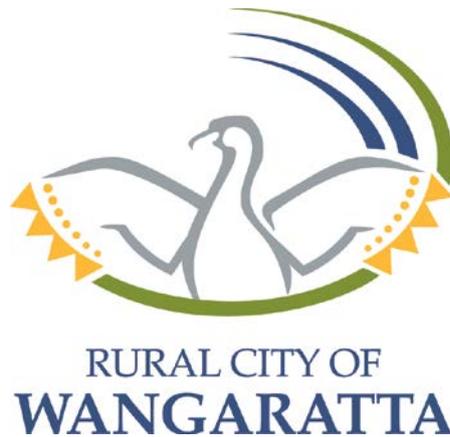


WANGARATTA RURAL CITY COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE WANGARATTA RURAL CITY COUNCIL, HELD
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
62-68 OVENS STREET, WANGARATTA
ON **TUESDAY, 6 MAY 2014** AT 5.00PM

Brendan McGrath
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page No.
1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS.....	4
2. OPENING PRAYER	4
3. PRESENT	4
4. ABSENT	4
5. ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES & GRANTING OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE.....	4
6. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE	4
7. BUSINESS.....	5
7.1 NATIONAL TIDY TOWNS AWARDS 2014.....	5
7.2 DRAFT 2013-2017 COUNCIL PLAN - 2014 REVISION.....	7
7.3 PROPOSED 2014 – 2015 DRAFT BUDGET.....	10
8. CLOSURE OF MEETING.....	17

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we are meeting. We pay our respects to their Elders and to Elders from other communities who may be here today.

2. OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, we humbly ask thee to bless and guide this council in its deliberations so that we may truly preserve the welfare of the people whom we serve. Amen

3. PRESENT

Administrators:

Mrs Ailsa Fox, Chair; Ms Irene Grant; Mr Rod Roscholler.

Officers Present:

Mr Brendan McGrath, Chief Executive Officer; Mrs Ruth Kneebone, Director Corporate Services; Mr Alan Clark, Director Infrastructure Services; Mr Barry Green, Director Development Services; Ms Jaime Carroll, Director Community Wellbeing.

4. ABSENT

Nil.

5. ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES & GRANTING OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

6. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

In accordance with sections 77A, 77B, 78 and 79 of the *Local Government Act 1989* Councillors are required to disclose a 'conflict of interest' in a decision if they would receive, or could reasonably be perceived as receiving, a direct or indirect financial or non-financial benefit or detriment (other than as a voter, resident or ratepayer) from the decision.

Disclosure must occur immediately before the matter is considered or discussed.

7. BUSINESS

7.1 NATIONAL TIDY TOWNS AWARDS 2014

Meeting Type:	Special Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	6 May 2014
Author (name and title):	Leonie Painter, Manager Community & Recreation
File Name:	Wangaratta Community Pride Committee
File No.:	68.020.007

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

Executive Summary

This report is presented to Council to inform of the Rural City of Wangaratta's success at the National Tidy Towns Awards held at Victor Harbor, South Australia on 3 and 4 April 2014.

RECOMMENDATION:

(Moved: Administrator A Fox / Administrator I Grant)

That Council resolves to:

- 1. note this report;*
- 2. provide a letter of congratulations to the Wangaratta Community Pride Committee; and*
- 3. congratulate Council residents and officers that were involved in the submission and judging process.*

Carried.

Background

The Keep Australia Beautiful awards (KABV) celebrate, and encourage the sustainable actions undertaken by communities every day.

Through the KABV Awards and volunteer programs, Councils, community groups, schools and individuals are recognised and rewarded as they make their communities more cohesive, liveable and resilient.

Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria named Wangaratta the 2013 Tidy Town of the Year recipient at the Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria (KABV) Tidy Towns – Sustainable Communities Awards ceremony held on Saturday 12 October 2013 in Whycheproof. Nine of Wangaratta's entries submitted to the Sustainable Communities Awards were finalists in their respective categories.

The national awards application was submitted by the Wangaratta Community Pride Committee, assisted by the Rural City of Wangaratta (**refer attachment**). The award recognises the involvement of the community in projects across eight categories. Eleven community groups were part of the national application.

