

1.1.1.1 ADDENDUM REPORT - ADOPTION OF 2013-2017 COUNCIL PLAN - 2014 REVISION

Meeting Type: Ordinary Council Meeting
Date of Meeting: 17/06/2014
Author : Andrew Chuck,
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File Name: 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.

At a Special Meeting of Council on 5 May 2014, Council resolved to give public notice of the preparation of the draft 2013–2017 Council Plan – 2014 Revision (the Plan) and to invite submissions in respect of this matter in accordance with Section 223 of the Act.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. ***That the draft 2013-2017 Council Plan – 2014 Revision annexed to this resolution be the revised Council Plan prepared by Council for the purposes of Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1989.***
2. ***That a new action “Facilitate the undertaking of a Wangaratta CBD Master Plan that will comprehensively plan for the future use, growth and development of the CBD” be included in the 2013-2017 Council Plan – 2014 Revision as Action 2.1.1.3.***
3. ***That the Strategic Resource Plan be updated in order to comply with the updated Model Budget template and meet statutory disclosure requirements.***
4. ***Having regard to the submissions received and the responses tabulated in the report, that Action 3.5.1.4 be amended to read “Support the community to use firewood sustainably with information on collection options and the continued operation of firewood depots.”***
5. ***That the late submission received be considered; and***

6. 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.

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 Tuesday, 10 June 2014 at the Wangaratta Government Centre.

Five public submissions were received in response to the public notice, with two people requesting to be heard in support of their submissions.

One late submission was received, with a request to be heard in support of the submission. This was accepted by administrators and was heard on Monday, 16 June 2014.

Implications

Key Changes to the Strategic Resource Plan document

The Strategic Resource Plan document has been updated in order to comply with the updated Model Budget template and meet statutory disclosure requirements. The overall financial numbers have not changed since the draft budget only the format or additional detail split out.

The following changes were made to the Strategic Resource Plan:

- Financial Statements: Profit & Loss, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow and Capital Works changed to identically match the 4 year information shown in the Budget document format as set out in the Local Government Model Financial Report
- Statement of Human Resources: A new requirement to include a statement of Human Resources for 4 years detailing costs and FTEs split by Department
- Plans: A new requirement to list all plans in the SRP that have been included for consideration in its preparation.

Additional Action for Inclusion

Following the community consultation process and further consideration of the Plan an additional Action is proposed for inclusion. The new Action would be added to Section 2 Community Wellbeing and become Action: *“2.1.1.3 Facilitate the undertaking of a Wangaratta CBD Master Plan that will comprehensively plan for the future use, growth and development of the CBD.”*

Submission by Mr Bernard Young:

Summary of Submission	Suggested Response
<p>Request for both the Budget and Council Plan to be amended to include funds for real action, not a course of action resolved, nor an action plan, but the outcome of pedestrian crossings built this coming year.</p> <p>Relates to: Section 4 – Infrastructure Services 4.1.1.6 <i>Resolve a course of action for addressing traffic and pedestrian issues within the Wangaratta Central Activities Area.</i> Output Indicator: <i>Action plan for pedestrian and traffic in Central Activities Area developed and presented to the Corporate Management Team.</i></p>	<p>As an action plan, with the controlling authority (Vicroads), has not been agreed too and cost implications are unknown it would be premature to include this in the Budget or Council Plan.</p> <p>No change</p>
<p>Request the Council Plan and Budget be amended to allow the 2030 Vision process to commence in the 2014/15 year.</p> <p>Relates to: Section 1 – Executive Services 1.1.1.1 <i>Review the 2030 Community Vision</i> Target Date: 2017</p>	<p>When a democratically elected Council is returned in 2016 it is important that they have ownership and faith in the community vision that they will follow. It is therefore important for them to be involved in the process</p> <p>No change</p>

Submission by Mr Jim Lewis:

Summary of Submission	Suggested Response
<p>General comment regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions – starting with a verb keeps them on track. Short and sharp is best. • Output Indicators – what do these measure or just what are they? • Action – Indicator match – probably needs a better understanding of Output Indicator. • Number of Actions – some are very important and others seem almost operational and do not warrant listing in this sort of document. • Council Officers and Committees – much more than basic guidance may reduce empowerment. Is there 	<p>Suggestions could be considered in the drafting of future plans.</p> <p>No change to current plan</p>

<p>too much involvement?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy and Trains – approach needs to be wiser and more mellow. • General comment on a number of actions. 	
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Submission by Alison G Walpole

Summary of Submission	Suggested Response
<p>Belief the Rural City of Wangaratta Council Plan as presented for consultation is a legally questionable document</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>No change</p>

