



Colac Otway
SHIRE

SUBMISSIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

AGENDA

Wednesday 9 June 2021

at 4:00 PM

COPACC

95 - 97 Gellibrand Street, Colac



COLAC OTWAY SHIRE SUBMISSIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 9 June 2021

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COLAC OTWAY SHIRE SUBMISSIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

NOTICE is hereby given that the next **SUBMISSIONS COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE COLAC OTWAY SHIRE COUNCIL** will be held at COPACC on Wednesday 9 June 2021 at 4:00 PM.

AGENDA

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING

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 AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

4 WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY AND REASON FOR MEETING

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

Please note: All Council and Committee meetings will be live streamed, with the exception of matters identified as confidential items in the Agenda. This includes the public participation sections of the meetings.

By participating in open Committee meetings, individuals consent to the use and disclosure of the information they share at the meeting (including any personal and/or sensitive information).

Recordings of the live stream of meetings will be available to the public on Council's website as soon as practicable following the meeting. Audio recordings are also taken to facilitate the preparation of the minutes of open Council and Committee meetings and to ensure their accuracy. Original recordings will be retained by Council for a period of four years.

Other than an official Council recording, no video or audio recording of proceedings of Council and Committee meetings will be permitted without specific approval by resolution of the relevant meeting.

The sole purpose of the Submissions Committee is to consider submissions on the:

- 2021 – 2025 Draft Revenue and Rating Plan; and
- 2021 – 2022 Draft Budget.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A Councillor who has declared a conflict of interest, must leave the meeting and remain outside the room while the matter is being considered, or any vote is taken.

Councillors are also encouraged to declare circumstances where there may be a perceived conflict of interest.

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- **Special Committee meeting held on 8 July 2020.**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Submissions Committee confirm the minutes of the Special Committee meeting held on 8 July 2020.

7 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 limit of 5 minutes will apply.

Item: 8.1

2021-2025 Draft Revenue & Rating Plan - Public Submissions

OFFICER	Paul Carmichael
GENERAL MANAGER	Errol Lawrence
DIVISION	Corporate Services
ATTACHMENTS	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Draft Revenue & Rating Plan - Redacted Public Submission - Judd J R [8.1.1 - 1 page]2. Draft Revenue & Rating Plan - Redacted Public Submission - Cobb T [8.1.2 - 1 page]3. Draft Revenue & Rating Plan - Redacted Public Submission - Arundell S [8.1.3 - 1 page]
PURPOSE	To consider submissions to the draft Revenue & Rating Plan

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council adopted a draft Revenue & Rating Plan 2021-2025 at its meeting on 28 April 2021. The draft plan was subsequently put on exhibition for public comment.

Submissions closed on 31 May 2021.

Three written submissions were received.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Submissions Committee:

1. *Acknowledges the written submissions received.*
2. *Thanks the submitters for their submissions.*
3. *Recommends that Council consider the submissions at the Council meeting to be held on Thursday 24 June 2021, and adopts the Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-2025 with no amendments.*

3. KEY INFORMATION

As part of considering its draft 2021-22 budget, Council on 28 April 2021 adopted a draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2021 – 2025. The draft Plan was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

The Revenue & Rating Plan forms part of the overall draft Council budget.

Included in the resolution was an undertaking to review the Rating Strategy part of the plan for 2022-23 to 2024-25. A detailed review of Council's rating Strategy was not able to be done as Council was waiting for the outcomes of the State Government's review of the rating system to become known.

As such the rating strategy part of the Revenue & Rating Plan recommends that the current rating structure, being the rating categories and differentials, remain unchanged for 2021-22.

4. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION & ENGAGEMENT

The draft Revenue & Rating Plan was advertised and placed on Council's website on 30 April 2021. People wishing to make submissions were able to lodge submissions up to 31 May 2021.

The following written submissions were received. Officers' responses to a summary of the three written submissions are provided below for consideration.

#	Submitter	Issues raised by submitter	Officer comment
1	J Judd, Colac	Council should adopt a uniform rating structure rather than differential rating (<i>"so no ratepayers in an area pay rates on separate base rates"</i>)	<p>Whether Council adopts a uniform or differential rating structure is fundamental to its rating plan.</p> <p><i>A uniform structure would have the same rate in the dollar apply to all properties in the shire. As such the difference in the amount paid by a property in comparison to another property would be the result of the difference in valuation.</i></p> <p>Based on the 2021-22 budget, a uniform rate in the dollar would be 0.003288 cents. Properties in the "Farm" and "Residential – Balance of Shire" rating categories would therefore pay more under a uniform rating structure, with properties in the other rating categories (Commercial, Holiday Rental and Residential-Colac/Elliminyt) paying less.</p>
2	T Cobb, Apollo Bay	The 2021-22 budget shows a reduced number of properties in the Holiday	The 2021 –22 budget provides for 618 properties being included in the Holiday Rental rating category. This is

#	Submitter	Issues raised by submitter	Officer comment
		<p>Rental rating category. Given the post COVID increase in domestic tourism, this represents a missed opportunity.</p>	<p>a reduction of 50 properties from 2020-21. The reduction is due to property owners advising us they removed their property from the holiday rental market during COVID. Council officers will continue to identify properties that are listed for holiday rental. These properties would then be recategorized and have rates recalculated.</p>
3	S Arundell, Bungador	<p>Objects to 1.5% increase in rates.</p> <p>Submitter pays rates equivalent of multiple average houses in Colac but:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - does not get multiple times the value, and - his income is not multiple times the average income of a Colac residential ratepayer. <p>Rating system is unfair on rural ratepayers – this is recognised by State government yet Council’s do nothing to fix the situation.</p>	<p>The 1.5% increase is the increase allowable under the State government’s 2021-22 rate cap. This follows four years of increases less than the rate cap.</p> <p>Rates are a tax based on land value. They are not levied on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a user pays basis, or • level of benefit received, or • personal income levels, or • comparative income of ratepayers. <p>It’s clear from the legislation that the intention was/is properties with different valuations pay different total amounts of rates. The total amount levied was therefore not intended to be an indicator of “fairness”.</p> <p>What is considered “fair” is subjective. That said, farm properties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have rates calculated at a rate that is 75% of the rate used for Colac residential properties & 54.5% of the rate used for Colac commercial properties. - are the only category that can receive a Municipal Charge exemption - Comprise of 28.2% of the total value of properties in the shire, yet pay 23% of the total rates - Comprise 18.1% of the total number of rates assessments.

#	Submitter	Issues raised by submitter	Officer comment
			<p>The rationale for farms being rated at a lower rate in the dollar is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recognition they must have more land resulting in higher valuations • They are generally further removed from the services provided by Council. <p>Whether this amounts to Council doing nothing to fix the situation is a matter of opinion.</p> <p>The State Government completed a review of the Victorian rating system in late 2020 and declared the system was not “broken”. It did agree to look at measures to assist farmers such as averaging valuations. Councils are therefore awaiting guidance from the State Government on this matter.</p>

5. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLANS, POLICIES OR STRATEGIES

Alignment to Council Plan 2017-2021:

Theme 4 - Our Leadership & Management

1. Effectively manage financial resources.
2. Openness and accountability in decision making.
4. Provide value for money services for our community.
5. Communicate regularly with our community and involve them in decision-making.

6. CONSIDERATIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL & CULTURAL, & ECONOMIC

The Revenue & Rating Plan seeks to raise sufficient revenue to meet the objectives of the Council Plan. As rates and charges levied by Council have a direct impact on the members of the community, there can be a direct economic impact.

Programs and services funded by revenue raised under the Revenue and Rating Plan can have a direct social and cultural impact on the community.

LEGAL & RISK

In relation to the Revenue & Rating Plan, Council has specific obligations under the following legislative provisions:

- Section 93 of the *Local Government Act 2020*
- Sections 154 -181 of the *Local Government Act 1989*
- Ministerial Guidelines for *Differential Rating 2013*

Overall, Council is required to fairly and equitably apportion the rates burden across the community. There is no definition of “fair and equitable” in the relevant legislation. Council therefore has some discretion in determining this, but must be transparent in its decisions.

FINANCIAL & BUDGETARY

Revenue intended to be raised under the draft Revenue & Rating Plan is referred to in the 2021-22 budget document.

7. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Once adopted the Revenue & Rating Plan forms part of the overall 2021-22 budget.

Work will then commence on reviewing the Rating Strategy part of the plan in time for 2022-23.

COMMUNICATION

The release of the draft Revenue & Rating Plan and process for providing feedback was publicised in the local media and on Council’s website.

TIMELINE

The submission period was advertised and displayed on the website from 30 April and ran from 3 May 2021 to 31 May 2021.

31 May 2021 – Exhibition ended.

9 June 2021 – Submissions Committee to consider submissions.

23 June 2021 – Council considers endorsement of the Revenue & Rating Plan at its Ordinary meeting.

8. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST

No officer declared an interest under the *Local Government Act 2020* in the preparation of this report.

MR J. R. JUDD

COLAC VIC 3250
6-5-2021

SUBMISSION ON REVENUE AND RATING PLAN 2021-2025.
 MR PETER BROWN CEO
 COLAC OTWAY SHIRE COUNCIL
 RAE STREET
 COLAC VIC. 3250

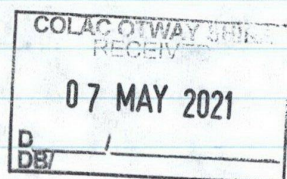
DEAR SIR

WHEN WILL THE COLAC OTWAY SHIRE COUNCIL REVIEW ALL ITS RATING CLASSIFICATIONS. SO NO RATEPAYERS IN AN AREA PAY RATES ON SEPERATE BASE RATES.

NO LONGER IN THE BALANCE OF SHIRE REGION. SETTING A NUMBER OF RATES ON 100% OF THE COUNCIL ELLIMINT RESIDENTIAL RATE.

WHILE MULTIPLE OTHERS ARE SET BASED ON THE BALANCE OF SHIRE DISCOUNT DEDUCTED BEFORE ANY SURCHARGE PERCENTAGE IS ADDED TO A DISCOUNTED BASE IF APPLICABLE. WHEN THE FARM RATE IN BALANCE OF SHIRE IS IN EXCESS OF 88% OF THE ZONE RESIDENTIAL RATE, SO THEY DO NOT GET A 25% DISCOUNT IN RELATION TO THE ZONE RESIDENTIAL RATE BUT UNDER 12%.

IF 75% OF ZONE RESIDENTIAL RATE OF 85% THAT WOULD ONLY BE 63 $\frac{3}{4}$ % OF THE FULL RATE.



YOURS FAITHFULLY

Maree Powell

From: Tim Cobb [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 23 May 2021 2:54 PM
To: inq@colacotway.vic.gov.au
Subject: revenue rating plan and budget

CAUTION: Email originating outside of COS - only open links and attachments you're expecting.

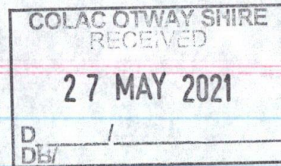
1. The number of Airbnb and other holiday rental properties continues to boom and will further increase in 2021 as domestic tourism thrives while overseas travel is impossible. It is concerning that council assumes the number of holiday rentals will fall in the budget predictions. It is true that there may be a small number of rentals that are (post covid) occupied by their owners. However the holiday rental sector continues to boom and any budget that does not reflect this is missing an opportunity. This looks like padding.

2. It is a pity that the parking and traffic strategy and community infrastructure plans seem to have been left unimplemented and abandoned with no commitments to deliver anything from them in the budget.

Since the traffic and tourist parking strategy was at least completed a couple of years ago would it be possible to commit to deliver one of its recommendations - safe pedestrian crossings on Pascoe st.

Seniors, families and the disabled have great difficulty crossing Pascoe st safely. There is no safe link between the shops on Collingwood street and the hospital, school, senior citizens centre. Provision of pedestrian crossings was a clear recommendation of the traffic and parking strategy, is not dependent on the GORA and is needed regardless of covid. Can the Council commit to deliver them in 2021/2?

S. ARUNDELL



BUNGADON
3260

To Whom it may concern.

I am totally against the rate increase of 1.5% and especially the way Agriculture is rated.

My rates were approximately [REDACTED] with the increase of 1.5% they will rise to [REDACTED] an increase of [REDACTED]

The average rate in Colac per household is approximately \$2000 with the 1.5% rate increase they will rise to \$2030 a rise of \$30 only.

My rural rates equate to the equivalent of [REDACTED] households in Colac but it should be remembered that [REDACTED] of my households receive nothing that the Shire provides eg they cannot go to the park, shopping, library, Co Pac etc because they are cows + sheep - they are not allowed to enjoy any thing the shire provides

This means that the rates I am charged are even worse than paying for [REDACTED] households, perhaps this really equates to twenty or thirty households

I am told that the average ^{PRE TAX} income per household in Colac is approximately \$55,000 dollars to pay \$2000 in rates. With [REDACTED] equivalent properties I would have to have a pre tax income of [REDACTED]

My pre tax income is nowhere near this amount.

State governments have pointed out that rural rate payers are paying more than their fair share of local rates. Local shires also know this but do nothing, easier to over tax the few than to put up rates on the masses.

It is about time the Shire Colac Otway looked at this rural rating problem.

Yours [REDACTED]

Item: 8.2

2021/22 Draft Budget - Public Submissions

OFFICER	Peter Smith
GENERAL MANAGER	Errol Lawrence
DIVISION	Corporate Services
ATTACHMENTS	1. 2021-22 Reacted Budget Submissions Collated [8.2.1 - 18 pages]
PURPOSE	To hear from submitters who have requested to speak in support of their submissions and to receive written submissions to the 2021/22 Draft Budget.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A total of 20 written submissions were received in response to the exhibition of the Draft 2021/22 Council Budget.

