



**SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**AGENDA**

**WEDNESDAY 14 JUNE 2017**

**AT 5PM**

**COPACC**



## COLAC OTWAY SHIRE SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING

14 JUNE 2017

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## COLAC OTWAY SHIRE SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING

NOTICE is hereby given that the next **SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE COLAC OTWAY SHIRE COUNCIL** will be held in COPACC on 14 June 2017 at 5pm.

### AGENDA

#### 1. I DECLARE THIS MEETING OPEN

##### **OPENING PRAYER**

*Almighty God, we seek your  
blessing and guidance in our  
deliberations on behalf of the  
people of the Colac Otway Shire.  
Enable this Council's decisions to be  
those that contribute to the true  
welfare and betterment of our community.*

**AMEN**

#### 2. PRESENT

#### 3. APOLOGIES

#### 4. MAYORAL STATEMENT

Colac Otway Shire acknowledges the original custodians and law makers of this land, their elders past and present and welcomes any descendants here today.

I ask that we all show respect to each other and respect for the office of an elected representative.

All Council and Committee meetings are audio recorded, with the exception of matters identified as confidential items in the Agenda. This includes the public participation sections of the meetings.

Audio recordings of meetings are taken to facilitate the preparation of the minutes of open Council and Committee meetings and to ensure their accuracy.

In some circumstances a recording will be disclosed to a third party. Those circumstances include, but are not limited to, circumstances, such as where Council is compelled to disclose an audio recording because it is required by law, such as the Freedom of Information Act 1982, or by court order, warrant, or subpoena or to assist in an investigation undertaken by the Ombudsman or the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission.

Council will not use or disclose the recordings for any other purpose. It is an offence to make an unauthorised recording of the meeting.

The sole purpose of the Special Committee Meeting is to consider and hear submissions in relation to the Draft 2017/18 Budget and the Draft Council Plan 2017-2021.

**5. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

**6. VERBAL SUBMISSIONS**

The Mayor is to read out the names of the people who have confirmed they wish to make a verbal submission. These verbal submissions will be made in relation to each respective agenda item and must be directly relevant to the respective agenda item. A time limit of 5 minutes will apply.

**7. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

- Special Committee held on 3 May 2017.

**Recommendation**

***That the Special Committee confirm the above minutes.***

SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING

# CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT BUDGET 2017/18 SUBMISSIONS

SC171406-1

<b>LOCATION / ADDRESS</b>	2-6 Rae Street Colac VIC 3250	<b>GENERAL MANAGER</b>	Trevor Olsson
<b>OFFICER</b>	Daniel Fogarty	<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	Corporate Services
<b>TRIM FILE</b>	F16/6678	<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	No
<b>ATTACHMENTS</b>	Nil		
<b>PURPOSE</b>	To consider and hear submissions under Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 in relation to the Draft 2017/18 Council Budget prior to the adoption of the budget at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 28 June 2017.		

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report outlines the submissions received in accordance with section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* in response to the exhibition of the Draft 2017/18 Council Budget.

## 2. RECOMMENDATION

*That Council:*

1. *Receives and notes the written and verbal submissions*
2. *Refers all submissions for further consideration to the Council meeting to be held on Wednesday 28 June 2016, as part of Council's deliberations in the adoption of the 2017/18 Budget.*

### 3. BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION

#### BACKGROUND

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 26 April 2017 Council resolved:

*“That Council:*

- 1. Endorses the draft budget 2017/18 for the financial year for the purposes of Section 127 of the Local Government Act 1989.*
- 2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to give public notice, in accordance with section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989, that Council has prepared a Draft Budget for the 2017/18 year.*
- 3. Appoints a Committee comprising of all Councilors and chaired by the Mayor in accordance with section 223(1)(b)(i) of the Act, to meet on Wednesday 14 June, 2017 at 5pm, and hear any persons who in their written submissions under section 223 of the Act have requested that they be heard in support of their submission.*
- 4. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to undertake any and all administrative procedures necessary to enable Council to carry out its functions under section 223 of the Act.*
- 5. Notes that written submissions will be accepted for a 5 week period closing 5:00pm Friday 2 June 2017.*
- 6. Considers for adoption the draft budget 2017/18 at the Council Meeting on Wednesday, 28 June 2017 at 6.00 pm at Apollo Bay Senior Citizens Centre, after consideration of any submissions received by Council at its Special Committee Meeting on Wednesday, 14 June 2017.*

As part of the statutory process to adopt the 2017/18 Budget, Council is required to consider all submissions received in relation to the Budget. The closing date for submissions was Friday, 2 June 2017. Submissions were received from 18 individual submitters.

Under section 223(1) (d) of the *Local Government Act 1989*:

- (d) The Council or special committee responsible for making the decision must—*
  - (i) consider all the submissions made under this section and any report made under paragraph (c);*

Three (3) submitters have requested an opportunity to be heard in support of their submission at the Special Committee meeting.

## KEY INFORMATION

Council received 25 submissions from 18 individuals. Councillors have been provided with copies of the submissions received.

A summary of the matters raised in the submissions and officer comments is as follows;

THEME 1 – RATING ARRANGEMENTS		
Submitter	Submission Details	Officer Comments
<b><u>Submitter 1</u></b>	Query regarding the legality of the budget as submitter believes the municipal charge isn't listed in the Fees and Charges Schedule. Submitter also asserts this charge wasn't included in the 2016-17 Budget in the Fees and Charges area.	The Municipal charge is listed in section 7.6 showing a Municipal charge in 16/17 of \$182.45 and proposed Municipal charge in 17/18 of \$184.64.
<b><u>Submitter 1</u></b>	Discussion around the proposed changes to the valuation model outlined in the State government budget.	2017/18 is a revaluation year, therefore all costs have been provided for included in the draft budget. There may be additional costs in subsequent years however the details are not yet known. Council will be required to adjust accordingly.
<b><u>Submitter 1</u></b>	Are the proposed works and charges contained in Council's proposed budget firm or are those subject to amendment due to the states cost shifting onto Council's contained in the current budget produced in state parliament. Including extra expenses as a result of annual revaluations to be taken over by state Valuer general's office. When to obtain details councils will have to pay the government prior to being able to calculate it's rates etc. Comments have been coming out from the MAV president and other Council's objecting to this move.	2017/18 is a revaluation year, therefore all costs have been provided for included in the draft budget. There may be additional costs in subsequent years however the details are not yet known. Council will be required to adjust accordingly.
<b><u>Submitter 1</u></b>	Query regarding the increases to the following – a: Rates b: Garbage Collection Fee c: Municipal Fee Submitter believes that we have not included the municipal charge in any of our reporting on rates increases	The movements in rates per category are detailed in Section 7 of the Budget document. The increase in average rates stated in the budget document of 0.63% includes both municipal charge and general rates as per the legislated rate capping calculation. As stated in sections 7.8 & 7.9 of the budget document, the garbage collection fee will increase by 2% in keeping with Colac Otway Shire's

		commitment to cost recovery of this service.
<b><u>Submitter 1</u></b>	Has council made any special allowance in the 2017/18 budget if property owners are unable to meet council rates and charges when due? During recent months, financial organisations have increased loan interest a number of times on new and existing loans. When most purchases include loan funds each increase in interest reduces available funds for other purposes.	Council provides a hardship application process for those ratepayers that are struggling to meet their rates obligation.
<b><u>Submitter 1</u></b>	What portion of the increased rates and charges for 2017-2018 budget year is a direct result of reclassification of properties from (a)(i) farming to residential (a)(ii) farming to industrial/commercial (b) NAV to capital improved value (c) Others changed to residential or industrial/commercial (d) any other changes like from single dwelling to multiple units/flats. Since land reclassification from farm to residential or industrial/commercial would reduce discount on rates and higher rating. Plus add extra charges for (a) garbage collection fees & (b) increased municipal fees on a given area of land. Plus change from single dwelling to multiple dwellings would increase both garbage and municipal fees.	Changes to rating categories are rare. Generally residential properties remain residential properties, commercial properties remain commercial etc . When a change of land use does occur that warrants a change to the rating category, a change to the Australian Valuation Property Classification Code (AVPCC) allocated to the property is required (to reflect the new use). This necessitates a Supplementary Valuation to be done, which may or may not result in a change of valuation and rates levied. The amount of rates and charges budgeted to be raised for 2017-18 is 0.63% more than the amount raised for 2016-17. The total amount to be raised reflects the anticipated net operating costs of Council for the forthcoming (ie: 2017-18) financial year. Included in the budget projections is an estimate of additional income to be derived from Supplementary valuations throughout the forthcoming financial year. This estimate is an aggregate estimate based on total income from supplementary valuations received in previous financial years and expectations for the forthcoming year. An aggregate estimate is used as the number of supplementary valuations per rating category and any shifts between rating categories that will occur in 2017-18 are unknown when the budget is prepared. The total estimated supplementary rates revenue therefore effectively means less has to be raised from the annual levying



