

## **SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL**

**Minutes** of a  
Special Meeting of Council held in  
the James Young Room, Lerderderg Library,  
215 Main Street, Bacchus Marsh on  
Wednesday 9 July 2014 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. Shane Marr	General Manager Corporate Services
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***

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**1. OPENING OF MEETING**

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

**2. PRESENT**

*Cr. Paul Tatchell  
Cr. David Edwards  
Cr. John Spain  
Cr. Tonia Dudzik  
Cr. Tom Sullivan  
Cr. Pat Toohey*

*Central Ward  
East Moorabool Ward  
East Moorabool Ward  
East Moorabool Ward  
West Moorabool Ward  
Woodlands Ward*

**Officers:**

*Mr. Rob Croxford  
Mr. Shane Marr  
Mr. Phil Jeffrey  
Mr. Danny Colgan  
Mr. Peter Forbes  
  
Mr. Steve Ivelja  
Mrs. Michelle Morrow*

*Chief Executive Officer  
General Manager Corporate Services  
General Manager Infrastructure  
General Manager Community Services  
Acting General Manager Growth and  
Development  
Manager Finance  
Minute Taker*

**3. APOLOGIES**

*Cr. Allan Comrie*

*East Moorabool Ward*

#### **4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS OR CONFLICTS 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.**

## 5. 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:**

<b>Item No</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
6.1	<i>Consideration of Submissions to the Proposed 2014/15 Annual Budget</i>	<i>Judith Bailey (Ms. Bailey did not address Council)</i>	<i>Clarendon Recreation Reserve</i>
6.1	<i>Consideration of Submissions to the Proposed 2014/15 Annual Budget</i>	<i>Trevor Smith</i>	<i>Clarendon Recreation Reserve</i>
6.1	<i>Consideration of Submissions to the Proposed 2014/15 Annual Budget</i>	<i>Russell Hendry</i>	
6.1	<i>Consideration of Submissions to the Proposed 2014/15 Annual Budget</i>	<i>Chris Sharkey</i>	

## **6. BUSINESS**

### **6.1 Consideration of Submissions to the Proposed 2014/15 Annual Budget**

#### **Introduction**

File No.: 07/01/010A  
Author: Steve Ivelja  
General Manager: Shane Marr

#### **Background**

This report relates to the process for Council to adopt the 2014/15 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 2014/15 Annual Budget.

Council commenced statutory procedures dealing with the 2014/15 Annual Budget at the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 21 May 2014. At this meeting, Council resolved to put on public display the Proposed 2014/15 Annual Budget that was considered at this meeting.

A public notice was published in %The Moorabool News+ on Tuesday, 27 May 2014 and also in %The Courier+ in Ballarat on Saturday, 24 May 2014. These public notices called for submissions to the proposed budget.

The proposed 2014/15 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, 7 written submissions were received by 24 June 2014 for consideration by Council. The following is a summary of the submissions that have been received:

No.	Submission From	Main Points	Response
1	Chris Sharkey	<p>This budget submission outlines a number of key issues regarding sustainability and the future direction of the Moorabool Shire.</p> <p>In previous submissions to Council, the RAC outlined its serious concerns for rate fairness and equity for primary producers. The RAC also stressed the rate impact whilst currently been faced by the rural sector, would soon press upon urban residents if all Councilors did not act upon the issue with real commitment, leadership and a long term view for Moorabool.</p> <p>This submission provides a statement from the Budget followed by a question to Council</p> <p>Issue 1; Statement made in the Proposed 2014/15 Budget</p> <p>1.3 %We recognise that increasing rates and debt is not a sustainable way forward+</p> <p>8.3 Financial Performance Indicators Note 5 %Rate Concentration reflects extent of reliance on rate revenues to fund all Councils ongoing services. Trends indicate Councils will become more reliant on rate revenue compared to all other revenue sources+.</p> <p>How can Council show leadership and a clear direction with contradictory statements like this? Can Council please explain?</p>	<p><b>Officer Response:</b> <i>The Council Plan recognises that there are extraordinary pressures on Moorabool Shire to deliver services and facilities appropriate for a diverse and growing population. Council also recognises that increasing rates and debt is not a sustainable way forward.</i></p> <p><i>In light of the tight fiscal environment, Council is continually reviewing the “core business” of Council and ways to do more with less in areas that the community expects.</i></p> <p><i>In relation to the measure of “Rates concentration” the objective of this ratio is to show the proportion of council rates as a proportion of total recurrent revenue. The trend in the 2014/15 Annual Plan and Budget indicates an increasing reliance on Council</i></p>



		<p><b>Issue 2;</b> Considering the forward outlook for capital works is to nearly double in year 15/16 and funded by rate revenue increase only, does Council believe this is realistic let alone fair and equitable to all ratepayers going forward?</p> <p><b>Issue 3;</b> A resolution on farm business numbers has been requested by the RAC for over six months. Will Council confirm farm business numbers and reflect these in the budget?</p>	<p><i>Rates as a proportion of total recurrent revenue. This predominantly reflects Moorabool's limited capacity to generate user fees and charges in addition to state and federal grant funding not keeping pace with Moorabools growth. With the recent announcement of the Federal Budget cutbacks to Financial Assistance Grants, Moorabool Shire is likely to be further disadvantaged into the future. This will result in the rates concentration ratio increasing for the medium term.</i></p> <p><b>Officer response:</b> <i>The 2015/16 forward Capital outlook is based on the 10 year Capital Improvement program that has been developed by Council. The 10 year CIP is a subset of the Strategic Financial Plan which aims to provide a strategic basis for the funding of future budgets whilst ensuring long term financial sustainability. In the context of the 2015/16 forward outlook section 10.2 of the Proposed budget indicates that the 15/16 works program is contingent on a mix of government grants, Council cash and strategic loan borrowings and not merely rate increases. The forward outlook is a strategic guide and is subject to council resolution as part of the 2015/16 budget process.</i></p> <p><b>Officer response:</b> <i>Under the Local Government Act, Council has no obligation or responsibility to disclose the number of farming enterprises. As a result it does not have accurate information relating to the number of farming enterprises within the</i></p>
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		<p><b>Issue 4;</b> What action plan does Council have for securing funding going forward?</p>	<p><i>Shire. Council currently assesses 1507 rateable assessments as eligible to receive a farm rate.</i></p> <p><i>Council recently conducted a review of their Municipal Rate Strategy which has now been adopted for a two year period. During this review there were a range of discussions regarding the number of 'true' farm properties compared to the number of properties currently receiving the farm rate. Preliminary work indicates that there are approximately 412 farming enterprises as opposed to 1507 individual rating assessments which reflects that an enterprise has more than one rate assessment attached to the enterprise.</i></p> <p><i>After the adoption of the 2014/15 budget, a resolution will be presented to Council to undertake a thorough review of properties receiving the farm rate. This is proposed as a pre-cursor to the Rating Strategy review that will occur in 2 years.</i></p> <p><b>Officer response:</b> <i>The Council at its June 2014 meeting revised and adopted its advocacy plan. The primary focus of the Advocacy plan is to continue to advocate for the best possible outcomes for Moorabool Shire Council. The top seven priorities have been presented to all candidates at a state level. This advocacy is in addition to that of the Peri-Urban group of councils and the Central Highlands Councils.</i></p>
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			<i>Council is hopeful that announcements during the State Election process will be positive for Moorabool Shire Council.</i>
2	Anthony Bruzzese	<p>Assessment of rates to our property under the Generate Rate classification is not appropriate.</p> <p>General Rates are allocated to properties which enjoy the provision of services and infrastructure within townships of the Moorabool Shire.</p> <p>We request that our property be provided a differential rate for the determination of our rate amount. The rate should consider and represent a fairer contribution to the shires provision of services and infrastructure provided to remote locations.</p> <p>We are currently paying in excess of \$2,600 per annum which amounts to almost twice the amount of the average rates in the general rate class.</p> <p>Our submission is based on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Poor access to available services due to the remoteness of our properties;</li> <li>2. Very little council infrastructure provided again due to the remoteness of our properties;</li> <li>3. A general sense that the rates that we are paying are not attributed sufficiently to services or infrastructure pertaining to properties in our area; or</li> <li>4. That the rate classification to our property does not</li> </ol>	<p><b>Officer response:</b> <i>On the 21<sup>st</sup> May 2014, Council adopted the draft Rating Strategy for 2014/15. The Council consider that the adopted Rating Strategy results in a fair and equitable distribution of the rating burden. The adopted Rating Strategy has been adopted for a two year period.</i></p> <p><i>As a result of the review of the Municipal Rating Strategy, the established rating categories have undergone a thorough review. Additionally, a range of models with varying charges and changes in level of rates were considered, an analysis on utilizing a valuation base other than the CIV was considered in addition to the potential for the introduction of a municipal charge.</i></p> <p><i>As a result of these deliberations at a Council level, the Council prepared a number of rating strategy proposals. Following on from this, a community consultation process was undergone to provide the community with the opportunity to provide input into the future structure and level of rates levied by Council. At the conclusion of this, a further workshop was convened with the Council to present the results of the community consultation. In addition to this, and as final step in the process, Council considered each of the 5 rate model</i></p>