In addition to lodging a written submission, submitters may request to speak to their submission prior to Council considering the Annual Budget. The following 2 submitters have requested to speak:

1. James Judd
2. Jason Schram.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Submission Committee:

1. *Acknowledges the written submissions received.*
2. *Acknowledges and notes the verbal comments made in support of written submissions.*
3. *Thanks the submitters for their submissions.*
4. *Having heard all the submissions, recommends that Council consider the submissions at the Council meeting to be held on Thursday 24 June 2021, and adopt the 2021/22 Budget with no amendments.*

3. KEY INFORMATION

At the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 28 April Council resolved:

That Council:

1. *Endorses the Draft Budget 2021/22 for the financial year, and subsequent 3 financial years (subject to adopting Council's 10-year Financial Plan in 2021/22), for the purposes of Section 94 of the Local Government Act 2020;*
2. *Authorises the Chief Executive to give public notice, in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy, that Council has prepared a Draft Budget for the 2021/22 year and subsequent 3 financial years (subject to adopting Council's 10-year Financial Plan in 2021/22);*
3. *Determines that the standard public exhibition period of six weeks be reduced to a period of 28 days (as provided for in Council policy), to ensure sufficient time to adopt a budget by 30 June 2021;*
4. *Schedules a meeting of the Submissions Committee to:*
 - 4.1. *Consider any written submission which is received by the Council within 28 days after the publication of the public notice.*
 - 4.2. *Hear any person wishing to be heard in support of their submission (or a person acting on their behalf) at a meeting of the Submissions Committee to be held on Wednesday 9 June 2021, commencing at 4pm.*
5. *Authorises the Chief Executive to undertake any and all administrative procedures necessary to enable Council to carry out its functions under the Local Government Act 2020;*
6. *Considers for adoption the Draft Budget 2021/22, and subsequent 3 financial years (subject to adopting Council's 10-year Financial Plan in 2021/22), at the Council meeting scheduled to be held on Wednesday 23 June 2021 at 4pm at Colac Otway Performing Arts and Cultural Centre after consideration of any written and verbal submissions received by Council at its Submissions Committee meeting on Wednesday 9 June 2021.*

As part of the statutory process to adopt the 2021/22 Budget, Council is required to consider all submissions received in relation to the Budget. The closing date for submissions was Monday 31 May 2021.

During this process 20 submissions were received, covering 11 issues. These issues and officer responses are summarised below.

Submission 1 - James Judd (attached)

Issue: Advocating the removal of differential rating (i.e., having different rates in the dollar for different categories of properties) in favour of a uniform rating structure (where all properties pay the rates at the same rate in the dollar).

Response: Application of a Uniform rate would result in properties in the "Commercial", "Residential – Colac/Elliminyt" and "Holiday Rental" rating categories having rates calculated at a lower rate in the dollar.

Properties in the "Residential- Balance of Shire" and "Farm" rating categories would however have their rates calculated at a higher rate in the dollar.

Submission 2 - James Judd (attached)

Issue: Since the garbage bin collection fee has been increased with the claim it includes the cost of collecting the glass only bin. Since this introduction has been delayed at least 3 months from when it was proposed to be introduced, will this extra charge be rebated from the increase change for the period not available?

Response: The weekly waste charge calculation in the Colac Otway Shire 2021-22 draft budget is correct, at \$308.00 per household. This calculation includes the costs associated with the introduction of the new glass bin service from October 2021.

Given the size of the project and this being shire wide it was never anticipated that this service would be introduced in July and October is the planned commencement date of this service.

Council in its May meeting endorsed the Colac Otway Shire Resource Recovery and Waste Management Strategy for public comment which provides the settings for waste management for the shire for the next 10 years.

Submission 3 - James Judd (attached)

Issue: In view of the proposed hike in the fortnightly garbage collection fee in the budget from 2021-2022. Is the claimed \$8 rise for weekly collections valid. OR. Is this supposed to be \$80 of the rise would be almost equal for services provided when this would equal to over 26% increase.

Response: The weekly waste charge fee and calculation in the Colac Otway Shire 2021-22 draft budget is correct, at \$308.00 per household. This calculation includes the costs associated with the introduction of the new glass bin service from October 2021.

The large increase noted is in the fortnightly service and this seen an increase based on the principle of cost recovery and also to truly reflect increases in charges seen in the disposal of waste and also with the increases in costs of processing comingled recycling.

Council in its May meeting endorsed the Colac Otway Shire Resource Recovery and Waste Management Strategy for public comment which provides the settings for waste management for the shire for the next 10 years.

Submission 4 - Andrew Walters (attached)

Issue: I would like to take the opportunity to query the reduction in operating hours at the aquatic centre since Covid. As a regular swimmer after 7.30 pm on weeknights I was disappointed the centre did not return to its original operating hours when things returned to Covid normal. As a community we are trying to promote exercise, health and wellbeing to everyone. Prior to Covid the centre was attended between the hours of 7.30 till 8.30 by numerous people who worked shift work, adults teaching themselves to swim and people of various ethnic and religious backgrounds who were more comfortable using the facility in the off-peak period to familiarise themselves with water safety. In 2021 with the return of football and netball the pool is incredibly busy in peak times as athletes use the pool for rehabilitation and recovery. This coupled with learn to swim programmes is great for the facility but makes it difficult for other members to access the pool. Is the decision not to return to original operating hours based on budget constraints or are there other issues? Most facilities of a similar size to Colac operate until at least 8.30 pm on weeknights and a minimum 4.00pm on weekends. The membership rates were set for existing operational hours pre Covid yet there has been a reduction in accessibility to this facility by 7 hours weekly post Covid. I understand there would be times when it is quiet, but I am sure there would be times during the day that it would be equally quiet. The centre previously run aquatic exercise classes to promote this off-peak time between 6.30 and 8.30pm.

Response: Bluewater Leisure Centre is currently operating with reduced opening hours due to the impacts that COVID-19 has had on the operations of the centre. The Bluewater 'COVID normal' operating hours will be in place until at least the end of the current financial year, and will be reviewed when Council has a clear post-COVID position on operations of the centre. This decision has been made taking into consideration a number of factors, including budget constraints, staffing availability and reduced visitation and memberships at the centre. Centre staff are able to assist patrons to review payment options to make visits to the centre as cost effective as possible. In relation to COVID-19, Bluewater Leisure Centre continues to follow the advice of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Submission 5 - Laura Martin (attached)

Issue: Since reopening the crèche has not been opening on Fridays, when this is my only day off and I pay for a platinum family membership at Bluewater it is frustrating to not have access to this service for my youngest child. It is getting to a point where Bluewater is not affordable for families.

Response: Bluewater Leisure Centre is currently operating with reduced opening hours due to the impacts that COVID-19 has had on the operations of the centre. The Bluewater 'COVID normal' operating hours will be in place until at least the end of the current financial year, and will be reviewed when Council has a clear post-COVID position on operations of the centre. This decision has been made taking into consideration a number of factors, including budget constraints, staffing availability and reduced visitation and memberships at the centre. Centre staff are able to assist patrons to review payment options to make visits to the centre as cost effective as possible. In relation to COVID-19, Bluewater Leisure Centre continues to follow the advice of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Submission 6 - (attached)

Issue: I have a question about the % increase in Bluewater fees and how they are determined. Each line item is highly variable in the comparison to the 20/21 fees, from a decline of 1.82% for 12-month family platinum membership to an increase in 12-month off peak platinum membership of 24.77%.

