



Southern Grampians
SHIRE COUNCIL

Council Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting
14 September 2016

Held at 5.30pm in the Ted Kenna
Room, Hamilton Performing Arts Centre,
113 Brown Street Hamilton

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The Meeting opened at 5.30pm

1. Present

Councillors

Cr Peter Dark - Mayor
Cr Albert Calvano
Cr Paul Battista
Cr Dennis Dawson
Cr Bruach Colliton
Cr Cathy Armstrong
Cr Katrina Rainsford

Officers

Mr Michael Tudball – Chief Executive Officer
Ms Belinda Johnson – Acting Director Community and Corporate Services
Mr Michael McCarthy - Director Shire Futures
Mr David Moloney – Director Shire Infrastructure
Ms Megan Kruger – Governance Coordinator

2. Acknowledgement of Country

The Mayor, Cr Dark, read the acknowledgement of country –

“Our meeting is being held on the traditional lands of the Gunditjmara, Tjap Wurrung and Bunganditj people.

I would like to pay my respects to their Elders, past and present, and the Elders from other communities who may be here today.”

3. Prayer

Cr Dawson led the meeting in a prayer.

4. Apologies

Nil.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr Calvano
SECONDED: Cr Battista

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 10 August 2016 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

CARRIED

6. Declaration of Interest

None declared.

7. Questions on Notice

Questions from the public must be submitted prior to the commencement of Council Meetings.

All questions must be submitted through completion of the Public Question Time form, and be forwarded to the Chief Executive Officer at 111 Brown Street, Hamilton. All questions must be received by no later than 5pm on the Monday before the Ordinary Meeting of Council.

Questions must:

1. Not pre-empt debate on any matter listed on the agenda of the Ordinary Meeting at which the question is asked
2. Not refer to matters designated as confidential under the Local Government Act 1989.
3. Be clear and unambiguous and not contain argument on the subject.
4. Not be derogatory, defamatory or embarrassing to any Councillor, member of staff, ratepayer or member of the public, nor relate to a matter beyond the power of Council.

The Mayor will read the question and provide a response. If a question cannot be answered at the meeting, a written response will be prepared and forwarded to the person raising the question.

Residents do not need to attend the meeting for a question to be answered.

There were no Questions on Notice listed on tonight's agenda.

8. Public Deputations

Requests to make a Public Deputation to Council must be submitted prior to the commencement of the Council Meeting.

Anyone wishing to make a deputation to Council must complete the Request to Make a Deputation form and forward it to the Chief Executive Officer at 111 Brown Street, Hamilton no later than **2 days before the Ordinary Council Meeting**.

Speaking time is limited to 3 minutes per person. Organisations may be represented at the deputation to Council by not more than 4 representatives. The names of the representatives to attend must be advised in writing to the Chief Executive Officer and 1 of the representatives to attend must be nominated as the principal spokesperson for the deputation.

Deputations wishing to make a written submission to the Council must provide 15 copies of the submission to the Chief Executive Officer prior to the Ordinary Council Meeting. One copy will be made available to the local media representative, if requested.

All members of the public addressing the Council must extend due courtesy and respect to the Council and the processes under which it operates. If a member of the public fails to do this the Chairperson can remove them from the Chambers. All members of the public must also comply with Council's Public Participation at Council Meetings policy in relation to meeting procedures and public participation at meetings.

There were no Public Deputations listed on tonight's agenda.

9. Records of Assemblies of Councillors

An Assembly of Councillors is defined in section 3 of the *Local Government Act 1989* to include Advisory Committees of Council if at least one Councillor is present or, a planned or scheduled meeting attended by at least half of the Councillors and one Council Officer that considers matters intended or likely to be the subject of a Council decision.

Written records of Assemblies of Councillors must be kept and include the names of all Councillors and members of Council staff attending, the matters considered, any conflict of interest disclosures made by a Councillor attending, and whether a Councillor who has disclosed a conflict of interest leaves the assembly.

Pursuant to section 80A (2) of the Act, these records must be, as soon as practicable, reported at an ordinary meeting of the Council and incorporated in the minutes of that meeting.

An Assembly of Councillors record was kept for:

- Advocacy Priorities Working Party Meeting – 9 August 2016
- Ordinary Meeting of Council – 10 August 2016
- Hamilton Airport Runway Extension Opening Ceremony – 24 August 2016
- Council Briefing Session – 31 August 2016

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr Dawson
SECONDED: Cr Rainsford

That the record of the Assembly of Councillors be noted and incorporated in the Minutes of this Meeting.

CARRIED

ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS



Southern Grampians
Shire Council

ASSEMBLY DETAILS	
Title:	Advocacy Priorities Working Party Meeting
Date:	9 August, 2016
Location:	Market Place Meeting Room, 1 Market Place Hamilton
Councillors in Attendance:	Cr Dennis Dawson
Council Staff in Attendance:	Hugh Koch, Michael McCarthy, Sharon Clutterbuck

The Assembly commenced at 4.00pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED
1	Media	
2	Air Passenger Survey	
3	Education	
4	Intermodal Hub	
5	Passenger Rail	
6	CBD – Lonsdale Street	

The Assembly concluded at 5.00pm

ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS



Southern Grampians
Shire Council

ASSEMBLY DETAILS	
Title:	Ordinary Meeting of Council
Date:	10 August 2016
Location:	Council Chambers, Market Place Hamilton
Councillors in Attendance:	Cr Peter Dark - Mayor Cr Paul Battista Cr Dennis Dawson Cr Cathy Armstrong Cr Katrina Rainsford
Council Staff in Attendance:	Mr Michael Tudball – Chief Executive Officer Mr Michael McCarthy – Director Shire Futures Mr David Moloney – Director Shire Infrastructure Ms Belinda Johnson – Finance Manager Ms Megan Kruger – Governance Coordinator

The Assembly commenced at 1.00pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED
1	Moloney Asset Management System	
2	Commonwealth Home Support Program – Grant Agreement for Funding	
3	Green Triangle Freight Action Plan – Implementation Monitoring Group	
4	Memorandum of Understanding – Grampians Tourism	
5	Amendment C35 to the Southern Grampians Planning Scheme – 35 Mt Baimbridge Road Hamilton	
6	HILAC Roof	
7	2017-2018 Community Sports Infrastructure Fund	

The Assembly concluded at 7.04pm

ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS



Southern Grampians
Shire Council

ASSEMBLY DETAILS	
Title:	Hamilton Airport Runway Extension Opening Ceremony
Date:	24 August 2016
Location:	Hamilton Airport, Hensley Park Road
Councillors in Attendance:	Cr Peter Dark (Mayor), Cr Cathy Armstrong, Cr Paul Battista, Cr Dennis Dawson
Council Staff in Attendance:	Michael Tudball, Belinda Johnson, Michael McCarthy, David Moloney, Hugh Koch, Aten Kumar, Alison Quade, Chris Peckham, Rod Ubank, Mary Irwin

The Assembly commenced at

MATTERS CONSIDERED		CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED
1	No matters considered official opening ceremony with state politicians and local business representatives only.	Nil

The Assembly concluded at 3:00 pm

ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS



Southern Grampians
Shire Council

ASSEMBLY DETAILS	
Title:	Council Briefing Session
Date:	31 August 2016
Location:	Hamilton District Skills Centre, 85 Mount Baimbridge Road, Hamilton
Councillors in Attendance:	Mayor Cr Peter Dark Cr Dennis Dawson Cr Paul Battista Cr Albert Calvano
Council Staff in Attendance:	Mr Michael Tudball – Chief Executive Officer Ms Belinda Johnson – Acting Director Community & Corporate Mr Michael McCarthy – Director Shire Futures Mr David Moloney – Director Shire Infrastructure Ms Megan Kruger – Governance Coordinator

The Assembly commenced at 1.00pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED
1	Vicroads presentation	
2	Waste options for urban areas	
3	Staffing of Outdoor Pools	Cr Battista declared an indirect conflict of interest in this matter, and left the Briefing for discussion of this item.
4	Local Government Act Review Submission	
5	Passenger Services Rail Feasibility	
6	Recording of Council Meeting 10 August 2016	

7	Iluka Resources Pty Ltd Vs Horsham Rural City Council - Vcat	
8	Mount Rouse Management Plan	
9	Sale of Assets (Council Owned Land) Policy	
10	Planning Committee	
11	Councillor Reports	
12	Councillor Delegate Reports	
13	Matters Raised by Councillors	
14	Councillor Nominations for Functions and Other Requests	

The Assembly concluded at 6.20pm

10. Management Reports

10.1 Rating Strategy Policy

Directorate: Community and Corporate Services
Author: Belinda Johnson, Acting Director
Attachments: 1. Rating Strategy Policy

Executive Summary

At its Meeting on 8 June 2016 Council adopted an updated Rating Strategy Policy.

Following this Meeting, Council resolved at its Meeting on 13 July 2016 to introduce a mandatory kerbside collection service for residents in the Cavendish Township.

The Rating Strategy Policy has been updated to reflect this change and it is recommended that Council adopt the updated Policy.

Discussion

The Council adopted Rating Strategy Policy on 8 June 2016.

The Policy has now been amended to reflect that Cavendish will receive a mandatory kerbside collection service from 1 January 2017.

The policy provides that differential general rates will be levied on the capital improved value of all rateable land to reflect the different standard, range and access to municipal services available to residents and ratepayers of the Shire. The policy also provides for a municipal charge, annual service charge (garbage) and a special drainage rate.

A copy of the updated Rating Strategy Policy is attached.

Financial and Resource Implications

Rates and charges comprise approximately 40% of annual Council revenue and therefore amounts raised impact of the level on services and capital works available for implementation.

The Councils current comparative rating level is at the lower level of municipalities in Victoria referred to within the category of 'large rural Shires'.

Legislation, Council Plan and Policy Impacts

The Local Government Act 1989 provides the legislative basis for the levying of rates and charges (sections 154 to 158c).

The Council adopted Rating Strategy Policy to provide an equitable and consistent basis for the levying of rates and charges.

The Council has adopted a Council Plan 2013 - 2017 which provides that Council will:

- 1.1.1 Base decisions on the highest available level of professional advice and expertise; and
- 1.3.1 Compliance with and application of prudent financial principles to the Council's annual budget.

