

SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

Minutes of a Special Meeting of Council held at
the James Young Room, Lerderderg Library,
215 Main Street, Bacchus Marsh on
Monday 21 December 2015,
commencing at 6:00 p.m.

Members:

Cr. Allan Comrie (Mayor)	East Moorabool Ward
Cr. Paul Tatchell	Central Ward
Cr. David Edwards	East Moorabool Ward
Cr. John Spain	East Moorabool Ward
Cr. Tonia Dudzik	East Moorabool Ward
Cr. Tom Sullivan	West Moorabool Ward
Cr. Pat Toohey	Woodlands Ward

Officers:

Mr. Rob Croxford	Chief Executive Officer
Mr. Phil Jeffrey	General Manager Infrastructure
Mr. Satwinder Sandhu	General Manager Growth and Development
Mr. Danny Colgan	General Manager Community Services

Rob Croxford
Chief Executive Officer

AGENDA

1.	OPENING OF MEETING	3
2.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY	3
3.	PRESENT	3
4.	APOLOGIES	3
5.	DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST	4
5.1	<i>Disclosure of a Direct Conflict of Interest</i>	5
6.	PRESENTATIONS / DEPUTATIONS	6
	SPECIAL MENTION - SCOTSBURN FIRE	6
7.	BUSINESS	7
7.1	<i>Bacchus Marsh Integrated Transport Strategy</i>	7
7.2	<i>Moorabool Shire Council response to Ministerial Advisory Committee Report and Recommendations for the Plan Melbourne Refresh</i>	12
8.	FURTHER BUSINESS AS ADMITTED BY UNANIMOUS RESOLUTION OF COUNCIL	20
9.	CLOSED SESSION OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC	21
9.1	<i>Confidential Report</i>	21
9.2	<i>Confidential Report</i>	21
9.3	<i>Confidential Report</i>	21
10.	FURTHER BUSINESS AS ADMITTED BY UNANIMOUS RESOLUTION OF COUNCIL – CLOSED SESSION	25
10.1	<i>Confidential Business</i>	25
11.	MEETING CLOSURE	26

1. OPENING OF MEETING

The Mayor, Cr. Comrie, opened the meeting at 6.00pm with a Prayer.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY

We respectfully acknowledge the traditional owners of this land, their spirits and ancestors.

3. PRESENT

<i>Cr. Allan Comrie</i>	<i>East Moorabool Ward</i>
<i>Cr. John Spain</i>	<i>East Moorabool Ward</i>
<i>Cr. Tonia Dudzik</i>	<i>East Moorabool Ward</i>
<i>Cr. David Edwards</i>	<i>East Moorabool Ward</i>
<i>Cr. Tom Sullivan</i>	<i>West Moorabool Ward</i>
<i>Cr. Pat Toohey</i>	<i>Woodlands Ward</i>

Officers:

<i>Mr. Rob Croxford</i>	<i>Chief Executive Officer</i>
<i>Mr. Phil Jeffrey</i>	<i>General Manager Infrastructure</i>
<i>Mr. Danny Colgan</i>	<i>General Manager Community Services</i>
<i>Mr. Satwinder Sandhu</i>	<i>General Manager Growth and Development</i>
<i>Ms. Sam Romaszko</i>	<i>Manager Engineering Services</i>
<i>Mr. John Whitfield</i>	<i>Minute Taker</i>

4. APOLOGIES

Nil.

Cr. Paul Tatchell, entered the meeting at 6.01pm.

5. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Under the Local Government Act (1989), the classification of the type of interest giving rise to a conflict is; a direct interest; or an indirect interest (section 77A and 77B). The type of indirect interest specified under Section 78, 78A, 78B, 78C or 78D of the Local Government Act 1989 set out the requirements of a Councillor or member of a Special Committee to disclose any conflicts of interest that the Councillor or member of a Special Committee may have in a matter being or likely to be considered at a meeting of the Council or Committee.