Response: In response to a number of submissions, Bluewater staff are reviewing the proposed fees and charges for Childcare and undertaking additional benchmarking.

Submission 7 - Taheen Dent (attached)

Issue: I write to you regarding the 2021/22 budget. I would like to see a childcare membership included in Bluewater's childcare fees.

There needs to be a more budget friendly childcare option for families that use Bluewater. By removing the direct debit membership and multi pass options for childcare at Bluewater you are effectively tripling my childcare expenses. This makes a trip to the gym ridiculously expensive and not sustainable for the average person. This is not only VERY disappointing for me but also my children that love attending the childcare at Bluewater. While I understand the need to have price rises this one seems very high when everything else has only increased by a small percentage. I feel that you should be doing what you can to encourage and make it more affordable for people to be using the facilities. This new budget is doing the opposite of that, and I feel that you will lose members who rely on the childcare to be able to use the centre as it is now no longer affordable.

I am hopeful that you can reassess your decision to remove the childcare membership option.

Response: In response to a number of submissions, Bluewater staff are reviewing the proposed fees and charges for Childcare and undertaking additional benchmarking.

Submission 8 - Carl Angus (attached)

Issue: I have viewed the Council's 2021-22 Draft Budget.

It is not clear in the budget; however, can you please confirm whether you have budgeted a return to pre-Covid opening hours for the swimming pool, which included extended hours over summer, and a closing time later than the current 3pm on weekends (previously 4pm). The current 3pm closing time of the swimming pools is highly inconvenient for families. I would like to see the weekend closing time extended to 5pm. This would allow me to take my children for a swim in the mid-afternoon (after our lunch has settled) and leave the pool at 5pm for a shower/bath at home, where the kids can get into their pjs ready for bed.

Response: Bluewater Leisure Centre is currently operating with reduced opening hours due to the impacts that COVID-19 has had on the operations of the centre. The Bluewater 'COVID normal' operating hours will be in place until at least the end of the current financial year, and will be reviewed when Council has a clear post-COVID position on operations of the centre. This decision has been made taking into consideration a number of factors, including budget constraints, staffing availability and reduced visitation and memberships at the centre. Centre staff are able to assist patrons to review payment options to make visits to the centre as cost effective as possible. In relation to COVID-19, Bluewater Leisure Centre continues to follow the advice of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Submission 9 - Abby Currington (attached)

Issue: As a parent I am quite concerned about the proposed changes to the Bluewater childcare. I currently utilise the childcare as a working parent and have a childcare single membership which is a fortnightly fee of \$33.

During school holidays I need to upgrade to a family childcare membership of a fortnightly fee of \$48.80.

With the proposed changes removing all Bluewater childcare memberships/multi-passes and only offering an increased hourly rate of \$8 it will now cost me \$96 a fortnight for one child which is a \$63 increase.

When I need my two children in the Bluewater childcare during the school holidays it will now cost me \$192 per fortnight which is an increase of \$143.20.

My two children spend one full day a week at a local childcare- they can utilise this service for 11.5 hours each and in comparison, it costs me \$110 per fortnight for both children.

This includes all meals, nappies etc.

As the community is currently experiencing a childcare crisis and with the recent closure of Wydinia's childcare; these local childcare centres have long waiting lists for families needing care. It is not possible for me to be able to book my children in for extra days especially during the school holidays too.

I need to utilise the Bluewater childcare as a working parent but as it doesn't offer any subsidy/childcare rebates or other payment options the new proposed fee of \$8 per hour isn't affordable for me.

Response: In response to a number of submissions, Bluewater staff are reviewing the proposed fees and charges for Childcare and undertaking additional benchmarking.

Submission 10 - Katie Lamb (attached)

Issue: I would be devastated if council removed the multi pass option for childcare. My son struggles in large groups. He is however very comfortable at Bluewater childcare. The team are lovely and the small group works well for him. I care for my three children full time. Bluewater childcare provides low cost respite for me. It would make a huge impact on me if the multi pass option was removed. I hope you don't take this option away.

Response: In response to a number of submissions, Bluewater staff are reviewing the proposed fees and charges for Childcare and undertaking additional benchmarking.

Submission 11 - Tim Cobb (attached)

Issue: It is a pity that the parking and traffic strategy and community infrastructure plans seem to have been left unimplemented and abandoned with no commitments to deliver anything from them in the budget. Since the traffic and tourist parking strategy was at least completed a couple of years ago would it be possible to commit to deliver one of its recommendations - safe pedestrian crossings on Pascoe st. Seniors, families and the disabled have great difficulty crossing Pascoe st safely. There is no safe link between the shops on Collingwood Street and the hospital, school, senior citizens centre. Provision of pedestrian crossings was a clear recommendation of the traffic and parking strategy, is not dependent on the GORA and is needed regardless of covid. Can the Council commit to deliver them in 2021/2?

Response: The City Deal works at Kennett River, totalling \$1.9M, are taken directly from the Traffic and Tourism Strategy and Council is satisfied that this represents a good start to the implementation of the suite of works contained within the strategy. Council considers the pedestrian crossings at Pascoe Street to be a priority project for implementation from the Strategy. A Business Case for design and construction of these crossings was considered as part of the draft 21/22 budget but was not selected. It will be considered again for the 22/23 budget as well as put forward for funding opportunities that arise during the 21/22 year.

Submission 11 - Tim Cobb (attached)

Issue: The 2021-22 budget shows a reduced number of properties in the Holiday Rental rating category. Given the post COVID increase in domestic tourism, this represents a missed opportunity.

Response: The 2021 –22 budget provides for 618 properties being included in the Holiday Rental rating category. This is a reduction of 50 properties from 2020-21. The reduction is due to property owners advising us they removed their property from the holiday rental market during COVID. Council officers will continue to identify properties that are listed for holiday rental. These properties would then be recategorized and have rates recalculated.

Submission 12 - Hayley Foster (attached)

Issue: We received no recognition in last year's budget, with no pay increase for our dedication to work through covid as essential workers. There is such a high demand for care in the Colac Shire, making wages more competitive will encourage more educators to join or stay in the role. More educators=more\$

Response: Thank you for your feedback on Family Day Care fees and charges. During the 2020-21 budget, Council chose to freeze all rates and charges as a way to support our community during the COVID pandemic. We acknowledge that this had a direct effect on Family Day Care Educators. As part of the 2021-22 budget, it is proposed that the fees for Standard and Non-Standard Hours charged by Family Day Care Educators are increased by between

2.02% and 3.57%. Council has aimed to strike a balance between providing an increased incentive to our Family Day Care educator team, and our community's capacity to pay increased fees for childcare. Your feedback will be considered as part of Council's budget deliberations.

Submission 13 - Jason Schram (attached)

Issue: The current toilets are an embarrassment to all that visit and for the locals. They are not fit for stray dogs. Some of the \$29 mil in rates could design these for another shovel ready project. Not just for employee costs \$21.7mil plus associated staff cost \$4 mil. Cars training uniforms fuel etc.

