



## STRATHBOGIE SHIRE COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE STRATHBOGIE SHIRE COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 27 APRIL 2020 AT THE EUROA COMMUNITY CONFERENCE CENTRE COMMENCING AT 6.30 P.M.

<b>Chair:</b>	Amanda McClaren (Mayor)	(Lake Nagambie Ward)
<b>Councillors:</b>	Robert Gardner	(Lake Nagambie Ward)
	Malcolm Little	(Hughes Creek Ward)
	John Mason	(Seven Creeks Ward)
	Chris Raeburn	(Honeysuckle Creek Ward)
	Alistair Thomson	(Mount Wombat Ward)
	Graeme Williams OAM	(Seven Creeks Ward)
<b>Officers:</b>	Julie Salomon	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
	David Roff	Director, Corporate Operations (DCO)
	Dawn Bray	Executive Manager, Governance and Customer Service (EMGCS)

#### PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING PROCESSES FOR FORMAL MEETINGS BEING CONDUCTED BY STRATHBOGIE SHIRE COUNCIL DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AND SOCIAL DISTANCING RESTRICTIONS

All Council and Planning Committee meetings are now live-streamed via Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/StrathbogieShireCouncil/> - where a notification will be given that we are broadcasting live. This meeting can also be watched in retrospect on our Facebook page.

We encourage all community members to watch the meeting online, given we have had to close the public gallery until further notice following legal advice around how to comply with Covid-19 social distancing rules.

A handwritten signature in black ink, located in the bottom right corner of the page.

## **BUSINESS**

1. Welcome
2. Acknowledgement of Traditional Land Owners  
*'I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we are meeting. I pay my respects to their Elders, past and present'*
3. Apologies  
  
Phil Howard                      Director, Community and Planning (DCP)
4. Disclosure of Interests  
  
Mayor McClaren and Councillor Robert Gardner separately read the following statement:  
  
I would like it to be noted that although I participated in the discussion at the Audit Committee regarding the 2020/21 budget and rating strategy, I am keeping an open mind and considering all the new information and debate up until the time I need to vote on motions put to the Council.
5. Petitions  
  
NIL
6. Reports of Council Officers
  - 6.1 Climate Change
  - 6.2 Infrastructure
  - 6.3 Private Enterprise
  - 6.4 Public Institutions
  - 6.5 Housing and Recreation
  - 6.6 Tourism
  - 6.7 Organisation
7. Closure of Meeting to the Public to consider matters listed for consideration in accordance with Section 89(2) of the Local Government Act 1989
8. Confirmation of 'Closed Portion' Decision/s

An audio recording of this meeting is being made for the purpose of verifying the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting, as per Local Law No. 1 - Meeting Procedure (2014) or as updated from time to time through Council Resolution.

Council does not generally permit individuals to make audio recordings of meetings. Individuals are required to make a written request addressed to the Council (Director, Corporate Operations) should they seek to obtain permission to do so.

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<b>7.</b>	<b>CLOSURE OF MEETING TO THE PUBLIC</b>	
	N/A	
<b>8.</b>	<b>CONFIRMATION OF 'CLOSED PORTION' DECISION/S</b>	
	N/A	

THE ORDER OF BUSINESS WAS CHANGED TO CONSIDER ITEM 6.7.2 'DRAFT 2020/21 STRATHBOGIE SHIRE COUNCIL BUDGET – PREPARATION OF BUDGET, RATING STRATEGY AND FEES AND CHARGES FOR EXHIBITION AND COMMENT', PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION OF ITEM 6.7.1 '2017 – 2021 STRATHBOGIE SHIRE COUNCIL PLAN (2020 REVIEW) (INCORPORATING THE 2020/21 TO 2024/25 STRATEGIC RESOURCE PLAN) - AMENDED ACTIONS AND STRATEGIC INDICATORS FOR YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2021'



## 6. REPORTS

### 6.7 ORGANISATION

#### 6.7.1 2017 – 2021 Strathbogie Shire Council Plan (2020 Review) (incorporating the 2020/21 to 2024/25 Strategic Resource Plan) - Amended Actions and Strategic Indicators for Year Ending 30 June 2021

Responsible Director: Director Corporate Operations

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In accordance with the requirements of Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1989, Council has amended the Actions and Strategic Indicators to its 2017 – 2021 Council Plan, which incorporates the 2020/21 to 2024/25 Strategic Resource Plan. Copies of the draft amendments to the Council Plan have been circulated to Councillors and a copy will be tabled for information and identification purposes, and appended to the Minutes of the meeting.

