



LATROBE CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES FOR THE ORDINARY COUNCIL

HELD IN NAMBUR WARIGA MEETING ROOM
CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS, MORWELL
AT 6.00 PM ON
26 OCTOBER 2015

CM471

PRESENT:

Councillors:	Cr Dale Harriman, Mayor	East Ward
	Cr Peter Gibbons, Deputy Mayor	West Ward
	Cr Sharon Gibson	West Ward
	Cr Sandy Kam	East Ward
	Cr Graeme Middlemiss	Central Ward
	Cr Kellie O'Callaghan	East Ward
	Cr Michael Rossiter	East Ward
	Cr Christine Sindt	Central Ward
	Cr Darrell White	South Ward
Officers:	Gary Van Driel	Chief Executive Officer
	Sara Rhodes-Ward	General Manager Community Services
	Phil Stone	General Manager City Development
	Sarah Cumming	General Manager Corporate Services
	Steven Piasente	General Manager Infrastructure & Recreation
	Peter Mangan	Acting Governance Manager
	Kylie Stockdale	Council Operations Administration Officer

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. OPENING PRAYER.....	3
2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE LAND	3
3. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE.....	3
4. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST	3
5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES	4
6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	4
7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME.....	4
Standing Orders Suspended for Public Questions	4
Public Speakers	4
Standing Orders resumed	5
8. ITEMS HELD OVER FOR REPORT AND/OR CONSIDERATION/QUESTIONS ON NOTICE	6
9. NOTICES OF MOTION	32
9.1 2015/19 - Modular Design of Female Friendly Change Facilities.....	32
Standing Orders Suspended for Public Questions	33
Public Speakers	33
Standing Orders resumed	33
9.2 2015/20 - Traralgon Court House status update.....	34
10. ITEMS REFERRED BY THE COUNCIL TO THIS MEETING FOR CONSIDERATION	36
10.1 Partial Road Closure of Riggall Road, Traralgon	36
11. CORRESPONDENCE	42
11.1 Correspondence from the Australian Local Government Association - Financial Assistance Grants to Local Government	42
12. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS	51
13. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE	53
14. CITY DEVELOPMENT.....	55
14.1 Planning Scheme Amendment C93 - Ashworth Drive, Traralgon - Consideration of Submissions	55

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)

14.2 Amendment C94 - Parking Overlay Traralgon and Morwell - Consideration of Panel Report and Adoption of Amendment	106
14.3 Submission to EPA Inquiry	148
14.4 Gippsland Regional Plan	164
14.5 Economic Development Engagement Plan	211
15. INFRASTRUCTURE AND RECREATION.....	222
15.1 Hydrotherapy Pool Trial Operations at Latrobe Leisure Moe Newborough	222
15.2 Traralgon West Sport Complex Petition - Status report.....	235
16. COMMUNITY SERVICES.....	239
16.1 National Alliance for Gambling Reform.....	239
17. CORPORATE SERVICES	249
17.1 Assembly of Councillors	249
17.2 Council Committees.....	260
17.3 Proposed Road Discontinuance - Craighburn Place, Traralgon East	265
17.4 Proposed Council Policy for the Protection of Hubert Osborne Park.....	272
17.5 Contract Variations Report for the period 1 July to 30 September 2015.....	289
17.6 Annual Report 2014-15.....	299
18. URGENT BUSINESS.....	514
19. MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC	516
19.1 Confidential Items Held Over	518
19.2 Adoption of Minutes	527
19.3 Confidential Items	528
19.4 Assemblies of Councillors.....	530
19.5 Proposed Sale and Relocation of Moe Works Depot.....	554
19.6 2015/16 Community Grants Program	587
19.7 Latrobe City Trust - Appointment of Community Representative Trustees.....	647
19.8 Proposed Settlement	659

1. OPENING PRAYER

The Mayor read the opening prayer and welcomed all present

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE LAND

The Mayor acknowledged the traditional owners of the land on which we meet and paid respect to their Elders past and present.

Acknowledgements were also offered for any other Aboriginal people / Elders present.

3. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

The Mayor welcomed members of Latrobe City Youth Council and thanked them for the work they have undertaken.

4. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Cr O'Callaghan declared an indirect interest under Section 78B of *The Local Government Act* 1989 in respect to Item 14.4 Gippsland Regional Plan.

Cr White declared an indirect interest under Section 78B of *The Local Government Act* 1989 in respect to Item 16.1 National Alliance for Gambling Reform.

Cr Rossiter declared an indirect interest under Section 78A of *The Local Government Act* 1989 in respect to Item 19.6 2015/16 Community Grants Program.

Cr White declared an indirect interest under Section 78B of *The Local Government Act* 1989 in respect to Item 19.6 2015/16 Community Grants Program.

Cr Sindt declared a direct and indirect interest under Sections 77B, 78A, 78B of *The Local Government Act* 1989 in respect to Item 19.6 2015/16 Community Grants Program.

Cr Kam declared an indirect interest under Sections 78 and 78A of *The Local Government Act* 1989 in respect to Item 19.6 2015/16 Community Grants Program.

Cr Harriman declared an interest that is not a conflict in respect to Item 19.6 2015/16 Community Grants Program.

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)****5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES****COUNCIL MOTION**

Moved: Cr Gibson
Seconded: Cr Rossiter

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 5 October 2015 be confirmed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Nil

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**STANDING ORDERS SUSPENDED FOR PUBLIC QUESTIONS****COUNCIL MOTION**

Moved: Cr O'Callaghan
Seconded: Cr Gibson

That Council suspends standing orders.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Standing Orders were suspended at 6:05pm.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS

The following persons spoke on an item on the agenda:

**14.1 Planning Scheme Amendment C93 - Ashworth Drive, Traralgon -
Consideration of Submissions**

- Mr Gordon Arthur
- Mr Tim Rankcom

**15.1 Hydrotherapy Pool Trial Operations at Latrobe Leisure Moe
Newborough**

- Mr Donald Coupe

STANDING ORDERS RESUMED

COUNCIL MOTION

Moved: Cr Gibson

Seconded: Cr Rossiter

That Council resumes standing orders.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Standing Orders resumed at 6.18pm.

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)**

**8. ITEMS HELD OVER FOR REPORT AND/OR
CONSIDERATION/QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Council Meeting Date	Item	Resolution	Status Update
City Development			
06 May 2013 City Development	Latrobe City International Relations Advisory Committee - Amended Terms of Reference	That the item be deferred pending further discussion by Councillors relating to the Terms of Reference.	Item on hold pending Council's review of Committees. A further report will be presented to Council once the review is complete.
14 September 2015 City Development	Consideration of the Recommendations of the Panel Report for C87	That Council defer the Consideration of the recommendations of the Panel Report for C87 until the following have taken place: 1. That Council communicates with the Premier to organise a meeting with the EPA, interested Councillors, relevant Council Officers, Australian Paper and relevant stakeholders to discuss Urban Amenity Buffer solutions 2. That Council requests the Department of Energy and Earth Resources to work through the issues to provide a solution to the Coal Residential Interface	1. A letter to the Premier has been sent requesting a meeting with key stakeholders. A response is yet to be received. 2. Following a meeting between officers and Earth Resources Regulation Victoria on 29 September 2015 communications are being prepared for distribution to provide an update.

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)**

Council Meeting Date	Item	Resolution	Status Update
04 May 2015 City Development	2015/06 - Preparation of Information to Support a Planning Scheme Amendment Regarding Burgan Infestation (continued below)	<p>That a report be prepared for Council on the quickest and most cost effective way of Council acquiring the necessary authority to authorise the removal of Burgan infestation.</p> <p>That this report be tabled at the Council Meeting of 15 June 2015</p> <p>11 June 2015 That Council</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note this report; and 2. That a further report be presented to Council no later than the 17 August 2015 Ordinary Council Meeting presenting the results of the further assessment, and providing details of costings and timeframes to implement a Planning Scheme amendment subject to the findings. <p>17 August 2015 That Council note this report, and consider options for the removal of Burgan when a further report is presented to Council at or before the 16 November 2015 Council meeting.</p>	<p>Holding report presented to Council 17 August 2015.</p> <p>See below</p>

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)**

Council Meeting Date	Item	Resolution	Status Update
	2015/06 - Preparation of Information to Support a Planning Scheme Amendment Regarding Burgan Infestation (continued)	<p>17 August 2015</p> <p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Requests officers to arrange a meeting with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and Councillors by October 2015; 2. Requests officers to arrange a meeting with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning with the impacted Reserve Committees, Victorian Farmers Federation representative and councillor delegates by October 2015. 	<p>A meeting with Debbie Shaw (DELWP), Brett McGennisken (LCC) and Councillors has been booked in for Thursday 29 October, 2015 commencing at 3.30 pm in Meeting Room 4 at Latrobe City HQ.</p> <p>Following this meeting and commencing at 5 pm, a meeting including those mentioned above along with representatives from the impacted Reserve Committees and a Victorian Farmers Federation representative (to be confirmed) has been arranged.</p>

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)**

Council Meeting Date	Item	Resolution	Status Update
04 May 2015 City Development	Latrobe Heavy Industry Park and Gippsland Logistics Precinct - Project Update and Proposed Next Steps	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Notes the progress made on the Gippsland Logistics Precinct and the Latrobe Heavy Industry Park projects. Reopens a Request for Proposal process aimed at securing private sector involvement in the Gippsland Logistics Precinct. Initiates specific discussions with the Victorian Government to identify opportunities to assist the Government in marketing the potential of the Latrobe Heavy Industry Park to the private sector. 	<p>Discussions have been held with the State Government regarding both these projects. The Heavy Industry Park was put to auction on 7 August 2015. The property was passed in with no bids. Subsequent negotiations are being undertaken, however officers have not been advised anything further at this point in time. Stockdale and Leggo are the agents.</p> <p>A Project Reference Group has been established for the GLP. 2 representatives from RDV and Council Officers are involved in the reference group. The second meeting of the PRG will take place on 22 September 2015. Task is to identify the future activities.</p> <p>Discussions continuing with renewal of Master Plan to encompass new development spur line ownership and potential new developments.</p>

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)**

Council Meeting Date	Item	Resolution	Status Update
06 July 2015 City Development	Latrobe Performing Arts and Convention Centre Review (continued below)	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adopt the Review of the Latrobe Performing Arts and Convention Centre Feasibility Study and Business Case June 2015. 2. Consider the Latrobe Performing Arts and Convention Centre as two separate projects – Latrobe Performing Arts Centre and Latrobe City Convention Centre. 3. In relation to the Latrobe Performing Arts Centre: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Confirms the site of the existing Latrobe Performing Arts Centre in Traralgon as the site for the new Latrobe Performing Arts Centre. b) Undertake a detailed business case for the Latrobe Performing Arts Centre including a strong evidence base for the new facility and confirmation of key design elements. c) Engage a specialised theatre design consultant to confirm key design elements and complete a functional design brief to detail costs of the Latrobe Performing Arts Centre. 	<p>Officers are currently preparing consultant's project briefs for the full business case and concept designs.</p> <p>Officers met with representatives from other regional cities during the week of 7 September 2015 to discuss issues relevant to matters such as the project briefs etc.</p> <p>Following this, a theatre design will be engaged and a community representative working group established to assist in the development of the business case and concept design.</p> <p>It is expected that this will be complete by late 2015 at which time funding opportunities will be discussed with the State Government.</p> <p>A further report will be presented to Council at this time.</p> <p>In relation to the Latrobe City Convention Centre, a project brief will be prepared in the first half of 2015/16 to engage a consultant to undertake investigation to confirm potential demand for a dedicated convention centre. It is envisaged that this will be completed in the 2015/16 financial year.</p> <p>A further report will be presented to Council at this time and depending on the outcome of the demand analysis, a business case including establishment of a</p>
			<p>working group will be progressed.</p>

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)**

Council Meeting Date	Item	Resolution	Status Update
06 July 2015 City Development	Latrobe Performing Arts and Convention Centre Review (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> d) Allocate \$200,000 from the 2015/16 Financial Year surplus to develop the Latrobe performing arts business case and functional concept design. e) Establish a representative community working group to steer the business case and design for the Latrobe Performing Arts Centre. f) Receive a report pending the outcome of the funding submission to the National Stronger Regions Fund – Round 2. g) Continue to liaise with the Victorian and Commonwealth governments in relation to potential funding opportunities. 	As above

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)**

Council Meeting Date	Item	Resolution	Status Update
<p>06 July 2015</p> <p style="text-align: center;">City Development</p>	<p>Latrobe Performing Arts and Convention Centre Review (continued)</p>	<p>4. In relation to the Latrobe City Convention Centre:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Confirms Morwell as the location of the Latrobe City Convention Centre. b) Undertakes further detailed analysis and investigation to confirm potential demand for a dedicated convention centre in Latrobe City. c) Establish a representative community working group, to steer the business case and design for the Latrobe City Convention Centre. d) Allocate funding in future budgets to assist with the development of a business case and functional concept design for the Latrobe City Convention Centre. e) Investigate funding options for the Latrobe City Convention Centre. <p>27 July 2015</p> <p>That Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Receives a report outlining State Government funding opportunities and recommendations on applying for funding through National Stronger Regions Fund Round 3. 	<p>As above</p>
			<p>Page 12</p>

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)**

Council Meeting Date	Item	Resolution	Status Update
Infrastructure & Recreation			
06 November 2013 Infrastructure & Recreation	Latrobe Regional Motorsport Complex	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Council requests the members of the Latrobe Regional Motorsports Complex Advisory Committee to investigate potential sites for the motorsports complex and to advise Council of any sites identified so that further investigation can be undertaken by Council officers. 2. That Council officers meet with Energy Australia to discuss other possible sites for a motorsports complex on their land. 3. That a further report be presented to Council at such time that site options have been investigated 	<p>Initial advice from Energy Australia and HVP is that land is not currently available for this use. Officers continuing to work with both parties to identify potential sites for further investigation.</p> <p>An on-site meeting with Cr Middlemiss occurred in December 2014 to investigate further site options.</p> <p>Further evaluation will be undertaken of sites identified during on-site meeting.</p> <p>Further report to be presented to Council in December 2015.</p>

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)**

Council Meeting Date	Item	Resolution	Status Update
<p>23 March 2015</p> <p>Infrastructure & Recreation</p>	<p>Riggall Road Local Area Traffic Management Options (continued below)</p>	<p>That Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Line mark 29 parallel parking bays in Argyle Street, Traralgon, within 100 metres of the subject site; • Reinstate the 'Local Traffic Only' and 'Load Limit' signage at each end of Riggall Road; • Install 'One Way Only' signage along Argyle Street opposite the exits of the subject site and Reece Plumbing, and paint a directional arrow on Argyle Street to reinforce the one way nature of the road; • Advise the community that it intends to implement a partial closure of the southern end of Riggall Road, Traralgon to prevent traffic from entering Riggall Road from Argyle Street. • Undertake a community information session for the residents of Riggall Road and the broader community in relation to the proposed closure. 	<p>Line marking, and signage completed in May/June 2015</p> <p>Notification of closure to occur in September 2015.</p> <p>Meeting occurred with landowners / residents on 16 September 2015. Concept of traffic islands to make traffic one way presented to community members.</p>

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)**

Council Meeting Date	Item	Resolution	Status Update
23 March 2015 Infrastructure & Recreation	Riggall Road Local Area Traffic Management Options (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Notice of the proposed partial closure and of the rights of the person to make a submission under Section 223 of the Local Government Act be given in the Latrobe Valley Express. • Council send separate notices advising of the proposed partial closure to all owners in the area as detailed on the attached map. • That a Road Safety Audit is undertaken in relation to the proposed partial closure. 	As above

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)**

Council Meeting Date	Item	Resolution	Status Update
04 May 2015 Infrastructure & Recreation	2015/05 Addressing Speed Concerns on Haigh St, Moe and Old Sale Rd Newborough	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Council Officers investigate and present a report to Council in relation to measures that could be put in place along Haigh St extension Moe, between Old Sale Road and Bennett Street, to deal with speeding motorists. 2. That the Mayor writes to Vic Roads Regional Manager asking if the speed limit along the rural section of Old Sale Road Newborough, between the Haigh St corner and the beginning of the homes after the bridge on Old Sale Rd Newborough, could be unified to the one speed of 80 Km/h, due to the Housing Estate that was established along this section and the new extension of this Estate that has been placed on the market. 	<p>Currently under investigation. Traffic counts have recently been received. A report will come back to Council in September.</p> <p>Letter was sent to VicRoads regarding Old Sale Road on 14 May 2015.</p> <p>No response received to date (21 September 2015)</p>

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)**

Council Meeting Date	Item	Resolution	Status Update
25 May 2015 Infrastructure & Recreation	Petition Presented to Council in Regards to Raising the Temperature at Latrobe Leisure Moe Newborough (LLMN) One Day Per Week.	That Council: 1. Resolve to trial the hydrotherapy program 1 day per week for a 3 month period and for officer's to review the attendance and viability of this program. 2. Fund the 3 month trial from the 2014/15 & 2015/16 financial year's recurrent budgets. 3. A further report presented to council prior to the end of the trial detailing the benefits and impacts associated with the trial.	Trial to continue through to September. Report on outcome of trial to be presented to Council on 26 October 2015.
25 May 2015 Infrastructure & Recreation	Draft Tracks, Trails And Paths Strategy	That Council: 1. Releases the draft Tracks, Trails and Paths Strategy for a period of 6 weeks from Tuesday 26 May 2015 to Friday 7 July 2015. 2. Request a further report be presented to Council with the results of the community consultation process.	Consultation feedback is being collated / reviewed by consultant. Further report to be presented to Council in November

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)**

Council Meeting Date	Item	Resolution	Status Update
25 May 2015 Infrastructure & Recreation	Request to Air Condition Latrobe Leisure Stadium Facilities (continued below)	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Considers allocating funding in the 2016/17 financial year for the installation of air handling systems at the following Latrobe Leisure facilities, Traralgon Sports Stadium, Latrobe Leisure Morwell, Latrobe Leisure Moe Newborough and Latrobe Leisure Churchill; 2. Instructs Council Officers to undertake further investigation in relation to energy efficiency improvements, heat load reduction and air conditioning systems for the facilities; 3. Identifies and allocates the funding for the investigations detailed in point 2 from savings from the 2014/15 budget; 4. Request a report be presented to Council prior to the development of the 2016/17 budget detailing the results of the investigations detailed in point 3; 	<p>Quotes are currently being requested for investigation in relation to energy efficiency improvements, heat load reduction and air conditioning systems for the facilities.</p> <p>Quotes are currently being requested for the provision of temporary air handling units for the BVC Event in 2016.</p>

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)**

Council Meeting Date	Item	Resolution	Status Update
25 May 2015 Infrastructure & Recreation	Request to Air Condition Latrobe Leisure Stadium Facilities (continued)	<p>5. Instructs Council Officers to investigate the ability to hire, and the costs associated with, temporary air handling units for the BVC event in 2016;</p> <p>6. Consider the costs of item 5 is as part of the mid year budget review; and</p> <p>7. Advise Basketball Victoria Country of Councils' decision.</p>	As above
11 June 2015 Infrastructure & Recreation	Petition Requesting Pedestrian Crossing in Breed Street, Traralgon	<p>That Council:</p> <p>1. Lay the petition on the table to allow a traffic impact assessment to be completed for Breed Street Traralgon.</p> <p>2. Request a further report be presented to Council no later than the 14 September 2015 Ordinary Council Meeting presenting the results of the traffic impact assessment</p> <p>3. Notify the head petitioner about the Council decision.</p> <p>14 September 2015</p> <p>That Council request a further report detailing the traffic impact assessment and potential traffic management options be presented to Council no later than the 16 November 2015 Council meeting.</p>	<p>Investigation has commenced with traffic counts completed.</p> <p>Report to be presented to Council 16 November 2015.</p>

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)**

Council Meeting Date	Item	Resolution	Status Update
11 June 2015 Infrastructure & Recreation	Catterick Crescent Reserve Master Plan	That Council defers the decision on this matter until a report can be returned detailing user group numbers and increases or decreases of said numbers over a six year period.	Currently gathering participation data form the user groups/clubs. Still awaiting data from some clubs (03 September 2015) Report to be presented to the 12 October 2015 Councillor Briefing
11 June 2015 Community Infrastructure & Recreation	Maryvale Reserve Master Plan	That Council defers the decision on this matter until a report can be returned detailing user group numbers and increases or decreases of said numbers over a six year period.	Currently gathering participation data form the user groups/clubs. Still awaiting data from some clubs (03 September 2015) Report to be presented to the 12 October 2015 Councillor Briefing
27 July 2015 Infrastructure & Recreation	2015/15 - Request for Investigation into Traralgon Netball Court Resurfacing	That Council engage an Independent investigator to investigate the Traralgon Netball Court resurfacing tender process including; 1. The materials used 2. The written Tender brief 3. The overseeing process utilised and reporting details 4. The report with all of these details be brought back to Open Council as soon as practical.	Council has not as yet engaged an independent investigator to investigate the Traralgon Netball Court resurfacing tender process. Council Officers are currently focused on finalising the remediation process with the Contractors who undertook the works. A project brief is currently being developed and quotes will be sought for the investigation during September. The investigation report will be provided to the 16 November 2015 Council meeting.

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)**

Council Meeting Date	Item	Resolution	Status Update
14 September 2015 Infrastructure & Recreation	Petition in relation to the completion of the Traralgon West Sporting Complex	That Council: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agrees to lay the petition on the table requesting Council provide assistance to complete the first floor of the Traralgon West Sporting Pavilion. 2. Request a report be presented to the 26 October 2015 Ordinary Council meeting providing Council with information in relation to the petition. 3. Notify the head petitioner about the Council decision in relation to the petition. 4. That a meeting is arranged between Officers, Councillors and user groups to discuss the petition while the petition lays on the table 	User Group meeting scheduled for 08 October 2015
05 October 2015 Infrastructure & Recreation	Waste Management Strategy 2010-2017 Review	That Council: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notes the review of the Waste Management Strategy 2010 – 2017. 2. Requests a further report to Council in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kitchen Organics trial in Churchill that was undertaken by Council in Latrobe City in 2012 • The future provision of kerbside hard waste services in Latrobe City 	Hard Waste Report is scheduled for the 16 November Council meeting. A full report of the Organics Trial and Building Victoria's Organics Recovery was presented to Council 16 September 2013, and requests to the minister for further funding for a financial and operational analysis was denied. The project was not viable.