		of rates and charges, which determines the quantum of the rates revenue increase (in this case 0.63%). Therefore, the information requested is not able to be provided.
<b><u>Submitter 4</u></b>	<p>The submission details where perceived inequities exist in the current legislated rating system when applied to the farming industry. The following are key points relating to the draft 2017/18 Budget:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The difficulties experienced within the industry in particular for dairy farmers</li> <li>2. The inequities of a property value based tax</li> <li>3. Rates on farm land should be abolished -citing the UK model as evidence</li> <li>4. On average each farm has four assessments</li> <li>5. The submitter recommends a Rural – farm differential of 70%</li> <li>6. The submission provided data comparing Colac Otway’s differential in comparison to other Victorian Councils (showing COS around the middle point)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The budget includes a 2% drop in the rural – farm differential to 77%</li> <li>2. The use of valuations as the basis of determining rates is a legislative requirement of Council’s throughout Victoria</li> <li>3. We are unaware of such an exemption in the UK, however given these ratepayers utilise some of the services and assets provided by Council we would not advocate this approach</li> <li>4. In the absence of our own data to confirm this assertion we accept the notion put forward by the submitter there is on average four assessments per farming business. Given rates are a function of valuation not number of assessments we believe this is of less relevance than the total valuation of a farm businesses land.</li> <li>5. The budget includes a 2% drop in the rural – farm differential from 79 % to 77%. The financial impact of a further decrease in a farm differential would be significant. Other ratepayers would be required to absorb such an increase which may have an unreasonable impact. For Council to absorb a further decrease in 2017/18 without redistributing the rates obligation would result in almost \$10m lost revenue over 10 years (under a rate capping environment) which is not sustainable.</li> <li>6. Noted. Colac Otway is comparable when compared to comparable shires.</li> </ol>
<b><u>Submitter 5</u></b>	The submitter expressed support for the draft budget and no request was made.	Noted
<b><u>Submitter 14</u></b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Queries the expected policy outcomes of rate increase of 0.63% compared to a 2% increase</li> <li>2. Holiday rental rate differential – does this generate revenue to</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Councils budget is tailored so that its services and spending fit within the 0.63% rate increase that has been advertised in the 2017/18 Draft</li> </ol>

	<p>fund tourism related infrastructure?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Rate levels and differentials are not benchmarked against other councils in the draft. Doing this could assist transparency.</li> <li>4. The policy around the 0.63% rate increase. It is asked what council could be exposed to due to this rise. Are there any risks to the financial sustainability, council's reputation and the sustainability?</li> <li>5. If council should increase the rate to the cap of 2% the additional 1.37% (\$360,000) could this be used to address concerns in the coastal areas?</li> </ol>	<p>Budget.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. All rates (irrespective of the source) are collected as consolidated revenue and used to fund Council services and responsibilities across the entire municipality including tourism infrastructure.</li> <li>3. As all councils are vastly different in their rating structures benchmarking against other councils could be misleading. This is due to the amount of rateable properties and the differentials that are being applied. Even when comparing similar sized councils this could give misleading information.</li> <li>4. Council will have to tailor its spending and services to reduce and mitigate any risk to its sustainability and reputation.</li> <li>5. Any council increase would need to be allocated on the basis of project priority rather than to a specified area of the shire.</li> </ol>
<p><b><u>Submitter 15</u></b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Suggests improvements to the presentation of the Budget document so that it is easier to read for the general public.</li> <li>2. Comments relating to return on asset ratio, employee costs, corporate costs</li> <li>3. What is included in Other Expenses item?</li> <li>4. What is relationship between Materials and Services and Capital Works?</li> <li>5. Comments on the presentation of the model budget with suggestions that areas of works be shown spatially and include details of funding, project etc.</li> <li>6. IT services with comments regarding the options for Open Source software rather than the</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The model budget is a statutory document which is issued by the State Government. Council is always working to try to improve the transparency and accessibility of its documents and notes the general feedback.</li> <li>2. The return on asset ratio is sustainable at the 20.4% as quoted. Employee costs include all benefits and associated costs (ie super, insurances etc.).Significant effort has been made to reduce operating costs which is evidenced in the reduction in the Materials and Services budget. Additionally, many corporate functions are required for statutory purposes.</li> <li>3. Other expenses includes but is not limited to Advertising, Public Liability</li> </ol>

	<p>current licencing arrangements. Making the GIS more user friendly and flexible. And if IT services are done in-house or outsourced.</p>	<p>Insurance, Community Grants, Councillor Allowances, Audit Services and Motor Vehicle Registration.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. As the capital works relates to an asset it is directly sent to the Balance Sheet these are not shown in the Comprehensive Income Statement.</li> <li>5. As the Model Budget is a Statutory Document making material changes like including spatial data may result in the document not conforming with the Local Government Act. Along with this there would need to be dedicated resources to administer this request.</li> <li>6. Colac Otway Shire Council maintains a comprehensive and integrated suite of software systems, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Customer Relationship Management (CRM)</li> <li>• Electronic Document and Record Management System (EDRMS)</li> <li>• Meeting and Agenda development software</li> <li>• A suite of business management functions that underpin each business unit – i.e. Finance, Payroll, Building, Planning, Health, etc.</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p>The effective operation of the above and many more contemporary software tools rely heavily on integration; software and database links between applications. This negates duplication, inefficiencies, and effectively provides ‘one point of truth’ for organisational, and indeed public, information access.</p> <p>There are limited to no alternative Open Source local government suites available that are suitable.</p> <p>Microsoft Office and similar are standard around the world, and highly integrates with the systems detailed above.</p> <p>Free Open Source solutions often do no offer structured support that supports this organisations’ Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery requirements.</p>
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<b>Submitter 16</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The submission outlines concerns regarding the impact a lower rate rise will have on the future sustainability of the Shire in terms of asset renewal, maintenance and calls on the Defined Benefit Superannuation Scheme.</li> <li>2. The submission states that the median income in Colac is \$30,000 and that community members face every day financial challenges. It argues that the current discount of 21% given to the farm sector is sufficient and compares this discount to that offered in Corangamite Shire of 9%.</li> </ol>	<p>The Draft Budget has been developed to limit the impact on the financial sustainability.</p> <p>The Draft Budget seeks to strike a fair balance of rates between the different groups of ratepayers.</p>
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**THEME 2 – REQUEST FOR FUNDING**

<b>Submitter</b>	<b>Submission Details</b>	<b>Officer Comments</b>
<b>Submitter 2</b>	Requests \$80-\$100k for the development of an arts hub in Apollo Bay.	Council acknowledges the fantastic role Apollo Bay Arts Inc. plays in facilitating and supporting the arts community within the Apollo Bay district. The proposal to develop a space for a resident art in Apollo Bay has merit however currently lacks strategic justification. Council has commenced the development of a new Arts and Culture Strategy which will provide Council with a strategic framework for the ongoing provision of services in arts, heritage and culture area. It will also provide direction on Council's role in the delivery of arts and culture services. Recommend completion of Arts and Culture Strategy before committing to the development of facilities or spaces such as those requested by Apollo Bay Arts Inc.
<b>Submitter 1</b>	Following the lifting of the freeze on federal funds to Council in the proposed 2017/2018 year does Council propose to review and bring forward any works postponed or cancelled when preparing it's 2017/2018 budget of what it proposes to do.	The lifting of the freeze related to the indexation aspect of Federal Assistance grants. The final value of the indexation is not known at this time. There are no proposed changes to the project list.

