

MINUTES of the Ordinary Meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council held in the Municipal Chambers, Civic Centre, Roberts Avenue Horsham on 7 May, 2018 at 5.30pm.

PRESENT: Cr Pam Clarke, Mayor; Cr Alethea Gulvin, Cr Josh Koenig, Cr Les Power, Cr David Grimble, Cr Mark Radford, Cr John Robinson

ALSO IN

ATTENDANCE: Sunil Bhalla, Chief Executive; Graeme Harrison, Director Corporate Services; Angela Murphy, Director Planning & Economic; Kevin O'Brien, Director Community Services; John Martin, Director Technical Services; Fiona Kelly, Executive Assistant.

1. Reading of prayer and the acknowledgement of country statement

The Prayer and Acknowledge of Country Statement were read by the Chairman, Cr P Clarke.

2. Welcome to distinguished guests or persons in the public gallery

Chairman, Cr Clarke welcomed those in attendance to the Council Meeting.

The Mayor advised the gallery that the Council meeting will be recorded to maintain an audio archive.

Cheryl Linke	Kath Dumesny	Neville McIntyre	Kathy Newton
S Hedt	R Hedt	Bev Bell	

3. Apologies and request for Leave of Absence

NIL

4. Confirmation of minutes and signing thereof

Moved Cr Radford, seconded Cr Koenig that the Minutes emanating from the Ordinary Meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council held in the Municipal Chambers, Civic Centre, Horsham at 5.30pm on 16 April, 2018 be adopted.

CARRIED

5. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest Sec 79, Local Government Act, 1989 (As Amended)

Cr Power declared a Conflict of Interest, under Section 79(2)(C) at Item No.10.4.1 (in open Council). Cr Power is a councillor representative on the Horsham Aquatic Centre Advisory Committee.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

NIL

7. OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE MOTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

NIL

7.2 RECEPTION AND READING OF PETITIONS, MEMORIALS, JOINT LETTERS AND DEPUTATIONS

NIL

7.3 MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

NIL

7.4 COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

NIL

7.5 ORDERS OF THE DAY

NIL

8. OTHER REPORTS

8.1 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS – RECORD OF MEETINGS

Council Briefing Meeting held on Monday 23 April, 2018 at 5.00pm in the Reception room.

Refer to **Appendix “8.1A”**.

Recommendation

That Council note the Assembly of Councillors’ – Record of Meetings.

Moved Cr Koenig, Seconded Cr Power that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

8.2 SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

NIL

8.3 INWARD CORRESPONDENCE

NIL

8.4 COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES

8.4.1 Waste Strategy Steering Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 6 March, 2018 at 4.30pm in the Reception Room.

RECEIVED

8.4.2 Haven Recreation Reserve Advisory Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 13 March 2018 at 7.30pm at the Haven Hall, Henty Highway.

Moved Cr Radford, Seconded Cr Gulvin that Item No. 8.4.2 be received.

CARRIED

8.4.3 Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 28 March 2018 at 5.00pm at the Civic Centre.

Moved Cr Gulvin, Seconded Cr Koenig that Item No. 8.4.3 be received.

CARRIED

8.4.4 Horsham Recreation Reserve Advisory Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 4 April 2018 at 6.00pm at the AFL Wimmera Mallee Offices, 27 Hocking Street, Horsham.

Moved Cr Robinson, Seconded Cr Gulvin that Item No. 8.4.4 be received.

CARRIED

8.4.5 Horsham Aquatic Centre Advisory Committee meeting held on Monday, 9 April, 2018 at 12pm at the Horsham Aquatic Centre.

Moved Cr Radford, Seconded Cr Koenig that Item No. 8.4.5 be received.

CARRIED

8.4.6 Horsham Tidy Towns Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 17 April 2018 at 12.30pm in the Middle Meeting Room, Council Offices.

RECEIVED

8.4.7 Horsham Regional Livestock Exchange Board of Management meeting held on Thursday, 19 April, 2018 at 5.00pm at the Horsham Regional Livestock Exchange, Western Highway, Horsham.

Moved Cr Grimble, Seconded Cr Radford that Item No. 8.4.7 be received.

CARRIED

8.4.8 Western Highway Action Committee meeting held on Friday, 20 April 2018 at 10.30am at the Western Highway Precinct Office, Stawell.

Moved Cr Radford, Seconded Cr Gulvin that Item No. 8.4.8 be received.

CARRIED

Refer to **Appendix "8.4A"**.

9. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cr Power

- 18 April – Community information session at the Horsham Town Hall to hear about the Murra Warra Wind Farm and the opportunities that it will bring to Horsham. The benefits to Horsham will bring in many different forms and economic wealth and also positive what it will do for supermarkets, fuel supplies, etc.
- 19 April – Community lunch to launch the Wartook Valley Black Spot by Telstra.
- 20 April – Youth Strategy meeting with Sarah Reilly from CRED Consulting. Cr Power is keen to see the outcomes of the strategy.
- 21 April - Spirit of netball. Presented an award to a young girl at Pimpinio. We are lucky to have so many children doing so well in sport and it fantastic to see them being active.
- 23 April – Council briefing meeting. Again the meeting was very informative and thank you to the staff for putting this information together for us.
- 25 April – Anzac Day dawn service at 6.15am. There was a huge crowd which shows what this day means to Horsham people and surrounding areas.
- Anzac Day service at 10.30am which was another big crowd.
- 28 April – Spirit of football award presentation at Laharum. It is fantastic to see the new multipurpose building going up.
- 1 May – Blue Ribbon Foundation meeting at the hospital.
- 4 May – Meeting with Bob McIlvena, president of the U3A. Cr Power received the U3A news. The group hold a variety of programs in twelve different venues. Bob's plan is to contact council to get a facility not only for Horsham but seniors around the area. It is time we had a think about the people who made Horsham what it is today.
- 4 May - Had the pleasure of filling in for the Mayor at the Performing Arts Centre production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dream Coat. It was fantastic. We are lucky to have the entertainers that we have.

Cr Robinson

- 25 April – Anzac Day dawn service followed by the Natimuk service. The Natimuk service was very positive and well attended. Cr Robinson talked to the community about Greg Hunt's visit.
- 26 April - Opened the new Horsham Hearing Clinic in Dooen Road. Cr Robinson was very proud to open the centre.
- 27 April – Celebration retirement function for Dale Russell after 22 years of service to the community. Over 250 people attended his send off.
- Cr Robinson talked about an article that appeared in the Wimmera Mail Times on 13 April. Cr Robinson wanted to make it very clear that he has never contacted Minister Wynne's office and that he has been publicly humiliated.

Cr Gulvin

- 18 April – Horsham College Community Oval meeting.
- 23 April – Council briefing meeting.
- 25 April – Anzac Day dawn service. It is difficult for youth to understand but it is something they want to understand and be able to take part in it to reflect and be there. It is so important we continue with the work we do in the community on this occasion.
- 26 April – LLEN meeting. Discussed the education program.
- 2 May – Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting. They have been identifying bike paths and want to make them more prominent with signage. If people do have ideas about networks for paths the committee would love to hear about them.
- Attended the LLEN AGM on behalf of the Mayor.
- 3 May – Cr Gulvin was an apology for the Art Gallery meeting but encouraged everyone to have a look the gallery exhibits.
- Cr Gulvin talked about the pump tracks and encouraged everyone to go and have a look at it.

Cr Grimble

- 19 April - Youth Strategy interview.
- 19 April - Chaired the Horsham Regional Livestock Association meeting. The minutes are attached to the Council agenda. The board reviewed the master plan. The thru put is about 6000 down on last year. It is worth noting that due to the reduced thru put numbers there are budgetary issues but Paul Christopher is managing this well.
- 20 April - Western Highway Action Committee Meeting. The minutes are attached to the Council agenda. The congestion at Stawell Road, Duff Street and River Road needs to be reviewed.
- Cr Grimble attended the Anzac Day dawn service and commemorative service.
- 26 April – Rail Freight Alliance Meeting. Mentioned that there is \$200 million to improve the Western, Hume and Princess Highways. An invitation went to the Maribyrnong Council to join the rail freight group. Hopefully they will consider the request and advocate on behalf of freight in Victoria.
- Cr Grimble attended a property developers meeting in Melbourne. The group are looking to expand in aged care facilities in the Wimmera.
- Dale Russell's retirement. Dale successfully retired with the respect of the volunteers.
- 1 May – Horsham Racecourse Advisory meeting.
- 2 May – Met with Rowly Patterson on behalf of the Handbury Foundation to discuss what is happening at the Horsham Regional Livestock Exchange and the masterplan.
- 4 May – Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Transport Group meeting.
- 19 April - Community Lunch to Launch the Wartook Valley Mobile Black Spot Site Built by Telstra. This has been a long campaign from the community.

Cr Radford

No report

Cr Koenig

- Cr Koenig attended the Anzac Day dawn service and commemorate service. They were both well attended. It was great to see so many young people attending.
- Youth Strategy meeting. The youth strategy survey was available at the Horsham Footy Club and a heap of kids took part of the survey.
- Cr Koenig talked about how Horsham needs a restaurant or café on the river. Bendigo have a brilliant restaurant on the lake and is a very active area. A northern Victorian town is promoting that they are the only town in the Wimmera that has restaurant on the river.

Cr Clarke

- Cr Clarke thanked all Councillors for filling in for the Mayor during the past three weeks.
- Cr Clarke acknowledged the retirement of Dale Russell. He has done so much for this community.
- This morning Cr Clarke launched the Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal. There will be people door knocking for the appeal. The money raised in Horsham will stay here and it is important that people know this.

Moved Cr Grimble, Seconded Cr Koenig that the Councillors' Reports be adopted.

CARRIED

10. OFFICERS REPORTS

10.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE

No reports.