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)**

Council Meeting Date	Item	Resolution	Status Update
05 October 2015 Infrastructure & Recreation	Draft Play Space Strategy – Release for Public Exhibition	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Releases the draft Play Space Strategy for a period of 8 weeks from Tuesday 06 October 2015 to Friday 27 November 2015. 2. Request a further report be presented to Council with the results of the community consultation process. 	<p>The draft Play Space Strategy is now on public exhibition. The draft Play Space Strategy can be found on Latrobe City Council's "Have a Say" webpage. Notices have been placed on the Council Noticeboard and an email has been sent to all identified stakeholders. Council officers will be present at the Children's Expo in late October to further engage with the community.</p>

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)**

Council Meeting Date	Item	Resolution	Status Update
<p>05 October 2015</p> <p>Infrastructure & Recreation</p>	<p>Tarwin Street Project Proposed Road Closure</p>	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Publish a Public Notice in the Latrobe Valley Express on 8 October 2015, advising the community that it intends to close the northbound lane of Tarwin Street, Morwell, at the median break to prevent traffic from exiting to Commercial Road, and of their rights to make a submission under section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989; 2. Write to VicRoads to notify them of Council's intention to part close Tarwin Street, and to invite their feedback on the matter; 3. Consider any submissions received in relation to the proposed part closure of Tarwin Street as part of a final decision on the part closure of Tarwin Street at the Ordinary Council Meeting to be held on Monday 16 November 2015. 	<p>A public notice has been placed in the Latrobe Valley Express.</p> <p>Officers have written to VicRoads to notify them of Council's decision and to seek their feedback on the proposed half street closure.</p>

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)**

Council Meeting Date	Item	Resolution	Status Update
Community Services			
18 February 2013 Community Services	Affordable Housing Project – Our Future Our Place	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Council proceeds to publically call for Expressions of Interest as a mechanism to assess the viability and interest in developing an affordable housing project on land known as the Kingsford Reserve in Moe. 2. That a further report be presented to Council for consideration on the outcome of the Expression of Interest process for the development of an affordable housing project on land known as the Kingsford Reserve in Moe. 	This project is currently under review, with a Council report to be presented to Council on 16 November 2015.

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)**

Council Meeting Date	Item	Resolution	Status Update
09 February 2015 Community Services	Family Day Care Feasibility	<p>That Council maintain the Family Day Care program at the current level.</p> <p>That the Family Day Care Coordination team is adjusted as required and directly in relation to any reduction of Educators and/or Service Users.</p> <p>That a further review of the program occur within the first six months of the 2015/16 financial year, with a further report being presented to Council for endorsement at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 07 December 2015.</p> <p>That a report be developed demonstrating cost and funding options to grow other early education and care services as a transition plan from FDC into the future.</p>	Further report to be provided to Council in December 2015.
Corporate Services			
05 December 2011 Corporate Services	Investigation into Mechanisms Restricting the sale of Hubert Osborne Park Traralgon	That a draft policy be prepared relating to Hubert Osborne Park and be presented to Council for consideration.	<p>Briefing occurred on 27 April 2015 prior to a report coming to Council</p> <p>A further briefing occurred on 10 August 2015. The policy will return to Council for consideration on 26 October 2015.</p>

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)**

Council Meeting Date	Item	Resolution	Status Update
<p style="text-align: center;">14 September 2015</p> <p>Corporate Services</p>	<p>Long Term Lease Renewal Agreement - Traralgon Greyhound Racing Club</p>	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Having complied with sections 190 and 223 of the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i>: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. By giving public notice b. By considering submissions received 2. Resolves to enter into a 21 year lease agreement with the Traralgon Greyhound Racing Club for part of Glenview Park, 66-110 McNairn Road, Traralgon (subject land), and <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Resolves to consent to the Traralgon Greyhound Racing Club entering into a 21 year sub-lease with Telstra Corporation Limited for part of Glenview Park, 66-110 McNairn Road, Traralgon (subject land), and 4. Requests that the agreement be brought back before Council for final ratification; and 5. Advises the Traralgon Greyhound Racing Club of its decision. 	<p>Draft lease to be referred to Traralgon Greyhound Racing Club to finalise lease terms and conditions prior to formal adoption by Council.</p> <p>A report will be presented to Council in December 2015 once this is finalised</p>

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)**

Council Meeting Date	Item	Resolution	Status Update
23 March 2015 Corporate Services	2015/02 - Notice of Motion - Grants Acquittal	<p>That Council Officers conduct a review and prepare a report for Council detailing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The methods of acquittal currently used for all Council grants and other funds dispersed through Council to external entities or individuals on behalf of the State or Federal Government; 2. Internal and external Legislation, Regulations and Policy Requirements around acquittal of such funds; and 3. Council compliance obligations and best practice in regard to the acquittal of the above. 	<p>An internal committee has been convened to develop the information requested, as well as an internal audit being conducted on grant management which will inform the processes.</p> <p>The internal committee will meet once the results from the internal audit are returned in order to inform them for improvement of processes and for providing a report to Council on these matters.</p> <p>It is intended that this will be completed by November 2015.</p>

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)**

Council Meeting Date	Item	Resolution	Status Update
<p>06 July 2015</p> <p>Corporate Services</p>	<p>Proposed Sale Of Land - Neville Street, Traralgon</p>	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gives public notice of its intention to sell the discontinued laneway adjoining 2 Neville Street, Traralgon, being part of Lot 1 on TP 944314X and the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume 11177 Folio 711, and invite submissions pursuant to Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989. 2. Considers any submissions received regarding the proposed sale of the discontinued laneway adjoining 2 Neville Street, Traralgon, being part of Lot 1 on TP 944314X and the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume 11177 Folio 711, at its meeting to be held on Monday, 17 August 2015. 3. Notifies the owner of 2 Neville Street, Traralgon, of its decision. <p>17 August 2015</p> <p>That Council lay this matter on the table for further discussions with the owner of 2 Neville Street, Traralgon.</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Public Notices inviting written submission published in the LV Express on 23 July 2015 and 30 July 2015.</p> <p>At the 17 August 2015 Council Meeting Council resolved to lay the matter on the table.</p> <p>Further report has been prepared for the 05 October 2015 Council Meeting.</p> <p>A decision was made in the Closed to the Public Ordinary Council Meeting 05 October 2015</p>

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)**

Council Meeting Date	Item	Resolution	Status Update
<p>27 July 2015</p> <p>Corporate Services</p>	<p>Partial Road Discontinuance and Sale of Land 560 Prosper Valley Road Budgerie</p>	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In accordance with sections 189 and 223 of the <i>Local Government Act 1989 (Act)</i>, authorise the commencement of the statutory procedures relating to Council's intention to discontinue and transfer a section of unused road reserve, abutting 560 Prosper Valley Road, Budgerie (subject land) by giving public notice and inviting written submissions on the proposal in the Latrobe Valley Express. 2. Receive written submissions and hear submissions on the proposal to discontinue and transfer the subject land from persons who have made a written request to be heard in person or by a party representing them as specified in their submission in accordance with the Act, at its Ordinary Meeting of Council on Monday, 5 October 2015. 	<p>Complete</p> <p>Public Notices inviting written submission published in the LV Express on 30 July 2015 and 4 August 2015.</p> <p>Further report to be prepared for 5 October 2015 Council Meeting.</p> <p>At the Ordinary Council Meeting 05 October 2015, Council resolved to discontinue the unused road reserve and transfer the land.</p>

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)**

Council Meeting Date	Item	Resolution	Status Update
<p style="text-align: center;">14 September 2015</p> <p>Corporate Services</p>	<p>Long Term Lease Renewal Agreement - Moe Racing Club</p>	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Having complied with sections 190 and 223 of the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i> and section 17D of the <i>Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978</i>: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. By giving public notice b. By considering the submission from the Moe Racing Club 2. Resolves to enter into a 21 year lease agreement with the Moe Racing Club, for part of Joe Tabuteau Reserve, Moe (subject land), and 3. Requests that the agreement be brought back before Council for final ratification; and 4. Advises the Moe Racing Club of its decision. 	<p>Draft lease to be circulated to both the Moe Racing Club and DELWP for comment prior to formal adoption by Council.</p> <p>A report will be presented to Council in December 2015 once this is finalised.</p>

NOTICES OF MOTION

9. NOTICES OF MOTION**9.1 2015/19 - MODULAR DESIGN OF FEMALE FRIENDLY CHANGE FACILITIES****Cr Sharon Gibson**

I, Cr Gibson, hereby give notice of my intention to move the following motion at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday, 26 October 2015:

COUNCIL MOTION

Moved: Cr Gibson
Seconded: Cr Middlemiss

That Council:

- 1. Establish a working group consisting of a representative from the following organisations to develop a modular design that can be easily implemented to provide female change facilities**
 - Three representatives from local community sporting clubs**
 - Two reps from local sporting associations**
 - Three nominated Councillors**
 - A suitably experienced design consultant**

The final design be brought back to Council by March 2016.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Signed
Cr Sharon Gibson
22 October 2015

Attachments
Nil

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)****STANDING ORDERS SUSPENDED FOR PUBLIC QUESTIONS****COUNCIL MOTION****Moved:** Cr O'Callaghan**Seconded:** Cr Gibson**That Council suspends standing orders.****CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Standing Orders were suspended at 6:42pm.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS

The following persons spoke on an item on the agenda:

14.1 Planning Scheme Amendment C93 - Ashworth Drive, Traralgon -
Consideration of Submissions

- Mr Steve Wood

STANDING ORDERS RESUMED**COUNCIL MOTION****Moved:** Cr Rossiter**Seconded:** Cr Middlemiss**That Council resumes standing orders.****CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Standing Orders resumed at 6.48pm.

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)****9.2 2015/20 - TRARALGON COURT HOUSE STATUS UPDATE****Cr Sandy Kam**

I, Cr Kam, hereby give notice of my intention to move the following motion at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday, 26 October 2015:

COUNCIL MOTION

Moved: Cr Kam
Seconded: Cr Rossiter

That a report be brought back to Council on the status of the plans for the Traralgon Court House.

That the report includes:

- (a) the options on how Council proposes to fund the plans; and**
- (b) the actions for 2015/16 and any actions proposed for 2016/17**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Signed
Cr Sandy Kam
22 October 2015

Attachments
Nil

ITEMS REFERRED BY THE COUNCIL TO THIS MEETING FOR CONSIDERATION

10. ITEMS REFERRED BY THE COUNCIL TO THIS MEETING FOR CONSIDERATION

10.1 PARTIAL ROAD CLOSURE OF RIGGALL ROAD, TRARALGON

General Manager

Infrastructure and Recreation

For Decision

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present Council with all submissions received under Section 223 regarding Council's intention to implement a partial closure of Riggall Road at Argyle Street, so that Council can make a final determination on this matter.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the Ordinary Council Meeting on 23 March 2015, Latrobe City Council resolved that it intends to partially close Riggall Road, Traralgon, to prevent traffic from entering Riggall Road from Argyle Street, as per its powers to do so under schedule 11 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Before exercising this power, Council needed to give public notice of this intention, to allow the public to make a submission in relation to it under Section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*. Any report from VicRoads also needed to be considered.

The public notice was advertised on 7 September 2015 allowing submissions to be received up until 5 October 2015. A community information session was also held during this period, on 16 September 2015. A total of six submissions were received during the advertising period, five of which were supportive of the proposal to partially close Riggall Road. The sixth submission was from a new resident in the street who wanted some background information on the proposal. In addition, VicRoads were supportive and issued an in-principle authorisation for a structure to be placed on the road to regulate traffic.

With the statutory requirements now complete, and with no concerns raised during this period, it is now recommended that Council exercises its powers under clause 10 of Schedule 11 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, to place an obstruction on the road temporarily, to effectively prohibit vehicles from entering Riggall Road from Argyle Street.

COUNCIL MOTION

Moved: Cr Kam
Seconded: Cr Rossiter

That Council:

1. **Exercise its powers under clause 10(1) of Schedule 11 of the *Local Government Act 1989* to prohibit vehicles from entering Riggall Road from Argyle Street as a traffic diversion experiment;**
2. **Writes to affected residents along Riggall Road outlining Council's decision; and**
3. **Undertakes a review of the impacts and effectiveness of this treatment in 12 months' time.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

This report is consistent with Latrobe 2026: The Community Vision for Latrobe Valley and the Latrobe City Council Plan 2013-2017.

Latrobe 2026: The Community Vision for Latrobe Valley

Strategic Objectives – Built Environment

In 2026 Latrobe Valley benefits from a well-planned built environment that is complementary to its surroundings, and which provides for a connected and inclusive community

Latrobe City Council Plan 2013 - 2017

Theme and Objectives

Theme 5: Planning for the future

To provide a well-planned, connected and liveable community

BACKGROUND

At the Ordinary Council Meeting on 23 March 2015, it was resolved that Council Officers implement the following in relation to the Riggall Road closure:

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)

- Advise the community that it intends to implement a partial road closure of the southern end of Riggall Road, Traralgon, to prevent traffic from entering Riggall Road from Argyle Street;
- Undertake a community information session for the residents of Riggall Road and the broader community in relation to the road closure;
- Public Notice of the proposed partial closure and of the rights of the person to make a submission under Section 223 of the Local Government Act be given in the Latrobe Valley Express;
- Council send separate notices advising of the proposed closure to all owners in the area as detailed on the attached map.

Council officers sent letters to affected residents on 4 September 2015, and the community was advised of Council's intention via Public Notice published on 7 September 2015. In addition, a community information session was held on 16 September 2015. During the four-week submission period from 7 September to 5 October 2015, Council received a total of six submissions, with five supporting the proposed road closure. The sixth submission was from a new resident in the street who wanted some background information on the proposal.

In addition, Council officers wrote to VicRoads to invite their feedback on the proposal, and in-principle authorisation was given on 21 September 2015, to install a structure to regulate traffic at Riggall Road.

It nature of the works are relatively simple and are able to be implemented in a short time frame after a Council decision. At the meeting on the 7 September community members expressed a desire that the partial closure be implemented sooner rather than later and preferably before Christmas.

The cost of the works is not large and can be accommodated with minor savings in the roads capital budget. If Council adopts the recommendation the works are planned to be completed prior to the end of 2015.

KEY POINTS/ISSUES

Section 207 of the *Local Government Act 1989* describes the powers that Council has over traffic, stating:

*“Subject to the **Road Safety Act 1986** and any regulations made under that Act, but without limiting any other powers of a Council as a road authority, the powers include the specific traffic management powers set out in Schedule 11.”*

Clause 10 of Schedule 11 of the *Local Government Act 1989* that specifically relates to the intended treatment for Riggall Road states the following:

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)

“10. Power to place obstructions or barriers on a road temporarily

- (1) A Council may block or restrict the passage or access of vehicles on a road by placing and maintaining any temporary barrier or other obstruction on the road—
(c) for a genuine traffic diversion experiment.*
- (2) A Council must not exercise this power given to it under subclause (1)(c) unless it has considered a report from the Roads Corporation concerning the exercise of the power”*

In addition, Section 207A of the *Local Government Act 1989* details the ability for people to make submissions under section 223 (right to make submission), stating:

*“A person may make a submission under section 223 on the proposed exercise of any power under—
(b) clauses 9, 10(1)(c), 11 and 12 of Schedule 11”*

Council received in-principle approval from VicRoads on 21 September 2015, to install a structure to regulate traffic at Riggall Road, and during the public submission period it received six submissions. No objections were received. As such, all of the requirements detailed above have now been satisfied, meaning that Council can now exercise its power under Clause 10 of Schedule 11 of the *Local Government Act 1989* to place obstructions or barriers on a road (Riggall Road) temporarily.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk has been considered as part of this report and it is considered to be consistent with the Risk Management framework.

There is not considered to be any risks associated with this report.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

Funding will be required for any treatment to temporarily restrict traffic from entering Riggall Road from Argyle Street. Using rubber kerbing, it is estimated that this treatment will cost between \$10,000 and \$20,000. It is envisaged that there are savings in the roads capital budget to allow the works to proceed within the current budget year.

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

Engagement Method Used:

The following engagement methods were used in relation to Council's intention to close Riggall Road:

- Letters were sent to affected residents on 4 September 2015, detailing that a Public Notice was about to be published and they had a right to submit under Section 223;

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)

- A Public Notice was placed in the Latrobe Valley Express on 7 September 2015, detailing that the public have a right to make a submission under Section 223 on the proposal, for a period of 28 days;
- A letter was sent to VicRoads requesting their feedback in relation to the proposal; and
- A community information session was held in the Riggall Road Park on 16 September 2015, detailing the proposal.

Details of Community Consultation / Results of Engagement:

A total of six submissions were received during the 28-day submission timeframe, five of which supported the proposal none of the submissions were an objection to the partial road closure. In addition, all attendees at the community information session were supportive of the proposal, including the resident who had previously requested more information.

VicRoads sent a letter on 21 September 2015, detailing their in-principle authorisation to install a structure to regulate traffic at Riggall Road.

OPTIONS

Council has the following options available to it in relation to its intention to implement a partial road closure of Riggall Road:

1. Implement the partial road closure of Riggall Road, or
2. Do not implement the partial road closure of Riggall Road.

CONCLUSION

Council has followed all of the statutory requirements needed to allow it to exercise its power to implement a partial road closure of Riggall Road. As a result of consultation as part of this process, it has only received support for the proposal from both the community and VicRoads.

As such, it is now recommended that the partial road closure of Riggall Road be implemented.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Nil

Attachments

1. Emma Seabrook Submission (Published Separately) (Confidential)
2. Firth Submission (Published Separately) (Confidential)
3. Helen Drummond Submission (Published Separately) (Confidential)
4. Jane Leslie Submission (Published Separately) (Confidential)
5. Janice Widdicombe Submission (Published Separately) (Confidential)
6. Rod Wells Submission (Published Separately) (Confidential)
7. VicRoads Submission (Published Separately) (Confidential)

CORRESPONDENCE

11. CORRESPONDENCE

11.1 CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION - FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT

General Manager

Corporate Services

For Decision

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present correspondence from the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) for consideration by Council in relation to Financial Assistance Grants to Local Government.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Correspondence has been received from the Australian Local Government Association requesting Council's support for their campaign to maintain the Financial Assistance Grants and restore the indexation of these grants.

COUNCIL MOTION

Moved: Cr Gibson

Seconded: Cr White

That Council writes to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, the Hon. Warren Truss MP outlining and acknowledging the importance of federal funding through the Financial Assistance Grants program and requesting the continuance of the indexation to assist with the continued delivery of councils services and infrastructure.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

OFFICER COMMENTS

On 16 June 2014, delegates of the National General Assembly for Local Government resolved to call on the Commonwealth Government to restore indexation of Financial Assistance Grants in line with CPI and population growth.

The correspondence received from ALGA is one part of the action from this motion.

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)

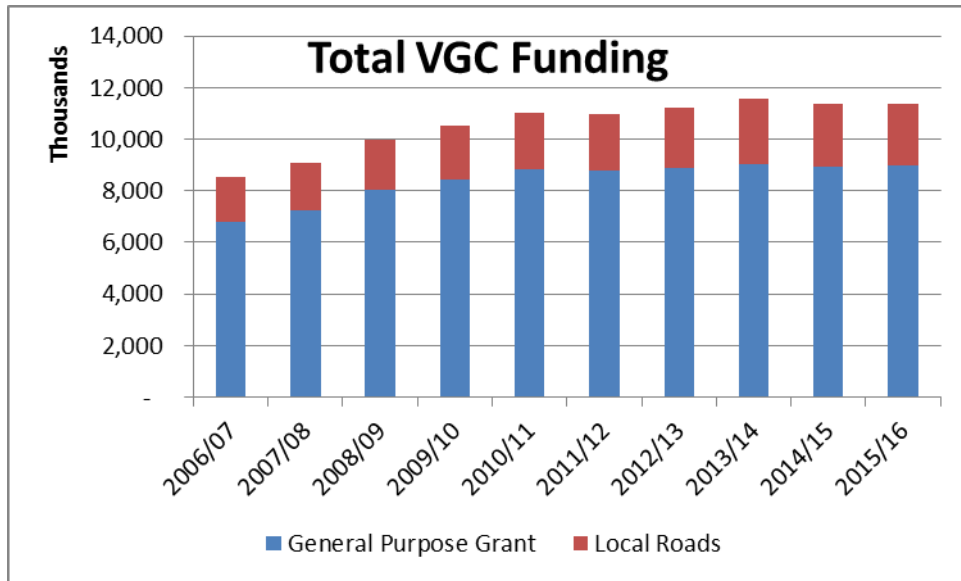
ALGA are requesting that Council write to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, the Hon. Warren Truss MP, to raise the importance of the financial sustainability of local government for our communities, the importance of financial assistance grants to our own budget and sustainability, and urging Mr Truss to support the restoration of the indexation as soon as possible.

The removal of indexation has impacted the grant income that councils have received; however, it is only one of a number of factors used to calculate the allocation to councils.

The Financial Assistance Grants is approximately 10% of Latrobe City's budget each year. The below tables and graph detail the grants received by Council under the Financial Assistance Grants program over the last ten years.

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
General Purpose Grant	6,773,073	7,244,614	8,039,582	8,456,975	8,837,442
Local Roads	1,742,818	1,837,375	1,945,689	2,079,276	2,194,830
Overall	8,515,891	9,081,989	9,985,271	10,536,251	11,032,272

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
General Purpose Grant	8,766,332	8,890,106	9,055,605	8,926,150	8,962,864
Local Roads	2,224,454	2,325,762	2,490,765	2,427,578	2,416,162
Overall	10,990,786	11,215,868	11,546,370	11,353,728	11,379,026



The correspondence from ALGA also suggests that council acknowledges the receipt of the Financial Assistance Grants through our council documentation, such as annual reports. This is currently outlined as grant income in the Financial Statements attached to our annual reports.

Attachments

1. Correspondence from the Australian Local Government Association

11.1

Correspondence from the Australian Local Government Association - Financial Assistance Grants to Local Government

1	Correspondence from the Australian Local Government Association	47
----------	--	-----------



AUSTRALIAN LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

24 August 2015

Latrobe City Council
PO Box 264
MORWELL VIC 3840



Dear Mayor Dale Harriman

Financial Assistance Grants to Local Government

Our Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) campaign to maintain FAGs and restore indexation of the grants is gaining momentum on a few fronts, which is fantastic and welcome news.

On the one hand, councils continue to pass resolutions acknowledging the importance of the FAGs in facilitating the delivery of essential services for their communities. We now have around 250 councils (44%) that have passed this resolution. This is a good start but we need many more if the voice of local government is to be heard strongly by the Australian Government. If your council hasn't yet passed this important resolution, we urge you to support the campaign by passing a resolution similar to the draft resolution attached and advising your State Association and ALGA.

On the political front, the FAGs campaign is already yielding positive results. The Federal Opposition in June drew a direct link between the freeze to FAGs indexation and its agreement with the Government to support the provision of a \$1.105 billion boost to Roads to Recovery funding over the next two years using revenue from the reintroduced fuel excise indexation during that period.

This is a major achievement of the FAGs campaign showing the effective cut-through and influence of our actions and messages but we can't stop there.

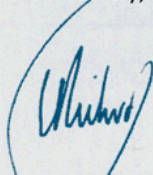
It is important that each council acknowledges the receipt of FAGs from the Commonwealth in their council documentation. With the 2014-15 financial year having now drawn to a close and many councils planning the preparation of annual reports, this is an excellent opportunity to ensure FAGs are acknowledged in your council's annual report to demonstrate to both government and your community the significant role of FAGs in the long-term financial sustainability of your council and local government.

