



## **SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL**

**Minutes** of a the Special Meeting of Council  
held at the James Young Room,  
Lerderderg Library, Bacchus Marsh  
on Wednesday 21 June 2017 at 5.00 p.m.

### **Members:**

Cr. David Edwards (Mayor)	East Moorabool Ward
Cr. Tonia Dudzik (Deputy Mayor)	East Moorabool Ward
Cr. Paul Tatchell	Central Moorabool Ward
Cr. Jarrod Bingham	East Moorabool Ward
Cr. John Keogh	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.	<b>OPENING OF MEETING .....</b>	<b>3</b>
2.	<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY .....</b>	<b>3</b>
3.	<b>PRESENT .....</b>	<b>3</b>
4.	<b>APOLOGIES .....</b>	<b>3</b>
5.	<b>DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST .....</b>	<b>4</b>
6.	<b>PRESENTATIONS / DEPUTATIONS.....</b>	<b>6</b>
7.	<b>BUSINESS .....</b>	<b>8</b>
7.1	<i>Consideration of Submissions to the Proposed 2017/18 Annual Budget .....</i>	<i>8</i>
7.2	<i>Consideration of Submissions for the proposed Council Plan 2017-2021.....</i>	<i>32</i>
8.	<b>FURTHER BUSINESS AS ADMITTED BY UNANIMOUS RESOLUTION OF COUNCIL .....</b>	<b>42</b>
9.	<b>CLOSED SESSION OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC .....</b>	<b>43</b>
10.	<b>MEETING CLOSURE .....</b>	<b>44</b>

**1. OPENING OF MEETING**

*The Mayor, Cr. Edwards, opened the meeting at 5.09 pm.*

**2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY**

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

**3. PRESENT**

<i>Cr. David Edwards (Mayor)</i>	<i>East Moorabool Ward</i>
<i>Cr. Tonia Dudzik (Deputy Mayor)</i>	<i>East Moorabool Ward</i>
<i>Cr. Paul Tatchell</i>	<i>Central Moorabool Ward</i>
<i>Cr. Jarrod Bingham</i>	<i>East Moorabool Ward</i>
<i>Cr. John Keogh</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. Danny Colgan</i>	<i>General Manager Social and Organisational Development</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. Steve Ivelja</i>	<i>Manager Finance</i>
<i>Mr. John Whitfield</i>	<i>Governance Coordinator</i>
<i>Ms. Michelle Morrow</i>	<i>Minute Taker</i>

**4. APOLOGIES**

*Nil.*

## 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)
  - indirect interest because of impact on residential amenity (section 78E)

### 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	Consideration of Submissions to the Proposed 2017/18 Annual Budget	Kate Sharkey	Objector
7.1	Consideration of Submissions to the Proposed 2017/18 Annual Budget	Scott Graham	Objector
7.1	Consideration of Submissions to the Proposed 2017/18 Annual Budget	Allison Giofches	Objector
7.1	Consideration of Submissions to the Proposed 2017/18 Annual Budget	Russel Cowan	Objector

7.1	Consideration of Submissions to the Proposed 2017/18 Annual Budget	Tanya Bostock	Objector
7.2	Consideration of Submissions for the proposed Council Plan 2017-2021.	Tanya Bostock	Objector

## 7. BUSINESS

### ***Consideration of Presentation in relation to the Consideration of Submissions to the Proposed 2017/18 Annual Budget.***

***The following persons addressed Council as objectors:***

***Ms. Kate Sharkey, Mr. Scott Graham, Ms. Allison Giofches, Mr. Russel Cowan and Ms. Tanya Bostock.***

***Cr. Dudzik received and tabled a petition in relation to the Gordon Primary School.***

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

## 7.1 Consideration of Submissions to the Proposed 2017/18 Annual Budget

### **Introduction**

File No.: 07/01/015A  
Author: Steve Ivelja  
General Manager: Phil Jeffrey

### **Background**

This report relates to the process for Council to adopt the 2017/18 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 2017/18 Annual Budget.

Council commenced statutory procedures dealing with the 2017/18 Annual Budget at the Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 3rd May 2017. At this meeting, Council resolved to put on public display the Proposed 2017/18 Annual Budget that was considered at this meeting.

A public notice was published in "The Moorabool News" on Tuesday, 9th May 2017 and also in "The Courier" in Ballarat on Saturday, 13th May 2017. These public notices called for submissions to the proposed budget.

The proposed 2017/18 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, a total of 32 written submissions were received by the stated cut-off 6th June 2017, and one received late on 13th June, for consideration by Council. Of the 32 submissions, 27 relate to Gordon Primary School. The following is a summary of the submissions that have been received:



No.	Submission From	Main Points	Response
1	<p>Gordon Primary School – Principal Russel Cowan</p> <p>Council has also received another twenty-six letters from various parents and students from Gordon Primary. All of these have been attached to the Council Report. They will all be considered as one submission.</p>	<p>I was astonished to review the draft budget and not see the proposed Gordon Primary School, Dicker Street improvements included.</p> <p>I'm sure that you would agree that child safety is of the highest importance and that the community would expect the Moorabool Shire to budget responsibly to account for this. We are a growing school with a predicted enrolment of 130 in 2018. Every year the issue continues to get worse. Since Phil Jeffery came to view the issue, from which the attached proposal was drawn up, we have an additional 20 families in the school.</p> <p>All parents at Gordon Primary School are required to monitor their children outside of the school gates. Given the poor design of footpath and road, near accidents are occurring with the parent in close proximity to their child. As stated in numerous letters and phone calls to Council, it is a matter of when, not if, that a severe accident takes place.</p> <p>Parents currently need to park in "No Parking" zones because there is not enough adequate parking provided on Dicker Street. In February 2016 I received a letter from the Moorabool Council stating that we were at capacity in regards to car parking. Given the continued school growth, I ask that you try to imagine the issue now. Put simply, there are not enough spaces to meet the demand at our beautiful school. Once again, this means that parents are parking and driving in a manner that puts student safety at risk.</p>	<p><i>A project to upgrade Dicker Street and formalise parking fronting the Gordon Primary School has been investigated and included in Council's long term capital program.</i></p> <p><i>During a site visit in early 2016, it was noted in our response in relation to on street parking that "although the parking area is reaching capacity, the parking and traffic movements functioned reasonably well".</i></p> <p><i>Subsequently, a concept plan of an upgrade option has been prepared and provided to the school for information.</i></p> <p><i>A number of the submissions refer to lack of line-marking. Lines cannot currently be installed at the frontage of the school given the unsealed flanks and therefore could only be done as part of an upgrade of the street.</i></p> <p><i>At the time of the investigation, it was also requested that 40km/hr time zones be installed in the side streets. Before doing so, the school was requested confirm in writing that access gates exist at these locations. This has only recently been confirmed which has now enabled Council to make application to VicRoads for a time-based 40km/h speed zones. Once approved, they will be installed accordingly.</i></p> <p><i>The school also previously proposed construction of a carpark within the school grounds to assist into the future. They were advised that Council would not fund anything within the school grounds however if state funds could be obtained, perhaps a joint project could be investigated.</i></p> <p><i>It is considered that there is merit for the project in future years given the growth in Gordon and the school itself. However, the project is not being recommended for funding in 2017/18 but will remain on the long term list for consideration in future years budgets.</i></p>