10.2 DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

10.2.1 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT (JANUARY – MARCH 2018)

G Harrison

File Ref: F18/A10/000001

Purpose

To present the quarterly financial report for the quarter ended 31 March 2018.

Background

Under Section 138 (1) of the Local Government Act 1989, a quarterly financial statement is to be provided to open Council comparing actual to budget for revenue and expenditure.

Issues

The attached report has been prepared to provide Council with an overview of finances year-to-date and comparisons to budget.

This report has been developed to provide a simple easy to read snapshot of how Council is performing against budget. **Appendix “10.2A”**.

Consultation/Communication

This report together with more extensive analysis and detail is provided to Council each month as part of the Finance and Performance Committee agenda and to the Audit Committee on a quarterly basis.

Financial

Staff time to compile and prepare this report is included in the 2017-18 budget.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

Goal 4 – Governance and Business excellence

Four Year priority - 4.4.5 Improve performance reporting and regular management reporting across all areas of Council

Recommendation

That Council note the quarterly financial report for the quarter ended 31 March 2018.

Moved Cr Radford, Seconded Cr Koenig that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

10.2.2 AMENDED COUNCIL PLAN – 2018-2022

L Haigh

File Ref: F19/A11/000001

Purpose

To present the amended draft Council Plan 2018-2022 and the related Strategic Resource Plan, and invite community comments and submissions in accordance with Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 (**Appendix “10.2B”**).

Background

In December 2017 a Strategic meeting was held with Councillors and Executive Management Group to discuss updates to the current Council Plan as a part of the annual budget development process.

There were minor amendments completed which has resulted in some changes that require Council to call for public submissions under section 125 (9) of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Issues

The main amendments involved shifting four-year priorities that have been completed to the section titled “Achievements” (Page 36), and some minor rewording generally throughout the document.

The following new Four Year priorities were added:

Goal 2 – Sustaining the Economy and Environment

- 2.1.07 Support investigations into the community service station at Natimuk
- 2.2.10 Provide input to VicRoads on the redevelopment of the Western Highway/Hamilton Road/Golf Course Road intersection

Goal 4 – Governance and Business excellence

- 4.2.03 Respond to emerging risks through the strategic risk register and internal audit

Financial

The Council Plan directly informs Council’s budget.

Consultation/Communication

Under the Local Government Act 1989 Section 223 Council must place the amended Council Plan available for inspection for a period of at least 28 days after the publication of the Public Notice announcing the amendments. All persons have a right to make a submission and to be heard in support of their submission, and Council has set aside a meeting date of the 6 June 2018 at 5.30pm for that to occur.

Submission should be made in writing to the Chief Executive Officer, Mr Sunil Bhalla, PO Box 511 Horsham Vic 3400, or via email to council@hrcc.vic.gov.au. Community should indicate in their submissions if they or a representative of theirs, wish to be heard in person by Council on 6 June 2018.

A Public “drop in” information session is planned in-conjunction with the 2018-19 Draft Budget and the 2018-19 Draft Rates Strategy. This will be held on Wednesday 23 May 2018 from 12 to 2pm and 5 to 7pm at the Civic Centre, 18 Roberts Avenue, Horsham.

Other planned engagement activities will occur during May 2018, including on-line information on council’s website, Flyers at public counters at the Civic Centre Horsham and Natimuk Offices, a Councillor Listening Post, static displays at the Civic Centre and a social media question and answer session.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

Statutory requirements pursuant to section 125 (7) & (8) of The *Local Government Act 1989*, “At least once in each financial year, a Council must consider whether the current Council Plan requires any adjustment in respect of the remaining period of the Council Plan”.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Note the amended draft Council Plan 2018-2022 and the related Strategic Resource Plan.
2. Invite community comments and submissions until 5pm on the 5 June 2018 in accordance with Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989.

Moved Cr Robinson, Seconded Cr Gulvin that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

10.2.3 DRAFT BUDGET 2018-19

G Harrison

File Ref: F18/A10/000001

Purpose

To present the 2018-19 Draft Budget and related Strategic Resource Plan to 2021-22 for Council noting and public exhibition in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989 Section 129 (3)(b) and (c) for a period of 28 days.

Background

Council has prepared a Budget for the 2018/19 financial year that sees rate increases remain within the state government imposed rate cap of 2.25%, maintains service delivery, continues with operational initiatives to become more efficient and effective in the way services are delivered, whilst still investing in new and renewal of ageing infrastructure. Council did not apply to the Essential Services Commission for a rate cap variation for 2018/19.

Council has a range of both internal and external cost pressures to contend with and still recognises the need to play an important role as the regional city for the western area of the state, with the provision of quality services to more than just our own residents.

Issues

In terms of ongoing operations and service delivery, Council has not made cuts to service levels within the community and has picked up the full year of operational costs for the new Kalkee Road Children's Hub.

