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| **AGENDA****Special Council Meeting****Wednesday, 30 June 2021****In accordance with s.395 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, this meeting will not****be available for public attendance, however will be streamed live via accessing the****Council Internet site.** |
| **I hereby give notice that a Special Meeting of Council will be held on:** |
| **Date:** | **Wednesday, 30 June 2021** |
| **Time:** | **6.00pm** |
| **Location:** | **Online** |
| **Sally Jones****Acting Chief Executive Officer** |

**Order Of Business**

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[2 Acknowledgement of Country 5](#_Toc75446429)

[3 Recording of the Meeting 5](#_Toc75446430)

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1 Opening of Meeting and Prayer

Almighty God be with us as we work for the people of the Shire of Moorabool. Grant us wisdom that we may care for the Shire as true stewards of your creation. May we be aware of the great responsibilities placed upon us. Help us to be just in all our dealings and may our work prosper for the good of all. Amen.

2 Acknowledgement of Country

I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we are meeting. I pay my respects to their Elders, past and present, and the Aboriginal Elders of other communities who may be here today.

3 Recording of the Meeting

In accordance with Moorabool Shire Council’s Governance Rules, the meeting will be livestreamed.

4 Present

5 Apologies

6 Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

Conflict of interest laws are prescribed under the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) and in the Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020 (the Regulations). Managing conflicts of interest is about ensuring the integrity and transparency of decision-making.

The conflict of interest provisions under the Act have been simplified so that they are more easily understood and more easily applied. The new conflict of interest provisions are designed to ensure relevant persons proactively consider a broader range of interests and consider those interests from the viewpoint of an impartial, fair-minded person.

Section 126 of the Act states that a Councillor has a conflict of interest if they have a general conflict of interest or a material conflict of interest. These are explained below:

* A Councillor has a general conflict of interest in a matter if an impartial, fair-minded person would consider that the member’s private interests could result in them acting in a manner that is contrary to their public duty as a Councillor.
* A Councillor has a material conflict of interest in a matter if an affected person would gain a benefit or suffer a loss depending on the outcome of the matter.

A relevant person with a conflict of interest must disclose the interest in accordance with Council’s Governance Rules and not participate in the decision-making process on the matter. This means the relevant person must exclude themselves from any discussion or vote on the matter at any Council meeting, delegated committee meeting, community asset committee meeting or, if a councillor, any other meeting conducted under the auspices of the council. The relevant person must also exclude themselves from any action in relation to the matter, including an action taken to implement a council decision, for example, issuing a planning permit.

7 Presentations/Deputations

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

Persons wishing to make a presentation or deputation to Council on a matter included in the agenda shall inform Council 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 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.

8 Customer Care and Advocacy Reports

8.1 Community Vision 2030 Adoption

**Author: Tom Laurie, Manager Communications, Advocacy & Government Relations**

**Authoriser: Caroline Buisson, General Manager Customer Care & Advocacy**

**Attachments: 1. Community Vision 2030 (under separate cover)**

Purpose

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider adopting the Community Vision 2030.

Executive Summary

 Council ran a deliberative engagement program between December 2020 and March 2021 to identify the opinions and expectations of our community for the next ten years. In order to gain a wide range of insights during the interactive workshops, Council established a Community reference group that reflected the diverse groups within our municipality.

 The insights gained during the deliberative engagement workshops helped Council shape the Community Vision 2030 whilst providing the medium to long-term direction of how the community sees the municipality in ten years’ time.

 The Community Vision 2030 document was put on public exhibition between Tuesday, 11 May 2021 until Tuesday, 8 June 2021.

 Following the conclusion of the community feedback period three (3) submissions were received.

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| Recommendation**That Council:**1. **Adopts the Community Vision 2030 provided as Attachment 1 to this report.**
2. **Makes the Community Vision 2030 publicly available on its Website.**
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Background

In developing the Community Vision and the proposed Council Plan, Council has a number of statutory requirements to be undertaken. Section 88 of *Local Government Act 2020* relates to the Community Vision and states:

1. A Council must maintain a Community Vision that is developed with its municipal community in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices.

2. The scope of the Community Vision is a period of at least the next ten financial years.

3. A Community Vision must describe the municipal community's aspirations for the future of the municipality.

4. A Council must develop or review the Community Vision in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices and adopt the Community Vision by 31 October in the year following a general election.

5. The Community Vision adopted under subsection (4) has effect from 1 July in the year following a general election.

Sections 89 & 90 of the *Local Government Act 2020* relate to the Strategic Planning Principles and the Council Plan and states that:

**Strategic planning principles**

1. A Council must undertake the preparation of its Council Plan and other strategic plans in accordance with the strategic planning principles.

2. The following are the strategic planning principles:

(a) an integrated approach to planning, monitoring and performance reporting is to be adopted;

(b) strategic planning must address the Community Vision;

(c) strategic planning must consider the resources needed for effective implementation;

(d) strategic planning must identify and address the risks to effective implementation;

(e) strategic planning must provide for ongoing monitoring of progress and regular reviews to identify and address changing circumstances.

Comprehensive community consultation that reflects the diversity of the municipality was undertaken in December 2020 and March 2021. Council has undertaken extensive deliberative community engagement through a series of activities such as an online survey, phone interviews, consultation with schools and virtual workshops. More than 450 people participated in the community engagement activities.

This process has assisted Council to understand and appreciate the matters that are important to our community: their concerns, aspirations and expectations over the next ten years. As a result of the engagement program we have identified five key themes and constructed a Vision Statement that is realistic and inclusive.

**Key themes:** Maintaining our rural charm, connected communities, well-planned neighbourhoods, embracing sustainability and a strong local economy.

**Our 2030 Community Vision Statement:** “We embrace our natural environment and lifestyle options to create an inspiring place for everyone to live, work and play.”