		<p>represent a fair allocation of council expenditure.</p> <p>Our property's attributes are as follow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zoned RCZ;</li> <li>• Situated off an unsealed road surface with rural area;</li> <li>• No utilities provided to the property other than a Telstra land line;</li> <li>• No Garbage collection;</li> </ul>	<p><i>proposals in light of the impact of the 2014 municipal revaluation.</i></p> <p><i>During the Rating Strategy consultation process, there was some feedback received from residents in rural areas currently on the general / residential rate requesting rate relief on account of lack of proximity and access to services.</i></p> <p><i>As part of the next Rating Strategy review, it is proposed to conduct a further review into the issues pertaining to properties in rural / isolated areas of the Shire that are not eligible for the farm rate and which generally exhibit the characteristics of lifestyle / hobby farm properties.</i></p> <p><i>Additionally, in recognition of the difficulty faced by different classes of ratepayers, Council resolved to review the strategy again in 2 years.</i></p>
3	Judith Bailey . Committee Member Clarendon Recreation Reserve Committee of Management	<p>The Clarendon Recreation Reserve Committee request Council consider the attached Master Plan for consideration for funding support in the 2014-15 works. In total, the sum of works as contained in the Budget proposal amount to \$281,000 in total made up of the following projects;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Upgrade Tennis courts and approach road total \$76,000</li> <li>2. Hub Building 12 x 12m \$140,000</li> </ol>	<p><b>Officer response:</b> Council acknowledges the work completed to date to develop a Master Plan for the reserve. Consistent with other planning and development processes, it is recommended that the existing Master plan document be transferred into a formalised master planning document that clearly articulates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mapping of the existing reserve,</li> <li>- Outlining existing facilities and conditions</li> </ul>

		<p>3. Multi-Purpose Shed for small animal shows, pet corner for fairs/ market days, animal rides etc. includes basketball court on front (all weather surface) \$65,000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Current reserve usage and participation</i></li> <li>- <i>Demographic review of Clarendon including a community engagement process</i></li> <li>- <i>Opportunities for future development including costings</i></li> <li>- <i>Reserve master plan design (map)</i></li> </ul> <p><i>This Master plan document - once consistent with other templates - will better position the community and the Reserve CoM to obtain funding from both Council and other external funding sources including the State Government. Officers of Council can support the Committee of Management in completing this process. The Master plan, once consistent with other recently completed master plans such as Wallace Recreation Reserve, Elaine Recreation Reserve and Ballan Recreation Reserve will be presented to Council for Council's support.</i></p> <p><i>It is proposed that the projects contained in the master plan should be referred to Council's Capital Improvement Plan and budget process to be assessed and prioritised with all other recreation, leisure and community projects.</i></p>
4	John Millett	<p>I wish to complain about the recently announced 5% increase in our rates. This is yet another above inflationary increase imposed on the residents of Moorabool. I moved to Bacchus Marsh in 2005 and every year since we have seen an increase in the rates of 5% or more. Enough is</p>	<p><b>Officer response:</b> For 2014/15, Council is planning to increase rates by 5.0%. This level allows Council to maintain existing service levels, fund a number of new initiatives and continue to allocate additional funds to renew the Shire's</p>