<b><u>Submitter 6</u></b>	Requests commitment to funding a bus parking strategy for Apollo Bay and other coastal towns and implementation in 2018/19 (irrespective of whether external government grants are received). This one initiative is highlighted (from many potential tourism driven issues) because bus parking is clearly a COS responsibility and there is no scope to muddy the waters by involving the OCC in the strategy - though 'their' land could help in delivery.	Council is committed to improving facilities for bus parking and parking in general both in Apollo Bay and all along the coast. Council currently has \$75k from the 2016/17 budget set aside as Council's contribution toward a grant for a coastal parking strategy under the Federal Government's Building Better Regions funding. If Council is successful it will immediately commence community consultation toward finalising the strategy in 2017/18. If the grant application is unsuccessful a strategy will still be delivered however with a reduced scope to match Council's funding capability. Parking, specifically bus parking, around Apollo Bay would be one of the highest priorities of the strategy.
<b><u>Submitter 7</u></b>	Detailed submission emphasising the importance to the community of the proposal for a shared path from Colac to Cororooke as part of the Colac 2050 plan (as evidenced by the petition included in 26/4/17 agenda). Requests that \$30,000 be allocated for a feasibility study.	Funding of \$30,000 for the feasibility study is not currently included in the 2017/18 budget. Council is committed to supporting the community in investigating external funding opportunities for the feasibility study in the first instance. Should external funds not be realised, Council may consider a budget allocation in future budget years.
<b><u>Submitter 8</u></b>	Requests the \$1.5m funding of footpaths and cycle ways be utilised for: 1) The next stages of the already complete footpath from Coragulac to the northern end of Cororooke namely to link that path to the crossroads with a concrete path and then to extend to the red rock theatre and gallery. 2) Endorsement of Submitter 7's proposal for funding a feasibility study into a path from Colac and Cororooke.	Council acknowledges the health and social benefits of infrastructure that encourages and facilitates physical activity, particularly walking and cycling. The 2017-18 Draft Budget includes funding for the maintenance and extension of our footpath network (\$525,000) as well as the maintenance of the Old Beechy Rail Trail (\$40,000). External grants for cycling were specific to the Forrest Mountain Bike Trails Network, with Council receiving recent notification that its grant application was unsuccessful. In regards to the extension of the Cororooke footpath network, this will be considered through the Footpath Extension Program and will be assessed against other priorities identified in Council's relevant footpath strategies. Funding of \$30,000 for the feasibility study is not currently included in the 2017/18 budget.

		<p>Council is committed to supporting the community in investigating external funding opportunities for the feasibility study in the first instance.</p> <p>Should external funds not be realised, Council may consider a budget allocation in future budget years.</p>
<b><u>Submitter 10</u></b>	<p>Expresses support for the concept raised by Submitter 7 for a path between Colac to Cororooke and for the request of \$30,000 for a feasibility study.</p>	<p>Funding of \$30,000 for the feasibility study is not currently included in the 2017/18 budget.</p> <p>Council is committed to supporting the community in investigating external funding opportunities for the feasibility study in the first instance.</p> <p>Should external funds not be realised, Council may consider a budget allocation in future budget years.</p>
<b><u>Submitter 11</u></b>	<p>Expresses support for the concept raised by Submitter 7 for a path between Colac to Cororooke and for the request of \$30,000 for a feasibility study.</p>	<p>Funding of \$30,000 for the feasibility study is not currently included in the 2017/18 budget.</p> <p>Council is committed to supporting the community in investigating external funding opportunities for the feasibility study in the first instance.</p> <p>Should external funds not be realised, Council may consider a budget allocation in future budget years.</p>
<b><u>Submitter 12</u></b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Seeks funding for the needs of Apollo Bay and district for items such as better toilet facilities, bus parking, foreshore improvements and the Apollo Bay to Skenes Creek Trail</li> <li>2. Calls for the development of an Apollo Bay Business Precinct Plan to align with the Apollo Bay Foreshore Master Plan being developed by the Otway Coast Committee and planned for completion in 2017.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Funding has been sought for a Tourism Infrastructure Strategy for Colac Otway Shire. This Strategy is contingent on funding through the Federal Government Building Better Regions Fund, would involve working with stakeholders to generate solutions to the infrastructure issues facing tourism across our Shire, including Apollo Bay. The Strategy could then be used to seek funding from other levels of government as well as prioritise Council infrastructure works. Council will work with our partners to ensure a coordinated, cross boundary approach to services and infrastructure provision. Many of the issues included in the submission such as bus parking and toilet facilities would be considered in the Strategy.</li> <li>2. An Apollo Bay Business Precinct Plan is included in the draft budget. Could</li> </ol>

		be considered by Council as a possible project for the 2018/19 budget year given the OCC Master Plan will not be finished until later in 2017.
<b><u>Submitter 13</u></b>	<p>The submission gives background on the increased tourism demand at Kennett River and the impact that it is having on the township and the environment.</p> <p>Requests action on infrastructure, approval of a \$25,000 STIP grant application, a \$30,000 Master Plan for Kennett River, parking enforcement, gazettal of roads on DELWP land and improved parking.</p>	Funding has been sought for a Tourism Infrastructure Strategy for Colac Otway Shire. This Strategy is contingent on funding through the Federal Government Building Better Regions Fund, would involve working with stakeholders to generate solutions to the infrastructure issues facing tourism across our Shire, including Kennett River. The Strategy could then be used to seek funding from other levels of government as well as prioritise Council infrastructure works. Council will work with our partners to ensure a coordinated, cross boundary approach to services and infrastructure provision.
<b><u>Submitter 15</u></b>	<p>Comment on the Community Grants Program that as council has budgeted for a surplus that the programme would get a 10% increase across the grants.</p>	The amount provided through the Community Grants Program is reviewed on an annual basis. In relation to the surplus amount quoted, the surplus stated does not include the allocation of that surplus, note that the entire surplus has already being allocated to fund either our capital works program or the reserving of funds as required. The confusion here is a result of the format of reporting we are required to use under the Local Government model.
<b><u>Submitter 15</u></b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The "on-site septic" monitoring program seems to have no mention in the budget. This program missed on funding in 2016-2017 budget. Concerns regarding the consequences of not funding an important program are great including health and pollution/contamination of waterways. Request that funding is added for such a program in the 2017-2018 budget.</li> <li>2. The community of Forrest has identified "wastewater management" as a priority in a Community Public meeting that was attended by state MP and the Mayor in September 2016. Since then, few steps have been taken</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The draft budget is presented at a level that does not identify specific programs such as the septic monitoring. The 2017-18 budget does include \$20,000 to undertake audits of the systems in Forrest. Council's Health team is implementing new systems to make resources available to expand the monitoring program in the future and are investigating innovative approaches by other Councils to fund the ongoing monitoring of septic systems.</li> <li>2. Council has committed to partnering with Barwon Water by conducting septic audits. The \$20,000 required to undertake these audits has been allowed for in the 2017-18 budget. The Forrest Community Working</li> </ol>

	<p>towards the realization of the project. Barwon Water has committed \$100,000 towards the investigation. The community expects the Council included in its budget \$20,000 towards “on-site septic audit”.</p> <p>3. Requests that “Forrest Wastewater Reticulation” project gets a budget allocation in 2018-2019 and 2019-2020.</p>	<p>Group has been informed of Council’s commitment to this project.</p> <p>3. Committing to a reticulation scheme at this time is premature. The Barwon Water and Colac-Otway Shire partnership to investigate wastewater options for Forrest will provide options and a business case that may be used to apply for funding from all levels of government, including future Council budgets.</p>
<b><u>Submitter 17</u></b>	<p>The submitter notes the inclusion of \$250,000 in the draft Budget for Revegetation and Weed Management Plan post fire at Wye/Sep and it is dependent on uncertain grant funding that may take several years to secure.</p> <p>The submitter also expresses concern its inclusion in the Budget may unrealistically raise community expectations and asks what the implications for the budget are if the funding is not found.</p>	<p>The draft Council Budget includes a proposed State Government grant of \$250,000 for weed control and revegetation works on public land in and around Wye River and Separation Creek that may be provided to Council to administer. Its inclusion was based on the community project plan. To date Council has not received advice this has or will be funded. Council will continue to work with the community to advocate for funding this important work.</p> <p>The state government has however announced \$50,000 to support revegetation on private land. The \$50,000 is being administered by DELWP.</p>
<b><u>Submitter 17</u></b>	<p>The submitter requests that some funding in draft Budget be allocated to combat weeds in parks, open space and streetscapes in the fire affected areas of Wye River and Separation Creek. This should be used immediately to manage weeds while a larger grant is sought.</p>	<p>The draft Budget includes a budget of \$30,000 to manage significant weeds on Council managed land, particularly roadsides, across the Shire.</p> <p>Council will consider priorities in Wye River and Separation Creek as part of the Shire wide assessment of weed control in 2017-18.</p> <p>Council will also re-engage relevant agencies to again seek short term funding support, as was the case in 2016, which secured approximately \$70,000 of which funds are still available for 2017-18.</p> <p>Council will also continue to support the Community Working Group to apply for grants to continue this important works.</p>