It is also critical that we maintain the momentum of the campaign politically and continue to advocate to the highest levels. To this end we are asking you to write to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, the Hon Warren Truss MP, raising the importance of the financial sustainability of local government for our communities, the importance of FAGs to your own council's budget and sustainability, and urging Mr Truss to support the restoration of the indexation of FAGs as soon as possible.

By writing to the Deputy Prime Minister and by acknowledging the importance of FAGs to the delivery of your council's crucial services through passing a resolution and including an acknowledgment in your annual report, you will be strengthening our national campaign.

Thank you for your commitment to the local government sector and your assistance in our campaign to restore the indexation of FAGs as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,



Mayor Troy Pickard
President
Australian Local Government Association



Cr Bill McArthur
President
Municipal Association of Victoria

Attachment

Council Resolution

That the Council:

1. Acknowledges the importance of federal funding through the Financial Assistance Grants program for the continued delivery of councils services and infrastructure;
2. Acknowledges that the council will receive \$X.Y million in 2014 - 15; and
3. Will ensure that this federal funding, and other funding provided by the Federal Government under relevant grant programs, is appropriately identified as Commonwealth grant funding in council publications, including annual reports.

Rationale

FAGs are a vital part of the revenue base of all councils, and this year councils will receive \$2.3 billion from the Australian Government under this important program.

The Government's decision in the 2014 Federal Budget to freeze the indexation of FAGs for three years beginning in 2014-15 will unfortunately cost councils across Australia an estimated \$925 million by 2017-18.

ALGA and the state local government associations are seeking the support of Council for advocacy to have the Federal Government reverse the decision to freeze the indexation of FAGs.

While the FAGs are paid through each state's Local Government Grants Commission, the funding originates with the Commonwealth and it is important it is recognised as such. Council, and every other council in Australia, have been asked to pass a resolution acknowledging the importance of the Commonwealth's Financial Assistance Grants in assisting Council to provide important community infrastructure.

Council is also being asked to acknowledge the receipt of Financial Assistance Grants from the Commonwealth in media releases and council publications, including our annual report and to highlight to the media a council project costing a similar size to the FAGs received by Council so that the importance and impact of the grants can be more broadly appreciated.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

12. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

Nil reports

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

13. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Nil reports

CITY DEVELOPMENT

14. CITY DEVELOPMENT

**14.1 PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C93 - ASHWORTH DRIVE,
TRARALGON - CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS**

General Manager

City Development

For Decision

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider all written submissions received in response to Amendment C93, and to seek Council approval to progress the amendment to the next stage, by requesting a planning panel to independently consider all submissions.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The amendment proposes to rezone part of Ashworth Drive, Traralgon, including the property at 124 Cross's Road, Traralgon, from Rural Living Zone – Schedule 3 (RLZ3) to General Residential Zone (GRZ) (see Attachment One for the subject site map). The land comprises part of the approved Cross's Road Residential Precinct Development Plan (CRDP).

The land is located on the northern side of Cross's Road and sits on the north-western fringe of Traralgon. The land is wedged between existing and emerging residential neighbourhoods to the east and west and farmland to the north, forming a transition between urban and rural development.

The subject land comprises the last remaining parcels of land to be rezoned to residential land, as part of the CRDP and 'Area One' of the existing Traralgon Structure Plan in the Latrobe Planning Scheme.

The amendment was placed on public exhibition during the period 6 August 2015 to 18 September 2015. Following public exhibition of Amendment C93, 20 written submissions were received, comprising seven submissions of support and thirteen submissions that were opposed. This report presents all submissions and outlines the key issues raised (see Attachments Four and Five).

Given the nature of the thirteen submissions opposing the amendment, the submissions cannot be satisfied. Therefore, Council must request the Minister for Planning to establish a planning panel to progress the amendment to the next stage, in accordance with Section 23 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (the Act).

The approved CRDP is also required to be amended to correct a technical error regarding clarity around the cost and provision for drainage infrastructure.

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Having considered all written submissions received to Amendment C93 requests the Minister for Planning establish a planning panel to consider submissions for Amendment C93 and prepare a report.
2. Advises those persons who made written submissions to Amendment C93 of Council's decision.
3. Note that the approved CRDP is required to be amended to correct a technical error regarding clarity around the cost and provision for drainage infrastructure.

COUNCIL MOTION

Moved: Cr Kam
Seconded: Cr O'Callaghan

That Council lay this matter on the table to the next Council meeting.

For: Councillors Gibson, Rossiter, O'Callaghan, Middlemiss, Kam, Harriman and Gibbons

Against: Councillors White and Sindt

CARRIED

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

This report is consistent with Latrobe 2026: The Community Vision for Latrobe Valley and the Latrobe City Council Plan 2013-2017.

Latrobe 2026: The Community Vision for Latrobe Valley
Strategic Objectives – Built Environment

In 2026, Latrobe Valley benefits from a well-planned built environment that is complementary to its surroundings, and which provides for a connected and inclusive community.

Strategic Objectives – Economy

In 2026, Latrobe Valley has a strong and diverse economy built on innovation and sustainable enterprise. The vibrant business centre of Gippsland contributes to the regional and broader communities, whilst providing opportunities and prosperity for our local community.

Strategic Objectives – Governance

In 2026, Latrobe Valley has a reputation for conscientious leadership and governance, strengthened by an informed and engaged community, committed to enriching local decision making.

Latrobe City Council Plan 2013 - 2017

Theme and Objectives

Theme 5: Planning for the future

- *To provide clear and concise policies and directions in all aspects of planning.*

Strategic Direction – Planning for the future

- *Provide efficient and effective planning services and decision making to encourage development and new investment opportunities.*
- *Plan and coordinate the provision of key services and essential infrastructure to support new growth and developments.*

Legislation

The provisions of the Latrobe Planning Scheme and the following legislation apply to this amendment:

- *Local Government Act 1989*
- *Planning and Environment Act 1987*
- *Transport Integration Act 2010*

BACKGROUND

An amendment application was received on 14 October 2014, by The Planning Group (TPG) acting on behalf of Steven and Gayle Wood who are landowners in the Ashworth Drive precinct.

The subject land is located at Ashworth Drive, Traralgon and is defined as Lots 1-12 on PS126409, including the property at 124 Cross's Road, Traralgon. The area proposed to be rezoned comprises 25.54 ha of the total 75.96 ha of land that forms the CRDP. The CRDP was approved by Council in September 2012, and a number of technical reports were approved as part of the CRDP. These form background documentation for the current rezoning proposal.

The proposal seeks to rezone the subject land from RLZ3 to GRZ. Development Plan Overlay Schedule 5 – Residential Growth Areas

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)**

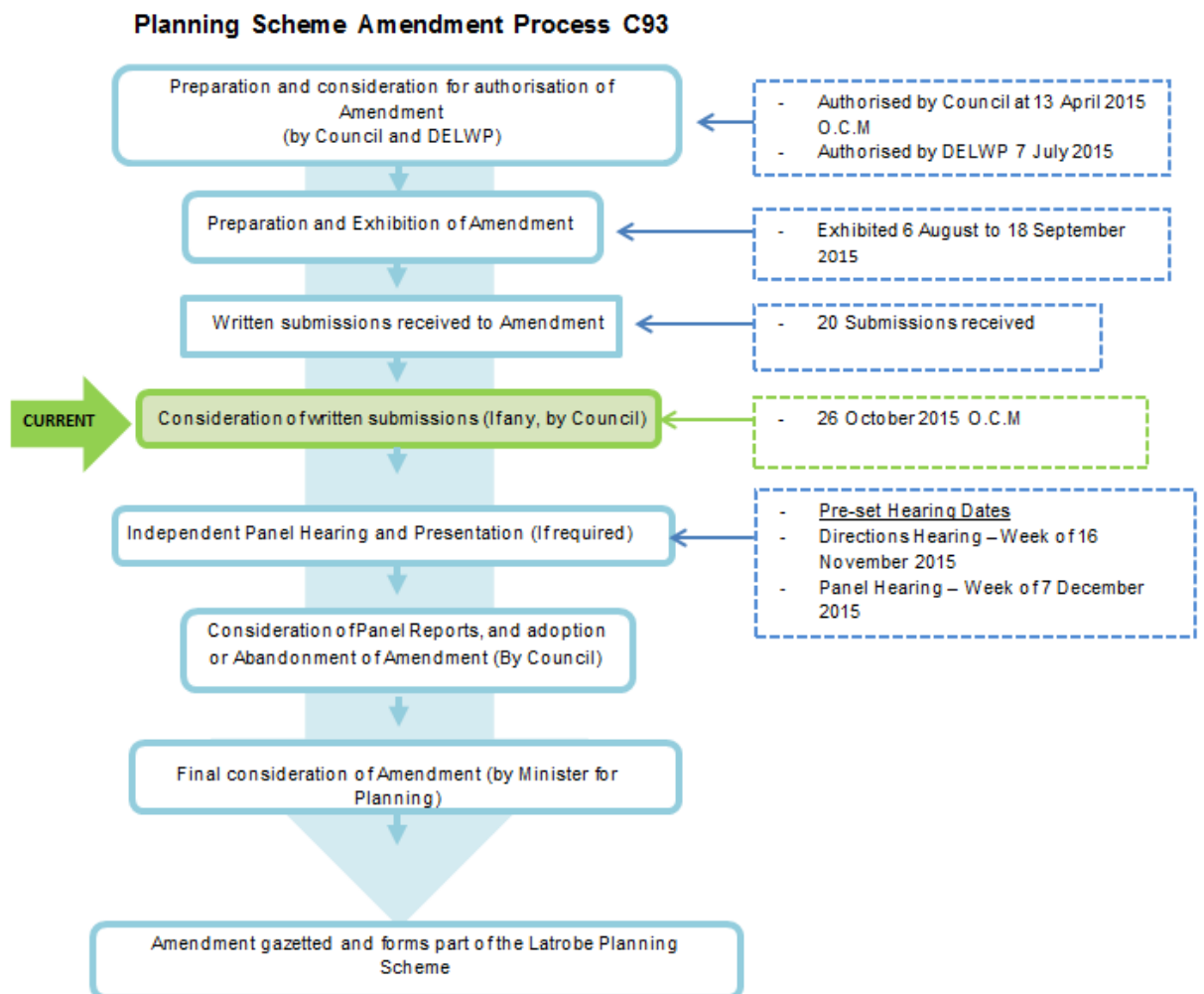
(DPO5) currently applies to the subject land and will continue to apply, irrespective of whether the land is rezoned or not.

The subject land comprises the last remaining parcels of land to be rezoned to residential land, as part of the CRDP and 'Area One' of the existing Traralgon Structure Plan in the Latrobe Planning Scheme. In order to facilitate the strategic direction of the Traralgon Structure Plan, Traralgon Growth Areas Review and the CRDP, it is considered appropriate that the remaining Rural Living Zone land be rezoned to residential.

The Proposed Zoning map is provided at Attachment Two and the Explanatory Report outlining the amendment is provided at Attachment Three.

Statutory Requirements

The C93 planning scheme amendment process is shown in the figure below and provides an indication of the current stage of the amendment.



In accordance with the Act, the municipal council, as a planning authority, has a number of duties and powers. These duties and powers are listed at Section 12 of the Act. Under Section 12 a planning authority must have regard to (*inter alia*):

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)

- The objectives of planning in Victoria;
- The Minister's directions;
- The Victoria Planning Provisions;
- The Latrobe Planning Scheme;
- Any significant effects which it considers a planning scheme amendment might have on the environment or which it considers the environment might have on any use or development envisaged by the amendment.

Amendment C93 has had regard to and is consistent with the requirements of Section 12 of the Act. In addition, each amendment must address the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP) publication *Strategic Assessment Guidelines for Planning Scheme Amendments*. A response to these guidelines is included in the Explanatory Report at Attachment Three.

The proposal is consistent with the State Planning Policy Framework and the Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS). A response to this is included in the Explanatory Report at Attachment Three.

Planning Scheme Amendments

At the Ordinary Council Meeting on 13 April 2015, Council resolved to seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit Amendment C93.

The Minister for Planning in accordance with Section 8A of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, authorised Council to prepare the amendment on 7 July 2015.

Amendment C93 was placed on public exhibition during the period of 6 August 2015 to 18 September 2015.

Sections 22 and 23 of the Act require that Council must consider all submissions received to the amendment and where a submission cannot be satisfied, request the Minister for Planning to establish a planning panel to consider submissions.

The recommendations of this Council Report are in accordance with Sections 22 and 23 of the Act.

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

Amendment C93 was placed on public exhibition during the period of 6 August 2015 to 18 September 2015 (i.e six weeks).

Exhibition of the amendment is subject to the prescribed process in accordance with the public notice and consultation requirements of Section 96C of the Act. This includes advertising in the government gazette and local newspapers as well as written notification to landowners and occupiers that may be materially affected by the amendment.

All statutory and servicing authorities (referral agencies) likely to be materially affected have also been notified of this amendment.

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)

An 'open house' community information session was held on 25 August 2015 with sixteen people in attendance. Council officers also met with six landowners of the subject land for one on one discussions. All landowners were offered this opportunity as per the Council Resolution at the 13 April 2015 Ordinary Council Meeting.

A total of 20 written submissions were received in relation to Amendment C93. Copies of all submissions are provided at Attachment Five and a map showing the location of submitters (where possible) is provided at Attachment Six. Section 22 of the Act requires that a planning authority consider all submissions to an amendment.

Amendment C93 Submissions	
Support	7
Object	13
Total Submissions	20

KEY POINTS/ISSUES

A summary of key issues and comments raised in submissions that have been received in relation to Amendment C93 have been provided below. A detailed response to all submissions can be found at Attachment Four.

Many of the submissions raise specific matters that relate to the already approved CRDP, which is outside the scope of Amendment C93. Where this has occurred, a general planning response has been provided. The following is a breakdown into themes of all submissions received:

Support for the proposal from Referral Agencies

Four submissions of support were received by referral agencies during the exhibition period and their comments are noted. These are detailed below:

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)

- Overall support for the Amendment.

Gippsland Water

- No objection to the Amendment.

VicRoads

- Conditional support for the Amendment.
- The Transport and Traffic Impact Assessment Report undertaken as part of the CRDP identified the need for improvement works to be undertaken at the intersection of Tyers Road and Cross's Road. VicRoads requires any future subdivision in this precinct to be accompanied by a revised Transport and Traffic Impact Assessment Report based on current data, and its referral to VicRoads for consideration.
- Requirements for road works may be required at the subdivision stage.

West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA)

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)

- Supports the Amendment and has provided requirements for when planning permit applications are received for subdivision.
- The WGCMA will require Waterway Management Plans and Stormwater Management Plans to be referred to them as part of any future subdivision.

Objection for the proposal from Referral Agencies

One objection was received from a referral agency during the exhibition period. This is detailed below:

Environment Protection Authority (EPA)

- The land is located approximately 1.5km from the Australian Paper Maryvale Mill site. As a result of the type of industrial activity undertaken on the site, the EPA's recommended buffer distance is 5km separation distance from sensitive uses, including residential areas.
- The guidelines make allowance for the recommended separation distances to be varied under a detailed study of site specific conditions. Detailed modelling has been undertaken and an agreed separation distance has been formulated and is called the Adjusted Urban Amenity Buffer. This was agreed upon as a result of extensive consultation between Council, EPA and Australian Paper.
- This places Ashworth Drive outside of the adjusted buffer. However, as Council are yet to adopt this agreed buffer into the Latrobe Planning Scheme, to protect both residents and industry alike, EPA objects to the further intensification of residential areas within the Australian Paper 5km separation distance.

Planning response:

Amendment C87 – Traralgon Growth Areas Review seeks to implement the Adjusted Urban Amenity Buffer as agreed upon during the Traralgon Growth Areas Review project by Council, EPA and Australian Paper. The agreed buffer was a compromise from the EPA's recommended separation distance of 5km for this specific type of industry. This was agreed upon as a result of existing developments within the 5km buffer. However, both the EPA and Australian Paper have indicated that without a buffer formally recognised within the Latrobe Planning Scheme, they would automatically default to the 5km buffer. As a result of Amendment C87 still being considered by Council, and the absence of the adjusted urban amenity buffer in the Scheme, the EPA has objected on this basis. It is currently uncertain when Council are likely to adopt the adjusted buffer into the Latrobe Planning Scheme, as further work has been identified as being required prior to Council determining the issue.

Support for the proposal from the public

Three submissions supported the rezoning of the land in accordance with the approved CRDP. Key reasons for support are:

- Understanding the proposed rezoning does not require landowners to subdivide, it just allows for the potential to subdivide;

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)

- The benefit to the Traralgon district and being a good outcome for residents of Ashworth Drive;
- The current situation of having one street at a significantly lower density than surrounding land which does not enhance the precinct;
- Residents being aware of the proposal to intensify residential development in this area, and are supportive for current land uses to continue until such time that they wish to further develop;
- Supports further progress in the area.

Planning Response:

Support noted for the Amendment.

Objections for the proposal

Twelve objections from the public were received for Amendment C93 that raised concerns relating to a number of themes. Below each theme a planning response has been provided:

Cross's Road Residential Precinct Development Plan

Issues raised:

- Subdivision is inappropriate in this area due to the need for improved infrastructure such as roads, wetland reserves, bridges and utilities;
- Limited subdivision potential due to site constraints of the waterways. The landowner who initiated the Amendment should be allowed to subdivide separate from the rest of the residents in Ashworth Drive;
- Majority of landowners do not wish to develop in the short to medium term and their land should not be rezoned without full support; and
- Residential lot yield is limited due to site constraints such as water courses, easements and existing buildings.

Planning response:

There is an approved Development Plan for the area which has considered and addressed site constraints for the subject land. To facilitate the implementation of the approved CRDP, the entire precinct should be rezoned rather than site specific rezoning's. This will allow for landowners who wish to develop to do so at their own pace, and will negate the need to go through a full planning scheme amendment process each time a landowner wishes to subdivide, which may not be considered an effective use of Council's resources.

Rezoning the entire precinct at once, rather than in an ad hoc manner, allows for the coordination of shared infrastructure to be delivered in a more cost effective and organised way. Rezoning one or two properties at a time will not deliver the same intended outcome of the CRDP.

Traffic Concerns

Issues raised:

- Potential traffic issues associated with access onto Cross's Road during school times and other large scale subdivisions occurring in the broader Cross's Road area;
- Allowing space for a roundabout to be located at the entrance to Ashworth Drive; and
- High density subdivision will intensify current traffic issues in the area.

Planning response:

VicRoads have provided a referral response regarding the amendment and have indicated that a revised Transport and Traffic Impact Assessment Report will need to be provided at the time of subdivision when a detailed lot layout is able to be determined. There is potential that whoever initiates subdivision first, may incur upgrade costs relating to traffic infrastructure upgrades.

Amenity Concerns

Issues raised:

- Dwellings in the adjoining estate of Riverslea Boulevard would lose the rural outlook if Ashworth Drive was to be intensively developed;
- Landowners purchased land in Ashworth Drive for the lifestyle and intensification around the precinct will negatively impact on the current lifestyle;
- Truck businesses exist in the area that will be impacted if new residents were to be located in Ashworth Drive;
- The area is currently considered liveable, quiet, sociable with no vandalism or disturbance of any kind;
- Increased noise due to the construction phase;
- There would be privacy issues for properties abutting Ashworth Drive; and
- Informed by the developer of Riverslea Boulevard that Ashworth Drive would not be developed.

Planning response:

The land has been identified in the Traralgon Structure Plan as an area for future residential use since 2007 and has since been developed in accordance with the strategic direction of the Traralgon Structure Plan contained in the Latrobe Planning Scheme. In 2012, the Development Plan for the Cross's Road area was approved by Council and as part of the consultation process for the Development Plan, all adjoining landowners in the area were notified and had an opportunity to make comment on the indicative residential precinct layout. Therefore, while some residents wish for the Ashworth Drive area to not be further developed, the intent of the area to be future residential has been made clear since 2007 when Council adopted the Traralgon Structure Plan and then placed the Structure Plans in the Latrobe Planning Scheme in 2010.

Existing uses within the area, such as truck businesses, will be allowed to continue until such time that the use ceases and existing use rights no longer apply. The truck businesses, under the proposed residential zoning may not be allowed to intensify but can continue to operate at their current capacity.

Any residential privacy issues can be dealt with through other standard statutory mechanisms such as planning permit and building permit conditions on future subdivisions and dwellings.

Stormwater and Drainage

Issues raised:

- Concerns on how stormwater drainage will be managed from increased development of Ashworth Drive and surrounding properties; and
- Whether other drainage options are more viable for the area.

Planning response:

Stormwater drainage can be conditioned as part of any planning permit for subdivision. Prior to any titles being issued, the applicant must address the conditions to the satisfaction of the responsible authority. Therefore, this can be dealt with under the normal planning permit process, as there are no mechanisms in place through the rezoning process to require upgrades to current drainage infrastructure.

The approved CRDP recognises the runoff from the existing established areas and acknowledges council's role in managing the drainage.

Infrastructure Costs

Issues raised:

- Clarification around infrastructure requirements and funding/costs for the development of Ashworth Drive including streets, lighting and kerbs needs clarification.

Planning response:

Consistent with the approach taken for the adjoining Stockdale Fields and Banksia Ridge developments i.e. (the western portion of the CRDP) in Traralgon, the developer will be responsible for any infrastructure costs associated with their development at the time of subdivision.

The intent of the CRDP is that it will be the responsibility of landowners to provide the required infrastructure, as outlined in the table on page 38 of the CRDP. However, page 8 of the Drainage Strategy (background report to the CRDP) states that a proportion of costs associated with drainage works should be borne by Council. The approved CRDP is required to be amended to correct this technical error which will clarify the cost and provision for drainage infrastructure in accordance with the planning response above.

Miscellaneous issues*Issues raised:*

- Increased rates due to increased land values and existing businesses may be hindered by the impost of extra expenses as a result of this; and
- Concerns over the protection of an existing heritage homestead in the precinct if residential encroachment was to occur.

Planning response:

An increase in rates as a result of rezoning land is not a planning consideration that is given sufficient weight due to many varied factors which may affect property values. The land comprising the homestead, like other land in the precinct, will not be developed until the landowner initiates development. The planning scheme amendment proposal only rezones land so landowners can in the future subdivide their land in accordance with the approved CRDP.

The *Latrobe Heritage Study* conclusions did not consider the homestead was appropriate to be included within the study. No formal controls exist for the property by way of a Heritage Overlay and it is not acknowledged in the Victorian Heritage Register. Therefore the heritage values of existing buildings in the precinct are beyond the scope of this amendment. Any further consideration of its heritage value would be subject to further work being undertaken. However, the CRDP does acknowledge the historic homestead and future subdivision designs are encouraged to respond appropriately.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk has been considered as part of this report and it is considered to be consistent with the Risk Management framework.