		<p>enough. It is time to get your spending under control and start living with your means and stop dipping into the pockets of Moorabool residents. Peoples wage and salary increases have been in the region of 2-3% over the last few years and we cannot afford such increases any more. You need to get back to providing the basic services expected of the council such as Collecting Rubbish, Repair Roads, Street Lighting etc. and stay out of peopleqlives. Providing Welfare is the State Governments responsibility.</p>	<p><i>infrastructure. The rate increase has been kept below the level foreshadowed in the Council's Strategic Resource Plan despite a number of significant budget impacts most notably recent Federal Government announcements in the 2014 Federal budget to pause Federal Assistance Grants which will have a major impact on future budgets.</i></p> <p><i>In comparison to neighboring councils, Moorabool Shire has outperformed most council when comparing average rate increases over the last 6 years with average rate increases of 4.66% per annum. The following table shows a summary ;</i></p> <table><tr><th><b>Council</b></th><th><b>Av. Rate Inc.</b></th></tr><tr><td>Melton City</td><td>4.53%</td></tr><tr><td>Wyndham City</td><td>6.08%</td></tr><tr><td>Maribyrnong</td><td>5.32%</td></tr><tr><td>Hume City</td><td>5.56%</td></tr><tr><td>City of Brimbank</td><td>6.33%</td></tr><tr><td>Moorabool Shire</td><td>4.66%</td></tr><tr><td>Cardinia Shire</td><td>6.34%</td></tr></table> <p><i>In summary, Council is acutely aware of the tight fiscal environment facing ratepayers and Council is continually reviewing the “core business” of Council and ways to do more with less in areas that the community expects.</i></p>	<b>Council</b>	<b>Av. Rate Inc.</b>	Melton City	4.53%	Wyndham City	6.08%	Maribyrnong	5.32%	Hume City	5.56%	City of Brimbank	6.33%	Moorabool Shire	4.66%	Cardinia Shire	6.34%
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		<p>I also object to the number of Grants that you have handed out in the name of Community Strengthening, Events and The Arts. With the exception of the Blue Light in my opinion all are a waste of my tax payer dollars. Organisations such as Sports Clubs and the Arts should fund their own activities.</p> <p>I wrote to the Government Minister Jeanette Powell a while ago urging her to introduce legislation to Cap Council Rate increases to bring %<del>the</del> spending+ councils under control following the previous increases in the local rates. I see now that the state ALP is proposing to introduce such legislation. They will have my full support if they do.</p> <p>I understand the need for rates to provide local government and I also understand the need for inflationary increases but we need to start living within our means.</p>	<p><b>Officer response:</b> <i>Applicants to the community grants program are required to make a matching cash or volunteer labour contribution to the project, which demonstrates the groups' commitment to their project. The Community Grants Program aims to support community groups throughout the Shire to improve their facilities, organise new programs or events or purchase new equipment. The Community Grants Program objective is to support community groups to help their local communities, encourage volunteerism, build community capacity and provide grant opportunities to groups with limited access to funding.</i></p> <p><b>Officer Response:</b> <i>Comment only no response required</i></p>
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5	Russell Hendry	<p>I would like to have some issues of the budget clarified and applaud Council on some issues raised in the 2014/2015 Budget.</p> <p>Firstly, accolades:</p> <p>Budgeting is a difficult process particularly in a rural Council that does not have critical mass to meet the necessary funds to keep up with depreciating assets. I applaud the efforts and endeavors put into creating this budget and would point out issues that are commendable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>" The \$6.4M asset renewal program - although it still fails to match depreciation</li> <li>" Finally the construction of the northern section of Halletts Way will I hope be completed in this budget period.</li> <li>" Moon reserve toilet- after several attempts by previous Council this may be a reality?</li> <li>" Decrease in depreciation- certainly the great previous work of Keith Linard.</li> </ul> <p><b>Issue 1;</b> What does "significant impact on Council's expenditure" mean when the Mayor refers Carbon Tax? Can you please detail the expected dollar amount of this so when/if it is eliminated we can see the recovery in the actual costs?</p>	<p><b>Officer Response:</b> Comment only no response required</p>          <p><b>Officer Response:</b> The Carbon Tax is a charge that is embedded within the cost of goods and services consumed by Moorabool Shire and is not able to be reliably estimated. Additionally, entities that levy Carbon Tax (for e.g. Utility companies /</p>
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		<p><b>Issue 2;</b> With unprecedented growth of housing in the Shire you still want to increase rates by 5% and use indicators from previous years. Why doesn't this budget clearly show what additional rates will be coming in as a result of new properties? After all these rates are not a 5% on previous rates but a total new payment of \$1300 plus per property. This figure should have been added to last year's rates prior to any decision on rate increase. Can this be added as a line item in this year's budget and estimated for the next years to show some logic in the rate increase?</p>	<p><i>Landfill operators) are not required to separately disclose the Carbon Tax charges on services provided to Council. It has been previously estimated in reports to Council that embedded carbon tax charges could amount to in excess of \$250k per annum. If the Carbon Tax is repealed, it would be reasonable to expect that council costs would reduce by an equivalent amount. It is important however to note that due to the fact that Carbon tax charges are embedded and not separately disclosed in most instances, it is impossible to quantify the likely savings / reductions if any that would flow from Carbon Tax being repealed.</i></p> <p><b>Officer Response:</b> Councils Budget separately discloses the financial impact of property growth on the overall budget. Appendix B section 1.9 shows that the making of supplementary valuations will contribute \$408,456 to Council revenue in 2014/15. This amount is an estimate and is incorporated into the budget statements. Due to the timing of supplementary assessments, most properties are rated for less than a full year rates and are levied a pro rata charge based on the time of the year the property is rated. Supplementary rates on average generate an additional 1.5% in revenue on an annual basis and are used to fund expansion in service growth and infrastructure that usually result from population growth.</p>
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		<p><b>Issue 3;</b> Why is Council considering spending \$4.5M on Darley Early Years Hub when private enterprise would be very keen to fund and operate such a facility? Obviously you are now at design stage and I have not seen any expression of interest document for private operators to provide this service. I know of several who would be interested. You may not know but Council gave approval for the construction of a 103 place facility for 6 weeks to 6 year olds at Hillview and this is well underway. This did NOT come from any expression of interest but from private operators aware of the need. Does Council consider this key business and will it compete with the other 4 or more private operators? This has considerable savings options in both capital and operational costs.</p>	<p><b>Officer Response:</b> <i>The Darley Early Years Hub will not include a long day care service and therefore not compete with the privately operated long day care centres in Bacchus Marsh and Darley. Council is not currently in the business of long day care and there is no proposal before it to become involved.</i></p> <p><i>The Darley Early Years Hub will replace the existing Lerderderg Children's Centre which Council has operated for the past 15 years in a prefabricated building. The Darley Early Years Hub will provide sessional 3 and 4 year old kindergarten, dual nurse maternal and child health service, toy library, playgroups, family support services, occasional (alternative) care and community spaces such as a program room and community room. The demand for Kindergarten (three and four year old) is at capacity in Bacchus Marsh and surrounds. The increasing population will mean children and families potentially miss out on three and four year old Kindergarten if additional spaces don't come on stream in the short to medium to term.</i></p> <p><i>Local Government in Victoria is acknowledged as a national leader in the provision of universal and targeted human services, which includes a significant investment in the planning, and provision of infrastructure and services for families, youth and children's services. In Victoria, Local Government is the provider of early year's infrastructure</i></p>
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		<p><b>Issue 4;</b> I have concern over the huge expenditure on Parks and Gardens. Over \$3.1M or 11.15% of rates. This does not include maintenance of infrastructure which is another \$3.3M. Maybe it is time to conduct a review into this and break this into recreational reserves, walks, pools etc. to give the community a better picture. Can this breakdown be provided for this budget?</p>	<p><i>including principally for the provision of Maternal and Child Health and Kindergarten Services.</i></p> <p><b>Officer Response:</b> As per the draft budget 2014/15 Section 2.3 indicates proposed expenditure on Parks and Gardens of \$2.253M in 2014/15. This allocation is generally spent on maintenance of parks, reserves and open space, tree maintenance (including avenue of honour), powerline clearance, cleaning of public toilets and BBQ's, roadside slashing, fire slashing and maintenance of public areas. In addition, proposed expenditure on road maintenance of \$3.345M is budgeted in 2014/15. Council has a significant asset base that is growing and maintenance is an important aspect to ensure assets and facilities are maintained to a safe and serviceable level for the community benefit.</p>
6	Michael Dunk	<p><b>Objection to the 5% rate increase.</b></p> <p>A rate increase of 5% is not justified when the inflation rate as of March 14 is 2.9% according to the RBA website. It is also noted that Council intend to raise rates by a further 6% for each of the next three FY. CPI is predicted to be 3% for the next four FY.</p>	<p><b>Officer response:</b> For 2014/15, Council is planning to increase rates by 5.0%. This level allows Council to maintain existing service levels, fund a number of new initiatives and continue to allocate additional funds to renew the Shire's infrastructure. The rate increase has been kept below the level foreshadowed in the Council's Strategic Resource Plan despite a number of significant budget impacts most notably recent Federal Government announcements in the 2014 Federal budget to pause Federal Assistance Grants which will have a major impact on future budgets.</p>