Following the conclusion of the community feedback period three (3) submissions were received which are summarised in the table below with a Council response:

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| **Number** | **Submitter** | **Feedback**  |
| 1. | Liz Darley | I would like to see more youth attractions in the town. Maybe a cinema or a safe place for teens to congregate. We have little in the way of youth services or entertainment. Even consider a direct bus from The Village to Woodgrove so young people can safely get there without having to get a bus to the train, then a train to Melton, then another bus to Woodgrove. This would be of benefit to many people, teens and elderly especially. I know this to a PTV issue but its definitely something to consider.  |
| Council Response:The Youth Services team at Moorabool deliver programs and activities for young people from Studio 22 each week and also online. Information on programs being provided can be found on the Moorabool Youth Services facebook page or by emailing youthservices@moorabool.vic.gov.auAs COVID restrictions ease the team in partnership with the Youth Action Group and the FReeZA committee will recommence large scale events for young people.Currently Council provides drop-in sessions from Studio 22, a designated youth space for young people located at the Darley Civic & Community Hub. Studio 22 is staffed by Youth Workers, young people can congregate here, meet friends, engage in recreational activities, food is provided and information and support about how to access the services they need. Studio 22 is free and open during the week on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, from 3pm – 6pm and during the school holidays from 11am – 6pm three days per week.Youth Services also provide the YES program this is a DFFS funded service that supports young people to re-engage in high school, training and the workplace. Young people receive individual support to set and achieve their goals.Early Transition Support, through the YES program the Youth Team provide targeted support to young people identified by Primary Schools as being at risk of not engaging in Secondary education. The program identifies the young people’s needs, builds their capacity and supports their connection with the school over a number of months.The Youth Team deliver FReeZa which is an innovative youth development program that enables young people to enjoy fully supervised drug, alcohol and smoke-free events. In previous years prior to covid-19 restrictions FReeAa and the youth team have delivered Youth Fest each November at Rotary Park in Bacchus Marsh with live Music, skate, art and other activities on offer, Skate Competitions in Ballan and Bacchus Marsh.The FReeZA program is modelled on a youth participation approach. Young people join a local FReeZA Committee and lead the planning, development and delivery of music and cultural events in their community. FReeZA committees also provide important performance opportunities for local musicians and young artists.FReeZA committees organise drug and alcohol events for young people aged 12 to 25, though most people who attend are between the ages of 14 and 18. These have been on hold due to covid-19 restrictions. However, planning is underway for a number of smaller events from July to December this year.This term FReeZa have been offering free online guitar lessons and planning the Moorabool’s Got Talent event for July in celebration of Youth Week. The group meet weekly and welcome new members.The Youth Team deliver the Youth Action Group (YAG), which was set up to give young people a voice and participate in the decision-making processes of Council.YAG has and will continue to consult with young people and the community to find out what young people see as important to them.  YAG is open to all young people who are aged between 12 - 24 years who live, work or study in Moorabool Shire. The group meet weekly and welcome new members. A key action in the current Youth Strategy is to advocate for better transport options which includes a bus service from Bacchus Marsh to Woodgrove Shopping Centre in Melton.The Bacchus Marsh Integrated Transport Strategy: Building Our Transport Future, looks at the challenges faced by the Bacchus Marsh area, and presents actions that will guide future transport planning and development to deliver a sustainable, integrated network with better active transport options for the community.The strategy identified that there is no link between Bacchus Marsh and Melton. Within the implementation plan of the Strategy under action number 8.2 Implement new services to Bacchus Marsh, there is an action listed as a medium priority to - Provide a bus service between the Bacchus Marsh Activity Centre and Melton Bus Terminal, with a possible connection to Hopetoun Park.Moorabool Shire Council will continue to work in partnership with the Victorian Government, businesses and the community to deliver the actions outlined in the Strategy and works towards building a better transport future for Bacchus Marsh. |

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| **Number** | **Submitter** | **Feedback**  |
| 2. | Simon Lumb | I wish to take the opportunity to give feedback on the draft of 'Our Vision for the Community 2030' document for Moorabool Shire. I am a current resident of Moorabool Shire having lived here for a little over two years with my young family. I also completed the Community Vision Survey and was part of the community reference group undertaking two workshops in January 2021 to work on the vision.  Overall, I believe the document reflects well on community sentiment of Moorabool Shire and my personal views. One area I think may need some work is the theme of A Strong Local Economy and is based around trends I have observed and personally experienced over the past few years. The theme appears to be set around jobs and work having a set locality or place of work with an emphasis on "local job opportunities."  Whilst this is the case for many jobs and a focus needs to be made on attracting such employment opportunities, there are many jobs that are becoming increasingly location agnostic. This trend has been occurring for several years, particularly with the rollout of reliable and high-speed internet connectivity coupled with new collaboration tools. COVID-19 has accelerated this trend and it is hard to see this being reversed with large companies making this acknowledgement [1]. These location agnostic jobs are very often well paid, "professional" jobs that use electronic communication and collaboration technologies to almost entirely undertake their responsibilities of their work [2]. Where work cannot be undertaken remotely, the Shire has excellent and commutable transport links to both the Melbourne Central Business District and Melbourne International Airport with planned improvements in the 2030 timeframe. The question might be asked if this type of job which may be undertaken by a resident within the Shire, even though for an employer with a legal presence outside the Shire, is still considered a "local job" and one which is desirable to have within the Shire to support the local economy?  The Strong Local Economy theme of Our Community Vision for the Community 2030 does not appear to make any consideration of this potentially very large shift in the changing nature of work for many jobs in the future and how the Shire may take advantage of this to support the local economy. In 2016, 16% of employed persons within Moorabool indicated their occupation as a "professional", well below the greater Melbourne figure of 25% [3]. These residents, including potentially attracting future residents undertaking this type of work, potentially provide a net import of funds into the local economy when spend is encouraged locally, and hence create the desired outcome of supporting a stronger local economy which itself then creates new jobs.  In 2016, after the Shire itself (34%), and Ballarat (10%), 9% of people worked in The City of Melbourne [4]. It is perhaps a fair assumption to make that many of these jobs located in Melbourne were previously undertaken in city offices and the sort that will become increasingly location agnostic. Furthermore, it could be suggested that the recent surge in people moving from metropolitan Melbourne to regional areas has been enabled in many cases by work being able to be undertaken in any location [5].  My suggestion would be that The Community Vision 2030 document, under A Strong Local Economy theme, add an area to consider as, the changing nature of where work is undertaken is an opportunity to explore for local economic development.  I hope this submission may be considered in setting your community vision 2030, and/or any other areas which council may be exploring in future strategies. I am happy to discuss my submission further should you wish to. [1] <https://exchange.telstra.com.au/9-takeaways-from-andy-penn-on-a-post-covid-world/>  [2] <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/average-weekly-earnings-australia/nov-2020#industry-earnings>  [3] <https://profile.id.com.au/moorabool/occupations> [4] <https://profile.id.com.au/moorabool/residents> [5]<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-05-28/coronavirus-australians-move-to-regional-areas-remote-work/1229358>  |