Response: The Apollo Bay foreshore currently has 4 separate public toilet facilities (not including the Harbour precinct). Only one of these is currently managed by Colac Otway Shire (at the Visitor Information Centre).
The other facilities are owned and managed by the Great Ocean Road Authority (GORA). Council is currently advocating for upgrade, replacement and consolidation of toilet facilities along the foreshore through the Apollo Bay, Skenes Creek and Marengo Community Infrastructure Plan and Public Toilet Strategy, both under development. The new Apollo Bay Surf Life Saving Club building, currently in design, will incorporate new public toilet facilities.

Submission 14 - Jason Schram (attached)

Issue: Allocation of funds to start community consultation for future use of high school land. Council needs more shovel ready projects, so we have projects to submit for funding from state and federal grants when they arise. Don't waste more time on this site. Don't buy something with no plans for it. Remember the home hardware building?

Response: Council is still working through the process of acquiring part of the former Colac High School site and is waiting on the Contract of Sale from the Victorian Government. The Victorian School Building Authority is currently preparing plans for the development of the new Colac Specialist School on part of the site. This work will determine how much land is required for the new school, and if there is any additional land that Council could potentially acquire. It would be unwise to commence a master planning process for the development of the former Colac High School site until we have a clearer understanding of how much land Council could eventually own. Council is about to prepare master plans for a number of its Colac Recreation Reserves. This work, along with already endorsed Recreation Reserve master plans, will provide clear guidance on the infrastructure development priorities for our sporting reserves. Council has a strong track record of securing funding opportunities from other levels of government, with a recent announcement of \$1.5m for sports lighting at four of its regional sports ovals being an example of this.

Submission 15 - Jason Schram (attached)

Issue: Increase new footpath budget from \$0 to at least \$100,000. Or add \$100,000 to renewal footpath budget.

Self-explanatory really. Allocation of a measly \$230K for footpath fixing with no new ones. \$29 Million collected in rates and not even 0.1% of that for footpaths. We pay rates to improve infrastructure not to feed an organisation that is overburdened with underperforming, overentitled staff.

Response: Council allocates funding for renewal of footpaths when they have reached a level of condition that warrants replacement. Regular inspections are undertaken of the footpath network and the results of these inspections help us to develop the annual footpath

program. These inspections also enable Council to rectify defects/hazards within the timeframes stipulated in our Road Management Plan. Council's existing footpaths have reached a point where most of the network is in a very good to acceptable condition. This has allowed Council to redirect funding to other asset categories in greater need of attention, whilst still focussing funds on footpaths in need of replacement. Overall, Council has limited funds for new assets. Federal funding received under the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program in the past 12 months will enable Council to deliver almost \$1 million dollars' worth of new footpaths across the Shire by the end of 2021.

Submission 16 - Jason Schram (attached)

Issue: Allocation of funds to install more power points along Lake Colac foreshore & at Memorial Square to allow for more outdoor events in these areas. The council needs to improve infrastructure in these areas for community benefit. In today's climate outdoor events are essential and these areas, especially the Lake foreshore are underutilised. Council needs to spend ratepayer money on something other than employee costs.

Response: Upgrading the current power supply and providing more power options around the nominated event spaces to support events at both Memorial Square and the Lake Colac foreshore are recommendations identified in the developed master plans for both spaces. Council will continue to implement both master plans as projects and recommendations identified in the master plans are fully scoped, and funding opportunities become available.

Implementation of the Lake Colac Foreshore Master Plan for the 2021-2022 financial year will focus on the recommendation to "work with relevant parties to advocate for a pathway around the lake and investigate options to achieve this", with Council allocating \$60,000 to complete the necessary desktop and preliminary site investigations to determine the feasibility for a path to be constructed around Lake Colac.

Submission 17 - Jenna Mason (attached)

Issue: As a parent I am concerned about the proposed Budget (2021/2022) for the Bluewater Childcare. I use the Childcare as a working parent weekly and in school holidays have used this facility for an extra two more children. I currently have the option to pay casually or purchase a multi-pass, with the proposed Budget and only one option available of \$8 per hour this will notably increase costs to use this facility. When compared to the use of a local Day Care Centre my child could receive a full day of care (7am-6pm) with the inclusions of meals etc for \$38 or use the Bluewater Childcare from 8.45am-11.30am for the cost of \$24 for 3 hours care. Unfortunately, with high demands for childcare in our local community and long waiting lists, I may not be able to use this on certain days or in school holidays for care which I require. Currently I have the option to purchase a family membership over school holidays for \$48.80 a fortnight, now the proposed fee of \$13 an hour per family will cost me \$39 for a 3-hour session, \$78 a fortnight. And if I require extra days this will not be affordable for my family at this proposed rate increase.

Response: In response to a number of submissions, Bluewater staff are reviewing the proposed fees and charges for Childcare and undertaking additional benchmarking.

Submission 18 - Paul Durr (attached)

Issue: I protest at the growth of the Wages Bill by some 10 EFT - in tough times the Shire should live within its finances, and not burden Ratepayers with an increase

Response: Five of the FTE increase are fully funded by an increase in Home Care Packages, i.e., the growth in Home Care Packages would not be possible without the extra resource allocation

to service them. The other five FTE increase is due to services being budgeted to return to pre-COVID service levels, with the same resource allocation.

Employee costs have increased by \$581k, or 2.80%, to \$21.7m. Full Time Equivalent (FTE) have increased by 10 from 228 to 238.

- The 2020/21 forecast includes \$680k expenditure relating to Working for Victoria (WFV). Therefore, employee costs, excluding WFV, have increased by \$1.26m in 2021/22.
- The 2021/22 budget includes the EBA increase of 2.25% (\$450k).
- The 2021/22 budget assumes services will be open for the full year, unlike 2020/21 where various services were closed due to COVID. This will result in employee costs in Bluewater Leisure Centre (\$350k), COPACC (\$80k) and the Visitor Information Centres (\$60k) returning to normal levels.
- Additional employee costs are required to deliver an increased number of fully funded Home Care Packages (\$290k).
- The Workcover premium is expected to increase by \$100k.

Submission 19 - Paul Durr (attached)

Issue: I think an allocation of some \$50,000 should be set aside to workshop relevant parties relating to a Heavy Vehicle Detour route. Unless the Council takes the initiative, this Issue will fester until its inevitable happening.

Response: In relation to a heavy vehicle detour route or a bypass of Colac, Council's position is as follows. The State should undertake the necessary investigations so that the social, economic and environmental costs and benefits of this project can be better understood. Investigations like this run into several hundred thousand dollars and Council continues to advocate to the State Government for this work to be done.

Submission 20 - Paul Durr (attached)

Issue: As part of Tourism and Nature Appreciation initiative I would recommend that a number of Bird Hides be established around Lake Colac (money could be reallocated from reduced operation savings of the Colac Tourist Information Centre). There were a number of such Bird Hides but they deteriorated and were not replaced!

Response: Council is focussed on delivering the works in the Lake Colac Foreshore Masterplan. The Master Plan recommends a "wetland boardwalk with bird hide". At this stage it is not considered a priority.

4. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION & ENGAGEMENT

As part of preparing the Annual Budget there has an online survey inviting the community to provide feedback and comment throughout November 2020. This was widely publicised and promoted in local media and on social media.

There were letters sent to the following 18 community groups inviting submissions to the Budget prior to its development:

VFF and UDV

Colac Youth Group

Birregurra Community

Beech Forest Progress Association

Lavers Hill Progress Association

Carlisle River Community Group

Barwon Downs Community Group
Red Rock District Progress Association
Wye River & Separation Creek Community Association
Apollo Bay Fisherman's Co-op
Apollo Bay Chamber of Commerce and Bob Knowles
Colac Otway Rate Payers and Residents Association

Forrest Community Group
Kennett River Community Association
Skenes Creek Association
Great Ocean Road Authority
Colac Large Employers Group
Colac & District Chamber of Commerce

There was one submission received from the Colac & District Chamber of Commerce.

In addition to the upfront consultation, the draft budget was placed on public exhibition with the community invited to make written submissions on the draft budget document. This was for a 28-day period ending on Monday 31 May.

5. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLANS, POLICIES OR STRATEGIES

Alignment to Council Plan 2017-2021:

Theme 4 - Our Leadership & Management

1. Effectively manage financial resources.
2. Openness and accountability in decision making.
4. Provide value for money services for our community.
5. Communicate regularly with our community and involve them in decision-making.

6. CONSIDERATIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL & CULTURAL, & ECONOMIC

The Annual Budget and Four-Year budget must reflect the objectives of the Council Plan. Therefore, the resources allocated to environmental, social, cultural and economic issues must be considered as part of the process.

LEGAL & RISK

In relation to the Budget, Council has specific obligations under the following sections of the Local Government Act 2020: (Act):

- Section 94 – The Budget
- Section 95 – Revised Budget
- Section 96 – Preparation of Budget and revised Budget

In addition, Part 4 - Division 4 of the Act requires Council to implement the prescribed financial management principles in undertaking their duties. Section 96 specifically states that:

A Council must develop the budget and any revised Budget in accordance with—

- (a) the financial management principles; and
- (b) its community engagement policy.

FINANCIAL & BUDGETARY

Refer to the draft budget document.

7. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

COMMUNICATION

The release of the draft budget and processes for providing feedback was publicised in the local media and on Council's website.

TIMELINE

The submission period was advertised and displayed on the website from 30 April and ran from 3 May 2021 to 31 May 2021.

31 May 2021 – Exhibition ended

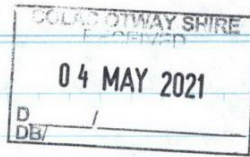
9 June 2021 – Submissions Committee considers submissions.

23 June 2021 – Council considers endorsement of the Budget 2021/22 at its Ordinary Meeting.

8. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST

No officer declared an interest under the *Local Government Act 2020* in the preparation of this report.

Submission #1



MR J. R. JUDG

 COLMC VIC-3250
 2-5-2021

MR PETER BROWN CEO
 COLMC OTWAY SHIRE COUNCIL
 RME STREET
 COLMC VIC 3250

DEAR SIR, BUDGET SUBMISSION

WHEN WILL ALL RATEPAYERS IN THE COLMC OTWAY SHIRE RATING-ZONE BE TREATED THE SAME. PLUS WHEN WILL THE COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL ZONES IN THE MUNICIPALITY ONLY THE SAME ACTUAL SURCHARGE. NOT SOME ON THE FULL RATE AND OTHERS AT THE SAME PERCENTAGE CALCULATED ON A REDUCED BASE RATE.

IF COUNCIL WANTS BUSINESSES TO REESTABLISH IN THE COLMC/ELLIMINYT RATING-ZONE. IT MUST STOP PENALISING THESE BUSINESSES WITH EXTRA LEVIES THAN APPLY IN THE BALANCE OF SHIRE ZONE.

IT IS A DISGRACE WHEN SOME IN A ZONE ARE GRANTED ZONE ALLOWANCES YET MULTIPLE OTHER CLASSIFICATIONS ARE DENIED THIS ALLOWANCE IN THE SAME RATING-ZONE.

EXCESS RATE SURCHARGES IN THE COLMC/ELLIMINYT ZONE ON COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL-RATES FORCES UP THE AMOUNT A BUSINESS HAS TO RECOVER VIA PRICES CHARGED. BEFORE THEY ARE ABLE TO RECEIVE ANY RETURN ON THEIR OUTLAYS. WHEN THIS HINDERS THEIR CHANCE TO HIRE MORE STAFF WHO WOULD ADD FUNDS ABLE TO BE SPENT IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS ACTIVITY.

I WISH TO BE HEARD IN RELATION TO THIS SUBMISSION.

YOURS FAITHFULLY

7mm A4

Submission #2

COLLAGE OTWAY SHIRE
RECEIVED
10 MAY 2021
D /
DEB /

MR J. R. JUDD

COLLAGE VIC. 3250
9-5-2021

SUBMISSION ON THE COLLAGE OTWAY SHIRE COUNCILS 2021-2022 BUDGET.

MR PETER BROWN CEO
COLLAGE OTWAY SHIRE COUNCIL
RAE STREET
COLLAGE VIC. 3250

DEAR SIR,

SINCE THE GARDEN BIN COLLECTION FEE HAS BEEN INCREASED WITH THE CLAIM IT INCLUDES THE COST OF COLLECTING THE GLASS ONLY BIN.

SINCE THIS INTRODUCTION HAS BEEN DELAYED AT LEAST 3 MONTHS FROM WHEN IT WAS PROPOSED TO BE INTRODUCED. WILL THIS EXTRA CHARGE BE REBATED FROM THE INCREASED CHARGE FOR THE PERIOD NOT AVAILABLE.

YOURS FAITHFULLY

Submission #3

MR J. R. JUDD

[Redacted]

COLAC VIC. 3250

10-5-2021

SUBMISSION TO THE COUNCILS 2021-2022 BUDGET.

MR PETER BROWN CEO

COLAC OTWAY SHIRE COUNCIL

RAG STREET

COLAC VIC. 3250

COLAC OTWAY SHIRE RECEIVED
11 MAY 2021
D DE/

DEAR SIR

IN VIEW OF THE PROPOSED HIRE IN THE FORTNIGHTLY
GARBAGE COLLECTION FEE IN THE BUDGET FOR 2021-2022,
IS THE CLAIMED \$8 RISE FOR WEEKLY COLLECTIONS VALID.

OR

IS THIS SUPPOSED TO BE \$80 SO THE RISE WOULD BE
ALMOST EQUAL FOR SERVICES PROVIDED WHEN THIS WOULD
EQUATE TO OVER 26% INCREASE.

YOURS FAITHFULLY

[Redacted]

7mm A4

Submission #4

From: Andrew Walters [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, 16 May 2021 1:58 PM
To: inq@colacotway.vic.gov.au
Subject: Re budget submissions. Bluewater

CAUTION: Email originating outside of COS - only open links and attachments you're expecting.

