



STRATHBOGIE SHIRE COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary Meeting of the Strathbogie Shire Council will be held on Tuesday 7 June 2022 at the Euroa Community Conference Centre, commencing at 4.00 p.m.

Chair:	Laura Binks (Mayor)	(Mount Wombat Ward)
Councillors:	David Andrews	(Lake Nagambie Ward)
	Reg Dickinson	(Lake Nagambie Ward)
	Sally Hayes-Burke	(Seven Creeks Ward)
	Kristy Hourigan	(Seven Creeks Ward)
	Paul Murray	(Hughes Creek Ward)
	Chris Raeburn	(Honeysuckle Creek Ward)
Officers:	Julie Salomon	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
	David Roff	Director, Corporate Operations (DCO)
	Amanda Tingay	Director, Community and Planning (DCP)
	Dawn Bray	Director, People and Governance (DPG)
	Kristin Favaloro	Executive Manager, Communications and Engagement (EMCE)

BUSINESS

1. Welcome
2. Acknowledgement of Traditional Land Owners
*We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the places we live, work and play.
We recognise and respect the enduring relationship they have with their lands and waters, and we pay respects to the Elders past, present and emerging.
Today we are meeting on the lands of the Taungurung peoples of the Eastern Kulin nation, whose sovereignty here has never been ceded.*
3. Apologies
4. Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest
5. Officer Reports
 - 5.1 Strategic and Statutory
 - 5.2 Community
 - 5.3 Infrastructure
 - 5.4 Corporate
 - 5.5 Governance and Customer Service
 - 5.6 Executive
6. Confidential Business

The gallery is open to the public, and checking-in to enter the Conference Room is no longer required.

Community members are encouraged to watch the livestreaming of the meeting online at www.strathbogrie.vic.gov.au

Julie Salomon
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

3 June 2022

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5. REPORTS

5.4 CORPORATE

5.4.1 2021-25 Council Plan 2022 Update - Receiving/Hearing of Submissions

Author: Director People & Governance

Responsible Director: Chief Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its April 2022 meeting Council resolved to seek community comment on an updated 2021-25 Council Plan for a period of four weeks, in parallel with the 2022-23 budget.

The 2021-25 Council Plan was adopted in October 2021 and in the past few months over 20 actions have been finalised or progressed. It is also standard practice to review and update the Council Plan in parallel with the preparation of a new budget and revisions to the ten-year Long Term Financial Plan.

One (1) submission was received in response to the community consultation process from the Victorian Pride Lobby seeking opportunities for engagement with the LGBTIQ+ community in relation to services and requesting an additional action around celebration of the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia by raising the rainbow flag.

The submitter does not wish to speak to the item at this evening's meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. ***Note the receipt of the submission from the Victorian Pride Lobby in response to the draft Update of the 2021-22 Council Plan (the Plan),***
2. ***Provides a response to the submission at the 21 June 2022 Council Meeting, and***
3. ***Receive the final draft 2021-25 Council Plan (2022 Update) for consideration at the 21 June 2022 Council Meeting.***

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

The 2021-25 Council Plan was adopted in October 2021 following several months of deliberative community engagement.

It is considered prudent to align the time of review and update of the Council Plan with the budget cycle.

5.4.1 2021-25 Council Plan 2022 Update - Receiving/Hearing of Submissions (cont.)

Although the Local Government Act 2020 is silent on the need for an annual update of the plan and any subsequent public engagement in this process, it was considered appropriate to seek public input into the updated document to ensure it continues to be of relevance to the community.

ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.

The 2021-25 Council Plan is the key strategic document that governs the allocation of human and financial resources and outlines the actions and strategies to be employed by Council to achieve the Community Vision.

It is essential that the Council Plan be reviewed and updated on an annual basis to not only reflect the actions that have been completed, but to ensure that the Plan remains relevant and responds to any unforeseen issues or significant changes that impact our community.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making.

Community feedback into the draft updated Council Plan was sought through written submission in parallel with the draft 2022-23 Budget process. Notices were placed in local printed media, social media and on Council's website seeking community feedback on the updated document. The draft updated Plan was also available through Council's Share Strathbogie engagement portal.

One submission was received (refer to Attachment 1) from the Victorian Pride Lobby.