Risk Management

N/A

Environmental and Sustainability Considerations

Rates and charges provide a significant component of Council revenue to fund services and capital works annually and ensure that a wide range of quality services are available to our community.

The quality of services in Southern Grampians Shire is important to the liveability of the Shire

Community Consultation and Communication

No communication is required in relation to the change to the Policy.

Letters were distributed to affected ratepayers and a media release prepared on the introduction of a mandatory kerbside collection service in Cavendish following Council's resolution to this effect at its Meeting on 13 July 2016.

Disclosure of Interests

All Council Officers involved in the development and advice provided in this Report affirm that no direct or indirect interests need to be declared in relation to any matters in this Report.

RECOMMENDATION

That the updated Rating Strategy Policy be adopted.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr Dawson
SECONDED: Cr Calvano

That the updated Rating Strategy Policy be adopted.

CARRIED

10.2 Draft 2015/2016 Financial Statements

Directorate:	Community and Corporate Services
Author:	Belinda Johnson, Acting Director
Attachments:	2. Annual Financial Report 2015/2016
	3. Performance Statement 2015/2016
	4. Governance and Management Checklist 2015/2016

Executive Summary

The Local Government Act 1989 (LGA) requires that Council must pass resolutions giving approval in principle to the annual financial and performance statements and the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework Governance and Management Checklist, and authorise two Councillors to certify the statements in their final form after any changes recommended or agreed to by the Auditor General have been made.

It is recommended that the Mayor and one other Councillor be authorised to certify the statements.

Discussion

The financial statements form part of Council's Annual Report.

The Financial Statements, Performance Statement and Governance & Management Checklist are each prepared in accordance with the requirements of the LGA and the applicable accounting standards.

They are audited by Coffey Hunt on behalf of the Auditor General Victoria and presented to Council's Audit and Risk Committee.

The statements are also signed by the Chief Executive Officer and the Principal Accounting Officer.

When finalised, they are formerly certified by the Auditor General.

Financial and Resource Implications

There are no financial implications in this process. The statements outline financial performance for the year but costs in their production are part of normal operating expenditure.

Legislation, Council Plan and Policy Impacts

Financial Sustainability – 1.3.1 – Compliance with and application of prudent financial principles to the Council's annual budget.

Sections 131 and 132 of the LGA and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014 outline the process required to be followed in the certification of the annual statements.

Risk Management

The draft statements have been presented and endorsed by Council's Risk and Audit Committee on Wednesday 31 August 2016.

Environmental and Sustainability Considerations

N/A

Community Consultation and Communication

There is no requirement for community engagement however the documents form part of Council's Annual Report which is a publicly available document.

When prepared, the availability of the Annual Report is advertised.

Disclosure of Interests

All Council Officers involved in the development and advice provided in this Report affirm that no direct or indirect interests need to be declared in relation to any matters in this Report.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Approve in principle the draft 2015/2016 Financial Statements, Performance Statement and Governance & Management Checklist.
2. Appoint the Mayor, Cr Dark and Cr _____ to certify the statements in their final form after any changes recommended or agreed to by the Auditor General Victoria have been made.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr Calvano
SECONDED: Cr Rainsford

That Council:

1. Approve in principle the draft 2015/2016 Financial Statements, Performance Statement and Governance & Management Checklist.
2. Appoint the Mayor, Cr Dark and Cr Dawson to certify the statements in their final form after any changes recommended or agreed to by the Auditor General Victoria have been made.

CARRIED

10.3 Review of the Local Government Act 1989 – Directions Paper Submission

Directorate: Chief Executive Office
Author: Megan Kruger, Governance Coordinator
Attachments: 5. Directions Paper Submission

Executive Summary

The State Government of Victoria Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (“DELWP”) released a Directions Paper ‘Act for the future, Directions for a new Local Government Act’ (“Directions Paper”) in 2016 which details 157 proposed directions to update and improve the Local Government Act 1989. A Submission in relation to the proposed directions has been prepared and it is recommended that the attached Submission be adopted and forwarded to DELWP for its consideration in the development of new legislation.

Discussion

The Directions Paper outlines the objectives for a review of the Local Government Act 1989 being that the new Act:

1. Revitalises local democracy;
2. Supports and encourages councils to be innovative and collaborative; and
3. Is easy to read and understand by both councillors and the community.

The Directions Paper details 157 Proposed Directions which seek to remedy the issues in the current legislation, which were detailed in the DELWP Discussion Paper ‘Review of the Local Government Act 1989’.

The Directions Paper has 10 Major Reform Directions being:

1. Mayors leading councils.
2. Consistent representative structures.
3. Consistent, simpler voting arrangements.
4. Deliberative community engagement.
5. Integrated, strategic planning and reporting.
6. Effective ministerial intervention.
7. Transparent CEO employment and performance.
8. Power to innovate and collaborate.
9. A consistent rating system.
10. Autonomous decision-making balanced by a principle-based Act.

It also has directions in relation to:

- The roles, functions and powers of councils, mayors, councillors, CEO’s and council staff;
- Local laws;
- Council committees;
- Council structures, electoral structures, ballot counting systems and voting;
- Community engagement on key planning documents;
- Transparency of council operations;
- Consistent complaint handling;
- Probity into council performance;
- Ministerial oversight of councils;
- Integrated planning;

- Sustainable finances;
- Innovative and collaborative councils;
- Procurement;
- Rates;
- Prescriptive requirements in the legislation; and
- Harmonization of the legislation which affects local government.

A Submission has been prepared in relation to the directions which relate to the Southern Grampians Shire Council, councillors and council staff. It also focuses on some of the key themes in the Directions Paper, and key issues which will arise from the adoption of some of the Directions being deliberative community engagement, administrative burden and resourcing, reporting requirements and harmonisation of legislation.

Financial and Resource Implications

There have been no financial implications in the development of this Submission. It has been drafted by Council's Governance Coordinator in consultation with councillors and senior management.

There are significant financial and resource implications to all councils if some of the proposed directions in the Directions Paper are adopted. Whilst the majority of the directions in the Directions Paper are supported, the implementation of these proposals will significantly increase the administrative burden of councils and have significant impact on resources, particularly for rural and regional councils and during the initial development of the documents.

Whereas larger metropolitan councils may have teams of staff in areas of governance, policy development and communications, rural and regional councils often have one person in each role, or one person doing multiple roles.

The pressure of an increased administrative burden is intensified with the current system of rate capping. Limiting the income councils can make from rates limits the resources available to councils, particularly rural and regional councils without other ways to generate income. If planning and reporting is to be a priority of council this should be financially supported or supplemented by the State Government, especially if the State Government continues its policy of rate capping.

Legislation, Council Plan and Policy Impacts

This Submission is in relation to a review of the current Local Government Act 1989 in its entirety.

Although there are no Council Plan or Policy impacts in relation to the development of this Submission there will be significant impacts on plans, policies, council governance, and reporting once a new Local Government Act is created and enacted.

Risk Management

Ensuring we have a Local Government Act that is modern and takes into account current issues ensures that the framework for delivering services is open and transparent and is protective of the community's interests.

Environmental and Sustainability Considerations

N/A

Community Consultation and Communication

This Submission has been developed in consultation with councillors and senior management.

If adopted, the Submission will be forwarded to DELWP by the due date of 16 September 2016 for its consideration.

Disclosure of Interests

All Council Officers involved in the development and advice provided in this Report affirm that no direct or indirect interests need to be declared in relation to any matters in this Report.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the attached Submission in relation to the Local Government Act Review Directions Paper and the Submission be forwarded to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning by 5pm on 16 September 2016.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr Calvano
SECONDED: Cr Battista

That Council adopt the attached Submission in relation to the Local Government Act Review Directions Paper and the Submission be forwarded to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning by 5pm on 16 September 2016.

CARRIED

10.4 Audit & Risk Committee Charter

Directorate: Community and Corporate Services
Author: Belinda Johnson, Acting Director
Attachments: 6. Audit & Risk Committee Charter

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to consider a revised Audit & Risk Committee Charter.

Council is requested to approve the document as attached.

Discussion

Council last reviewed the Audit & Risk Committee Charter at the Ordinary Monthly Meeting on 9 December 2015.

Since that time, both independent Audit Committee Members have resigned and new appointments have been made. As part of this process, the Charter has been tabled for review and a number of changes are recommended to enhance the role of the Committee.

The purpose of the Audit & Risk Committee is to assist Council in the effective conduct of its responsibilities for financial reporting practices, maintenance of Council's accounting policies, risk management and internal control systems.

However, the Audit & Risk Committee does not have delegated powers or authority to implement actions and does not have any delegated financial responsibilities. Therefore, the Committee does not have any management function and is therefore independent to management.

Council does authorise this Committee within its scope of responsibilities to:

- a) Perform activities within the scope of the Charter;
- b) Determine the composition of the Committee and information about the meetings;
- c) Report to the Council;
- d) Review the Charter;
- e) Require the attendance of Senior Council Officers at meetings as required;
- f) Have access to members of Executive Management Team, other staff and relevant information;
- g) Oversee the performance of the external auditor and the internal auditor;
- h) Meet in private without the attendance of management;
- i) Request necessary financial resources to be provided to enable the Committee to receive any necessary legal, accounting or other professional advice.

Accordingly, the Charter has been amended to clearly set out the Audit & Risk Committee's purpose and responsibilities, composition of the Committee, conduct of meetings and reporting to Council.

Financial and Resource Implications

Not Applicable

Legislation, Council Plan and Policy Impacts

In accordance with Section 139 of the Local Government Act, it is mandatory for Councils to establish an Audit Committee as an Advisory Committee of Council. Further, under Section 139(5) and (6), the Minister for Local Government may make Guidelines for the purposes of Section 139 which are required to be published in the Government Gazette.

This is supported by the 2013 – 2016 Council Plan in the following strategies:

Strategy 1.1.2 Develop and enact policies, plans and strategies to ensure consistency in decision making.

Strategy 1.1.5 Provide timely and accurate advice.

Strategy 1.3.2 Ensure financial responsibility and security by preparing, implementing and reviewing Council's long-term financial plan.