No.	Submission From	Main Points	Response
		<p>The omission from this year's draft budget is particularly disappointing as the only funding received by Gordon PS from the Moorabool Council was over 7 years ago on a school crossing that we are unable to use due to lack of ongoing funding for a crossing supervisor. It is worth noting that schools in Bacchus Marsh and Ballan receive this ongoing funding while Gordon PS misses out.</p> <p>The issue has a very simple solution.</p> <p>Moorabool Council to include funding for the attached plan into the 2017 / 18 budget</p> <p>Reduce speed zones around the schools to 40 k/h</p> <p>Gordon primary School to further develop onsite car parking facilities to supplement the Dicker Street upgrade.</p> <p>I ask that you review the budget to include this plan, putting student and child safety first.</p>	
2	Deterioration of Ormond Road between Gleeson & Springbank Roads – Stephen Answerth	<p>The condition of Ormond Road particularly toward the Gleeson Road end, has been allowed to further deteriorate to the point where it has become very dangerous. Local Barkstead residents are increasingly reporting 'near miss' incidents as a result of the road surface condition and the increase of trucks on this road.</p> <p>Large potholes, severe cracking and the breaking away of the sealed edges begun more than 12 months ago, following the repeated use of the road by logging trucks.</p> <p>The use of the road between Simpson Road and the Western Highway by B Double water tankers on a daily basis, has only exacerbated the problem.</p> <p>As Council is aware this increased use saw the rapid decline in road conditions at the Springbank &amp; Ormond Roads intersection. The decay was so rapid</p>	<p><i>Council response to point (a)</i></p> <p><i>There is a section of road approximately 500m north of the intersection of Ormond Rd and Barkstead Rd plus about 300m south of the same intersection that has been marked for reconstruction through the Storm Recovery program. The scope of work will be like for like, that is sealed road construction but will be no wider than currently exists. The work will be undertaken in Summer after design and tendering is complete.</i></p> <p><i>In order to maintain safety, the section above will be patched in the short term.</i></p> <p><i>Council response to point (b)</i></p> <p><i>Ormond Road is a Local road within Moorabool Shire's rural area and provides an important route for local farms and businesses. General Access Vehicles (GAV) comply with mass and dimension requirements including a vehicle of maximum height of 4.3m, length 19m and gross vehicle mass limit of 42.5 tonnes, these vehicles can operate on any Council local road within Victoria</i></p>

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		<p>that the Council was forced to undertake major restorative works to correct the problem.</p> <p>Whilst the Council has recently seen fit to “patch up” the obvious problems, the underlying problem remains unresolved.</p> <p>This road was never designed to accommodate heavy vehicles, let alone B-Doubles. The road which is regularly exposed to flooding and many sections are barely wide enough for a car, the passing of an oncoming truck is a very daunting prospect</p> <p>VicRoads has confirmed with us, that Ormond Road (in its entirety) is owned by the Moorabool Shire Council. VicRoads has also confirmed that Ormond Road has not been designated for use by B Double trucks and can only be accessed by such trucks with a Council permit.</p> <p>The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (based in Queensland) has confirmed that they process permit applications (on behalf of drivers/companies that operate Heavy Vehicles). The applications are for heavy vehicle use on un-designated local roads and are granted/approved by the relevant Council. The permits issued are for 12 month periods after which time, the impact of the trucks can be gauged. The NHVR is not responsible for the road in any respect. It is Councils’ sole responsibility.</p> <p>It is hard to understand why the Council continues to issue permits to heavy vehicle operators for this section of the road. It would appear from the lack of inaction that the Council values the business interests of some, ahead of the safety of its residents. We would welcome the release of any road dilapidation report that has been prepared on behalf of Council that supports the continued issuing of permits.</p>	<p><i>without requiring a National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) permit.</i></p> <p><i>Advice from the NHVR is that there is potentially less damage caused by utilising B-Doubles, as it means that the actual number of trips can be reduced and therefore have less impact on the road as both vehicles have the same axle weights. A number of NHVR permits have been issued in the past to allow for logging activities and limited movements for delivery of farming equipment. There are currently 4 permits which are active and have been issued to use B-Doubles to support businesses within the area which is helping with the production of goods and growth of the economy. Based on current traffic data, the number of vehicles per day and percentage of heavy vehicles, does not warrant any upgrades or widening at this point in time.</i></p>

No.	Submission From	Main Points	Response
		<p>The concerned residents of Barkstead call on the Council to:</p> <p>a) immediately upgrade the road to accommodate the vehicular traffic that currently uses it &amp;</p> <p>b) suspend all heavy vehicle permits for this road, until such time as the road upgrade has been completed.</p>	
3	Gordon Main Street Reference Group – Scott Graham	<p>As per our submission, 23 March 2017, the Gordon Main Street Reference Group requests commitment, timing, resourcing and funding for;</p> <p>1. Moorabool Shire adopting the process being applied in Elaine to Gordon – a Civic Improvement Plan. This would include a focus for;</p> <p>a). Implementation of initial civic works focusing on Main Street trees and two seating areas</p> <p>b). Techniques to test and engage</p> <p>c). Installed in concert with scheduled civil/drainage works and roadway works for traffic calming</p> <p>2. The town of Gordon and its businesses and events are properly represented on an improved ‘Visit Moorabool Shire’ website.</p> <p>3. An appointed Economic Development/ Tourism Officer liaises with our Reference Group to determine and implement a set of initiatives with us that support businesses and the future of the township of Gordon.</p> <p>This submission is made in the context of;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An acknowledged lack of investment in Gordon</li> <li>- No investment in civic elements in Main Street</li> <li>- Increased rates base</li> <li>- A main Street with 7 plus businesses</li> <li>- Community Group with enthusiasm and wide support for initiatives advocating</li> </ul>	<p><i>Council staff have met with Scott Graham recently to discuss his interests. It was suggested that if Mr. Graham has an interest in Main Street and future design improvements that he should form a group and clarify the needs of that group to provide a wider set of views. Council staff have since met that group as well.</i></p> <p><i>Presently Council is preparing a streetscape masterplan/civic improvement plan for Elaine, as per the adopted Small Towns Strategy. That methodology, which has been presented to Council management, involves local small projects that enhance the visitor attraction, local amenity and identity of towns. It is a model which has merit in many towns, including Gordon. Funding of works on ground will be subject to completion of community engagement as well as budget bids.</i></p> <p><i>Any capital works undertaken in Gordon within the Main Street area should be informed by a streetscape masterplan/ civic improvement plan. The delivery of such a plan will involve a budget bid process and the costs of actions cannot be determined until the study is complete. Therefore, whilst there is scope to prepare the study in-house in 2017/18, any funded actions would need to be determined by Council in the budget process for 2018/19.</i></p> <p><i>There may be potential for delivery of works via grants and/or any civil works to be delivered by Council in the new financial year. A review of these options will occur shortly, noting that there a range competing projects across the Shire to consider.</i></p>

No.	Submission From	Main Points	Response
		<p>- A lack of Moorabool Shire commitment to planning, scheduling and funding</p>	<p><i>Concerning meeting with Council's Economic Development Officer, it is intended that town identity, marketing and on-line activity to market towns like Gordon will be a higher priority in 2017/18 – as it is across the Shire.</i></p> <p><i>Notwithstanding the above, an allocation for Gordon Main Street is included in the draft budget for civil design.</i></p>
4	<p>Bennett Street Pedestrian Crossing – Ross Dickson</p>	<p>Email sent to Tonia Dudzik. Hi Tonia. Myself and quite a lot of the general Bacchus Marsh community would like to request that there be a motion put forward for a budget submission for Council funding for a pedestrian crossing put in Bennett Street, Bacchus Marsh to aid the elderly, blind people, parents and kindergarten children, as well as primary school children in crossing the road from Rotary Park to the Coles Shopping Centre safely, as Bennett Street is becoming and has been for quite a while increasingly busy.</p>	<p><i>The pedestrian crossing in Bennett Street, Bacchus Marsh has been included in the Proposed Budget for 2017/18.</i></p>
5	<p>Kate Sharkey</p>	<p>In the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 3 May a proposal to conduct a formal rating strategy review was put forward as part of the 2017/18 budget. The resolution was not to carry out a rating strategy review.</p> <p><b>QUESTIONS</b></p> <p>Are Council able to justify to rate payers the reasons for why this important document is not being reviewed? It would be assumed the rating strategy lays down the foundations to ensure Council are being accountable and transparent with regards to rates collected.</p>	<p><i>At the Ordinary Meeting on the 3rd May 2017, Council resolved to adopt the existing rating differentials for a further 12 month period encompassing the 2017/18 Rating year. In addition to this, it resolved to undertake an internal review of the Rating Strategy in 2017/18.</i></p> <p><i>Under this option, a more simplified Rating Strategy review will be conducted in 2017/18 based on its existing differential rate categories to model the impact of altering the rate differentials across different categories to achieve a more equitable sharing of the rating burden.</i></p>