In summary, the submission provided the following feedback:

- Support for the action around the development of a Social Inclusion Strategy but seeks opportunities to work with the Lobby to prepare a LGBTIQA+ Action Plan
- Support for the initiative to develop and promote information to increase awareness of the services available across the municipality and the referral pathways to access them but requests an opportunity to work with Council to ensure LGBTIQA+ services and referral pathways are included
- Request for an additional action under the Strong.Healthy.Safe Strategic Focus Area around the celebration of the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia by raising the rainbow flag.

5.4.1 2021-25 Council Plan 2022 Update - Receiving/Hearing of Submissions (cont.)

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

The purpose of this report is to ensure the Council Plan remains up to date and drives the allocation of Council resources to ensure the Council and Administration work towards achieving the 2040 Community Vision.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision-making.

Various actions and strategic priorities in the Council Plan are consistent with regional, State and National plans and policy directions.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law.

The new Local Government Act 2020 is silent on the need for Council to review and update the plan, in contrast to its predecessor from 1989. Regardless, Council has embarked on an update of the Plan, informed by public consultation and comment.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

All officers, and/or contractors, involved in the preparation of this report have signed a written declaration that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

Transparency

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

The review and updating of the Council Plan ensures that Council's strategic priorities and actions to be resourced in the following financial year are clearly identified and communicated to the municipal community.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted.

5.4.1 2021-25 Council Plan 2022 Update - Receiving/Hearing of Submissions (cont.)

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

The proposed amendments to the plan in response to the issues raised by the Victorian Pride Lobby strengthen the alignment of the Council Plan with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act by driving initiatives around social inclusion and public participation.

CONCLUSION

An update of the Council Plan is vital in ensuring its ongoing relevance and responsiveness to the changing issues, challenges and opportunities our community faces. Council's response to the issues raised by the submission from the Victorian Pride Lobby will be considered at the extraordinary Council meeting on 28 June 2022.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Victorian Pride Lobby Council Plan review submission

ATTACHMENT 1:



13 May 2022

To whom it may concern,

Re: Strathbogrie 2022/23 Draft Budget and Council Plan Review

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the community consultation on the Strathbogrie 2022/23 Draft Budget and Council Plan Review.

The Victorian Pride Lobby (the Lobby) is a community based advocacy group that works towards equality, social justice and advancing human rights for lesbian, bisexual, queer, gay and same-gender attracted Victorians. In 2020, we launched the Rainbow Local Government campaign to recruit and support LGBTIQ+ candidates and allies to increase diversity and champion change on LGBTIQ+ issues in local government.

We are delighted that the 2022/23 Draft Budget includes a major initiative to *prepare a Social Inclusion Strategy*. However, we are concerned that there are no meetings planned with the eight community action groups - or other parts of the community, including the LGBTIQ+ community - in the accompanying service performance outcome indicators. We welcome any opportunity to work together to develop your inaugural LGBTIQ+ Action Plan and to ensure that it responds to the needs of LGBTIQ+ people who live, work and recreate in Strathbogrie.

We are also delighted that the 2022/23 Draft Budget includes a major initiative to *develop and promote information to increase awareness of the services available across the Shire and the referral pathways to access them*, and would welcome the opportunity to work together to ensure that the brochure includes LGBTIQ+ services and referral pathways.

We also suggest an additional action for 2022-23 under the "Strong. Healthy. Safe" section of the Council Plan: *Celebrate International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia by raising the rainbow flag*.

Finally, we'd like to invite you to the [Rainbow Local Government Conference](#) on Friday 20 May online. This conference is designed to support you in achieving real change for LGBTIQ+ people in your community, making your community safer and more inclusive. We hope to see you there!

Yours sincerely,

Co-Convenors, Victorian Pride Lobby



5.4.2 Draft 2022/23 Budget Report, 2022/23-2031/32 Financial Plan and 2022/23 Fees and Charges - Receiving / Hearing of Submissions

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate Operations

Responsible Director: Director Corporate Operations / Corporate Operations Department

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to receive / hear submissions made under the Local Government Act 2020 ("The Act") in relation to the Draft 2022/23 Budget Report, the Draft 2022/23-2031/32 Financial Plan and the Draft 2022/23 Fees and Charges.

At its April 2022 meeting Council resolved to seek community comment on the draft 2022/23 Budget, Financial Plan, and Fees and Charges in parallel with the 2021-25 Council Plan 2022 Update.

The closing date for submissions was Monday 23 May 2022 at 5.00 p.m.

There were twenty-three (23) submissions received for the 2022/23 Draft Budget. Ten submitters (10) requested to speak to their Budget submissions.