Definitions of the class of the interest are:

- a direct interest
 - (section 77A, 77B)
- an indirect interest (see below)
 - indirect interest by close association (section 78)
 - indirect financial interest (section 78A)
 - indirect interest because of conflicting duty (section 78B)
 - indirect interest because of receipt of gift(s) (section 78C)
 - indirect interest through civil proceedings (section 78D)

Time for Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

In addition to the Council protocol relating to disclosure at the beginning of the meeting, section 79 of the Local Government Act 1989 (the Act) requires a Councillor to disclose the details, classification and the nature of the conflict of interest immediately at the beginning of the meeting and/or before consideration or discussion of the Item.

Section 79(6) of the Act states:

While the matter is being considered or any vote is taken in relation to the matter, the Councillor or member of a special committee must:

- (a) leave the room and notify the Mayor or the Chairperson of the special committee that he or she is doing so; and
- (b) remain outside the room and any gallery or other area in view of hearing of the room.

The Councillor is to be notified by the Mayor or Chairperson of the special committee that he or she may return to the room after consideration of the matter and all votes on the matter.

There are important reasons for requiring this disclosure immediately before the relevant matter is considered.

- Firstly, members of the public might only be in attendance for part of a meeting and should be able to see that all matters are considered in an appropriately transparent manner.
- Secondly, if conflicts of interest are not disclosed immediately before an item there is a risk that a Councillor who arrives late to a meeting may fail to disclose their conflict of interest and be in breach of the Act.

5.1 Disclosure of a Direct Conflict of Interest

Cr. Sullivan declared a Direct Conflict of Interest in relation to Confidential Item 9.3.

6. PRESENTATIONS / DEPUTATIONS

The Council has made provision in the business of the Special Meeting of the Council for the making of presentations or deputations to Council in relation to matters presented on the agenda for Council consideration.

Presentations or deputations are required to be conducted in accordance with the requirements contained within the **Presentation/Deputations Protocols and Procedural Guidelines**.

Persons wishing to make a presentation or deputation to the Council on a matter included in the agenda shall inform Council by 1pm on the Friday prior to the meeting by contacting the Chief Executive Officer's Office and registering their name and agenda item being spoken to.

At the meeting the Mayor will invite the persons wishing to make a presentation or delegation to address the Council on the agenda item.

The person making the presentation or deputation is to stand and address the Council on the item. No debate on the item is permitted between the person making the presentation or delegation and the Council.

A maximum of three minutes per presentation or delegation will be allocated. An extension of time may be granted at the discretion of the Mayor.

Councillors, through the Mayor, may ask the person making the presentation or delegation for clarification of matters presented.

The Mayor may direct that a member of the gallery ceases speaking if the above procedure is not followed.

List of Persons making Presentations/Deputations other than in relation to a planning item listed on the agenda:

Item No.	Description	Name
7.1	<i>Bacchus Marsh Integrated Transport Strategy</i>	Damien Strangio Resident
7.1	<i>Bacchus Marsh Integrated Transport Strategy</i>	Barry Cook Resident

SPECIAL MENTION - SCOTSBURN FIRE

At this stage of the meeting the Mayor, Cr. Comrie publically thanked the staff and Councillors for their great work, long hours and enormous effort put in over the weekend in dealing with the Scotsburn fire.

7. BUSINESS

7.1 Bacchus Marsh Integrated Transport Strategy

Introduction

Author: Sam Romaszko
General Manager: Phil Jeffrey

Background

The purpose of this report is to present the Bacchus Marsh Integrated Transport Strategy (BMITS) to the Council for adoption, following the public exhibition period.

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council on Wednesday 07 October 2015 Council made the following resolution:

Crs. Edwards/Comrie:

That Council:

- 1. Endorses in principle the draft Bacchus Marsh Integrated Transport Strategy for the purposes of public exhibition for a period of four weeks.*
- 2. Receives a further report at the conclusion of the exhibition period seeking adoption of the Bacchus Marsh Integrated Transport Strategy.*

CARRIED.