The Strategic Resource Plan will also be tabled for information and identification purposes, and appended to the Minutes of the meeting. Council is required, under Section 125 (2) (c), to exhibit the changes for comment to the public for at least 28 days, under Section 223 of the Act, when the Strategic Indicators which monitor achievement of the objectives have changed.

A resolution of Council is now required to give public notice that the amended Council Plan will be available for inspection, in accordance with Section 125 (9) of the Act, from 3 May 2020. Submissions will close at 5.00 pm on Wednesday 3 June 2020. A Special Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 16 June 2019 to receive / hear submissions to the amended Council Plan.

#### **MOVED COUNCILLOR THOMSON, SECONDED COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS**

1. ***That the adjustment to the strategic indicators and actions in the draft amended Council Plan be proposed.***
2. ***That the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to give public notice of the proposed adjustments in accordance with Sections 125 and 223 of the Local Government Act 1989. Submissions will close at 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday 3 June 2020.***
3. ***That Council receive / hear any:***
  - (a) ***submission on the proposed adjustments made in accordance with Sections 125(9) and 223 of the Local Government Act 1989, and***
  - (b) ***recommendations or Notices of Motion to make the adjustments proposed***  
***at a Special Meeting of Council to be held on Tuesday 16 June 2020, commencing at 5.00 p.m. at the Euroa Community Conference Centre.***
4. ***That Council adopt the 2017-2021 Strathbogie Shire Council Plan (2020 Review) at a Special Meeting of Council to be held on Tuesday 30 June 2020, commencing at 5.00 p.m. at the Euroa Community Conference Centre.***

6.7.1 2017 – 2021 Strathbogrie Shire Council Plan (2020 Review) (incorporating the 2020/21 to 2024/25 Strategic Resource Plan)  
- Amended Actions and Strategic Indicators for Year Ending 30 June 2021 (cont.)

5. ***That the wording of the first action under Goal 6 (page 15) Key Areas - General be amended to read 'Support advocacy programs to State and Federal government, the MAV, ALGA, Rural Councils Victoria and VLGA where it supports Council priorities.'***

11/20 **CARRIED**

**PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND**

Council is required at least once in each financial year under the Local Government Act 1989 Section 125 (7) to consider whether the current Council Plan requires any adjustment in respect of the remaining period of the Council Plan. As such, Council has reviewed the 2017 – 2021 Council Plan and adjusted the Actions and Strategic Indicators for year ending 30 June 2021.

The Council Plan is a strategic document of Council that sets its Vision / Mission / Goals and Objectives for the (4) four year term of the Council. The Actions that sit under each Goal ensure the organisation delivers what the Council has set as its long term strategic vision for its community.

The Strategic Resource Plan accompanies the Council plan and outlines resources necessary to deliver on Council Plan and other objectives.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

- The Council will, as of Wednesday 6 May 2020, place the statutory public notices in local newspapers advising that documents are now available for inspection and that written submission are being sought in accordance with Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989.
- Council will provide details of the Budget via social media and its website.
- Council will also offer an option for submissions to be heard via remote access if possible.
- On line forums will also be offered as further means of providing information to the community and seeking feedback.
- Residents will also be offered the option of the Mayor reading out their submission on their behalf – noting that it does not allow for Councillors to ask questions of clarification.
- A further option will be to book submitters into a 10 minute window and have them come into an office and make their submission to Council from that room via videoconferencing technology.

Submissions will close at 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday 3 June 2020.

**POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

The Council Plan identifies a range of objectives and actions to achieve the goals of Council and its community.

6.7.1 2017 – 2021 Strathbogie Shire Council Plan (2020 Review) (incorporating the 2020/21 to 2024/25 Strategic Resource Plan)  
- Amended Actions and Strategic Indicators for Year Ending 30 June 2021 (cont.)

**LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The author of this report considers that the recommendation has no legal or statutory implications which require the consideration of Council as the preparation of the Council Plan satisfied the requirements of the Local Government Act, including the Strategic Planning Principles.

No member of Council staff, or other person engaged under a contract, involved in advising on or preparing this report has declared a direct or indirect interest in relation to the matter of the report.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Actions in the Council Plan are supported by provisions in Council's Budget document.

**SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The Council plan contains a range of actions designed to improve the community's way of life in a range of areas including :

- (a) sense of community
- (b) provision of community services
- (c) improving community health and well-being – e.g. recreation facilities, public safety, health services and facilities or public health implications;
- (d) transport – e.g. safety for travellers, emissions and fuel consumption, public transport usage, provision of a safe road network, walking and cycling or transportation needs of all people.

**CONCLUSION**

This report commences a process to update the Council Plan which provides for a range of outcomes to be achieved in the 2020/21 year.