		<p><b>Objection to the 6% fee and charge increase.</b></p> <p>An increase in fees and charges of 6% cannot be justified in light of the CPI rate.</p> <p><b>Request for the installation of speed humps on Ingliston Road to curb speeding vehicles</b></p>	<p><i>In Summary, Council is acutely aware of the tight fiscal environment facing ratepayers and Council is continually reviewing the “core business” of Council and ways to do more with less in areas that the community expects.</i></p> <p><b>Officer response:</b> <i>Council is limited in its capacity to generate income from sources other than rates. User fees make up a relatively small component of total revenue and the cost of providing the services on a unit basis are usually higher than the fees charged for these services. For 2014/15, Council is planning to increase fees and charges by 6.0%. The Council has assessed this increase as being critical in ensuring that service users make a reasonable contribution toward the discretionary services they consume whilst ensuring that general ratepayers do not unreasonably subsidise the provision of services through higher rate increases. To this end, the 6% increase in fees and charges is seen as moving the provision of Council Services to a model where service users and not ratepayers are responsible for paying for the services they consume (i.e. user pays).</i></p> <p><b>Officer response:</b> <i>The current speed limit along Ingliston Road, between Old Melbourne Road and Gillespies Lane is 60km/h, at which point the posted limit increases to 80km/h. The most recent traffic count (March 2012) shows an average 383 vpd use the road, with 35 of these being commercial vehicles, the majority of which would be</i></p>
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		<p>Clarification as to why Ingliston Road has no curbing, gutters and clarification re: maintenance arrangements / responsibility for maintaining the road reserve.</p>	<p>accessing the Ballan Industrial Estate. Given the road has multiple residences with direct access along this section of road, the posted speed limit is considered appropriate. However, given the classification of the road is local collector and it provides access to the industrial estate and thus caters for commercial and heavy vehicle traffic, the installation of traffic calming devices is not supported by officers. If speed is an ongoing concern at this location, enforcement would need to be undertaken.</p> <p><b>Officer response:</b> Ingliston Road between Old Melbourne Road and Gillespies Lane is classed as a local collector road in the Road Management Plan. It is zoned as RDZ2 in the planning Scheme. The land to the east is Farm Zone, contains 2ha lots and under current zoning, no further subdivision can be undertaken. The land to the west is Residential Zone and lot sizes vary from 1,000m<sup>2</sup> to 20,000m<sup>2</sup> with possibility of further development. The current structure of the road profile, i.e., two lane sealed road with unsealed shoulders and roadside drains is sufficient to cater the current levels of development and traffic mix. Unless there is a significant change in land use and traffic demand, an upgrade of the road to urban standard is not considered necessary.</p>
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		<p><b>Request for the provision of two free waste disposal tokens to residents to allow them to dispose excess waste as part of their annual rate contribution.</b></p>	<p><b>Officer response:</b> When it comes to waste services, Council currently operates on a user pay approach. i.e. the cost of providing waste services is covered by waste charges in rates notices. Currently, the revenue generated by the waste charge would not be sufficient to cover the cost of transporting and disposing the waste received at transfer stations under a free token system and thus a gate fee is charged. If Council was to provide free tokens this would require an increase in the waste service charges accordingly. There is currently a draft Waste Strategy on public exhibition that considers options such as free tokens but again costs would need to be recovered. Given the Waste Strategy is in draft form, it would be best to finalise this document before making decisions regarding additional services. Once adopted, any alterations to existing service provision would need to be made as part of future budget considerations.</p>
		<p><b>Request for Free dumping of green waste</b></p>	<p><b>Officer response:</b> When it comes to waste services, Council currently operates on a user pay approach. i.e. the cost of providing waste services is covered by waste charges in rates notices. Currently, the revenue generated by the waste charge would not be sufficient to cover the cost of transporting and disposing green waste received at transfer stations under a free system and thus a gate fee is charged. Notwithstanding this, green waste can be disposed of at a Council transfer stations at half the price of normal putrescible</p>

		<p><b>Objection to the 5.5% employee cost increase.</b></p> <p>Council needs to be more responsible in its EBA negotiations to ensure that ratepayers are not forced to pay above what is comparable with other government departments</p> <p><b>Objection to the 1.5% grant funding increase.</b></p> <p>Why is grant funding being increased by 1.5% or \$128 000?</p> <p>With all the State and Federal governments are taking, surely it would be financially prudent and responsible to decrease grant funding to soften the blow to the wallets of already struggling ratepayers. Grant funding should be reduced in line with the current state of the economy.</p>	<p>waste. If Council was to provide a 'free' green waste system, this would require an increase in the waste service charges accordingly.</p> <p><b>Officer response:</b> In setting the budget for 2014/15, the budget has been adjusted for the impact of the EBA, which is 3.5%. Also contributing to the increase is the 0.25% increase in the superannuation guarantee. Increases in staff numbers as a result of proposed new initiatives in Maternal and Child Health, Youth Services, Home and Community Care, and Natural Resource Management also contribute to the increase. There are also additional one off costs related to staff redundancies which result in additional expenditure in 2014/15 but will reduce future budgets.</p> <p><b>Officer response:</b> The objection to the 1.5% grant funding increase as shown in this budget submission erroneously assumes that the 1.5% grant funding increase relates to payments and outgoings that Moorabool Shire will make to third parties. This appears to be an error in interpretation of the person making the submission.</p> <p>The 1.5% grant funding increase refers to the overall increase in grants that Moorabool Shire is expecting to receive from State and Federal governments to fund the 2014/15 budget and does not relate to payments or outgoings that Moorabool Shire is required to make.</p>
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7	<p>Lesley Menzies President RRVV</p> <p>Bellbrook Gardens Retirement Village</p>	<p>I would like to express my thanks for your consideration in applying a differential rate to Retirement Village residents of 5%. I personally wrote to 79 Council in Victoria on behalf of Residents of Retirement Villages Victoria (RRVV), asking that they consider the then Minister for Local Government, Ms Janette Powell's proposal to apply a differential rate to retirement villages. To date only five have complied, yours gave the lowest reduction.</p> <p>May I point out to you the savings your council gains from having a retirement village in your area:</p> <p>NO upkeep of roads, footpaths, street lighting, street cleaning, drainage and even no garbage collection or recycling services. Less demands on your Library, pools and senior services that councils supply to other senior citizens. We pay for the upkeep of all these in our monthly maintenance fee. Plus your councils profit from the density of village housing to the sum of 2 - 3 times the rates revenue of a residential street.</p> <p>You may argue that your rating system is a 'fee for service' but a tax on Capital Improved Values (CIV). A resident who has lived in the village for many years has no CIV. Part of the contracts states that as much as 40% of the selling price goes to the owner as part of the deferred management fee and refurbishments. Therefore the retirement village resident is paying a CIV tax but not receiving the financial benefits of a CIV. The owner deducts these costs before the proceeds go to the residents or his/her estate.</p>	<p><b>Officer response:</b> For the 2013/14 Annual Plan and Budget and subsequent to the release of the Ministerial guidelines for Differential Rating, Council implemented a separate differential rate for retirement villages. The differential rate is set at 0.9 times the general rate.</p> <p>On the 21st May 2014, Council adopted the draft Rating Strategy for 2014/15. The Council considers that the adopted Rating Strategy results in a fair and equitable distribution of the rating burden. The adopted Rating Strategy has been adopted for a two year period. The differential rate for retirement villages was adopted at 0.9 times the general rate for 2014/15.</p> <p>As a result of the review of the Municipal Rating Strategy, the established rating categories (including the Retirement village rate) have undergone a thorough review. Additionally, a range of models with varying charges and changes in level of rates were considered, an analysis on utilizing a valuation base other than the CIV was considered in addition to the potential for the introduction of a municipal charge.</p> <p>As a result of these deliberations at a Council level, the Council prepared a number of rating strategy proposals. Following on from this, a community consultation process was undergone to provide the community with the opportunity to provide input into the future structure and level of rates levied by</p>
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		<p>I would like your council to consider a FAIR differential for the retirement villages in your area. Five percent is a differential rate but it is not a fair one. Knox and Frankston have given 25% which I would think was a much fairer reduction when the all of the above is taken into consideration.</p>	<p><i>Council. At the conclusion of this, a further workshop was convened with the Council to present the results of the community consultation. In addition to this, and as final step in the process, Council considered each of the 5 rate model proposals in light of the impact of the 2014 municipal revaluation.</i></p> <p><i>Subsequent to the Rating Strategy consultation process, there was little community support for the further lowering of the differential rate for residential retirement villages beyond the current rate of 0.9. Furthermore, 72.3% of respondents indicated that the differential rate for residential retirement villages of 0.9 times the general rate was appropriate.</i></p> <p><i>In recognition of the difficulty faced by different classes of ratepayers, council has resolved to review the strategy again in 2 years.</i></p>
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The following parties have indicated their intention to be heard in support of their written submissions:

- Russell Hendry . 47 Clarinda Street Bacchus Marsh
- Chris Sharkey . Rural Advisory Committee
- Trevor Smith and Judith Bailey . Clarendon Reserve Committee of Management

### **Policy Implications**

The 2013 . 2017 Council Plan provides as follows;

<b>Key Result Area</b>	Continuous Improvement in Council Services
<b>Objective</b>	Sound, long term financial management
<b>Strategy</b>	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 2014/15 Budget contains details of the financial resources required to deliver the 2013 - 2017 Council Plan.