During the public exhibition period the following activities were undertaken to seek community feedback on the draft strategy.

- A discussion forum and submissions through the Have Your Say website, the Council's online engagement portal.
- Copies were available at Council's Customer Service locations including the Lerderderg Library.
- Two drop in sessions that provided the community an opportunity to view the draft Strategy and speak to Council officers and external agencies.
- The public submission process was also advertised on Council's Facebook page, the local newspaper and on the Council website.

The public exhibition period has now closed and a total of 16 submissions were received.

Key Issues Raised in Feedback

A review of the feedback has occurred and indicates in principle support of key recommendations within the strategy.

The importance of an integrated approach to transport within Bacchus Marsh was highlighted with feedback emphasising the value of pedestrian and cycling links and public transport opportunities to key destinations. Concern was expressed at the current scheduling of bus and rail services which has been identified as an implementation action within the strategy.

Major projects including east facing ramps on Halletts Way, a Bacchus Marsh Township Eastern Bypass and Halletts Way Southern Extension were also supported and welcomed by the community.

Concern was raised regarding limited opportunities within the strategy to implement minor improvements to the road network to assist in providing immediate relief to congested roads. However, the modelling undertaken to inform the strategy indicates that major infrastructure projects are required on the road network to see congestion reduce within the township. It is noted that the construction of Halletts Way (northern and southern extensions) will assist with traffic movement by providing a western link road for the town.

A copy of the feedback received through the public exhibition process is attached, along with officers' response and a summary of amendments made to the strategy as a result.

Proposal

It is proposed that the Council adopts the amended Bacchus Marsh Integrated Transport Strategy (BMITS) as attached.

Policy Implications

The 2013 - 2017 Council Plan provides as follows:

Key Result Area	Representation and leadership of our community
Objective	Advocate for services and infrastructure that meets the Shire's existing and futures needs
Strategy	Advocate on behalf of the community to improve services and infrastructure within the Shire

The proposal to adopt the Bacchus Marsh Integrated Transport Strategy is consistent with the 2013-2017 Council Plan.

Financial Implications

The Bacchus Marsh Integrated Transport Study is jointly funded by Council and VicRoads. There are no direct financial implications associated with the adoption of the document. All projects will be referred to the long term Capital Improvement Program and if funded, financial commitments including capital, maintenance and operation costs will be considered by Council. Key projects identified within the strategy are the responsibility of VicRoads and require State and Federal Government funding. Council's responsibility includes advocating to VicRoads, State and Federal Government for these necessary projects to be funded.

Risk & Occupational Health & Safety Issues

Risk Identifier	Detail of Risk	Risk Rating	Control/s
Community need and reputation	Exposes Council to a number of infrastructure gaps if priorities in the strategy are not implemented	High	Future planning for high priority recommendations identified in context of other capital priorities
Financial	Ability to fund and progress actions set out in the strategy	High	Pursue external funding options

Community Engagement Strategy

Various community engagement activities have been undertaken in accordance with the Council's Community Engagement Policy and Framework.

Strategy Development

In June 2014, community consultation sessions were held to gain as much information as possible regarding both network issues and constraints. Further to the specific consultation session, engagement with the community has occurred through the preparation of an Urban Growth Strategy focusing on Bacchus Marsh.

Between November 2014 and January 2015 Council undertook extensive consultation on the UGS with the Bacchus Marsh district community, state agencies and representatives of the development industry. Feedback from the community through the consultation process has been included within the strategy.

Public Exhibition Period

During the public exhibition period, drop in sessions were held to provide the community with an opportunity to view the draft strategy and liaise with Council officers and external agencies. Further engagement opportunities through Have Your Say, Council's website and Facebook page also occurred.

Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006

In developing this report to Council, the officer considered whether the subject matter raised any human rights issues. In particular, whether the scope of any human right established by the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities is in any way limited, restricted or interfered with by the recommendations contained in the report. It is considered that the subject matter does not raise any human rights issues.