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| Council Response:The creation of local jobs for a growing population is a major focus for Council. COVID-19 presented the opportunity for residents to work from home. Economic benefits were seen through increased levels of local spend and a reduction of escape expenditure. New work patterns and a move by employers to offer an improved work/life balance will continue to see more people working from home. Council wants to capitalise on this opportunity and intends to make it part of its economic advocacy agenda to attract amongst others, those non-locational based professionals. The strategic locational advantages (access to CBD, regional centres, transport nodes) and lifestyle rewards (village life, access to rural areas) are being used in Council communications and promotions to demonstrate the attractiveness of the Shire in encouraging knowledge-based professionals to relocate. Further to this, Council is currently working with NBN and others to identify and eliminate internet blackspots and increase digital capability throughout the Shire.In the next 12 months Council is planning to undertake the development of two key strategies directly related to growing a vibrant economy with intended outputs including attracting knowledge-based professionals and young families. This will include a new Economic Development Strategy including investment attraction and the Shire’s first Visitor Economy Strategy.  |

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| **Number** | **Submitter** | **Feedback**  |
| 3. | Kevin Shea | It sounds good but it should include how these goals are measured. I'm sure every plan ever has said something about infrastructure planning and retaining our character. If it's too vague it won't be achieved and we will continue on our path.  |
| Council Response:The Community Vision is a high-level document setting the overarching community vision for the Shire for 2030. The aim of the Council Plan is to capture the actions that Council will undertake over the next 4 years to help to achieve this Vision. |

Proposal

The achievement of the Community Vision is through the strategic objectives and measurable actions over the next four years contained in the Council Plan 2021 – 2025.

The *Local Government Act 2020* requires Councils to take an integrated approach to strategic planning and reporting. This new approach recognises that planning must be holistic and driven by the community. It ensures we share a clear vision to guide collaborative working, partnerships and advocacy opportunities. It helps Council build accountability and demonstrate value back to the community on an annual basis.

We engaged the community to ensure that the statistical information about our community and business profiles was up to date. Further to this, we considered the challenges and external forces that Council faces when delivering the proposed strategic objectives over the next four years.

Financial Implications

The Community Vision 2030 aligns to both the Council Plan 2021 – 2025 and the Budget. Council’s annual budget planning processes will provide funding for the implementation of activities proposed in the Community Vision 2030 and Council Plan 2021 – 2025 on an annual basis.

Risk & Occupational Health & Safety Issues

There are no risk or occupational health and safety issues identified in relation to this report.

Communications & Consultation Strategy

Comprehensive community consultation was undertaken from December 2020 through March 2021 which was facilitated on Council’s behalf.

| **Level of Engagement**  | **Stakeholder**  | **Activities**  | **Location**  | **Date**  | **Outcome**  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Inform  | Residents and businesses  | Posters and flyers  | Across the Shire | Jan 2021 | Promote feedback opportunities |
| Inform  | Residents and businesses  | Reply paid postcards and surveys | Across the Shire and distributed through Active Ageing and Diversity mailout  | Jan 2021 | Older residents and those without internet access/confidence could provide their feedback |
| Consult   | Residents and businesses  | Community Vision 2030 Survey  | Online  | Dec 2020 – Jan 2021  | Identify key themes that shape 10-year direction  |
| Consult    | Residents and businesses  | Community Reference Group workshops  | Online  | Jan 2021  | Refine key themes that shape 10-year direction  |
| Consult    | Residents and businesses  | Community Reference Group interviews  | Phone  | Jan 2021  | Refine key themes that shape 10-year direction  |
| Consult | Children and young people | Drawing competition | Online | Feb-March 2021 | Collate insights via schools for activities, services and concerns for young people  |
| Consult  | Local farming families | Community Vision 2030 Survey  | Online  | March 2021 | Gain insights on activities, services and concerns for farming families  |
| Consult and Involve    | Schools and young people | Guided teacher led engagement sessions  | Local schools  | Feb 2021  | Collate insights via schools for activities, services and concerns for young people  |
| Inform  | Residents and businesses  | Social media posts and website updates  | Online  | Jan – Mar 2021  | Infographics and content updates of key themes  |

A communications plan was developed to advise the community via Council’s website, media release, social media and Council’s community consultation website: haveyoursay.com.au.

Advertisements were placed in the local papers and members of the community had no less than 28 days to provide feedback.