If the proposal does not proceed or the precinct is rezoned in an ad hoc way, there is a risk that by not approving the rezoning of the precinct the orderly planning of the CRDP area will not be facilitated. The subject land is a key component to provide integrated planning outcomes through connecting roads, public open space, subdivision lot layout, infrastructure etc as identified in the CRDP. Therefore, the CRDP area could be compromised as the subject land is wedged between existing and emerging residential neighbourhoods.

The CRDP is required to be further considered at the subdivision stage to take into account constraints of the subject land to enable conventional residential development.

To facilitate the overall intent of the CRDP, the CRDP is also required to be amended to correct a technical error regarding clarity around the cost and provision for drainage infrastructure. There is a risk if this technical error in the CRDP is not amended then responsibility for drainage costs may be unclear.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

The prescribed fees for planning scheme amendments are detailed in the *Planning and Environment (Fees) Regulations 2012*. The costs associated with a planning scheme amendment include: considering a request to amend a planning scheme, consideration of submissions, providing assistance to a panel and adoption and approval of an amendment. Statutory fees associated with this amendment will be met by the proponent.

OPTIONS

The options available to Council are as follows:

1. That Council, after considering all written submissions received to Amendment C93, resolves to request the Minister for Planning to establish a planning panel to consider submissions and prepare a report.

Or

2. That Council, after considering all written submissions received to Amendment C93, resolves to abandon the exhibited Planning Scheme Amendment C93 and inform the Minister for Planning.

The recommendation to Council is to support option one.

CONCLUSION

The amendment proposes to rezone part of Ashworth Drive, Traralgon, including the property at 124 Cross's Road, Traralgon, from Rural Living Zone – Schedule 3 to General Residential Zone. The land comprises part of the approved CRDP.

Given the nature of the thirteen submissions opposing the amendment, the submissions cannot be satisfied. Therefore, Council must request the Minister for Planning to establish a planning panel to progress the amendment to the next stage.

The approved CRDP is also required to be amended to correct a technical error regarding clarity around the cost and provision for drainage infrastructure.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Planning Scheme Amendment documentation

Cross's Road Residential Precinct Development Plan

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)**

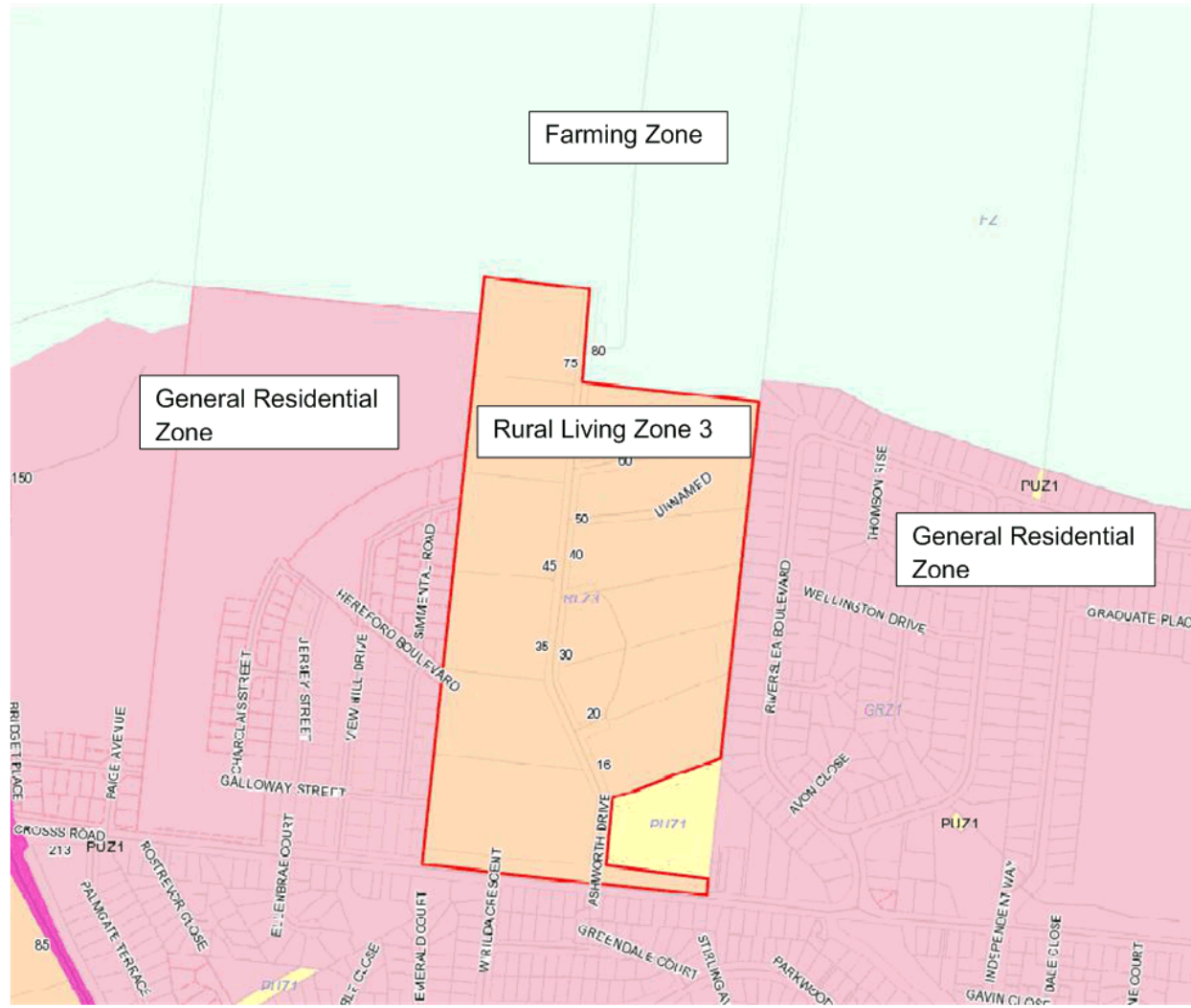
Attachments

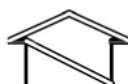
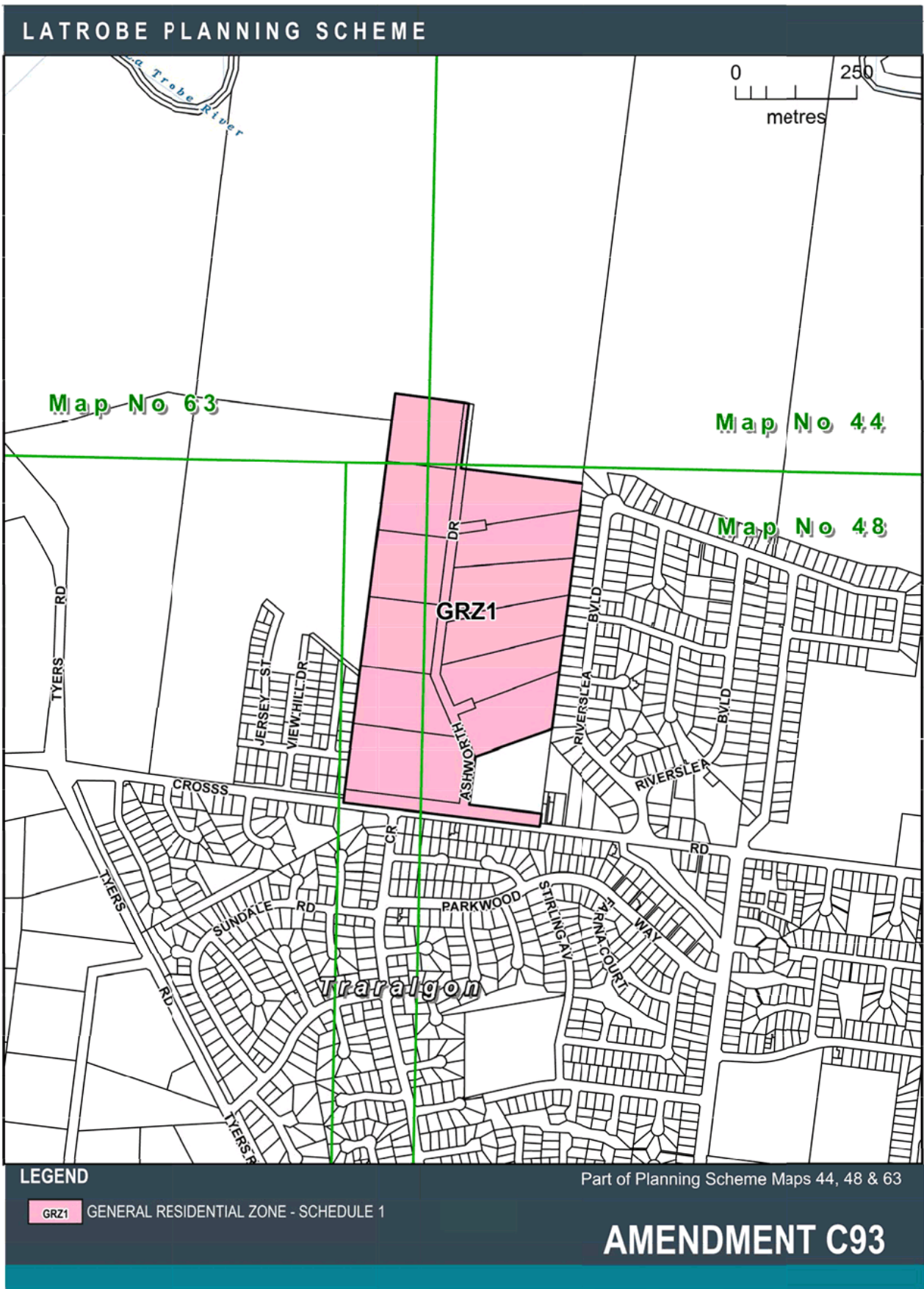
1. Subject Site Map
2. Proposed Zoning Map
3. C93 Explanatory Report
4. Summary of Submissions Table
5. All Submissions (Published Separately) (Confidential)
6. Map Showing Location of Submitters (Published Separately) (Confidential)

14.1

Planning Scheme Amendment C93 - Ashworth Drive, Traralgon - Consideration of Submissions

1	Subject Site Map	69
2	Proposed Zoning Map	71
3	C93 Explanatory Report	73
4	Summary of Submissions Table	87





Planning and Environment Act 1987

LATROBE PLANNING SCHEME

AMENDMENT C93

EXPLANATORY REPORT

Who is the planning authority?

This amendment has been prepared by the Latrobe City Council, which is the planning authority for this amendment.

The amendment has been made at the request of The Planning Group (TPG) on behalf of the landowners at 50 Ashworth Drive, Traralgon.

Land affected by the amendment

The amendment applies to land comprising a total of twelve (12) parcels located on or adjacent to Ashworth Drive, Traralgon, more accurately described as Lots 1-12 on PS126409 (see Figure 1). The land is already covered by Development Plan Overlay Schedule 5 – Residential Growth Areas (DPO5) and is part of the Cross's Road Residential Precinct Development Plan (CRDP).



Figure 1 Outline of subject land proposed to be rezoned

What the amendment does

The amendment proposes to rezone land located within the Rural Living Zone – Schedule 3 to a General Residential Zone.

Strategic assessment of the amendment**Why is the amendment required?**

The amendment is required to provide the opportunity to assist in accommodating the projected population growth for Traralgon. It will allow future permit applications to be made to develop the land in accordance with the State Planning Policy and Local Planning Policy Frameworks and, more particularly, in accordance with the Traralgon Structure Plan and the endorsed Cross's Road Residential Precinct Structure Plan. Within the Traralgon Structure Plan (included at Clause 21.05 of the Scheme), the land is designated as 'future residential'. At its Ordinary Council Meeting on 17 September 2012, Latrobe City Council endorsed the CRDP which seeks to provide an integrated vision for coordinated development of all properties affected by the DPO5. Furthermore, the amendment will facilitate the long term development of the land in accordance with the Development Plan.

Amendment C87 - Traralgon Growth Areas Review (TGAR)

Traralgon Growth Areas Review (TGAR) is intended to provide a growth strategy that identifies areas for future urban development (i.e. housing, commercial, industrial and open space) around Traralgon, the Traralgon-Morwell Corridor, Glengarry and Tyers up to the year 2051.

TGAR forecasts population growth in Traralgon to 2051, identifying the need for approximately 11,500 extra dwellings based on a high growth scenario. Current estimates suggest approximately 5,500 vacant lots in Traralgon taking into account infill development, endorsed development plans (including the subject land) and land identified as future residential in the current Traralgon Structure Plan. Rezoning of the subject land will assist in meeting some of the demand for residential land in Traralgon.

Amendment C56

A previous planning scheme amendment C56 undertaken by the Minister for Planning in May 2011, sought to rezone land at 150 Tyers Road and 240 Cross's Road, Traralgon. Although identified as future residential within the Traralgon Structure Plan, the land at Ashworth Drive (subject land) remained Rural Living Zone. The Minister for Planning

excluded Ashworth Drive, Traralgon from the amendment C56 to allow it to undergo a standard planning scheme amendment process, which is what this amendment C93 does.

How does the amendment implement the objectives of planning in Victoria?

The proposed amendment implements the objectives set out in Section 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* in providing for the fair, orderly, economic and sustainable use and development of land.

The objectives of planning in Victoria are (*inter alia*):

- To provide for the fair, orderly, economic and sustainable use and development of land.
- To secure a pleasant, efficient and safe working, living and recreational environment for all Victorians and visitors to Victoria.
- To protect public utilities and other assets and enable the orderly provision and coordination of public utilities and other facilities for the benefit of the community.
- To facilitate development in accordance with the objectives set out in the points above.
- To balance the present and future interests of all Victorians.

The amendment implements the objectives of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (the Act) by contributing to the land supply in Traralgon to efficiently and effectively meet the community needs now and into the future.

The Traralgon Structure Plan and CRDP have both been through an extensive public consultation process ensuring that the public and key agencies have considered in detail the suitability of the site for urban development, as well as considering a layout for the area. The CRDP creates a framework for a high quality urban environment which meets the needs of the community and provides access to relevant infrastructure and community services.

How does the amendment address any environmental, social and economic effects?

The subject land is within the Township Boundary as set out in the Traralgon Structure Plan and is contiguous with existing urban development. The land represents a logical extension to existing urban development, proximate to local community infrastructure, to provide additional residential living opportunities to the community in an accessible location.

Environmental Effects

Drainage

An integrated stormwater management strategy is proposed for the entire Development Plan area. Conveyance of stormwater is required through three properties on the subject land, however, the extent of stormwater to be conveyed through these properties does not warrant on-site retardation.

The CRDP has considered drainage through the preparation of the Drainage Strategy. The Tyers rising main passes through the subject land and its protection has also been considered.

Native Vegetation

It is considered that the rezoning of the land will have minimal impact on the environmental values of the site. An Ecological Assessment was prepared as part of the preparation of the CRDP and acknowledges that the subject land includes scattered exotic and native vegetation around existing buildings and along road and water frontages. The CRDP encourages the design of future subdivisions to manage any identified native vegetation. This has included protection of native vegetation along waterways and removing some native vegetation in other areas.

Waterway Buffer

Two designated waterways enter at Cross's Road, and one waterway enters near 45 and 55 Ashworth Drive, leaving the site through 60 Ashworth Drive. The second waterway passes through the rear of properties on the east side of Ashworth Drive. The waterways merge on 60 Ashworth Drive. There are approximately 30 metre buffer distances proposed from these two designated waterways required by the CRDP.

A Waterway Management Plan is required to demonstrate the protection of waterways and minimise maintenance.

Social and Economic Effects

The proposed amendment has considered the social and economic effects that may be caused by the amendment.

The future development of the subject land will complete the missing link in the Development Plan area and will facilitate the provision of integrated services such as road connections, bike and pedestrian links and public open space areas.

The future development of the land will provide opportunities for new housing development to assist in affordable housing and choice within the area and therefore economic effects of the amendment are expected to be positive. There will be some additional job creation

throughout the residential subdivision and dwelling construction stage of the precinct, and additional expenditure resulting from the population increase in the area. It is expected that once the land is made available for residential development, housing demand will increase and in turn a positive benefit will be provided to the town through the building industry and increased population accessing local businesses and services.

Amenity

The subject land features opportunities that have influenced the design response underpinning the CRDP. For example, one opportunity identified is the preservation of existing buildings to encourage improved amenity for land owners on the subject land.

Service Industry

It has been identified that two service industries (i.e. truck storage business) are currently operating on the subject land. Consideration of the transition of these industries over time may need to be undertaken.

Contamination

Based on existing truck storage business uses, an assessment of potentially contaminated land has been undertaken. The assessment has concluded that based on the history of the land use on the land, it is apparent that existing uses represent a 'low' potential for contamination in Table 2 of the General Practice Note *Potentially Contaminated Land June 2005*. Therefore, the uses fall under 'Category C' where the general duty under section 12 and section 60 of the *Planning and Environment Act* applies, and the application of an Environmental Audit Overlay or environmental audit/assessment is not required.

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has been contacted to confirm whether any Certificates and Statement of Environmental Audit have been issued for the land or if the land appears on the EPA Priority Sites Register. It has been confirmed that neither Certificates nor Statement of Environmental Audit have been issued for the land and the sites in Ashworth Drive (subject land) do not appear on the EPA Priority Sites Register.

Cultural Heritage

An Aboriginal and Historical Heritage Assessment was prepared as part of the preparation of the CRDP and the assessment found no Aboriginal or historical sites on the site.

Amendment C87 - Traralgon Growth Areas Review (TGAR)

TGAR forecasts population growth in Traralgon to 2051, identifying the need for approximately 11,500 extra dwellings based on a high growth scenario. Current estimates

suggest approximately 5,500 vacant lots in Traralgon taking into account infill development, endorsed development plans and land identified as future residential in the current Traralgon Structure Plan.

The CRDP will create approximately 677 lots, of which approximately 264 lots will be created by the amendment C93, which enables the potential development of 264 lots subject to further assessment at subdivision stage.

Does the amendment address relevant bushfire risk?

The amendment will not increase the risk of life, property, community infrastructure and the natural environment from bushfire. Grassfire risk is experienced by the land from the North, but future development of the land will mitigate this risk.

Does the amendment comply with the requirements of any Minister's Direction applicable to the amendment?

The proposed amendment is consistent with Ministerial Direction - The Form and Content of Planning Schemes under section 7(5) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

The proposed amendment is consistent with Ministerial Direction No. 1 – Potentially Contaminated Land as specified in the 'contamination' section of this report.

The proposed amendment is consistent with Ministerial Direction 11 – Strategic Assessment of Amendments through the discussion provided in this Explanatory Report.

The amendment process moving forward is expected to comply with Ministerial Direction No. 15 – The Planning Scheme Amendment Process.

The proposed amendment is consistent with Ministerial Direction No 16 - Residential Zones insofar as the amendment seeks to apply the new General Residential Zone to the subject land, consistent with the Traralgon Structure Plan.

How does the amendment support or implement the State Planning Policy Framework and any adopted State policy?

State Planning Policy Framework

Relevant to the proposed re-zoning of the subject land are the following clauses from the State Planning Policy Framework (SPPF):

- **Clause 11 - Settlement**

“Planning is to anticipate and respond to the needs of existing and future communities through provision of zoned and serviced land for housing, employment, recreation and open space, commercial and community facilities and infrastructure.”

This amendment is consistent with Clause 11 by providing land for settlement in an area that is provided with utility, urban and social services. The Traralgon Structure Plan and CRDP have designated the subject land as being suitable for future residential use. The amendment will improve the supply of residential land in this area. In particular, the amendment addresses State Planning Policy by allowing future development to provide for a diversity of dwelling types, increased housing choice and affordability.

- **Clause 13 - Environmental Risks**

Clause 13 nominates that *“planning should adopt a best practice environmental management and risk management approach which aims to avoid or minimise environmental degradation and hazards. Planning should identify and manage the potential for the environment, and environmental changes, to impact upon the economic, environmental or social well-being of society”*.

Management strategies for the environmental risks identified by the CRDP will be implemented with the subsequent subdivision of the subject land.

- **Clause 14 - Natural Resource Management**

Clause 14 nominates that *“planning is to assist in the conservation and wise use of natural resources including energy, water, land, stone and minerals to support both environmental quality and sustainable development.”*

One of the strategies of Clause 14 is to *“ensure that the State’s agricultural base is protected from the unplanned loss of productive agricultural land due to permanent changes of land use.”*

The subject land is rural living and already lost to agriculture so will not result in fragmentation of agricultural land.

- **Clause 15 - Built Environment and Heritage**

“Planning should ensure all new land use and development appropriately responds to its landscape, valued built form and cultural context, and protect places and sites with significant heritage, architectural, aesthetic, scientific and cultural value”.

"Planning should achieve high quality urban design and architecture that:

- *Contributes positively to local urban character and sense of place.*
- *Reflects the particular characteristics, aspirations and cultural identity of the community.*
- *Enhances liveability, diversity, amenity and safety of the public realm.*
- *Promotes attractiveness of towns and cities within broader strategic contexts.*
- *Minimises detrimental impact on neighbouring properties.*

The subject land is well located to utilise existing infrastructure and community facilities resulting in a more sustainable and integrated community. An Aboriginal and Historical Heritage Assessment was provided as part of the CRDP and did not identify any issues.

The amendment seeks *"to create urban environments that are safe, functional and provide good quality with a sense of place and cultural identity"*. Planning and Responsible Authorities are to ensure good urban design is promoted, and that development (and redevelopment) contributes to the community by improving safety, diversity and choice and responds to its context in terms of urban character.

This amendment is expected to have a positive impact as the future development of the land will provide opportunities for new housing development, will assist in affordable housing and choice within the area, in accordance with the CRDP.

• **Clause 16 - Housing**

This Clause encourages the promotion of housing markets that meets community needs. Planning and Responsible Authorities are to facilitate an increase in the supply of housing in existing and growth urban areas, which is of good quality design and integrated within infrastructure and services.

The amendment provides opportunities for new housing development to assist in affordable housing and choice within the area.

The subject land is the last remaining parcels of land to be rezoned as part of the Development Plan.

• **Clause 18 - Transport**

Clause 18 nominates that *"planning should ensure an integrated and sustainable transport system that provides access to social and economic opportunities, facilitates economic prosperity, contributes to environmental sustainability, coordinates reliable movements of people and goods, and is safe."*

A traffic impact assessment has been prepared as part of the CRDP to determine the impact of development on adjoining streets/roads, intersection locations and treatments and internal road hierarchy.

The existing layout, road hierarchy and intersection treatments to adjoining roads are considered acceptable.

- **Clause 19 - Infrastructure**

Clause 19 nominates that *“planning for development of social and physical infrastructure should enable it to be provided in a way that is efficient, equitable, accessible and timely.”*

The subject land is already serviced by nearby community infrastructure and the subject land’s future development will deliver a logical outcome to finalising the integration across the CRDP area.

How does the amendment support or implement the Local Planning Policy Framework, and specifically the Municipal Strategic Statement?

The proposed amendment supports the strategic direction sought by the LPPF in providing for residential use and development consistent with the objectives and outcomes sought in Clause 21.05 Main Towns.