Officer's Declaration of Conflict of Interests

Under section 80C of the Local Government Act 1989 (as amended), officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

General Manager – Phil Jeffrey

In providing this advice to Council as the General Manager, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

Author – Sam Romaszko

In providing this advice to Council as the Author, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

Conclusion

A Bacchus Marsh Integrated Transport Strategy has been developed to support a sustainable, vibrant and prosperous community by providing for equitable and efficient movement of people and freight both within Bacchus Marsh. The implementation of this strategy through key projects will ensure a higher level of service for the Bacchus Marsh community enabling growth and development.

Community consultation has occurred through the development of the Strategy, including a 4 week public exhibition period to ensure input from key stakeholders and the community.

A copy of the feedback received through the public exhibition process is attached, along with officers' response and a summary of amendments made to the strategy as a result.

It is now recommended that the Council adopts the amended Bacchus Marsh Integrated Transport Strategy (BMITS) as attached.

Consideration of Presentation

Mr. Damien Strangio addressed Council in relation to the Bacchus Marsh Integrated Transport Strategy.

Mr. Barry Cook addressed Council in relation to the Bacchus Marsh Integrated Transport Strategy.

The business of the meeting then returned to the agenda.

Recommendation:**That Council:**

- 1. Adopts the Bacchus Marsh Integrated Transport Strategy.**
- 2. Writes to VicRoads to thank them for their support and co-funding of the Bacchus Marsh Integrated Transport Strategy.**
- 3. Writes to relevant State and Federal members and authorities seeking their support to deliver outcomes identified in the Bacchus Marsh Integrated Transport Strategy.**

Resolution:**Crs. Edwards/Tatchell*****That Council:***

- 1. Adopts the Bacchus Marsh Integrated Transport Strategy.***
- 2. Writes to VicRoads to thank them for their technical support and co-funding of the Bacchus Marsh Integrated Transport Strategy.***
- 3. Writes to relevant State and Federal members and authorities seeking their support to deliver outcomes identified in the Bacchus Marsh Integrated Transport Strategy.***

CARRIED.

Report Authorisation**Authorised by:**

Name: Phil Jeffrey
Title: General Manager Infrastructure
Date: Thursday 26 November 2015

7.2 Moorabool Shire Council response to Ministerial Advisory Committee Report and Recommendations for the Plan Melbourne Refresh

Introduction

Author: Andrew Goodsell
General Manager: Satwinder Sandhu

Background

Plan Melbourne was originally released in May 2014 by the former Government and is currently referenced in the State Planning Policy Framework within local planning schemes.

The current Victorian Government has committed to refreshing and updating Plan Melbourne to reflect a long-term vision for housing, increasing jobs and livability, integrating public transport and infrastructure and addressing climate change. The majority of the Plan Melbourne document is intended to remain unchanged, as it has bi-partisan support and received significant community input.

The review process is being led by Minister Wynne, Minister for Planning and a Ministerial Advisory Committee (MAC) comprising the authors of the former Labour Government's plan for Melbourne. The Report by the Ministerial Advisory Committee was released for comment on 22 October 2015. In addition and perhaps more importantly, the Plan Melbourne Refresh Discussion Paper, October 2015 responds to the MAC recommendations (see Attachment 7.2a).

This report focuses on the Plan Melbourne Refresh Discussion Paper (PMRDP) and its response to the MAC recommendations. Comments are due by 18 December 2015.

The following is a summary of all of the key recommendations made by the MAC which may have relevance to Moorabool Shire, how this was addressed in the PMRDP and Council's suggested position.

Key Area: Delivering Jobs and Investment (recommendations 3-11)

The policy and strategic focus is fundamentally on metropolitan Melbourne.