<b><u>Submitter 17</u></b>	The submitter asks for funding for community flora and fauna events and workshops for the next 3 years, both as community education and wellbeing initiatives.	<p>The 2017-18 budget includes funding to support the Wye River and Separation Creek communities. This is possible through funding from DELWP and DHHS.</p> <p>All community groups have the opportunity to apply for funding from Council's annual community grant programs to undertake various activities. The community are encouraged to consider applying to these in future years along with the various state and federal grant programs which Council has successfully partnered the Wye and Separation Creek communities to receive funds since the Christmas bushfires.</p>
<b><u>Submitter 17</u></b>	The submitter asks that some of the funding allocated to the restoration and improvement of local roads be used to restore local roads and establish a secure link between Wye River and Separation Creek.	<p>Improvements to local roads in Wye River and Separation Creek will be assessed as part of the prioritisation process for all roads across the Shire.</p> <p>The primary vehicle link between Wye River and Separation Creek is via the Great Ocean Road. The reliability of this access has been greatly improved by Vic Roads significant investment in retaining walls and soil nailing.</p>
<b><u>Submitter 17</u></b>	The submitter notes an amount of \$6M being granted to Council by state government and notes it is not easily identifiable in the draft Budget. Seeking clarification on how the State Government funding for the reticulated drainage scheme will be allocated.	<p>The notation of \$6M is slightly incorrect as the state has granted \$5.4M with an option for a 10% contingency which would be subject to a future application, if required.</p> <p>The draft Budget includes new funds for the 2017-18 period however it did not include the likely carry over amount from the 2016-17 budget which is why the full \$5.4M state government funding for the drainage works is not easily identifiable. The utilisation of funding for stormwater drainage will be informed by the design process currently underway. This process will include community consultation which will help set priorities.</p>
<b><u>Submitter 17</u></b>	The submitter asks that council support and fund community and individual wellbeing activities for the next 3 years.	<p>The 2017-18 budget includes funding to support the Wye River and Separation Creek communities, including wellbeing activities. This is possible through funding from the DHHS.</p> <p>All community groups have the opportunity to apply for funding from Council's annual community grant</p>

		<p>programs to undertake various activities. The community are encouraged to consider applying to these in future years along with the various state and federal grant programs which Council has successfully partnered the Wye and Separation community to receive funds since the Christmas bushfires.</p>
<b><u>Submitter 17</u></b>	<p>The submitter thanks Council for continuing <i>wyeseconnect</i> on the Council website and the email Community Renewal newsletter and asks that Council support continued funding of these activities.</p>	<p>The 2017-18 budget includes short term funding to support the Wye River and Separation Creek communities, including maintaining the web site page and the Community Renewal newsletter. This is possible through funding from DELWP and DHHS.</p>
<b><u>Submitter 3</u></b>	<p>Requests \$60,000 for removal of pine trees on Beal Street, Birregurra stretching between Hopkins Street and Bowden Street as they are in a dangerous state and need to be removed.</p>	<p>Council has engaged an arborist to assess the trees and provide advice on which trees are required to be removed. Identified high risk trees will be removed. Council will continue to work with DELWP and the Golf Club to clarify the ongoing maintenance of these trees.</p>
<b><u>Submitter 6</u></b>	<p>Requests support for the development of a business case for the Apollo Bay/Skene's creek coastal discovery trail in 2017/18.</p> <p>The submitter notes a STIP grant will be applied for but in addition it is requested Council lobby and contribute to funding its delivery in conjunction with the State Government. The submitter notes a perceived lack of spending in the 17/18 budget for pathways/cycle ways.</p>	<p>Council supports the development of the Apollo Bay Skenes Creek Coastal Discovery Trail Feasibility Study which will determine the viability of the proposed trail. Council representatives have previously been involved in the scoping of the project and Council is committed to further support from Councillors and/or Council officers in the development of the feasibility study. Council is also coordinating the procurement process for the appointment of a consultant to undertake the project, which equates to a \$3,000 in-kind contribution. Council is not in a position to actively lobby for the development of the proposed trail until the feasibility study has been completed. Council is supportive of the development of walking and cycling opportunities for our community. The 2017-18 Draft Budget includes funding for the maintenance and extension of our footpath network (\$525,000) as well as the maintenance of the Old Beechy Rail Trail (\$40,000).</p>
<b><u>Submitter 6</u></b>	<p>Concerns there is a lack of proposed spending in the coastal regions of the shire in the 2017/18 draft budget. Concerns around the equity of</p>	<p>A very significant program of projects and works planned for coastal areas (in addition to the usual operational services, reactive and proactive</p>

	<p>spending in the region given the level of rates contributions by ratepayers in this region.</p>	<p>maintenance works to be included in some of the programme budgets listed (i.e. roads, etc).</p>
<p><b><u>Submitter 9</u></b></p>	<p>Notes there appears to be very little consideration in the budget for climate change.          Requesting a street light curfew from say 10 pm to 5 am and use the money saving from this to replace any electric hot water systems under the shires charge with heat pumps or solar hot water.</p>	<p>Council is undertaking a range of actions to help mitigate and respond to Climate Change. For example, \$200,000 is allocated in the 17/18 budget for a new solar array to be installed on the Colac Joint Use Library and Bluewater Fitness Centre. This work will help Council move towards achieving its Carbon Neutral Target by 2020.</p> <p>Council is also undertaking a substantial amount of work to help respond to the challenges of future climate change. Over the past five years Colac Otway Shire has been leading the Climate Resilient Communities for Barwon South West Project. There is \$110,000 in the 2017/18 budget for this project. The project is helping all ten Council better prepare for the forecast increases in extreme climate events. This has been a very large project funded with support from the State Government along with funding all the Councils involved. This project is expected to finish at the end of 2017. Council will be looking for further State Government funding to enable more work to be done in the future on climate adaptation.</p> <p>In addition to the budget allocations mentioned above the resources provided in the budget for Council's Environment Unit to operate will also help mitigate against and adapt to climate through a variety of other means such as revegetation works, and community education programs. These all help to reduce Council's Carbon Footprint and also help our community to do likewise. The staff in the Environment Unit will also pursue, administer and effectively manage the grants we will be looking for from the Australian and State Governments to helps us continue to tackle this global problem.</p>

<b><u>Submitter 18</u></b>	Request for funding to assist in the building of the Apollo Bay Men's shed. The request also details the community benefits that the Men's shed offers.	Funding is not included in the draft budget. All community groups have the opportunity to apply for funding from Council's various grant programmes to undertake various activities. The community are encouraged to consider applying to these in future years along with the various state and federal grant programs which Council has successfully partnered in the past.
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**THEME 3 – WASTE MANAGEMENT**

<b>Submitter</b>	<b>Submission Details</b>	<b>Officer Comments</b>
<b><u>Submitter 1</u></b>	Reinstatement of the 'Hard Waste Collection' for the Colac urban area.	Due to budget constraints a hard waste collection is not included in 2017-2018 budget. Alternative waste disposal information is available at the customer service centres in Colac and Apollo Bay.
<b><u>Submitter 12</u></b>	Improved waste collection in the shopping area of Apollo Bay The submission states that the existing service is inadequate during peak periods.	Council is currently trialling within the current budget some Smart Bins in Apollo Bay which have the ability to accept more waste due to a compactor located inside the bin. We anticipate that the combination of these new bins with the current collection timetable will greatly improve the situation faced by the community.