Strategy 1.3.3 Maintain a continuous improvement approach to all Council operations.

Strategy 1.3.4 Apply the principles of our Asset Management Strategy and Policies.

Risk Management

The Audit & Risk Committee has an important role in terms of adding value to the organisation's operations and enables the organisation to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance processes.

Environmental and Sustainability Considerations

Not Applicable

Community Consultation and Communication

The Charter does not require any direct community engagement.

Disclosure of Interests

All Council Officers involved in the development and advice provided in this Report affirm that no direct or indirect interests need to be declared in relation to any matters in this Report.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the Audit & Risk Committee Charter.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr Battista

SECONDED: Cr Dawson

That Council adopt the Audit & Risk Committee Charter.

CARRIED

10.5 Mount Rouse Reserve Management Plan

Directorate:	Shire Futures
Author:	Dale Tonkinson – Biodiversity Officer
Attachments:	7. Mount Rouse Reserve Management Plan 8. Summary of Prioritised Actions 9. Summary Report of Community Engagement Process

Executive Summary

This Report discusses the development of the Mt Rouse Reserve Management Plan that will guide future management action to protect and enhance the Reserve and provide the basis for seeking funding from appropriate sources to better realise potential usage of the Reserve. The officer recommendation is for Council to adopt the Management Plan to guide the maintenance and upgrades to this important geological and tourist asset until 2021.

Discussion

The 68 hectare Mount Rouse Reserve and adjoining 5 hectare Old Railway Quarry are managed by Council. Mount Rouse is a significant recreational resource for the Peshurst community, a well-known tourist destination and important geological site that attracts visitors through the Volcanoes Discovery Centre ranging from school groups to international geologists.

Management of the Reserve has lacked direction and in recent years few resources have been committed to more than basic maintenance. The existing values are poorly known within Council and future opportunities and risks have been brought to Council's attention in a piecemeal fashion by individuals and the local community. All other Reserves with significant natural values managed by Council have existing Master Plans or Management Plans.

A Management Plan has been developed by consultants Regional Advance and RMIT University (Hamilton) with considerable stakeholder (especially Peshurst community) consultation.

The Management Plan identifies key issues facing the Reserve, opportunities for better outcomes and a series of prioritised actions under the following broad themes:

- Landscape and Cultural Values
- Community and Amenity Values
- Commercial Values
- Management and Legislative Requirements

Implementation of these actions will improve visitor experiences, minimise risks to Reserve users and manage Council's legal liability and legislative responsibility. The Management Plan (Attachment 7) details the specific management actions and their priority. A Summary of the Prioritised Actions is provided as Attachment 8.

Financial and Resource Implications

- The development of the Management Plan was funded from budget allocations in 2014-15 and 2015-16 Financial Years to a total of \$12,000.
- A small budget allocation for management within the Reserve has been made in the 2016-17 financial year that will allow progress on a small number of recommendations

- The Management Plan is designed to guide the development of Work Plans and future funding applications for projects that implement recommendations
- At this stage costs have not been estimated and business cases will be developed as part of the annual budget deliberation using the management plan as the guiding document.

Legislation, Council Plan and Policy Impacts

This Management Plan contributes to the achievement of the following elements of the Council Plan 2013-2017:

Outcome 1.1 Soundly based decisions

Strategy 1.1.1 Base decisions on the highest available level of advice and expertise

Strategy 1.1.2 Develop policies, plans and strategies to ensure consistency in decision making

Outcome 2.3 A strong, innovative and distinctive tourism sector

Strategy 2.3.4 Protect, respect and enhance the significant natural and built tourism attractions of the Shire

Outcome 3.1 Coordinated and Accessible Services

Strategy 3.1.2 Ensuring community infrastructure and services meet access and equity standards

Outcome 5.3 Natural resource and ecosystem resilience

Strategy 5.3.1 Engage with the community to build improved understanding of land management issues

Strategy 5.3.3 Protection, restoration and enhancement of remnant ecosystems and native habitat

Strategy 5.3.4 Management of invasive species on Council managed land

Further detail around Outcome 5.3 (above) is provided in the SGSC Sustainability Strategy 2010-2020.

The following are the relevant sections of the Crown Lands (Reserves) Act 1978 under which Council is appointed Committee of Management for the Mount Rouse Reserve.
Powers of committees of management

(1) A committee of management of any land appointed under [section 14](#)—

(a) shall manage improve maintain and control the land for the purposes for which it is reserved and for that purpose may employ officers servants and workmen;

(c) may carry out works and improvements on the land;

(e) may expend any revenue from the land or any other money for any of the purposes mentioned in this section

Risk Management

The Management Plan outlines a range of benefits to the local community and visitors while identifying risks around user safety and accessibility.

- Risks to public safety around roads, car parks and walking tracks are the subject of recommended actions
- Safe access to and concurrent protection of unique geological features in the Old Railway Quarry are clearly identified as urgent issues to be addressed
- Investigation of access management within the Old Railway Quarry was beyond the scope of the Management Plan as the area was only identified as being under

Council control during Plan development. A process involving Council's Risk Management Officer, engineering staff and the Volcanoes Discovery Centre should be undertaken

- The management plan has been referred to the Council's Risk Officer for appropriate action regarding risk management.

Environmental and Sustainability Considerations

The Management Plan will guide Council in protecting the environment of Mount Rouse. Specific recommendations relate to protecting water resources, controlling invasive species and better understanding the flora and fauna of the Reserve.

Community Consultation and Communication

36 individuals, 8 businesses and 25 organisations were consulted during the development of the Plan. A summary of the consultation process undertaken by the consultants is attached as Attachment 9.

There are no specific requirements for how this decision will be communicated. It is proposed to provide:

- Copies of the Management Plan to Advance Peshurst and the Volcanoes Discovery Centre as key stakeholders through the development process
- Access to the Management Plan through Council's website
- Courtesy copies to be provided to DELWP Crown Land Management, Wannon Water and the native title interests identified within the Management Plan

Disclosure of Interests

All Council Officers involved in the development and advice provided in this Report affirm that no direct or indirect interests need to be declared in relation to any matters in this Report.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the Mount Rouse Reserve Management Plan and that the Plan be the basis for management of the Reserve until 2021 unless otherwise resolved by Council.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr Rainsford
SECONDED: Cr Dawson

That Council adopt the Mount Rouse Reserve Management Plan and that the Plan be the basis for management of the Reserve until 2021 unless otherwise resolved by Council.

CARRIED

10.6 Grampians and Barwon South West Regional Passenger Services Cost and Feasibility Study

Directorate: Shire Futures
Author: Michael McCarthy, Director Shire Futures
Attachments: 10. Consultant's Brief

Executive Summary

This report updates Council on the progress of the Regional Passenger Services Costs and Feasibility Study. It recommends that the Council note that the project has commenced following receipt of funding from the three tiers of Government

Discussion

Southern Grampians Shire Council has been working with seven other Western Victorian Councils to undertake a study of the improvements to passenger services including the potential for passenger rail shuttle services connecting the Wimmera and South West to the existing broad gauge service at Ararat.

It has taken quite a considerable amount of time to secure funding for the study. Essentially the eight local government areas have each agreed to contribute \$4,000 which has been matched by Regional Development Victoria through Regional Development Australia, Grampians and Barwon South West Committees contributing \$20,000 in total and a recently announced grant from the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR) of \$20,000. There is a total budget of \$72,000 to fund the study. Horsham Rural City Council is the auspicing agency on behalf of the eight Councils.

The participating Councils are Horsham Rural City Council; Northern Grampians Shire Council; Rural City of Ararat; Southern Grampians Shire Council; Hindmarsh Shire Council, Yarriambiak Shire Council; West Wimmera Shire Council; Glenelg Shire Council.

A small steering group from Ararat, Southern Grampians and Horsham Councils, assisted by the Transport division of DEDJTR has been established and developed the project brief. The Steering Committee, using Horsham Rural City Council's procurement processes then approached a number of experienced consultants in the passenger transport area. Following the tender process Council has appointed John Hearsch Consulting Pty Ltd to undertake the study.

The three principal Consultants involved in the consultant team are:

- **John Hearsch** who is the principal and has been an Australian career railwayman and transport administrator for over 50 years. John has worked for the Victorian Railways as Chief General Manager of Transport Operations, as the Group General Manager of Freight for Queensland Rail and the Deputy Chairperson of the Co-operative Research Centre for Railway Engineering in Technology for 7 years from 2001 to 2007.
- **Dr Bill Russell** is well experienced in rail issues and provides support to the Victorian Local Government Alliance for Councils for Rail Freight Development and is well respected in the industry.
- **Peter Don** is an independent transport consultant with over 45 years' experience in government and private sectors in planning, construction, marketing and management of public transport studies and projects and services.

The project will take almost nine months to complete and is expected to be completed around April 2017. There will be considerable opportunities for the eight Councils and the community to be involved in the study and there will be a draft report provided in late 2016 for comment.

An inception meeting with representatives of the Councils, Consultants and DEDJTR was held at Ararat on Tuesday 23 August, 2016 at 12pm. Invitations were extended to the CEO and two Councillors of each of the eight participating Local Government areas. All Councils were represented apart from Yarriambiack and Glenelg Shire Councils.

A Steering Committee which was developed to prepare the brief and to oversee the granting of the tender met on the same day with John Hearsch Consulting and proposes to continue its role as a Steering Committee through the life of the project.

The members of the Steering Committee are Andrew Evans, CEO, Ararat Rural City; Michael McCarthy, Director Shire Futures, Southern Grampians Shire Council; Maree McNeilly, Transport Division, DEDJTR; Chris Banger, PTV, Susan Surrige, Grants Officer, Horsham Rural City Council and Peter Brown, CEO, Horsham Rural City Council.

The Consultants spent some part of the afternoon talking to Councils about their requirements from the project and to get an initial feel for the issues and constraints around current passenger services in the region.

A copy of the Consultant's Brief is attached (Attachment 10).

Consultation/Communication

A media release will be used to inform the public of the appointment of consultants and the commencement of the study.

Financial

The eight Councils have contributed \$4,000 each towards the feasibility study, the State Government has committed \$20,000 and the two Federal RDAs (Barwon South West and Grampians) have contributed \$10,000 each. The total project cost = \$72,000.

