



MEDIA RELEASE – FRIDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER, 2017

“Strathbogie Shire's Indigenous community invited to comment on Australia Day celebrations”

Strathbogie Shire Councillors, at their September Ordinary Meeting held at Graytown recently, resolved to eliminate the need for a Shire-wide Australia Day event. Local Australia Day celebrations will take place in Avenel, Euroa, Longwood, Nagambie, Strathbogie and Violet Town on 26 January, 2018.

After meeting with representatives from the Australia Day town committees prior to the Ordinary Meeting, Councillors have decided on the following outcomes:

1. That the Shire discontinue the Shire-Wide event and present Shire-Wide awards at the local event of the recipient.
2. That Strathbogie Shire Council will decide the location of the Australia Day citizenship ceremonies at the Statutory Council Meeting.
3. That the nominations form attached to the Agenda be approved.
4. That the additional funding allocated to the Shire-Wide event is distributed equally among the local Australia Day committees.

The following amendment was added to the resolution and was supported by Councillors McClaren, Stothers, Swan and Thomson. Councillors Little, Mason and Williams did not support this amendment:

That Council investigate the Indigenous community's appetite to change the date of Australia Day in the Shire of Strathbogie by hosting a forum for them to express their views on this issue to Council. Individuals and representatives from the Indigenous community would be invited to attend and present at the forum and it would be held within six to eight weeks' time.

A working group comprising of Councillors and the CEO will meet with representative members of the indigenous community to develop a proposed format for the forum. Once this has been endorsed by Council the indigenous community will be engaged.

-ENDS-