Overall cost increases have been contained and only minor increases to staff resources have been factored in. Council has continued to fund \$0.49 million of new initiatives to drive further efficiencies and improve our effectiveness, and to deliver on some one-off projects and strategies.

Council has published its budget using the Institute of Chartered Accountants Model Budget. This document seeks to give consideration to longer-term plans as well as the current year, develops the budget in the context of the Council Plan, provides consistency with our annual financial statements and meets all of the requirements of the Planning and Reporting Regulations 2014.

1. Draft Budget Document

The draft budget document is in an easy to read format made up of the following three sections:

i. Mayors Introduction and Executive Summary (Pages 3 to 12)

This provides a very high level "snapshot" view of the budget and is intended to be readable by members of the community that do not have any financial background. If only this section is read it will give the reader an understanding of the key elements and issues within the budget.

ii. Budget Reports (Pages 14 to 63)

This section includes all statutory disclosures of information and detailed budget numbers. It includes:

- Explanation of the linkages with the Council Plan
- Service summaries and indicators for councils 35 service groups and 87 separate services including comparison's with last year's figures
- Service performance outcome indicators
- Financial statements, grants, borrowings, capital work and rates information.
- Notes to further expand on individual lines within the financial statements
- Financial performance indicators

iii. Appendices (Pages 64 to 103)

This section provides additional supporting information on community grants, operational initiatives, fees and charges and a document highlighting key capital works.

Whilst the budget document presents Council's budget on an accrual basis, the goal is to bring to balance the budget on a cash basis. This means considering the operating cash revenues and expenditures as well as the capital cash revenues and expenditure.

Council has continued to deliver a budget that is balanced on a cash basis.

2. Budget Highlights

a) Operational initiatives:

- Early Years Plan Review - \$15k - Current plan is out of date with current practises and needs to reflect the new Children's Hub operations.
- Horsham North Urban Design Framework (UDF) Initiatives - \$15k - Short term actions re the Horsham North UDF, including infrastructure and community engagement.
- Social Infrastructure Framework - \$60k - Effectively and efficiently plan for the physical, community and human services infrastructure across the municipality.
- CBD Shop Front Enhancement and Shade Incentive - \$53k - Funding for businesses to improve shop front appearances and verandahs in the CBD – funded entirely from Firebrace Street properties reserve.
- CBD Revitalisation - \$1,360k - Significant project that involves both capital and operational expenditure, funded from a mix of grants and the CBD reserve. Initiative component includes project management, operational costs and relocation of powerlines underground. Capital component will include footpaths west of Roberts Avenue, Pynsent and McLachlan Streets plus laneway activation and an additional public amenities building.
- Dial Before You Dig Response Software Licence - \$20k - Hosted software to provide a faster response times and a more efficient process to provide clear plans for contractors
- Apex Island Park Reserve Precinct Planning - \$20k -Develop an overall master plan for the Apex Island river front area.
- Road Clearances Tree Clearing/Pruning - \$90k - Increased allocation to improve accessibility of large farm equipment movements of rural roads.

- Sport and Recreation Strategy Review - \$40k - Updating of the 2013-18 Strategy to reflect the changing face of sports and recreation and its impact on Health and Wellbeing within the municipality.
- Sustainability Strategy Review - \$40k - Update the 2010 Strategy that reflects current understanding, actions and priorities.

b) Capital Works Program:

The capital works program for the 2018/19 year is expected to be \$15.05 million. There will also be carried forward works uncompleted from 2017/18 but as yet these are not finalised or factored in to the budget. The \$15.05 million of works is funded from, \$3.48 million external grants, \$0.01 million from general contributions and donations, \$5.71 million from general revenue, \$0.21 million from asset sales and \$5.64 million from cash reserves.

Council does not plan to take out any new borrowings for 2018-19.

This year Council has again included the Capital Works 2018-19 as a layer on Council's Community Map which can be found at the bottom of Council's Website homepage. This provides more details of planned capital works based on their location and includes additional information and photos where applicable.

Additionally Council has included a new appendix to the budget document which provides more detailed information of the key highlights from the planned capital works for 2018-19.

The highlighted items included in that summary are as follows:

Council Plan Goal 1 – Community and Cultural Development

- \$0.07 million (Renewal works) - Horsham Town Hall Operations - Performing Arts, Town Hall - Hall Selective Restumping (Infrastructure Gap Funding)

Council Plan Goal 2 – Sustaining the Economy and Environment

- \$2.49 million (New works) Industrial Estates – Wimmera Intermodal Freight terminal - core infrastructure, including roads, drainage & power/water supply (Grant Dependent)

Council Plan Goal 3 – Asset Management

- \$1.32 million (Renewal works) Aquatic Centre - Outdoor Pool Refurbishment - Pipework, Gutter, Wet-deck Concourse
- \$0.56 million (Renewal works) Footpath renewal works – Pynsent Street/Roberts Avenue/Wilson Street Stage 2 Paving (Grant Dependent)
- \$0.16 million (New works) Footpaths - Wimmera River Detailed design of a new Pedestrian Footbridge - Hamilton Street
- \$1.46 million (Renewal and upgrade works) Urban Road Reconstruction including final seals, road drainage and kerb & channel works

