b>Simply Energy</b>	Retail Electricity and GreenPower
4	<b>TRUenergy</b>	Retail Electricity and GreenPower
5	<b>Pacific Hydro</b>	GreenPower Only

All tender submissions were considered conforming tenders.

#### **Evaluation of tenders**

The following evaluation criteria and their associated weightings were applied.

<b>Evaluation Criteria</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
Price	<b>60%</b>
Contractors Performance	<b>18%</b>
Customer Focus	<b>12%</b>
Compliance	<b>8%</b>
Corporate Responsibility	<b>2%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

Tenders for Electricity Supply to Public Lighting were evaluated by Blair Coull, Category Manager - Energy. All tenders received were assessed for compliance against the requirements of the tender documents.

The following weighted aggregate scores were determined for the organisations short-listed.

<b>Tenderer</b>		<b>W.A.S</b>
1	<b>AGL</b>	<b>256</b>
2	<b>Simply Energy</b>	<b>253</b>
3	<b>TRUenergy</b>	<b>245</b>
4	<b>Origin Energy</b>	<b>237</b>
5	<b>Pacific Hydro</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>

## **Conclusion**

For the contracts to supply electricity to small and large sites AGL still offers the best value for money and the option to extend the current contracts is recommended to be taken up.

The tender from AGL is recommended as the preferred tenderer for the Electricity Supply to Public Lighting as per the evaluation by Procurement Australia. A summary of the charges from AGL is provided below:

Old AGL Contract price	3.805 c/kWh
AGL contract extension offer	3.1999 c/kWh
New AGL contract price	2.730 c/kWh

(As previously stated, readers should be aware that these contracts are for the 'Retailing' component of the electricity supply. The network charges which are paid to SP Ausnet are not contestable and are not included in these contracts).

These prices for the retailing component of the electricity supply, is within Council's budgetary limits.

## **Recommendation:**

- 1. that Council take up the option to extend the current contracts with AGL for small and large sites; and***
- 2. that AGL be awarded the Contract No 1407/0614 for the Electricity Supply to Public Lighting for a period commencing 1 August 2011 and ending 31 July 2014.***



## 11.3 SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

### 11.3.1.1 FRIENDS OF LACLUTA SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Lacluta East Timor Friendship

42.070.020

#### Introduction

The Friends of Lacluta Special Committee's aim is to develop opportunities to support the community of Lacluta, East Timor. The Friends of Lacluta Special Committee provides this report from the meeting held on 5 May 2011. A copy of the minutes is attached (*refer attachment*).

#### Issues

The following items were discussed by the Committee:

- Awaiting written confirmation to authorise the reconstruction of a Lacluta community building by the District Director of Land and Property.
- Reaffirm a collaborative approach with Appin Park Rotary Club's proposed assistance with the community building reconstruction
- Communication issues with contacts in Lacluta have improved slightly.
- Regional network of Friends of East Timor is proposed to meet in September 2011 in Wangaratta.
- Investigation of value in becoming a member of the VLGA for network purposes.
- Change of date of the scheduled AGM from 18 August 2011 to 5 September 2011.
- Consideration of expressing interest in providing volunteer observers for the 2012 Timor-Leste Presidential and Parliamentary elections.

#### Recommendation:

*That this report be noted.*

## 11.4 ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

### 11.4.1.1 COMMUNITY PRIDE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Community Pride Advisory Committee

71.020.005

#### Introduction

The Community Pride Advisory Committee provides this report from the meeting held on 18 April 2011. A copy of the minutes is attached (*refer attachment*).

#### Issues

The following agenda items were discussed at the Community Pride Advisory Committee Meeting held on 18 April 2011:

- The organising of the Volunteers Expo for 13 May 2011 is progressing well with guest speakers organised, hall and catering booked and promotion organised.
- Nominations for the 2011 Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria Tidy Town Awards are being received by the Community Pride Members with entries closing on Friday 3 June 2011.
- Members have been invited by the residents of Rangeview Avenue to be involved in the 'Wall Art' project.
- The Community Pride Committee is to have a display table at My Backyard Rules Sustainability Expo to be held in October 2011.

#### Recommendation:

*That the report be noted.*

### 11.4.1.2 YOUTH COUNCIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Youth Council

10.020.010

#### Introduction

The Youth Council Advisory Committee (Youth Council) conducts a formal meeting every month. The minutes of the 21 April 2011 and the 19 May 2011 meetings are attached to this report (*refer attachment*).