Local Planning Policy Framework

Relevant to the proposed re-zoning of the subject land are the following clauses from the Local Planning Policy Framework (LPPF):

- **Clause 21.03 - Natural Environment Sustainability**

One of the objectives of Clause 21.03 is *“To protect and improve water quality and river health.”*

The amendment is consistent with Clause 21.03 as an Ecological Assessment has been prepared as part of the CRDP, to ensure the protection of indigenous flora and fauna on the subject land.

The Development Plan provides approximately 30 metre buffer distances to protect the two designated waterways.

- **Clause 21.04 - Built Environment Sustainability**

Clause 21.04 sits alongside Clause 21.05 in setting-out the overall land use framework for the smaller and larger settlements within the Latrobe region, as a 'networked city'. Whilst providing opportunities for each town to "...grow in its own right and maintain a 10 to 15 year urban land supply...". The policy further states that:

"Central to the concept of the networked city is acceptance by the community that higher order services and facilities (such as an art gallery or civic centre) that are provided in only one location can benefit the whole community and not just the town in which they are located. This should continue as the roles of towns evolve over time in response to changing social and economic influences..."

The role of the smaller settlements is to provide important diversity of housing and lifestyle as well as to be rural service centres."

The Policy goes on to state that due to *"the land use constraints around the major towns, there is an increasing need to reduce average residential property sizes so the remaining land is consumed at a more sustainable rate."*

The Policy cautions against unnecessary urban expansion and rural subdivision, and seeks to contain urban development within distinct boundaries. There is to be a clear distinction between each urban settlement, facilitating the self-containment and identity of each settlement.

The amendment is consistent with the objectives of Clause 21.04, by building upon a part of the existing township of Traralgon that is within the established settlement boundary as part of an integrated network of urban areas that maximises the use of existing infrastructure.

- **Clause 21.05 - Main Towns**

This Clause sets out the Structure Plans for the 'Main Towns' within the overall 'networked city' of Latrobe. This includes Traralgon at Clause 21.05-6 and the Traralgon Structure Plan. The subject land is identified on the Structure Plan as being within 'Area 1 - Future Residential'. The land is adjacent to the boundary on the north-western extent of the township, abutting an existing floodplain area to the north, an area denoted as 'existing residential opportunity' (east) and a further area similarly denoted as 'future residential' (west), as set out in Figure 2 below.

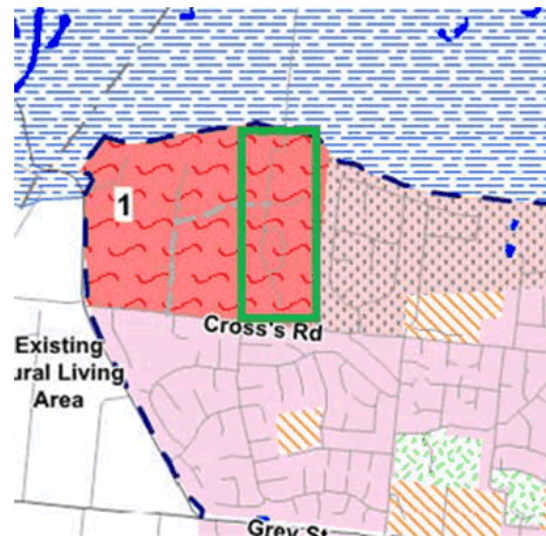


Figure 2 Extract from Traralgon Structure Plan showing location of the subject land.

With respect to residential land use, the accompanying policy states, amongst other things:

- *“Investigate flooding impact upon land designated as having existing or future residential opportunities in the structure plan; and
Where appropriate, mitigate flooding and encourage residential development within Areas 1, 11, and 12.”*

This proposal seeks to implement the endorsed development plan (Cross's Road Residential Precinct Development Plan), integrating conventional residential and acknowledging environmental constraints of the subject land. The land related to this amendment is the last remaining parcel to be rezoned as part of the Development Plan.

- **Clause 21.08 - Liveability**

This Clause seeks *“to enhance the quality of residents' lives by encouraging positive interrelated elements including safety, health, education, quality of life, mobility and accessibility, and sense of place”* and includes a number of strategies to achieve this.

Relevant to the proposal are the following issues associated with liveability, as identified in the policy:

- *The main towns of Latrobe City are experiencing growth. As these towns continue to grow, new residential development is located further from town centres, and therefore access to services and community facilities is reduced.*
- *New residential development on the fringe of expanding main towns within Latrobe City are at risk of being disconnected from community services and facilities without walkable access to local hubs.*

To address these issues, Council seeks (*inter alia*):

- *To provide for walkable neighbourhoods, ensuring public transport, shops, public open space and mixed-use community centres are close to all dwellings.*
- *To promote physical activity and walkability in all towns by ensuring all dwellings are within close walking distance of a community centre.*

This amendment is consistent with Clause 21.08 by providing for future residential development in a location well serviced by existing social and recreational services and infrastructure.

Does the amendment make proper use of the Victoria Planning Provisions?

The amendment makes proper use of the Victoria Planning Provisions by applying a reformed residential zoning to the land consistent with Amendments V8 and V100 which introduced the Residential Growth, General Residential and Neighbourhood Residential Zones into the Victorian Planning Provisions.

Appropriate Victoria Planning Provisions are proposed to be utilised. The amendment has considered and is consistent with the following Victorian State Government Practice and Advisory Notes:

- Practice Note 7 – Vegetation Protection in Urban Areas
- Practice Note 23 – Applying the Incorporated Plan and Development Plan Overlays
- Practice Note 30/Ministerial Direction No.1 – Potentially Contaminated Land
- Practice Note 46 – Strategic Assessment Guidelines
- Practice Note 78 – Applying the Residential Zones
- Advisory Note 34 – *Transport Integration Act 2010*
- Advisory Note 48 / Ministerial Direction No. 15 – The Planning Scheme Amendment Process
- Advisory Note 50 – Reformed Residential Zones

How does the amendment address the views of any relevant agency?

The views of relevant agencies were considered as part of the approval of the CRDP which includes the subject land. The proposed amendment simply seeks to rezone land to allow for residential development as per the approved development plan and the Latrobe Planning Scheme Traralgon Structure Plan. Preliminary advice has been sought from relevant agencies, which will again be consulted as part of the exhibition of the amendment to ensure their views are appropriately addressed. None of the relevant agencies that have been consulted has raised any objection to the proposal.

Does the amendment address relevant requirements of the Transport Integration Act 2010?

The amendment is considered to be consistent with the objectives of the *Transport Integration Act 2010* as the rezoning facilitates an urban framework where future residents will have access to public transport services throughout the Latrobe Valley, and a transport system which enables residents to travel safely and efficiently on public transport. The CRDP has already considered transport issues in relation to its general subdivision layout design.

Resource and administrative costs**• What impact will the new planning provisions have on the resource and administrative costs of the responsible authority?**

The amendment will have a negligible impact on the resource and administrative costs of the responsible authority. The amendment, if approved will result in a permit application to provide for the subdivision and development of the land due to the endorsed development plan already in place for the subject land. It is not considered that this application will have significant impact on the resource and administrative costs of the responsible authority, and this is an efficient means of land development.

Where you may inspect this Amendment

The amendment is available for public inspection, free of charge, during office hours at the following places:

- Latrobe City Council, Corporate Headquarters, 141 Commercial Road, Morwell VIC 3840
- Latrobe City Council, Traralgon Service Centre, 34-38 Kay Street, Traralgon VIC 3844
- Latrobe City Council, Moe Service Centre, 44 Albert Street, Moe VIC 3825
- Latrobe City Council, Churchill Service Hub, 9-11 Philip Parade, Churchill VIC 3842

The amendment can also be inspected free of charge at the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning website at www.dtpli.vic.gov.au/publicinspection .

Submissions

Any person who may be affected by the amendment may make a submission to the planning authority. Submissions about the amendment must be received by Friday, 18 September 2015.

A submission must be sent to: Alissa Filippo,
Project Manager – C93,
Latrobe City Council
PO Box 264,
MORWELL VIC 3840

Panel hearing dates

In accordance with clause 4(2) of Ministerial Direction No.15 the following panel hearing dates have been set for this amendment:

- Directions hearing: week commencing 16 November 2015
- Panel hearing: week commencing 7 December 2015

**SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS & PLANNING COMMENT TO
PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C93 – ASHWORTH DRIVE, TRARALGON**

Sub No.	Name / Organisation	Support / Objection	Summary of Submission	Planning Comment	Changes to Amendment Required? Yes / No
Submissions from Referral Authorities					
1.	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Support	Overall support to the amendment.	Submission of support noted.	No
2.	Gippsland Water	Support	Overall support with no objection to the amendment.	Submission of support noted.	No
3.	VicRoads	Support	<p>Support the proposal.</p> <p><i>Infrastructure</i> – The submission notes that the Transport and Traffic Impact Assessment Report undertaken as part of the approved CRDP, identifies the need for improvement work to be undertaken at the intersection of Tyers Road and Cross's Road, Traralgon.</p> <p><i>Referral</i> - The submission notes that any further subdivision of land in the approved CRDP should be referred to VicRoads for review and should be accompanied by a revised Traffic Impact Assessment Report. VicRoads suggest that as no triggers appear to be in place, the requirement for road works identified in the original traffic impact assessment report may be required at the planning permit application stage.</p>	<p>Submission of support noted.</p> <p><i>Infrastructure</i> - Council is currently in negotiations with VicRoads and the developer for the Banksia Ridge development (located west of the subject land), in relation to upgrade works required for the intersection at Cross's Road and Tyers Road, Traralgon.</p> <p><i>Referral</i> - In relation to further subdivision of the land and specifically Ashworth Drive, any application that is generally in accordance with an approved development plan, is exempt from notification under section 52 of the Act. It is noted that there is no formal referral trigger to VicRoads for any future planning permit applications for the Ashworth Drive precinct, as no direct road access is provided to a Road Zone Category 1 and the land is not directly abutting a Road</p>	No

Sub No.	Name / Organisation	Support / Objection	Summary of Submission	Planning Comment	Changes to Amendment Required? Yes / No
				Zone Category 1. Therefore, there is no formal referral requirement under Section 55 Act.	
4.	West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (late submission)	Conditional Support	<p>Conditionally support the proposal.</p> <p><i>Land constraints</i> - A significant portion of 75 Ashworth Drive is within the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) or Floodway Overlay (FO). Preliminary flood mapping from the Traralgon Flood Study due for completion by the end of 2015 indicates that the extent of these overlays is unlikely to change significantly. In light of this, subdivision and development on the land within the overlays is likely to be restricted.</p> <p><i>Waterway protection and management</i> -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waterways will require the retention of natural drainage corridors with vegetated buffer zones of at least 30 metres wide along each side of the waterway. The Waterway Management Plan which is required to demonstrate the protection of waterways and minimise maintenance must be referred to the WGCMA for approval prior to support of any future subdivision or development on the affected land. The Authority may also require that the owners of the lots affected by the Waterway Management Plan enter into a Section 173 Agreement with the responsible authority. 	<p>Conditional support noted.</p> <p><i>Land constraints</i> – The approved CRDP considered issues related to the Latrobe floodplain but does not specifically refer to the LSIO or FO which were introduced to the land by Amendment C9 on 29 March 2012. The land affected is identified for large lot development due to the topography and it is not expected that existing or new flood controls will affect the implementation of the approved CRDP.</p> <p><i>Waterway protection and management</i> - The protection of waterways is outlined in the approved CRDP. These issues are considered as part of any planning permit application and addressed through relevant planning permit conditions.</p>	No

Sub No.	Name / Organisation	Support / Objection	Summary of Submission	Planning Comment	Changes to Amendment Required? Yes / No
			<p><i>Stormwater and Drainage -</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WGCMA support the proposed integrated stormwater management strategy for the entire Development Plan area where the submitter notes that conveyance of stormwater is required through three properties on the subject land. Stormwater leaving the site must be treated to meet the 'Urban Stormwater Best Practice Environment Management Guidelines' (CSIRO, 1990). WGCMA would require that the Stormwater Management Plan be referred to them for approval prior to their support for any future subdivision or development on the affected land. Any proposed discharge of stormwater requiring a direct connection to a designated waterway (as defined by the Water Act 1989) will require approval by the WGCMA in the form of a Works on Waterways Permit. 	<p><i>Stormwater and Drainage –</i> Has been considered in the approved CRDP. These issues are considered as part of any planning permit application and addressed through relevant planning permit conditions.</p>	
5.	Environment Protection Authority (late submission)	Objection	<p>Oppose the proposal.</p> <p><i>Adjusted Urban Amenity Buffer -</i> The land is located approximately 1.5km from the Australian Paper Maryvale Mill site. As a result of the type of industrial activity undertaken on the site, the EPA's recommended buffer distance is 5km separation distance from sensitive uses, including residential areas.</p> <p>The guidelines make allowance for the recommended separation distances to be</p>	<p>Objection noted.</p> <p><i>Adjusted Urban Amenity Buffer -</i> Amendment C87 seeks to implement the Adjusted Urban Amenity Buffer as agreed upon during the Traralgon Growth Areas Review by Council, EPA and Australian Paper. The agreed buffer was a compromise from the EPA's recommended separation distance of 5km for this specific type of industry. This was</p>	No

Sub No.	Name / Organisation	Support / Objection	Summary of Submission	Planning Comment	Changes to Amendment Required? Yes / No
			<p>varied under a detailed study of site specific conditions. Detailed modelling has been undertaken and an agreed separation distance has been formulated and is called the Adjusted Urban Amenity Buffer. This was agreed upon as a result of extensive consultation between Council, EPA and Australian Paper.</p> <p>This places Ashworth Drive outside of the adjusted buffer but within the default 5km buffer.</p> <p>As Council are yet to adopted this agreed buffer into the Latrobe Planning Scheme, to protect both residence and industry alike, EPA objects to the further intensification of residential areas within the Australian Paper 5km separation distance.</p>	<p>agreed upon as a result of existing developments within the 5km buffer. However, both the EPA and Australian Paper have indicated that without a buffer formally recognised within the Latrobe Planning Scheme, they would automatically default to the 5km buffer. As a result of Amendment C87 still being considered by Council, and the absence of the adjusted urban amenity buffer in the Scheme, the EPA has objected on this basis. It is currently uncertain when Council are likely to adopt the adjusted buffer into the Latrobe Planning Scheme as further work has been identified as being required prior to Council determining the issue.</p>	
Public Submissions					
6a.	Ralph Brown	Support	<p>Support the proposal.</p> <p><i>General Comments</i> - The submitter notes that it would be a very good outcome for all of the residents in Ashworth Drive, as well an enormous benefit to the Traralgon district. The submitter comments that the current situation of having one street (i.e Ashworth Drive) in a built up area being rural living instead of residential does not enhance the Traralgon precinct.</p>	Submission of support noted.	No

Sub No.	Name / Organisation	Support / Objection	Summary of Submission	Planning Comment	Changes to Amendment Required? Yes / No
6b.	Heather Rowe on behalf of Ralph Brown	Support	<p>Support the proposal.</p> <p><i>General Comments</i> - The submission was made by Heather Rowe on behalf of Ralph Brown supporting submission 6a.</p> <p><i>Request</i> - The submission requests councillor details to contact to show their support to the proposal.</p>	<p>Submission of support noted.</p> <p><i>Request</i> - Councillor contact details have been provided to the submitter.</p>	No
7.	Steven and Gail Wood	Support	<p>Support the proposal.</p> <p><i>General Comments</i> - The submitter supports the proposal as it will allow them to subdivide their land into two lots, which will ultimately allow them to build an additional dwelling where they plan to retire.</p> <p>The submitter highlights the fact that the proposed rezoning does not force their neighbours to develop their land and it simply gives them the option to do so at their own discretion in the future.</p>	<p>Submission of support noted.</p> <p><i>General Comments</i> - Any future subdivision application would have to address the intent of the approved CRDP. This includes identifying how any proposal is consistent with the indicative layout, service provision including drainage, sewerage, road layout etc. Also, any future planning permit application will have to identify how the expected lot yield will be achieved, in accordance with the approved CRDP.</p>	No
8.	Norm and Nola Bransgrove OAM	Support	<p>Support the proposal.</p> <p><i>General Comments</i> - The submitter supports the proposal as it does not compel them to subdivide nor do anything else they are not already doing on their property and will not be of any detriment to them.</p>	<p>Submission of support noted.</p> <p><i>General Comments</i> - This submission was received prior to the formal exhibition period; however the submitter was notified that it would be considered as a formal submission to the amendment process.</p>	No

Sub No.	Name / Organisation	Support / Objection	Summary of Submission	Planning Comment	Changes to Amendment Required? Yes / No
9.	<p>Various landowners in Ashworth Drive</p> <p>(landowners Gillian Murray, David and Lisa Blackwood, Gordon and Sauni Arthur, Marie Lowe, Terry Miller, Robert Piper, Tim and Sue Rankcom and John and Ann Maloney)</p>	Objection	<p>Oppose the proposal.</p> <p><i>Landowner concerns</i> - The majority of the land identified is unsuitable for rezoning and redevelopment, and that a majority of landowners have no wish to see their properties redeveloped in the short to medium term.</p> <p><i>Notification</i> - A letter sent to landowners advising them of an upcoming Council meeting to vote on the matter was only sent two business days prior to the meeting, not giving potential objectors enough notice to attend.</p>	<p>Objection noted.</p> <p><i>General Comments</i> - This petition was received prior to and outside of the formal exhibition period; however the landowners were notified that it would be considered as a formal submission to the amendment process.</p> <p><i>Landowner concerns</i> – The approved CRDP and the Traralgon Structure Plan identify that the land is suitable for rezoning. Whilst officers acknowledge that certain landowners may not want their land to be rezoned, Council needs to plan for future population growth. One way to ensure suitable land is available for residential growth is through the application of the General Residential Zone, which allows the gradual transition of an existing rural living precinct. There is no requirement for landowners within the precinct to sell or develop their land, but the rezoning will allow subdivision potential for those who may be interested.</p> <p><i>Notification</i> – The letter related to notification of the Ordinary Council Meeting to consider authorisation to prepare and exhibit the proposal. Acknowledging these concerns, officers have carried out Council's resolution to offer and meet with all directly affected landowners in 1 on 1 meetings.</p>	No

Sub No.	Name / Organisation	Support / Objection	Summary of Submission	Planning Comment	Changes to Amendment Required? Yes / No
			<i>Planning process</i> - Request Council to abandon Amendment C93.	<i>Planning process</i> – Council has the option to abandon the amendment at a forthcoming Ordinary Council Meeting and at further points in the process dependent on the stage of the proposal.	
10.	Gordon and Sauni Arthur	Objection	<p>Oppose the proposal.</p> <p><i>Infrastructure</i> - Opposed to the proposal because of the need for so much infrastructure in the form of roads, wetland reserves and bridges, as well as utilities, making C93 inappropriate.</p> <p><i>Rates</i> - Concern that a rate increase (as a result of increased land values through rezoning) would be quite threatening to those retiring on fixed incomes and those operating businesses on their properties.</p> <p><i>Heritage</i> – Concern that a one hundred year old farm house may be affected and advocates</p>	<p>Objection noted.</p> <p><i>Infrastructure</i> - The approved CRDP outlines how the area, once rezoned, will be developed. The approved CRDP identifies the infrastructure requirements based on standards. As part of the approved CRDP, there is an indicative lot layout which will guide how each parcel of land can be subdivided.</p> <p><i>Rates</i> – The proposal may result in a gradual increase in land valuations over time, however, land valuations may potentially increase regardless of this proposal. Landowners who experience difficulty meeting these potential increases are encouraged to contact Council's Property and Rates team to discuss possible payment options. It should be noted that matters relating to property rates are usually not a matter that is given significant weight in planning scheme amendment proposals.</p> <p><i>Heritage</i> – The subject house is currently not formally recognised for its heritage</p>	No

Sub No.	Name / Organisation	Support / Objection	Summary of Submission	Planning Comment	Changes to Amendment Required? Yes / No
			<p>its value to future generations as a public asset. Concern that increased development around the house could see the building disappear into suburbia or even demolished.</p> <p><i>Orderly Planning</i> - Requests a special exemption to permit the proponent to subdivide their land specifically into their desired two lots and leave the remaining landowners unaffected. Suggests the amendment should be put on hold for 10 years at which time it should be revisited and reconsidered, allowing current landowners sufficient time to make lifestyle adjustments and evaluate the proposal.</p>	<p>value; however its presence is noted in the approved CRDP. Further consideration for its future will occur at the subdivision stage, as it would for all existing dwellings. The rezoning and approved CRDP adopts a transitional approach so further subdivision does not directly affect the current dwellings and will not force the demolition of a property. The submitter is encouraged to seek justification for a future heritage overlay if appropriate.</p> <p><i>Orderly planning</i> - As the Responsible Authority, Council is required by both the Local Government Act and the Planning and Environment Act to efficiently use resources when undertaking planning scheme amendments. In order for the broader strategic direction of Traralgon (as identified in the Traralgon Structure Plan) to be realised, planning needs to be undertaken in an orderly manner. In this case, all the subject land in Ashworth Drive being rezoned simultaneously represents orderly planning. The land has been identified for future residential since 2007 where it is considered that there has been sufficient time for landowners to plan for C93.</p>	
11.	David and Diane Grant	Objection	<p>Oppose the proposal.</p> <p><i>Amenity</i> - The proposed rezoning site abuts the rear of the submitter's property. The</p>	<p>Objection noted.</p> <p><i>Amenity</i> - The subject land has been identified in the Traralgon Structure Plan</p>	No

Sub No.	Name / Organisation	Support / Objection	Summary of Submission	Planning Comment	Changes to Amendment Required? Yes / No
			submitter's purchased their property to retire enjoying the rural aspect, trees and paddock views as they were promised by the developer when they purchased their property that the subject land would never be developed.	for residential development since 2007, and is clearly articulated in the publicly available Latrobe Planning Scheme. This proposal does not provide for expansion of the township as it is an infill development opportunity and does not represent a direct interface between residential development and farming land. The new Stockdale Fields development exists to the west of Ashworth Drive, and is already present in the views of residents of Riverslea Boulevard.	
12.	Tim and Sue Rankcom	Objection	<p>Oppose the proposal.</p> <p><i>Amenity</i> - Concerned the subdivision of surrounding properties will negatively impact their lifestyle, particularly their previous decision to purchase in Ashworth Drive for the quite, easy going lifestyle the property and location had to offer.</p> <p><i>Rates and Infrastructure</i> - Concerns around rate rises and other costs which they would</p>	<p>Objection noted.</p> <p><i>Amenity</i> - The approved CRDP outlines how the area, once rezoned, will be developed. Specifically in relation to infrastructure, the approved CRDP identifies infrastructure requirements based on standards. The approved CRDP identifies that the optimal lot density for the Ashworth Drive area is 12 lots a hectare incorporating two large lots in the north. However, further investigation since the completion of the Development Plan suggests that this density is unlikely to be achieved due to the natural land constraints and fragmented land ownership. Ultimately, the realised density will be proportional to the land constraints and staging of the development.</p> <p><i>Rates and Infrastructure</i> - The proposal may result in a gradual increase in land</p>	No

