

**Questions Submitted in Writing – Council Meeting – 28 April 2021**

**Greg Slater, Colac**

- 1. How will council comply with the Local Government Act March 2021 and the Climate Change Act 2017; and has council given consideration to a committee to investigate how to comply?**

***Response from General Manager Corporate Services and General Manager Environment & Infrastructure***

Council employs suitably experienced and qualified officers who are responsible for monitoring and meeting Council's many legislative requirements.

Councils, including Colac Otway Shire Council, are legally obliged to consider climate change in their strategic work.

Both the *Climate Change Act 2017* and the *Local Government Act 2020* outline Local Government's responsibilities on climate change. These responsibilities include planning and making decisions for the future, reducing and reporting on emissions and increasing community capacity and resilience. The *Local Government Act 2020* states that in the course of performing its role a Council must give effect to overarching governance principles which include climate change mitigation and planning for climate risks. Under the *Climate Change Act 2017*, Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plans must have regard to climate change, which is identified as an emerging threat for current and future generations.

In relation to the *Local Government Act 2020*, the Local Government sector in Victoria has been heavily engaged in the development and implementation of the *Local Government Act 2020*. Council is quite clear on the actions it must take to comply with the act and it is not considered *necessary to establish a special committee to investigate*.

**James Judd, Colac**

- 1. When will Council Strategic Planners give serious attention to Reserve lands before seeking to have land rezoned into the needs to provide for schools, childcare centres, and all open space needs in the local area prior to any authority to subdivide lands is considered? We cannot assume all have access to motorised transports so they can go to any other location. The truth is many will never be allowed to control motorised transport of any kind.**

***Response from General Manager Development & Community Services***

All land that is rezoned to allow residential housing is subject to strategic planning that looks at the need for public open space, transport connections for motorised and non-motorised transport, and any other community/social facilities.

- 2. Was the roll out of the big red bin a warning of a change in bin collections from 1 – 7 – 2021 now one south west Council has advised the glass only bin will be collected each 2<sup>nd</sup> collection? Plus the small red bins will be replaced with a larger red bins but the red bin will only be emptied each 2<sup>nd</sup> collection when the glass only bin is not to be put out; or, will those who have a lot of garbage that goes in the red bin be forced to pay extra to have the red bin emptied each collection round plus the glass only bin will need to be collected each collection during the period of extra recycling bin collections made. This will put far more pressure on people being able to put out all bins when collections made.**

### ***Response from General Manager Environment & Infrastructure***

There are some significant changes on the way for waste management.

Council, like every Victorian Council, needs to provide a glass recycling bin which will have a purple lid. We'll continue to provide a separate recycling bin with a yellow lid for all of the other recycling resource that our community generates.

With the implementation of the fourth glass bin which is a monthly collection this will allow Council the opportunity to look at increasing the frequency of the green bin collection as the community places more organics into this bin which reduces waste to landfill. In time we may see the red bin and possibly the recycle bin collected less often.

In addition, we've been very pleased with the service we provided at Wye River and Kennett River this summer to provide green waste skips so that property owners could reduce the fire load on their properties, free of charge. This was very well received and was a big success.

Council staff are working on a DRAFT Resource Recovery and Waste Management Strategy which will guide Council waste services for the next ten years. A report will be coming to the May Council meeting. The strategy will look at ways of delivering a better service at a lower cost. For instance, we know that 30% of the content of our red bins could be placed in the organic green bins and that if we can achieve this there would be big savings for Council.

The draft strategy follows some community consultation that was carried out earlier this year so that we could understand what the community thought was important. The document will also be the subject of community consultation. This consultation will help to ensure that we have heard what the community told us and that the draft strategy is the direction in which the community wants to go.

- 3. When will the Colac Otway Shire Planning Department have a very serious look into how land is allowed to be subdivided to provide residential allotments? This is now very urgent due to the increased number of garbage bins required per occupied dwelling with bins having to be placed clear of any obstruction plus a distance between each bin. With three bins, if put out, this would need about six metres clear of obstructions per occupied dwelling on an allotment to a road frontage when many single allotments have multiple occupied dwellings to an allotment. So all blocks would require wide road frontages following the new directive by the Victorian State Government about number of bins to sort garbage into will have a major impact on allotments to be provided in areas considered for "The Colac 2050 Growth Plan".**

### ***Response from General Manager Development & Community Services***

The standards for residential development applied in Colac are determined by the State Government and are consistent across the state. Whilst it is challenging to accommodate large numbers of bins on road sides on the days of scheduled pick-up, this does not influence the design standards for new development.

- 4. Prior to the introduction of the glass only garbage bins on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021 will the Colac Otway Shire Council make clear to all in the collection area must jars and bottle put into these bins be a). whole or b) is broken acceptable, since for years some still smash containers to make more room for other rubbish to be put in bins?**

### ***Response from General Manager Environment & Infrastructure***

Prior to rolling out the fourth glass bin (purple lid), Council will provide detailed information to residents on what goes in the fourth glass bin through our website, with promotional material and also through print and social media. For your information Colac Otway Shire are not planning the rollout of this service July 1. This is likely to be later in the year. We have target date of September, which is contained in the DRAFT strategy.

5. Because much of the area of the Colac Otway Shire is non-rateable because it is controlled by a). National Government owned or controlled bodies including National parks, b). State Government owned or controlled bodies, State Parks, State Government Offices or State Controlled Education outlets, c). Council owned or controlled bodies, d). road reserves and service reserves, what extra percentage is added to general rate on those who pay Council rates to make up for these exemptions? Plus, does the Council receive any annual payments to compensate for giving these exemptions?

***Response from General Manager Corporate Services***

Council's rates revenue is derived from all rateable land within the shire.

The amount raised from rates and charges is the amount required to provide a range of services across the shire.

No "extra percentage" is added to pay for non-rateable land and the State and Federal governments make no payments to Council in lieu of rates.

**Bob Knowles, Bay Apollo Bay Chamber of Commerce**

1. Will COS formally support the Apollo Bay Chamber's Position Statement on the Affordable Accommodation Crisis and work with AB Chamber and other stakeholders on an action plan that recognises the unique challenges this issue poses for coastal visitor-based economies compared to the rest of the shire?

***Response from General Manager Development & Community Services***

Council supports the Apollo Bay Chamber of Commerce's position statement on Affordable Housing. Council acknowledges the significant challenges faced in coastal areas and supports the need to undertake actions with an aim to addressing this issue.

Council has partnered with neighbouring Councils across the Barwon South West region on the development of the Key and Essential Worker Housing Supply Action Plan. The implementation of this plan is a focus for Council. In addition, Council has made a submission to the Victorian Government on its '10 year Social and Affordable Housing Strategy', raising affordable housing in our coastal areas as a significant issue which needs support from all levels of government.

Council is committed to working with the Apollo Bay Chamber and other stakeholders to develop and implement an agreed action plan.