#### Issues

Issues discussed at the meeting held on 21 April 2011:

- Youth Council assisted with Wangaratta Cool Heads – young driver awareness event held on 18 April 2011.
- Proposed Knox City Youth Council visit on 12 & 13 May 2011 aimed at developing a friendship between the two Youth Councils.
- Volunteers Expo hosted by Community Pride Advisory Committee to be held on 13 May 2011.

- The Creative Youth Committee supported the 2011 National Youth Week “Own It” Festival event.
- Youth Council had representatives attend the Youth Providers Network meeting held on 7 April 2011.
- Community Pride Advisory Committee is promoting the Keep Australia Beautiful Awards which are open for nominations until 3 June 2011.

Issues discussed at the Meeting held on 19 May 2011:

- Planning for the 2010/11 Youth Council farewell is underway.
- The Creative Youth Committee is planning for Battle of the Bands to be held on 24 June 2011.
- The Volunteers Expo held by the Community Pride Advisory Committee was successful and may become an annual event. Youth Councillors assisted on the day with catering.
- Youth Mayor, Amanda Roberts and Deputy Youth Mayor, Amber Bock laid a wreath at the Memorial on ANZAC Day.
- Youth Council supported NESAY at the National Youth Homelessness Matters Day on 6 April 2011.
- Youth Council supported the Youth Prime Times school activities held during the April school holidays.
- Youth Councillors expressed their views on removing the opening prayer from their formal meetings.
- Youth Councillors continue to be actively involved in representing the issues and concerns affecting young people in the community. Information is gained through their daily contacts and networks.

**Recommendation:**

***That the report be noted.***

11.4.1.3 WANGARATTA UNLIMITED ADVISORY BOARD (COMMITTEE)  
MEETING REPORT

Wangaratta Unlimited Board

25.007.002

**Background**

The Wangaratta Unlimited Advisory Board (Committee) held their monthly meeting on Tuesday 7 June 2011 with the following members in attendance: Michael Carlile; John Brown; Stephen Oxley; Hayley Cail; Greg Larkins; Barry Sullivan; Grant Jones; Cr Anthony Griffiths; Cr Lisa McInerney; Graham Nickless; Charles Halter and Shivaun Brown.

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

The following items were discussed at the meeting:

- Sports Tourism
- International Economic Relationship Strategy
- Alpine Valleys Agrifood Project
- Rural City of Wangaratta’s Advisory Committees Review

Reports were received from the following committees or projects:

- Workforce sustainability
- Industry report
- Shopper survey results
- Regional Development Australia (RDA)

The following items from the meeting are reported to Council for information.

### **Alpine Valleys Agrifood Initiative**

The attendance at the Werribee Food Growers Expo was worthwhile with connections and introductions being established with some key vegetable producers within the region.

A review of the project will be undertaken with the key stakeholders and the consultants (McKinna's) on 17 June 2011. The review will be informed by more recent activities such as the expo and also the industry visit to Yarra Valley Fresh – a berry growers cooperative supply-chain model in the Yarra Valley area.

AlpValleys Agrifood have negotiated the opportunity to have a marketing presence at the VFF Annual Conference in Ballarat, to be held on the 22/23 June 2011.

A group of 6-7 growers will travel to Caboolture and Bundaberg in mid July to investigate covered production methods and new varietal trial being undertaken by Perfection Fresh Australia.

### **Workforce Sustainability**

The current Global Skills for Provincial Victoria Program is under review, and at this point in time is unclear how the program will continue to be administered. The four year program has been implemented through Local Government Officers who are contracted to work across a region (for example north east region includes Wangaratta, Benalla, Mansfield and Alpine). The program focuses on addressing skills shortages by assisting skilled migrants to be matched with appropriate employers.

The North East Victoria Workforce Industry Development Strategy has now been successfully implemented. This strategy has resulted in a series of workshops for the Aged Care Industry and the Manufacturing Industry.

### **Manufacturing – Issues and Opportunities**

In a national context the strong \$AU is inhibiting export growth and the trade deficit has widened due to a higher level of imports. National skills shortages include chefs, metal and automotive trades.

Within a localised context, regionally unemployment has increased by around 1.4% however, Wangaratta is down by 0.02%. The regional labour force has decreased by around 1.9% (Wangaratta on a par with 1.92%). The local skills shortages are showing in the engineer, hospitality and auto mechanical sectors through referrals to the Skilled Migration Program. There are fifteen potential placements being assisted currently within the north east region.

