

SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

Minutes of a
Special Meeting of Council held at
Bungaree Community Facility,
279 Bungaree-Wallace Road, Bungaree
on Wednesday 3 June 2015,
at 5:00 p.m.

Members:

Cr. Paul Tatchell (Mayor)	Central Ward
Cr. Allan Comrie	East Moorabool 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
6.	PRESENTATIONS / DEPUTATIONS	6
7.	BUSINESS	7
7.1	<i>Consideration of Submissions to the Proposed 2015/16 Annual Budget.....</i>	<i>7</i>
8.	FURTHER BUSINESS AS ADMITTED BY UNANIMOUS RESOLUTION OF COUNCIL	41
9.	CLOSED SESSION OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC	42
10.	MEETING CLOSURE	43

1. OPENING OF MEETING

The Mayor, Cr. Paul Tatchell, opened the meeting at 5.00 pm.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY

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

3. PRESENT

<i>Cr. Paul Tatchell</i>	<i>Central Ward</i>
<i>Cr. John Spain</i>	<i>East Moorabool Ward</i>
<i>Cr. Tonia Dudzik</i>	<i>East Moorabool Ward</i>
<i>Cr. Allan Comrie</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. Satwinder Sandhu</i>	<i>General Manager Growth and Development</i>
<i>Mr. Danny Colgan</i>	<i>General Manager Community Services</i>
<i>Ms. Natalie Abbott</i>	<i>Manager Customer & Business Services</i>

4. APOLOGIES

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.

Nil.

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	Position
7.1	<i>Consideration of Submissions to the Proposed 2015/16 Annual Budget</i>	Chris Sharkey	Submission 3
7.1	<i>Consideration of Submissions to the Proposed 2015/16 Annual Budget</i>	Judith Bailey, Ballarat Observatory Advisory Committee	Submission 4
7.1	<i>Consideration of Submissions to the Proposed 2015/16 Annual Budget</i>	Paul Maher, Wallace Recreation Reserve	Submission 5

7. BUSINESS

7.1 Consideration of Submissions to the Proposed 2015/16 Annual Budget

Introduction

File No.: 07/01/014A
Author: Steve Ivelja
General Manager: Phil Jeffrey

Background

This report relates to the process for Council to adopt the 2015/16 Annual Budget in accordance with section 127 of the Local Government Act 1989 (The Act). The process includes giving public notice to allow 28 days for submissions to be made by members of the public and such submissions to be heard prior to Council adopting the 2015/16 Annual Budget.

Council commenced statutory procedures dealing with the 2015/16 Annual Budget at the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 22 April 2015. At this meeting, Council resolved to put on public display the Proposed 2015/16 Annual Budget.

A public notice was published in ~~%The Moorabool News+~~on Tuesday, 28 April 2015 and also in ~~%The Courier+~~in Ballarat on Saturday, 25 May 2015. These public notices called for submissions to the proposed budget.

The proposed 2015/16 budget has been prepared in accordance with Section 127 of the Local Government Act 1989 (the Act) and part 3 of the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014 (the Regulations).

As a result of this advertising process, 4 written submissions were received by 25 May 2015 for consideration by Council. The following is a summary of the submissions that have been received:

No.	Submission From	Main Points	Response
1	Anita Gary	<p>I am writing to note my concern with the proposed budget increase and a lack of any spending on services particularly for youth in the Bacchus Marsh area. I read the document and see that the large youth population was noted. It appears to me that this population and the forecast growth, is not being addressed by the council. We still have no Youth Centre in Bacchus Marsh or an Aquatic Centre. What opportunities does the council aim to provide for youth in our shire? This population will only increase as many young families have moved to the area. Why is there no allocated budget to the building of a youth centre or the provision of youth recreation services outside of sporting facilities?</p>	<p><i>In the 2013 – 2014 financial year, the net cost to Moorabool Shire Council for the provision of Youth Services was \$170,000. In the 2015 – 2016 financial year, Council will expend \$252,000 for Youth Service provision. This increase has resulted in the employment of an additional full time Youth Services Development Officer, taking the Youth Services team to 3 EFT.</i></p> <p><i>Council has also committed \$20,000 to engage consultants to undertake a Youth Space feasibility study which will explore the need and will;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• provide the rationale for future decision making and provision of a Youth Facility</i> <i>• identify social and economic benefits of a Youth Facility</i> <i>• investigate and identify an appropriate framework for a Youth Facility (multipurpose or stand - alone) including facility component requirements</i> <i>• outline predicted usage</i> <i>• suggest required management model associated with the proposed facility and;</i> <i>• assess and provide recommendations regarding funding model.</i>
2	The Neighbours Place (TNP)	<p>The Neighbours' Place (TNP) would like to submit that the annual operational grant provided by the Shire should be reviewed and the level of the grant increased.</p> <p>TNP is a multi-denominational Christian not-for-profit emergency food service. TNP is not a government funded and receives no federal or state funding. It relies on the kindness of others for donations of goods, services and money. TNP services visitors from all over Moorabool Shire -: Ballan, Greendale, Blackwood,</p>	<p><i>The submission demonstrates that the annual CPI increase is no longer meeting the needs of this service, due to increasing demand from social and economic factors, as well as population growth. This service does not receive any other state or federal government funding and are reliant on fundraising and donations. The Council supports a number of community service organisations, for example Community Houses. Supporting The Neighbours Place to increase its grant to \$8,200 would make this comparable to the grants of other services the Council supports.</i></p>