Analysis and MSC Suggested Position

The focus on housing that is close to jobs and services is supported by Moorabool Shire. We believe that this should be applied more broadly to improve the liveability in a fast growing area like Bacchus Marsh and Moorabool Shire that are currently just outside of the urban growth boundary, but are impacted by the growth from immediate neighbours.

Key Area: Housing Choice and Affordability (recommendations (12-27))

MAC suggested that Plan Melbourne Refresh:

- Provide diversity of housing in defined locations to cater for different households and income groups and close to jobs and services (recommendation 12);
- implementing a permanent Metropolitan Urban Boundary for Melbourne (recommendation 13);
- Adopt a 70/30 growth split where 70% of all new housing post 2015 will be accommodated within the established urban areas of Melbourne and the remaining 30% in the urban growth areas (greenfield areas. Also, set housing targets or goals for each of the five metropolitan sub regions; (recommendation 17);
- Redevelopment of greyfield areas (recommendation 21);
- Staged and sequenced release of land and community service delivery in the urban growth areas (recommendation 22);

With few exceptions these recommendations are supported in PMRDP.

Analysis and MSC Suggested Position

The relevance to Council is several fold. There is on one hand likely to be additional areas to be identified for urban growth on the Melton/Moorabool Shire boundary (likely inclusions to the UGB). Presumably this will be part of the 30% of housing supply via greenfield sites requirement.

Spatially, when developed, these areas will result in essentially continuous urban development from the existing western edge of Melton to the Moorabool eastern Shire boundary. This will mean the visual 'green break' which is the irrigation district and surrounds east of Bacchus Marsh will become more significant as the defacto 'green wedge' of western Melbourne.

Equally there is greater emphasis on housing density in the MAC recommendations. Lot sizes will become smaller and the emphasis will be on closer accessibility to services and facilities. In turn, if households are moving to Melton for affordability and, arguably, more space, this pressure may be deflected into Moorabool Shire – as has been the case for some time now. Also, the trend towards smaller lot sizes will influence housing market conditions in Bacchus Marsh where lot size delivery, driven by the market, has reflected wider regional trends (i.e. lots have become smaller). Consultation within the Urban Growth Strategy process confirmed these trends.

Discussions about a permanent urban growth boundary may have direct relevance when larger scale greenfield projects are proposed in Moorabool Shire, especially around Bacchus Marsh. Presently there are at least 2-3 such projects on hold pending finalisation of the urban growth strategy. The fundamental issue is how Council is to effectively plan for the future of Bacchus Marsh and its eastern district in the face of ongoing urban growth pressure.

Despite the relevance of these issues for Moorabool Shire, the MAC and Plan Melbourne Refresh are metro Melbourne focused. Council should question whether towns such as Bacchus Marsh, which are closer to Melbourne CBD than Pakenham, can be reasonably excluded from assessment of housing issues within the metro Melbourne context. The current approach of metro Melbourne and the 'rest' is not logical for the eastern sections of Moorabool Shire and raises many strategic housing and urban growth issues – whether it be developer contributions rates, managing urban growth pressures or matching pressure with supporting infrastructure. These issues are not resolved by the recommendations of MAC or PMRDP presently.

Key Area: Liveable Communities and Neighbourhoods (recommendations 28-39)

MAC suggested that Plan Melbourne Refresh:

- Address the key ingredients of the 20-minute neighbourhood (recommendation 30);
- Develop a transport hierarchy that makes neighbourhoods pedestrian and cycle friendly (recommendation 33);
- Implement healthy design guidelines (recommendation 36);
- Adopt a whole-of-government approach to the delivery of social infrastructure, especially in urban growth areas (recommendation 37); and
- Create more opportunities for communities to green their neighbourhoods (recommendation 39).

With few exceptions these recommendations are supported in PMRDP. Recommendation 31 (use of upper floors of buildings) and recommendation 34 (protecting Melbourne suburbs from inappropriate development) were identified as out of scope.

Analysis and MSC Suggested Position

The suggested recommendations are supported and are consistent with the strategic direction Moorabool is developing for both Bacchus Marsh and small towns.