No.	Submission From	Main Points	Response
		<p>Can Council justify why a rating strategy review has an estimated cost of \$100k attached to it? Can Council explain what the responsibilities of the Finance Department are if one of them is not to review these documents.</p>	<p><i>The review will be conducted in house with the modelling tools previously developed by staff to ensure it comes at no additional cost to Council.</i></p> <p><i>In addition to this, the imposition of rate capping in recent times means that if councils chooses to stay within the rate cap, average rate increases going forward will likely increase at a rate of CPI. On that basis, it is arguable whether Council will derive significant additional benefit from undertaking a full Rating Strategy review in 2017/18.</i></p> <p><i>Due to the specialist nature of the role and the complexity of various issues surrounding the Rating Strategy, an expert specialist consultant with experience in the facilitation and production of Rating Strategies is required. Whilst the Finance department has technical expertise in the production of financial models and the manipulation of complex data sets, it does not have the technical expertise to facilitate detailed discussions about matters that impact land use, planning, valuation, legal, land zoning and associated matters.</i></p> <p><i>As a result, if Council were to progress down this path it would require an expert consultant be engaged to undertake a Rating Strategy review.</i></p>
6	Gordon Main Street Reference Group – Scott Graham	<p>Prior to representing our submission at Council session regarding the 2017/18 budget could you please outline how the \$70K from 2016/17 budget (as taken from page 21 of 2016/17 budget document) was spent and how it benefitted small businesses in Gordon?</p>	<p><i>The net cost of \$70,000 mainly contains the costs of grants distributed to community groups to help fund community events. These events include Ballan Autumn Festival, Bacchus Marsh Strawberries and Cherries Festival, Blackwood Festival of Music, and the David Calleja Memorial Car Show.</i></p> <p><i>If there are proposed events taking place in Gordon in the near future these grants could be an option.</i></p> <p><i>Other costs relate to the operation of the Visitor Information Centre. Also, the cost of advertising and promotion of Moorabool Shire Council and its various events.</i></p>

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

- Tanya Bostock - on behalf of Gordon Primary joint submission
- Allison Giofches - on behalf of Gordon Primary joint submission
- Kate Sharkey - 315 Sharkey Road, Balliang East

### **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 2017/18 Budget contains details of the financial resources required to deliver the 2013 - 2017 Council Plan.

### **Communications Strategy**

Following adoption of the 2017/18 Annual Budget, advertisement of the adoption of the budget will be provided through a public notice in local newspapers and the full 2017/18 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 – 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 2017/18 Annual Budget for Moorabool Shire Council and forward it to the Minister.



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

<b>No.</b>	<b>Submission From</b>	<b>Main Points</b>	<b>Response</b>
1	<p><b>Gordon Primary School – Principal Russel Cowan</b> Council has also received another twenty-six letters from various parents and students from Gordon Primary. All of these have been attached to the Council Report. They will all be considered as one submission.</p>	<p><b>I was astonished to review the draft budget and not see the proposed Gordon Primary School, Dicker Street improvements included.</b></p> <p><b>I'm sure that you would agree that child safety is of the highest importance and that the community would expect the Moorabool Shire to budget responsibly to account for this. We are a growing school with a predicted enrolment of 130 in 2018. Every year the issue continues to get worse. Since Phil Jeffery came to view the issue, from which the attached proposal was drawn up, we have an additional 20 families in the school.</b></p> <p><b>All parents at Gordon Primary School are required to monitor their children outside of the school gates. Given the poor design of footpath and road, near accidents are occurring with the parent in close proximity to their child. As stated in numerous letters and phone calls to Council, it is a matter of when, not if, that a severe accident takes place. Parents currently need to park in "No Parking" zones because there is not enough adequate parking provided on Dicker Street. In February 2016 I received a letter from the Moorabool Council stating that we were at capacity in regards to car parking. Given the continued school growth, I ask that you try to imagine the issue now. Put simply, there are not enough spaces to meet the demand at our beautiful school. Once again, this means that parents are parking and driving in a manner that puts student safety at risk.</b></p>	<p><b>A project to upgrade Dicker Street and formalise parking fronting the Gordon Primary School has been investigated and included in Council's long term capital program.</b></p> <p><b>During a site visit in early 2016, it was noted in our response in relation to on street parking that "although the parking area is reaching capacity, the parking and traffic movements functioned reasonably well".</b></p> <p><b>Subsequently, a concept plan of an upgrade option has been prepared and provided to the school for information.</b></p> <p><b>A number of the submissions refer to lack of line-marking. Lines cannot currently be installed at the frontage of the school given the unsealed flanks and therefore could only be done as part of an upgrade of the street. At the time of the investigation, it was also requested that 40km/hr time zones be installed in the side streets. Before doing so, the school was requested confirm in writing that access gates exist at these locations. This has only recently been confirmed which has now enabled Council to make application to VicRoads for a time-based 40km/h speed zones. Once approved, they will be installed accordingly.</b></p> <p><b>The school also previously proposed construction of a carpark within the school grounds to assist into the future.</b></p>

		<p><i>The omission from this year's draft budget is particularly disappointing as the only funding received by Gordon PS from the Moorabool Council was over 7 years ago on a school crossing that we are unable to use due to lack of ongoing funding for a crossing supervisor. It is worth noting that schools in Bacchus Marsh and Ballan receive this ongoing funding while Gordon PS misses out. The issue has a very simple solution. Moorabool Council to include funding for the attached plan into the 2017 / 18 budget</i></p> <p><i>Reduce speed zones around the schools to 40 k/h</i></p> <p><i>Gordon primary School to further develop onsite car parking facilities to supplement the Dicker Street upgrade.</i></p> <p><i>I ask that you review the budget to include this plan, putting student and child safety first.</i></p>	<p><i>They were advised that Council would not fund anything within the school grounds however if state funds could be obtained, perhaps a joint project could be investigated. It is considered that there is merit for the project in future years given the growth in Gordon and the school itself. However, the project is not being recommended for funding in 2017/18 but will remain on the long term list for consideration in future years budgets.</i></p>
2	<p><b><i>Deterioration of Ormond Road between Gleeson &amp; Springbank Roads – Stephen Answerth</i></b></p>	<p><i>The condition of Ormond Road particularly toward the Gleeson Road end, has been allowed to further deteriorate to the point where it has become very dangerous. Local Barkstead residents are increasingly reporting 'near miss' incidents as a result of the road surface condition and the increase of trucks on this road.</i></p> <p><i>Large potholes, severe cracking and the breaking away of the sealed edges begun more than 12 months ago, following the repeated use of the road by logging trucks.</i></p> <p><i>The use of the road between Simpson Road and the Western Highway by B Double water tankers on a daily basis, has only exacerbated the problem.</i></p> <p><i>As Council is aware this increased use saw the rapid decline in road conditions at the Springbank &amp; Ormond Roads intersection. The decay was so rapid that the Council was forced to undertake major restorative works to correct the problem.</i></p>	<p><i>Council response to point (a)</i></p> <p><i>There is a section of road approximately 500m north of the intersection of Ormond Rd and Barkstead Rd plus about 300m south of the same intersection that has been marked for reconstruction through the Storm Recovery program. The scope of work will be like for like, that is sealed road construction but will be no wider than currently exists. The work will be undertaken in Summer after design and tendering is complete.</i></p> <p><i>In order to maintain safety, the section above will be patched in the short term.</i></p> <p><i>Council response to point (b)</i></p> <p><i>Ormond Road is a Local road within Moorabool Shire's rural area and provides an important route for local farms and businesses.</i></p>