## **FURTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **4. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION & ENGAGEMENT**

Pursuant to Section 129 of the Local Government Act, Council is required as soon as practicable after the completion of a draft annual budget to put the document out for public exhibition and invite public submissions for a period of not less than 28 days. In keeping with Colac Otway Shires policy in recent years, the draft budget was exhibited for 5 weeks.

Council also conducted two highly successful pop-up information sessions during the exhibition period. These sessions were held outside Target in Colac and outside Apollo Bay bakery Apollo Bay, and were very well attended by members of the community.

### **5. ANALYSIS**

#### **ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN OR COUNCIL POLICY**

The 2017/18 draft Budget has been prepared in line with the Council Plan and is guided by priorities outlined in key strategic documents - the Council Plan and Strategic Resource Plan.

The 2017/18 draft Budget reflects Council's commitment to achieving progress against Council's Key Themes (Pillars) in its draft Council plan:

- Our Prosperity
- Our Places
- Our Community
- Our Leadership and Management

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

In order to limit the environmental impact of the budget process, hard copies of the budget document are kept to a minimum and to this end we make available the budget document for viewing on our website as well as limited hard copies at Council offices.

In terms of Budget spending decisions with Environmental implications, Council has taken the opportunity where practicable, to reduce the Environmental impact of Council's operations through the selection of renewable energy options such as Solar power in keeping with our Carbon neutral target for 2020. There is also funding again in the 2017/18 budget for an environmental unit again illustrating Council's commitment to managing our climate.

#### **SOCIAL & CULTURAL IMPLICATIONS**

Any social or cultural implications are covered within the draft Council Plan, the draft 2017/18 budgets spending decisions are guided by the draft plan in this area.

#### **ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS**

The Budget is a critical planning and resource tool of Council and is vital to the ongoing operational and financial viability of Council. It sets out the expected income and expenditure both operational and capital for the coming year and also incorporates Council's rating strategy and outlines Council's Strategic Resource Plan goals.

The economic impacts of the submissions are assessed when reviewing submissions, the principle of maintaining a balanced budget has driven all decisions.

#### **LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS**

Aside from meeting the various relevant sections of the Local Government act there are no further legal implications.

The operational risk of our spending decisions in the draft 2017/18 budget are a key element in the decision making process. Full consideration has been given to the risk impacts of each decision.

#### **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL ETC)**

The draft budget has been compiled under the relevant financial and human resource limitations Council operates under. The consideration of all submissions takes these finite resources into account and in particular Council's limited financial and resource capability to undertake all desired projects.

## **6. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

#### **DETAILS**

Following consideration of the submissions received, a report will be present to the Ordinary Council meeting in June to consider the adoption of the 17/18 Budget.

#### **TIMELINE**

14 June 2017: Special Committee of Council meeting held to receive and hear submissions

28 June 2017: Adoption of Final Budget 2017/18

## **7. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST**

No officer declared an interest under the *Local Government Act 1989* in the preparation of this report.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING

# CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN 2017-2021 SUBMISSIONS

SC171406-2

<b>LOCATION / ADDRESS</b>	2-6 Rae Street Colac VIC 3250	<b>GENERAL MANAGER</b>	Trevor Olsson
<b>OFFICER</b>	Margaret Giudice	<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	Corporate Services
<b>TRIM FILE</b>	11/95682	<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	No
<b>ATTACHMENTS</b>	Nil		
<b>PURPOSE</b>	For Council to consider and hear submissions under Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 in relation to the Draft Council Plan 2017-2021 prior to the adoption of the Council Plan at the Ordinary Council Meeting on the 28 June 2017.		

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report outlines the submissions received in accordance with section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* in response to the exhibition of the draft Council Plan 2017-2021.

## 2. RECOMMENDATION

*That Council;*

1. *Receives and notes the written and verbal submissions*
2. *Refers all submissions for further consideration to the Council meeting to be held on Wednesday 28 June 2016, as part of Council's deliberations in finalising the Council Plan 2017-2021.*

## 3. BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION

### BACKGROUND

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 26 April 2017 Council resolved:

*That Council:*

1. *Endorses the Draft Council Plan 2017-2021 including the Draft Strategic Resource*

*Plan 2017-2018 to 2020-2021 (Attachment 1) for the purposes of sections 125 and 126 of the Local Government Act 1989.*

2. *Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to give public notice, in accordance with section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989, that Council has prepared a Draft Council Plan 2017- 2021 and Draft Strategic Resource Plan 2017-2018 to 2020-2021.*
3. *Appoints a Committee comprising of all Councillors and chaired by the Mayor in accordance with section 223(1)(b)(i) of the Act, to meet on Wednesday 14 June, 2017 at 5pm, and hear any persons who in their written submissions under section 223 of the Act have requested that they be heard in support of their submission.*
4. *Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to undertake any and all administrative procedures necessary to enable Council to carry out its functions under section 223 of the Act.*
5. *Notes that written submissions will be accepted for a 5 week period closing 5:00pm Friday 2 June 2017.*
6. *Considers for adoption the Council Plan 2017-2021 and Strategic Resource Plan 2017-2018 to 2020-2021 at the Ordinary Council meeting on Wednesday 28 June 2016 at 6.00 pm at Apollo Bay Senior Citizens Centre, after consideration of any submissions received by the Council at its Special Committee Meeting on Wednesday 14 June 2017.*
7. *That, once adopted, an appropriate notation be added to the Council Plan 2017-2021 that the Plan should be read in conjunction with the adopted Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021.*
8. *That page 4 of the Plan "About the Shire" the sixth dot point be amended to 'The large majority of Colac Otway residents have Australian or British ancestry along with a small indigenous population. Only 7.5% of the Shire's residents were born overseas in 2011, this is lower than the rest of regional Victoria (10.6%).'*
9. *That page 4 of the Plan "About the Shire" the seventh dot point amended to 'The formal qualifications of the Colac Otway resident population are, on average, lower than Victoria's population as a whole.'*

As part of the statutory process to adopt the Council Plan, Council is required to consider all submissions received in relation to the Budget. The closing date for submissions was Friday, 2 June 2017. Submissions were received from 67 submitters.

Under section 223(1) (d) of the *Local Government Act 1989*:

- (d) *The Council or special committee responsible for making the decision must—*
  - (i) *consider all the submissions made under this section and any report made under paragraph (c);*

Two submitters have requested an opportunity to be heard in support of their submission at the Special Committee meeting.



## KEY INFORMATION

Council received 67 submissions. Councillors have been provided with copies of the submissions received. A summary of the matters raised in the submissions and officer comments is as follows;

THEME 1 – APOLLO BAY HEATED POOL		
Submitter #	Submission Details	Officer Comments
<u><a href="#">Submitters 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 45, 47, 48, 49, 50, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 59, 60, 61, 63, 65</a></u>	<p>Propose the enclosure of the Apollo Bay outdoor swimming pool, upgrade the heating of the pool and finally provide Apollo Bay with access to a heated pool, year-round.</p> <p>A heated indoor pool will allow for the provision of essential learn-to-swim classes, the development of swim squad sessions, regular lap-swimming and will cater for rehabilitation and the needs of elderly residents for aquatic exercise programs.</p> <p>The inclusion of a heated pool in the Harbour Precinct redevelopment is by no means a definite outcome and will take many years to bring to fruition. Council states it has a 'commitment to promoting the shire as an attractive place to invest, live and work; planning to promote community life and enhance wellbeing, ensuring assets and services met community needs; and delivering value for money for ratepayers.' Support for this long overdue redevelopment of infrastructure in Apollo Bay will demonstrate Council's commitment to the health, safety and wellbeing of their constituents.</p>	<p>Consider inclusion of a new action under the theme 'Our Places' and Goal 3 'Towns and places are welcoming and attractive' eg '<i>Continue to support the Apollo Bay community's advocacy for the development of a public indoor heated swimming pool in Apollo Bay.</i>'</p> <p>Actions by Council to support the development of an indoor heated pool include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Council established an Apollo Bay Harbour Precinct Expression of Interest (EOI) Project Control Group. This group is overseeing the development of a Market Testing process and the proposed EOI process for the Harbour. The Special Use Zone applied to the harbour precinct supports the development of a pool, subject to establishment of a Development Plan for the precinct.</li><li>• Council has informed the proponents of the tourist accommodation at 275 and 305 Barham River Road of the community's desire for an indoor heated pool and facilitated a meeting with the proponent and community representatives involved in the pool proposal. Subject to this development being approved by Council and proceeding there as an opportunity for an indoor pool to be incorporated into the development which could be accessible to the community. A similar model exists at the RACV Torquay Resort.</li><li>• Council is working with the Apollo Bay College and Pool Committee regarding the possible upgrade of the school pool.</li></ul>