The National Tidy Towns judge, Richard Olesinski and Glenda James from KABV visited the Municipality of Wangaratta on 26 and 27 November 2013. The purpose of this visit was to give Wangaratta an opportunity to demonstrate the community as a Tidy Town, in particular the projects, organisations and approaches relating to the national awards categories. From this visit, a judges report was compiled (**refer attachment**) based on the benefits these projects have had for the Wangaratta community.

Implications

Given the award was submitted by a community organisation and the extent of community involvement in the award categories, it was recommended that a contingent of six community and Council representatives be supported by Council to be present at the National Awards. The following persons were in attendance:

- Ailsa Fox - Chair of the Panel of Administrators of Wangaratta City Council;
- Zoe Stinson - Wangaratta Youth Council Mayor;
- Bronwyn Chapman - Council's Manager Environment;
- Marg Pullen – Chairperson of Wangaratta Community Pride Committee;
- Ron Webb – Community Pride Committee; and
- Doug Brockfield – Oxley/Milawa community representative.

Milawa Action Group representative, John Brown was also in attendance at the Awards.

Wangaratta was very successful in being named the overall winner in the category of:

- Energy Innovation;

And was also highly commended in the categories of:

- Water Conversation and;
- Resource Recovery and Waste Management.

Representatives of the Wangaratta Community Pride Committee are present at this Council meeting to present the National Tidy Towns Awards certificates to Council.

Attachments

1. Tidy Towns Submission
2. Wangaratta VIC Judges Report

7.2 [DRAFT 2013-2017 COUNCIL PLAN - 2014 REVISION](#)

Meeting Type: Special Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 6 May 2014
Author: Andrew Chuck, Manager – Communications and Marketing
File Name: Draft 2013-2017 Council Plan – 2014 Revision
File No.: 20.030.009

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

Executive Summary

Sections 125 and 126 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act) require that Council must annually review its Council Plan and Strategic Resource Plan and submit them for approval to the Minister for Local Government by 30 June.

Council must provide the opportunity for the community to make submissions on any adjusted Plan.

RECOMMENDATION:

(Moved: Administrator R Roscholler / Administrator I Grant)

That Council resolve to:

- 1. prepare the Draft reviewed 2013–2017 Council Plan attached for the purposes of Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1989.*
- 2. authorise the Chief Executive Officer to:*
 - a) give public notice of the preparation of the Draft reviewed 2013-2017 Council Plan;*
 - b) invite submissions in respect of this matter in accordance with Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989;*
 - c) make available for public inspection the Draft reviewed 2013-2017 Council Plan; and*
 - d) receive submissions until 5pm Friday 6 June 2014.*
- 3. form a committee comprising the Council Administrators and to hold a meeting at the Wangaratta Government Centre, corner of Ford and Ovens Streets, Wangaratta on Tuesday 10 June 2014 to consider submissions on any proposal or proposals contained in the Draft reviewed 2013-2017 Council Plan; and*

4. consider the adoption of the Draft reviewed 2013-2017 Council Plan at an Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on Tuesday, 17 June 2014 at 6.00 pm at the Wangaratta Government Centre, corner of Ford and Ovens Streets, Wangaratta.

Carried.

Background

A review of the 2013-2017 Council Plan (Council Plan) has been prepared (*refer attachment*).

The focus of the review was to make minor adjustments to key actions and timeframes in accordance with the latest status assessments and to enable Council to meet new opportunities and challenges which have arisen since this Council Plan was originally adopted. The draft Council Plan has also been restructured to reflect changes to the organisational structure.

Implications

Policy Considerations

Various Council policies may be impacted by the outcomes of this Council Plan review.

Financial Implications

Budgets through to 2016-17 will all be aligned with the key elements of the Council Plan through the Strategic Resource Plan, which forms part of the attached draft Council Plan.

Legal/Statutory

The review of the Council Plan is consistent with sections 125 and 126 of the Act.

Social

The objectives and actions contained in the draft Council Plan are designed to provide positive social outcomes.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

The objectives and actions contained in the draft Council Plan are designed to enhance sustainability and provide positive environmental outcomes.

Economic Impacts

The objectives and actions contained in the draft Council Plan are designed to provide positive economic outcomes.

Strategic Links

a) Rural City of Wangaratta 2030 Community Vision

The objectives and actions contained in the draft Council Plan are guided by the objectives identified in the Rural City of Wangaratta 2030 Community Vision.