	<p>Gordon and other outlying areas. No-one is turned away.</p> <p>In 2010 . 2011 Council decided to make its funding of TNP more certain and determined to make the operating grant a permanent expenditure item. The value of the grant was initially set at \$5,500, including GST. The grant has subsequently been indexed annually by the movement in the CPI. The grant allocated in 2014 - 2015 totaled \$6,591.53, including GST.</p> <p>The Shire currently provides TNP with a grant to assist us with our operating of an emergency food relief service to the citizens of Bacchus Marsh and surrounding areas. Our aim is to provide emergency food to people within the Moorabool Shire who are disadvantaged, at risk or unable temporarily to feed themselves or their family. TNP also provides no-interest loans, tax help and counselling. TNP not only offers food relief, and Christmas Hampers, it also offers no-interest loans to those who cannot access normal credit card facilities, it provides referrals for families to other support agencies such as CAFS, and it provides tax help and counselling to all in a non-judgmental manner.</p> <p>The Shire's operating grant is an important source of funding for our activities however at its current level it only constitutes a little over 12 per cent of our funding needs. Although this is helpful unfortunately the demand for our services, and our costs, are outstripping CPI as they are more closely tied to the population growth and the general health of the economy. The number of clients serviced by TNP has increased by over 30 per cent in the past 3 years. The operating grant has only increased by around 12 per cent. Given the</p>	
--	---	--

	<p>forecast population growth for Moorabool in coming years and the likely rise in unemployment and a stagnating economy it is expected that the gap between our costs and the grant will continue to widen. As a result the proportion of our costs being met by the Shire's grant will fall below the current 12 per cent.</p> <p>Moorabool are receiving a value, or return on investment, of over 4 to 1 from the funding provided by the grant. Adding the value of the time and effort of volunteers and in-kind donations from local businesses would justify an even higher investment in TNP.</p> <p>We respectfully submit that a review of the level of funding provided to us through the operating grant. The information supplied above would justify an increase of 25 per cent, to \$8,200 including GST for the 2015 - 2016 year. An increase of this magnitude would only restore the Shire's proportion of our total costs.</p>	
--	--	--

3	Chris Sharkey	<p>The submission asks council to address two key issues of concern;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Under the LGA 3C(1) objectives of a council. The primary objective of a council is to achieve the best outcome for the local community having regard to the long term and cumulative effects of decisions. <p>Question: How does council intend to achieve long term outcomes for the community with rates continuing to rise by 5% when inflation is only running at 1.3% by basing council decisions using an inflation rate of 3%. How is this sustainable and in the best interests of the community?</p>	<p><i>In 2015/16, general rates will increase by 5.0%. To offset this increase, waste service charges will reduce by 2.25% in 2015/16. As a result, overall rates and charges will increase by an average of 4.1%. This increase will allow council to maintain existing service levels, fund a number of new initiatives and continue to allocate additional funds to Shire's infrastructure program which is required to service a growing community.</i></p> <p><i>The 2015/16 Proposed Budget has been premised on a 2.3% CPI increase. The projected CPI of 2.3% is conservative when compared to the 15/16 Victorian State Budget projections and the 15/16 Federal Budget projections which have forecast the Consumer Price Index to increase by 2.75% and 2.5% respectively in 2015/16.</i></p> <p><i>In addition to the pressures of inflation, population growth within the Shire is projected to be robust for the foreseeable future with population growth projections in excess of 2.5% per annum year on year. In spite of this continued growth, council has also been significantly impacted by reductions in Financial Assistance Grants (FAG's), and an environment where government funding continues to remain flat.</i></p> <p><i>To assist with planning in a longer term framework, Moorabool Shire Council also has a Strategic Financial plan. As per the Strategic Financial plan, Council has projected CPI of 3% for future planning purposes for all years beyond 2015/16. This index is broadly consistent with both State and Federal Budget future projections and is broadly consistent with historical CPI projections in Australia over the last 10 years. Most importantly however, it must be stressed that the projections contained in councils strategic resource plan are a strategic guide only and council is not bound by the assumptions contained in the future years of the strategic financial plan, which can</i></p>
---	---------------	---	--

		<p>2. Farm Rate Numbers. To date still no resolution to this question which was taken on notice 12 months ago.</p> <p>Question: From a budgetary point of view, how does council provide transparency with its rate payer base when numbers within a rating strategy are flawed?</p> <p>If Council believes it is too difficult to identify accurate farm business numbers, then how and when did council decide to use farm numbers of 480 in a recent waste management strategy adopted by council in September 2014?</p>	<p><i>change from year to year. The annual budget process and the parameters contained within (including annual rate increases) are the responsibility for the council to determine as part of the annual budget process on a year by year basis.</i></p> <p><i>It is agreed that Council does not have accurate information relating to the number of farming enterprises within the Shire. Council currently assesses 1,491 rateable assessments as eligible to receive a farm rate.</i></p> <p><i>Leading up to the 2014/15 Budget, Council conducted a review of the Municipal Rate Strategy which has now been adopted for a period of 2 years. During this review there were a range of discussions regarding the number of 'true' farm properties in the Shire as compared to the number of properties currently receiving the farm rate.</i></p> <p><i>The number of farm properties quoted by Council (1,491 assessments) is significantly higher than the number put forward by the former Rural Advisory Committee (412 farming enterprises) which is based on data from the 2011 ABS Agricultural census.</i></p> <p><i>In recognition of the issues tabled as part of the Rating Strategy review, officers have been undertaking a progressive review of properties that are eligible to receive the farm rate. The progressive review will be scheduled over a number of years and will be supported by an updated reapplication process. The process will continue in the 2015/16 year and the process be initially applied to all farm assessments that are either sold or subject to ownership changes.</i></p> <p><i>A project to accelerate this project was not recommended to proceed in the new initiatives section of the budget draft.</i></p> <p><i>The Moorabool Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy was specifically quoting the number of Businesses by different Industries within the Shire and as such was quoting data publically available from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Moorabool</i></p>
--	--	---	---