### **Communications Strategy**

Following adoption of the 2014/15 Annual Budget, advertisement of the adoption of the budget will be provided through a public notice in local newspapers and the full 2014/15 Annual Budget document will be posted on the 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 – Shane Marr*

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 2014/15 Annual Budget for Moorabool Shire Council and forward it to the Minister.

### ***Consideration of Deputations***

***Mr. Trevor Smith addressed Council in relation to the Consideration of Submissions to the Proposed 2014/15 Annual Budget.***

***Mr. Russell Hendry addressed Council in relation to the Consideration of Submissions to the Proposed 2014/15 Annual Budget.***

***Mr. Chris Sharkey addressed Council in relation to the Consideration of Submissions to the Proposed 2014/15 Annual Budget.***

***The business of the meeting then returned to the agenda.***

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

<b>No.</b>	<b>Submission From</b>	<b>Main Points</b>	<b>Response</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Chris Sharkey</b>	<p><i>This budget submission outlines a number of key issues regarding sustainability and the future direction of the Moorabool Shire.</i></p> <p><i>In previous submissions to Council, the RAC outlined its serious concerns for rate fairness and equity for primary producers. The RAC also stressed the rate impact whilst currently been faced by the rural sector, would soon press upon urban residents if all Councilors' did not act upon the issue with real commitment, leadership and a long term view for Moorabool.</i></p> <p><i>This submission provides a statement from the Budget followed by a question to Council</i></p> <p><i>Issue 1; Statement made in the Proposed 2014/15 Budget</i></p> <p><i>1.3 "We recognise that increasing rates and debt is not a sustainable way forward"</i></p> <p><i>8.3 Financial Performance Indicators Note 5 "Rate Concentration reflects extent of reliance on rate revenues to fund all Councils ongoing services. Trends indicate Councils will become more reliant on</i></p>	<p><i>Officer Response: The Council Plan recognises that there are extraordinary pressures on Moorabool Shire to deliver services and facilities appropriate for a diverse and growing population. Council also recognizes that increasing rates and debt is not a sustainable way forward.</i></p> <p><i>In light of the tight fiscal environment, Council is continually reviewing the "core business" of Council and ways to do more with less in areas</i></p>

		<p><b><i>rate revenue compared to all other revenue sources”.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>How can Council show leadership and a clear direction with contradictory statements like this? Can Council please explain?</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Issue 2; Considering the forward outlook for capital works is to nearly double in year 15/16 and funded by rate revenue increase only, does Council believe this is realistic let alone fair and equitable to all ratepayers going forward?</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>that the community expects.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>In relation to the measure of “Rates concentration” the objective of this ratio is to show the proportion of council rates as a proportion of total recurrent revenue. The trend in the 2014/15 Annual Plan and Budget indicates an increasing reliance on Council Rates as a proportion of total recurrent revenue. This predominantly reflects Moorabool’s limited capacity to generate user fees and charges in addition to state and federal grant funding not keeping pace with Moorabool’s growth. With the recent announcement of the Federal Budget cutbacks to Financial Assistance Grants, Moorabool Shire is likely to be further disadvantaged into the future. This will result in the rates concentration ratio increasing for the medium term.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Officer response: The 2015/16 forward Capital outlook is based on the 10 year Capital Improvement program that has been developed by Council. The 10 year CIP is a subset of the Strategic Financial Plan which aims to provide a strategic basis for the funding of future budgets whilst ensuring long term financial sustainability. In the context of the 2015/16 forward outlook section 10.2 of the Proposed budget indicates that the 15/16 works program is contingent on a mix of government grants, Council cash and strategic loan borrowings and not merely rate increases. The forward outlook</i></b></p>
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		<p><b><i>Issue 3; A resolution on farm business numbers has been requested by the RAC for over six months. Will Council confirm farm business numbers and reflect these in the budget?</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>is a strategic guide and is subject to council resolution as part of the 2015/16 budget process.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Officer response: Under the Local Government Act, Council has no obligation or responsibility to disclose the number of farming enterprises. As a result it does not have accurate information relating to the number of farming enterprises within the Shire. Council currently assesses 1507 rateable assessments as eligible to receive a farm rate.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Council recently conducted a review of their Municipal Rate Strategy which has now been adopted for a two year period. During this review there were a range of discussions regarding the number of 'true' farm properties compared to the number of properties currently receiving the farm rate. Preliminary work indicates that there are approximately 412 farming enterprises as opposed to 1507 individual rating assessments which reflects that an enterprise has more than one rate assessment attached to the enterprise.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>After the adoption of the 2014/15 budget, a resolution will be presented to Council to undertake a thorough review of properties receiving the farm rate. This is proposed as a pre-cursor to the Rating Strategy review that will occur in 2 years.</i></b></p>
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		<p><b><i>Issue 4; What action plan does Council have for securing funding going forward?</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>Officer response: The Council at its June 2014 meeting revised and adopted its advocacy plan. The primary focus of the Advocacy plan is to continue to advocate for the best possible outcomes for Moorabool Shire Council. The top seven priorities have been presented to all candidates at a state level. This advocacy is in addition to that of the Peri-Urban group of councils and the Central Highlands Councils.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Council is hopeful that announcements during the State Election process will be positive for Moorabool Shire Council.</i></b></p>
2	Anthony Bruzzese	<p><b><i>Assessment of rates to our property under the Generate Rate classification is not appropriate.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>General Rates are allocated to properties which enjoy the provision of services and infrastructure within townships of the Moorabool Shire.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>We request that our property be provided a differential rate for the determination of our rate amount. The rate should consider and represent a fairer contribution to the shires provision of services and infrastructure provided to remote locations.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>We are currently paying in excess of \$2,600 per annum which amounts to almost twice the amount of the average rates in the general rate class.</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>Officer response: On the 21<sup>st</sup> May 2014, Council adopted the draft Rating Strategy for 2014/15. The Council consider that the adopted Rating Strategy results in a fair and equitable distribution of the rating burden. The adopted Rating Strategy has been adopted for a two year period.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>As a result of the review of the Municipal Rating Strategy, the established rating categories have undergone a thorough review. Additionally, a range of models with varying charges and changes in level of rates were considered, an analysis on utilizing a valuation base other than the CIV was considered in addition to the potential for the introduction of a municipal</i></b></p>

