



MINUTES  
of the  
SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL  
held on  
WEDNESDAY 13 JUNE 2018  
in the  
COUNCIL CHAMBER - ALEXANDRA  
commencing at  
6.00 pm

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## **1. PLEDGE AND RECONCILIATION STATEMENT**

The meeting was opened with all Councillors declaring the following Pledge:

“We as Councillors democratically elected to represent our community as the Murrindindi Shire Council, are committed to working together in the best interests of the people who live in our municipality, who conduct business here and those who visit.”

## **2. APOLOGIES AND REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

There were no apologies or requests for leave of absence tendered.

### **Present:**

Crs C Bisset (Chair), S McAulay, R Bowles, J Ashe, L Dunscombe, E Lording, M Rae

### **In attendance:**

Interim Chief Executive Officer: Craig Lloyd

General Manager Corporate and Community Services: Michael Chesworth

General Manager Infrastructure and Development Services: Stuart McConnell

Manager Business Services: Andrew Bond

Communications Coordinator: Amy Dainton

## **3. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Nil

## **4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME**

### **4.1 HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS**

Mr Rein Kamar, representing the Flowerdale Sports Club, spoke to their submission to the Draft Annual Budget 2018/19.

Ms Noleen Glavish, on behalf of Gail Dollimore and residents of the South Cathedral Lane, spoke to their submission to the Draft Annual Budget 2018/19.

Dr David Barton, representing the Bushfire Education Foundation, spoke to their submission to the Draft Annual Budget 2018/19.

Ms Sharon Fox, representing the Yarck Hall Committee, spoke to their submission to the Draft Annual Budget 2018/19.

Leading Senior Constable Ian Thompson, representing Victoria Police, spoke to their submission to the Draft Annual Budget 2018/19.

**The Chairperson closed Public Participation Time.**

## **5. OFFICER REPORTS**

### **5.1 CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS FOR THE ANNUAL BUDGET 2018/19**

Attachment(s): *Submissions were provided to all Councillors separately.*

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a summary of the submissions received in relation to the Annual Budget 2018/19.

#### **Officer Recommendation**

That Council considers the submissions received in relation to the Annual Budget 2018/19 prior to its final adoption at the 27 June 2018 Ordinary Meeting.

#### **Background**

At the 24 April 2018 Ordinary Meeting of Council, Council endorsed the Draft Annual Budget 2018/19 for the purposes of public exhibition in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act).

Submissions were sought from the public and the budget documents were made available at Council Offices and on Council's website. The public exhibition period and submission process was advertised in the relevant newspapers. Submissions were due by 1 June 2018.

At the time of preparing the agenda, 15 submissions were received by Council. All submissions have been provided to all Councillors for review prior to the Special Meeting of Council.

Acknowledgement letters were sent to the submitters, confirming receipt of their submissions and informing them of the opportunity to attend the Special Meeting of Council on the 13 June 2018 to speak to their submissions if they wished.

#### **Discussion**

Fifteen submissions were received in relation to the Draft Annual Budget 2018/19.

Full copies of each submission were provided to all Councillors in advance of the Special Meeting of Council to consider them as appropriately received submissions in accordance with the Act.

A summary of each of the submissions are provided below.

#### **Summary of Submissions:**

##### Submitter 1

This submission concerns the proposed allocation of \$47,000 to improve the playground shade structure in Strath Creek as a part of the capital works program for 2018/19. The submitter is supportive of Council allocating funds to improve facilities in the area, but would prefer that these funds are allocated to local roads instead of the playground.

##### Submitter 2

Similar to the first submitter, this submission concerns the proposed allocation of \$47,000 to improve the playground shade structure in Strath Creek. The submitter would also prefer that these funds are allocated to local roads instead of the playground.

##### Submitter 3

The third submission received requests Council funding of \$30,000 to support a grant application that will facilitate the development of the Spring Valley Recreation Reserve. This entire project has been designed, developed and costed to a total of \$201,496, of which the balance of the

funds will be provided by a variety of grant funding, funds contributed by the Committee of Management of the reserve and in-kind contributions.

This proposal will provide an upgrade of the community facilities and change rooms at the Spring Valley Recreation Reserve which managed by the local Committee of Management on behalf of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

#### Submitter 4

Submission four was provided on behalf of the Eildon Action Incorporation, requesting a variety of improvements to infrastructure in and around Eildon, including road improvements, the development of the Eildon/Thornton bicycle track, the establishment of a waste discharge site, kerb and channelling works, improvements to the swimming pool, parks and gardens, road marking and signage both in and around Eildon.