## THEME 2 – TOURISM

Submitter #	Submission Details	Officer Comments
<b><u>Submitter 2</u></b>	Combination of country and beach makes it a great area that could be a tourism mecca.	Noted.
<b><u>Submitter 4</u></b>	Address the current tourism crisis in Apollo Bay and along the coast caused by to growth in visitor numbers and inadequate planning and infrastructure.	Addressed under Prosperity Goal 1 Action 4 'Identify and improve tourism assets across the Shire'
	Skenes Creek not mentioned	The Plan is a strategic document which outlines the goals and strategies for the whole of the Shire. Many locations are not specifically referenced
	GOR authority not enough – need to identify and reduce the significant duplication and waste between COS and OCC (dual rubbish collection, toilet cleaning, grass cutting etc.	The Great Ocean Road Authority would address this matter. Further addressed in Prosperity Goal 3 'Strengthen partnerships with key stakeholders to benefit the whole community.
<b><u>Submitter 37</u></b>	Kennett River lacks basic infrastructure to deal with the volume of tourists that visit on a daily basis. Neither the 2017/21 Strategic Resource Plan nor the draft Budget for 2017/18 reference Kennett River.	'Addressed under Prosperity Goal 1 Action 4 'Identify and improve tourism assets across the Shire' The Plan is a strategic document which outlines the goals and strategies for the whole of the Shire. Many locations are not specifically referenced

## THEME 3 – COLAC TO COROROOKE SHARED PATH

Submitter #	Submission Details	Officer Comments
<b><u>Submitter 5, 32, 43</u></b>	With the linking of Melbourne and Geelong to the city of Colac via the dual highway the city of Colac is going to see opportunity and investment in a scale it has never seen before. Investment and opportunity in retail, industry and tourism is set to boom. It is up to the leaders in our community to identify the possibilities and put in place the planning both short and long term that fosters and grows the visions the community has for its great city and region. Request inclusion of the Colac to Cororooke Shared Path which gained	Consider inclusion of additional words to Theme 2, 'Our Places', Goal 3, 'Towns and places are welcoming and attractive', Action 11, 'Support enjoyment of outdoor experiences through the provision of a network of quality open spaces," <i>including paths and trails.</i> "

	large community support by way of letters, submissions and petitions to council during April 2017. The Colac to Cororooke Shared Path concept is a key to the Colac Otway health and wellbeing strategy.	
<b>THEME 4 – EXCESS OF STRATEGIES AND PLANS</b>		
<b>Submitter #</b>	<b>Submission Details</b>	<b>Officer Comments</b>
<b><u>Submitter 1</u></b>	Asserts Council is preoccupied with research rather than action.	Noted
<b>THEME 5 – HEAVY VEHICLES/COLAC BYPASS</b>		
<b>Submitter #</b>	<b>Submission Details</b>	<b>Officer Comments</b>
<b><u>Submitter 3</u></b>	Plan for the future impact on Colac of the Princes Highway duplication and identify better routes for the large transports that currently use our main thoroughfare, Murray Street precinct.	<p>Planning and delivery of a bypass is the responsibility of the State Government. VicRoads has consistently advised that they are responsible for determining whether a future bypass of Colac is required — and for any planning or investigation into any likely route, should one be required. VicRoads has formally advised it does not have any current intentions or funds to undertake planning for consideration of a bypass.</p> <p>Council’s position is that it would welcome the opportunity to participate in these discussions as a stakeholder.</p> <p>Council resolved in July 2015 that it does not accept any alternative routes to Murray Street where those routes would be in residential areas and/or close to any school. Council has also resolved in 2012 that it does not believe the rail corridor would be suitable for a Heavy Vehicle Route.</p>

THEME 6 – PROPOSED WORDING		
Submitter #	Submission Details	Officer Comments
<b><u>Submitter 6</u></b>	<p>Proposed additions to the Plan to enhance the already-existing directions of sustainable development:</p> <p><b>Theme 1 : Our Prosperity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add the words “or visit” to the initial statement of the theme. After all, tourism is a major economic driver, particularly along the coast, but increasingly around Colac.</li> <li>• In the ‘Community Feedback’ section, add the words “and environs” after the words ‘Lake Colac’. There is growing support in the community for greater access to the shore of the lake, particularly to its west and north-west for walking, cycling and possibly horse-riding. This could extend some distance from the lake’s edge – even as far as Red Rock.</li> <li>• In the section ‘Prosperity – What we want to see by 2021, Section 1’ under point 3, at the end, add the words “including low-income workers or retired, unemployed or disadvantaged people”.</li> <li>• In addition to the issue addressed in Section 1, point 6, I would like a separate point added which could read “Allow demonstrably effective new technologies to be implemented in housing or other developments and not disallowing them on presumed equivalence or inferiority with older technologies e.g. worm farm sewerage treatment systems rather than traditional septic tank systems.”</li> <li>• In Section 4, I would like to see the Goal wording changed to “Improve strategic planning and coordination of the roads in the Shire”.</li> </ul>	<p>Supported</p> <p>Supported</p> <p>Disagree need to be that specific in a high level Plan. Further the action is targeted to higher end accommodation, based on feedback.</p> <p>Require further consideration.</p> <p>Require further consideration</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Then add Point 21 as: “Advocate the urgent commencement of a bypass road around Colac for through traffic as an adjunct to the current highway duplication project.”</li> </ul> <p><b>Theme 2 : Our Places</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under Section 3, this could be another area where advocacy for a bypass road would much improve the attractiveness and safety of Colac.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under Section 4, possibly as part of point 18, I believe the Shire should be an important driver in the cessation of use of plastic bags in the retail sector.</li> </ul>	<p>Planning and delivery of a bypass is the responsibility of the State Government. VicRoads has consistently advised that they are responsible for determining whether a future bypass of Colac is required — and for any planning or investigation into any likely route, should one be required. VicRoads has formally advised it does not have any current intentions or funds to undertake planning for consideration of a bypass.</p> <p>Council’s position is that it would welcome the opportunity to participate in these discussions as a stakeholder.</p> <p>Council resolved in July 2015 that it does not accept any alternative routes to Murray Street where those routes would be in residential areas and/or close to any school. Council has also resolved in 2012 that it does not believe the rail corridor would be suitable for a Heavy Vehicle Route.</p> <p>This action could be addressed under the existing action without change.</p>
<p><b><u>Submitter 8</u></b></p>	<p>Proposed changes to the plan to address the dramatic increase in visitor growth to coastal townships:</p> <p><b>Theme 1: Our Prosperity</b></p> <p><i>Amend action:</i></p> <p><i>5. Attract investment to implement key master plans that will drive economic growth.(Deleted: such as the Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan)</i></p> <p><i>Measures to Include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u><i>Integrated township and foreshore masterplans for all coastal townships.</i></u></li> <li><u><i>An integrated Transport and Movement Plan be produced and implemented for the business area</i></u></li> </ul>	<p>Disagree. Appropriate to have an example. Could include another non-Colac example as response likely due being Colac example.</p> <p>Disagree all townships require this within the life of the Plan. Would require Otway Coast Committee (OCC) funding commitment which is extremely unlikely.</p> <p>A like measure could be included noting Council does have funds to conduct a traffic strategy for Apollo Bay.</p>