		<p><b><i>Our submission is based on the following:</i></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b><i>1. Poor access to available services due to the remoteness of our properties;</i></b></li> <li><b><i>2. Very little council infrastructure provided again due to the remoteness of our properties;</i></b></li> <li><b><i>3. A general sense that the rates that we are paying are not attributed sufficiently to services or infrastructure pertaining to properties in our area; or</i></b></li> <li><b><i>4. That the rate classification to our property does not represent a fair allocation of council expenditure.</i></b></li> </ol> <p><b><i>Our property's attributes are as follow:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b><i>• Zoned RCZ;</i></b></li> <li><b><i>• Situated off an unsealed road surface with rural area;</i></b></li> <li><b><i>• No utilities provided to the property other than a Telstra land line;</i></b></li> <li><b><i>• No Garbage collection;</i></b></li> </ul>	<p><b><i>charge.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>As a result of these deliberations at a Council level, the Council prepared a number of rating strategy proposals. Following on from this, a community consultation process was undergone to provide the community with the opportunity to provide input into the future structure and level of rates levied by Council. At the conclusion of this, a further workshop was convened with the Council to present the results of the community consultation. In addition to this, and as final step in the process, Council considered each of the 5 rate model proposals in light of the impact of the 2014 municipal revaluation.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>During the Rating Strategy consultation process, there was some feedback received from residents in rural areas currently on the general / residential rate requesting rate relief on account of lack of proximity and access to services.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>As part of the next Rating Strategy review, it is proposed to conduct a further review into the issues pertaining to properties in rural / isolated areas of the Shire that are not eligible for the farm rate and which generally exhibit the characteristics of lifestyle / hobby farm properties.</i></b></p>
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			<i>Additionally, in recognition of the difficulty faced by different classes of ratepayers, Council resolved to review the strategy again in 2 years.</i>
<b>3</b>	<b><i>Judith Bailey – Committee Member Clarendon Recreation Reserve Committee of Management</i></b>	<p><i>The Clarendon Recreation Reserve Committee request Council consider the attached Master Plan for consideration for funding support in the 2014-15 works. In total, the sum of works as contained in the Budget proposal amount to \$281,000 in total made up of the following projects;</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1. Upgrade Tennis courts and approach road total \$76,000</i></li> <li><i>2. Hub Building 12 x 12m \$140,000</i></li> <li><i>3. Multi-Purpose Shed for small animal shows, pet corner for fairs/ market days, animal rides etc. includes basketball court on front (all weather surface) \$65,000</i></li> </ol>	<p><i>Officer response: Council acknowledges the work completed to date to develop a Master Plan for the reserve. Consistent with other planning and development processes, it is recommended that the existing Master plan document be transferred into a formalised master planning document that clearly articulates:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>- Mapping of the existing reserve,</i></li> <li><i>- Outlining existing facilities and conditions</i></li> <li><i>- Current reserve usage and participation</i></li> <li><i>- Demographic review of Clarendon including a community engagement process</i></li> <li><i>- Opportunities for future development including costings</i></li> <li><i>- Reserve master plan design (map)</i></li> </ul> <p><i>This Master plan document - once consistent with other templates - will better position the community and the Reserve CoM to obtain funding from both Council and other external funding sources including the State</i></p>

			<p><b>Government. Officers of Council can support the Committee of Management in completing this process. The Master plan, once consistent with other recently completed master plans such as Wallace Recreation Reserve, Elaine Recreation Reserve and Ballan Recreation Reserve will be presented to Council for Council's support.</b></p> <p><b>It is proposed that the projects contained in the master plan should be referred to Council's Capital Improvement Plan and budget process to be assessed and prioritised with all other recreation, leisure and community projects.</b></p>
<b>4</b>	<b>John Millett</b>	<p><b>I wish to complain about the recently announced 5% increase in our rates. This is yet another above inflationary increase imposed on the residents of Moorabool. I moved to Bacchus Marsh in 2005 and every year since we have seen an increase in the rates of 5% or more. Enough is enough. It is time to get your spending under control and start living with your means and stop dipping into the pockets of Moorabool residents. Peoples wage and salary increases have been in the region of 2-3% over the last few years and we cannot afford such increases any more. You need to get back to providing the basic services expected of the council such as Collecting Rubbish, Repair Roads, Street Lighting etc. and stay out of people' lives. Providing Welfare is the State Governments responsibility.</b></p>	<p><b>Officer response: For 2014/15, Council is planning to increase rates by 5.0%. This level allows Council to maintain existing service levels, fund a number of new initiatives and continue to allocate additional funds to renew the Shire's infrastructure. The rate increase has been kept below the level foreshadowed in the Council's Strategic Resource Plan despite a number of significant budget impacts most notably recent Federal Government announcements in the 2014 Federal budget to pause Federal Assistance Grants which will have a major impact on future budgets.</b></p> <p><b>In comparison to neighboring councils, Moorabool Shire has outperformed most council when comparing average rate increases over the last 6 years with average rate increases</b></p>

		<p><b><i>of 4.66% per annum. The following table shows a summary ;</i></b></p> <table><tr><td><b><i>Council</i></b></td><td><b><i>Av. Rate Inc.</i></b></td></tr><tr><td><b><i>Melton City</i></b></td><td><b><i>4.53%</i></b></td></tr><tr><td><b><i>Wyndham City</i></b></td><td><b><i>6.08%</i></b></td></tr><tr><td><b><i>Maribyrnong</i></b></td><td><b><i>5.32%</i></b></td></tr><tr><td><b><i>Hume City</i></b></td><td><b><i>5.56%</i></b></td></tr><tr><td><b><i>City of Brimbank</i></b></td><td><b><i>6.33%</i></b></td></tr><tr><td><b><i>Moorabool Shire</i></b></td><td><b><i>4.66%</i></b></td></tr><tr><td><b><i>Cardinia Shire</i></b></td><td><b><i>6.34%</i></b></td></tr></table> <p><b><i>In summary, Council is acutely aware of the tight fiscal environment facing ratepayers and Council is continually reviewing the “core business” of Council and ways to do more with less in areas that the community expects.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Officer response: Applicants to the community grants program are required to make a matching cash or volunteer labour contribution to the project, which demonstrates the groups’ commitment to their project. The Community Grants Program aims to support community groups throughout the Shire to improve their facilities, organise new programs or events or purchase new equipment. The Community Grants Program objective is to support community groups to help their local communities, encourage volunteerism, build community capacity and provide grant</i></b></p>	<b><i>Council</i></b>	<b><i>Av. Rate Inc.</i></b>	<b><i>Melton City</i></b>	<b><i>4.53%</i></b>	<b><i>Wyndham City</i></b>	<b><i>6.08%</i></b>	<b><i>Maribyrnong</i></b>	<b><i>5.32%</i></b>	<b><i>Hume City</i></b>	<b><i>5.56%</i></b>	<b><i>City of Brimbank</i></b>	<b><i>6.33%</i></b>	<b><i>Moorabool Shire</i></b>	<b><i>4.66%</i></b>	<b><i>Cardinia Shire</i></b>	<b><i>6.34%</i></b>
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	<p><b><i>I also object to the number of Grants that you have handed out in the name of Community Strengthening, Events and The Arts. With the exception of the Blue Light in my opinion all are a waste of my tax payer dollars. Organisations such as Sports Clubs and the Arts should fund their own activities.</i></b></p>																	

***I also object to the number of Grants that you have handed out in the name of Community Strengthening, Events and The Arts. With the exception of the Blue Light in my opinion all are a waste of my tax payer dollars. Organisations such as Sports Clubs and the Arts should fund their own activities.***

		<p><i>I wrote to the Government Minister Jeanette Powell a while ago urging her to introduce legislation to Cap Council Rate increases to bring “free spending” councils under control following the previous increases in the local rates. I see now that the state ALP is proposing to introduce such legislation. They will have my full support if they do.</i></p> <p><i>I understand the need for rates to provide local government and I also understand the need for inflationary increases but we need to start living within our means.</i></p>	<p><b>opportunities to groups with limited access to funding.</b></p> <p><b>Officer Response: Comment only no response required</b></p>
5	<b>Russell Hendry</b>	<p><i>I would like to have some issues of the budget clarified and applaud Council on some issues raised in the 2014/2015 Budget.</i></p> <p><i>Firstly, accolades:</i></p> <p><i>Budgeting is a difficult process particularly in a rural Council that does not have critical mass to meet the necessary funds to keep up with depreciating assets. I applaud the efforts and endeavors put into creating this budget and would point out issues that are commendable:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• The \$6.4M asset renewal program - although it still fails to match depreciation</i></li> <li><i>• Finally the construction of the northern section of</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Officer Response: Comment only no response required</b></p>