Good Afternoon.

I would like to take the opportunity to query the reduction in operating hours at the aquatic centre since Covid. As a regular swimmer after 7.30 pm on week nights I was disappointed the centre did not return to its original operating hours when things returned to Covid normal. As a community we are trying to promote exercise, health and well being to everyone. Prior to Covid the centre was attended between the hours of 7.30 till 8.30 by numerous people who worked shift work, adults teaching themselves to swim and people of various ethnic and religious backgrounds who were more comfortable using the facility in the off peak period to familiarise themselves with water safety.

In 2021 with the return of football and netball the pool is incredibly busy in peak times as athletes use the pool for rehabilitation and recovery. This coupled with learn to swim programmes is great for the facility but makes it difficult for other members to access the pool. Is the decision not to return to original operating hours based on budget constraints or are there other issues.

Most facilities of a similar size to Colac operate till at least 8.30 pm on weeknights and a minimum 4.00pm on weekends. The membership rates were set for existing operational hours pre Covid yet there has been a reduction in accessibility to this facility by 7 hours weekly post Covid.

I understand there would be times when it is quite but I am sure there would be times during the day that it would be equally quite.

The centre previously run aquatic exercise classes to promote this off peak time between 6.30 and 8.30pm.

Thanks for the opportunity to submit this letter.

Regards Andrew Walters

[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

Submission #5

From:
Sent: Monday, 17 May 2021 10:29 AM
To:
Subject: Colac Otway Shire - 2021/2022 Budget Submission Submitted

CAUTION: Email originating outside of COS - only open links and attachments you're expecting.

17 May 2021 10:28 AM

Laura Martin



Submission

Budget Request

Friday session in the Bluewater crèche and lowered fees (for memberships for crèche)

Description

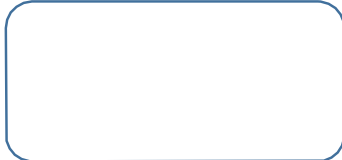
Since reopening the crèche has not been opening on fridays, when this is my only day off and I pay for a platinum family membership at Bluewater it is frustrating to not have access to this service for my youngest child. It is getting to a point where Bluewater is not affordable for families . Do you wish to speak to your submission: No

Submission #6

From:
Sent: Monday, 17 May 2021 11:00 AM
To:
Subject: Colac Otway Shire - 2021/2022 Budget Submission Submitted

CAUTION: Email originating outside of COS - only open links and attachments you're expecting.

17 May 2021 11:00 AM



Submission

Budget Request

I do not wish for my details to be included in any council agendas, minutes or other such public records.

Description

I have a question about the % increase in Bluewater fees and how they are determined. Each line item is highly variable in the the comparison to the 20/21 fees, from a decline of 1.82% for 12 month family platinum membership to an increase in 12 month off peak platinum membership of 24.77%. Do you wish to speak to your submission: No

Submission #7

From: Tahnee Monteith [redacted]
Sent: Monday, 17 May 2021 2:18 PM
To: Inq@colacotway.vic.gov.au
Subject: Budget Submission

CAUTION: Email originating outside of COS - only open links and attachments you're expecting.

Hi,

I write to you regarding the 2021/22 budget.

I would like to see a childcare membership included in Bluewater's childcare fees.

There needs to be a more budget friendly childcare option for families that use Bluewater. By removing the direct debit membership and multi pass options for childcare at Bluewater you are effectively tripling my childcare expenses. This makes a trip to the gym ridiculously expensive and not sustainable for the average person. This is not only VERY disappointing for me but also my children that love attending the childcare at Bluewater. While I understand the need to have price rises this one seems very high when everything else has only increased by a small percentage. I feel that you should be doing what you can to encourage and make it more affordable for people to be using the facilities. This new budget is doing the opposite of that and I feel that you will lose members who rely on the childcare to be able to use the centre as it is now no longer affordable.

I am hopeful that you can reassess your decision to remove the childcare membership option.

Thanks,

Tahnee Dent



Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

Submission #8

From: Carl Angus [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 18 May 2021 8:52 AM
To: inq@colacotway.vic.gov.au
Subject: Budget Submission

CAUTION: Email originating outside of COS - only open links and attachments you're expecting.

Hi,

I have viewed the Council's 2021-22 Draft Budget.

It is not clear in the budget, however, can you please confirm whether you have budgeted a return to pre-Covid opening hours for the swimming pool, which included extended hours over summer, and a closing time later than the current 3pm on weekends (previously 4pm).

The current 3pm closing time of the swimming pools is highly inconvenient for families. I would like to see the weekend closing time extended to 5pm. This would allow me to take my children for a swim in the mid-afternoon (after our lunch has settled), and leave the pool at 5pm for a shower/bath at home, where the kids can get into their pjs ready for bed.

Kind Regards,
Carl Angus

Message protected by MailGuard: e-mail anti-virus, anti-spam and content filtering.
<http://www.mailguard.com.au/mg>

Submission #9

From: abby lee [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 18 May 2021 1:00 PM
To: inq@colacotway.vic.gov.au
Subject: Budget submission

CAUTION: Email originating outside of COS - only open links and attachments you're expecting.

Abby Currington
[redacted]

I do not wish to speak at the meeting.

Feedback

As a parent I am quite concerned about the proposed changes to the Bluewater childcare. I currently utilise the childcare as a working parent and have a childcare single membership which is a fortnightly fee of \$33. During school holidays I need to upgrade to a family childcare membership of a fortnightly fee of \$48.80. With the proposed changes removing all Bluewater childcare memberships/multipasses and only offering an increased hourly rate of \$8 it will now cost me \$96 a fortnight for one child which is a \$63 increase. When I need my two children in the Bluewater childcare during the school holidays it will now cost me \$192 per fortnight which is an increase of \$143.20. My two children spend one full day a week at a local childcare- they can utilise this service for 11.5 hours each and in comparison it costs me \$110 per fortnight for both children. This includes all meals, nappies etc. As the community is currently experiencing a childcare crisis and with the recent closure of Wydinia's childcare; these local childcare centres have long waiting lists for families needing care. It is not possible for me to be able to book my children in for extra days especially during the school holidays too. I need to utilise the Bluewater childcare as a working parent but as it doesn't offer any subsidy/childcare rebates or other payment options the new proposed fee of \$8 per hour isn't affordable for me.

Submission #10

From: Matt and Katie Lamb [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 19 May 2021 1:59 PM
To: Inq@colacotway.vic.Gov.au
Subject: Budget submission

CAUTION: Email originating outside of COS - only open links and attachments you're expecting.

To whom it may concern.

I would be devastated if council removed the multi pass option for childcare.

My son [redacted] struggles in large groups. [redacted]
[redacted] He is however very comfortable at Bluewater childcare. [redacted] and team are lovely and the small group works well for him.

I care for my three children full time [redacted]

Bluewater childcare provides low cost respite for me.

It would make a huge impact on me if the multi pass option was removed.

I hope you don't take this option away.