In comparison with high profile closures and rationalisation in other parts of the Hume Region, Wangaratta's manufacturing sector is relatively stable. However, across the board, companies are reporting increasing labour, raw material and utility costs.

Those businesses relying on an export market are being adversely affected by the strong \$AU, although some export markets continue to perform in an encouraging manner.

There is a general and slight downturn in local spend an example of which is the building and construction sector. There is concern that as work slows nationally, larger metro or international companies will encroach on the competitive tendering for local contracts. However, in the case of one company, where the business went to an overseas company, this decision was reversed due to the lack of ability to follow up with the same level of quality achieved within Australia.

### **Shopper Survey Results**

An initial interpretation of the results of the April Wangaratta Town Centre Survey (conducted with the assistance of GOTAFE Business Students) has delivered the following information:

- The majority of visitors to the Wangaratta Town Centre live within the Wangaratta Urban Area (68%), 81 % live within the municipality and 97% within the region (extending to Mt Beauty, Albury, Yarrawonga, Benalla, Mansfield and Yea);
- The majority of visitors were in the Wangaratta Town Centre for a half to one hour visit;
- 63% of visitors surveyed were female, 37% male;
- The largest single age sector visiting the Wangaratta Town Centre was over 65, however, when grouped <25 years of age 29%, 25 – 50 years of age 35% and over 50 years of age 34%.

Further analysis regarding the purpose of the visit and the positive and negative aspects of the Wangaratta Town Centre is to be undertaken.

### **Recommendation:**

***That the Report be noted.***

## 12. RECORDS OF ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCILLORS

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

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

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

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

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

- a) Reported at an ordinary meeting of the Council; and
- b) Incorporated in the Minutes of that Council meeting.

DATE	MEETING DETAILS	REFER
07/05/2011	Wangaratta Unlimited Advisory Board Committee	Refer item 11.4.1.4
10/05/2011	Draft Council Meeting Agenda and Deputations	Attachment
22/05/2011	Draft Rural Land Strategy	Attachment
24 /05/ 2011	Councillors Briefing Forum	Attachment
31/05/2011	Special Councillors Briefing Forum	Attachment
08/06/2011	Conciliation Meeting	Attachment
08/06/2011	Conciliation Meeting	Attachment

### **Recommendation:**

1. ***that Council receive the reports of Assemblies of Councillors, and***
2. ***that on the grounds they relate to one or more of the following matters:***
  - a) ***Industrial matters;***
  - b) ***Contractual matters;***
  - c) ***Proposed developments; and***
  - d) ***A matter that would prejudice the Council;***

***the following items remain confidential in accordance with S.77 of the Local Government Act :***

**(i) Councillor's Briefing Forum dated 24 May 2011:**

- 4.2.1.1 KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
- 4.2.1.2 WORKS AND ACTIVITIES PROGRESS
- 4.2.1.3 FINANCE REPORTS
- 4.2.1.4 PLANNING & SUBDIVISION REPORTS
- 4.2.1.5 IMPLEMENTATION OF COUNCIL DECISIONS
- 4.2.1.6 COUNCIL PLANNING CALENDAR 2011
- 4.2.4.1 WANGARATTA CONTEMPORARY TEXTILE AWARD 2011

**(ii) Special Councillor's Briefing Forum dated 31 May 2011:**

- 4.1.1.1 MUNICIPAL FIRE PREVENTION STRATEGY
- 4.1.1.2 MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN
- 4.1.1.3 WANGARATTA TRANSPORT STUDY – FREIGHT STRATEGY
- 4.1.1.5 WANGARATTA TRANSPORT STUDY – EVALUATION OF PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS IN WANGARATTA CBD

**13. NOTICE OF MOTION**

**14. URGENT BUSINESS**

**15. AUTHORISATION OF SIGNING AND SEALING OF DOCUMENTS**

Authorisation of Signing & Sealing of Documents

50.010.004

**Recommendation:**

***That Council sign and seal the following documents:***

- ***C1011/044 – 047 Unsealed Road resheet tenders***
- ***C1011-060 Electricity Contract – Public Lighting C1011-061 Electricity Contract – Small Sites C1011-062 Electricity Contract – Large Sites***

**16. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

**17. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**

**18. CLOSURE OF MEETING**