Submission by Mr Gary Nevin

Summary of Submission	Suggested Response
<p>General comment made on a number of priorities</p>	<p>Comments to be noted.</p> <p>No change</p>
<p>Page 6. I would like to see all localities mentioned in the profile.</p>	<p>The profile is designed as a brief overview of the municipality, with over 50 localities in the Rural City of Wangaratta the decision was made to include prominent towns only.</p> <p>No change</p>
<p>Page 43. Saleyards should be seen as Core Business.</p>	<p>Opinion Noted</p> <p>No change</p>

Submission from Mr Anthony Griffiths

Summary of Submission	Suggested Response
<p>Action 1.1.1.3 <i>Hold four Council meetings in rural townships and eight in the Wangaratta Government Centre.</i></p> <p>I would like to particularly endorse this action as it is an important element in making Council more accessible and available to ratepayers in rural areas.</p>	<p>Comments to be noted.</p> <p>No change</p>

<p>Action 2.4.2.1 <i>Actively advocate for and support the development of young people in the areas of civic participation, leadership and community involvement.</i></p> <p>Council should continue to support the Youth Council and that this should be clearly and specifically outlined in the Council Plan, preferably with an additional action item being added specifically for Youth Council.</p>	<p>While the Youth Council program is an important initiative the wording of the Action is designed to cover a broad range of initiatives to achieve the Objective.</p> <p>No change</p>
<p>KSA 3.2.3 <i>Support an innovative and sustainable agricultural sector</i></p> <p>Agriculture continues to face some serious challenges but also exciting opportunities and while the actions listed under this heading go some way towards the overall aim, they do not go nearly far enough in offering or facilitating support to the key agricultural industries. <i>A number of suggested actions were provided.</i></p>	<p>Comments to be noted and considered in the 2015 Annual Review of the Council Plan and the 2015/16 Draft Budget.</p> <p>No change</p>
<p>Objective 3.4 <i>To ensure land use planning provides balanced outcomes for community, growth, existing land use, environment and heritage.</i></p> <p>In urban areas of Wangaratta heritage protection overlay exist. Meanwhile, in rural areas, there is still no heritage protection of significant buildings. I would ask that there be an action in the Council Plan to address this inequity, to implement a Rural Heritage Overlay that considers all rural properties with justifiable heritage value.</p>	<p>Council is currently reviewing both rural and urban heritage overlays.</p> <p>No change</p>
<p>KSA 3.5.1 <i>Responsibly managing the local environment.</i></p> <p>The number of street trees in the CBD has been steadily diminishing. I feel the Council Plan should include an action that specifically aims to restore and enhance the CBD "tree scapes".</p>	<p>Council currently has a planned ongoing replacement program.</p> <p>No change</p>

<p>Action 3.5.1.3 <i>Review Council's Storm Water Management Plan and recommend a broader framework for a future Plan, including water reuse opportunities.</i></p> <p>This action specifically mentions that the revised plan will include water reuse opportunities, which is a great initiative. I believe this action should also specifically include/ mention the management and removal of litter from storm water before it is discharged into our waterways.</p>	<p>While not mention specifically it will be considered as part of the review.</p> <p>No change</p>
<p>Action 3.5.1.4 <i>Support the community to use firewood sustainably with information on options and the operation of firewood depots.</i></p> <p>At the Glenrowan Council Plan information session, in response to my question, we were advised Council intended to continue to support the operation of the existing firewood depots. This should be more clearly stated in the Council Plan to provide a strong statement of ongoing support for these important and well supported community facilities.</p>	<p>Change Action wording to read:</p> <p>Support the community to use firewood sustainably with information on collection options and the continued operation of firewood depots.</p>
<p>Action 3.7.2.4 <i>Investigate options to maximise the use of environmentally sustainable design in new and retro fitted residential, industrial and commercial developments.</i></p> <p>The output indicator for this action is "develop educational material". I feel Council should be taking a far more proactive approach to ensuring any new or renovated buildings are as energy efficient as practically possible and that sub-divisions have the optimal solar orientation and design. There should be a facility where there is a conversation regarding potential energy efficiency measures on every set of plans lodged for building, renovation or sub-division to enable</p>	<p>Council doesn't have the ability to mandate this, nor does it issue all building permits.</p> <p>No change</p>

<p>these issues to be considered before plans are approved or works have been undertaken.</p>	
<p>Action 4.1.1.12 <i>Implement the Rural City of Wangaratta Waste Management Strategy.</i></p> <p>This strategy will deliver better environmental and financial outcomes in the way "rubbish" is dealt with but the listed target date for the implementation of this critical strategy is 2017. I would like to see the completion date brought forward at least to 2016, if not 2015.</p>	<p>Contractual obligation prevent this Strategy from being implemented fully until 2017, however a number of measure will be implement prior to then.</p> <p>No change</p>