**TABLED DOCUMENT/S**

- Draft 2020 Review of 2017-2021 Council Plan
- Draft Strategic Resource Plan 2020/21 - 2024/25



**6.7.2 Draft 2020/21 Strathbogie Shire Council Budget - Preparation of Budget, Rating Strategy and Fees and Charges for Exhibition and Comment**

Responsible Director: Director Corporate Operations

***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***

In accordance with the requirements of Section 127 of the Local Government Act 1989 (the Act), Council has prepared a budget for the financial year ending 30 June 2021.

Copies of the draft Budget have been circulated to Councillors for their information. Copies of the draft Budget, Rating Strategy and Fees and Charges will be tabled at the meeting for identification purposes, and will be appended to the Minutes of the meeting.

A resolution of Council is now required to give public notice that the budget will be available for inspection, in accordance with Section 129 of the Act.

Submissions on the proposed budget will be invited in accordance with Section 223 of the Act. Submissions will close at 5.00 pm on Wednesday 3 June 2020. A Special Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 16 June 2020 to receive / hear submissions to the draft Budget.

***MOVED COUNCILLOR MASON, SECONDED COUNCILLOR LITTLE***

- 1. That the draft Budget, Rating Strategy and Fees and Charges annexed to this resolution and initialed by the Mayor for identification be the budget prepared by Council for the purposes of Section 127 of the Local Government Act 1989.***
- 2. That the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to give public notice of the preparation of such budget, in accordance with Sections 129 and 223 of the Local Government Act 1989. Submissions will close at 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday 3 June 2020.***
- 3. That Council receive / hear any submission on any proposal (or proposals) contained in such budget, made in accordance with Sections 129 and 223 of the Local Government Act 1989, at a Special Council meeting to be held on Tuesday 16 June 2019, commencing at 5.00 p.m. at the Euroa Community Conference Centre.***
- 4. That Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to undertake minor editorial changes, if required.***
- 5. That the 2020/21 Strathbogie Shire Council Budget be adopted at a Special Meeting of Council to be held on Tuesday 30 June 2020, commencing at 5.00 p.m. at the Euroa Community Conference Centre.***
- 6. That in conjunction with a 1.9% rate increase Council investigates ways to assist the wider community who have been affected by the Covid 19 pandemic to the value of \$320,000 which would be equivalent to a rate freeze.***



6.7.2 Draft 2020/21 Strathbogie Shire Council Budget - Preparation of Budget, Rating Strategy and Fees and Charges for Exhibition and Comment (cont.)

**AMENDMENT MOVED BY COUNCILLOR THOMSON**

**Insert as 1a):**

**To the Annexed Budget and Rating Strategy to reflect a Rating Strategy that freezes rates (nil increase) in 2020/21 financial year and increases rates by 2% in subsequent years:**

- **No changes required to operating plan or the capital works program**
- **Council to budget for an operating surplus of \$2.06M in 2020/21**
- **Modest, but helpful, rates relief of \$320k will be provided to ratepayers in 2020/21**
- **Use the rates freeze to express solidarity with residents facing the greatest economic challenge in 90 years- Council financial sustainability is not compromised in 2020/21 or subsequent years. Working Capital ratio in 2020/21 will be 166%, well above the State Govt. sustainability low risk setting of 100%.**

**Deletion of Point 6.**

**THE AMENDMENT LAPSED DUE TO LACK OF A SECONDER**

**THE ORIGINAL MOTION WAS PUT**

**10/20 CARRIED**

**CR THOMSON CALLED FOR A DIVISION**

**FOR: COUNCILLORS WILLIAMS, LITTLE, MCCLAREN, GARDNER AND MASON**

**AGAINST: COUNCILLORS THOMSON AND RAEBURN**

**BACKGROUND**

In accordance with the requirements of Section 127 of the Local Government Act 1989 (the Act), Council has prepared a budget for the financial year ending 30 June 2021.

In preparing the 2020/21 Draft Budget, the Council has considered many factors in an effort to continue to balance community expectations and benefits with financial responsibilities. The Council is pleased to place on public display a draft budget that works hard to maintain existing service levels and deliver strong investment in capital works across the municipality. The Council will continue to provide significant funding for renewal works on our ageing and outdated infrastructure, based on the requirements of the Road Management Plan and taking into account financial constraints.



6.7.2 Draft 2020/21 Strathbogie Shire Council Budget - Preparation of Budget, Rating Strategy and Fees and Charges for Exhibition and Comment (cont.)