Ultimately, there is a needed conversation about what constitutes sustainable communities in terms of accessing services, open space and facilities as well as the integration of transport and land use decisions. These are urban issues across Victoria and not Melbourne specific ones – in short good planning.

Council should advocate for neighbourhood principles and integrated land use and transport planning to be considered universal planning goals both inside and outside the metropolitan Melbourne boundary.

Key Area: A More Connected Melbourne (recommendation 40-47)

The policy and strategic focus is fundamentally on metropolitan Melbourne.

The securing of rail reservations for duplication of rail lines within the Melton rail corridor (recommendation 45) will have some potential indirect affects as it calls into question the type of rail service to be delivered into Bacchus Marsh, Ballan and the Central Highlands.

These recommendations are supported in Plan Melbourne Refresh Discussion Paper.

Analysis and MSC Suggested Position

Moorabool Shire should confirm it supports planning for future upgrade of rail services into the Central Highlands and that there should be a clear vision established as to how planning for future duplication of rail services into Melton impact service delivery further west into Bacchus Marsh, Ballan and Ballarat.

Key Area: Climate Change and Environment (recommendation 48-63)

The policy and strategic focus is fundamentally on metropolitan Melbourne. Several recommendations are considered outside scope of review process (recommendations 55, 61, 62, 63).

Analysis and MSC Suggested Position

With the focus on metro Melbourne growth corridors and the existing urban area inside the urban growth boundary here is little relevant to Moorabool Shire in these recommendations. The emphasis on adaptation to climate change and addressing environmental risks likely has even greater relevance to Moorabool Shire than metro Melbourne.

Council should confirm that it supports the recommendations provided but that these should also be considered relevant to peri urban Melbourne.

Key Area: Place and Identity (recommendation 64-71)

The policy and strategic focus is fundamentally on metropolitan Melbourne. Two recommendations are considered outside scope of review process (recommendations 68, 69).

Analysis and MSC Suggested Position

No position for Council is advocated.

Key Area: A State of Cities (recommendations 72-77)

MAC suggested that Plan Melbourne Refresh:

- Reinstatement of the nomination of Geelong as Victoria's second city (recommendation 75);
- Establish criteria for nominating any further towns in the peri-urban areas as having 'growth potential' (recommendation 76).

Recommendation 76 was considered out of scope. The other recommendations were adopted or are already being implemented.

Analysis and MSC Suggested Position

Council's position should be that Plan Melbourne refresh effectively address the role of regional growth centres identified and how whole of Government approaches to balance growth pressures with needed infrastructure are to be met. These directions are not evident in the current recommendations of MAC or within Plan Melbourne Refresh Discussion Paper.

Key Area: Implementing the Plan (recommendations 78-90)

MAC suggested that Plan Melbourne Refresh:

- Retain the Metropolitan Planning Authority (MPA) as Melbourne's regional planning authority (recommendation 78);
- Strengthen the role of each of Melbourne's five metro sub regions, including representation on the MPA board and a requirement to, with the MPA, prepare sub regional strategies (metro areas) and advise the MPA on the best use of the Growth Areas Infrastructure Contribution in their sub region (where relevant) (recommendation 80);
- Explore new ways to fund a significant backlog of community infrastructure and future infrastructure requirements through both available planning system mechanisms (recommendation 85); and
- Monitor and reporting on implementation progress through a small number of key performance indicators and four year progress reporting to Parliament (recommendation 90).

The discussion paper suggests in response to recommendation 81 on whether the MPA is the 'voice' of metropolitan Melbourne and that MPA and DELWP work in partnership. Responses to recommendations 82 and 83 refer to the Victorian Planning Authority addressing how Plan Melbourne Refresh is to be implemented.

Analysis and MSC Suggested Position

Council has been supportive of the MPA providing a presence as a regional planning authority. The issue, however, has been the unclear direction as to whether the MPA is to remain empowered to develop partnerships with regional Councils across Victoria. Historically such partnerships have developed, with Baw Baw, Surf Coast, City of Greater Shepparton etc. Whether this capacity will exist into the future is less clear.