		<p><b><i>Halletts Way will I hope be completed in this budget period.</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>Moon reserve toilet- after several attempts by previous Council this may be a reality?</i></b></li> <li>• <b><i>Decrease in depreciation- certainly the great previous work of Keith Linard.</i></b></li> </ul> <p><b><i>Issue 1; What does "significant impact on Council's expenditure" mean when the Mayor refers Carbon Tax? Can you please detail the expected dollar amount of this so when/if it is eliminated we can see the recovery in the actual costs?</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Issue 2; With unprecedented growth of housing in the Shire you still want to increase rates by 5% and use</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>Officer Response: The Carbon Tax is a charge that is embedded within the cost of goods and services consumed by Moorabool Shire and is not able to be reliably estimated. Additionally, entities that levy Carbon Tax (for e.g. Utility companies / Landfill operators) are not required to separately disclose the Carbon Tax charges on services provided to Council. It has been previously estimated in reports to Council that embedded carbon tax charges could amount to in excess of \$250k per annum. If the Carbon Tax is repealed, it would be reasonable to expect that council costs would reduce by an equivalent amount. It is important however to note that due to the fact that Carbon tax charges are embedded and not separately disclosed in most instances, it is impossible to quantify the likely savings / reductions if any that would flow from Carbon Tax being repealed.</i></b></p>
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	<p><i>indicators from previous years. Why doesn't this budget clearly show what additional rates will be coming in as a result of new properties? After all these rates are not a 5% on previous rates but a total new payment of \$1300 plus per property. This figure should have been added to last year's rates prior to any decision on rate increase. Can this be added as a line item in this year's budget and estimated for the next years to show some logic in the rate increase?</i></p> <p><i>Issue 3; Why is Council considering spending \$4.5M on Darley Early Years Hub when private enterprise would be very keen to fund and operate such a facility? Obviously you are now at design stage and I have not seen any expression of interest document for private operators to provide this service. I know of several who would be interested. You may not know but Council gave approval for the construction of a 103 place facility for 6 weeks to 6 year olds at Hillview and this is well underway. This did NOT come from any expression of interest but from private operators aware of the need. Does Council consider this key business and will it compete with the other 4 or more private operators? This has considerable savings options in both capital and operational costs.</i></p>	<p><b>Officer Response:</b> Councils Budget separately discloses the financial impact of property growth on the overall budget. Appendix B section 1.9 shows that the making of supplementary valuations will contribute \$408,456 to Council revenue in 2014/15. This amount is an estimate and is incorporated into the budget statements. Due to the timing of supplementary assessments, most properties are rated for less than a full year rates and are levied a pro rata charge based on the time of the year the property is rated. Supplementary rates on average generate an additional 1.5% in revenue on an annual basis and are used to fund expansion in service growth and infrastructure that usually result from population growth.</p> <p><b>Officer Response:</b> The Darley Early Years Hub will not include a long day care service and therefore not compete with the privately operated long day care centres in Bacchus Marsh and Darley. Council is not currently in the business of long day care and there is no proposal before it to become involved.</p> <p>The Darley Early Years Hub will replace the existing Lerderderg Children's Centre which Council has operated for the past 15 years in a prefabricated building. The Darley Early Years Hub will provide sessional 3 and 4 year old</p>
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		<p><b><i>Issue 4; I have concern over the huge expenditure on Parks and Gardens. Over \$3.1M or 11.15% of rates. This does not include maintenance of infrastructure which is another \$3.3M. Maybe it is time to conduct a review into this and break this into recreational reserves, walks, pools etc. to give the community a better picture. Can this breakdown be provided for this budget?</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>kindergarten, dual nurse maternal and child health service, toy library, playgroups, family support services, occasional (alternative) care and community spaces such as a program room and community room. The demand for Kindergarten (three and four year old) is at capacity in Bacchus Marsh and surrounds. The increasing population will mean children and families potentially miss out on three and four year old Kindergarten if additional spaces don't come on stream in the short to medium to term.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Local Government in Victoria is acknowledged as a national leader in the provision of universal and targeted human services, which includes a significant investment in the planning, and provision of infrastructure and services for families, youth and children's services. In Victoria, Local Government is the provider of early year's infrastructure including principally for the provision of Maternal and Child Health and Kindergarten Services.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Officer Response: As per the draft budget 2014/15 Section 2.3 indicates proposed expenditure on Parks and Gardens of \$2.253M in 2014/15. This allocation is generally spent on maintenance of parks, reserves and open space, tree maintenance (including avenue of honour), powerline clearance, cleaning of public toilets and BBQ's, roadside slashing, fire slashing and maintenance of public areas. In</i></b></p>
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			<p><i>addition, proposed expenditure on road maintenance of \$3.345M is budgeted in 2014/15. Council has a significant asset base that is growing and maintenance is an important aspect to ensure assets and facilities are maintained to a safe and serviceable level for the community benefit.</i></p>
6	Michael Dunk	<p><b>Objection to the 5% rate increase.</b></p> <p><i>A rate increase of 5% is not justified when the inflation rate as of March 14 is 2.9% according to the RBA website. It is also noted that Council intend to raise rates by a further 6% for each of the next three FY. CPI is predicted to be 3% for the next four FY.</i></p> <p><b>Objection to the 6% fee and charge increase.</b></p> <p><i>An increase in fees and charges of 6% cannot be justified in light of the CPI rate.</i></p>	<p><b>Officer response:</b> <i>For 2014/15, Council is planning to increase rates by 5.0%. This level allows Council to maintain existing service levels, fund a number of new initiatives and continue to allocate additional funds to renew the Shire's infrastructure. The rate increase has been kept below the level foreshadowed in the Council's Strategic Resource Plan despite a number of significant budget impacts most notably recent Federal Government announcements in the 2014 Federal budget to pause Federal Assistance Grants which will have a major impact on future budgets.</i></p> <p><i>In Summary, Council is acutely aware of the tight fiscal environment facing ratepayers and Council is continually reviewing the "core business" of Council and ways to do more with less in areas that the community expects.</i></p> <p><b>Officer response:</b> <i>Council is limited in its capacity to generate income from sources other than rates. User fees make up a relatively small component of total revenue and the cost of providing the services on a unit basis are</i></p>