	<p><u>of Apollo Bay in the first year of the plan.</u></p> <p><b>Theme 2: Our Places</b></p> <p>8. Review <u>and update</u> the master plans and community infrastructure plans for each small town in the Shire over the next four years.</p> <p>And include:</p> <p><u>13. Due to the risks associated with climate change review the future provision recreational facilities currently located on the recreational reserve at Apollo Bay.</u></p> <p>Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Council collaborate with community groups and implement master plans and small town improvement plans. (Deleted: endorsement of)</u></li> </ul>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>Disagree. This is an OCC asset and should have their commitment to undertake prior to Council confirming support.</p> <p>Implementation of plans within the four years is subject to future budget consideration.</p>
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**THEME 7 – CLIMATE CHANGE**

Submitter #	Submission Details	Officer Comments
<b><u>Submitter 7</u></b>	<p>Climate change remains a challenge and the current plan is almost silent on the matter. Both private and public assets are predicted to, and in fact are being threatened by extreme weather events now. That a section similar to the previous plan be expanded and included in the 2017 plan e.g. (Council Plan 2013-2017):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Climate change. The effects of climate change will have social and environmental impacts, effect current infrastructure and has implications for future planning and development. (page 3)</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Climate Change implications for future planning and development (page 13):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Minimise the impact of human settlement on the environment and protect significant landscapes and natural assets, including the natural functions of the region’s waterways, wetlands, riparian areas (on or relating to the banks of a natural watercourse) and floodplains.</i></li> <li>• <i>Continued pressure for</i></li> </ul>	<p>Consider inclusion of a new action under the theme ‘Our Places’ and Goal 4 ‘Leadership in natural environment through good management practices.’</p> <p>The Action would be <i>Implement Council’s Climate Adaptation Strategy.</i></p> <p>Further, climate change could be referred to under the ‘Strategic Context for Colac Otway Shire’ section (page 3).</p> <p>Propose Council resolution to include a notation for the Council Plan to be read in conjunction with the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021, which includes greater reference to Climate Change.</p>

	<p><i>development along the coast for lifestyle choice and holiday destinations creates environmental and service delivery challenges.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Development of the area immediately surrounding coastal settlements and further development of existing, old subdivisions will continue to generate policy challenges and can create long-term transport, health service and employment issues.</i></li> <li>• <i>Potential need to relocate or reinforce infrastructure and assets.</i></li> <li>• <i>Increase community resilience to extreme climate events such as heatwaves, floods and drought.</i></li> </ul>	
<p><b><u>Submitter 58</u></b></p>	<p>There is no statement in the current Draft Plan as direct and encompassing as that from the 2013-2017 Council Plan: “The effects of climate change will have social and environmental impacts, effect (sic) current infrastructure and have implications for future planning and development.” And there seems no acknowledgement that ‘a prosperous future’, which is what we all desire – indeed, thinking long term, any future for our species at all – wholly depends on climate action now. We don’t think of climate change as creating</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increased <i>uncertainty</i> about long term land use planning and infrastructure design – to permit or prohibit development in high risk areas?</li> <li>• increased insurance costs and public liability claims.</li> <li>• impact on the viability of industries e.g. dairy and beef cattle reliant on huge amounts of potable water, and the resultant loss of farming properties.</li> <li>• impact on tourism – who would want to travel anywhere if extreme climatic conditions are unforeseeable?</li> <li>• threat to the maintenance of public recreational facilities –</li> </ul>	<p>As noted above.</p>

	<p>sports grounds, swimming pools, golf courses, parks and gardens</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>health issues such as heat stroke in the very young and elderly, and increased likelihood of food and water-borne diseases.</li> </ul> <p>There is also the risk of future litigation if councils 'have unreasonably failed to take into account the likely effects of climate change in exercising a wide range of their services, planning and development activities' (Pillora, S(2010) <i>Australian local government and Climate Change</i> Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government NSW p 9.)</p> <p>Very importantly, Council needs to <b>publicise</b> everything it does towards climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p>	
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#### THEME 8 – AGEING POPULATION

Submitter #	Submission Details	Officer Comments
<u>Submitter 21</u>	Plan should address issues raised by communities regarding single households with ageing persons.	Opportunities around addressing issues of an ageing population are included in the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021 under the section ' <i>Plan together for an ageing population</i> '.

#### THEME 9 – FOOTPATHS

Submitter #	Submission Details	Officer Comments
<u>Submitter 26</u>	Request a footpath in Murray St Apollo Bay, for safety reasons.	Not appropriate for the Council Plan to make reference to specific paths.



THEME 10 – PURPOSE BUILT BIKE TRACKS		
Submitter #	Submission Details	Officer Comments
<b><u>Submitter 44</u></b>	The Colac Cycling Club would love to see a purpose built track/criterium course along with BMX track somewhere in the shire.	Requires further consideration
THEME 11 – BUSHFIRE RECOVERY		
Submitter #	Submission Details	Officer Comments
<b><u>Submitter 46</u></b>	<p>The Wye River and Separation Creek community is very appreciative of the support and assistance the Council has provided to it to assist its recovery and renewal following the Christmas Day Fire that devastated it in 2015. As a community we have learnt much about actions that assist a community to lead the development of its community fire plan and actions that don't. We look forward to working with Council on the development of our community led fire plan.</p> <p>We absolutely agree that tourism assets need to be improved along the GOR, especially basic infrastructure such as toilets, appropriate signage and parking.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We seek education of tourism operators to ensure responsible practice in our fragile environment. The situation at Kennett River is currently unmanaged.</li> <li>• We agree with actions to increase visitation, and bednights per visit in smaller towns and request the Council to strongly advocate for extension of the Great Ocean Walk from Apollo Bay to Torquay to assist this.</li> <li>• We also support rationalization of the number of authorities dealing with the road in order to decrease planning confusion and increase efficiency.</li> </ul>	The submission recognises existing Goal and Actions support the needs of the Wye River and Separation Creek community renewal priorities.

<b>THEME 12 – DISCOVERY TRAIL BETWEEN APOLLO BAY AND SKENES CREEK.</b>		
<b>Submitter #</b>	<b>Submission Details</b>	<b>Officer Comments</b>
<b><u>Submitter 51</u></b>	Support for the proposed discovery trail between Apollo Bay and Skenes Creek. I would welcome the potential to increase tourism. Walking along the beach is often difficult in winter months due to safety concerns. Having an elevated and paved or planked path would be wonderful!	Existing Goals and Actions support progressing investigations to develop a trail connection between Apollo Bay and Skenes Creek. Officers are supporting OCC and the community to undertake a feasibility study on this concept.
<b>THEME 13 – SMALL TOWN IMPROVEMENT</b>		
<b>Submitter #</b>	<b>Submission Details</b>	<b>Officer Comments</b>
<b><u>Submitter 52</u></b>	Gellibrand Community House interested in the 'Our Prosperity', particularly the Small Improvement Program and Structure/township plans for small towns. We would like to participate in your small town improvement plan and we were interested in knowing more about it. We also wanted to contribute to the township and structure plan for Gellibrand.	The Gellibrand community have been actively involved in the Small Town Improvement Program including receiving funding. The small town improvement planning and structure plan processes will include significant community engagement.
<b>THEME 14 – YOUTH</b>		
<b>Submitter #</b>	<b>Submission Details</b>	<b>Officer Comments</b>
<b><u>Submitter 52</u></b>	Gellibrand Community House is interested in developing a Youth Policy and would like to work with Council to explore where our younger people live in our district and better understand their needs and interests.	Following the review of the 2016 Youth Survey commissioned by Council (conducted by Colac Area Health), we are currently identifying issues and will discuss results with Gellibrand Community House.