Timelines for a Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) are unclear, noting that the MPA was only established in 2013.

Regardless of whether MPA continues to exist or is 'rebadged' as the VPA, it is highly desirable, given the extent of growth pressure in Bacchus Marsh and eastern Moorabool that strategic partnerships between State and local government are fostered and developed. With the removal of funding for the Flying Squad and the more regulatory role DELWP has taken in recent years as custodians of the Victorian Planning System, more effective State-Local partnerships are now critical.

Plan Melbourne refresh needs to closely consider how effective planning delivery is to occur when infrastructure backlogs do exist (such as State funding for Halletts Way ramps), the MPA role in regional Victoria is uncertain, Flying Squad is no longer funded and rate capping limits capacities to generate funding within the Shire.

The risk in Plan Melbourne Refresh more strongly focusing on metropolitan Melbourne, with little policy guidance on regional interface Councils such as Moorabool is that the imperative for action is lost and that less effective growth management will occur to the detriment of metropolitan Melbourne and the Shire itself.

Overview

Moorabool Shire Council has reviewed the Ministerial Advisory Committee Report and the Plan Melbourne Refresh Discussion Paper. The strengthening of environmental and sustainability initiatives is supported as are the development of recommendations to support affordable housing and the recognition of the role and value of peri urban growth towns like Bacchus Marsh.

Council is, however, concerned that the MAC's recommendations and the Plan Melbourne Refresh Discussion Paper do not adequately consider or address 'functional' Melbourne, that is the areas that functionally relate or are now integrated in a practical sense with Melbourne and the growth areas (as measured by journey to work data, shopping choices, use of regional facilities etc.). Moorabool Shire is likely more exposed to metropolitan growth pressures than any other within regional Victoria, making comprehensive strategic planning and alignment with agencies on service delivery critical. Our immediate neighbours, the City of Melton and City of Wyndham are growing at average rates of 4-5% p.a. and are consistently rated in the top 20 fastest growing cities in Australia. Two of the six Victorian LGAs represented on the National Growth Areas Alliance (fastest growing LGS's in Australia) are located on the Moorabool Shire common boundary.

Moorabool Shire is in many respects, significantly challenged by these growth pressures, being neither the cause of the pressure (a mix of State and Federal decisions and residents leaving Western Melbourne for lifestyle reasons), or it seems of sufficient public profile to attract the infrastructure investment or the strategic support which City of Melton and City of Ballarat enjoy.

Accordingly, we believe that Bacchus Marsh, which is closer to Melbourne CBD than Pakenham, should be included within the revised metropolitan Melbourne or, more clearly addressed in the State of Cities section of Plan Melbourne Refresh. Matching growth pressures with appropriate infrastructure resources is an issue both within and outside the urban growth boundary.

In any case, the refresh of Plan Melbourne provides an opportunity to recognise the role of centres such as Bacchus Marsh in the growth of Melbourne – something which the original Plan Melbourne foreshadowed. It is also, more broadly, an opportunity to address the importance of the Shires of the peri urban region in providing food, water, tourism opportunities, environmental assets and workforce for Melbourne and its residents – the real ‘green wedges’ of Melbourne now and tomorrow.

The detailed submission to the Plan Melbourne Refresh is attached (see Attachment 7.2b).

The submission on behalf of the Peri Urban Group of Rural Councils is also attached for your information (see Attachment 7.2c).

Policy Implications

The 2013 – 2017 Council Plan provides as follows:

Key Result Area	Enhanced Infrastructure and Natural and Built Environment
Objective	Advocate for services and infrastructure that meet the Shire’s existing and future needs.
Strategy	Advocate on behalf of the community to improve services and infrastructure within the Shire.

The Moorabool Shire Council Submission in response to the MAC 2015 Plan Melbourne Refresh report is consistent with the 2013 – 2017 Council Plan.