Sub No.	Name / Organisation	Support / Objection	Summary of Submission	Planning Comment	Changes to Amendment Required? Yes / No
			<p>incur as a result of the works required to develop surrounding properties such as roadworks, lighting and supply of services.</p> <p><i>Traffic</i> - Concerns around traffic, highlighting issues already experienced at the access to Cross's Road during school time since the development of Stockdale Fields and Rostrevor Estates, issues they feel will worsen once the Saunders acreage subdivision is complete. The submitter refers to a roundabout possibly being the solution to this problem, but cannot see how a roundabout would fit on the Cross's Road/Ashworth Drive intersection. The submitter makes reference to the semi-trailer sized trucks that reside in Ashworth Drive and how they may impact new residents and must be considered in the assessment of access and neighbourhood impact.</p>	<p>valuations over time, however, land valuations may potentially rise regardless of this proposal. Landowners who experience difficulty meeting these potential increases are encouraged to contact Council's Property and Rates team to discuss possible payment options. It should be noted that matters relating to property rates are usually not a matter that is given significant weight in planning scheme amendment proposals. Consistent with the approach taken for the new Stockdale Fields and Banksia Ridge developments (the western portion of the approved CRDP), the developer will be responsible for any infrastructure costs associated with their development.</p> <p><i>Traffic</i> - All vehicle access to Ashworth Drive is made through existing (and developing) residential areas. As such, further development of the subject land will be in accordance with the approved CRDP (supported by the associated Transport and Traffic Impact Assessment Report). All planning permit applications for future subdivision will be required to address traffic movements and infrastructure requirements of their development.</p>	

Sub No.	Name / Organisation	Support / Objection	Summary of Submission	Planning Comment	Changes to Amendment Required? Yes / No
13.	Terrance Miller	Objection	<p>Opposes the proposal.</p> <p><i>Amenity</i> – The submitter purchased a rural lifestyle property because it is a very liveable, quiet and social part of Traralgon with no vandalism or disturbance of any kind, and is concerned that increased development will change this.</p> <p><i>Land capability</i> – The submitter discusses how the proposal seeks to rezone approximately 26 hectares of land, which only a small portion of this land is developable due to water course, easements and current buildings.</p> <p><i>Infrastructure</i> - Questions how the kerbing, roadworks and driveway entrance required for the development of Ashworth Drive would be funded.</p> <p><i>Request for review</i> - Requests council to survey the proposed area before making a recommendation.</p>	<p>Objection noted.</p> <p><i>Amenity</i> - The approved CRDP outlines how the area, once rezoned, will be developed.</p> <p><i>Land capability</i> - Consideration of land capability was undertaken in developing the approved CRDP, and future subdivision will be responsive to this.</p> <p><i>Infrastructure</i> - Specifically, in relation to infrastructure, the approved CRDP identifies infrastructure requirements based on standards. Consistent with the approach taken for the new Stockdale Fields and Banksia Ridge developments (the western portion of the approved CRDP), the developer will be responsible for any infrastructure costs associated with their development.</p>	No
14.	Francis Foster	Objection	<p>Oppose the proposal.</p> <p><i>Amenity</i> – The submitter claims that the proposal will cause destruction of the current rural ambience and amenity of the area.</p>	<p>Objection noted.</p> <p><i>Amenity</i> - The subject land has been identified in the Traralgon Structure Plan for residential development since 2007,</p>	No

Sub No.	Name / Organisation	Support / Objection	Summary of Submission	Planning Comment	Changes to Amendment Required? Yes / No
			<p>Further development will see an increase in noise and traffic management issues.</p> <p><i>Exclusivity</i> – The submitter states that the proposal will also undermine the exclusivity of the area which was a major selling point when the submitter purchased the property.</p> <p><i>Heritage</i> – The submitter comments that the one hundred year old homestead is not considered in the proposition and must be protected for the future.</p>	<p>and clearly articulated in the publicly available Latrobe Planning Scheme. The proposal does not provide for expansion of the township as it is an infill development opportunity and does not represent a direct interface between residential development and the farming land. The new Stockdale Fields development exists to the west of Ashworth Drive, and is already present in the views of residents of Riverslea Boulevard. Noise levels are expected to be consistent with neighbouring established residential areas. All planning permit applications for future subdivision will be required to address traffic movements and infrastructure requirements of their development.</p> <p><i>Exclusivity</i> – The proposal is consistent with the broader character of this area of Traralgon.</p> <p><i>Heritage</i> – The subject house is currently not formally recognised for its heritage value; however its presence is noted in the approved CRDP. Further consideration for its future will occur at the subdivision stage, as it would for all existing dwellings. The rezoning and approved CRDP adopts a transitional approach so further subdivision does not directly affect the current dwellings.</p>	

Sub No.	Name / Organisation	Support / Objection	Summary of Submission	Planning Comment	Changes to Amendment Required? Yes / No
			<i>Environment</i> – The submitter suggest that local native birdlife will have their homes destroyed and significant local trees which create the rural outlook will be removed if the area is developed.	<i>Environment</i> – The approved CRDP considered biodiversity and environmental concerns for the land. The approved CRDP responds to the detailed <i>Ecological Assessment, Growling Grass Frog Targeted Survey, Residential Subdivision, Cross's Road, Traralgon, Victoria: Aboriginal and Historical Heritage Assessment, Transport and Traffic Impact Assessment</i> Reports, which were produced during the development of the approved CRDP and still form part of the approved CRDP, to which all future subdivision planning permits need to respond to. The approved CRDP identifies land for revegetation and improvement of environmental degradation of land and waterways, thereby representing a net gain to environmental sustainability.	
15.	Sharafat Malek and Farhana Rahman	Objection	Opposes the proposal. <i>Amenity</i> - Concerned about the noise made by increased traffic and the construction of the development and the impact this will have on their children's health and education as well as the rural tranquillity of the area. When the submitter purchased the property the real estate agent advertised the property as having "No back neighbour ever". The submitter opposes to any development outside their back fence in the future.	Objection noted. <i>Amenity</i> - Any future development of the precinct if rezoned, will have to be consistent with Rescode under the Latrobe Planning Scheme and relevant considerations will be assessed at that time. This includes any increase of traffic movements that have already been considered as part of the approved CRDP. A construction management plan will be placed as a condition of any future permit issued, if considered appropriate to address impacts such as construction	No

Sub No.	Name / Organisation	Support / Objection	Summary of Submission	Planning Comment	Changes to Amendment Required? Yes / No
			<p><i>Drainage</i> – The submitter is concerned about the plan showing no gap (easement) between their back fence and the proposed development to allow for drainage of storm and flood water, which is also a privacy issue.</p>	<p>noise, dust and traffic operations of construction traffic. The subject land has been identified in the Traralgon Structure Plan for residential development since 2007 and is clearly articulated in the publicly available Latrobe Planning Scheme.</p> <p><i>Drainage</i> – The approved CRDP provides an overarching drainage strategy, however further detailed design occurs at subdivision stage, with the involvement of the relevant agencies including WGCMA.</p>	
16.	Emma and Jon Standen	Objection	<p>Oppose the proposal.</p> <p><i>Amenity</i> – Concerns that their rural outlook and enjoyment of open space at the rear of the property will be compromised. The submitter was told at the time of purchase that the five acre blocks behind their property at 30, 40 and 50 Ashworth Drive would remain five acre lots and never built on. The submitter is concerned the rezoning will facilitate smaller blocks and small blocks with units would affect their property value.</p> <p><i>Drainage</i> – Concerns around the stormwater runoff behind the submitter's property and question whether the land behind their property can be developed and whether it has been addressed in the proposal.</p>	<p>Objection noted.</p> <p><i>Amenity</i> – The approved CRDP outlines how the area, once rezoned, will be developed. The indicative lot layout is one dwelling per lot with conventional residential lot size in accordance with the approved CRDP. Whilst the General Residential Zone permits unit development, any increase in density would need to provide strategic justification at the time of planning permit and be consistent with the approved CRDP.</p> <p><i>Drainage</i> – Drainage issues have been considered in the approved CRDP and further detailed drainage design will occur at the time of subdivision.</p>	No

Sub No.	Name / Organisation	Support / Objection	Summary of Submission	Planning Comment	Changes to Amendment Required? Yes / No
17.	Robert Piper	Objection	<p>Opposes the proposal.</p> <p><i>Landowner concerns</i> – The submitter states that nine out of twelve landowners in Ashworth Drive object and will continue to use the land as is currently being used. Rezoning should not continue until there is full support of landowners. Rezoning will fast track the development of the area before all issues identified within the area have been addressed. The proposed development is undemocratic as due consideration has not been given to the desire of the majority of landowners within Ashworth Drive. The submitter states that under the original tenure of objectives for the Plan submission encompassing a rezoning, it was stated that: protection of lifestyle and amenities for the rural residential properties in Ashworth Drive was paramount and if the subject land is to be rezoned it will occur with all landowners in agreement. The submitter advises that landowners are not currently in agreement regarding the proposal.</p>	<p>Objection noted.</p> <p><i>Landowner concerns</i> - Whilst Officers acknowledge that certain landowners may not want their land to be rezoned, Council needs to plan for Traralgon's future population growth. One way to ensure suitable land is available for residential growth is through the application of the General Residential Zone, which allows gradual transition from a Rural Living Zone. There is no requirement for landowners within the precinct to sell or develop the land, but the rezoning will allow subdivision potential for those who may be interested. The Planning Scheme Amendment process enables the view of landowners and the community to be considered. Undertaking this fully exhibited amendment over a period of six weeks of public exhibition has facilitated the opportunity for all landowners to be involved. Additionally, council officers have fulfilled Council's resolution to offer to meet with individual landowners. Council has a responsibility under the Planning and Environment Act to undertake land use planning in an orderly manner to achieve the overall strategic direction of the Traralgon township. The subject land has been identified in the Traralgon Structure Plan for residential development since 2007, and clearly articulated in the publicly available Latrobe</p>	No

Sub No.	Name / Organisation	Support / Objection	Summary of Submission	Planning Comment	Changes to Amendment Required? Yes / No
			<p><i>Drainage</i> – The submitter comments that the current drainage reserve will not be able to sufficiently accommodate increased drainage water caused by further development. Drainage issues already exist within the area due to increased development with properties, as demonstrated by recently experiencing flash flooding which impeded access to properties in the northern end of Ashworth Drive. This is likely to be exacerbated by further intensification in the estates west of Ashworth Drive and development of Ashworth Drive itself. The current proposed drainage reserve under the rezoning and development plan is not suitable for the land and constitutes an unfair imposition on landowners within Ashworth Drive. Suggests that a far better option would have been a fully piped drainage system throughout the entire CRDP which would have reduced the required easement around drainage and the resulted reluctance for developers to invest in the area and Council passing the responsibility to the developer due to the costs involved.</p> <p><i>Land suitability</i> – The submitter states that the rezoning increases the size of the drainage easement and this effectively reduces the</p>	<p>Planning Scheme. The proposal does not provide for expansion of the township as it is an infill development opportunity and does not represent a direct interface between residential development and the farming land.</p> <p><i>Drainage</i> – Drainage has been considered in the approved CRDP and further detailed drainage design will occur at the time of subdivision. The drainage reserve to the north of the subject land is sufficient for the entire approved CRDP area.</p> <p><i>Land Suitability</i> - The approved CRDP considers the land that is developable and consideration for the land constraints has</p>	

Sub No.	Name / Organisation	Support / Objection	Summary of Submission	Planning Comment	Changes to Amendment Required? Yes / No
			<p>amount of land available for future development on those lots affected, making it uneconomical for any such development of Ashworth Drive to occur under the proposed rezoning.</p> <p><i>Traffic</i> – The submitter questions whether traffic congestion due to the development and intensification of Ashworth Drive has been taken into consideration and whether there is a capacity within the area to accommodate this additional traffic. There is no provision for traffic management at the proposed entry point onto Ashworth Drive as shown on an indicative concept plan of subdivision on the Keith Williams real estate website.</p>	<p>been included. Further consideration will occur at the time of subdivision.</p> <p><i>Traffic</i> - All vehicle access to Ashworth Drive is made through existing (and developing) residential areas. As such, further development of the subject land will be in accordance with the approved CRDP (supported by the associated Transport and traffic Impact Assessment Report). All planning permit applications for future subdivision will be required to address traffic movements and infrastructure requirements of their development. Council has not provided input to any indicative concept plan of subdivision on Real Estate Agent websites.</p>	
18.	Megan and Travis Day	Objection	<p>Oppose the proposal.</p> <p><i>General Comments</i> - The submitter objects to the proposed rezoning from Rural Living Zone to General Residential Zone.</p>	<p>Objection noted.</p> <p><i>General Comments</i> - The submitter has been contacted to seek clarification regarding their submission as no reasons for the objection were provided. However, attempts have been unsuccessful in confirming their concerns of Amendment C93.</p>	No
19.	Janne and Charlie Speirs	Objection	<p>Oppose the proposal.</p> <p><i>Drainage</i> – The submitter raises concerns about the stormwater drain which runs</p>	<p>Objection noted.</p> <p><i>Drainage</i> – Drainage has been considered in the approved CRDP and further detailed</p>	No

Sub No.	Name / Organisation	Support / Objection	Summary of Submission	Planning Comment	Changes to Amendment Required? Yes / No
			<p>between their property mentioning that it overflows quite quickly and has the potential to create flooding problems for both existing and future properties.</p> <p><i>Traffic</i> – The submitter suggests there will be increased congestion due to other developments in the area and the narrowness of the roads.</p> <p><i>Amenity</i> - The submitter states that they were informed at the time of purchase in 2008, that Ashworth would never be developed due to existence of the drain/creek in Ashworth. One of the major reasons the submitter purchased their property was the rural outlook and they believe this will be severely hampered by the rezoning.</p>	<p>drainage design will occur at the time of subdivision.</p> <p><i>Traffic</i> - All vehicle access to Ashworth Drive is made through existing (and developing) residential areas. As such, further development of the subject land will be in accordance with the approved CRDP (supported by the associated Transport and Traffic Impact Assessment Report). All planning permit applications for future subdivision will be required to address traffic movements and infrastructure requirements.</p> <p><i>Amenity</i> - The approved CRDP outlines how the area, once rezoned, will be developed. Specifically in relation to infrastructure, the approved CRDP identifies infrastructure requirements based on standards. The approved CRDP identifies that the optimal lot density for the Ashworth Drive area is 12 lots a hectare incorporating two large lots in the north. However, further investigation since the completion of the Development Plan suggests that this density is unlikely to be achieved due to the natural land constraints and fragmented land ownership. Ultimately, the realised density will be proportional to the land constraints and staging of the development.</p>	

Sub No.	Name / Organisation	Support / Objection	Summary of Submission	Planning Comment	Changes to Amendment Required? Yes / No
20.	Adetunyi and Tunji Onibokun (late submission)	Objection	<p>Oppose the proposal.</p> <p><i>Traffic</i> – The submitter is concerned that an increase traffic and noise levels will interrupt the place they have long enjoyed.</p>	<p>Objection noted.</p> <p><i>Traffic</i> - All vehicle access to Ashworth Drive is made through existing (and developing) residential areas. As such, further development of the subject land will be in accordance with the approved CRDP (supported by the associated Transport and Traffic Impact Assessment Report). All planning permit applications for future subdivision will be required to address traffic movements and infrastructure requirements of their development. Noise levels are expected to be consistent with neighbouring established residential areas.</p>	No

**14.2 AMENDMENT C94 - PARKING OVERLAY TRARALGON AND
MORWELL - CONSIDERATION OF PANEL REPORT AND
ADOPTION OF AMENDMENT**

General Manager

City Development

For Decision

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider the Planning Panel report received for proposed Amendment C94 – Parking Overlay Traralgon and Morwell and to seek approval to progress the amendment to the next stage.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Amendment C94 proposes to implement the Parking Overlay to reduce state government scheduled car parking rates in Traralgon and Morwell and introduce cash-in-lieu contributions in Traralgon for car parking that cannot be met onsite.

Following the public exhibition period of Amendment C94 a total of nine written submissions were received and a Planning Panel was appointed to consider all submissions. As none of the submitters requested to be heard at the Panel Hearing, the Panel was heard 'on papers.'

The Panel has prepared a report (See Attachment One) that recommends Amendment C94 to the Latrobe Planning Scheme be adopted as exhibited subject to the removal of the proposed new references to parking in Moe and Churchill in a number of proposed C94 clauses.

COUNCIL MOTION**Moved:** Cr Middlemiss**Seconded:** Cr White**That Council:**

1. **Having considered the Planning Panel report recommendations for Amendment C94 adopts Amendment C94 as exhibited, subject to minor changes, in accordance with Section 29 of the *Planning & Environment Act, 1987*.**
2. **Submits Amendment C94 once adopted to the Minister for Planning for approval, in accordance with Section 35 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, and**
3. **Advises those persons who made written submissions to Amendment C94 of Council's decision.**

For: Councillors Gibson, White, Sindt, O'Callaghan, Middlemiss, Harriman and Gibbons**Against:** Councillors Rossiter and Kam**CARRIED****DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

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

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

This report is consistent with Latrobe 2026: The Community Vision for Latrobe Valley and the Latrobe City Council Plan 2013-2017.

Latrobe 2026: The Community Vision for Latrobe Valley***Strategic Objectives – Built Environment (City Planning)***

In 2026, Latrobe Valley benefits from a well planned built environment that is complementary to its surroundings, and which provides for a connected and inclusive community.

Latrobe City is a vibrant and diverse community. Council is ensuring that the changing needs and aspirations of our diverse community are met by providing facilities, services and opportunities that promote an inclusive and connected community.

Latrobe City Council Plan 2013 - 2017

Theme and Objectives

Theme 5: Planning for the future

To provide a well planned, connected and liveable community.

To provide clear and concise policies and directions in all aspects of planning.

Strategic Direction – Planning for the future

Provide efficient and effective planning services and decision making to encourage development and new investment opportunities.

Plan and coordinate the provision of key services and essential infrastructure to support new growth and developments

Legislation

The provisions of the Latrobe Planning Scheme are discussed in the Background section of this report. The following legislation applies to this amendment:

- *Local Government Act 1989*
- *Planning and Environment Act 1987*
- *Transport Integration Act 2010*

The proposed amendment is consistent with the Latrobe Planning Scheme and the applicable legislation.

BACKGROUND

The *Traralgon Activity Centre Car Parking Strategy (2013)* and *Morwell Activity Centre Car Parking Study (2012)* have been consolidated to form the *Car Parking Framework Review August 2014 (the Review)*. The Review and subsequent studies have identified that current parking supply in Traralgon and Morwell is adequate to meet current demands, however a number of locations may experience hotspots in parking availability at certain times. Amendment C94 allows Latrobe City to consider statutory parking rates specific to Traralgon and Morwell, replacing the default rates which reflect metropolitan Melbourne standards that are currently in the Latrobe Planning Scheme.

In order to give effect to the Review, Amendment C94 is proposed which will introduce a Parking Overlay for Traralgon and Morwell. The Parking Overlay will reduce car parking rates in Traralgon and Morwell in line with the recommendations of the Review. The Parking Overlay will also introduce a cash-in-lieu contribution for car parking unable to be supplied by applicants in Traralgon onsite. This is proposed to be achieved through the planning permit process, which will help fund future car parking solutions. The Parking Overlay is proposed to be introduced over parts of the Traralgon and Morwell Activity Centres (see Attachments Two and Three).

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)**

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 9 February 2015 Council resolved to seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit the proposed Amendment C94.

The Minister for Planning in accordance with Section 8A(3) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, authorised Council to prepare the proposed Amendment C94 on 24 February 2015.

Amendment C94 was subsequently placed on public exhibition from 30 March 2015 to 8 May 2015. At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 6 July 2015 Council resolved to progress the amendment to the next stage, by requesting the Minister for Planning appoint an independent Planning Panel to consider all written submissions received during the exhibition period.

The Panel Report was received by Latrobe City Council on 31 August 2015 and recommends:

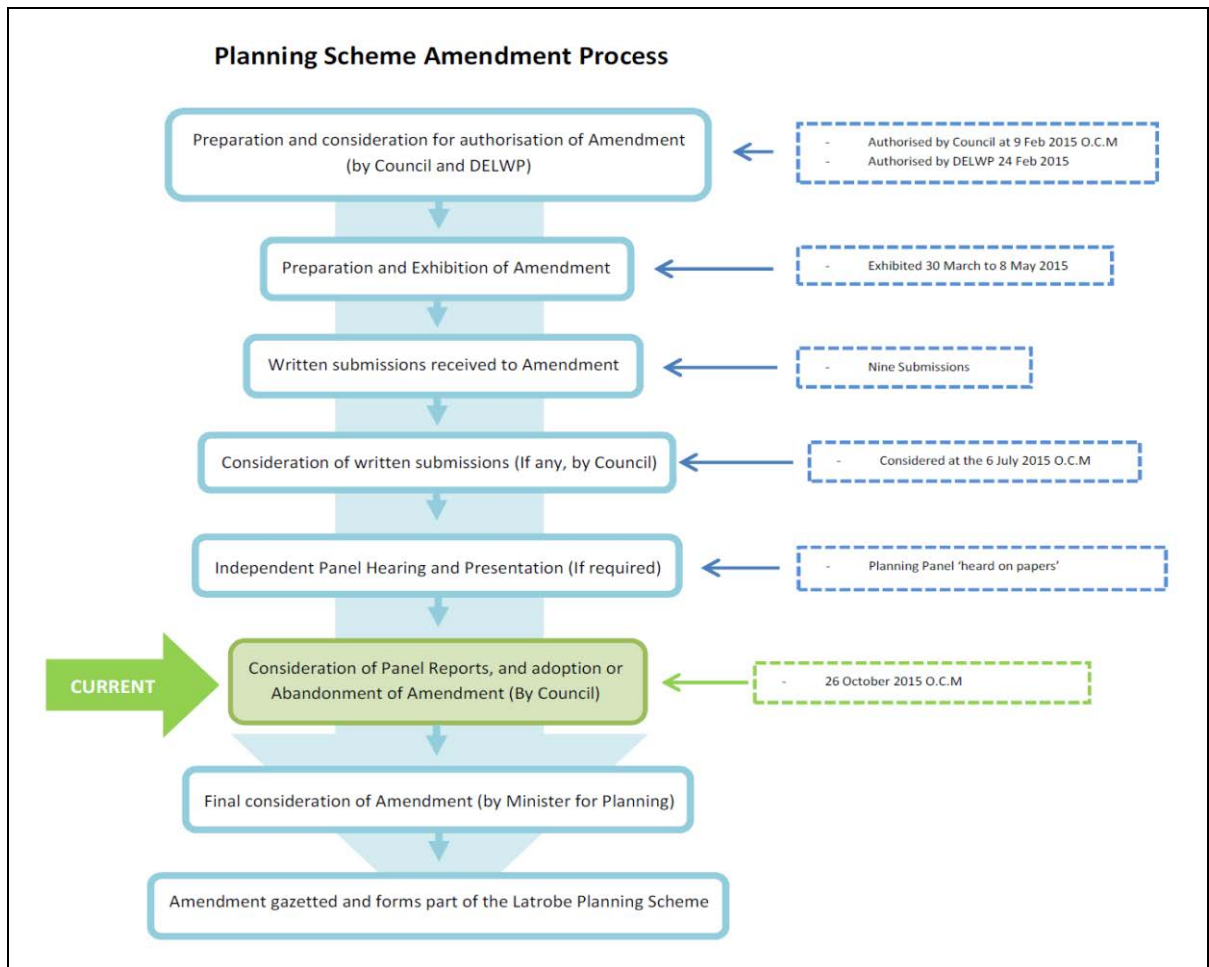
“..... that Amendment C94 to the Latrobe Planning Scheme should be adopted as exhibited subject to the following changes:

a) Remove the proposed new references to parking in Moe and Churchill in the Municipal Strategic Statement in Clauses 21.05-3, 21.05-4, 21.05-7 and 21.07-12.”