Sincerely

Katie Lamb

Submission #11

From: Tim Cobb [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, 23 May 2021 2:54 PM
To: inq@colacotway.vic.gov.au
Subject: revenue rating plan and budget

CAUTION: Email originating outside of COS - only open links and attachments you're expecting.

1. The number of Airbnb and other holiday rental properties continues to boom and will further increase in 2021 as domestic tourism thrives while overseas travel is impossible. It is concerning that council assumes the number of holiday rentals will fall in the budget predictions. It is true that there may be a small number of rentals that are (post covid) occupied by their owners. However the holiday rental sector continues to boom and any budget that does not reflect this is missing an opportunity. This looks like padding.

2. It is a pity that the parking and traffic strategy and community infrastructure plans seem to have been left unimplemented and abandoned with no commitments to deliver anything from them in the budget.

Since the traffic and tourist parking strategy was at least completed a couple of years ago would it be possible to commit to deliver one of its recommendations - safe pedestrian crossings on Pascoe st.

Seniors, families and the disabled have great difficulty crossing Pascoe st safely. There is no safe link between the shops on Collingwood street and the hospital, school, senior citizens centre. Provision of pedestrian crossings was a clear recommendation of the traffic and parking strategy, is not dependent on the GORA and is needed regardless of covid. Can the Council commit to deliver them in 2021/2?

Submission #12

From:
Sent: Tuesday, 25 May 2021 8:26 PM
To: INQ:
Subject: Colac Otway Shire - 2021/2022 Budget Submission Submitted

CAUTION: Email originating outside of COS - only open links and attachments you're expecting.

25 May 2021 08:26 PM

Hayley Foster



Submission

Budget Request

A pay increase for family day care educators

Description

We received no recognition in last years budget, with no pay increase for our dedication to work through covid as essential workers. There is such a high demand for care in the Colac Shire, making wages more competitive will encourage more educators to join or stay in the roll. More educators=more\$ Do you wish to speak to your submission: No

Submission #13

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 26 May 2021 8:10 AM
To: INQ: [redacted]
Subject: Colac Otway Shire - 2021/2022 Budget Submission Submitted

CAUTION: Email originating outside of COS - only open links and attachments you're expecting.

26 May 2021 08:09 AM

Jason Schram



Submission

Budget Request

Plans for a decent toilet facility on the foreshore of Apollo Bay

Description

The current toilets are an embarrassment to all that visit and for the locals. They are not fit for stray dogs. Some of the \$29 mil in rates could design these for another shovel ready project. Not just for employee costs \$21.7mil plus associated staff cost \$4 mil. Cars training uniforms fuel etc. Do you wish to speak to your submission: Yes

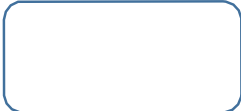
Submission #14

From:
Sent: Wednesday, 26 May 2021 8:03 AM
To: INQ;
Subject: Colac Otway Shire - 2021/2022 Budget Submission Submitted

CAUTION: Email originating outside of COS - only open links and attachments you're expecting.

26 May 2021 08:02 AM

Jason Schram



Submission

Budget Request

3. Allocation of funds to start community consultation for future use of high school land.

Description

Council needs more shovel ready projects so we have projects to submit for funding from state and federal grants when they arise. Don't waste more time on this site. Don't buy something with no plans for it. Remember the home hardware building? Do you wish to speak to your submission: Yes

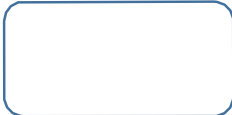
Submission #15

From:
Sent: Wednesday, 26 May 2021 7:59 AM
To: INQ;
Subject: Colac Otway Shire - 2021/2022 Budget Submission Submitted

CAUTION: Email originating outside of COS - only open links and attachments you're expecting.

26 May 2021 07:58 AM

Jason Schram



Submission

Budget Request

2. Increase new footpath budget from \$0 to at least \$100000. Or add \$100000 to renewal footpath budget.

Description

Self explanatory really. Allocation of a measly \$230K for footpath fixing with no new ones. \$29 Million collected in rates and not even 0.1% of that for footpaths. We pay rates to improve infrastructure not to feed an organisation that is overburdened with underperforming, overentitled staff. Do you wish to speak to your submission: Yes

Submission #16

From:
Sent: Wednesday, 26 May 2021 7:50 AM
To: INQ;
Subject: Colac Otway Shire - 2021/2022 Budget Submission Submitted

CAUTION: Email originating outside of COS - only open links and attachments you're expecting.

26 May 2021 07:49 AM

Jason Schram



Submission

Budget Request

1 .Allocation of funds to install more power points along Lake Colac foreshore & at Memorial Square to allow for more outdoor events in these areas.

Description

The council needs to improve infrastructure in these areas for community benefit. In todays climate outdoor events are essential and these areas, especially the Lake foreshore are underutilised. Council needs to spend ratepayer money on something other than employee costs. Do you wish to speak to your submission: Yes

Submission #17

From: mason [redacted]
Sent: Monday, 31 May 2021 9:44 AM
To: inq@colacotway.vic.gov.au
Subject: Budget Submission

CAUTION: Email originating outside of COS - only open links and attachments you're expecting.

Jenna Mason

[redacted]

I do not wish to speak at the meeting

As a parent I am concerned about the proposed Budget (2021/2022) for the Bluewater Childcare.

I use the Childcare as a working parent weekly and in school holidays have used this facility for an extra two more children.

I currently have the option to pay casually or purchase a multipass, with the proposed Budget and only one option available of \$8 per hour this will notably increase costs to use this facility.

When compared to the use of a local Day Care Centre my child could receive a full day of care (7am-6pm) with the inclusions of meals ect for \$38 or use the Bluewater Childcare from 845am-1130am for the cost of \$24 for 3 hours care.

Unfortunately with high demands for child care in our local community and long wait lists, I may not be able to use this on certain days or in school holidays for care which I require.

Currently I have the option to purchase a family membership over school holidays for \$48.80 a fortnight, now the proposed fee of \$13 an hour per family will cost me \$39 for a 3 hour session, \$78 a fortnight.

And if I require extra days this will not be affordable for my family at this proposed rate increase.

Submission #18, 19 & 20

From: pjduurr pjduurr [redacted]
Sent: Monday, 31 May 2021 4:34 PM
To: inq@colacotway.vic.gov.au
Subject: Re; Draft Budget 2021/22- Submission

CAUTION: Email originating outside of COS - only open links and attachments you're expecting.

CEO

As a Ratepayer I make the following submission;

1) I protest at the growth of the Wages Bill by some 10 EFT- in tough times the Shire should live within its finances, and not burden Ratepayers with an increase

2) I think an allocation of some \$50,000 should be set aside to workshop relevant Parties relating to a Heavy Vehicle Detour route. Unless the Council takes the initiative this Issue will fester until its inevitable happening.

3) As part of Tourism and Nature Appreciation initiative I would recommend that a number of Bird Hides be established around Lake Colac (money could be reallocated from reduced operation savings of the Colac Tourist Information Centre). There were a number of such Bird Hides but they deteriorated and were not replaced!

Regards

Paul DURR [redacted]

PS. unfortunately I am unable to attend the Budget meeting as I plan to be out of State