The Community Vision 2030 progressed through the following feedback and adoption process:

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| Ordinary Council Meeting – Community Vision 2030 for community feedback | Wednesday 5 May 2021 |
| Advertise the Community Vision 2030 for community feedback in the local newspapers | Tuesday 11 May 2021  |
| Have your say website (Moorabool)  | Tuesday 11 May to Tuesday 8 June 2021  |
| Conclusion of the 28-day feedback period  | Tuesday 8 June 2021  |
| Special Meeting of Council – Community Vision 2030 Endorsement  | Wednesday 30 June 2021  |

Victorian Charter of Human Rights & 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 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

*General Manager – Caroline Buisson*

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

*Author – Tom Laurie*

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

Conclusion

Having completed all legislative requirements it is recommended that Council adopt the Community Vision 2030.

8.2 Council Plan 2021 - 2025 Adoption

**Author: Tom Laurie, Manager Communications, Advocacy & Government Relations**

**Authoriser: Caroline Buisson, General Manager Customer Care & Advocacy**

**Attachments: 1. Attachment 1 - Council Plan 2021-2025 (under separate cover)**

Purpose

The purpose of this report is for Council to adopt the Council Plan 2021 – 2025.

Executive Summary

 The Proposed Council Plan 2021 – 2025 was advertised from Tuesday, 11 May 2021 for community consultation.

 The community consultation period closed Tuesday, 8 June 2021.

 Two (2) written submissions were received.

 Council considered the submissions received at the Special Council Meeting held Wednesday, 16 June 2021.

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| Recommendation**That Council:****1. Adopts the Council Plan 2021 – 2025 shown as Attachment 1 to this report.****2. Provides a written response to each submitter following the adoption of the Council Plan 2021 – 2025.****3. Makes the Council Plan 2021 – 2025 publicly available on its Website.** |

Background

The development of the proposed Council Plan 2021 – 2025 has been informed by the Community Vision 2030 and contains the measures required to deliver the strategic objectives during the next four years.

Sections 89 & 90 of the *Local Government Act 2020* relate to the Strategic Planning Principles and the Council Plan and states that:

**Strategic planning principles**

1. A Council must undertake the preparation of its Council Plan and other strategic plans in accordance with the strategic planning principles.

2. The following are the strategic planning principles:

(a) an integrated approach to planning, monitoring and performance reporting is to be adopted;

(b) strategic planning must address the Community Vision;

(c) strategic planning must consider the resources needed for effective implementation;

(d) strategic planning must identify and address the risks to effective implementation;

(e) strategic planning must provide for ongoing monitoring of progress and regular reviews to identify and address changing circumstances.

**Council Plan**

1. A Council must prepare and adopt a Council Plan for a period of at least the next four financial years after a general election in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices.

2. A Council Plan must include the following:

(a) the strategic direction of the Council;

(b) strategic objectives for achieving the strategic direction;

(c) strategies for achieving the objectives for a period of at least the next four financial years;

(d) strategic indicators for monitoring the achievement of the objectives;

(e) a description of the Council's initiatives and priorities for services, infrastructure and amenity;

(f) any other matters prescribed by the regulations.

3. A Council must develop or review the Council Plan in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices and adopt the Council Plan by 31 October in the year following a general election.

4. The Council Plan adopted under subsection (3) has effect from 1 July in the year following a general election.

In accordance with Section 90 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council endorsed the Proposed Council Plan 2021 – 2025 for community consultation.

Council gave public notice of the Proposed Council Plan 2021 – 2025 and invited submissions between Tuesday, 11 May 2021 to Tuesday, 8 June 2021.

As a result of this advertising process, a total of two (2) written submissions were received by Council at the conclusion of the community consultation period, Tuesday, 8 June 2021.

Of the submissions received, one was anonymous, and one indicated that they did wish to be heard by Council. The submissions were presented to Council at the Special Council Meeting held Wednesday, 16 June 2021.

Following the conclusion of the community consultation period two (2) submissions were received which are summarised in the table below with a Council response:

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| **Number** | **Submitter** | **Submission**  |
| 1. | Anonymous | 1. Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) The most important action that is missing in the Council Plan is the development of a Reconciliation Action Plan. This needs to be a stand -alone action in the Healthy, Inclusive and Connected Communities Priority. 2. Diversity Photographic images throughout the planThere is a lack of diversity in the photographic images. We need images that project different backgrounds. 3. What are we doing for volunteers? 4. More actions related to what Council is doing to support young people.5. You have provided the option of anonymous feedback. Why are you asking for contact details and address? |
| Council Response:The development of a Reconciliation Action Plan is an important vision document to embrace and encourage unity and respect between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other people, including Council. Moorabool officers have successfully built new relationships through engagement for the Arts and Culture Strategy, Reconciliation Action Week and NAIDOC week which will support further engagement and initial strategic direction towards planning for Council’s first RAP. The Volunteer Strategy is currently being developed.The Municipal Early Years Plan and Moorabool Youth Strategy will be reviewed and redeveloped within the term of the new Council Plan, including action plans to support identified outcomes. |

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| **Number** | **Submitter** | **Submission**  |
| 2. | Simon LumbMaddingley | This submission extends on the submission for the draft of ‘Our Community Vision for 2030’. The submission highlights concerns that there is an emphasis on the locality of jobs, without much consideration to the future of work for jobs that can be undertaken in any location, or are “location agnostic”, and how the Shire may take advantage of this trend largely happening in many well paid “professional” jobs. The submitter questions what actions or measures are being taken to attract knowledge type workers to the Shire that do not have a fixed location of employment.It is acknowledged in the submission that many actions that could be taken are likely to reside within individual strategies as indicated under the Grow local employment and business investment for Liveable and thriving environments, however the wording of “grow local employment” may remove some focus on attracting highly skilled and well-paid knowledge workers that do not have any location of employment.  |
| Council Response:The creation of local jobs for a growing population is a major focus for Council. COVID-19 presented the opportunity for residents to work from home. Economic benefits were seen through increased levels of local spend and a reduction of escape expenditure. New work patterns and a move by employers to offer an improved work/life balance will continue to see more people working from home. Council wants to capitalise on this opportunity and intends to make it part of its economic advocacy agenda to attract amongst others, those non-locational based professionals. The strategic locational advantages (access to CBD, regional centres, transport nodes) and lifestyle rewards (village life, access to rural areas) are being used in Council communications and promotions to demonstrate the attractiveness of the Shire in encouraging knowledge-based professionals to relocate. Further to this, Council is currently working with NBN and others to identify and eliminate internet blackspots and increase digital capability throughout the Shire.In the next 12 months Council is planning to undertake the development of two key strategies directly related to growing a vibrant economy with intended outputs including attracting knowledge-based professionals and young families. This will include a new Economic Development Strategy including investment attraction and the Shire’s first Visitor Economy Strategy. In conclusion, the comments in relation to the SEIFA index are noted and will be considered in the Council projections and forecast. |