Consultation/Communication

Public notification, inviting the community to make submissions on the reviewed draft Council Plan, will be given in the local media in accordance with Section 223 of the Act.

In addition, five Community Information Sessions are proposed to be held:

Dates 2014	Time	Location	Venue
26 May	6.00pm	Glenrowan	Glenrowan Recreation Reserve
27 May	6.00pm	Tarrawingee	Tarrawingee Hall
28 May	6.00pm	Springhurst	Springhurst Hall
7 May	6.00pm	Wangaratta	Council Chambers – Business Wangaratta
19 May	6.00pm	Wangaratta	Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre
20 May	7.00pm	Moyhu	Following Ordinary Meeting of Council Moyhu Soldiers Memorial Hall

A static display will also be installed in the Wangaratta Government Centre for the duration of the submission period.

Conclusion

The 2013-2017 Council Plan was developed with vital input from our community. It is revised each year after discussion with senior staff and Councillors/Administrators, and with further feedback from the community. This allows the document to continue to reflect community aspirations and act as a measure of our progress against the agreed priorities in the plan.

Attachments

9.2 Draft 2013-2017 Council Plan

7.3 PROPOSED 2014 – 2015 DRAFT BUDGET

Meeting Type: Special Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 6 May 2014
Author: Ruth Kneebone – Director Corporate Services
File Name: Council Budget 2014/15
File No.: 51.060.022

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

Executive Summary

The Draft 2014/15 Budget for the Rural City of Wangaratta has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act) and relates to the financial year commencing on 1 July 2014 and concluding on 30 June 2015.

The Draft 2014/15 Budget includes spending on services and works of \$68 million financed by grants of \$19 million, rates and charges of \$26 million, other income of \$19 million and borrowings of \$4 million. \$1.7 million of proposed borrowings is carried forward from the 2013/14 financial year.

An increase of 6% is proposed for rates and charges for the 2014/15 financial year. This is 1% greater than Council's previous Long Term Financial Plan had predicted. This additional 1% rate rise is proposed to remain in place for three years in order to recover additional governance costs incurred during the 2012/13 and 2013/14 financial years.

During the preparation of the Draft 2014/15 Budget, a Rating Strategy Reference Group was formed to advise Council on rating principles and sharing of the rating obligation between categories of ratepayers. This Reference Group concluded its recommendations on 31 March 2014.

The Draft 2014/15 Budget is now prepared for Council endorsement and for a public exhibition period concluding on 6 June 2014.

RECOMMENDATION:

(Moved: Administrator I Grant / Administrator R Roscholler)

That Council resolves to:

- 1. endorse the Draft 2014/15 Budget as presented;***
- 2. authorise the Chief Executive Officer to:***
 - a) give public notice of the preparation of the Draft 2014/15 Budget in accordance with section 129(1) of the Local Government Act 1989; and***

- b) invite submissions in accordance with section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989;***
- 3. form a committee of the whole of Council to hold a meeting at 5.30pm on Tuesday 10 June 2014 at the Government Centre, Ovens Street to hear any person wishing to be heard in support of their submission on any proposal contained in the Draft 2014/15 Budget in accordance with section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989;***
 - 4. consider all written submissions on any proposal contained within the Draft 2014/15 Budget;***
 - 5. consider a recommendation to adopt the 2014/15 Budget with or without amendment at the Ordinary Council Meeting to be held at 6.00pm on Tuesday 17 June 2014; and***
 - 6. formally acknowledge the input and advice provided by the Rating Strategy Reference Group.***

Carried.

Background

Council has prepared its Draft Budget for the 2014/15 financial year. This process commenced in January 2014 and involved the preparation of operational and capital budgets by Council officers.

This budget has been framed in the context of significant unbudgeted governance expenditure incurred during the 2012/13 and 2013/14 financial years.

As a consequence of this, operational cost increases have been contained at well below the Consumer Price Index and prospective revenue opportunities have been maximised. Requests for new or discretionary expenditure to be included in the Draft 2014/15 Budget have also been minimised.