- \$1.90 million (Renewal and upgrade works) Rural Road Reconstruction including final seals
- \$1.36 million (Renewal) Road rehabilitation works
- \$0.30 million (Renewal works) Road Drainage - Urban, Darlot Street Drain
- \$0.20 million (New works) Aerodrome Stormwater Detention and Retention System
- \$0.18 million (New works) New Public Conveniences Hamilton Street
- \$0.10 million (Upgrade works) Horsham - Operations Management, Depot Relocation Design and Estimates
- \$0.10 million (New works) Sports and Recreation, Wimmera Indoor Sports Stadium
- \$1.71 million for plant and equipment replacements

Council Plan Goal 4 – Governance and Business Excellence

- \$0.40 million (Renewal, New & Upgrade works) Civic Centre Reception Alterations to main customer service entrance
- \$0.10 million (New works) CBD Revitalisation Grant CBD extension to Public Wi-Fi
- \$0.08 million (New works) Council chamber amplification and sound system, including video conferencing and hearing loop

Council Plan Goal 5 – Natural and Built Environments

- \$1.00 million (Renewal & Upgrade works) Waste Transfer Station Improvements - Kenny Road Transfer station upgrade of facility (Grant Dependent)
- \$0.20 million (New works) Sustainability Projects such as, double glazing, solar panels and other energy efficiency projects across council facilities

Consultation/Communication

Under the Local Government Act 1989 Section 129 (3)(b) Council must place the budget to be available for inspection for a period of at least 28 days after the publication of the Public Notice announcing that a budget has been prepared. All persons have a right to make a submission [Section 129 (2)] and a meeting date has been set aside on Wednesday 6 June 2018 at 5.30pm for that to occur.

Submission should be made in writing to the Chief Executive Officer, Mr Sunil Bhalla, PO Box 511 Horsham Vic 3402, or via email to council@hrcc.vic.gov.au. Community should indicate in their submissions if they or a representative of theirs, wish to be heard in person by Council on 6 June 2018.

A Public “drop in” information session is planned in-conjunction with the 2018-22 Council Plan and the 2018-19 Draft Rates Strategy. This will be held on Wednesday 23 May 2018 from 12 to 2pm and 5 to 7pm at the Civic Centre, 18 Roberts Avenue, Horsham.

Other planned engagement activities will occur during May 2018, including on-line information on Council's website, Flyers at public counters at the Civic Centre Horsham and Natimuk Offices, static displays at the Civic Centre, a Councillor Listening Post, a social media question and answer session, promotion of the capital works highlights document and budget flyers through social media.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

The budget has been prepared with reference to the Draft 2018-22 Council Plan. Preparation of the budget is a statutory requirement.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Note the Draft Budget 2018-19 attached as **Appendix "10.2C"** and make it available for community comments and submissions until 5pm on the 5 June 2018.
2. Note the Strategic Resource Plan included within the budget documentation for the four years to 2021-22.
3. Consider any submissions on the Draft Budget 2018-19 on Wednesday 6 June 2018 at 5.30pm.
4. Propose the rate in the dollar and charges as set out in Section 4.1 of the draft budget document attached as **Appendix "10.2C"**.

Moved Cr Robinson, Seconded Cr Radford that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

10.2.4 DRAFT RATES STRATEGY 2018-19

G Harrison

File Ref: F18/A10/000001

Purpose

To present the 2018-19 Draft Rates Strategy for noting and public exhibition.

Background

The Local Government Act 1989 does not require Council to develop a Rating Strategy; however, it has been strongly encouraged for Council to implement a Strategy and make it available to the public through the budget process.

The State Government in 2016-17 introduced the “Fair Go Rates System” that places a cap on rates for all 79 councils across the state. The Rate Cap for 2018-19, was set by the Minister at 2.25%. Council did not seek a Rate Cap Variation for this year, instead it has still increased Infrastructure Renewal by a tagged 1% of Rates but funded it by making savings and efficiencies in operations.

Issues

The Rates Strategy balances the need to fund the various Council services available to ratepayers with the need to consider equity in the levying of rates and services provided. To this end rates are levied based on property capital improved values, with consideration of a differential for the farming sector, a flat municipal charge, and user charges for garbage services.

User fees are charged where a service provides a specific benefit to a group or particular individuals, as opposed to “public goods”, these being services providing a broad benefit to the community. In the case of public goods it is often difficult or impractical to exclude non-payers from the benefits or to attribute costs.

Council has again considered each of the policy positions within the Rates Strategy, during the 2018-19 budget development process. In doing so it believes that the current strategy provides a fair and equitable approach to the distribution of the rate burden within the community.

Council considered the level of the farm differential and has proposed to leave the differential unchanged at 80% of the general rate. However, Council also identified the need to look more closely at the differential and will undertake a more detailed review during the early stages of the planning processes for the 2019-20 budget cycle.