		<p><i>Whilst the Council has recently seen fit to “patch up” the obvious problems, the underlying problem remains unresolved.</i></p> <p><i>This road was never designed to accommodate heavy vehicles, let alone B-Doubles. The road which is regularly exposed to flooding and many sections are barely wide enough for a car, the passing of an oncoming truck is a very daunting prospect</i></p> <p><i>VicRoads has confirmed with us, that Ormond Road (in its entirety) is owned by the Moorabool Shire Council. VicRoads has also confirmed that Ormond Road has not been designated for use by B Double trucks and can only be accessed by such trucks with a Council permit.</i></p> <p><i>The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (based in Queensland) has confirmed that they process permit applications (on behalf of drivers/companies that operate Heavy Vehicles). The applications are for heavy vehicle use on un-designated local roads and are granted/approved by the relevant Council. The permits issued are for 12 month periods after which time, the impact of the trucks can be gauged. The NHVR is not responsible for the road in any respect. It is Councils’ sole responsibility.</i></p> <p><i>It is hard to understand why the Council continues to issue permits to heavy vehicle operators for this section of the road. It would appear from the lack of inaction that the Council values the business interests of some, ahead of the safety of its residents. We would welcome the release of any road dilapidation report that has been prepared on behalf of Council that supports the continued issuing of permits.</i></p> <p><i>The concerned residents of Barkstead call on the Council to:</i></p>	<p><i>General Access Vehicles (GAV) comply with mass and dimension requirements including a vehicle of maximum height of 4.3m, length 19m and gross vehicle mass limit of 42.5 tonnes, these vehicles can operate on any Council local road within Victoria without requiring a National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) permit.</i></p> <p><i>Advice from the NHVR is that there is potentially less damage caused by utilising B-Doubles, as it means that the actual number of trips can be reduced and therefore have less impact on the road as both vehicles have the same axle weights. A number of NHVR permits have been issued in the past to allow for logging activities and limited movements for delivery of farming equipment. There are currently 4 permits which are active and have been issued to use B-Doubles to support businesses within the area which is helping with the production of goods and growth of the economy. Based on current traffic data, the number of vehicles per day and percentage of heavy vehicles, does not warrant any upgrades or widening at this point in time.</i></p>
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		<p><i>a) immediately upgrade the road to accommodate the vehicular traffic that currently uses it &amp;</i></p> <p><i>b) suspend all heavy vehicle permits for this road, until such time as the road upgrade has been completed.</i></p>	
3	<b>Gordon Main Street Reference Group – Scott Graham</b>	<p><i>As per our submission, 23 March 2017, the Gordon Main Street Reference Group requests commitment, timing, resourcing and funding for;</i></p> <p><i>1. Moorabool Shire adopting the process being applied in Elaine to Gordon – a Civic Improvement Plan. This would include a focus for;</i></p> <p><i>a). Implementation of initial civic works focusing on Main Street trees and two seating areas</i></p> <p><i>b). Techniques to test and engage</i></p> <p><i>c). Installed in concert with scheduled civil/drainage works and roadway works for traffic calming</i></p> <p><i>2. The town of Gordon and its businesses and events are properly represented on an improved ‘Visit Moorabool Shire’ website.</i></p> <p><i>3. An appointed Economic Development/ Tourism Officer liaises with our Reference Group to determine and implement a set of initiatives with us that support businesses and the future of the township of Gordon.</i></p> <p><i>This submission is made in the context of;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>- An acknowledged lack of investment in Gordon</i></li> <li><i>- No investment in civic elements in Main Street</i></li> <li><i>- Increased rates base</i></li> <li><i>- A main Street with 7 plus businesses</i></li> <li><i>- Community Group with enthusiasm and wide support for initiatives advocating</i></li> <li><i>- A lack of Moorabool Shire commitment to planning, scheduling and funding</i></li> </ul>	<p><i>Council staff have met with Scott Graham recently to discuss his interests. It was suggested that if Mr. Graham has an interest in Main Street and future design improvements that he should form a group and clarify the needs of that group to provide a wider set of views. Council staff have since met that group as well.</i></p> <p><i>Presently Council is preparing a streetscape masterplan/civic improvement plan for Elaine, as per the adopted Small Towns Strategy. That methodology, which has been presented to Council management, involves local small projects that enhance the visitor attraction, local amenity and identity of towns. It is a model which has merit in many towns, including Gordon. Funding of works on ground will be subject to completion of community engagement as well as budget bids.</i></p> <p><i>Any capital works undertaken in Gordon within the Main Street area should be informed by a streetscape masterplan/ civic improvement plan. The delivery of such a plan will involve a budget bid process and the costs of actions cannot be determined until the study is complete. Therefore, whilst there is scope to prepare the study in-house in 2017/18, any funded actions would need to be determined by Council in the budget process for 2018/19.</i></p>

			<p><i>There may be potential for delivery of works via grants and/or any civil works to be delivered by Council in the new financial year. A review of these options will occur shortly, noting that there a range competing projects across the Shire to consider.</i></p> <p><i>Concerning meeting with Council's Economic Development Officer, it is intended that town identity, marketing and on-line activity to market towns like Gordon will be a higher priority in 2017/18 – as it is across the Shire. Notwithstanding the above an allocation for Gordon Main Street is included in the draft budget for civil design.</i></p>
4	<b>Bennett Street Pedestrian Crossing – Ross Dickson</b>	<p><i>Email sent to Tonia Dudzik.</i></p> <p><i>Hi Tonia. Myself and quite a lot of the general Bacchus Marsh community would like to request that there be a motion put forward for a budget submission for Council funding for a pedestrian crossing put in Bennett Street, Bacchus Marsh to aid the elderly, blind people, parents and kindergarten children, as well as primary school children in crossing the road from Rotary Park to the Coles Shopping Centre safely, as Bennett Street is becoming and has been for quite a while increasingly busy.</i></p>	<p><i>The pedestrian crossing in Bennett Street, Bacchus Marsh has been included in the Proposed Budget for 2017/18.</i></p>
5	<b>Kate Sharkey</b>	<p><i>In the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 3 May a proposal to conduct a formal rating strategy review was put forward as part of the 2017/18 budget. The resolution was not to carry out a rating strategy review.</i></p> <p><b>QUESTIONS</b></p> <p><i>Are Council able to justify to rate payers the reasons for why this important document is not being reviewed? It would be assumed the rating strategy lays down the foundations to ensure Council are</i></p>	<p><i>At the Ordinary Meeting on the 3rd May 2017, Council resolved to adopt the existing rating differentials for a further 12 month period encompassing the 2017/18 Rating year.</i></p>