Further consideration of the Council Plan 2021 – 2025 has highlighted the need to include an additional action item to Develop a Development Contributions Policy with an implementation timeframe of Year 1, 2021 – 2022.

Significant growth is forecast across the Shire, with the majority of growth occurring in Bacchus Marsh and Ballan. In Bacchus Marsh the population is forecasted to double from 23,855 people to 46,187 by 2041, with an ultimate forecast of 65,000. This growth will be largely shared across five residential growth precincts (two existing growth precincts and three new).

In Ballan the population is forecasted to triple from 2,645 people to 6,714 by 2041, with an ultimate forecast of 12,000. This growth will be spread across nine new residential growth precincts.

Development Contributions will be provided by developers across these growth precincts with the contributions going towards the supply of infrastructure required to meet the future needs of the community. A Development Contributions policy would assist Council in negotiating with developers and administrating development contributions by setting out the process, positions and policy on key development contribution matters such as works in kind and indexation.

Proposal

The Council Plan 2021 – 2025 promotes the purpose, values and strategic directions of Council through to 2025. The Council Plan contains three strategic objectives:

 Healthy, inclusive and connected communities;​

 ​Liveable and thriving environments;

 A Council that listens and adapts to the needs of our evolving communities.

The Council Plan sets out the actions and activities that will be used to achieve five priorities for each strategic objective. We will measure our performance against each objective through specific Council indicators. We will also monitor certain measures which fall outside of the control of Council, but influence Council’s performance against its strategic objectives.

Council Plan

The Council Plan 2017-2021 provides as follows:

**Strategic Objective 1: Providing Good Governance and Leadership**

**Context 1C: Our Business and Systems**

The proposal to adopt the Council plan 2021 0- 2025 is consistent with the Council Plan 2017 – 2021.

Financial Implications

The Council Plan informs Council’s annual budget planning process. Funding for the implementation of activities proposed in the Council Plan 2021 – 2025 will be provided for in the Annual Budget on an annual basis.

Risk & Occupational Health & Safety Issues

There are no risk or occupational health and safety issues identified in relation to this report.

Communications & Consultation Strategy

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, the proposed Council Plan will progress through the following consultation and adoption process:

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| --- | --- |
| Ordinary Council Meeting – Community Vision 2030 and Proposed 2021 – 2025 Council Plan | Wednesday 5 May 2021 |
| Advertise the Proposed 2021 – 2025 Council Plan for community consultation in the local newspapers | Tuesday 11 May 2021  |
| Have your say website (Moorabool)  | Tuesday 11 May to Tuesday 8 June 2021  |
| Conclusion of the 28-day consultation period  | Tuesday 8 June 2021  |
| Committee of Council Meeting – Consideration of Submissions on the Proposed 2021 – 2025 Council Plan at a venue to be determined | Wednesday 16 June 2021  |
| Special Meeting of Council – Adoption of the 2021 – 2025 Council Plan  | Wednesday 30 June 2021  |

Victorian Charter of Human Rights & 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 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

*General Manager – Caroline Buisson*

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

*Author – Tom Laurie*

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

Conclusion

Following the conclusion of the community consultation period in relation to the Proposed Council Plan 2021 – 2025 and having completed all statutory requirements, it is appropriate for Council to consider the adoption of the Council Plan 2021 – 2025.

8.3 Adoption of 2021/22 Budget

**Author: Aaron Light, Senior Accountant**

**Authoriser: Caroline Buisson, General Manager Customer Care & Advocacy**

**Attachments:** **1. 2021/22 Budget Document**

Purpose

In accordance with Section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) Council is required to formally adopt the 2021/22 Annual Budget by 30 June 2021.

As resolved by Council on 5 May 2021, the Proposed Budget was placed on public exhibition from Tuesday 11 May 2021 to Tuesday 8 June 2021 inclusive, calling for submissions as required under the Act. This was advertised in The Moorabool News on 11 May 2021.

The Act requires Council to follow a process of enabling submissions to be received. There were 16 written submissions received by 8 June 2021. Council considered submissions at the Special Meeting of Council on 16 June 2021 and resolved as follows:

1. That the 16 submissions be received;

2. That Council takes into consideration the matters raised within the submissions in consideration of the 2021/22 Annual Budget at the Special Meeting of Council on 16 June 2021; and

3. That following the adoption of the 2021/22 Annual Budget, responses are provided to each Submitter.

Having completed all statutory requirements, the 2021/22 Annual Budget can now be considered for adoption.

Executive Summary

This report highlights the important points for consideration in adopting the 2021/22 budget.

These include;

 Responses to Budget Submissions

 Amendments since the Proposed Budget was presented at the May Ordinary Meeting of Council

Also, the attached Budget document which outlines the;

 Proposed Rate Increase

 Differential Rate Categories and Cents/$CIV

 Proposed Annual Waste Service Charges

 Detailed Capital Improvement Program

 Record levels of grant funding received amounting to $15.782m

|  |
| --- |
| Recommendation**That Council:****1. Notes the verbal and written submissions received and considered at 16 June 2021 Council Meeting as shown in Table 1.1.** **2. Notes the declaration of rates included in the 2021/22 Budget.** **3. Adopts the 2021/22 Budget, shown as Attachment 1 to this report, for the purpose of Section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.** **4. Makes the 2021/22 Budget publicly available on its Website.** |

Background

The Proposed 2021/22 Annual Budget recognises the importance of setting a clear direction for the future, achieving measurable objectives, encouraging community input and consultation, and being financially responsible. It is part of a financial plan that aims to secure a viable and sustainable path to achieve the Shire’s objectives.