Legislation, Council Plan and Policy Impacts

The return of passenger rail is an item that Council advocates for on behalf of Southern Grampians and the Greater Hamilton region. SGSC was a lead agency in successfully advocating for this project to be included as one of the Great South Coast priority projects.

Disclosure of Interests

All Council Officers involved in the development and advice provided in this Report affirm that no direct or indirect interests need to be declared in relation to any matters in this Report.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes that the Regional Passenger Services Costs and Feasibility Study has commenced with the Financial support of the three tiers of Government including the other seven Councils as listed in the report.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr Calvano
SECONDED: Cr Dawson

That Council notes that the Regional Passenger Services Costs and Feasibility Study has commenced with the Financial support of the three tiers of Government including the other seven Councils as listed in the report.

CARRIED

10.7 Kurtzes Road, Hamilton Upgrade

Directorate: Infrastructure
Author: Aten Kumar, Manager Engineering & Projects
Attachments: None.

Executive Summary

Council has been requested to investigate the options for the sealing of Kurtzes Road between Hamilton Chatsworth Road and W Schultz Road as part of Capital Works Program 2016/17. The request was raised in the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 budget consultation process by a resident on Kurtzes Road.

While undertaking an investigation into the options for the upgrade, considerations on the flood way drainage and the identification of the area as a weed hygiene zone will need to be addressed.

Council Officers had come up with following options:

1. Do nothing and leave to its current state of gravel road.
2. Under Section 163 Special Rate and Special Charge, of the Local Government Act 1989, initiate an upgrade of Kurtzes Road from a gravel road to a 4 metre wide sealed road (with drainage upgrade costs funded by Council).
3. Under Section 163 Special Rate and Special Charge, of the Local Government Act 1989, initiate an upgrade of Kurtzes Road from a gravel road to a 4 metre wide sealed road (including drainage upgrade costs).
4. Upgrade the gravel section of the road to a 4 metre wide seal with 100% Council funding.

Funding Options if the project is approved for construction:

- a. If the Section 163 charges are agreed to with the affected property owners that Council's proportion of funding be sourced by cancellation of an existing 2016-2017 roads capital project and replacing it with Kurtzes Road.
- b. Fund upgrade from cash reserves.

It is recommended that Council approve:

- Under Section 163 Special Rate and Special Charge scheme of the Local Government Act 1989, initiate an upgrade of Kurtzes Road from a gravel road to a 4 metre wide sealed road (excluding drainage upgrade):
- If the Section 163 charges are agreed to with the affected property owners that Council fully fund the drainage upgrade;
- If the Section 163 charges are agreed to with the affected property owners that Council's proportion of funding be sourced by cancelling an existing 2016-2017 roads capital project and replacing it with Kurtzes Road.

Discussion

The upgrade investigation was carried out for the sealing of Kurtzes Road between Hamilton Chatsworth Road and W Schultz Road as part of Capital Works Program. The Moloney Asset Management System condition rating undertaken in October 2015, has rated Kurtzes Road with a score of 2 which indicates that the pavement is in a very good condition. Due to the condition of the pavement one option is to not upgrade the road.

A flood plain crosses the Kurtzes Road causing flooding along with frequent dust complaints during dryer months. As with any gravel road Kurtzes Road requires ongoing regular maintenance. It has a traffic count of 55-60 vehicles per day which is likely to increase due to future subdivisions. There are 2 properties currently occupied with possibility of further seven subdivisional lots in the future. The option to upgrade the road therefore could be considered due to the potential increase in traffic from the subdivision.

Kurtzes Road between Hamilton-Chatsworth Road and W Schultz Road is part of Council's Weed Hygiene Zone for Serrated Tussock and Chilean Needle-grass. The potential for wind, animal or machine dispersal of seed along this section of road is considered unacceptably high. All works that have the potential to move seed onto or away from this area are required to undertake the highest level of phyto-hygiene to manage the identified risk of establishment and spread of these highly invasive South American weeds. It is expected that if the project was to go ahead additional costs would be incurred to undertake the appropriate weed control measures.

An upgrade will provide a better level of service to the residents of Kurtzes Road, nearby school and the community. As Kurtzes Road is subject to flooding near the Chatsworth Road end, any upgrading of the road from gravel to a seal should include the installation of 2 cells of 1200 x 1200 culverts with the need to raise the road level by approximately a metre which will provide an all-weather road.

It is highly recommended that the sealing of the road is undertaken with the drainage works at the same time. With both projects being constructed together under one establishment cost and cut and fill operations carried out simultaneously it is expected that the cost of the project will be less than conducting the projects separately.

Due to the pavement being rated as condition 2, a project to resheet or upgrade the road would not normally be considered by council for some years to come. A business case for sealing of Kurtzes Road was developed and assessed in the budget for 2016-2017 and was assessed as not meeting the minimum criteria for addition to the budget. Under a Section 163 Special Rates and Charges Scheme, owners of properties can request Council to consider upgrading of roads with a contribution made by the residents who directly benefit from the upgrade. The process for a special rates and charges scheme, if deemed appropriate, will be followed. Firstly to inform the owners and obtain agreement as to their willingness to contribute to the upgrade, an estimate of the amount and for payment options. Therefore it is advisable that the project be constructed in the 2017/18 financial year allowing for the statutory process to be undertaken and designs completed.

Funding for Kurtzes road can be undertaken by either cancelling a current year project and diverting the funds to Kurtzes Road or Council can pay for the project out of cash reserves. The funding for the drainage works can also be undertaken via the special rates and charges scheme or solely by council.

Council Officers had come up with following options:

- 1) Do nothing and leave to its current state of gravel road.

- 2) Under Section 163 Special Rate and Special Charge, of the Local Government Act 1989, initiate an upgrade of Kurtzes Road from a gravel road to a 4 metre wide sealed road (with drainage upgrade costs funded by Council)
- 3) Under Section 163 Special Rate and Special Charge, of the Local Government Act 1989, initiate an upgrade of Kurtzes Road from a gravel road to a 4 metre wide sealed road (including drainage upgrade costs)
- 4) Upgrade the gravel section of the road to a 4 metre wide seal with 100% Council funding

Funding Options if the project is approved for construction:

- a) If the Section 163 charges are agreed to with the affected property owners that Council's proportion of funding be sourced by cancellation an existing 2016-2017 roads capital project and replacing it with Kurtzes Road
- b) Fund upgrade from cash reserves

Plan of Proposed Works



Financial and Resource Implications

The total cost for upgrading Kurtzes Road from gravel to a 4 metre wide seal will be approximately \$140,000. Installation of 2 cells of 1200 x 1200 culverts and raising the road level to approximately one metre to provide all weather road will be additional \$25,000. Both costs include 15% contingency. A more detailed estimate will need be developed if the project is agreed to go ahead.

These works can be undertaken by Council Staff. If funded under Section 163 Special rates and charges, of the Local Government Act (1989), Council will provide reasonable opportunity for payment. Quarterly instalments can be set by Council but not exceeding 10 years.

If the project is funded out of cash reserves then council will have lower cash reserves for future requirements.

Legislation, Council Plan and Policy Impacts

The following strategies apply as per Council's Plan

Strategy 1.1.1 Base decisions on the highest available level of professional advice and expertise

Strategy 2.1.5 Support and encourage social and economic development in all our settlements

Strategy 3.1.2 Ensuring community infrastructure and service meet access and equity standards

Strategy 4.1.3 Managing the regulatory environment to protect amenity and safety.

Strategy 2.1.9 Facilitate and encourage business capacity and development

The following legislation apply:

- *Local Government Act (1989)*
- *Roads Act (2004)*
- *Victorian Planning Scheme*

Relevant Council Policies that apply:

- *Weed Hygiene Plan*
- *Asset Management Plan*
- *Road Asset Management Plan*

Risk Management

The upgrade of gravel road to 4m wide seal with installation of 2 cells of 1200 x 1200 culverts, raising the road level approximately to a metre will provide an all-weather road with better level of service to local residents, and the community.

Sealing of the road will still require Council to undertake ongoing regular maintenance but may reduce customer complaints in the early period of the road.

An upgrade of the drainage will eliminate the localised flooding of the road and therefore increasing the level of service provided by the road.

Environmental and Sustainability Considerations

Detailed design will be undertaken to refine the options and also balance the cut and fill material from existing site.

The planning scheme has identified the area as a Weed hygiene zone with the area identified as at high risk for the spread of Serrated Tussock and Chilean needle grass. This will require additional costs to construct the road to reduce the potential for the spread of the weed. Without the added precautions there is a risk that the two weeds mentioned could be spread further within the Shire.

Community Consultation and Communication

This project was brought to Council's attention during the budget consultation process as it was raised by a resident on Kurtzes Road. Council will inform the residents in writing of the decision made by Council in regards to this road.

If a Section 163 Special rates and charge is the preferred option, then upon Council adopting the upgrade, the property owners of the Kurtzes Road will be formally advised of the options with an estimation of costs in writing.

The following process needs to occur:

- 1) Council to confirm the preferred option i.e. Special Rates and Charge Scheme.
- 2) Owners will be notified in writing via a survey indicating their potential contribution with payment options.
- 3) Depending on the results of the survey from the owners, Council will make a decision to proceed or not to proceed.
- 4) If the decision is not to proceed, the road will be left to its gravel state and the option to do nothing is instigated
- 5) If the decision is to proceed with the upgrade, a detailed design will be carried out in the current financial year with construction in the 2017/18 financial year.
- 6) All owners will be notified of the outcome and invoice sent out (if required)

Disclosure of Interests

All Council Officers involved in the development and advice provided in this Report affirm that no direct or indirect interests need to be declared in relation to any matters in this Report.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve:

- Under Section 163 Special Rate and Special Charge scheme of the Local Government Act 1989, initiate an upgrade of Kurtzes Road from a gravel road to a 4 metre wide sealed road (excluding drainage upgrade):
- If the Section 163 charges are agreed to with the affected property owners that Council fully fund the drainage upgrade;

- If the Section 163 charges are agreed to with the affected property owners that Council's proportion of funding be sourced by cancelling an existing 2016-2017 roads capital project and replacing it with Kurtzes Road.
- If the Section 163 Special Rate and Special Charge Scheme, of the Local Government Act 1989, are not agreed to with the affected property owners that Council do not proceed with the upgrade of Kurtzes Road.