		<p><i>being accountable and transparent with regards to rates collected.</i></p> <p><i>Can Council justify why a rating strategy review has an estimated cost of \$100k attached to it? Can Council explain what the responsibilities of the Finance Department are if one of them is not to review these documents.</i></p>	<p><i>In addition to this, it resolved to undertake an internal review of the Rating Strategy in 2017/18.</i></p> <p><i>Under this option, a more simplified Rating Strategy review will be conducted in 2017/18 based on its existing differential rate categories to model the impact of altering the rate differentials across different categories to achieve a more equitable sharing of the rating burden. The review will be conducted in house with the modelling tools previously developed by staff to ensure it comes at no additional cost to Council.</i></p> <p><i>In addition to this, the imposition of rate capping in recent times means that if councils chooses to stay within the rate cap, average rate increases going forward will likely increase at a rate of CPI. On that basis, it is arguable whether Council will derive significant additional benefit from undertaking a full Rating Strategy review in 2017/18.</i></p> <p><i>Due to the specialist nature of the role and the complexity of various issues surrounding the Rating Strategy, an expert specialist consultant with experience in the facilitation and production of Rating Strategies is required. Whilst the Finance department has technical expertise in the production of financial models and the manipulation of complex data sets, it does not have the technical expertise to facilitate detailed discussions about matters that impact land use, planning, valuation, legal, land zoning and associated matters.</i></p>
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			<i>As a result, if Council were to progress down this path it would require an expert consultant be engaged to undertake a Rating Strategy review.</i>
<b>6</b>	<b><i>Gordon Main Street Reference Group – Scott Graham</i></b>	<b><i>Prior to representing our submission at Council session regarding the 2017/18 budget could you please outline how the \$70K from 2016/17 budget (as taken from page 21 of 2016/17 budget document) was spent and how it benefitted small businesses in Gordon?</i></b>	<b><i>The net cost of \$70,000 mainly contains the costs of grants distributed to community groups to help fund community events. These events include Ballan Autumn Festival, Bacchus Marsh Strawberries and Cherries Festival, Blackwood Festival of Music, and the David Calleja Memorial Car Show. If there are proposed events taking place in Gordon in the near future these grants could be an option. Other costs relate to the operation of the Visitor Information Centre. Also, the cost of advertising and promotion of Moorabool Shire Council and its various events.</i></b>

- 2. That having considered the public submissions, the adoption of the 2017/18 Annual Budget, including any amendments required, is referred to the Ordinary Meeting of Council of Wednesday 5 July 2017 to be held at 5.00pm in the James Young Rooms, Lerderderg Library, Bacchus Marsh.***
- 3. That following the adoption of the 2017/18 Annual Budget, responses are provided to each Submitter.***

**Resolution:****Crs. Sullivan/Toohey****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><i>Gordon Primary School – Principal Russel Cowan Council has also received another twenty-six letters from various parents and students from Gordon Primary. All of these have been attached to the Council Report. They will all be considered as one submission.</i></b>	<b><i>I was astonished to review the draft budget and not see the proposed Gordon Primary School, Dicker Street improvements included. I'm sure that you would agree that child safety is of the highest importance and that the community would expect the Moorabool Shire to budget responsibly to account for this. We are a growing school with a predicted enrolment of 130 in 2018. Every year the issue continues to get worse. Since Phil Jeffery came to view the issue, from which the attached proposal was drawn up, we have an additional 20 families in the school. All parents at Gordon Primary School are required to monitor their children outside of the school gates. Given the poor design of footpath and road, near accidents are occurring with the parent in close proximity to their child. As stated in numerous letters and phone calls to Council, it is a matter of when, not if, that a severe accident takes place. Parents currently need to park in "No Parking" zones because there is not enough adequate parking provided on Dicker Street. In February 2016 I received a letter from the Moorabool Council stating that we were at capacity in regards to car parking. Given the continued school growth, I ask that you try to imagine the issue now. Put simply, there are not enough spaces to meet the demand at our beautiful school.</i></b>	<b><i>A project to upgrade Dicker Street and formalise parking fronting the Gordon Primary School has been investigated and included in Council's long term capital program. During a site visit in early 2016, it was noted in our response in relation to on street parking that "although the parking area is reaching capacity, the parking and traffic movements functioned reasonably well". Subsequently, a concept plan of an upgrade option has been prepared and provided to the school for information. A number of the submissions refer to lack of line-marking. Lines cannot currently be installed at the frontage of the school given the unsealed flanks and therefore could only be done as part of an upgrade of the street. At the time of the investigation, it was also requested that 40km/hr time zones be installed in the side streets. Before doing so, the school was requested confirm in writing that access gates exist at these locations. This has only recently been confirmed which has now enabled Council to make application to VicRoads for a time-based 40km/h speed zones. Once approved, they will be installed accordingly.</i></b>



		<p><b>Once again, this means that parents are parking and driving in a manner that puts student safety at risk. The omission from this year's draft budget is particularly disappointing as the only funding received by Gordon PS from the Moorabool Council was over 7 years ago on a school crossing that we are unable to use due to lack of ongoing funding for a crossing supervisor. It is worth noting that schools in Bacchus Marsh and Ballan receive this ongoing funding while Gordon PS misses out. The issue has a very simple solution. Moorabool Council to include funding for the attached plan into the 2017 / 18 budget Reduce speed zones around the schools to 40 k/h Gordon primary School to further develop onsite car parking facilities to supplement the Dicker Street upgrade. I ask that you review the budget to include this plan, putting student and child safety first.</b></p>	<p><b>The school also previously proposed construction of a carpark within the school grounds to assist into the future. They were advised that Council would not fund anything within the school grounds however if state funds could be obtained, perhaps a joint project could be investigated. It is considered that there is merit for the project in future years given the growth in Gordon and the school itself. However, the project is not being recommended for funding in 2017/18 but will remain on the long term list for consideration in future years budgets.</b></p>
2	<p><b>Deterioration of Ormond Road between Gleeson &amp; Springbank Roads – Stephen Answerth</b></p>	<p><b>The condition of Ormond Road particularly toward the Gleeson Road end, has been allowed to further deteriorate to the point where it has become very dangerous. Local Barkstead residents are increasingly reporting 'near miss' incidents as a result of the road surface condition and the increase of trucks on this road. Large potholes, severe cracking and the breaking away of the sealed edges begun more than 12 months ago, following the repeated use of the road by logging trucks. The use of the road between Simpson Road and the Western Highway by B Double water tankers on a daily basis, has only exacerbated the problem. As Council is aware this increased use saw the rapid decline in road conditions at the Springbank &amp; Ormond Roads intersection.</b></p>	<p><b>Council response to point (a) There is a section of road approximately 500m north of the intersection of Ormond Rd and Barkstead Rd plus about 300m south of the same intersection that has been marked for reconstruction through the Storm Recovery program. The scope of work will be like for like, that is sealed road construction but will be no wider than currently exists. The work will be undertaken in Summer after design and tendering is complete. In order to maintain safety, the section above will be patched in the short term.</b></p> <p><b>Council response to point (b) Ormond Road is a Local road within Moorabool Shire's rural area and provides an</b></p>