**THEME 15 – SENIOR CITIZENS/COMMUNITY CENTRE, APOLLO BAY**

Submitter #	Submission Details	Officer Comments
<p><b><u>Submitter 62</u></b></p>	<p>Urge support for the modernisation and upgrade of the Community Centre in Whelan Street as a priority for Apollo Bay, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The need for partitions in the larger space so that workshops can be screened off and held in this area.</li> <li>• The need for new chairs and trestles that are light and easy for senior residents to move. The current ones are very heavy and an OHS risk to elderly people to stack and move around.</li> <li>• Increased storage areas including a lockable area where items such as portable art exhibition partitions can be housed (for the annual Apollo Bay Art Show that is held over the xmas period and other exhibitions).</li> <li>• The modernisation of the kitchen including a dishwasher so that it can be used as an operational kitchen for catering for events and cooking.</li> <li>• Use and updating of the office so it is a functioning office, which would require the phone line to be shifted to a new location (as it must be always accessible and the office would be lockable).</li> <li>• Creation of a social outdoor area off the back verandah including a bbq area.</li> <li>• Noticeboards.</li> <li>• Modernisation of the bathroom/toilet area.</li> <li>• General modernisation of the building.</li> <li>• New signage to indicate it is a community centre to replace the existing senior citizens signage.</li> </ul> <p>Apollo Bay is a remote locality within the Shire with a high number of retired people and does not have access to many of the facilities and</p>	<p>Any possible improvements to the Apollo Bay Community Centre will be considered after community consultation to help Council understand the short, medium and long term needs for the facility and the service that the asset is required to and able to provide.</p>

	<p>activities that Colac can offer. A community centre that is upgraded and vibrant with community based activities will provide a hub for older residents and a central networking point for community groups to engage and collaborate. A range of upgrade items is included.</p> <p>In addition, Apollo Bay includes many artists and creative art makers who work in isolation and who are often unemployed or poorly resourced. There is the potential for these artists to enhance the economic base of the town by collaborating to support community groups, tourism and festivals with their art and exhibitions. A barrier to this occurring is lack of a central venue or hub for their activities. Sharing the space in the community centre would foster this collaboration and activity.</p>	
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THEME 16 – COUNCIL PLAN DESIGN/CONTENT		
Submitter #	Submission Details	Officer Comments
<b><u>Submitter 64</u></b>	<p>Recommends that the Council Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be presented in a more user friendly way i.e. with the use of more diagrams in layman’s language.</li> <li>• Connect directly to actual programs.</li> <li>• Should have used a process of five key stages 1. Consultation, 2. Strategic perspective analysis, 3. Draft Plan, 4. Consult and 5. Finalise Plan.</li> </ul> <p>Provided a list of strategies and plans recommended for inclusion and/or updating in the Council Plan. These included:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted. The final editing process will review the language used and where possible insert diagrams or images.</li> <li>• Each theme is concluded with reference to Council’s existing programs relevant to that theme. Recommend improve the introductory text to these to make clearer this intent.</li> <li>• This was the actual process used. Consider including in final Plan a diagram depicting the process undertaken.</li> </ul> <p>1. Not relevant in the Council Plan. 2. Forrest Structure Plan is referenced</p>

	<p>1- IT Strategic Plan for the Council.</p> <p>2- “Forrest Structure Plan” needs to be updated. The current plan is five years old (2011). It needs to include the demands of the community as outlined in their September 4<sup>th</sup> public meeting; i.e. wastewater treatment (management), Neighbourhood Safer Place, playground and skate park.</p> <p>3- “Birregurra and Forrest Township Community Infrastructure Plans” needs to be updated with two separate infrastructure plans for each town.</p> <p>4- “Forrest MTB Strategic Plan”, 2014, needs to be included.</p> <p>5- There has been a study commissioned by Forrest &amp; District Community Group entitled. “Preliminary Feasibility Study on the Establishment of a Community Bushfire Shelter in Forrest”. The Council can include in its STRATEGIC PLAN, bushfire safe houses for communities under threat, like Forrest.</p> <p>6- “Colac Otway Rural Living Strategy” need to be updated (2011) and included.</p> <p>7- Have the “Victoria’s 2020 Tourism Strategy” (2013) been included in the Council Plan? Of particular interest is to align with the state government priorities “Investment Attraction and Infrastructure Support” and “Domestic</p>	<p>under Prosperity.</p> <p>Goal 3 Action 8. Recommended to amend to <i>‘Develop and implement a prioritised program to review and implement master plans, community infrastructure plans and structure plans for small towns across the Shire.’</i> The Forrest Structure Plan needs to be considered in context of all towns.</p> <p>As per above response and agree should be separate plans.</p> <p>Is referenced under Prosperity programs.</p> <p>Such studies need to be endorsed by the CFA to be considered by Council. Council has also undertaken a Shire wide assessment. The Places theme Goal 6 addresses this point Shire wide.</p> <p>Recommend include as a measure in the Prosperity theme Goal 1 – <i>‘Review completed and implementation commenced for the Colac Otway Rural Living Strategy.’</i></p> <p>Many state and national strategies are considered in developing Council strategies and the draft Council Plan. It is not proposed to reference external strategies and plans in the Council Plan.</p> <p>Various strategies have been considered along with local Council and community trail strategies.</p> <p>Noted spatial presentation can be helpful for the community but not possible at this stage of this process.</p> <p>Time allowing, a diagram could be included to the Plan introduction showing the linkage in theory.</p> <p>Measures are included in the draft Council Plan. Refer the fourth column for each theme.</p>
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	<p>Marketing”.</p> <p>8- As part of the Otway, many communities will benefit from “Victoria’s Trails Strategy 2014–24” (2014), if it would have been considered constructing the Council Plan.</p> <p>Use of GIS to present the Council Plan recommended</p> <p>The presentation of the draft Council Plan is difficult to comprehend the links between Themes – Goals – Actions – Strategies- Programs.</p> <p>Measures are not included in the Council Plan.</p>	
<b><u>Submitter 66</u></b>	The Plan is too Colac centric. Most of the big projects in the past have happened in Colac. Will this continue?	Council Plan Goals and actions take into consideration the whole of the shire equally, with many of the actions applicable to both the coast and other townships across the shire.
<b><u>Submitter 67</u></b>	Recommends that Council work formally with the Otway Coast Committee and the Apollo Bay Chamber of Commerce to strategically plan and lobby for improvements to Apollo Bay and District.	Include action under Theme 2 ‘Our Places’, Goal 3, ‘Towns and places are welcoming and attractive.’ <i>‘Council to work with key stakeholders such as the Otway Coast Committee, the Apollo Bay Chamber of Commerce and Council with the aim of aligning strategic planning and advocacy efforts for Apollo Bay and district.’</i>

## **FURTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **4. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION & ENGAGEMENT**

Pursuant to Section 125 and 127 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, Council is required as soon as practicable after the completion of a draft Council Plan to put the document out for public viewing and invite public submissions for a period of not less than 28 days. In this instance Council exhibited the draft plan for 5 weeks.

Council also conducted two highly successful pop-up information sessions during the exhibition period. These sessions were held outside Target in Colac and outside Apollo Bay bakery Apollo Bay, and were very well attended by members of the community.

### **5. ANALYSIS**

#### **ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN OR COUNCIL POLICY**

The Draft Council Plan 2017-2021 reflects Council's commitment to achieving progress against Council's Key Themes (Pillars) in the plan:

- Our Prosperity
- Our Places
- Our Community
- Our Leadership and Management

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

In order to limit the environmental impact of the Council Plan process, hard copies of the plan are kept to a minimum and to this end we make available the Draft Council Plan 2017-2021 for viewing on our website as well as limited hard copies at Council offices and libraries.

#### **SOCIAL & CULTURAL IMPLICATIONS**

Social and cultural implications have been considered carefully in the construction of the Draft Council Plan along with consideration of funding available to carry out the many projects contained in the plan.

#### **ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS**

Construction of the Draft Council Plan has taken into consideration the ongoing operational and financial viability of Council, reflected in the Council's Strategic Resource Plan.

#### **LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS**

Aside from meeting the various relevant sections of the *Local Government Act 1989* there are no further legal implications.

## **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL ETC)**

The Draft Council Plan 2017-2021 has been compiled under the relevant financial and human resource limitations Council operates under. The consideration of all submissions takes these finite resources into account and in particular Council's limited financial and resource capability to undertake all desired projects.

## **6. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

### **DETAILS**

A Special Committee of Council to receive submissions and hear members of the public who have requested to speak to their submission.

### **COMMUNICATION**

Council's decision as to public submissions will be communicated via mail/email responses to each submitter per the address details we have been provided after the Council Plan has been formally adopted.

### **TIMELINE**

14 June 2017: Special Committee of Council meeting held to receive and hear submissions

28 June 2017: Adoption of the Council Plan 2017-2021

## **7. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST**

No officer declared an interest under the *Local Government Act 1989* in the preparation of this report.