MOTION

MOVED: Cr Dawson
SECONDED: Cr Armstrong

That Council approve:

- **Under Section 163 Special Rate and Special Charge scheme of the Local Government Act 1989, initiate an upgrade of Kurtzes Road from a gravel road to a 4 metre wide sealed road (excluding drainage upgrade):**
- **If the Section 163 charges are agreed to with the affected property owners that Council fully fund the drainage upgrade;**
- **If the Section 163 charges are agreed to with the affected property owners that Council's proportion of funding be sourced by cancelling an existing 2016-2017 roads capital project and replacing it with Kurtzes Road.**
- **If the Section 163 Special Rate and Special Charge Scheme, of the Local Government Act 1989, are not agreed to with the affected property owners that Council do not proceed with the upgrade of Kurtzes Road.**

AMENDMENT

MOVED: Cr Calvano
SECONDED: Cr Battista

To upgrade the gravel section of Kurtzes Road to a 4 metre wide sealed road with 100% Council funding.

The Mayor did not allow the Amendment as it contravened Clause 47 of the Meeting Procedure Local Law No. 1 of 2013.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr Dawson
SECONDED: Cr Armstrong

That Council approve:

- **Under Section 163 Special Rate and Special Charge scheme of the Local Government Act 1989, initiate an upgrade of Kurtzes Road from a gravel road to a 4 metre wide sealed road (excluding drainage upgrade):**
- **If the Section 163 charges are agreed to with the affected property owners that Council fully fund the drainage upgrade;**
- **If the Section 163 charges are agreed to with the affected property owners that Council's proportion of funding be sourced by cancelling an existing 2016-2017 roads capital project and replacing it with Kurtzes Road.**
- **If the Section 163 Special Rate and Special Charge Scheme, of the Local Government Act 1989, are not agreed to with the affected property owners that Council do not proceed with the upgrade of Kurtzes Road.**

CARRIED

A division was called

DIVISION	
FOR	AGAINST
Cr Armstrong	Cr Battista
Cr Colliton	Cr Calvano
Cr Dark	
Cr Dawson	
Cr Rainsford	

10.8 Proposed Road Name Change – Mt Rouse Tourist Road as Waller Road Penshurst

Directorate: Shire Infrastructure
Author: Francis Pekin, Engineering Support Officer
Attachments: None

Executive Summary

The Friends of the Napier Waller Committee has requested Council to rename the Mt Rouse Tourist Road as Waller Drive to honour a man they believe is “Penshurst’s most talented and famous son in its 165-year history”. They advise that “Mervyn Napier Waller grew up and went to school in Penshurst before going to Melbourne in 1913 to study under famed artist, Frederick McCubbin. The loss of his painting arm in World War One didn't deter him, and he went on to have an illustrious career, culminating in the magnificent mosaic dome in the Hall of Memory”.

The road from the Warrnambool Rd to the top of Mt Rouse is simply called Mt Rouse Tourist Rd which they would like to rename Waller Drive. It would be a fitting tribute to one of Australia’s most famous artists if the road bore his name, rather than the current pedestrian name.

It is recommended that Council advertise its intention to rename the road which runs from the Warrnambool – Penshurst Road to the top of Mt Rouse, as Waller Road and that submissions be invited on the proposal until Tuesday 17 October 2016. This is following advice from the Office of Geographical Names that Drive is not considered appropriate for this type of road. They have also suggested Mt Rouse Tourist Road is a good descriptive name and community consultation is required before amending the name.

Discussion

The Friends of Napier Waller Committee has requested Council to rename the tourist road leading to Mt Rouse to honour a man they believe is Penshurst's most talented and famous son in its 165-year history.

The road from the Warrnambool Rd to the top of Mt Rouse is simply called Mt Rouse Tourist Rd which they would like to rename Waller Drive. It would be a fitting tribute to one of Australia’s most famous artists if the road bore his name, rather than the current pedestrian name.

The Committee believe there is an extra incentive to call this road Waller Drive as Mervyn Napier Waller was raised on a dairy farm on the Warrnambool Road, directly opposite the turn-off to Mt Rouse.

Currently there is only a small plaque on Mt Rouse – at the bottom of the steps leading to the summit to honour him. The Committee believe that the man whose works dominate the Hall of Memory at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, and whose mosaics, murals and stained glass windows dominate Melbourne CBD and suburbs, deserves to be more widely recognised, especially in his home town and region.

The Committee has provided additional information to support this renaming.

It should be noted that the Guidelines for Geographic Names 2010 (Version 2 January 2013) states under Principle 1(H) when using commemorative names “a commemorative name

applied to a locality or road should use only the surname of a person, not a first or given names”.

There is one property owner affected by this proposal which will require a property address change.



Financial and Resource Implications

There are costs associated with the preparation of reports, community liaison, advertising, administrative actions and statutory procedures to be undertaken.

Legislation, Council Plan and Policy Impacts

Under the Local Government Act 1989 (Schedule 10, Clause 5) Council may approve, assign or change the name of any street or road within its Municipal District. In exercising this power it must act in accordance with the guidelines in force for the time being under the Geographical Place Names Act 1998.

There is one section of the Council Plan which relates to this matter:

Strategy 1.2.3

Ensure that our actions contribute positively to sound relationships and engagement with our local communities.

The proposal conforms to the principles outlined in Section 1.8 Principles of the Guidelines for Geographic Names 2010 (V.2 Jan 2013).

Risk Management

Not applicable.

Environmental and Sustainability Considerations

Not applicable.

Community Consultation and Communication

Property owners with land abutting the Mt Rouse Tourist Road will be advised by letter of Council's intention.

There is one property owner affected by this proposal which will require a property address change

Public notice will be advertised in the Spectator on Saturday 17 September 2016.
Submissions will be invited by 5pm Tuesday 17 October 2016.

Disclosure of Interests

All Council Officers involved in the development and advice provided in this Report affirm that no direct or indirect interests need to be declared in relation to any matters in this Report.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That public notice be given of Council's consideration of a request to rename the Mt Rouse Tourist Road, as Waller Road, Penshurst. Following consideration of the submissions, Council will decide on the road name change at their November Ordinary Council Meeting.
2. That submissions be invited on the proposal until 5 pm Tuesday 17 October 2016.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr Colliton
SECONDED: Cr Dawson

1. **That public notice be given of Council's consideration of a request to rename the Mt Rouse Tourist Road, as Waller Road, Penshurst. Following consideration of the submissions, Council will decide on the road name change at their November Ordinary Council Meeting.**
2. **That submissions be invited on the proposal until 5 pm Tuesday 17 October 2016.**

CARRIED

10.9 Proposed Street Name – Nolte Street, Hamilton

Directorate: Shire Infrastructure

Author: Francis Pekin, Engineering Support Officer

Attachments: None.

Executive Summary

Council resolved at its 13 July 2016 meeting to name the un-named road which runs east from Alexandra Parade to Foster Street Hamilton as it is causing confusion in regard to members of the public having difficulty in locating a local health business. In the interests of residents and community safety it is vital that addresses can be located, particularly in case of emergency.

It is recommended that Council name the street which runs east from Alexandra Parade to Foster Street as Nolte Street, Hamilton and give public notice of its decision.

Discussion

Gen Health, Hamilton requested Council to rename the un-named street in which their property is located which runs from Alexandra Parade to Foster Street, Hamilton.

The reason for this is they have clients and couriers who have difficulty finding their location because of the confusion with street names and that Google maps shows their address as Garton Street.

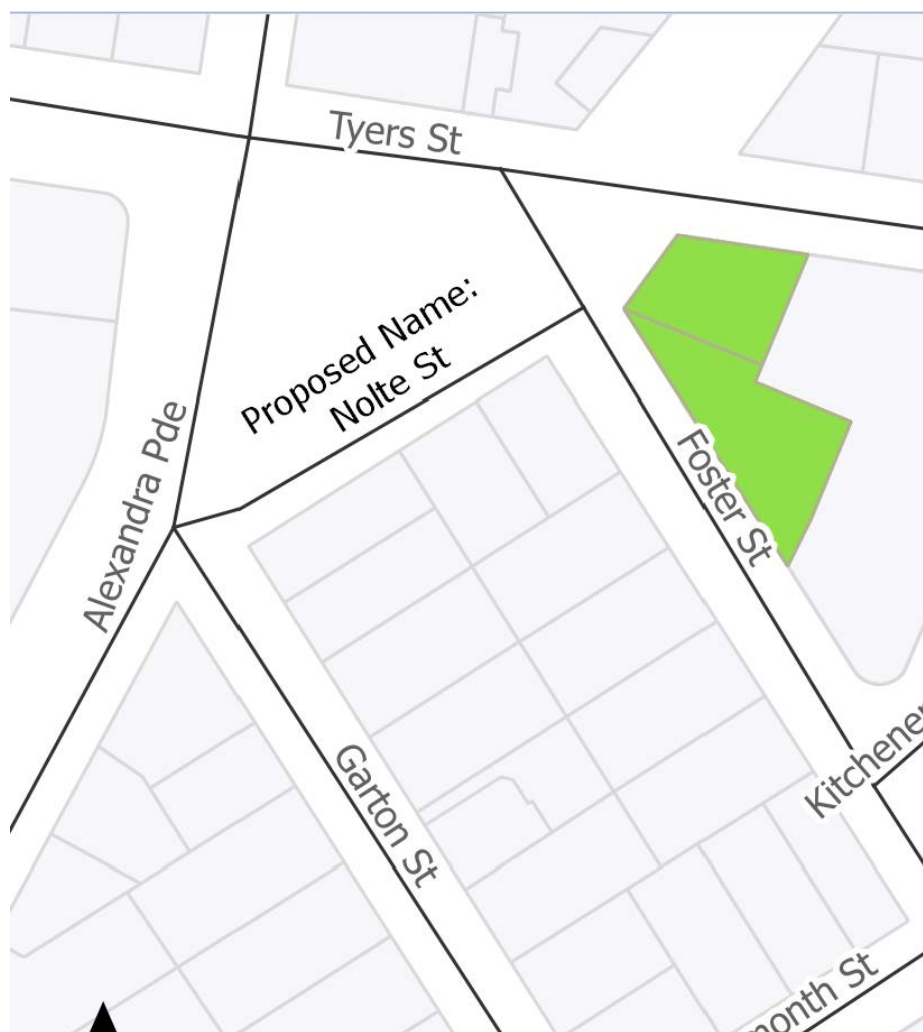
In the interest of residents and community safety it is vital that all authorities, particularly the Police, Ambulance and Fire Brigade are able to locate the correct addresses in case of an emergency. There is clearly potential for serious consequences if delays occur in attending to that emergency because the wrong address is attended or an address cannot be found.