		<p><b><i>The decay was so rapid that the Council was forced to undertake major restorative works to correct the problem.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Whilst the Council has recently seen fit to “patch up” the obvious problems, the underlying problem remains unresolved.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>This road was never designed to accommodate heavy vehicles, let alone B-Doubles. The road which is regularly exposed to flooding and many sections are barely wide enough for a car, the passing of an oncoming truck is a very daunting prospect</i></b></p> <p><b><i>VicRoads has confirmed with us, that Ormond Road (in its entirety) is owned by the Moorabool Shire Council. VicRoads has also confirmed that Ormond Road has not been designated for use by B Double trucks and can only be accessed by such trucks with a Council permit.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (based in Queensland) has confirmed that they process permit applications (on behalf of drivers/companies that operate Heavy Vehicles). The applications are for heavy vehicle use on un-designated local roads and are granted/approved by the relevant Council. The permits issued are for 12 month periods after which time, the impact of the trucks can be gauged. The NHVR is not responsible for the road in any respect. It is Councils’ sole responsibility.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>It is hard to understand why the Council continues to issue permits to heavy vehicle operators for this section of the road. It would appear from the lack of inaction that the Council values the business interests of some, ahead of the safety of its residents. We would welcome the release of any road dilapidation report that has been prepared on behalf of Council that supports the continued issuing of permits.</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>important route for local farms and businesses.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>General Access Vehicles (GAV) comply with mass and dimension requirements including a vehicle of maximum height of 4.3m, length 19m and gross vehicle mass limit of 42.5 tonnes, these vehicles can operate on any Council local road within Victoria without requiring a National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) permit.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Advice from the NHVR is that there is potentially less damage caused by utilising B-Doubles, as it means that the actual number of trips can be reduced and therefore have less impact on the road as both vehicles have the same axle weights. A number of NHVR permits have been issued in the past to allow for logging activities and limited movements for delivery of farming equipment. There are currently 4 permits which are active and have been issued to use B-Doubles to support businesses within the area which is helping with the production of goods and growth of the economy. Based on current traffic data, the number of vehicles per day and percentage of heavy vehicles, does not warrant any upgrades or widening at this point in time.</i></b></p>
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		<p><i>The concerned residents of Barkstead call on the Council to:</i></p> <p><i>a) immediately upgrade the road to accommodate the vehicular traffic that currently uses it &amp;</i></p> <p><i>b) suspend all heavy vehicle permits for this road, until such time as the road upgrade has been completed.</i></p>	
3	<b>Gordon Main Street Reference Group – Scott Graham</b>	<p><i>As per our submission, 23 March 2017, the Gordon Main Street Reference Group requests commitment, timing, resourcing and funding for;</i></p> <p><i>1. Moorabool Shire adopting the process being applied in Elaine to Gordon – a Civic Improvement Plan. This would include a focus for;</i></p> <p><i>a). Implementation of initial civic works focusing on Main Street trees and two seating areas</i></p> <p><i>b). Techniques to test and engage</i></p> <p><i>c). Installed in concert with scheduled civil/drainage works and roadway works for traffic calming</i></p> <p><i>2. The town of Gordon and its businesses and events are properly represented on an improved ‘Visit Moorabool Shire’ website.</i></p> <p><i>3. An appointed Economic Development/ Tourism Officer liaises with our Reference Group to determine and implement a set of initiatives with us that support businesses and the future of the township of Gordon.</i></p> <p><i>This submission is made in the context of;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>- An acknowledged lack of investment in Gordon</i></li> <li><i>- No investment in civic elements in Main Street</i></li> <li><i>- Increased rates base</i></li> <li><i>- A main Street with 7 plus businesses</i></li> <li><i>- Community Group with enthusiasm and wide support for initiatives advocating</i></li> <li><i>- A lack of Moorabool Shire commitment to planning, scheduling and funding.</i></li> </ul>	<p><i>Council staff have met with Scott Graham recently to discuss his interests. It was suggested that if Mr. Graham has an interest in Main Street and future design improvements that he should form a group and clarify the needs of that group to provide a wider set of views. Council staff have since met that group as well.</i></p> <p><i>Presently Council is preparing a streetscape masterplan/civic improvement plan for Elaine, as per the adopted Small Towns Strategy. That methodology, which has been presented to Council management, involves local small projects that enhance the visitor attraction, local amenity and identity of towns. It is a model which has merit in many towns, including Gordon. Funding of works on ground will be subject to completion of community engagement as well as budget bids.</i></p> <p><i>Any capital works undertaken in Gordon within the Main Street area should be informed by a streetscape masterplan/ civic improvement plan. The delivery of such a plan will involve a budget bid process and the costs of actions cannot be determined until the study is complete. Therefore, whilst there is scope to prepare the study in-house in 2017/18, any funded actions would need to be</i></p>

			<p><b>determined by Council in the budget process for 2018/19.</b></p> <p><b>There may be potential for delivery of works via grants and/or any civil works to be delivered by Council in the new financial year. A review of these options will occur shortly, noting that there a range competing projects across the Shire to consider.</b></p> <p><b>Concerning meeting with Council's Economic Development Officer, it is intended that town identity, marketing and on-line activity to market towns like Gordon will be a higher priority in 2017/18 – as it is across the Shire. Notwithstanding the above an allocation for Gordon Main Street is included in the draft budget for civil design.</b></p>
4	<b>Bennett Street Pedestrian Crossing – Ross Dickson</b>	<p><b>Email sent to Tonia Dudzik.</b></p> <p><b>Hi Tonia. Myself and quite a lot of the general Bacchus Marsh community would like to request that there be a motion put forward for a budget submission for Council funding for a pedestrian crossing put in Bennett Street, Bacchus Marsh to aid the elderly, blind people, parents and kindergarten children, as well as primary school children in crossing the road from Rotary Park to the Coles Shopping Centre safely, as Bennett Street is becoming and has been for quite a while increasingly busy.</b></p>	<p><b>The pedestrian crossing in Bennett Street, Bacchus Marsh has been included in the Proposed Budget for 2017/18.</b></p>
5	<b>Kate Sharkey</b>	<p><b>In the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 3 May a proposal to conduct a formal rating strategy review was put forward as part of the 2017/18 budget. The resolution was not to carry out a rating strategy review.</b></p> <p><b>QUESTIONS</b></p> <p><b>Are Council able to justify to rate payers the reasons for why this important document is not being</b></p>	<p><b>At the Ordinary Meeting on the 3rd May 2017, Council resolved to adopt the existing rating</b></p>

		<p><i>reviewed? It would be assumed the rating strategy lays down the foundations to ensure Council are being accountable and transparent with regards to rates collected.</i></p> <p><i>Can Council justify why a rating strategy review has an estimated cost of \$100k attached to it? Can Council explain what the responsibilities of the Finance Department are if one of them is not to review these documents.</i></p>	<p><i>differentials for a further 12 month period encompassing the 2017/18 Rating year. In addition to this, it resolved to undertake an internal review of the Rating Strategy in 2017/18.</i></p> <p><i>Under this option, a more simplified Rating Strategy review will be conducted in 2017/18 based on its existing differential rate categories to model the impact of altering the rate differentials across different categories to achieve a more equitable sharing of the rating burden. The review will be conducted in house with the modelling tools previously developed by staff to ensure it comes at no additional cost to Council.</i></p> <p><i>In addition to this, the imposition of rate capping in recent times means that if councils chooses to stay within the rate cap, average rate increases going forward will likely increase at a rate of CPI. On that basis, it is arguable whether Council will derive significant additional benefit from undertaking a full Rating Strategy review in 2017/18.</i></p> <p><i>Due to the specialist nature of the role and the complexity of various issues surrounding the Rating Strategy, an expert specialist consultant with experience in the facilitation and production of Rating Strategies is required. Whilst the Finance department has technical expertise in the production of financial models and the manipulation of complex data sets, it does not have the technical expertise to facilitate detailed discussions about matters that impact land</i></p>
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			<p><i>use, planning, valuation, legal, land zoning and associated matters.</i></p> <p><i>As a result, if Council were to progress down this path it would require an expert consultant be engaged to undertake a Rating Strategy review.</i></p>
6	<b>Gordon Main Street Reference Group – Scott Graham</b>	<p><i>Prior to representing our submission at Council session regarding the 2017/18 budget could you please outline how the \$70K from 2016/17 budget (as taken from page 21 of 2016/17 budget document) was spent and how it benefitted small businesses in Gordon?</i></p>	<p><i>The net cost of \$70,000 mainly contains the costs of grants distributed to community groups to help fund community events. These events include Ballan Autumn Festival, Bacchus Marsh Strawberries and Cherries Festival, Blackwood Festival of Music, and the David Calleja Memorial Car Show.</i></p> <p><i>If there are proposed events taking place in Gordon in the near future these grants could be an option.</i></p> <p><i>Other costs relate to the operation of the Visitor Information Centre. Also, the cost of advertising and promotion of Moorabool Shire Council and its various events.</i></p>