			<i>Shire does not collect data relating to the number of farm businesses nor businesses by industry profile and as such relies on data provided by the ABS.</i>
4	Judith Bailey	<p>A number of Councils are looking at LED street lights as they have a number of financial benefits due to their low energy use, low maintenance costs and long lifetimes. However, they can have serious unintended environmental, ecological and health consequences so that thought and planning need to be put in before commencing a LED street lighting program.</p> <p>I note that Moorabool does not have a Street Lighting Policy which could recommend the most energy efficient light fittings to be used. I suggest that before any Street Lights are renewed, a new policy could be developed to include energy efficient, environmental and health impacts of light at night.</p> <p>The current LED lighting that are being trialed in some Councils is white-light LEDs and they emit a large component of blue light so that their light is referred to as blue-rich white light. Recent research in a variety of fields such as epidemiology, astronomy, land conservation and biology, as well as vision and lighting indicates potential serious consequences to such blue-rich white light at night. Unfortunately, such research seems to be generally ignored by the lighting industry. For example, the MAV Procurement recommended Sylvania 25W LED Street Light module has a correlated colour temperature of 5000K, indicating an exceptionally large emission in the blue part of the spectrum.</p> <p>Potential problems due to blue-rich white light at night:</p>	<p><i>The development of a Street Lighting Policy is currently in progress and will be presented to the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 03 June 2015 for adoption. Whilst the policy refers to energy efficient lighting, it doesn't specifically reference a particular luminaire type.</i></p> <p><i>A Council Plan action into the 2015/16 financial year is to review Council's position in relation to energy efficient street lighting. This will include consideration of upfront costs, associated payback period, options regarding financing and consideration of luminaire type. Mrs. Bailey's feedback will be taken into consideration during this review.</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environment . the large blue component gives a greater contribution to sky glow than warmer coloured light.• Ecology . the large blue component of the light has a disturbing impact on insects and on nocturnal animals.• Visibility . due to the large blue component of the light extra glare is perceived from the street lights reducing visibility for all. This is especially the case for older people whose eyes are likely to have yellowing lenses so that much of the blue light does not reach into their eyes.• Human Health . blue light at night suppresses the hormone melatonin disturbing the normal human circadian rhythm as well as the immune system. There is now considerable evidence indicating that light at night, especially blue light, is a risk factor for breast and prostate cancer. <p>A useful document outlining these issues is provided by the International Dark-Sky Association Victoria at http://www.darkskyvic.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/SeeingBlue.pdf</p> <p>As mentioned above, it is recommended that Council considers developing a Street Lighting Policy. Afterwards Council should look at independently sourcing LED street lights with a warmer colour (correlated colour temperature of 3000K) in order to minimise the potentially dangerous emission of blue light in suburban streets and into the bedrooms of residents. Ideally, the street lights should include control gear that in the future, (Geelong Council are planning for this) they could be dimmed or even switched off late</p>	
--	--	--

		<p>at night when there is little pedestrian or vehicular traffic that require them. Also shields for lighting are an important requirement to reduce light pollution, some current light fittings when wet actually increase the dispersion of light upwards, increasing glare. Moving towards a policy to turn off unnecessary lighting after 12 midnight, France has such a policy, would be a precedent in Victoria and help to keep the night sky as dark as possible.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this aspect of the budget. I would be happy to present to the Council in person or to meet with appropriate members of Council staff.</p>	
--	--	---	--

The following parties have indicated their intention to be heard in support of their written submissions:

- Jackie Tabone - The Neighbours Place, Bacchus Marsh
- Chris Sharkey - Balliang East
- Judith Bailey - Ballarat Observatory Advisory Committee, Clarendon

Policy Implications

The 2013 - 2017 Council Plan provides as follows;

Key Result Area	Continuous Improvement in Council Services
Objective	Sound, long term financial management
Strategy	Develop and maintain a long term financial planning, management and reporting system, which ensures resources to deliver services and manage Council's assets.

The proposal is consistent with the 2013-2017 Council Plan.

Financial Implications

The 2015/16 Budget contains details of the financial resources required to deliver the 2013 - 2017 Council Plan.

Communications Strategy

Following adoption of the 2015/16 Annual Budget, advertisement of the adoption of the budget will be provided through a public notice in local newspapers and the full 2015/16 Annual Budget document will be posted on the website.

Submitters will be responded to individually.

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 – Steve Ivelja

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

Conclusion

Council's consideration of budget submissions is a statutory step necessary to formally adopt the 2015/16 Annual Budget for Moorabool Shire Council and forward it to the Minister.

Consideration of Presentation

Mr. Chris Sharkey addressed Council in relation to the consideration of submissions to the proposed 2015/16 Annual Budget.

Ms. Judith Bailey, Ballarat Observatory Advisory Committee addressed Council in relation to the consideration of submissions to the proposed 2015/16 Annual Budget.