Council continues to fully understand the need to maintain stability in the rate burden and that equity principles are always considered. Council is mindful of the impact of changes in valuations and what that means for each sector but it is also mindful that a differential granted to one sector will impact on all other sectors.

Consultation/Communication

During 2013-14 Council undertook a significant review of its Rates Strategy. It considered all aspects of the current rating strategy to ask the question as to whether the current policy in place is still appropriate in terms of the key equity and efficiency principles. Council also called for submissions from the public and submissions received through the process were considered in the drafting of the final strategy.

Under the Local Government Act section 129 (3)b] Council must place the budget to be available for inspection for a period of at least 28 days after the publication of the Public Notice announcing that a budget has been prepared. In-line with this requirement Council also makes the Draft Rates Strategy available for public submission.

All persons have a right to make a submission under the Local Government Act 1989 Section 129 (2) and to be heard by council. A meeting date has been set aside on the Wednesday 6 June 2018 at 5.30pm for that to occur.

Submission should be made in writing to the Chief Executive Officer, Mr Sunil Bhalla, PO Box 511, Horsham 3402, or via email to council@hrcc.vic.gov.au. Community members should indicate in their submissions if they or a representative of theirs, wish to be heard in person by Council on 6 June 2018.

A Public “drop in” information session is planned in-conjunction with the 2018-22 Council Plan and the 2018-19 Draft Budget. This will be held on Wednesday 23 May 2018 from 12 to 2pm and 5 to 7pm at the Civic Centre, 18 Roberts Avenue, Horsham.

Other planned engagement activities will occur during May 2018, including on-line information on Council’s website, flyers at public counters at the Civic Centre Horsham and Natimuk Offices, static displays at the Civic Centre, a Councillor Listening Post, a social media question and answer session, promotion of the capital works highlights document and budget flyers through social media.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

The Rates Strategy 2018-19 is an integral component of the 2018-19 Draft Budget and has been prepared with reference to the Draft Council Plan 2018-2022.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Note the Draft Rates Strategy 2018-19 attached as **Appendix “10.2D”** and make it available for community comments and submissions until 5pm on 5 June 2018.
2. Consider any submissions on the Draft Rates Strategy 2018-19 on Tuesday 6 June 2018 at 5.30pm.

Moved Cr Koenig, Seconded Cr Radford that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

10.2.5 REQUEST FOR INCLUSION ON COUNCIL’S STREET NAMING LIST – BURKE AND NETTELBECK

K Bell File Ref: F27/A15/000001

Purpose

To seek inclusion of the names **Burke** and **Nettelbeck** to Council’s Street Naming list.

Background

Burke – Bronwyn Williams has submitted the name Burke for Council’s street name list in honour of her parents, Max and Val Burke, who were both lifelong residents of Horsham, volunteering for many organisations and clubs.

Max Burke had a long and successful association with Wimmera football, and in particular with the Horsham Football Club. He was also a member of the Horsham Carpet Bowls Association, and volunteered with Wimmera Volunteers and the Wimmera Regional Sports Association. Max was an active member of the Anglican Church choir and hosted a radio show on community radio 3HHH for many years.

As well as raising her 11 children, Val spent many hours volunteering in the community and helping those less fortunate. In addition to joining Max in the Anglican Church choir and on the 3HHH community radio show, Val was instrumental in the setting up the Christian Emergency Food Centre.

Further information on the achievements of Max and Val Burke is attached as **Appendix “10.2E”**.

Nettelbeck – Ian Nettelbeck’s four daughters have requested that the name Nettelbeck be added to Council’s street name list in recognition of their father. Ian Nettelbeck was a Wimmera Shire Councillor from 1983 to 1995, including two terms as Shire President in 1989 and 1992. He was on various committees as part of his Council role. Of particular note is his involvement with the Wimmera Development Association.

Ian moved with his wife Betty and family to “Walmer” in 1972 to carry on his farming enterprise. He joined the Horsham Show Society and was a member for over 30 years. He was also a member of Horsham Lions Club for about 35 years, taking on the role of president twice and receiving the Melvin Jones Fellow award for dedicated humanitarian services in 2007. Ian volunteered on the Wimmera Machinery Field Days committee for many years, including two terms as president. Ian passed away on 8 June 2014. Further information is attached as **Appendix “10.2F”**.

The names **Burke** and **Nettelbeck** conform to the principles in the *Naming rules for places in Victoria – Statutory requirements for naming roads, features and localities 2016*.

Issues

Council has approximately 60 names on the street name list and it can be some time before a developer may choose to use a particular name from the list.

Financial

This proposal has no financial implications.

Links to Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

Council's Street / Road / Places Naming Policy

Recommendation

That Council approve inclusion of the names **Burke** and **Nettelbeck** to Council's Street Naming list.

Moved Cr Radford, Seconded Cr Power that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

10.3 DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC

No reports.