2. ***That having considered the public submissions, the adoption of the 2017/18 Annual Budget, including any amendments required, is referred to the Ordinary Meeting of Council of Wednesday 5 July 2017 to be held at 5.00pm in the James Young Rooms, Lerderderg Library, Bacchus Marsh.***
3. ***That following the adoption of the 2017/18 Annual Budget, responses are provided to each Submitter.***
4. ***That, in accordance with Council’s Meeting Procedure Local Law No. 9, Part 6.7(c), the Council receive the petition in relation to the Gordon Primary School and refer the matter for a report to the next appropriate meeting of the Council.***

**CARRIED.**

## Report Authorisation

Authorised by:



**Name:** Phil Jeffrey  
**Title:** General Manager Infrastructure  
**Date:** Thursday 15 June 2017

***Consideration of Presentation in relation to the Consideration of Submissions for the proposed Council Plan 2017-2021.***

***The following person registered to address the Council as an objector:***

***Ms. Tanya Bostock waived her request to speak to this item.***

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

**7.2 Consideration of Submissions for the proposed Council Plan 2017-2021**

**Introduction**

File No.: 02/02/002  
Author: John Whitfield  
Chief Executive Officer: Rob Croxford

**Background**

Part 6, Section 125 (1) of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act) says that a Council must prepare and adopt a Council Plan within the period of 6 months after each general election or by the next 30 June, whichever is the later. This year the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning using its powers under Section 125(4) of the Act have extended that deadline to 31 August 2017.

On Wednesday 3 May 2017, Council resolved to place the Draft Council Plan 2017-2021 inclusive of the Strategic Resource Plan on public exhibition seeking submissions in accordance with Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989.

A communications plan was developed to advise the community via Council's website, local and regional newspapers, Councils community consultation website: [haveyoursay.com.au](http://haveyoursay.com.au) and with hard copies available at all Council offices. The public submission period commenced on Friday 5 May and closed on Tuesday 6 June 2017.

In accordance with Section 223 of the Act, Council is required to formally consider any submissions and allow the submitter should they request to, to address Council in relation to their submission.

**Proposal**

This report is presented to Council at the conclusion of the public submission period for the proposed Council Plan 2017-2021 including the Strategic Resource Plan.

In line with Section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, one submission has been received and is attached to this report.

The following is the submission that was received:



Submission From	Main Points	Response
Raymond Newton	<p><b><u>This submission is made with regard to the lack of planning inclusions by Shire of Moorabool to upgrade facilities at Darley Park.</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. As a Committee Chair of arguably, The Shire of Moorabool's largest Community &amp; Sporting organisation, Darley Football Netball Club Incorporated (DFNC), I submit that the failure of council to make any provision in the Draft Council Plan for improvements and upgrades to facilities at Darley Park is negligent towards the existing and growing demographic of users of the club and ignorant of the dire need for improvements urgently required be made by Council to bring the club facilities in line with what should be regarded as the base standard for such facilities users.</li> <li>2. DFNC is represents a huge portion of the community of Darley and Bacchus Marsh with regard to sports participants, coaches, trainers, supporters, spectators, members, volunteers a sponsors (local businesses). The operations at Darley Park have historic community significance and the location is ideal for the purposes of the club. The club demographic includes all sectors of the shire community – youth, elderly persons, disabled persons, indigenous person, females and males.</li> </ol>	<p>In 2014 Council undertook the development of the Recreation and Leisure Strategy for Moorabool Shire.</p> <p>Sport and Recreation groups were provided with an opportunity to have input into the development of the strategy via a range of consultation and engagement processes. Clubs were also able to make a formal submission to the strategy regarding their future development and facility needs.</p> <p>The strategy identified the development of the <b>Bacchus Marsh Racecourse and Recreation Reserve</b> as the number 1 strategic priority required to cater for continued population growth in the east of the Shire, and position Council to be better placed to meet increasing community demands for access to sports facilities.</p> <p>Projects identified as a priority for Darley Park within the Strategy were;</p> <p><b>Darley Park</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the 2002 reserve master plan.</li> <li>• Consider upgrading the main oval floodlights to 200 lux.</li> <li>• Retain and upgrade the three netball courts in the northwest corner of the reserve.</li> </ul>

Submission From	Main Points	Response
	<p>3. The facilities at Darley Park – being the clubrooms, change rooms, ablution areas, amenities areas, security and exterior scape have become increasingly unsuitable for their present and anticipated future use. Generally speaking, facilities are old and in poor condition. Rooms are too small for their intended purpose. Shower and toilet facilities are unsuitable for current purpose and would breach any topical health and safety regulations.</p> <p>4. The poor standard of facilities fails to lend itself to the safe and correct use DFNC should rightly expect to have. We are restricted in our ability to grow as the community demand on our club increases. A growing number of netballers joining our club have unsuitable facilities for change rooms, ablution areas, playing areas, team shelter and spectators' shelter and viewing provisions.</p> <p>5. At a time when DFNC is planning the introduction of women's AFL operations, we have no facilities suitable for sportswomen despite the growing community demand. Showers and toilets are not female friendly, they are not suitable for the disabled and are not compliant with health and safety regulations.</p> <p>6. The netball and football playing areas have insufficient lighting for night games which hampers the ability to cater for fixture changes throughout the season and restricts the club's plans to introduce</p>	<p>Officers will work with the Darley Park clubs to identify suitable timeframe for reviewing the reserve master plan with a view to preparing a development and funding plan for addressing the priorities identified in the master plan.</p> <p>At its meeting on 7 June 2014 Council resolved to support an application for funding to the 2018/19 Community Sport Infrastructure Funding Program for the upgrade of the sports ground lighting to allow competition matches to be played at Darley Park.</p> <p>The review of the master plan will determine the future need and relevance of the netball courts in the North West corner of the reserve.</p> <p>Council is aware of the increasing demands being placed on Darley Park with the huge increase in participation created by the introduction of Women's AFL. Officers have held discussions with AFL Goldfields regarding provision of facilities to cater for this demand. The discussions have centered on the role the facilities at the Darley Hub can play for female football within the region. All clubs are experiencing issues with meeting the demand for appropriate facilities in this regard. It is suggested that your club discuss the matter with both Council Officers and AFL Goldfields so that a coordinated strategy for access to the facilities at the Darley Hub can be developed.</p>

<b>Submission From</b>	<b>Main Points</b>	<b>Response</b>
	<p>extra teams – such as the women’s AFL as we are encouraged to do by the AFL Vic Country leagues’ administration and as we are pressured to do by the growing interest from the community.</p> <p>7. This submission is for council to review its omission of allocating funds to upgrade facilities at Darley Park in favour of its plans to revitalise the Racecourse Complex. Darley Park is unsuitable for its current and future use now and must take precedence over a futuristic community development.</p>	

## **Policy Implications**

The 2013–2017 Council Plan provides as follows:

<b>Key Result Area</b>	Representation and Leadership of our Community
<b>Objective</b>	Good governance through open and transparent processes and strong accountability to the community.
<b>Strategy</b>	Ensure policies and good governance are in accordance with legislative requirements and best practice.