The budget includes a rate increase of 1.50%, which is in line with the Fair Go Rates System (FGRS) which has capped rates increases by Victorian Councils. Despite the cap on rates, Council has been able to minimise the rate burden on residents through the use of stringent budget and fiscal controls.

Proposal

Budget Submissions

Council commenced statutory procedures for the 2021/22 Annual Budget at the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Wednesday, 5 May 2021. At that meeting, Council resolved to put on public display the Proposed 2021/22 Annual Budget that was considered at the meeting.

A public notice was published in The Moorabool News on Tuesday 11 May, 2021 which called for submissions to the proposed budget.

As a result of this advertising process, a total of 16 written submissions were received by the stated cut-off date of 8 June 2021. The table below shows the Council responses and recommendations for the submissions received.

Table 1.1 - Council Reponses to Budget Submissions

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **No** | **SUBMISSION** | **COUNCIL RESPONSE** |
| 1 to 7 | The Resting PoppyCarl Wright, Bronwyn Flack, Iris Roberts, Gary Coles, Don Wilsher, Anna Atkinson, Stuart Robertson | *Council has been a supporter of “The Resting Poppy” concept and project to date and can see the community benefits should the project be implemented. Given the timing of implementation is uncertain at this stage, Council officers will put forward a report to Council requesting a financial commitment to the project that can provide the RSL with certainty that funding will be made available when required.* |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 8 | Settlement Road, Elaine – Danny Dunne | *These sections of road are listed in Council’s Long-Term Capital Improvement Program (LTCIP) for future consideration. As you might appreciate, the LTCIP contains a large list of projects across multiple asset classes across the Shire. This list of potential projects is prioritised annually and submitted to the annual budget process for consideration. Therefore, the likely timing of delivery of these projects are unable to be confirmed at this stage.* |
| 9 | Flack Street, Ballan – Steve Sewell | *Officers acknowledge the feedback.* |
| 10 | Animal Registrations – Max O’Connor | *In the last two financial years Animal Registrations had increased by CPI only. Council takes onboard the comments raised and the proposed fees for 2021/22 will increase by CPI only.* |
| 11 | Support for the Environment – Elspeth Swan | *Support for the funding proposal for additional resources for improved environmental outcomes is noted. The proposed items all aim to lead to improved environmental outcomes, whether it is on-ground action, improved knowledge of local environmental values or improved planning responses with the changes the Shire is facing.* |
| 12 | Farm Rates – Victorian Farmers Federation | *The proposed average rate increase for the farm differential rate category has come about due to significant valuation increases for rural properties as part of the 2021 valuation cycle. Advice from the Valuer Generals Office has indicated a number of market and demand drivers have resulted in unprecedented increases in the value of rural land. This has impacted not only average rate increases for farm properties but also rural lifestyle properties and other non-farm rural properties.**Due to the variability of annual property valuations, it is not uncommon for some differential rating categories to experience an average rate increase at a higher rate and other differential rate categories to experience an average rating increases at a lower rate (or possibly even an average rate decrease). For the 2021 valuation cycle, rural land has generally experienced on average, a greater rate increase whilst other types of property have experienced a lower than average rate increase.* *As indicated in your budget submission to Moorabool Shire, Council has a number of options at its disposal to reduce the impact of property valuation asymmetries on differential rate categories. For example, Council can alter and /or reduce its rate differential for certain categories to lessen the impact of valuation increases. Altering the rate differentials will have the impact of reducing the average rate increase for some categories and increasing the average rate outcomes for other categories. It is currently noted that Moorabool Shire has set the differential rate for Farm category properties at 0.78 times the general rate (which represents a 22% discount on the rate paid by residential properties). The Council also has the option of implementing a municipal charge which is a uniform charge applied to all properties which can effectively flatten the significant valuation swings that can occur as a result of annual property valuations. However, any change to the differential rate levels within any of the categories needs to align with the objective of the differential rate and ensure that it results in overall compliance with the legislative frameworks and differential rate guidelines.* *Council is scheduled to review its Municipal Rating Strategy in the 2021/22 financial year. As part of the Rating Strategy review, Council will review all the options at its disposal to ensure an equitable distribution of the rating burden.* |
| 13 | Safety Signs and Funding for the Environment – Stephanie Jones | *1. Moorabool Shire Council acknowledges your concerns in relation to installation of wildlife warning signs on Council’s road network. Council generally installs wildlife warning signs on Council managed roads where there are wildlife corridors and in consultation with feedback from Council’s Sustainable Environment Team. It is recommended that installation of wildlife warning signs be installed in a very controlled and limited way as they tend to lose their effectiveness if used unnecessarily or too frequently as drivers become complacent or even distracted by the installation of these warning signs. Officers will assess the need for signs on Springbank Road which is a Council managed road. The Ballan- Daylesford Road is under the responsibility of Regional Roads Victoria (formerly VicRoads) and as such Council is unable to install signage on this Road, however we will pass your request to them for further investigation.**2. The Council budget has included additional funds to assist, improve and protect biodiversity, this includes recurrent funding for the establishment of a revegetation program, roadside environment values mapping and a new position of an Environmental Planner. In addition, funding has also been provided to increase the capacity of the waste team – especially in relation to responding to litter and illegal dumping.* *In regards to Council strategies to plan for and respond to climate change, Objective 2 of the draft Council Plan identified Council’s plans moving forward to address this, with some of the actions identified over the next 4 years including - Sustainable (Council) Buildings Strategy (2021/22), Sustainable Environment Strategy (2022/23), Waste & Resource Recovery Strategy (2021/22) and an Integrated Water Management Strategy (2021/22).* |
| 14 | Primary Producers – Chris Sharkey | *1. Currently as per the Draft 2021/22 Budget, Council has 1,273 assessments that receive the benefit of the farm rate. At some point in the past, these properties have applied and have successfully satisfied the definition as per the Valuation of Land Act. Council does not capture or collect information relating to the number of farm enterprises within the Shire and nor are they required to hold details of single farm enterprises.**2. The proposed average rate increase for farming assessments has come about due significant valuation increases for rural properties as part of the 2021/22 valuation cycle. It should be noted that the sole responsibility for setting annual property valuations rests with the State Government via the Valuer Generals Office. Advice from the Valuer Generals Office has indicated a number of market and demand drivers have resulted in unprecedented increases in the value of rural land. This has impacted not only average rate increases for farm properties but also rural lifestyle properties and other non-farm rural properties.**Due to the variability of annual property valuations, it is not uncommon for some differential rating categories to experience an average rate increase at a higher rate and other differential rate categories to experience an average rating increases at lower rate (or possibly even an average rate decrease). For the 2021/22 valuation cycle, rural land categories have generally experienced on average a greater rate increase whilst other differential rating categories have experienced a lower average rate increase.* *Council has a number of options at its disposal to reduce the impact of annual valuation increases on differential rate categories. For example, Council can alter and /or reduce its rate differential for certain categories to lessen the impact of valuation increases. It is currently noted that Moorabool Shire has set the differential rate for Farm category properties at 0.78 times the general rate (which represents a 22% discount on the rate paid by residential properties). The Council also has the option of implementing a municipal charge which is a uniform charge applied to all properties which can effectively flatten the significant valuation swings that can occur as a result of annual property valuations.**Council is scheduled to review its Municipal Rating Strategy in the 2021/22 financial year. As part of the Rating Strategy review, Council will review all the options at its disposal to ensure an equitable distribution of the rating burden.* |
| 15 | Gordon Township – Scott Graham | *This is the list of projects for Gordon in the proposed Capital Works Budget for 2021/22**Roads**• Sealed Road Rehabilitation – Old Melbourne Road - West of Old Western Highway to Boundary Road**• Sealed Road Construction – Brougham Street from Old Melbourne Road to Urquhart Street**• Gravel Road Resheeting – Grose Road from Hopwood Street to Rosenow Street**• Gravel Road Resheeting – Rosenow Street from Grose Road to end**• Gravel Road Resheeting – Gascards Lane from Portland Flat Road to end**• Gravel Road Resheeting – Urquhart Street from Gladstone Street to Winter Street**• Gravel Road Resheeting – Brougham Street from Old Melbourne Road to end**Kerb and Channel**• Kerb and Channel construction including underground drainage – Main Street (South side) from Lyndhurst Street to Stanley Street**• Kerb and Channel construction including angled car parking – Stanley Street (West side) adjacent to Reserve**Footpaths**• Footpath construction – Main Street (South side) from Lyndhurst Street to Stanley Street**• Footpath construction – Stanley Street (West side) from Main Street to Dicker Street (connection to existing path)**• Footpath construction including tree planting – Old Melbourne Road (North side) from Old Western Highway to Boundary Road* |
| 16 | Bacchus Marsh Public Hall – Stuart Deagan | *Council has prepared a draft landscape plan to improve the area between the Public Hall and RSL. Consultation with both the Hall Committee and RSL is proposed in the coming weeks to discuss the proposed upgrade to coincide with a current grant opportunity to undertake works at this location in the coming months. Should the draft proposal not be supported, Council will refine the design and once finalised, refer the project for future budget consideration as the current grant has short delivery timeframes.* |