10.4 DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

Cr Power declared a Conflict of Interest, pursuant to Section 79 of the Local Government Act, 1989 in respect of item 10.4.1 and left the Council Chamber at 6.58pm.

10.4.1 HORSHAM AQUATIC CENTRE FEES AND CHARGES 2018/19

K O'Brien

File Ref: F06/A12/000001

Purpose

To approve the proposed fees and charges for the Horsham Aquatic Centre for the 2018/19 financial year.

Background

Council entered into a contract with the YMCA in 2012 for management of the Horsham Aquatic Centre for a three-year term, with two further options for three years, the second of these options was recently granted by Council extending the contract until 30 June 2021.

Under the terms of the contract, the YMCA collects and retains all fees and charges and as a result these charges are not reported separately through Council's budget process. The YMCA employs all staff at the centre, manages programs and undertakes general maintenance with Council contributing an annual subsidy, which in the 2018/19 financial year is \$250,000. Council is responsible for utilities, major maintenance and capital requirements.

Council reserves the right to annually approve all fees and admission charges levied through the period of the contract up to a maximum based on the Consumer Price Index, All Groups Melbourne (CPI). The period used for this calculation is 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.

The YMCA proposes to increase the fees by an average of 2.2%, which is in line with the Consumer Price Index, All Groups Melbourne (CPI) for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.

The Fees and Charges have been referred to the Horsham Aquatic Centre Advisory Committee where there were no issues of concern.

A copy of the proposed fees and charges is attached as **Appendix "10.4A"**.

Issues

Fees and Charges have a historical basis, but are also benchmarked with other facilities and are monitored through customer feedback in relation to affordability. If the YMCA requested an increase in Fees and Charges beyond the CPI figure of 2.2% there would need to be a reduction in the lump sum payment from Council.

Consultation/Communication

The proposed fees and charges were referred to the Horsham Aquatic Centre Advisory Committee for comment. The YMCA will communicate the new fees and charges to members once approved by Council.

Financial

There are no financial implications for Council as fees and charges go to the YMCA.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

- Council Plan 2017-2021
- Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021
- Horsham Aquatic Centre Master Plan 2017
- Early Years Plan 2014

Recommendation

That Council approve the proposed fees and charges for the Horsham Aquatic Centre for the 2018/2019 financial year.

Moved Cr Radford, Seconded Cr Koenig that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

Cr Power returned to the Council Chamber at 7.00pm after the vote was taken.

10.4.2 HORSHAM COMMUNITY HOUSE

M Bride

File Ref: 99/1/4398A

Recommendation

That Council refer this item to the confidential briefing part of the meeting to consider the report from the Director Community Services in accordance with Section 89(2) (d) contractual matters of the Local Government Act, 1989.

Moved Cr Gulvin, Seconded Cr Robinson that the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

10.5 DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES

10.5.1 HAMILTON STREET PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

John Martin / Jessica Leslie File Ref: F02/A01

Purpose

To seek Council endorsement to commence the preliminary planning for a second pedestrian bridge across the Wimmera River in Horsham, and to outline the planned community consultation which will be used to inform further planning of the bridge.

Background

Council completed construction of the Anzac Centenary Bridge across the Wimmera River at Apex Island in 2017.

A second pedestrian bridge, near Hamilton St, has been proposed in various strategic documents for some years, including:

- Wimmera Regional Transport Group “Bridges to Recovery Strategy” 2010
- Horsham Framework for Managing Growth 2013
- Horsham Integrated Transport Strategy (draft) 2016.

The Council Plan has also made references to bridges across the Wimmera River for several years, for example the following was in the 2011 update to the 2009-13 Council Plan.

3.1.1 Develop a partnership approach and plan for infrastructure development utilising developer contributions including Wimmera River Bridges.

A second pedestrian bridge at Hamilton will provide:

- A pedestrian, cyclist and mobility vehicle crossing at the eastern end of Horsham from residential developments on the south side of the river to connect to:
 - the CBD,
 - sporting facilities,
 - the Showgrounds reserve and
 - several schools.
- A second walking / running loop along the eastern extent of the Wimmera River to encourage recreation and increase social interaction
- Increased pedestrian and cyclist connectivity between the north and south sides of the Wimmera River, increasing the overall liveliness of the town

The indicative location of the proposed bridge is shown in the plan below, along with some key features in the area near the proposed site.



Issues

- **Bridge Type**

Preliminary planning of the bridge has been for a two-span concrete beam bridge, with a central pier in the Wimmera River. The two spans are intended to be approximately 40 m long and slightly arched in shape. The height of the bridge will be designed to allow 600 mm clearance above the 1-in-100 year flood level.

This height requirement leads to the associated approach ramps needing to be of significant length, perhaps 30 m.

The clearance of the bridge above normal weir pool levels is estimated to be about three metres, which should enable most regular water activities to be conducted.

Consultation is proposed to be undertaken about the types of uses that might develop in the river to review the adequacy of this design concept in terms of height clearance and whether there is a need for a clear span bridge, such as the Anzac Centenary Bridge.