The Council is proposing a 1.9% per cent increase in the average rate for 2020/21. This increase is below the State Government cap of 2.0% under the 'Fair Go Rates' legislation and is the third year that Council has delivered an increase less than the cap. This level allows for maintenance of existing service levels, fund a number of significant new initiatives and continue to allocate sufficient funds for the continuing strategic renewal of Council's infrastructure.

Waste charges will increase by 2.0 % with Council incurring additional costs due to challenges in relation to disposal of recycling materials and designing an scoping rehabilitation of the Violet Town landfill.

Funding of \$350,000 is provided to prepare detailed design and cost estimates for rehabilitation of the Violet Town . It is proposed to undertake the actual rehabilitation works in 2021/22 using loan borrowings to fund and complete the project.

The 2020/21 Draft Budget provides for new capital works of \$9.9 million with the following highlights:

ACTIVITY	EXPENDITURE (m)
Roads - including resealing, re sheeting and rehabilitation	3.450
Road Bridges and Culverts	0.450
Pedestrian Bridges	0.350
Drainage	0.573
Aquatic Facilities	1.440
Footpaths	0.150
Plant and Machinery	0.747
Buildings	0.760
Information Technology	0.400
Parks, Open, Spaces and Streetscapes	1.600

In addition to the four year period covered by this Budget the Long Term Financial Plan has been extended to cover a ten year period which allows for a total expenditure over that period of \$ 87.17 m including:

Renewal and upgrade of aquatic facilities	4.30
Rehabilitation of the Violet Town Land fill	5.00
Roads	42.00
Buildings, Recreation, Open Spaces	10.00
Road Bridges and Culverts	4.25
Pedestrian Bridges	.35
Footpaths	2.52
Drainage	5.21
Plant and equipment renewal	9.64
Information Technology	3.90

6.7.2 Draft 2020/21 Strathbogie Shire Council Budget - Preparation of Budget, Rating Strategy and Fees and Charges for Exhibition and Comment (cont.)

**KEY ISSUES AND DISCUSSION**

- Level of rate increase
- Service delivery
- Capital works program

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

- The Council will, as of Wednesday 6 May 2020, place the statutory public notices in local newspapers advising that documents are now available for inspection and that written submission are being sought in accordance with Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989.
- Council will provide details of the Budget via social media and its website.
- Council will also offer an option for submissions to be heard via remote access if possible.
- On line forums will also be offered as further means of providing information to the community and seeking feedback.
- Residents will also be offered the option of the Mayor reading out their submission on their behalf – noting that it does not allow for Councillors to ask questions of clarification.
- A further option will be to book submitters into a 10 minute window and have them come into an office and make their submission to Council from that room via videoconferencing technology.

Submissions will close at 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday 3 June 2020.

The budget document provides financial resources to achieve the Council Plan objectives, deliver services to the community and provide a capital works program for the benefit of the community.

**LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Preparation of the Budget satisfies the requirements of the Local Government Act, including the Financial Management Principles and Strategic Planning Principles.

No member of Council staff, or other person engaged under a contract, involved in advising on or preparing this report has declared a direct or indirect interest in relation to the matter of the report.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The Budget is Council's key financial document and provides funding to achieve Council's objectives.

**ENVIRONMENTAL/SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS**

Within the Budget are a number of provisions which allocate funding to environment and sustainability programs.

6.7.2 Draft 2020/21 Strathbogie Shire Council Budget - Preparation of Budget, Rating Strategy and Fees and Charges for Exhibition and Comment (cont.)

**SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The Budget provides funding for a range of programs which are designed to improve :

- (a) sense of community – e.g. cultural activities, stakeholder participation, recognition of diversity, cultural heritage or social cohesion;
- (b) community services – e.g. range and quality of services for different groups (children and families, young people, elderly people and people with disabilities), accessibility of services or cost of services;
- (c) community health and well-being – e.g. recreation facilities, public safety, health services and facilities or public health implications;
- (d) (e)transport – e.g. safety for travellers, emissions and fuel consumption, public transport usage, walking and cycling or transportation needs of all people.

**TABLED DOCUMENTS**

- Budget Report 2020/21
- Rating Strategy 2020/21
- Fees and Charges 2020/21



**7. CLOSURE OF MEETING TO THE PUBLIC TO CONSIDER MATTERS LISTED FOR CONSIDERATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 89(2) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1989**

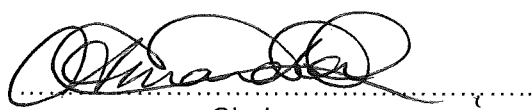
N/A

**8. CONFIRMATION OF 'CLOSED PORTION' DECISION/S**

N/A

***THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7.36 P.M.***

Confirmed as being a true and accurate record of the Meeting

  
.....  
Chair

*19.05.2020*  
.....  
Date