Council resolved at its 13 July 2016 meeting that:

1. That public notice be given of Council's intention to name the un-named street which runs east from Alexandra Parade to Foster Street as Nolte Street, Hamilton.
2. That submissions be invited on the proposal until 5 pm Tuesday 16 August 2016.

There is one property affected by this proposal which will require a property address change which is the property occupied by Gen Health.

There are two properties on either side of the affected property which front Alexandra Parade and Foster Street respectively who do not have any objection to the naming of the street.



Financial and Resource Implications

There are costs associated with the preparation of reports, community liaison, advertising, administrative actions and statutory procedures to be undertaken.

Legislation, Council Plan and Policy Impacts

Under the Local Government Act 1989 (Schedule 10, Clause 5) Council may approve, assign or change the name of any street or road within its Municipal District. In exercising this power it must act in accordance with the guidelines in force for the time being under the Geographical Place Names Act 1998.

There are two sections of the Council Plan which relate to this matter:

Strategy 1.2.3

Ensure that our actions contribute positively to sound relationships and engagement with our local communities.

Strategy 4.1.2

Managing infrastructure to maximise community safety.

The proposal conforms to the principles outlined in Section 1.8 Ensuring Public Safety of the Guidelines for Geographic Names 2010 (V2 Jan 2013). The proposed name will overcome any confusion that currently exists between relevant authorities and will ensure there are no delays as a result of the change.

Risk Management

There is a potential risk of liability attaching to Council if it does not take positive action to address this safety issue.

Environmental and Sustainability Considerations

Not applicable.

Community Consultation and Communication

Council staff telephoned the adjoining property owners regarding the proposal who offered no objection.

The property owner with land affected by this proposal was advised by e-mail.

Public notice was advertised in the Spectator on Saturday 23 July 2016. Submissions to be received by 5pm Tuesday 23 August 2016.

No submissions were received.

Following the naming of the street, affected owners will be advised of Council's decision.

Public notice will be advertised in the Hamilton Spectator.

The Office of Geographic Names will be advised of Council's decision.

Disclosure of Interests

All Council Officers involved in the development and advice provided in this Report affirm that no direct or indirect interests need to be declared in relation to any matters in this Report.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council name the un-named street which runs east from Alexandra Parade to Foster Street as Nolte Street, Hamilton.
2. That Council give public notice of Council's decision to name the un-named street which runs east from Alexandra Parade to Foster Street as Nolte Street, Hamilton.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr Dawson
SECONDED: Cr Battista

1. That Council name the un-named street which runs east from Alexandra Parade to Foster Street as Nolte Street, Hamilton.
2. That Council give public notice of Council's decision to name the un-named street which runs east from Alexandra Parade to Foster Street as Nolte Street, Hamilton.

CARRIED

10.10 Review of Future Urban Waste Collections

Directorate: Shire Infrastructure

Author: Greg Gunn, Team Leader Strategy & Operations

Attachments: None

Executive Summary

Council resolved at its July 2016 Council meeting to introduce a mandatory waste and recycle collection service for Cavendish. In addition Council also requested further information to consider other options to extend, improve and unify kerbside services.

Landfill capital and operational costs are increasing rapidly and it is essential that to reduce the impact, by ensuring the maximum volume of waste is diverted for recycling and reuse.

Local Government Performance indicators collated by Sustainability Victoria for the diversion of recyclables and organics from the landfill indicate that council is performing relatively poorly (39th out of 79 Victorian Councils) as compared with some neighbouring councils. The key reason for this result is that the collection of organic waste is an elective service and is only offered in Hamilton and Tarrington.

Diversion of additional organics and recyclables has the potential to provide substantial savings and decrease Council's environmental footprint. It is therefore recommended:

1. That Council introduces a mandatory waste and recycle kerbside collection service for residents in all Southern Grampians Shire Council Townships
2. That Council introduces a mandatory Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) collection service for the Hamilton, Tarrington and Outer Hamilton areas

Discussion

All townships have or will have a kerbside collection service provided by Council with the exception of Branxholme. The service in some townships for waste and recycling is mandatory and in others it is optional. The FOGO waste is only provided to Hamilton, Tarrington and Outer Hamilton townships on an optional basis. The residents in Cavendish and Branxholme until recently had another option to use a private contractor or dispose of waste to their respective transfer stations.

The private contractor servicing these townships has recently ceased providing a weekly service as it is not financially viable on an optional basis and will only offer a monthly collection service as of the 30 June 2016. As a consequence many residences requested council to investigate the potential of providing a Council service. Residents in Branxholme and Cavendish were requested to respond to a survey to gauge interest in introducing a mandatory service.

Based on these results, Council resolved at its July 2016 Council meeting to introduce a mandatory waste and recycle collection service for Cavendish. Arrangements are now being made to introduce this service later this year.

Council also requested further information to consider other options to extend and unify kerbside services.

The importance of Waste Diversion

Impact on Hamilton landfill

The cost to operate, rehabilitate and construct new cells at the landfill is significant. To reduce the impact on the landfill it is essential to maximise the diversion of organics and recyclables. It currently costs Council approximately \$110 per tonne to dispose to and operate the landfill. The costs allowing for capital costs associated with the construction of new cells are estimated to be \$150 per tonne.

Note - All waste costs are to be confirmed by the Waste Services Financial Analysis/Strategy presently being prepared for Council by Mackenzie Environmental and will be presented to Council in November 2016.

Recyclables

Kerbside collection of recyclables should be maximised for the following reasons:

- Recyclables do not attract the the EPA Waste levy (currently \$30.32 per tonne and increasing every year)
- Recyclables are transported to Visy for processing and Council is rebated (\$60 per tonne which currently equates to \$128,000 per year)
- Collection and transport costs to Visy are covered by the collection fee
- Each tonne diverted will save council \$ 110/ t or \$234,000 per year (2015/16) in operating costs. This figure does not include future capital cost.

Organics

Previous bin audits have found that approximately 51% of waste bin contents is organic waste (food and garden waste). To capture and divert some of this material, Council offers an elective organics collection service in Hamilton/Tarrington. However, only 950 out of 4700 eligible ratepayers have taken up this option. Therefore the vast majority of organic material is still being landfilled rather than being processed (composted) and beneficially reused.

Kerbside collection of organics (FOGO) should be maximised for the following reasons:

- Organics disposed to landfill attract a \$30.32 EPA levy. The levy does not apply to organics that are diverted from landfill and processed.
- The processing of organics (by Camperdown Composting) costs the Council \$35 per tonne, as compared with \$140/t (ex GST and including EPA levy), if sent to the landfill. Every tonne diverted saves council aprx. \$105.
- The majority of kerbside organic waste in the Shire is being landfilled. This is consuming valuable landfill airspace (which increases capital costs)
- The kerbside organics collection service is user pays and cost neutral for Council

Best Practice Waste Diversion

Diversion data is reported as part of the local Government Performance Indicators to allow Council comparisons.

Our neighbouring Shires, Moyne and Corangamite have some of the best diversion rates in Victoria (ranked 2nd and 5th respectively). East Gippsland is rated No 1 out of 79 Councils, whilst Southern Grampians is ranked 39th in the State.

Diversion Ranking	Council	*Total Diversion Rate 1
1	East Gippsland	65%
2	Moyne	58%
5	Corangamite	52%
39	SGSC	39%

*Diversion Rate 1 is % Recyclables plus Organics/ Total Recyclables, Organics and Waste Collected

The SGSC Ranking for Recycling Diversion Rate 1 is poor. This is due to the fact that Southern Grampians, unlike Moyne and Corangamite, does not have a mandatory organic collection system in place.

The options available for Council are:

- A. Leave collection service as is
- B. Mandatory kerbside collection in all townships – Waste and recycling
- C. Mandatory kerbside collection in all townships – Waste, recycling and FOGO
- D. Option B with Mandatory FOGO in Hamilton and Outer Hamilton area only

Best Options to Options to increase diversion

To address the poor diversion rate and the associated impact on the landfill, Council could consider further diversion options:

Option B - Extending the mandatory waste and recycling kerbside service to all Townships ie Branxholme (currently not serviced by Council), Tarrington and outer Hamilton (currently an elective service)

and

Option D - Mandatory FOGO kerbside to service to Hamilton, Tarrington and outer Hamilton (currently an elective service)

Advantages of Options B&D

Increasing waste diversion is a key objective of Council as it will reduce the impact on the landfill. This reduction will assist in reducing Council EPA payments, operating costs and will extend the life of the Hamilton landfill.

The advantages for introducing a mandatory waste and recycling service for Branxholme and other urban areas such as outer Hamilton and Tarrington are that it will ensure that:

- all waste is disposed of in an environmentally acceptable manner
- all recyclables are separated and recovered, reducing the demand on the landfill and associated costs.
- service costs are minimized
- a mandatory service is consistent with other council townships and Councils

- increasing the amount of recyclables collected by Wheelie Waste and delivered to Visy will increase Council's revenue as it is paid \$65 per tonne for recyclables.
- Implementation of the system is cost neutral as it is user pays
- there is less demand on Transfer Stations

The advantages for introducing a mandatory FOGO collection service for Hamilton and potentially other urban areas that it will ensure that:

- all waste is disposed of in an environmentally acceptable manner
- all organics are separated and recovered, reducing the demand on the landfill and associated costs
- service costs are minimized due to economies of scale
- a mandatory FOGO service is consistent with the trend taken by more proactive Councils
- Implementation of the system is cost neutral for SGSC (as it is user pays)
- Demand is reduced at local Transfer Stations, in particular at Cavendish and Branxholme
- the waste diversion rate as collected by Sustainability Victoria and published in the Vic. Local Government Annual Survey would increase substantially and enhance SGSC's environmental reputation

Disadvantages of Options B&D

The key disadvantages of implementing these options are:

- Rural ratepayers will be concerned that there will be less demand on Transfer Stations so that opening hours may be reduced
- Some residents will be required to own and purchase additional kerbside bins (at \$85 each)
- Mandatory increase in service fees for some ratepayers. The current cost of the waste and recycle service is \$230 p.a.