Items still to be considered

Late Submission received 12 June 2014 and heard 16 June 2014 – Mr Paul O'Brien

The following is a summary of points relating to the Council Plan:

Summary of Submission	Background
<p>GG. Levy Bank maintenance responsibility – State government communicated in 2013 it is not their responsibility. Concern about liability</p> <p>Relates to: Action 4.1.1.5 <i>Negotiate with the State Government regarding responsibilities and obligations associated with the management and maintenance of the urban levee system in Wangaratta.</i></p>	<p>This will be addressed as part of the delivery of Action 4.1.1.5</p>
<p>KK. Does not support any more money being spent on Agribusiness unless a business case is prepared.</p> <p>Relates to: Action 3.2.3.1 <i>Review the Alpine Valleys Agrifood Strategy;</i> and Action 3.2.3.2 <i>Develop an action plan for the Alpine Valleys Agrifood Communication Strategy.</i></p>	<p>Opinion for consideration</p>

<p>LL. Does not support manufacturing strategy due to external factors affecting the industry and instead should be directed towards farming.</p> <p>Relates to: Action 3.2.1.2 Implement a manufacturing sector support strategy.</p>	<p>Opinion for consideration</p>
<p>MM. Why has “Ensuring business processes and related documentation are complete and current” been removed as it is still important.</p> <p>Also raised in verbal submission original Action 1.3.1.2</p> <p>Relates to: Original 2013-2017 Council Plan Action 1.3.1.2 <i>Ensure key business processes of Council are subject to regular audit to ensure compliance; and</i> Action 1.3.1.3 <i>Ensure key business processes of Council are documented and documentation is updated regularly.</i></p>	<p>Matters for consideration.</p> <p>If items were considered for inclusion the logical insertion point would be as Actions 5.3.1.2 and 5.3.1.3 to address Key Strategic Activity 5.3.1 <i>Monitor key business processes of Council to ensure compliance.</i></p>
<p>NN. Why has council wards been replace with electoral structure</p> <p>Relates to: Action 1.1.1.4 <i>Review the most appropriate electoral structure for the Rural City of Wangaratta.</i></p>	<p>Action now has more scope to address this issue holistically.</p> <p>Matter for consideration</p>
<p>OO. Where is the Asia pacific expo being held? No issue if local or Melbourne.</p> <p>Relates to: Action 3.3.1.1 Output Indicator: <i>Attend Asia-Pacific Incentives and Meetings Expo and participate in the familiarisation program.</i></p>	<p>This event is held in Melbourne and involves familiarisation tours throughout our tourism region.</p>
<p>PP. Council needs to make a resolution on the Saleyards. Also consider evaluation process going forward.</p> <p>Relates to: Action 4.1.1.11 <i>Commence the</i></p>	<p>Opinion for consideration</p>

<i>development of the Wangaratta Saleyards upgrade.</i>	
<p>TT. Hume Strategy and Rural Land Strategy need clear discussion and agreement with ratepayers.</p> <p>Relates to: Action 1.1.2.4 <i>Actively participate in the implementation of the Hume Strategy for Sustainable Communities and pursue the opportunities arising from it; and</i> Action 3.4.1.2 <i>Review the Rural Land Use Strategy.</i></p>	Opinion for consideration
<p>UU. Planning strategy needs to be in place before development is considered (eg) Reiths Rd.</p> <p>Relates to: Action 3.4.1.3 <i>Develop structure/development plans for identified future development areas. Consideration as amendments to the planning scheme including contributions by developers.</i></p>	The delivery of this Action will achieve this

Copies of the full submissions are attached (***refer attachments***).

Mr Jim Lewis and Mr Gary Nevin presented in person and elaborated on their submission as outlined above, on Tuesday, 10 June 2014.

Mr Paul O'Brien presented in person and elaborated on his submission as outlined above, on Monday, 16 June 2014.

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

Policy Considerations

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

Financial Implications

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

Legal/Statutory

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

Social

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

Environmental/Sustainability Impacts

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

Economic Impacts

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

Consultation/Communication

Copies of the 2013-2017 Council Plan – 2014 Revision will be available from the Wangaratta Government Centre and electronically from Council's website www.wangaratta.vic.gov.au

Conclusion

The 2013-2017 Council Plan was developed with vital input from our community. It will be 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

Amended 2013-2017 Council Plan – 2014 Revision

Submission by Mr Jim Lewis

Submission by Alison G Walpole

Submission by Mr Bernard Young

Submission by Mr Gary Nevin

Submission by Mr Anthony Griffiths

Submission by Mr Paul O'Brien