*Budget Amendments and related matters*

Since the Proposed Budget was presented to Council there are some suggested amendments to the Operating budget. New or updated information has become available and these amendments are highlighted below.

*Indicative Financial Assistance Grant Allocations for 2021/22*

On 20 May 2020, Council was advised by the Victorian Grants Commission of its indicative Financial Assistance Grants for 2021/22. As a result of this preliminary advice, it is likely that Council will receive $109,721 more than the level estimated in the 2021/22 Proposed Budget. The increase is made up of;

Table 1.2 - Changes to Grants Commission Funding

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | **Proposed Budget** | **Indicative** |  |
|   | **2021/22** | **2021/22** | **Change** |
| General Purpose Grant | 4,872,619 | 4,969,869 | 97,250 |
| Local Roads Grant | 2,080,810 | 2,093,281 | 12,471 |
| **Total** | **6,953,429** | **7,063,150** | **109,721** |

*Grants – Operating (recurrent)*

Council has been notified recently that there will be an increase of $9,842 in grant funding for the Lerderderg Library.

*Grants – Capital (non-recurrent)*

Since the proposed budget was presented to Council there have been a number of changes to capital funding. Council has received confirmation of $10.06m in capital funding to support the 2021/22 capital program. After considering grants already included in the proposed 2021/22 Budget, the net impact of new funding on the 2021/22 Capital improvement program is an increase in expenditure of $3.89m. The major new funding announcements are listed below.

Table 1.3 – List of Successful Funding Announced since the Draft Budget was released



Overall, with these adjustments, total capital grants (both recurrent and non-recurrent) are $15.782 million. This a record level of grant funding received by Moorabool Shire to date.

*Capital Improvement Program*

Since the 2021/22 Proposed Budget was released for public consultation, there have been a number of changes to the Capital Improvement Program. These include the amendments mentioned above for capital grants, and also a reallocation of funds between financial years.

The table below shows the impact on the Statement of Capital Works for 2021/22 and how it will be presented in the Budget.