Financial and Resource Implications

Cost Implications – Ratepayers

The number of additional properties impacted by **Option B (waste and recycling only)** is:

- Branxholme Aprx 70
- Tarrington & Outer Hamilton Aprx 130

These ratepayers would be required to purchase recycle and waste bins for a total of \$170 and pay a council service fee of \$230/yr.

The number of additional properties impacted by **Option D (FOGO only)** is:

- Hamilton, Tarrington and Outer Aprx 3,600
- Other Towns Aprx 1,500

These ratepayers would be required to purchase an Organic bin for a total of \$85 and pay a council service fee of \$83 /yr.

Cost Implications – Council

There are minimal cost implications to Council as the kerbside service is user pays.

Some costs will be incurred for the preparation of reports, community liaison, advertising, contract amendments and administration.

Potential Savings

If organics collection were mandated across the shire, it is estimated from extrapolation of current organics data, that 1770 t would be collected. This would provide a diversion rate of 50 % (currently 39%) and divert a further 1470 t (1770 less the current amount collected of 300 tonnes) from the landfill.

It is estimated that each tonne of organics diverted to the composting costs would save Council \$105 on landfill costs.

Diversion of all organics would realise a savings of 1470 t x \$105 = **\$154,000** per year

Were SGSC to achieve Moyne's total diversion rate then savings would increase by *8% (58% Moyne diversion- 50% SGSC) for a total saving of \$166,000.

The above savings are very likely to be exceeded as they do not include ongoing capital costs.

Although not major, additional savings would be realised as a result of additional recycling collection.

Legislation, Council Plan and Policy Impacts

Implementation of waste reduction strategies is consistent with Council's objectives, according to the Council Plan 2013-17:

Outcome 5.1 Waste Management and Minimisation

Strategy 5.1.1 Reduce the volume of waste going to landfill

Strategy 5.1.3 Divert organic waste from landfill

Strategy 5.1.4 Increase the volume of recycled materials through continued community education programs.

Waste diversion is also a key objective of the Victorian Government Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan and the Barwon Region South West Waste and Resource Recovery Group 2016/17 Strategy.

Risk Management

The benefits to the community are

- Lower costs as compared to disposing to Transfer Stations
- Provides convenient and regular service
- Reduced ratepayer costs due to savings

The risks are

- Political/community backlash from residents about the new charge when the service is introduced

This risk will need to be managed by developing a community consultation strategy which educates residents about the overall long term financial and environmental benefits of the changes.

Environmental and Sustainability Considerations

The current private contractor does not provide recycling services in Cavendish or Branxholme. Although some residents are taking recyclables to the transfer stations it is understood that significant volumes are not being disposed of correctly.

There are social, economic and environmental benefits from ensuring all townships/urban areas have the appropriate kerbside waste, recycle and organic collection services.

Social

Implementation of a service would improve convenience to residents and provide the opportunity for all households to recycle and reduce environmental impacts.

Economic

- Services are undertaken by the Shire contractor which ensures that as per contract conditions ratepayers are provided with an efficient and regular service.
- The scale and extent of the service will increase efficiencies and keep contractor costs down.
- The proposal will increase the life of landfill cells and reduce capital costs.

Environmental

The proposal will:

- Recover resources (plastic, metals, glass and paper) that would otherwise be buried
- Convert organics into a beneficial end use
- Reduce methane emissions from landfill
- Ensure that waste is disposed of in an environmentally acceptable manner
- Increase recycling, reducing waste going to landfill.

Community Consultation and Communication

- The kerbside collection service has previously been raised in community liaison meetings with Branxholme Progress Association.
- Branxholme, Cavendish and Tarrington/Outer Hamilton residents have previously been surveyed re. the introduction of mandatory recycle and waste kerbside service. The survey results supporting the proposal were:
 - Branxholme (June 2016) 42%
 - Tarrington/Outer Hamilton (April 2013) 55%
- As a result of the July 2016 Council decision, the Cavendish residents have been advised that a mandatory service will be implemented.
- Council introduced a voluntary kerbside collection service (waste and recycling) to the outer areas of Hamilton and the Tarrington Township Area in July 2013. Residents were advised that at that time that Council would consider making the service mandatory from July 2015 for properties with a dwelling.

Should any recommendations be adopted then appropriate communications with the Community would be undertaken dependant on the decision made but could include:

- Notification and consultation with Progress Associations

- Letters will be distributed to affected ratepayers and a media release prepared on the outcome of Council's decision.
- Media will be advised
- Public notice of Council's decision will be given.

Disclosure of Interests

All Council Officers involved in the development and advice provided in this Report affirm that no direct or indirect interests need to be declared in relation to any matters in this Report.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Introduces a mandatory waste and recycle kerbside collection service for residents in all Southern Grampians Shire Council Townships (Option B);
2. Introduces a mandatory Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) collection service for the residents of Hamilton, Tarrington and Outer Hamilton areas (Option D)

MOTION

MOVED: Cr Battista
SECONDED: Cr Calvano

That Council:

1. **Introduces a mandatory waste and recycle kerbside collection service for residents in all Southern Grampians Shire Council Townships (Option B);**
2. **Leave the Food Organics and Garden Organics collection service for the residents of Hamilton, Tarrington and Outer Hamilton areas as it currently is.**

AMENDMENT

MOVED: Cr Dawson

That Council:

1. **Introduces a mandatory waste and recycle kerbside collection service for residents in all Southern Grampians Shire Council Townships (Option B);**
2. **In conjunction with the receipt and consideration of the Waste Services Report from Mckenzie Environmental Council consider the introduction of a**

mandatory Food Organics and Garden Organics collection service for the residents of Hamilton, Tarrington and Outer Hamilton areas.

The AMENDMENT lapsed for want of a seconder

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

**MOVED: Cr Battista
SECONDED: Cr Calvano**

That Council:

- 1. Introduces a mandatory waste and recycle kerbside collection service for residents in all Southern Grampians Shire Council Townships (Option B);**
- 2. Leave the Food Organics and Garden Organics collection service for the residents of Hamilton, Tarrington and Outer Hamilton areas as it currently is.**

CARRIED

11. Notices of Motion

11.1 Notice of Motion #11/16

Cr Calvano

I hereby give notice of my intention to move the following motion at the Ordinary Council Meeting to be held on 14 September 2016

MOTION

Name the park on the southern end (East side) of Alexandra Parade, Hamilton, as "BEERSHEBA MEMORIAL PARK."

Background

At the Ordinary Meeting in July, I proposed an amendment to name BEERSHEBA PARK to BEERSHEBA MEMORIAL PARK.

This amendment was lost, I was very disappointed of the outcome so I advised the CEO of my intention to rescind the outcome at the appropriate time, because I feel that the respect to the history of the 4th light horse regiment as not been shown by the last decision of Council by not adding the word Memorial to "BEERSHEBA PARK"

At present there is a plaque to honour the men from the Hamilton area who served in the 4th light horse brigade.

To name it "BEERSHEBA PARK" IN MY OPINION isn't relevant to this district, but to add the words "Memorial" does give the light horse regiment the due respect it deserves, and if we don't name the park " BEERSHEBA MEMORIAL PARK" The park would lose it's history, but to name it BEERSHEBA MEMORIAL PARK would certainly remind future and present generations of the historical event.

I believe the word "Memorial" is critical in helping to bring more understanding and respect to the individual group being recognised for their sacrifice, so we can live the lifestyle we live today

There is an avenue of palm trees behind the Uniting Church, and according to State Government Victoria the " Victorian Heritage Database" place details, those palm trees are known as " HAMILTON BEERSHEBA MEMORIAL PALMS" which were planted beside the Uniting Church, Alexandra Parade in 1920.

The trees comprise of Aleppo Palms and are dedicated in memory of our local people of this district, who enlisted for the 4th Light Regiment, who fought in the battle of BEERSHEBA, on the 31st October 1917.

Also they are heritage listed by the "Victorian War Heritage Inventory."

I've spoken and being contacted by the public, returned servicemen, former and present presidents of the RSL in our shire, members of legacy, etc and they duly support the re-naming of BEERSHEBA PARK to BEERSHEBA MEMORIAL PARK.

I am determined to pursue this issue until respect is given to this area by the name of: "BEERSHEBA MEMORIAL PARK" and pay respect to the history to the "4th Light Horse Regiment" that fought in the battle of "BEERSHEBA", on the 31st October 1917.

I put this motion to my councillors and hopefully the decision is re-considered on its merits and re-name the park with the word MEMORIAL added to the park.

Officers Comments

The original request to name the park on Alexandra parade was proposed by Tom Trimmel. Mr Trimmell in his correspondence recommended the naming of the Park to be "Beersheba Park" in memory of the Light Horse Regiments.

Discussions with Mr Trimmell have indicated that he approves of either name proposed those being Beersheba Park or Beersheba Memorial Park.

In a letter from Mr Trimmell on the 5 July 2016 he states that:

"I have had chats with Councillor Calvano since (original motion was accepted), and have agreed with him pursuing an amendment to the name including Memorial, as that does have a ring of reverence and honour to it.

I am now requesting that the Southern Grampians Shire Council formally consider the name change of the park in question to, "Beersheba Memorial Park."

The Hamilton History Centre, President Mr Ian Black has also written to Council on the 3 August 2016 advising the following:

"We at Hamilton History Centre can find no evidence that the 14 Palm Trees besides the Hamilton Uniting Church were ever planted as memorials to any soldiers who were members of the 4th Light Horse Brigade, and nor do we hold any information in our collection that these palm trees are actually memorial trees in recognition of the Beersheba conflict."