Statutory Requirements

The planning scheme amendment process for Amendment C94 is shown in the figure below and provides an indication of the current stage of the amendment.

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)



In accordance with the Act, the municipal council, as a planning authority, has a number of duties and powers. These duties and powers are listed at Section 12 of the Act. Under Section 12 a planning authority must have regard to (*inter alia*):

- The objectives of planning in Victoria;
- The Minister's directions;
- The Victoria Planning Provisions;
- The Latrobe Planning Scheme;
- Any significant effects which it considers a planning scheme amendment might have on the environment or which it considers the environment might have on any use or development envisaged by the amendment.

Amendment C94 has had regard to Section 12 of the Act and is consistent with the requirements of Section 12. In addition each amendment must address the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) publication Strategic Assessment Guidelines for Planning Scheme Amendments. A response to these guidelines is outlined in the attached Explanatory Report (see Attachment Four).

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)

The proposal is consistent with the State Planning Policy Framework and the Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS). This is explained in the attached Explanatory Report (see Attachment Four).

Section 27(1) of the Act requires Council to consider the panel's report before deciding whether or not to adopt the amendment. The panel's report is not binding on any party and the panel's recommendations are for consideration only. Section 29(1) of the Act enables Council after complying with the relevant sections of the Act, to adopt the amendment in whole or in part, with or without changes.

Planning Scheme Amendments

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 9 February 2015 Council resolved to seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit Amendment C94.

The Minister for Planning in accordance with Section 8A(3) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, authorised Council to prepare Amendment C94 on 24 February 2015.

Sections 22 and 23 of the Act require that Council must consider all submissions received to C94 and where a submission requests a change that can't be satisfied, request the Minister for Planning to establish a planning panel to consider submissions.

Following the public exhibition of Amendment C94 a total of nine written submissions were received and a Planning Panel was appointed to consider all submissions.

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

The amendment is subject to the prescribed process in accordance with the public notice and consultation requirements of Section 19 of the Act. This included advertising in the Government Gazette on 2 April 2015. Notices appeared in the Latrobe Valley Express on 30 March, 2 April and 9 April 2015. Written notifications were sent to landowners and occupiers that are proposed to be covered by the new provisions on 1 April 2015. Local advocacy groups were also contacted, as were relevant statutory authorities and agencies.

Public Submissions

Amendment C94 was placed on public exhibition during the period 30 March 2015 to 8 April 2015. Nine written submissions were received by Latrobe City Council to C94 and these were considered at the Ordinary Council meeting on 6 July 2015. A Planning Panel was appointed to consider all submissions. As none of the submitters requested to be heard at the Panel Hearing, the Panel was heard 'on papers.' That is no public panel hearing was required to be held. The Panel Report discusses the main themes from the submissions received and noted that a number of submissions were outside of the scope of Amendment C94.

The panel report that was received by Council on 31 August 2015, was made available to the public on 25 September 2015.

KEY POINTS/ISSUES

Following the public exhibition of Amendment C94 a total of nine written submissions were received and a Planning Panel was appointed to consider all submissions. Below is a summary of the themes raised in the submissions received and the Panel's feedback in the Panel Report.

Financial Contributions

A number of submissions raised concerns with the proposed \$8,000 financial contribution for car parking in Traralgon. Submitters highlighted the disincentive that this may provide for new development and for expansion to existing developments. The inequity in applying the levy to Traralgon and not Morwell was also raised in a number of submissions.

The Review notes that in Traralgon, a cash-in-lieu contribution should be encouraged in preference to large private parking facilities to maintain vibrancy of the centre. It is considered that shared public parking resources are more efficient than private parking, and this is demonstrated by surveys in both the Traralgon and Morwell Car Parking Strategies, which suggest an underutilisation of private parking and a high demand for public parking.

A number of factors were considered in deriving an appropriate cash-in-lieu value including:

- Not discouraging development of the activity centre.
- The cash-in-lieu amount does not need to cover the full cost of providing car parking.
- Council would not need to construct one car space for every space for which cash-in-lieu is paid (due to day time vs night time use).
- Consideration of equity between existing and future developments noting that historically almost exactly 50% of the existing parking supply has been publicly provided.

The Review also outlines that in Morwell, a cash-in-lieu scheme is not considered appropriate at this time, as the activity centre is already experiencing impediments to development, including a low growth population, division of the centre by the railway line, high vacancy rates and competing retail facilities at Mid Valley and Traralgon.

The Panel determined that Council has followed a proper process in developing car parking plans for Traralgon and Morwell. The Panel concluded that the *Traralgon Activity Centre Car Parking Strategy 2013*, *Morwell Activity Centre Car Parking Study 2012* and the *Car Parking Framework Review August 2014* provide a thorough analysis of existing and projected car parking in Traralgon and Morwell, and provide a sound basis on which to implement the proposed Amendment. The Panel agreed that Council's consideration on the amount of the cash-in-lieu contribution and application to Traralgon only is appropriate.

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)

Governance of the car parking fund

Submitters raised questions regarding the governance of funds collected from parking levies, and sought clarification on how Traralgon car parking contributions would be put aside for upgrades to Traralgon parking only. Council's Statutory Carparking Reserve account can only be expended inside the respective town activity centres and must meet the requirements of need, nexus, accountability and equity.

Currently the Latrobe City Council Statutory Carparking Reserve account holds the following funds:

Location	Monies held (\$)
Churchill	5,000
Moe	-
Morwell	138,769.80
Traralgon	41,220

The Panel noted Council's governance arrangements for the financial contributions seem appropriate, although Council should satisfy itself that proper transparent records are kept in relation to the collection and expenditure of funds in each town.

Panel Report Recommendations

The Panel has considered all of the submissions and reviewed the material provided to it by Council including council reports, the *Traralgon Activity Centre Car Parking Strategy 2013 (Cardno)*, *Morwell Activity Centre Car Parking Study 2012 (Cardno)*, *Latrobe Parking Study Traralgon and Morwell Peer Review 2013 (Traffix)* and the *Car Parking Framework Review August 2014 (Traffix)*. The Amendment C94 Panel Report makes a number of recommendations including:

- The proposed references to Traralgon and Morwell in the Municipal Strategic Statement (Clause 21.05 – Main Towns and 21.07 Economic Development) should be adopted as exhibited.
- The proposed inclusion of Clause 45.09 and the proposed Schedules 1 and 2 to the Parking Overlay should be adopted as exhibited.

The Panel Report also recommends the removal of proposed references highlighting the need to prepare car parking framework reviews in Churchill and Moe. Council would still be able to take action and complete the car parking framework reviews in Moe and Churchill without it appearing as further strategic work in Clause 21.05- Main Towns and 21.07 – Economic Development.

Complementary Measures

In addition to Amendment C94, Stage Two – Complementary Measures has been funded for 2015/16 within Council's budget. Stage Two - Complementary Measures is required to address issues such as time allocation, all access car parking, permit allocation and a review of parking enforcement practices. These 'Complementary Measures' will noticeably

improve car parking provisions and are essential to improving car parking arrangements in Traralgon concurrently with this amendment. It is expected to commence in the near future.

Mapping Anomaly

Amendment C94 provides the opportunity to correct a mapping anomaly that was gazetted as part of Amendment C74 on 15 August 2013. Amendment C74 was a combined planning scheme amendment and planning permit to rezone and subdivide land at 100 and 101 Cairnbrook Road, Glengarry. In this instance the gazetted zoning map and endorsed subdivision plans as part of the planning permit did not correctly align with each other. The landowner has requested that matter be rectified at the earliest opportunity. The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning have confirmed that the gazetted zoning map is incorrect and have advised that the quickest and simplest way to rectify the mapping anomaly would be to include the correction as part of Councils and the Ministers approval of Amendment C94. Attachment Five identifies the proposed mapping change.

In order for Amendment C94 to proceed, Council must now consider the recommendations of the Planning Panel and decide whether to adopt Amendment C94 as exhibited, adopt Amendment C94 with changes or abandon the amendment. Officers support the recommendations as outlined in the Amendment C94 Panel Report as described above.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk has been considered as part of this report and the recommendations of this report are considered to be consistent with the Risk Management framework. It should be noted that if Council wish to make substantial changes to C94 or abandon parts of C94, there is a risk that the Minister for Planning may refuse to approve C94 and require a new planning scheme amendment to be prepared and re-exhibited.

There are a number of risks associated if this planning scheme amendment does not progress:

- lack of suitable parking in the future making the Activity Centres less viable and attractive for investment;
- lack of funds to construct future required parking infrastructure; and
- inadequate strategic justification at VCAT to defend planning permit decisions related to car parking issues.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

The prescribed fees for planning scheme amendments are detailed in the *Planning and Environment (Fees) Regulations 2012*. The costs associated with this stage of the planning scheme amendment include the fee for the panel report and the fee for the Minister's approval of an amendment if the amendment is adopted by Council.

Funds have been allocated in the current 2015/2016 budget year to enable the planning scheme amendment to proceed.

OPTIONS

The options available to Council are as follows:

1. That Council, after considering the Planning Panel report recommendations for Amendment C94, resolves to adopt and submit for approval to the Minister for Planning, Amendment C94 with changes.
Or
2. That Council, after considering the Planning Panel report recommendations received for Amendment C94, resolves to abandon the exhibited planning scheme amendment and inform the Minister for Planning.

CONCLUSION

Amendment C94, if approved, introduces the Parking Overlay into the Latrobe Planning Scheme. The Parking Overlay proposes to implement an Overlay to reduce state government scheduled car parking rates in Traralgon and Morwell and introduce cash-in-lieu contributions in Traralgon for car parking that cannot be met onsite.

The Planning Panel report received 31 August 2015 makes a number of recommendations including:

- The proposed references to Traralgon and Morwell in the Municipal Strategic Statement (Clause 21.05 – Main Towns and 21.07 Economic Development) should be adopted as exhibited.
- The proposed inclusion of Clause 45.09 and the proposed Schedules 1 and 2 to the Parking Overlay should be adopted as exhibited.

This Amendment, alongside Stage Two Complementary Measures should provide noticeable parking improvements in Traralgon and Morwell.

Amendment C94 also provides the opportunity to correct a mapping anomaly that was gazetted as part of Amendment C74 on 15 August 2013.

Attachments

1. Panel Report - Latrobe Planning Scheme Amendment C94 - Parking Overlays Traralgon and Morwell
 2. Proposed Parking Overlay - Traralgon
 3. Proposed Parking Overlay - Morwell
 4. Amendment C94 - Explanatory Report
 5. Mapping Anomaly

14.2

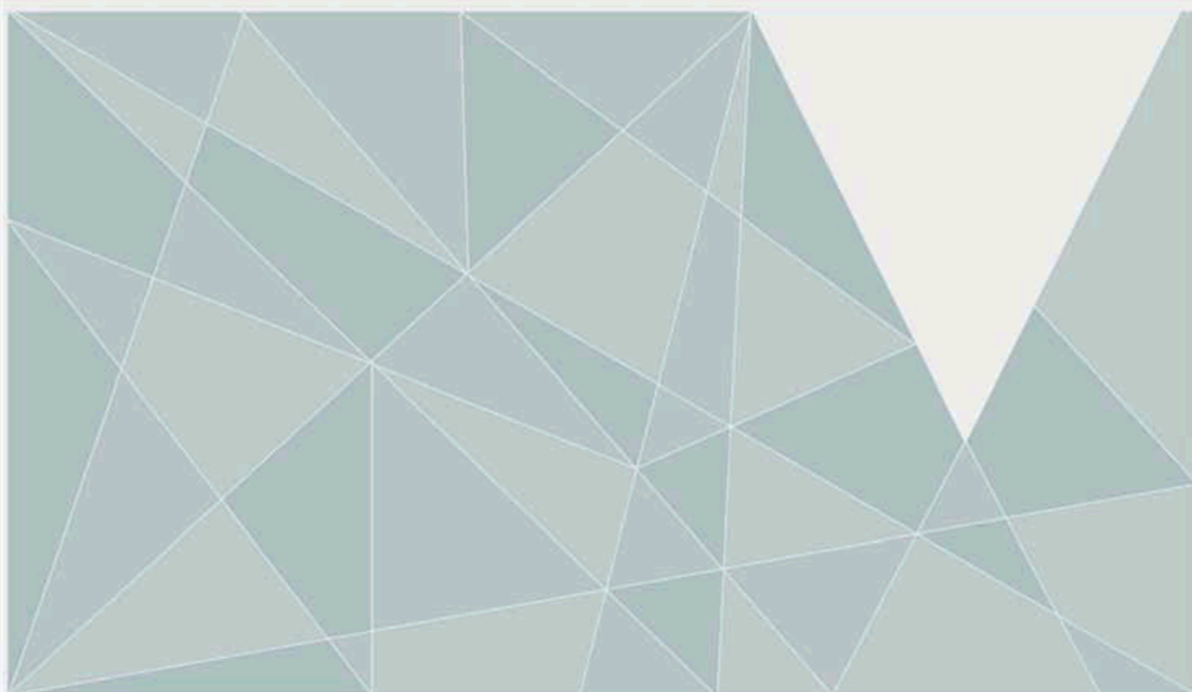
Amendment C94 - Parking Overlay Traralgon and Morwell - Consideration of Panel Report and Adoption of Amendment

1	Panel Report - Latrobe Planning Scheme Amendment C94 - Parking Overlays Traralgon and Morwell.....	117
2	Proposed Parking Overlay - Traralgon	135
3	Proposed Parking Overlay - Morwell	137
4	Amendment C94 - Explanatory Report	139
5	Mapping Anomaly.....	147

Planning and Environment Act 1987

Panel Report

**Latrobe Planning Scheme Amendment C94
Parking Overlays Traralgon and Morwell**



31 August 2015

Planning and Environment Act 1987

Panel Report pursuant to Section 25 of the Act

Latrobe Planning Scheme Amendment C94

Parking Overlays Traralgon and Morwell

31 August 2015



Trevor McCullough, Chair

Contents

	Page
Executive Summary	1
1 Introduction.....	3
1.1 The proposal.....	3
1.2 Background to the proposal.....	4
1.3 Issues dealt with in this report.....	5
2 Planning Context.....	7
2.1 Policy framework.....	7
2.2 Planning scheme provisions.....	7
2.3 Ministerial Directions and Practice Notes.....	8
2.4 Discussion.....	8
3 Issues raised in submissions.....	10
3.1 The issue.....	10
3.2 Submissions.....	10
3.3 Discussion.....	11
3.4 Conclusions.....	12
4 The form and content of the proposed Amendment.....	13
4.1 The issue(s).....	13
4.2 Discussion.....	13
4.3 Conclusions.....	14
4.4 Recommendation.....	14

List of Figures

	Page
Figure 1 Proposed parking overlay area Traralgon (PO1).....	3
Figure 2 Proposed parking overlay area Morwell (PO2).....	4

Overview

Amendment Summary	
The Amendment	Latrobe Planning Scheme Amendment C94
Common Name	Parking Overlays Traralgon and Morwell
Subject Site	Land in the Traralgon and Morwell activity centres
The Proponent	Latrobe City Council
Planning Authority	Latrobe City Council
Exhibition	30 March to 8 May 2015
Submissions	<p>Total Number of Submissions: 8 Opposed: 3 (although one of these was withdrawn)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Department of Economic Development ,Jobs, Transport and Resources - Traralgon Community Development Assoc. (Objection withdrawn) - Joanne Campbell - Jeff Andrews - Ron Draper - Trevor Doultree - Breed Street Nominees (Objection) - Graham Vibert (Objection)

Panel Process	
The Panel	Trevor McCullough
Panel Hearing	No parties requested to be heard and the Panel has considered the issues on the papers based on: the Amendment documents; Council reports; background reports provided by Council; and written submissions made by the eight submitters.
Site Inspections	As the nature of submissions were not related to specific locational features, the Panel did not conduct a site visit
Appearances	Not applicable
Date of this Report	31 August 2015

Executive Summary

(i) Summary

Amendment C94 to the Latrobe Planning Scheme seeks to implement the recommendations of the *Car Parking Framework Review August 2014* by making the following changes to the Planning Scheme:

- Introduce Clause 45.09 into the Latrobe Planning Scheme.
- Apply the Parking Overlay to land within the Traralgon and Morwell Activity Centres.
- Insert Schedules 1 and 2 of the Parking Overlay that are to apply to land within the Morwell and Traralgon Activity Centres.
- Insert the *Car Parking Framework Review August 2014* as a reference document into the Scheme in Clauses 21.05 and 21.07 and in proposed Schedules 1 and 2 of the Parking Overlay.

The Amendment also proposes to insert references to car parking in the Churchill and Moe in the Municipal Strategic Statement.

Key issues raised in submissions relevant to the Amendment included:

- Questions regarding the quantum of the cash-in-lieu payments proposed for Traralgon.
- Questions regarding the governance of funds collected from parking levies.
- Objection to the application of the proposed cash-in-lieu contribution where a business is expanding.
- Objection to applying the cash-in-lieu requirement to Traralgon but not Morwell.

The Panel has considered submissions and reviewed the material provided to it by Council including Council reports, the *Traralgon Activity Centre Car Parking Strategy 2013 (Cardno)*, *Morwell Activity Centre Car Parking Study 2012 (Cardno)*, *Latrobe Parking Study Traralgon and Morwell Peer Review 2013 (Traffix)* and the *Car Parking Framework Review August 2014 (Traffix)*. No Hearing was conducted and the Panel has considered the matter solely 'on the papers'.

The Panel concludes that the proposed Municipal Strategic Statement changes relating to Traralgon and Morwell are appropriate, and the proposed Schedules 1 and 2 to the Parking Overlay have been prepared in accordance with the relevant Planning Practice Notes and should be supported.

The Panel does not support the inclusion of the proposed references to Moe and Churchill in the Municipal Strategic Statement. These proposed changes were not referred to in the Explanatory Report, Council reports or any of the car parking studies referred to the Panel. The Panel can find no basis for the proposed changes relating to Moe and Churchill, and recommends their removal.

(ii) Recommendation

Based on the reasons set out in this Report:

The Panel recommends that Amendment C94 to the Latrobe Planning Scheme should be adopted as exhibited subject to the following changes:

- a) **Remove the proposed new references to parking in Moe and Churchill in the Municipal Strategic Statement in Clauses 21.05-3, 21.05-4, 21.05-7 and 21.07-12.**

1 Introduction

1.1 The proposal

(i) The subject area

The Amendment applies to land shown in Figure 1 (Traralgon) and Figure 2 (Morwell).



Figure 1 Proposed Parking Overlay area Traralgon (PO1)



Figure 2 Proposed Parking Overlay area Morwell (PO2)

(ii) Amendment Description

The Amendment proposes to:

- Introduce Clause 45.09 into the Latrobe Planning Scheme
- Apply the Parking Overlay to land within the Traralgon and Morwell Activity Centres.
- Insert Schedules 1 and 2 of the Parking Overlay that are to apply to land within the Morwell and Traralgon Activity Centres.
- Insert the *Car Parking Framework Review August 2014* as a reference document into the scheme in Clauses 21.05 and 21.07 and in proposed Schedules 1 and 2 of the Parking Overlay.

Although the Explanatory Report did not specifically refer to it, the Amendment also inserts references to car parking in the Churchill and Moe town strategies at clauses 21.05-3 and 21.05-4 respectively, and adds the following 'further strategic work' to both clauses 21.05 and 21.07:

Prepare a Car Parking Framework Review for Moe and Churchill town centres to ensure that there is an adequate car parking regime framework that acknowledges car parking supply and demand needs.

1.2 Background to the proposal

Traralgon Activity Centre Car Parking Strategy 2013 and *Morwell Activity Centre Car Parking Study 2012* were peer reviewed and then consolidated to form the *Car Parking Framework Review August 2014* (The Review). The Review and subsequent studies have identified that current parking supply in Traralgon and Morwell is adequate to meet current demands, however a number of locales may experience hotspots in parking availability at certain

times. Amendment C94 allows Latrobe City Council to consider statutory parking rates specific to Traralgon and Morwell, replacing the default rates reflecting metropolitan Melbourne that are currently in the Latrobe Planning Scheme.

In order to give effect to the Review, amendments are proposed to the Planning Scheme that introduce Parking Overlays for Traralgon and Morwell prescribing parking rates and cash-in-lieu contributions as relevant.

The Review identified that current parking supply in Traralgon and Morwell is generally adequate to meet current demands.

The Review acknowledged that the actual parking rates in Morwell are lower than the standard rates set out in clause 52.06 of the Planning Scheme. The purpose of applying the Parking Overlay to Morwell activity centre is therefore to bring the requirements in the planning scheme relating to parking more in line with actual and expected demand.

For Morwell, where the car parking requirement cannot be met on-site, the Review recommends that consideration be given to whether the proposed reduction is appropriate having regard to the relevant Clause 52.06-6 decision guidelines. The Review recommends that where the parking requirement under clause 52.06 of the Planning Scheme cannot be met on site in Morwell that no financial contribution should be applied.

The Review identified for Traralgon that forecasted future floor space indicates that new car parking will be required to be constructed in Traralgon to meet future demand generated by the expected increase in floor space. The Review recommends that where the parking requirement under clause 52.06 of the Planning Scheme cannot be met on site in Traralgon, a financial contribution of \$8,000 in respect of each car parking space that is required and which is not provided on the land (but net of car parking credits) should be applied.

Specifically, both the proposed Schedules 1 and 2 to the PO propose to vary the car parking rates in Table 1 of Clause 52.06-5 as follows:

- For 'Office' use – 3 spaces to be provided for each 100sqm of net floor area.
- For all other uses listed in Table 1 of Clause 52.06-3 – reduce rate to 75% of that shown.