		<p><i>Request for the installation of speed humps on Ingliston Road to curb speeding vehicles</i></p>	<p><i>usually higher than the fees charged for these services. For 2014/15, Council is planning to increase fees and charges by 6.0%. The Council has assessed this increase as being critical in ensuring that service users make a reasonable contribution toward the discretionary services they consume whilst ensuring that general ratepayers do not unreasonably subsidise the provision of services through higher rate increases. To this end, the 6% increase in fees and charges is seen as moving the provision of Council Services to a model where service users and not ratepayers are responsible for paying for the services they consume (i.e. user pays).</i></p> <p><i>Officer response: The current speed limit along Ingliston Road, between Old Melbourne Road and Gillespies Lane is 60km/h, at which point the posted limit increases to 80km/h. The most recent traffic count (March 2012) shows an average 383 vpd use the road, with 35 of these being commercial vehicles, the majority of which would be accessing the Ballan Industrial Estate. Given the road has multiple residences with direct access along this section of road, the posted speed limit is considered appropriate. However, given the classification of the road is local collector and it provides access to the industrial estate and thus caters for commercial and heavy vehicle traffic, the</i></p>
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		<p><b>Clarification as to why Ingliston Road has no curbing, gutters and clarification re: maintenance arrangements / responsibility for maintaining the road reserve.</b></p> <p><b>Request for the provision of two free waste disposal tokens to residents to allow them to dispose excess waste as part of their annual rate contribution.</b></p>	<p><b>installation of traffic calming devices is not supported by officers. If speed is an ongoing concern at this location, enforcement would need to be undertaken.</b></p> <p><b>Officer response: Ingliston Road between Old Melbourne Road and Gillespies Lane is classed as a local collector road in the Road Management Plan. It is zoned as RDZ2 in the planning Scheme. The land to the east is Farm Zone, contains 2ha lots and under current zoning, no further subdivision can be undertaken. The land to the west is Residential Zone and lot sizes vary from 1,000m2 to 20,000m2 with possibility of further development. The current structure of the road profile, i.e., two lane sealed road with unsealed shoulders and roadside drains is sufficient to cater the current levels of development and traffic mix. Unless there is a significant change in land use and traffic demand, an upgrade of the road to urban standard is not considered necessary.</b></p> <p><b>Officer response: When it comes to waste services, Council currently operates on a user pay approach. i.e. the cost of providing waste services is covered by waste charges in rates notices. Currently, the revenue generated by the waste charge would not be sufficient to cover the cost of transporting and disposing the waste received at transfer stations under a free</b></p>
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		<p><b><i>Request for Free dumping of green waste</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>token system and thus a gate fee is charged. If Council was to provide free tokens this would require an increase in the waste service charges accordingly. There is currently a draft Waste Strategy on public exhibition that considers options such as free tokens but again costs would need to be recovered. Given the Waste Strategy is in draft form, it would be best to finalise this document before making decisions regarding additional services. Once adopted, any alterations to existing service provision would need to be made as part of future budget considerations.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Officer response: When it comes to waste services, Council currently operates on a user pay approach. i.e. the cost of providing waste services is covered by waste charges in rates notices. Currently, the revenue generated by the waste charge would not be sufficient to cover the cost of transporting and disposing green waste received at transfer stations under a free system and thus a gate fee is charged. Notwithstanding this, green waste can be disposed of at a Council transfer stations at half the price of normal putrescible waste. If Council was to provide a 'free' green waste system, this would require an increase in the waste service charges accordingly.</i></b></p>
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		<p><b>Objection to the 5.5% employee cost increase.</b></p> <p><b>Council needs to be more responsible in its EBA negotiations to ensure that ratepayers are not forced to pay above what is comparable with other government departments</b></p>	<p><b>Officer response:</b> In setting the budget for 2014/15, the budget has been adjusted for the impact of the EBA, which is 3.5%. Also contributing to the increase is the 0.25% increase in the superannuation guarantee. Increases in staff numbers as a result of proposed new initiatives in Maternal and Child Health, Youth Services, Home and Community Care, and Natural Resource Management also contribute to the increase. There are also additional one off costs related to staff redundancies which result in additional expenditure in 2014/15 but will reduce future budgets.</p>
		<p><b>Objection to the 1.5% grant funding increase.</b></p> <p><b>Why is grant funding being increased by 1.5% or \$128 000?</b></p> <p><b>With all the State and Federal governments are taking, surely it would be financially prudent and responsible to decrease grant funding to soften the blow to the wallets of already struggling ratepayers. Grant funding should be reduced in line with the current state of the economy.</b></p>	<p><b>Officer response:</b> The objection to the 1.5% grant funding increase as shown in this budget submission erroneously assumes that the 1.5% grant funding increase relates to payments and outgoings that Moorabool Shire will make to third parties. This appears to be an error in interpretation of the person making the submission.</p> <p><b>The 1.5% grant funding increase refers to the overall increase in grants that Moorabool Shire is expecting to receive from State and Federal governments to fund the 2014/15 budget and does not relate to payments or outgoings that Moorabool Shire is required to make.</b></p>

7	<p><b>Lesley Menzies President RRVV</b></p> <p><b>Bellbrook Gardens Retirement Village</b></p>	<p><i>I would like to express my thanks for your consideration in applying a differential rate to Retirement Village residents of 5%. I personally wrote to 79 Council in Victoria on behalf of Residents of Retirement Villages Victoria (RRVV), asking that they consider the then Minister for Local Government, Ms Janette Powell's proposal to apply a differential rate to retirement villages. To date only five have complied, yours gave the lowest reduction.</i></p> <p><i>May I point out to you the savings your council gains from having a retirement village in your area:</i></p> <p><i>NO upkeep of roads, footpaths, street lighting, street cleaning, drainage and even no garbage collection or recycling services. Less demands on your Library, pools and senior services that councils supply to other senior citizens. We pay for the upkeep of all these in our monthly maintenance fee. Plus your councils profit from the density of village housing to the sum of 2 - 3 times the rates revenue of a residential street.</i></p> <p><i>You may argue that your rating system is a 'fee for service' but a tax on Capital Improved Values (CIV). A resident who has lived in the village for many years has no CIV. Part of the contracts states that as much as 40% of the selling price goes to the owner as part of the deferred management fee and refurbishments. Therefore the retirement village resident is paying a CIV tax but not receiving the financial benefits of a CIV. The owner deducts these costs before the</i></p>	<p><b>Officer response: For the 2013/14 Annual Plan and Budget and subsequent to the release of the Ministerial guidelines for Differential Rating, Council implemented a separate differential rate for retirement villages. The differential rate is set at 0.9 times the general rate.</b></p> <p><b>On the 21st May 2014, Council adopted the draft Rating Strategy for 2014/15. The Council considers that the adopted Rating Strategy results in a fair and equitable distribution of the rating burden. The adopted Rating Strategy has been adopted for a two year period. The differential rate for retirement villages was adopted at 0.9 times the general rate for 2014/15.</b></p> <p><b>As a result of the review of the Municipal Rating Strategy, the established rating categories (including the Retirement village rate) have undergone a thorough review. Additionally, a range of models with varying charges and changes in level of rates were considered, an analysis on utilizing a valuation base other than the CIV was considered in addition to the potential for the introduction of a municipal charge.</b></p> <p><b>As a result of these deliberations at a Council level, the Council prepared a number of rating strategy proposals. Following on from this, a</b></p>
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		<p><i>proceeds go to the residents or his/her estate.</i></p> <p><i>I would like your council to consider a FAIR differential for the retirement villages in your area. Five percent is a differential rate but it is not a fair one. Knox and Frankston have given 25% which I would think was a much fairer reduction when the all of the above is taken into consideration.</i></p>	<p><i>community consultation process was undergone to provide the community with the opportunity to provide input into the future structure and level of rates levied by Council. At the conclusion of this, a further workshop was convened with the Council to present the results of the community consultation. In addition to this, and as final step in the process, Council considered each of the 5 rate model proposals in light of the impact of the 2014 municipal revaluation.</i></p> <p><i>Subsequent to the Rating Strategy consultation process, there was little community support for the further lowering of the differential rate for residential retirement villages beyond the current rate of 0.9. Furthermore, 72.3% of respondents indicated that the differential rate for residential retirement villages of 0.9 times the general rate was appropriate.</i></p> <p><i>In recognition of the difficulty faced by different classes of ratepayers, council has resolved to review the strategy again in 2 years.</i></p>
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2. ***That Council takes into consideration the matters raised within the submissions in its consideration of the 2014/15 Annual Budget at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on Wednesday 16 July 2014.***
3. ***That following the adoption of the 2014/15 Annual Budget, responses are provided to each Submitter.***

**CARRIED.**

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**Report Authorisation**

**Authorised by:**



**Name:** Shane Marr  
**Title:** General Manager Corporate Services  
**Date:** Thursday 3 July 2014

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

**Nil.**



**8. CLOSED SESSION OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC**

**Nil.**

**9. MEETING CLOSURE**

*The meeting closed at 5.29 pm.*

**Confirmed.....Mayor.**