Copies of all submissions have been distributed to Councillors for their information and are tabled for identification purposes.

It is noted there were no submissions were received for the Draft 2022/23-2031/32 Financial Plan or 2022/2023 Fees and Charges.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Note the twenty-three (23) submissions received in response to the public advertisement of the Draft 202/23 Budget,***
- 2. Hear those who wish to be heard in support of their written submissions; and***
- 3. Formally consider all received submissions and the adoption of the Draft 2022/23 Budget, Draft 2022/23-2031/32 Financial and Draft 2022/23 Fees and Charges at an Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on Tuesday 21 June 2022 at the Euroa Community Conference Centre, commencing at 6.00 pm.***

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

The review of the proposed 2022/23 Budget, 2022/23-2031/32 Financial Plan and 2022/23 Fees and Charges was considered by Council at the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 19 April 2022.

5.4.2 Draft 2022/23 Budget Report, 2022/23-2031/32 Financial Plan and 2022/23 Fees and Charges - Receiving / Hearing of Submissions (cont.)

Subsequent to that meeting, public notice of the proposed Budget, Financial Plan, and Fees and Charges was given in local newspapers, calling for submissions under Council's Community Engagement Policy and Section 96(1)(a) of the Act. Submissions in writing were invited until 5.00 p.m. on Monday 23 May 2022.

The proposed Budget, Financial, and Fees and Charges were made available for inspection and accessible on Council's website.

ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations

The proposal is to hear submissions from the community in regard to a range of issues identified in the Budget - ranging from service delivery to capital works.

Following the hearing of submissions, Council will determine a position on them at the 21 June 2022 Ordinary Council meeting.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making.

This year we took the opportunity for meaningful input from our community into our Draft Budget to the next level.

We created a three-stage engagement program that ensured input into every stage of the Draft Budget's development.

In stage one we launched the innovative Pitch my Project initiative in November, which allowed us to fund the projects and works that matter to our community.

In stage two we created a series of clear communication materials that provided our community with information about the Draft Budget and ensured they understood how they could have their say. For those who do not have access to the internet we continued to seek submissions in writing.

Council's Draft 2022/23 Budget Report, Draft 2022/23-2031/32, Financial Plan and Draft 2022/23 Fees and Charges have been on public exhibition for a period of 28 days and submissions were invited from the community.

The 2022/23 Draft Budget provides funding allocations and support for nominated projects to proceed in both operational and capital works budgets, and, where appropriate, further community consultation will occur throughout the year specific to each project.

Depth of engagement: Involve

Public participation goal: To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.

5.4.2 Draft 2022/23 Budget Report, 2022/23-2031/32 Financial Plan and 2022/23 Fees and Charges - Receiving / Hearing of Submissions (cont.)

Promise to the public: We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

The report is consistent with Council Policies and key strategic documents. Specifically, the proposed Budget and Revenue and Rating Plan are prepared in the context of Council's long-term financial planning.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law.

The Local Government Act 2020 requires that Council must develop the Budget in accordance with financial management principles and its Community Engagement Policy. The Act requires that Council must adopt the Budget by 30 June 2022.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

All officers, and/or contractors, involved in the preparation of this report have signed a written declaration that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

Transparency

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

The Budget process has been the subject of extensive promotion, consultation and a significant number of submissions have been received

FINANCIAL VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured.

The Budget, Financial Plan, and Fees and Charges are significant documents in ensuring the financial viability of Council.

Funding provided by the Budget allows for service delivery and maintenance and upgrade of Council's asset base.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted.

Economic

The Budget make provisions for a number of economic development initiatives.

5.4.2 Draft 2022/23 Budget Report, 2022/23-2031/32 Financial Plan and 2022/23 Fees and Charges - Receiving / Hearing of Submissions (cont.)

Social

The Budget address issues of:

- (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) transport – e.g. safety for travellers, emissions and fuel consumption, public transport usage, walking and cycling or transportation needs of all people

through provision of services as well as community facilities.

Environmental/Climate change

The Budget provides funding for initiatives in sustainability including water reuse and alternative energy and staffing in this area..

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVMENT

Investments in information technology and an ongoing process of systems review contributes to innovation or continuous improvement

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

This report considers that the recommendation does not limit any human rights under the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.

CONCLUSION

Council should hear the submissions prior to adopting a position in order to finalise the Budget, Financial Plan and Fees and Charges.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Community Engagement Report - 2022/23 Draft Budget.

6. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Nil

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