The proposal to consider submissions in relation to the proposed Council Plan 2017-2021 is consistent with the 2013-2017 Council Plan.

## **Financial Implications**

The four-year forecast is Council's accountability to the community in the way it will deliver on the four Strategic Objectives as set out in the Council Plan 2017-2021 being:

1. Providing good governance and leadership
2. Minimising environmental impact
3. Stimulating economic development
4. Improving social outcomes

The Strategic Resource Plan for each financial year is subject to final determination as part of Council's Annual Budget Process.

Council considered submissions to the Annual Budget in the Agenda item immediately prior to this one. Changes to the budget as resolved by the Council will be incorporated into the Strategic Resource Plan of the Council Plan prior to it coming to Council at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 5 July 2017 for adoption.

## **Communications Strategy**

The public submission period was conducted for no less than 28 days; from May 5, 2017 closing on June 6, 2017.

In accordance with *the Local Government Act* 1989, the proposed Council Plan 2017-2021 and Strategic Resource Plan will progress through the following adoption process:

<b>Timetable for the Consultation and Adoption of the Council Plan 2017-2021 including the Strategic Resource Plan</b>	
Consider Public Submissions as per Section 223 (1)(b) of the Local Government Act 1989 for proposed Council Plan 2017-2021 and Strategic Resource Plan at a Special Meeting of Council.	Wednesday 21 June
Formally adopt the Council Plan 2017-2021 and Strategic Resource Plan	Wednesday, 5 July
Public Notice of Adoption of Council Plan and Strategic Resource Plan	Saturday 8 July
Submit Council Plan 2017-2021 and Strategic Resource Plan to Minister for Local Government by:	Monday 31 July

### **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.

*Chief Executive Officer – Rob Croxford*

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

*Author – John Whitfield*

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

### **Conclusion**

Council's consideration of Council Plan submissions is a statutory requirement necessary to formally adopt the Council Plan 2017-2021 for Moorabool Shire Council and forward the Plan to the Minister.

As a result of the public submission process, in accordance with section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989, Council received one public submission.

The Council Plan will be updated to reflect the adopted Budget.

**Resolution:****Crs. Sullivan/Bingham****1. That Council receives the following submission:**

<b>Submission From</b>	<b>Submission</b>	<b>Response</b>
<b>Raymond Newton</b>	<p><b><u>This submission is made with regard to the lack of planning inclusions by Shire of Moorabool to upgrade facilities at Darley Park.</u></b></p> <p><b>1. As a Committee Chair of arguably, The Shire of Moorabool's largest Community &amp; Sporting organisation, Darley Football Netball Club Incorporated (DFNC), I submit that the failure of council to make any provision in the Draft Council Plan for improvements and upgrades to facilities at Darley Park is negligent towards the existing and growing demographic of users of the club and ignorant of the dire need for improvements urgently required be made by Council to bring the club facilities in line with what should be regarded as the base standard for such facilities users.</b></p> <p><b>2. DFNC is represents a huge portion of the community of Darley and Bacchus Marsh with regard to sports participants, coaches, trainers, supporters, spectators, members, volunteers a sponsors (local businesses). The operations at Darley Park have historic community significance and the location is ideal for the purposes of the club. The club demographic includes all sectors</b></p>	<p><b>In 2014 Council undertook the development of the Recreation and Leisure Strategy for Moorabool Shire. Sport and Recreation groups were provided with an opportunity to have input into the development of the strategy via a range of consultation and engagement processes. Clubs were also able to make a formal submission to the strategy regarding their future development and facility needs.</b></p> <p><b>The strategy identified the development of the Bacchus Marsh Racecourse and Recreation Reserve as the number 1 strategic priority required to cater for continued population growth in the east of the Shire, and position Council to be better placed to meet increasing community demands for access to sports facilities.</b></p> <p><b>Projects identified as a priority for Darley Park within the Strategy were;</b></p> <p><b>Darley Park</b></p>

<b>Submission From</b>	<b>Submission</b>	<b>Response</b>
	<p><i>of the shire community – youth, elderly persons, disabled persons, indigenous person, females and males.</i></p> <p><i>3. The facilities at Darley Park – being the clubrooms, change rooms, ablution areas, amenities areas, security and exterior scape have become increasingly unsuitable for their present and anticipated future use. Generally speaking, facilities are old and in poor condition. Rooms are too small for their intended purpose. Shower and toilet facilities are unsuitable for current purpose and would breach any topical health and safety regulations.</i></p> <p><i>4. The poor standard of facilities fails to lend itself to the safe and correct use DFNC should rightly expect to have. We are restricted in our ability to grow as the community demand on our club increases. A growing number of netballers joining our club have unsuitable facilities for change rooms, ablution areas, playing areas, team shelter and spectators' shelter and viewing provisions.</i></p> <p><i>5. At a time when DFNC is planning the introduction of women's AFL operations, we have no facilities suitable for sportswomen despite the growing community demand. Showers and toilets are not female friendly, they are not suitable for the</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• Review the 2002 reserve master plan.</i></li> <li><i>• Consider upgrading the main oval floodlights to 200 lux.</i></li> <li><i>• Retain and upgrade the three netball courts in the northwest corner of the reserve.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Officers will work with the Darley Park clubs to identify suitable timeframe for reviewing the reserve master plan with a view to preparing a development and funding plan for addressing the priorities identified in the master plan.</i></p> <p><i>At its meeting on 7 June 2014 Council resolved to support an application for funding to the 2018/19 Community Sport Infrastructure Funding Program for the upgrade of the sports ground lighting to allow competition matches to be played at Darley Park.</i></p> <p><i>The review of the master plan will determine the future need and relevance of the netball courts in the North West corner of the reserve.</i></p> <p><i>Council is aware of the increasing demands being placed on Darley Park with the huge increase in participation created by the introduction of Women's AFL. Officers have held discussions with AFL Goldfields regarding provision of facilities to cater for this demand. The discussions have centered on the role the facilities at the Darley Hub can play for female football within the region. All clubs are experiencing</i></p>

<b>Submission From</b>	<b>Submission</b>	<b>Response</b>
	<p><i>disabled and are not compliant with health and safety regulations.</i></p> <p><b>6. The netball and football playing areas have insufficient lighting for night games which hampers the ability to cater for fixture changes throughout the season and restricts the club's plans to introduce extra teams – such as the women's AFL as we are encouraged to do by the AFL Vic Country leagues' administration and as we are pressured to do by the growing interest from the community.</b></p> <p><b>7. This submission is for council to review its omission of allocating funds to upgrade facilities at Darley Park in favour of its plans to revitalise the Racecourse Complex. Darley Park is unsuitable for its current and future use now and must take precedence over a futuristic community development.</b></p>	<p><i>issues with meeting the demand for appropriate facilities in this regard. It is suggested that your club discuss the matter with both Council Officers and AFL Goldfields so that a coordinated strategy for access to the facilities at the Darley Hub can be developed.</i></p>

2. *That having considered the public submission, the adoption of the Council Plan 2017-2021, including any amendments required, is referred to the Ordinary Meeting of Council of Wednesday 5 July 2017 to be held at 5.00pm in the James Young Rooms, Lerderderg Library, Bacchus Marsh.*
3. *That following the adoption of the Council Plan 2017-2021, a response is provided to Mr. Newton.*


**CARRIED.**



**Report Authorisation**

**Authorised by:**

**Name:** Rob Croxford  
**Title:** Chief Executive Officer  
**Date:** Friday 9 June 2017



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

***Nil.***

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

***Nil.***

**10. MEETING CLOSURE**

***The meeting closed at 6.18pm.***

***Confirmed.....Chairperson.***