Mr. Paul Maher, Wallace Recreation Reserve Committee of Management, addressed Council in relation to the consideration of submissions to the proposed 2015/16 Annual Budget.

The business of the meeting then returned to the agenda.

Recommendation:

- 1. That Council receives the following submissions:**

No.	Submission From	Main Points	Response
1	Anita Gary	<p>I am writing to note my concern with the proposed budget increase and a lack of any spending on services particularly for youth in the Bacchus Marsh area. I read the document and see that the large youth population was noted. It appears to me that this population and the forecast growth, is not being addressed by the council. We still have no Youth Centre in Bacchus Marsh or an Aquatic Centre. What opportunities does the council aim to provide for youth in our shire? This population will only increase as many young families have moved to the area. Why is there no allocated budget to the building of a youth centre or the provision of youth recreation services outside of sporting facilities?</p>	<p>In the 2013 – 2014 financial year, the net cost to Moorabool Shire Council for the provision of Youth Services was \$170,000. In the 2015 – 2016 financial year, Council will expend \$252,000 for Youth Service provision. This increase has resulted in the employment of an additional full time Youth Services Development Officer, taking the Youth Services team to 3 EFT.</p> <p>Council has also committed \$20,000 to engage consultants to undertake a Youth Space feasibility study which will explore the need and will;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• provide the rationale for future decision making and provision of a Youth Facility• identify social and economic benefits of a Youth Facility• investigate and identify an appropriate framework for a Youth Facility (multipurpose or stand - alone) including facility component requirements• outline predicted usage• suggest required management model associated with the proposed facility and;• assess and provide recommendations regarding funding model.

2	The Neighbours Place (TNP)	<p>The Neighbours' Place (TNP) would like to submit that the annual operational grant provided by the Shire should be reviewed and the level of the grant increased.</p> <p>TNP is a multi-denominational Christian not-for-profit emergency food service. TNP is not a government funded and receives no federal or state funding. It relies on the kindness of others for donations of goods, services and money. TNP services visitors from all over Moorabool Shire -: Ballan, Greendale, Blackwood, Gordon and other outlying areas. No-one is turned away.</p> <p>In 2010 – 2011 Council decided to make its funding of TNP more certain and determined to make the operating grant a permanent expenditure item. The value of the grant was initially set at \$5,500, including GST. The grant has subsequently been indexed annually by the movement in the CPI. The grant allocated in 2014 - 2015 totaled \$6,591.53, including GST.</p> <p>The Shire currently provides TNP with a grant to assist us with our operating of an emergency food relief</p>	<p>The submission demonstrates that the annual CPI increase is no longer meeting the needs of this service, due to increasing demand from social and economic factors, as well as population growth. This service does not receive any other state or federal government funding and are reliant on fundraising and donations. The Council supports a number of community service organisations, for example Community Houses. Supporting The Neighbours Place to increase its grant to \$8,200 would make this comparable to the grants of other services the Council supports.</p>
---	-----------------------------------	---	--

	<p>service to the citizens of Bacchus Marsh and surrounding areas. Our aim is to provide emergency food to people within the Moorabool Shire who are disadvantaged, at risk or unable temporarily to feed themselves or their family. TNP also provides no-interest loans, tax help and counselling. TNP not only offers food relief, and Christmas Hampers, it also offers no-interest loans to those who cannot access normal credit card facilities, it provides referrals for families to other support agencies such as CAFS, and it provides tax help and counselling to all in a non-judgmental manner.</p> <p>The Shire's operating grant is an important source of funding for our activities however at its current level it only constitutes a little over 12 per cent of our funding needs. Although this is helpful unfortunately the demand for our services, and our costs, are outstripping CPI as they are more closely tied to the population growth and the general health of the economy. The number of clients serviced by TNP has increased by over 30 per cent in the past 3 years. The operating grant has only increased by around 12 per cent.</p>	
--	--	--

	<p>Given the forecast population growth for Moorabool in coming years and the likely rise in unemployment and a stagnating economy it is expected that the gap between our costs and the grant will continue to widen. As a result the proportion of our costs being met by the Shire's grant will fall below the current 12 per cent.</p> <p>Moorabool are receiving a value, or return on investment, of over 4 to 1 from the funding provided by the grant. Adding the value of the time and effort of volunteers and in-kind donations from local businesses would justify an even higher investment in TNP.</p> <p>We respectfully submit that a review of the level of funding provided to us through the operating grant. The information supplied above would justify an increase of 25 per cent, to \$8,200 including GST for the 2015 - 2016 year. An increase of this magnitude would only restore the Shire's proportion of our total costs.</p>	
--	---	--