Table 1.4 – Changes to Statement of Capital Works



Council Plan

The Council Plan 2021-2024 provides as follows:

**Strategic Objective 1: Providing Good Governance and Leadership**

**Context 1C: Our Business and Systems**

Financial Implications

The 2021/22 Annual Budget has been prepared within the adopted four-year Strategic Financial Plan. This will allow Council to improve its financial sustainability and balance the building of new infrastructure with maintaining our existing infrastructure.

Risk & Occupational Health & Safety Issues

There are no risk or occupational health and safety issues identified in relation to this report.

Communications & Consultation Strategy

In accordance with the Act, Council considered submissions on 16 June 2021. Council received 16 written submissions.

The following outlines the timetable for the communication and adoption of the 2021/22 Annual Budget:

|  |
| --- |
| **Timetable for the Proposal and Adoption of the 2019/20 Annual Budget** |
| Proposed 2021/22 Annual Budget presented for Council adoption and Public Notification | 5 May 2021 |
| Advertise Proposed 2021/22 Annual Budget, inviting public inspection and submissions according to the *Local Government Act 2020*, in Council’s nominated newspapers | 11 May to 8 June 2021 |
| Consider public submissions per the *Local Government Act 2020* for the Proposed 2021/22 Annual Budget | 16 June 2021 |
| Formally adopt 2021/22 Annual Budget | 30 June 2021 |
| Submit 2021/22 Budget to the Minister for Local Government | 1 July 2021 |
| Public Notice – Adoption of 2021/22 Annual Budget | 5 July 2021 |

Victorian Charter of Human Rights & 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 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

*General Manager – Caroline Buisson*

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

*Author – Aaron Light*

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

Conclusion

The budget presents Council's immediate and longer-term financial strategy and links the actions set out in the Council Plan. It also identifies the capital works and services the community can expect from Council during the 2021/22 financial year and beyond.

8.4 Revenue and Rating Plan

**Author: Jacinta Erdody, Co-ordinator Revenue & Procurement**

**Authoriser: Caroline Buisson, General Manager Customer Care & Advocacy**

**Attachments: 1. Revenue and Rating Plan (under separate cover)**

Purpose

The *Local Government Act 2020* requires Council to formally adopt a Revenue and Rating Plan in accordance with Section 93 by 30 June after a general election for a period of at least the next four financial years. The draft Revenue and Rating Plan was adopted for public consultation at the May Ordinary Meeting of Council and during the public consultation no submissions were made in relation to the document.

Executive Summary

 The Revenue and Rating Plan establishes the revenue raising framework within which Council proposes to raise revenue and will form part of Council’s strategic framework.

 The Plan embodies a comprehensive view, the rational, objectives and core strategies that Council uses to raise its revenue purse through its rating option model, fees and charges, grants, contributions, interest income and borrowing strategy.

 The draft Revenue and Rating Plan was publicly advertised for feedback post the May 2021 Ordinary Meeting of Council and no submissions to the document have been lodged.

|  |
| --- |
| Recommendation**That Council:****1. Adopts the Revenue and Rating Plan, shown as Attachment 1 to this report.****2. Makes the Revenue and Rating Plan publicly available on its Website.** |

Background

The *Local Government Act 2020* requires Council to formally adopt a Revenue and Rating Plan in accordance with Section 93 by 30 June after a general election for a period of at least the next four financial years.

The Revenue and Rating Plan is an important part of Council’s integrated planning framework, which will support the achievement of the Community Vision and Council Plan.

The Revenue and Rating Plan will outline how Council will levy rate revenue and will outline other revenue sources that contribute to ensuring Council Plan and objectives are delivered.

Proposal

The Revenue and Rating Plan outlines how Council will generate rate revenue, consider other sources of Revenue and how we will go about the collection of rates and charges in an open and transparent manner for our community whilst remaining compliant with our legislative obligations.

The Plan sets out decisions that Council has made in relation to its currently adopted Rating Strategy to ensure the fair and equitable distribution of rates across property owners including methodology and principles relating to non-rate revenue including user fees and charges, government grants, developer contributions and all other Council income sources.

Council Plan

The Council Plan 2017-2021 provides as follows:

**Strategic Objective 1: Providing Good Governance and Leadership**

**Context 1C: Our Business and Systems**

The proposal to adopt a Revenue and Rating Plan is not provided for in the Council Plan 2017 – 2021 but can be actioned utilising existing resources.

Financial Implications

There are no immediate financial implications envisaged that will impede or put pressure on the 2021/2022 budgeting process. In future years, as Council refines the Revenue and Rating Plan, the document will inform the development of future years’ budgets and the 10-year financial plan.

Risk & Occupational Health & Safety Issues

The Revenue and Rating Plan is a new requirement as part of the *Local Government Act 2020* and is required to be adopted by 30 June 2021. The draft Revenue and Rating Plan seeks to ensure legislative compliance and reduce the risk of non-compliance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Communications & Consultation Strategy

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Level of Engagement** | **Stakeholder** | **Activities** | **Date** | **Outcome** |
| Consult | Community | Document was publicly advertised post May Ordinary Meeting of Council and made available on the ‘Have your Say’ page. | May 2021 to June 2021 | No submissions were made to the draft version of this document |

In future years, as Council further refines and develops its Revenue and Rating Plan, more detailed community engagement will be undertaken.

Victorian Charter of Human Rights & Responsibilities Act 2006

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Officer’s Declaration of Conflict of Interests

Under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

*General Manager – Caroline Buisson*

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

*Author – Jacinta Erdody*

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

Conclusion

The Revenue and Rating Plan is a new legislative requirement under the *Local Government Act 2020*. It builds on Council’s existing Municipal Rating Strategy and establishes the revenue raising framework within which Council proposes to raise revenue. The Plan forms an important component of the Integrated Strategic Planning Framework.

9 Meeting Closure