Implications

Policy Considerations

The Draft 2014/15 Budget has been prepared on the following bases:

- Ensuring that key strategies, such as footpath, transport, waste management and recreation, etc., are responded to.
- Maintaining waste management, the Wangaratta Public Cemetery, the Wangaratta Children's Services Centre, the Wangaratta Livestock Selling Complex, the Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre, Wangaratta aquatic facilities, the Visitor Information Centre, Community Support North East and plant & fleet services as business operations with any general subsidy clearly identified.

- Providing for property and plant purchases on a self-funding basis through asset sales and use of reserves.

Financial Implications

The Draft 2014/15 Budget contains the following financial implications:

- Operating expenditure decreased by 1.02% whilst accommodating increased service levels in some areas.
- Rate rise of 6% to accommodate additional governance expenditure incurred during 2012/13 and 2013/14 financial years;
- Net borrowings increased by \$2.5 million;
- Asset renewal commitment being maintained. Increased renewal expenditure of \$641,000 has been provided to maintain this commitment which has been directed to roads, bridges, drainage, kerbs, footpaths, buildings and signage;
- Capital expenditure commitment of \$21 million, including infrastructure renewal of \$9.1 million. Major capital expenditure items include:
 - Roads, bridges, kerbs and pavements capital spending of \$6 million;
 - Buildings capital expenditure of \$6.7 million, including the roofing of the Wangaratta Livestock Selling Complex totalling \$3.4 million; the City Oval Tennis Precinct – Stage One - \$752,000; completion of the Wangaratta Indoor Sports and Aquatic Centre cogeneration project - \$388,000; Whorouly Football/Netball Club change rooms - \$365,000 and the Everton Hall precinct redevelopment – \$330,000; and
 - Plant and equipment of \$3.3 million including signage on roads, the introduction of 360 litre recycling bins and scheduled replacement of Council's fleet.
- Road maintenance of \$3.16 million;

Disclosures

The following aspects of the Budget are required to be disclosed:

- the estimated total amount to be raised by general rates is \$21,909,202;
- the estimated total amount to be raised by a municipal charge is Nil;
- the estimated total amount to be raised by garbage collection charges is \$3,052,675;
- the estimated total amount to be raised by recycling charges is \$1,103,552;

- that an amount of \$4,160,000 be borrowed to support the livestock selling complex roofing project (\$3.6 million), purchase of former Ovens College site (\$500,000) and Whorouly Football/Netball Club change rooms (\$260,000);
- of the \$4.2 million proposed to be borrowed in the 2014/15 year, \$1.7 million relates to borrowings for the livestock selling complex roofing project not taken up during the 2013/14 year;
- the cost of servicing the borrowings during the financial year will be \$514,319;
- the total amount of loans proposed to be redeemed during the financial year will be \$1,670,950;
- the total amount of borrowings at 30 June 2015 will be \$10,958,810; and
- the proposed 2014/15 Fees and Charges are listed in Appendix E to the Budget Report.

Detailed information on all aspects of the Draft 2014/15 Budget are contained in the Draft 2014/15 Budget Report annexed to this report (***refer attachment***).

Legal/Statutory

In accordance with s. 127 of the *Local Government Act 1989* Council must prepare a budget for each financial year.

Additionally, this is the first-time application of the new *Local Government (Finance and Reporting) Regulations 2014*. The Draft 2014/15 Budget has been prepared in accordance with the Act and Regulations.

The budget includes financial statements which are prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards. The budget also includes information about the rates and charges to be levied, the capital works program to be undertaken, the human resources required, and other financial information Council requires in order to make an informed decision about the adoption of the budget.

Social

The Draft 2014/15 Budget contains a number of programs and on-going services that enhance and support the social fabric of Council's community. Such initiatives include Council support of the Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre, the Wangaratta Gallery, the High Country Library Corporation, HACC and Packaged Care programs, community facility maintenance and children's services.

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

The Draft 2014/15 Budget contains a number of programs and initiatives that support and protect the environment. These include the roadside weed management program, the Waterway Action Plan implementation, the Energy Efficient Street Light Changeover project and the WISAC Cogeneration project.

Economic Impacts

The Draft 2014/15 Budget contains support for Council's Economic Development and Tourism operations and also for Planning and Building functions. The budget includes the final instalment for the settlement of the Ovens College site purchase and the roofing project for the Wangaratta Livestock Selling Complex.