3	Chris Sharkey	<p>The submission asks council to address two key issues of concern;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Under the LGA 3C(1) objectives of a council. The primary objective of a council is to achieve the best outcome for the local community having regard to the long term and cumulative effects of decisions. <p>Question: How does council intend to achieve long term outcomes for the community with rates continuing to rise by 5% when inflation is only running at 1.3% by basing council decisions using an inflation rate of 3%. How is this sustainable and in the best interests of the community?</p>	<p>In 2015/16, general rates will increase by 5.0%. To offset this increase, waste service charges will reduce by 2.25% in 2015/16. As a result, overall rates and charges will increase by an average of 4.1%. This increase will allow council to maintain existing service levels, fund a number of new initiatives and continue to allocate additional funds to Shire's infrastructure program which is required to service a growing community.</p> <p>The 2015/16 Proposed Budget has been premised on a 2.3% CPI increase. The projected CPI of 2.3% is conservative when compared to the 15/16 Victorian State Budget projections and the 15/16 Federal Budget projections which have forecast the Consumer Price Index to increase by 2.75% and 2.5% respectively in 2015/16.</p> <p>In addition to the pressures of inflation, population growth within the Shire is projected to be robust for the foreseeable future with population growth projections in excess of 2.5% per annum year on year. In spite of this continued growth, council has also been significantly impacted by reductions in Financial Assistance Grants (FAG's), and an environment where government funding continues to remain flat.</p> <p>To assist with planning in a longer term framework, Moorabool Shire Council also has a Strategic Financial plan. As per the Strategic Financial plan, Council has projected CPI of 3% for future planning purposes for all years beyond 2015/16. This index is broadly consistent with both State and Federal Budget future projections and is broadly consistent with historical CPI projections in Australia over the last 10 years. Most importantly however, it must be stressed that the projections contained in councils strategic resource plan are a strategic guide only and council is not bound by the assumptions contained in the future years of the strategic financial plan, which can change from year to year. The annual budget process and the parameters contained within (including annual rate increases) are the responsibility for the council to determine as part of the annual budget process on a year by year basis. It is agreed that Council does not have accurate information relating to the number of farming enterprises within the Shire. Council currently assesses 1,491 rateable assessments as eligible to receive a farm rate.</p>
---	---------------	---	---

	<p>2. Farm Rate Numbers. To date still no resolution to this question which was taken on notice 12 months ago.</p> <p>Question: From a budgetary point of view, how does council provide transparency with its rate payer base when numbers within a rating strategy are flawed?</p> <p>If Council believes it is too difficult to identify accurate farm business numbers, then how and when did council decide to use farm numbers of 480 in a recent waste management strategy adopted by council in September 2014?</p>	<p>Leading up to the 2014/15 Budget, Council conducted a review of the Municipal Rate Strategy which has now been adopted for a period of 2 years. During this review there were a range of discussions regarding the number of 'true' farm properties in the Shire as compared to the number of properties currently receiving the farm rate.</p> <p>The number of farm properties quoted by Council (1,491 assessments) is significantly higher than the number put forward by the former Rural Advisory Committee (412 farming enterprises) which is based on data from the 2011 ABS Agricultural census.</p> <p>In recognition of the issues tabled as part of the Rating Strategy review, officers have been undertaking a progressive review of properties that are eligible to receive the farm rate. The progressive review will be scheduled over a number of years and will be supported by an updated reapplication process. The process will continue in the 2015/16 year and the process be initially applied to all farm assessments that are either sold or subject to ownership changes.</p> <p>A project to accelerate this project was not recommended to proceed in the new initiatives section of the budget draft.</p> <p>The Moorabool Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy was specifically quoting the number of Businesses by different Industries within the Shire and as such was quoting data publically available from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Moorabool Shire does not collect data relating to the number of farm businesses nor businesses by industry profile and as such relies on data provided by the ABS.</p>
--	--	--

4	Judith Bailey	<p>A number of Councils are looking at LED street lights as they have a number of financial benefits due to their low energy use, low maintenance costs and long lifetimes. However, they can have serious unintended environmental, ecological and health consequences so that thought and planning need to be put in before commencing a LED street lighting program.</p> <p>I note that Moorabool does not have a Street Lighting Policy which could recommend the most energy efficient light fittings to be used. I suggest that before any Street Lights are renewed, a new policy could be developed to include energy efficient, environmental and health impacts of light at night.</p> <p>The current LED lighting that are being trialed in some Councils is white-light LEDs and they emit a large component of blue light so that their light is referred to as blue-rich white light. Recent research in a variety of fields such as epidemiology, astronomy, land conservation and biology, as well as vision and lighting indicates potential serious</p>	<p>The development of a Street Lighting Policy is currently in progress and will be presented to the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 03 June 2015 for adoption. Whilst the policy refers to energy efficient lighting, it doesn't specifically reference a particular luminaire type.</p> <p>A Council Plan action into the 2015/16 financial year is to review Council's position in relation to energy efficient street lighting. This will include consideration of upfront costs, associated payback period, options regarding financing and consideration of luminaire type. Mrs. Bailey's feedback will be taken into consideration during this review.</p>
---	---------------	---	--

		<p>consequences to such blue-rich white light at night. Unfortunately, such research seems to be generally ignored by the lighting industry. For example, the MAV Procurement recommended Sylvania 25W LED Street Light module has a correlated colour temperature of 5000K, indicating an exceptionally large emission in the blue part of the spectrum.</p> <p>Potential problems due to blue-rich white light at night:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environment – the large blue component gives a greater contribution to sky glow than warmer coloured light.• Ecology – the large blue component of the light has a disturbing impact on insects and on nocturnal animals.• Visibility – due to the large blue component of the light extra glare is perceived from the street lights reducing visibility for all. This is especially the case for older people whose eyes are likely to have yellowing lenses so that much of the blue light does not reach into their eyes.	
--	--	---	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Human Health – blue light at night suppresses the hormone melatonin disturbing the normal human circadian rhythm as well as the immune system. There is now considerable evidence indicating that light at night, especially blue light, is a risk factor for breast and prostate cancer. <p>A useful document outlining these issues is provided by the International Dark-Sky Association Victoria at http://www.darkskyvic.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/SeeingBlue.pdf</p> <p>As mentioned above, it is recommended that Council considers developing a Street Lighting Policy. Afterwards Council should look at independently sourcing LED street lights with a warmer colour (correlated colour temperature of 3000K) in order to minimise the potentially dangerous emission of blue light in suburban streets and into the bedrooms of residents. Ideally, the street lights should</p>	
--	--	--