Mr Black also advised that he has *".. personally searched the Hamilton Spectator from 1919 to February 1923 and I never found any articles that have revealed that the 14 Palm Trees as being Memorial trees or any official dedication ceremony etc. In 1995 the RSL made a claim in the Hamilton Spectator that these 14 Palm trees were planted in 1920, and no source or information was provided that the trees were actually planted in 1920."*

Discussion with the Office of Geographic Names (OGN) Victoria, has indicated that if the motion was approved to Beersheba Memorial Park, that they would have no objections to the Naming convention but recommend Council undertake another 28 days notification period of the proposed name change.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr Calvano
SECONDED: Cr Battista

Name the park on the southern end (East side) of Alexandra Parade, Hamilton, as "BEERSHEBA MEMORIAL PARK."

CARRIED

A division was called

DIVISION	
FOR	AGAINST
Cr Armstrong	
Cr Battista	
Cr Calvano	
Cr Colliton	
Cr Dark	
Cr Rainsford	

11.2 Notice of Motion #12/16

Cr Rainsford

I hereby give notice of my intention to move the following motion at the Ordinary Council Meeting to be held on 14 September 2016

MOTION

That Southern Grampians Shire Council writes to Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Premier Daniel Andrews to encourage them to support a ban on all Foreign political donations and financial support being provided to members of Federal and State Parliaments, and support the banning of foreign political donations to local government election candidates and elected councillors.

Background

The recent public revelations about the extent and legality of foreign support for political and personal expenses of Federal members of Parliament has raised alarm bells across Australian communities.

This apparently legal funding of individuals, parties and election campaigns by non-Australian interests has identified that our Australian elected politicians policy is out of step with Australian community expectations. Many would strongly argue this previously hidden policy is "Not in the National Interest." Not in the Nation of Australia's National Interests to be precise.

At a local government level, a group of Melbourne City Councillors, including the current Lord Mayor are campaigning on the platform of taking zero donations from developers. Developer donations have previously been accepted and declared. Affected councillors then removed themselves from meetings involving decisions relating to these developers. The acceptance that declaring the funding by foreign donors and developers is sufficient to remove any undue influence from the decision making does not in any way pass the pub test.

Considering the majority of Melbourne development is supported by foreign investment, there is also a potential link between local government Councillors and foreign funding, which despite being declared and appearing legal could influence decisions of Council.

This motion is not a debate about the short term benefit or lack of long term benefits of foreign investment or ownership of Australian assets, this motion is about the Australian people's confidence in their elected members of Local, State and Federal Government, ensuring that they have only the interests of their Shire, State or Country foremost in their decisions.

This is about how conflict of interest and legislation needs to change to reflect the peoples belief in our system of democracy.

MOTION 1

MOVED: Cr Rainsford

That Southern Grampians Shire Council writes to Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Premier Daniel Andrews to encourage them to support a ban on all Foreign political donations and financial support being provided to members of Federal and State Parliaments, and support the banning of foreign political donations to local government election candidates and elected councillors.

The MOTION lapsed for want of a seconder

MOTION 2

MOVED: Cr Calvano

SECONDED: Cr Battista

- 1. That Southern Grampians Shire Council develop a submission to the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) for its next National General Assembly of local governments to be held in June 2017 for advocacy on the issue of foreign political donations and financial support being provided at Federal, State and Local Government levels.**
- 2. For ALGA to take the submission and present it to the appropriate parliamentary bodies.**

AMENDMENT

MOVED: Cr Rainsford

SECONDED: Cr Colliton

- 1. That Southern Grampians Shire Council develop a submission to the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) for its next National General Assembly of local governments to be held in June 2017 for advocacy on the issue of foreign political donations and financial support being provided at Federal, State and Local Government levels.**
- 2. For ALGA to take the submission and present it to the appropriate parliamentary bodies.**
- 3. That Southern Grampians Shire Council writes to Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Premier Daniel Andrews to encourage them to support a ban on all foreign political donations and financial support to all levels of government.**

LOST

A division was called

DIVISION	
FOR	AGAINST
Cr Colliton Cr Rainsford	Cr Armstrong Cr Battista Cr Calvano Cr Dark Cr Dawson

MOTION 2

MOTION 2 was put to the vote and LOST

11.3 Notice of Motion #13/16

Cr Dawson

I hereby give notice of my intention to move the following motion at the Ordinary Council Meeting to be held on 14 September 2016

MOTION

THAT Council Briefing Agendas be published on Council's website as and when they are available to Councillors.

Background

Council Monthly Meeting Agendas are made public in their entirety but there is much discussion and consideration of a variety of issues which are conducted at regular Council Briefings. The details of Council Briefing items and presentations to Councillors on a wide range of topics are not publicly available but it is during these meetings that much important material is discussed and developed before it reaches the Council formal agenda. Generally the public has no way of knowing that these issues are being considered and discussed.

The community should be aware of those matters that Council is considering in real time rather than having to wait until they are fully developed and come before Council for consideration.

Discussion

During this Council term we have adopted a Governance and Decision Making Paper that highlights the importance of transparency in improving Council's image and improving the level of trust in the community through information. The implementation of the recommendations is still being developed.

The issue of transparency and Council reaching out to the community to enable a better understanding of role, function and performance underpins the current State Government review of the Local Government Act.

The Southern Grampians Shire took an initiative and proposed the Governance and Decision Making Paper before the Victorian Ombudsman made strong comments in relation to openness and transparency of Councils. Acceptance of this initiative will show further leadership and a willingness to fully inform the public of the wide range of issues under consideration by Council and will give the community the opportunity to be informed of the consideration of items before they are fully developed and come before Council for determination.

A greater degree of formal community engagement will underpin many of the Council decisions in the future. There is no doubt that we have to do all that we can to encourage and inform that engagement as early as possible and take steps to negate or dispel the negativity created by lack of knowledge.

Legislation, Council Plan and Policy Impacts

There is no legislation that precludes Council advising the public of those matters under consideration.

Some matters that come before our Briefings will be confidential and these will have to be excluded from the published Agenda in accord with Council policy.

The Council Plan outlines some Sustainable Excellence Principles. Among those are:

Leadership – “*lead by example, provide clear direction*”.

Community and Customers – “*Understand what our community and customers value and use this to drive organisational design*”

Systems Thinking – “*Continuously improve the system*”.

Continuous Improvement – “*Develop agility, adaptability and responsiveness based on a culture of continual improvement, innovation and learning*”.

The adoption of this motion will better inform our community and it shows initiative, leadership and direction.

Objective 1 of the Council Plan - Leadership and Good Governance provides:

Strategy 1.2.3 says to “*Ensure that our actions contribute positively to sound relationships and engagement with our local communities*”.

Risk Management

There are no risks perceived in publishing Briefing Agendas provided that confidential items are excluded from the public document.

Environmental and Sustainability Implications

None are anticipated.

Community Consultation and Communication

The matter has not been the subject of Community Consultation and is proposed to show leadership rather than reaction.

This initiative will better inform the public on the range of matters being considered or discussed by Council at the time they are being done. This is presently done behind closed doors and leads to negative perceptions of Council processes, systems and priorities.

Officers Comments

Councillor Briefings otherwise referred to as Assemblies of Council Agendas are currently included in the Agenda of the next available Ordinary Meeting of Council that includes the date, time, Agenda Items, attendees and any Conflicts of Interest as required by legislation.

If the intent is for the Agenda and any associated documents to be included as they are made available to Councillors, Council will just need to consider how any updates, verbal only briefings, late items or changes on the day are also relayed to the broader community.

Extensive minutes or notes are not currently taken at Assemblies of Council and if it is intended to also produce Minutes and/or outcomes how these are also made available.

Finally, in the event of any Confidential Items, these would need to be treated as they currently are through the Council Meeting process, and require 'in-camera' section of the Assembly.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr Dawson

SECONDED: Cr Calvano

THAT Council Briefing Agenda Items be published on Council's website as and when they are available to Councillors.

CARRIED

12. Delegated Reports

12.1 COMMUNITY INCLUSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Cr Armstrong reported on her attendance at the Community Inclusion Advisory Committee meeting on 7 September 2016.

12.2 BARWON SOUTH WEST LOCAL WASTE FORUM

Cr Colliton reported on his attendance at the Barwon South West Local Waste Forum meeting on 29 August 2016.

12.3 GREAT SOUTH COAST GROUP

The Mayor, Cr Dark, reported on his attendance at the Great South Coast Group meeting on 12 August 2016.

12.4 AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Mayor, Cr Dark, reported on his attendance at the Audit Committee meeting on 13 August 2016.

12.5 MAV ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Mayor, Cr Dark, reported on his attendance at the MAV Annual Conference on 8 September 2016.

12.6 MAV STATE COUNCIL

The Mayor, Cr Dark, reported on his attendance at the MAV State Council on 9 September 2016.

13. Confidential Matters

RECOMMENDATION

That the following items be considered in Closed Council as it deals with matters specified in Section 89(2)(d) of the Local Government Act 1989.

13.1 Contract No. 1101-15 Supply and Delivery of Bitumen Products (Optional Extension)

13.2 Contract No. 26-16 Supply and delivery of one new motor grader

13.3 Contract No. 19-16 Provision of Road Stabilisation Services

13.4 Contract No. 18-16 Provision of Cleaning Services

13.5 Contract No. 991-12 Essential Safety Measures – Routine Inspections (Extension)

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr Colliton
SECONDED: Cr Rainsford

That the following items be considered in Closed Council as it deals with matters specified in Section 89(2)(d) of the Local Government Act 1989.

13.1 Contract No. 1101-15 Supply and Delivery of Bitumen Products (Optional Extension)

13.2 Contract No. 26-16 Supply and delivery of one new motor grader

13.3 Contract No. 19-16 Provision of Road Stabilisation Services

13.4 Contract No. 18-16 Provision of Cleaning Services

13.5 Contract No. 991-12 Essential Safety Measures – Routine Inspections (Extension)

CARRIED

14. Close of Meeting

This concludes the business of the meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.14pm pm.

Confirmed by resolution 12 October 2016.

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Chairman