- **Location**

Three locations have been considered for the proposed bridge.

Hamilton Street. Suitable areas of land exist on both sides of the river in this vicinity. A short walking track on the east side of the river will provide a connection to the Waterlink Estate and other developments on the east / south side of the river, including via the existing bridge across Burnt Creek. Negotiations will be required in relation to access to some private land on the west side of the river.

McBryde Street. About 180 m south of Hamilton Street, this site has problems with the area available for approach ramps on both sides of the river. On the east side there are some wetlands associated with stormwater management in the new residential development. On the west side, there are residential lots either side of the narrow road reserve. This site is not considered suitable.

Baillie Street (east). Several sites in the vicinity of Baillie Street, through to near Rennison Street were considered. The extent of land liable to flooding on the east side of the River precludes residential development in this area, hence the key user demand for a bridge would be further to the south. A bridge in this vicinity would significantly increase the distance for access to the CBD and other facilities for the main residential areas on the east/south side of the Wimmera River, e.g. near the Waterlink Estate (compared to a Hamilton Street site).

While Hamilton Street has been identified as the preferred location in the preliminary planning, for the reasons indicated. Community views will be sought to ascertain the optimum location.

- **Cultural Heritage Management Plan**

The area around the Wimmera River is a culturally sensitive area. Work is well advanced on preparation of a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) to identify the presence of any culturally significant qualities or values, and how any works on the site should be managed to protect these.

- **Geotechnical Investigation**

Investigating the soil profile below a structure is a standard aspect of planning buildings and bridges, requiring drilling of the sub-soil to a depth of perhaps 5-20 m depending on the nature of the project.

As the structure proposed for this bridge incorporates a central pier in the Wimmera River, drilling will also be required mid-river to understand the geology below the river. This will involve a barge or similar vessel fitted with a drilling rig conducting this work mid-river. This work is scheduled to proceed subject to approval for continued planning on this project.

Consultation/Communication

Following consideration of this report by Council, it is proposed to seek community and stakeholder feedback about the following elements:

- The bridge location, noting the identification of the indicative site as discussed earlier in this report.
- Current and future usage of the river in the vicinity of the bridge, to ascertain user requirements regarding vertical clearance and whether a clear span is required.

Financial

The estimated construction cost of the proposed bridge is around \$900,000. The type of construction proposed, incorporating a central pier, facilitates a reduced cost compared to the Anzac Centenary Bridge. Funding sources for the bridge will be explored during 2018-19, to inform preparation of a budget proposal in a subsequent Council budget.

The 2017-18 budget included \$50,000 to enable the preliminary planning to commence.

The 2018-19 draft Council budget includes an allocation of \$160,000 to advance the planning for the bridge, including geotechnical investigations, engineering design, tender document preparation and community engagement.

An essential element of this work will be preparation of a business case report, which will be needed to advocate the merit of the project to Governments and other stakeholders who might potentially co-fund the works.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

Several links to Council plans and strategies are referenced earlier in the report.

The current Council Plan indicates the following priority:

3.1.01 Develop improved pedestrian access (bridges) across the Wimmera River in Horsham, in partnership with land developers

Recommendation

That Council endorse the commencement of detailed planning for a pedestrian bridge over the Wimmera River in the vicinity of Hamilton Street, including public consultation and engineering design to inform the development of final plans for construction of the bridge.

Moved Cr Radford, Seconded Cr Power that the report be received.

CARRIED

Moved Cr Grimble, Seconded Cr Robinson that Council defer detailed planning for a second pedestrian bridge and commence the urban phase of the Horsham Integrated Transport Strategy and this important planning work in consultation with the community will assist council to identify urban priorities and our strategic needs.

CARRIED

Cr Grimble called for a Division of Council.

In favour of the motion:

Cr Grimble
Cr Koenig
Cr Robinson
Cr Power
Cr Gulvin
Cr Radford

Against the motion:

Cr Clarke

Moved Cr Radford, seconded Cr Power that Council endorse the preliminary planning for a pedestrian bridge over the Wimmera River in the vicinity of Hamilton Street, including public consultation.

Moved Cr Gulvin, Seconded Cr Radford that the motion be deferred to enable further information to be provided to Council.

CARRIED

11. URGENT BUSINESS

NIL

Moved Cr Robinson, Seconded Cr Koenig that the Council Meeting close to consider item number 10.4.2 of the Director Community Services Report deemed to be of a confidential nature in accordance with Section 89(2) of the Local Government Act, 1989.

CARRIED

The time being 7.53 pm the Council meeting closed.

Moved Cr Power, Seconded Cr Koenig that the Council meeting open.

CARRIED

The Council Chamber doors were opened at 7.59 pm.

Moved Cr Radford, Seconded Cr Gulvin that the recommendations in the closed Council meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

The meeting closed at 8.02pm.

The Mayor, Cr P Clarke
Chairperson