	<p>include control gear that in the future, (Geelong Council are planning for this) they could be dimmed or even switched off late at night when there is little pedestrian or vehicular traffic that require them. Also shields for lighting are an important requirement to reduce light pollution, some current light fittings when wet actually increase the dispersion of light upwards, increasing glare. Moving towards a policy to turn off unnecessary lighting after 12 midnight, France has such a policy, would be a precedent in Victoria and help to keep the night sky as dark as possible.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this aspect of the budget. I would be happy to present to the Council in person or to meet with appropriate members of Council staff.</p>	
--	---	--

2. That Council takes into consideration the matters raised within the submissions in its consideration of the 2015/16 Annual Budget at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on Wednesday 3 June 2015.
3. That following the adoption of the 2015/16 Annual Budget, responses are provided to each Submitter.

Resolution:**Crs. Spain/Dudzik****1. That Council receives the following submissions:**

No.	Submission From	Main Points	Response
1	Anita Gary	<p><i>I am writing to note my concern with the proposed budget increase and a lack of any spending on services particularly for youth in the Bacchus Marsh area. I read the document and see that the large youth population was noted. It appears to me that this population and the forecast growth, is not being addressed by the council. We still have no Youth Centre in Bacchus Marsh or an Aquatic Centre. What opportunities does the council aim to provide for youth in our shire? This population will only increase as many young families have moved to the area. Why is there no allocated budget to the building of a youth centre or the provision of youth recreation services outside of sporting facilities?</i></p>	<p><i>In the 2013 – 2014 financial year, the net cost to Moorabool Shire Council for the provision of Youth Services was \$170,000. In the 2015 – 2016 financial year, Council will expend \$252,000 for Youth Service provision. This increase has resulted in the employment of an additional full time Youth Services Development Officer, taking the Youth Services team to 3 EFT.</i></p> <p><i>Council has also committed \$20,000 to engage consultants to undertake a Youth Space feasibility study which will explore the need and will;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• provide the rationale for future decision making and provision of a Youth Facility</i> <i>• identify social and economic benefits of a Youth Facility</i> <i>• investigate and identify an appropriate framework for a Youth Facility (multipurpose or stand - alone) including facility component requirements</i> <i>• outline predicted usage</i> <i>• suggest required management model associated with the proposed facility and;</i> <i>• assess and provide recommendations regarding funding model.</i>

2	The Neighbours Place (TNP)	<p><i>The Neighbours' Place (TNP) would like to submit that the annual operational grant provided by the Shire should be reviewed and the level of the grant increased.</i></p> <p><i>TNP is a multi-denominational Christian not-for-profit emergency food service. TNP is not a government funded and receives no federal or state funding. It relies on the kindness of others for donations of goods, services and money. TNP services visitors from all over Moorabool Shire -: Ballan, Greendale, Blackwood, Gordon and other outlying areas. No-one is turned away.</i></p> <p><i>In 2010 – 2011 Council decided to make its funding of TNP more certain and determined to make the operating grant a permanent expenditure item. The value of the grant was initially set at \$5,500, including GST. The grant has subsequently been indexed annually by the movement in the CPI. The grant allocated in 2014 - 2015 totaled \$6,591.53, including GST.</i></p> <p><i>The Shire currently provides TNP with a grant to assist us with our operating of an emergency food relief</i></p>	<p><i>The submission demonstrates that the annual CPI increase is no longer meeting the needs of this service, due to increasing demand from social and economic factors, as well as population growth. This service does not receive any other state or federal government funding and are reliant on fundraising and donations. The Council supports a number of community service organisations, for example Community Houses. Supporting The Neighbours Place to increase its grant to \$8,200 would make this comparable to the grants of other services the Council supports.</i></p>
---	-----------------------------------	---	---

	<p><i>service to the citizens of Bacchus Marsh and surrounding areas. Our aim is to provide emergency food to people within the Moorabool Shire who are disadvantaged, at risk or unable temporarily to feed themselves or their family. TNP also provides no-interest loans, tax help and counselling. TNP not only offers food relief, and Christmas Hampers, it also offers no-interest loans to those who cannot access normal credit card facilities, it provides referrals for families to other support agencies such as CAFS, and it provides tax help and counselling to all in a non-judgmental manner.</i></p> <p><i>The Shire's operating grant is an important source of funding for our activities however at its current level it only constitutes a little over 12 per cent of our funding needs. Although this is helpful unfortunately the demand for our services, and our costs, are outstripping CPI as they are more closely tied to the population growth and the general health of the economy. The number of clients serviced by TNP has increased by over 30 per cent in the past 3 years. The operating grant has only increased by around 12 per cent.</i></p>	
--	--	--

	<p><i>Given the forecast population growth for Moorabool in coming years and the likely rise in unemployment and a stagnating economy it is expected that the gap between our costs and the grant will continue to widen. As a result the proportion of our costs being met by the Shire's grant will fall below the current 12 per cent.</i></p> <p><i>Moorabool are receiving a value, or return on investment, of over 4 to 1 from the funding provided by the grant. Adding the value of the time and effort of volunteers and in-kind donations from local businesses would justify an even higher investment in TNP.</i></p> <p><i>We respectfully submit that a review of the level of funding provided to us through the operating grant. The information supplied above would justify an increase of 25 per cent, to \$8,200 including GST for the 2015 - 2016 year. An increase of this magnitude would only restore the Shire's proportion of our total costs.</i></p>	
--	--	--