Financial Implications

The recommended change to the focus of the MPA’s work may impact financially on Council if the MPA are no longer in a position to assist with the completion of the Urban Growth Strategy for Bacchus Marsh.

Risk & Occupational Health & Safety Issues

There are no immediate risks associated with the consideration of this report.

Communications and Consultation Strategy

The submission will be made available to the community via Council’s website.

Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006

In developing this report to Council, the officer considered whether the subject matter raised any human rights issues. In particular, whether the scope of any human right established by the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities is in any way limited, restricted or interfered with by the recommendations contained in the report. It is considered that the subject matter does not raise any human rights issues.

Officer's Declaration of Conflict of Interests

Under section 80C of the Local Government Act 1989 (as amended), officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

General Manager – Satwinder Sandhu

In providing this advice to Council as the General Manager, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

Author – Andrew Goodsell

In providing this advice to Council as the Author, I have no interests to disclose in this report.

Conclusion

The refresh of Plan Melbourne presents Council with an opportunity to advocate for stronger recognition and support for Moorabool Shire and in particular the fast growing areas around Bacchus Marsh. Greater support and funding from Government and clearer roles for the MPA and the Department in working with Local Government to achieve agreed outcomes is needed.

Resolution:

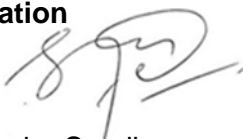
Crs. Tatchell/Spain

That Council resolves to approve the release of the contents of the draft Council submission to the Plan Melbourne as per Attachment B, and delegates the CEO to finalise the submission and submit accordingly.

CARRIED.

Report Authorisation

Authorised by:



Name: Satwinder Sandhu
Title: General Manager Growth and Development
Date: Thursday 17 December 2015

**8. FURTHER BUSINESS AS ADMITTED BY UNANIMOUS RESOLUTION
OF COUNCIL**

***Cr. Sullivan reported that he had a governance issue that he would
like to be discussed in the Closed Session of the Meeting.***

9. CLOSED SESSION OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC**9.1 Confidential Report****9.2 Confidential Report****9.3 Confidential Report****Resolution:****Crs. Tatchell/Dudzik**

That pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Act 1989, the meeting now be closed to members of the public to enable the meeting to discuss matters, which the Council may, pursuant to the provisions of Section 89(2) of the Local Government Act 1989 (the Act) resolve to be considered in Closed Session, being a matter contemplated by Section 89(2) of the Act, as follows:

- (a) personnel matters;*
- (b) the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer;*
- (c) industrial matters;*
- (d) contractual matters;*
- (e) proposed developments;*
- (f) legal advice;*
- (g) matters affecting the security of Council property;*
- (h) any other matter which the Council or special committee considers would prejudice the Council or any person;*
- (i) a resolution to close the meeting to members of the public.*

CARRIED.

9.1 Confidential Report

Item 9.1 is a confidential item and therefore is not included as part of these minutes.

9.2 Confidential Report

Item 9.2 is a confidential item and therefore is not included as part of these minutes.

Cr. Sullivan declared a Direct Conflict of Interest in relation to Item 9.3 – Confidential Report.

Cr. Sullivan left the meeting at 6.47pm and did not participate in discussion or voting on the item.

9.3 Confidential Report

Item 9.3 is a confidential item and therefore is not included as part of these minutes.

Cr. Sullivan returned to the Meeting at 7.03pm

**10. FURTHER BUSINESS AS ADMITTED BY UNANIMOUS RESOLUTION
OF COUNCIL – CLOSED SESSION**

10.1 Confidential Business

Item 10.1 is a confidential item and therefore is not included as part of these minutes.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION – 7.18PM

Resolution:

Crs. Toohey/Spain

That the Meeting now return to Open Session.

CARRIED.

11. MEETING CLOSURE

The Meeting closed at 7.19PM

Confirmed.....Mayor.