#### Submitter 5

The fifth submission received by Council officers relating to the 2018/19 Draft Budget relates to a proposal to establish a National Bushfire Museum, Education and Research Centre in Marysville. The proposal is requesting \$20,000 from Council, which combined with further grant funds that have been applied for as well as in-kind support, would be used to develop a comprehensive business plan to demonstrate the viability of this proposal.

#### Submitter 6

The sixth submission received by Council was in support of extending the pedestrian path along Falls Road in Marysville. This submission was received from the local police who noted the public safety aspect of ensuring such improvements were made to assist in managing pedestrian traffic in this area.

#### Submitter 7

This submission requests further support from Council for community groups in Alexandra – with a particular focus on whether Council would consider acquiring the old Alexandra hospital, or a new facility being built to house these groups.

#### Submitter 8

This submission provided commentary regarding the comparison of the revenue raised by Council via rates and charges and the amount paid in employee costs. The submitter asked Council to consider the costs paid to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), executives and employees of Council.

The submitter also noted the amount of legal expenses that are budgeted to be spent in 2018/19 and believes that this amount may not be enough.

The submitter also commented on the structure of the budget and believes it to be too complicated and therefore unable to be understood by the majority of residents and ratepayers.

#### Submitter 9

The ninth submission received for the 2018/19 Annual Budget relates to Buxton Waters Reserve. This submission has been made by the local Country Fire Authority (CFA) brigade with regard to fire prevention and emergency responsiveness for this public space. The brigade is requesting an allocation of approximately \$30,000 - \$40,000 be made in the 2018/19 budget to ensure that pathways and access be improved in the reserve and that further consultation between Council officers and the brigade be undertaken.

#### Submitter 10

Similar to the seventh submission, this submitter has requested Council to consider the current situation regarding the old Alexandra hospital site, and whether it could be converted into a Community Activity Hub or Centre.

**Submitter 11**

The 11<sup>th</sup> submission received requests for Council to consider road improvements to South Cathedral Lane in Buxton. This submission has been made on behalf of a number of residents on South Cathedral Lane and is requesting an allocation of funding to consider sealing the road and employ traffic calming measures, rather than continuing to maintain it as an unsealed road.

**Submitter 12**

This submission has been put to Council on behalf of the Buxton Progress Association regarding the car parking facilities at the Buxton Memorial Hall. The Association are requesting an expansion of designated parking spaces from the current number of four to be considered by Council as a part of its capital budget allocation for 2018/19.

**Submitter 13**

The 13<sup>th</sup> submission received by Council was also made on behalf of the Buxton Progress Association and concerns the Buxton Waters Reserve and the paths included in the area. Similar to the ninth submission, the Association are requesting that Council allocate funds to improve the paths in this Reserve, as had been indicated in previous budgets prepared by Council.

**Submitter 14**

Submission 14 concerned the Yarck Public Hall and the current condition of disabled parking and access to the facility. The Committee has requested Council and its officers to inspect the location and consider taking action to improve these facilities in the coming 12 months.

**Submitter 15**

The final submission received requests Council to consider investing in further services and infrastructure in the Alexandra area. The submission notes a number of services and infrastructure that are already in place, but asks for further Council support to ensure sustainability and growth in this part of the Shire.

**Council Plan/Strategies/Policies**

The public hearing of submissions is part of the required statutory process for the adoption of the Annual Budget 2018/19.

**Relevant Legislation**

This process complies with the relevant provisions of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

**Financial Implications and Risk**

There are no financial or risk considerations regarding the hearing of submissions.

**Conflict of Interest**

There are no declared conflicts of interest by Council officers in relation to this report.

**Community and Stakeholder Consultation**

The Draft Annual Budget 2018/2019 was made available on Council's website from 1 May 2018 and advertised for public exhibition and submissions in the following publications (next page):

Newspaper / Other	Publishing Date(s)
<i>Newspaper:</i>	
The Alexandra Standard	2 May 2018
Marysville Triangle	4 May 2018
The Local Paper	2 May 2018
The Yea Chronicle	2 May 2018
<i>Hard copies available at:</i>	
Council Office - Alexandra	
Council Office - Kinglake	
Council Office - Yea	
Marysville RAC (VIC)	
Eildon Community Resource Centre	

**RESOLUTION:****Cr M Rae / Cr E Lording**

**That Council considers the submissions received in relation to the Annual Budget 2018/19 prior to its final adoption at the 27 June 2018 Ordinary Meeting.**

**CARRIED**

**There being no further items of Business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 6.44 pm.**

**CONFIRMED THIS**

Wednesday 27 June 2018

**CHAIRPERSON**

[Signature]