3	Chris Sharkey	<p><i>The submission asks council to address two key issues of concern;</i></p> <p><i>3. Under the LGA 3C(1) objectives of a council. The primary objective of a council is to achieve the best outcome for the local community having regard to the long term and cumulative effects of decisions.</i></p> <p><i>Question: How does council intend to achieve long term outcomes for the community with rates continuing to rise by 5% when inflation is only running at 1.3% by basing council decisions using an inflation rate of 3%. How is this sustainable and in the best interests of the community?</i></p>	<p><i>In 2015/16, general rates will increase by 5.0%. To offset this increase, waste service charges will reduce by 2.25% in 2015/16. As a result, overall rates and charges will increase by an average of 4.1%. This increase will allow council to maintain existing service levels, fund a number of new initiatives and continue to allocate additional funds to Shire's infrastructure program which is required to service a growing community.</i></p> <p><i>The 2015/16 Proposed Budget has been premised on a 2.3% CPI increase. The projected CPI of 2.3% is conservative when compared to the 15/16 Victorian State Budget projections and the 15/16 Federal Budget projections which have forecast the Consumer Price Index to increase by 2.75% and 2.5% respectively in 2015/16.</i></p> <p><i>In addition to the pressures of inflation, population growth within the Shire is projected to be robust for the foreseeable future with population growth projections in excess of 2.5% per annum year on year. In spite of this continued growth, council has also been significantly impacted by reductions in Financial Assistance Grants (FAG's), and an environment where government funding continues to remain flat.</i></p> <p><i>To assist with planning in a longer term framework, Moorabool Shire Council also has a Strategic Financial plan. As per the Strategic Financial plan, Council has projected CPI of 3% for future planning purposes for all years beyond 2015/16. This index is broadly consistent with both State and Federal Budget future projections and is broadly consistent with historical CPI projections in Australia over the last 10 years. Most importantly however, it must be stressed that the projections contained in councils strategic resource plan are a strategic guide only and council is not bound by the assumptions contained in the future years of the strategic financial plan, which can change from year to year. The annual budget process and the parameters contained within (including annual rate increases) are the responsibility for the council to determine as part of the annual budget process on a year by year basis. It is agreed that Council does not have accurate information relating to the number of farming enterprises within the Shire. Council currently assesses 1,491 rateable assessments as eligible to receive a farm rate.</i></p>
---	---------------	---	---

		<p>4. Farm Rate Numbers. To date still no resolution to this question which was taken on notice 12 months ago.</p> <p>Question: From a budgetary point of view, how does council provide transparency with its rate payer base when numbers within a rating strategy are flawed?</p> <p>If Council believes it is too difficult to identify accurate farm business numbers, then how and when did council decide to use farm numbers of 480 in a recent waste management strategy adopted by council in September 2014?</p>	<p>Leading up to the 2014/15 Budget, Council conducted a review of the Municipal Rate Strategy which has now been adopted for a period of 2 years. During this review there were a range of discussions regarding the number of 'true' farm properties in the Shire as compared to the number of properties currently receiving the farm rate.</p> <p>The number of farm properties quoted by Council (1,491 assessments) is significantly higher than the number put forward by the former Rural Advisory Committee (412 farming enterprises) which is based on data from the 2011 ABS Agricultural census.</p> <p>In recognition of the issues tabled as part of the Rating Strategy review, officers have been undertaking a progressive review of properties that are eligible to receive the farm rate. The progressive review will be scheduled over a number of years and will be supported by an updated reapplication process. The process will continue in the 2015/16 year and the process be initially applied to all farm assessments that are either sold or subject to ownership changes.</p> <p>A project to accelerate this project was not recommended to proceed in the new initiatives section of the budget draft.</p> <p>The Moorabool Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy was specifically quoting the number of Businesses by different Industries within the Shire and as such was quoting data publically available from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Moorabool Shire does not collect data relating to the number of farm businesses nor businesses by industry profile and as such relies on data provided by the ABS.</p>
--	--	--	---

4	Judith Bailey	<p><i>A number of Councils are looking at LED street lights as they have a number of financial benefits due to their low energy use, low maintenance costs and long lifetimes. However, they can have serious unintended environmental, ecological and health consequences so that thought and planning need to be put in before commencing a LED street lighting program.</i></p> <p><i>I note that Moorabool does not have a Street Lighting Policy which could recommend the most energy efficient light fittings to be used. I suggest that before any Street Lights are renewed, a new policy could be developed to include energy efficient, environmental and health impacts of light at night.</i></p> <p><i>The current LED lighting that are being trialed in some Councils is white-light LEDs and they emit a large component of blue light so that their light is referred to as blue-rich white light. Recent research in a variety of fields such as epidemiology, astronomy, land conservation and biology, as well as vision and lighting indicates potential serious</i></p>	<p><i>The development of a Street Lighting Policy is currently in progress and will be presented to the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 03 June 2015 for adoption. Whilst the policy refers to energy efficient lighting, it doesn't specifically reference a particular luminaire type.</i></p> <p><i>A Council Plan action into the 2015/16 financial year is to review Council's position in relation to energy efficient street lighting. This will include consideration of upfront costs, associated payback period, options regarding financing and consideration of luminaire type. Mrs. Bailey's feedback will be taken into consideration during this review.</i></p>
---	----------------------	---	--