Council Plan-Key Strategic Activity/Action

The Draft 2013 - 2017 Council Plan contains an Objective '*To ensure that Council's plans and budgets are responsible and sustainable*' and a Key Strategic Activity to '*Provide responsible financial practices ensuring Council's annual financial viability.*'

The following principles included in the Draft 2013 – 2017 Council Plan have generally been applied:

- Incorporating all key actions of the Council Plan applicable to the 2014/15 financial year; and
- Maintain a Long Term Financial Plan predicated on the following:
 - maintaining service delivery at agreed standards;
 - rate income at rate property value growth plus MAV cost index factor;
 - Efficient and effective resource management (assets, human resources); and
 - debt at an acceptable level.

Strategic Links

Rural City of Wangaratta 2030 Community Vision

The Draft 2014/15 Budget supports the aspiration that the Wangaratta municipality exists in a 'Liveable Region'.

'We are immensely proud and privileged to live in the Rural City of Wangaratta – a place of great liveability. The health services, learning options, environmental circumstances, sporting facilities, social engagement, public safety, personal safety, entertainment, the arts, festivals, transport options and standards and other factors make our community what it is today.'

Risk Management

Risks	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Budget not adopted within statutory timeframes	Low	High	Medium	Ensure proposed timetable for adoption is adhered to.
Budget adopted without consideration of Long Term Financial implications	Low	High	Medium	Ensure completion of Council's Long Term Financial Plan as part of budgetary process
Budget adopted without consideration of ratepayer input	Low	High	Medium	Undertake extensive community consultation

Consultation/Communication

Rating Strategy Reference Group

At its Ordinary meeting held on 18 February 2014, Council appointed interested members of the public to a Rating Strategy Reference Group. This group met over four meetings during March 2014 and provided the following recommendations to the Council for consideration:

That Council apply the following principles to its rating strategy:

- **Equity** – pursue an equitable distribution of the rating obligation across the community according to assessment of property wealth and benefit received;
- **Transparency** – ensure full, accurate and timely disclosure of rating information;
- **Consistency** – ensure rating policies are consistent with Council's direction and promote stability in the level of the rating obligation;
- **Sustainability** – adopt a triple-bottom-line approach to rating decisions, having regards to economic, social, environmental and amenity factors; and
- **Simplicity** – pursue a rating system that is simple to understand and administer.

The following recommendations were provided for Council consideration:

- A discounted differential be applied to properties that, when operated as a single farming enterprise, exceed 40 ha property size for large rural properties;

- No Municipal Charge be introduced; and
- The rating strategy be reviewed by a community committee on a regular basis.

Other Consultation

Level of public participation	Promises to the public/stakeholders	Tools/Techniques
Inform	Budget Document to be publicly available;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory S 223 of the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i> public exhibition period to be undertaken. • rural and urban presentation forums to be undertaken during public exhibition period.
Consult	Rating Strategy Reference Group; Public meetings/presentations	
Involve	Rating Strategy Reference Group; Public meetings/presentations	
Collaborate	Hearing of submissions	
Empower	Submissions considered by Council	

Options for Consideration

Council must adopt a Budget for the 2014/15 financial year in order to comply with the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Conclusion

Council's Draft 2014/15 Budget has been prepared by Council officers and is now ready for endorsement by Council. This endorsement will precede a public exhibition period concluding on 6 June 2014. Consideration of submissions by a Committee comprising the whole of Council will take place on 10 June 2014, and adoption of Council's Budget for the 2014/15 financial year will take place at its Ordinary Meeting scheduled for 17 June 2014.

Attachments

Draft 2014/15 Budget Report

Gallery Questions

Brian Fox – Wangaratta

Can Council rationalise the increase in parking fees from 50 cents to one dollar?

Mr Brendan McGrath responded that the decision predates the Administrators and this current Council and its executive team.

The fees are in accordance with the memorandum of understanding in relation to the multideck car park

Administrator Irene Grant also mentioned that fees have not changed in 10 years.

Ken Clarke – Wangaratta

Who do I contact for further details on the draft Budget?

Mr Brendan McGrath responded that there are a number of roadshows being held with an opportunity for group and individual discussions with Council officers. You can also contact Ruth Kneebone, Director Corporate Services.

8. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 5.22pm