		<p><i>consequences to such blue-rich white light at night. Unfortunately, such research seems to be generally ignored by the lighting industry. For example, the MAV Procurement recommended Sylvania 25W LED Street Light module has a correlated colour temperature of 5000K, indicating an exceptionally large emission in the blue part of the spectrum.</i></p> <p><i>Potential problems due to blue-rich white light at night:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• Environment – the large blue component gives a greater contribution to sky glow than warmer coloured light.</i><i>• Ecology – the large blue component of the light has a disturbing impact on insects and on nocturnal animals.</i><i>• Visibility – due to the large blue component of the light extra glare is perceived from the street lights reducing visibility for all. This is especially the case for older people whose eyes are likely to have yellowing lenses so that much of the blue light does not reach into their eyes.</i>	
--	--	---	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Human Health – blue light at night suppresses the hormone melatonin disturbing the normal human circadian rhythm as well as the immune system. There is now considerable evidence indicating that light at night, especially blue light, is a risk factor for breast and prostate cancer.</i> <p><i>A useful document outlining these issues is provided by the International Dark-Sky Association Victoria at http://www.darkskyvic.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/SeeingBlue.pdf</i></p> <p><i>As mentioned above, it is recommended that Council considers developing a Street Lighting Policy. Afterwards Council should look at independently sourcing LED street lights with a warmer colour (correlated colour temperature of 3000K) in order to minimise the potentially dangerous emission of blue light in suburban streets and into the bedrooms of residents. Ideally, the street lights should</i></p>	
--	---	--

	<p><i>include control gear that in the future, (Geelong Council are planning for this) they could be dimmed or even switched off late at night when there is little pedestrian or vehicular traffic that require them. Also shields for lighting are an important requirement to reduce light pollution, some current light fittings when wet actually increase the dispersion of light upwards, increasing glare. Moving towards a policy to turn off unnecessary lighting after 12 midnight, France has such a policy, would be a precedent in Victoria and help to keep the night sky as dark as possible.</i></p> <p><i>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this aspect of the budget. I would be happy to present to the Council in person or to meet with appropriate members of Council staff.</i></p>	
--	---	--

5.	Paul Mahar Wallace Recreation Reserve Committee of Management	<p>We are writing to you as the executive of the Wallace Recreation Reserve Committee of Management to seek funding for public toilets at the A J Yates Reserve. The Recreation Reserve Committee and our main user group, the Springbank Football / Netball Club have both received a significant number of complaints regarding the current toilet configuration.</p> <p>The major problem is that since the upgrade of the facilities in 2011, we have considerably increased patronage at the Reserve. On match days, we often receive complaints because the public, including members and guests, need to pass through the players showers (whom are open to the toilet area) to access the mens toilets. Parents of junior players especially, have expressed concern about this, and are wary of the possibility of inappropriate behaviour towards these players. This is of great concern to the Wallace Recreation Reserve Committee of Management, the sporting bodies who use the facilities and to all well-meaning people of the district. The fact that toilets are also expected to be open to the general public at</p>	<p>The public toilet project submitted for consideration is a project listed in the Wallace Recreation Reserve Master Plan and is also listed in Councils overall CIP program for consideration in future years. This project is not proposed for funding in the 2015/16 financial year.</p> <p>Currently in the indicative 2016/17 CIP the installation of an irrigation system has been earmarked as a potential project at the Wallace Rec Reserve.</p> <p>To assist the future planning and development of this project, it is recommended that the project be referred to the 2016/17 CIP process for consideration as the scope of the project requires further development. It should be noted the Reserve Committee of Management and user groups requested that general public access to amenities be inside the pavilion at the time of the pavilion development project that was undertaken.</p> <p>The feasibility of providing toilets open to the public at all times as this reserve as outlined in the submission also requires investigation as currently the demand for use at this reserve outside of competition and training times of the user groups would not support that demand for use.</p>
----	--	---	---

		<p><i>all times also adds to the problem, as ladies, gents and disabled toilets are all within the confines of the interior of the facility, and to have them open is a great security risk to the Wallace Recreation Reserve and those who use it. The security problem can be witnessed by the fact that the police have been required to attend after two burglaries at the facility since its upgrade.</i></p>	
--	--	---	--

2. *That Council takes into consideration the matters raised within the submissions in its consideration of the 2015/16 Annual Budget at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on Wednesday 3 June 2015.*
3. *That following the adoption of the 2015/16 Annual Budget, responses are provided to each Submitter.*
4. *That Council writes to Local and Federal members in response to the petition submitted by The Neighbours Place, highlighting the inadequacies of funding provided.*
5. *That Council write to the Minister for Agriculture requesting a copy of the response letter provided to Mr. Chris Sharkey, on his request, relating to the impact on the valuation and rating system on farming enterprises.*

CARRIED.

Report Authorisation

Authorised by:

Name: Phil Jeffrey

Title: General Manager Infrastructure

Date: Thursday, 28 May 2015



8. FURTHER BUSINESS AS ADMITTED BY UNANIMOUS RESOLUTION OF COUNCIL

9. CLOSED SESSION OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

Nil.

10. MEETING CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 5.54pm.

Confirmed.....Mayor.