1.3 Issues dealt with in this report

The Panel considered all written submissions and relevant Council reports and has reviewed the following reports:

- *Traralgon Activity Centre Car Parking Strategy 2013 (Cardno)*
- *Morwell Activity Centre Car Parking Study 2012 (Cardno)*
- *Latrobe Parking Study Traralgon and Morwell Peer Review 2013 (Traffix)*
- *Car Parking Framework Review August 2014 (Traffix).*

Key issues raised in submissions relevant to the Amendment included:

- Questions regarding the quantum of the cash-in-lieu payments proposed for Traralgon.
- Questions regarding the governance of funds collected from parking levies.
- Objection to the application of the proposed cash-in-lieu contribution where a business is expanding.

- Objection to applying the cash-in-lieu requirement to Traralgon but not Morwell.
- Concerns about car parking issues around Church Street Morwell.

Other submissions raised specific issues and made comments about car parking at particular locations. Council has noted those comments. The Panel notes that these 'other comments' are not of relevance to the Amendment.

This report deals with the issues under the following headings:

- Planning Context
- Issues raised in submissions
- The form and content of the proposed Amendment.

2 Planning Context

Council provided a response to the Strategic Assessment Guidelines as part of the Explanatory Report.

The Panel has reviewed the policy context of the Amendment and made a brief appraisal of the relevant planning controls and strategies.

2.1 Policy framework

(i) State Planning Policy Framework

Council submitted that the Amendment is supported by the following clauses in the SPPF:

Clause 11.05-1 promotes the sustainable growth and development of regional Victoria through a network of settlements identified in the Regional Victoria Settlement Framework Plan. Strategies for achieving this planning objective include directing urban growth into major regional cities (e.g. Traralgon and Morwell) of Latrobe as Gippsland's regional city.

Clause 18.02-5 of the State Planning Policy Framework (Car Parking) encourages the provision of an adequate supply of car parking that is appropriately designed and located.

(ii) Local Planning Policy Framework

Council submitted that the Amendment supports the following local planning objectives:

Clause 21.05 Main Towns

- Encourage the development of new retail, office and residential mixed use developments within the Traralgon and Morwell Primary Activity Centres.
- Encourage increased densities and vertical growth of Traralgon's town centre to support growth of the office sector.

Clause 21.07 Economic Sustainability

- Promote the development of Transit City principles and the creation of private investment opportunities to attract new retail development.
- Undertake a car parking policy review.

The provision of suitable car parking arrangements is critical to the development of Traralgon and Morwell activity centres by helping to attract new commercial investment. The amendment proposes implementation of a car parking strategy that will help to support the above strategies.

(iii) Other planning strategies or policies used in formulating the Amendment

The Amendment is also consistent with Gippsland's Regional Growth Plan 2014 that promotes the sustainable and planned growth of Morwell and Traralgon.

2.2 Planning scheme provisions

(i) Zones

No zone changes are proposed as part of the Amendment.

(ii) Overlays

The Amendment Introduces Clause 45.09 to the Latrobe Planning Scheme and proposes the application of parking overlays with schedules to the activity centres in Traralgon and Morwell.

The purpose of the parking overlay is:

- To implement the State Planning Policy Framework and Local Planning Policy Framework, including the Municipal Strategic Statement and local planning policies.
- To facilitate an appropriate provision of car parking spaces in an area.
- To identify areas and uses where local car parking rates apply.
- To identify areas where financial contributions are to be made for the provision of shared car parking.

(iii) How does the amendment implement the objectives of planning in Victoria?

Council submitted that the Amendment implements the objectives of planning in Victoria set out in Section 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* by providing a clear car parking policy framework for the fair, orderly, economic and sustainable use and development of land in Morwell and Traralgon.

(iv) How does the amendment address any environmental, social and economic effects?

Council submitted that the Amendment will have no adverse environmental, social and economic effects. The Amendment promotes the economic and social success of Morwell and Traralgon activity centres by considering the adequacy of parking in these centres to support existing and future activities, and ensuring adequate supply in the future.

2.3 Ministerial Directions and Practice Notes

Council submitted that the Amendment meets the relevant requirements of the following Ministerial Directions and Planning Practice Notes:

- Practice Note 10, May 2000: Writing schedules
- Practice Note 13, October 2013: Incorporated and reference documents
- Practice Note 22, April 2013: Using the car parking provisions
- Practice Note 46, July 2014: Strategic assessment guidelines for preparing and evaluating planning scheme amendments
- Practice Note 57, April 2013: The Parking Overlay
- Advisory Note 25, June 2012: New car parking provisions
- Advisory Note 34, January 2011: Addressing the *Transport Integration Act 2010* in a planning scheme amendment.

2.4 Discussion

The Panel notes that Council's explanatory report was deficient on two counts. Firstly, the proposed changes to clauses 21.05 and 21.07 to insert references to car parking in the Churchill and Moe town strategies were not noted, despite being in the exhibited version of those clauses. The Panel has been given no explanation for this.

Secondly, the Amendment description should have stated that the Amendment introduces Clause 45.09 into the Planning Scheme. It could be argued that this is implied by the addition of the schedules to the Clause, but technically it should have been included in the reference.

The Panel nevertheless concludes that the Amendment as it relates to Traralgon and Morwell is supported by, and implements, the relevant sections of the State and Local Planning Policy Framework.

The Panel concludes that the Amendment is well founded and is strategically justified subject to addressing the more specific issues raised in submissions as discussed in the following chapters.

3 Issues raised in submissions

3.1 The issue

The Panel has reviewed submissions made and the responses provided by Council, particularly in the context of the relevant Planning Practice Notes that guide the implementation of parking overlays.

3.2 Submissions

(i) Financial contributions

Two submissions queried the quantum of the proposed \$8,000 financial contribution for car parking in Traralgon. Submitters highlighted the disincentive that this may provide for new development and for expansion to existing developments. Breed Street Nominees (submission 7) in particular submitted that expansion of their clinic in Traralgon shouldn't automatically trigger a contribution as there is substantial existing parking in the area. They also highlighted the inequity in applying the levy to Traralgon and not Morwell.

In response to how the \$8,000 cash-in-lieu figure was derived, Council responded that:

- Shared public parking resources are more efficient than private parking. This is demonstrated by surveys which suggest an underutilisation of private parking and a high demand for public parking¹.
- It is recommended that, having regard to the historic public contribution of approximately 50% of the parking supply in the Traralgon Activity Centre, a discount of 50% is applied to the \$17,000 car space cost². Council has rounded this down to \$8,000 per space for inclusion in the Schedule.

In response to the question about why the cash-in-lieu contribution should apply to Traralgon and not Morwell, Council referred to the *Car Parking Framework Review 2014*:

- Growth of 10,500 people in Traralgon over 25 years, Morwell is expecting growth of 200 people.
- Based on population increase in Traralgon the need to increase retail floor space by approx. 15,750sqm including a variety of retail floor space categories.
- A proportion of new retail floor space is likely to be located in established or identified activity nodes outside the Traralgon Activity Centre.
- This analysis does not take into account the future commercial (office) requirements.
- Based on a modest population increase in Morwell there will be an additional retail floor space requirement of approx. 4,400sqm, including 1,400sqm of bulky goods floor space.
- It is not possible to predict whether additional retail floor space will be located in the Morwell Activity Centre, however, it is noted that existing shop vacancies in Morwell Activity Centre easily exceed the future retail space requirements.

¹ Car Parking Framework Review pages 21 and 22

² Ibid pages 23 to 25

- To accommodate retail floor space growth inside the Traralgon Activity Centre there will be a need to support the provision of more off-street, shared car parking.

In relation to the specific issues raised in relation to the Breed Street Nominees submission, Council responded that the proposed reduction (75%) in Clause 52.06 requirements, along with the consideration of existing floor space to car parking ratio, would allow some expansion of the facility without the need for a cash-in-lieu contribution. Council submitted that, in any case, the car parking requirement is reduced by the Amendment as reductions over the default Clause 52.06 requirements are proposed.

(ii) Governance of the car parking fund

Two submissions raised questions regarding the governance of funds collected from parking levies. Joanne Campbell (submission 3) sought clarification on how Traralgon car parking contributions would be put aside for upgrades to Traralgon parking only.

Council responded as follows:

A Latrobe City Council statutory car parking fund exists where all contributions received are transferred out of consolidated revenue and into a Statutory Car parking Reserve equity account on a monthly basis. The amount in the 'Off Street Parking Contributions Reserve' is reported separately in the Annual Report at 'Note 18 Restricted Assets', however, the Annual Report does not separate this into townships.

In the officer's report to the 6 July 2015 Council meeting, some clarification of this was provided:

The Statutory Car parking Reserve account can only be expended inside the respective town activity centres and must meet the requirements of need, nexus, accountability and equity.

(iii) Church Street Morwell

Mr Vibert (submission 8) raised some specific concerns about car parking issues around Church Street Morwell. He submitted that past actions by Council had led to a lack of suitable parking in the area and requested action by Council to address these concerns in future.

In response, Council submitted that the Review had concluded that there is adequate parking in the northern precinct of the Morwell Activity Centre (Figure 4 page 11). Council, however, noted that actions proposed in the Review as part of the Stage 2 Complementary Measures may assist in this area. Council also noted that other issues raised by Mr Vibert are outside the scope of the Amendment.

3.3 Discussion

The Panel is satisfied that Council has followed a proper process in developing car parking plans for Traralgon and Morwell. The *Traralgon Activity Centre Car Parking Strategy 2013* and *Morwell Activity Centre Car Parking Study 2012* and the *Car Parking Framework Review August 2014* provide a thorough analysis of existing and projected car parking in Traralgon and Morwell, and provide a sound basis on which to implement the proposed Amendment.

The peer review report *Latrobe Parking Study Traralgon and Morwell Peer Review 2013 (Traffix)* identified a number of deficiencies in the analysis provided in the earlier strategy reports and offer advice on how these deficiencies could be rectified. The *Car Parking Framework Review August 2014* addresses these deficiencies and provides advice on actions that are being implemented through this Amendment.

The Panel is satisfied that the quantum of the proposed cash-in-lieu payments for Traralgon is appropriate and has been included in Schedule 1 to the overlay in accordance with the relevant Planning Practice Note 57. The Panel is also satisfied with Council's reasons for applying the financial contribution to Traralgon but not Morwell. The car parking provisions in the Victoria Planning Provisions are meant to provide flexibility to vary the provisions where appropriate and where such variations can be justified. In this case Council is exercising its discretion to waive a cash-in-lieu payment in Morwell in order to avoid any financial barrier to development in a centre that, by Council's assessment, is struggling by comparison to other centres. The Panel agrees this is appropriate.

The Panel is not certain exactly what Council means by '*the Statutory Car parking Reserve account can only be expended inside the respective town activity centres*' but notes that to comply with the requirements of the Planning Practice Note, Council needs to establish exactly how funds collected are expended. The Panel trusts that Council has established internal records to ensure that it can honour its commitment.

The Panel notes Mr Vibert's comments about the past implementation of parking measures in Morwell, but agrees with Council that the matters are largely outside the scope of the Amendment. Mr Vibert has not proposed any changes to the Amendment.

3.4 Conclusions

The Panel draws the following conclusions in relation to issues raised in submissions:

- The financial contributions requirement proposed in Schedule 1 to the Parking Overlay to apply to the Traralgon Activity Centre is appropriate and has been formulated in accordance with the relevant Planning Practice Notes.
- It is appropriate to apply a financial contributions requirement to Traralgon and not Morwell.
- Council's governance arrangements for the financial contributions seem appropriate, although Council should satisfy itself that proper transparent records are kept in relation to the collection and expenditure of funds in each town.
- No changes to the Amendment are required as a consequence of submissions.

4 The form and content of the proposed Amendment

4.1 The issue(s)

Are the form and content of each of the proposed components of the Amendment appropriate?

4.2 Discussion

(i) Proposed changes to the MSS

The Panel has reviewed the proposed wording changes to the MSS clauses 21.05 and 21.07 and accepts that they are appropriate in respect to Traralgon and Morwell.

As noted earlier, the Amendment also inserts references to car parking in the Churchill and Moe town strategies at clauses 21.05-3 and 21.05-4 respectively:

Ensure that there is an adequate car parking regime framework for the Churchill Town Centre that acknowledges car parking supply and demand needs.

and

Ensure that there is an adequate car parking regime framework for the Moe Activity Centre that acknowledges car parking supply and demand needs.

and adds the following 'further strategic work' to both clauses 21.05-7 and 21.07-12:

Prepare a Car Parking Framework Review for Moe and Churchill town centres to ensure that there is an adequate car parking regime framework that acknowledges car parking supply and demand needs.

Apart from a passing reference to a parking strategy not being completed for Moe in the Council officer report to the 9 February 2015 Council meeting, there is no reference in any of the material provided to the Panel of Moe or Churchill. The Panel believes it is not appropriate to include the changes to the MSS relating to Moe and Churchill in this Amendment. No reference was made to these changes in the Explanatory Report or in the Council reports, and this could be said to be misleading as the Amendment is otherwise exclusively related to Traralgon and Morwell. The Panel believes that there may have been people who may have made a submission if they had realised reference was to be made to Moe and Churchill.

The Panel notes that the references to Moe and Churchill are fairly 'benign'. On one hand it could be argued that no parties would be disadvantaged by the inclusion, but on the other hand the Panel believes that deleting the proposed references would also not affect any parties. Council would still be able to take the action of preparing the car parking framework review for Moe and Churchill without it appearing in the MSS.

On balance, the Panel believes the references to Moe and Churchill should be removed.

(ii) The proposed overlay schedules

The Panel has reviewed the wording of the proposed overlay schedules and agrees that they are appropriately worded to achieve the outcomes sought by Council. In particular, the *Financial contributions requirement* proposed in Schedule 1 to the Parking Overlay is correctly worded and complies with the requirements of Planning Practice Note 57 in relation to indexing of the contribution, arrangements for payment and the proposed use of funds collected.

4.3 Conclusions

The Panel draws the following conclusions:

- All the proposed new references to parking in Moe and Churchill should be removed from the MSS.
- The proposed references to Traralgon and Morwell in the MSS should be adopted as exhibited.
- The proposed inclusion of Clause 45.09 and the proposed Schedules 1 and 2 to the Parking Overlay should be adopted as exhibited.

4.4 Recommendation

The Panel recommends that Amendment C94 to the Latrobe Planning Scheme should be adopted as exhibited subject to the following changes:

- a) Remove the proposed new references to parking in Moe and Churchill in the Municipal Strategic Statement in Clauses 21.05-3, 21.05-4, 21.05-7 and 21.07-12.**

LATROBE PLANNING SCHEME

SCHEDULE 1 TO THE PARKING OVERLAY

~~14.2/14.2~~
Proposed C94

Shown on the planning scheme map as **PO1**.

TRARALGON ACTIVITY CENTRE**1.0 Car parking objectives to be achieved**

~~14.2/14.2~~
Proposed C94 To ensure that there is the appropriate provision of car parking spaces in the Traralgon Activity Centre Parking Precinct shown on Map 1 to this schedule and to maintain a balance between car parking supply and demand in the centre.

To provide for cash-in-lieu payments for car parking provision in the Traralgon Activity Centre Parking Precinct.

2.0 Number of car parking spaces to be provided

~~14.2/14.2~~
Proposed C94 If a use is specified in the Table below, the number of car parking spaces required for the use is calculated by multiplying the Rate specified for the use by the accompanying Measure.

For all other uses listed in Table 1 of Clause 52.06-5, the number of car parking spaces required for a use is calculated by using 75% of the Rate in Column B of that Table.

Where a use of land is not specified in Table 1 of Clause 52.06-5, before a new use commences or the floor area or site area of an existing use is increased, car parking spaces must be provided to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

When the calculated number of parking spaces required is not a whole number, the required number of spaces is determined by rounding the calculated result down to the next lower whole number.

Table 1: Car parking spaces

Use	Rate	Measure
Office	3	To each 100sqm of net floor area

3.0 Permit requirement

~~14.2/14.2~~
Proposed C94

A permit may be granted to reduce the number of car parking spaces as specified for a particular use under Clause 2 of this Schedule for a use and development within the Traralgon Activity Centre Parking Precinct provided a financial contribution is made in accordance with Clause 4 of this Schedule in lieu of the car park reduction.

4.0 Financial contributions requirement

~~14.2/14.2~~
Proposed C94

The responsible authority may consider accepting a financial contribution-in-lieu of one or more car parking spaces being provided on-site.

When car parking spaces are to be provided off-site the cash-in-lieu contribution per car space is \$8000.00 (excluding GST) for each car space. The amount of contribution for each car space specified above will be adjusted by the responsible authority on 1 July each year in accordance with the relevant Building Price Index (Melbourne) in Rawlinson's Australian Construction Handbook. If that index is unavailable, an equivalent index will be applied by the responsible authority.

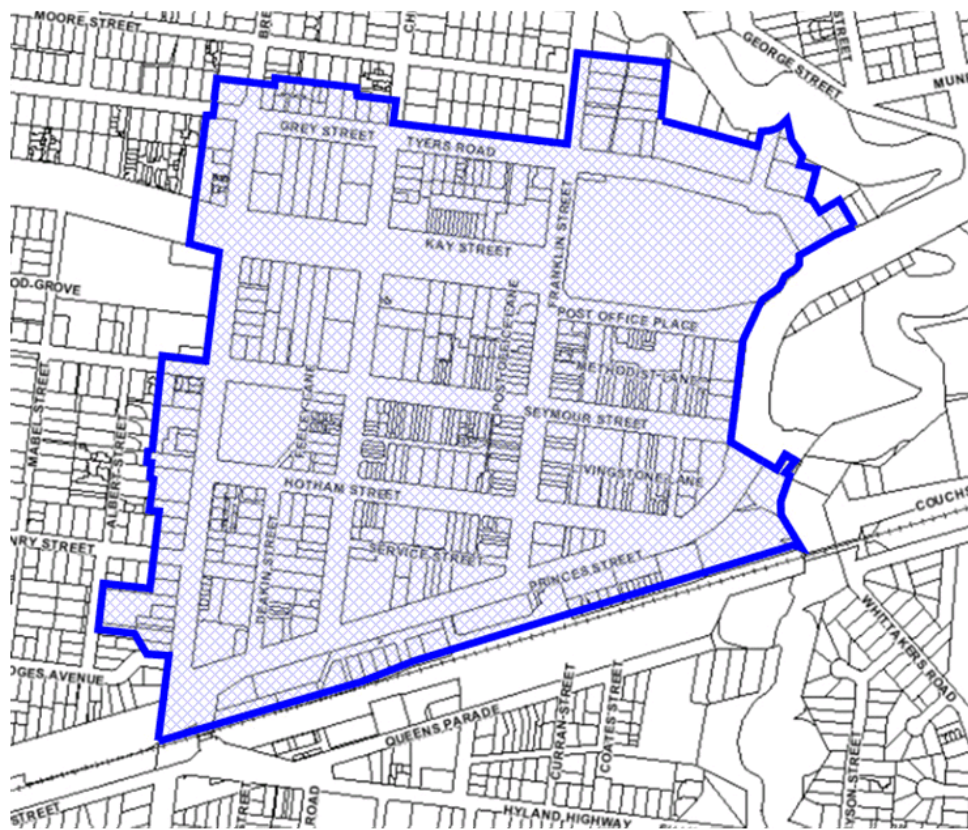
LATROBE PLANNING SCHEME

The cash contribution must be made before the use or development commences unless a permit condition allows payments by instalments pursuant to a Section 173 Agreement.

The responsible authority shall use the funds collected under this schedule for the purpose of acquiring land and constructing public parking in the Traralgon town centre.

5.0 Reference document

-  Car Parking Framework Review Traralgon & Morwell August 2014.



Map 1 Traralgon Activity Centre Parking Precinct

LATROBE PLANNING SCHEME

SCHEDULE 2 TO THE PARKING OVERLAY

Shown on the planning scheme map as **PO2**.

MORWELL ACTIVITY CENTRE**1.0 Car parking objectives to be achieved**

To ensure that there is the appropriate provision of car parking spaces in the Morwell Activity Centre Parking Precinct shown on Map 1 to this schedule and to maintain a balance between car parking supply and demand in the centre.

2.0 Number of car parking spaces to be provided

If a use is specified in the Table below, the number of car parking spaces required for the use is calculated by multiplying the Rate specified for the use by the accompanying Measure.

For all other uses listed in Table 1 of Clause 52.06-5, the number of car parking spaces required for a use is calculated by using 75% of the Rate in Column B of that Table.

Where a use of land is not specified in Table 1 of Clause 52.06-5, before a new use commences or the floor area or site area of an existing use is increased, car parking spaces must be provided to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

When the calculated number of parking spaces required is not a whole number, the required number of spaces is determined by rounding the calculated result down to the next lower whole number.

Table 1: Car parking spaces

Use	Rate	Measure
Office	3.0	To each 100sqm of net floor area

3.0 Permit requirement

A permit may be granted to reduce (including a reduction to zero) the number of car parking spaces required under Clause 2 of this Schedule for a proposed use and development within the Morwell Activity Centre Parking Precinct.

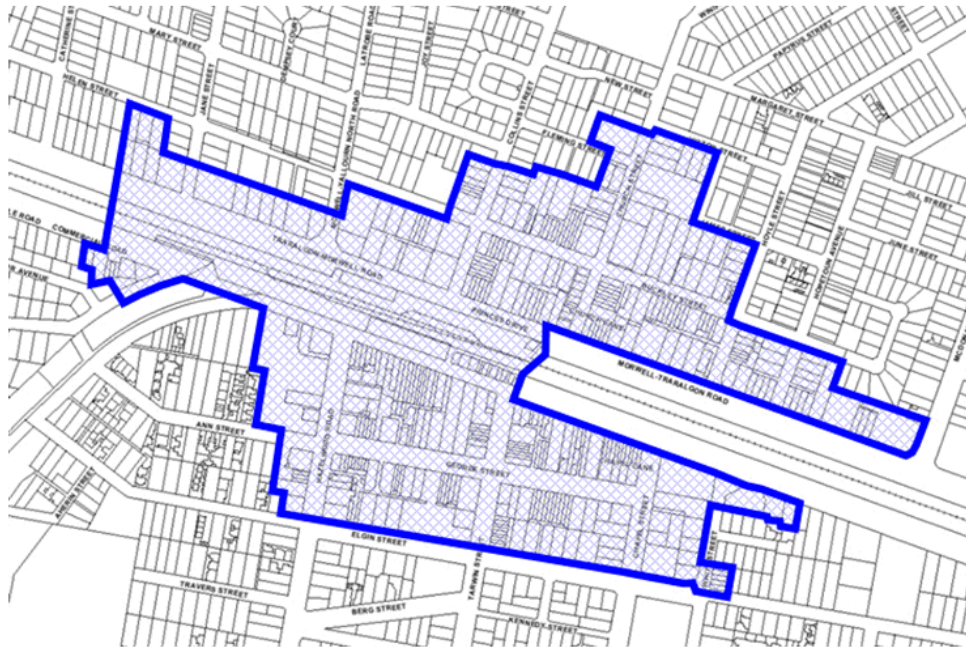
4.0 Decision guidelines

Before decided on an application which reduces the provision of car parking spaces below the number of car parking spaces required under this schedule, the responsible authority must consider the decision guidelines set out at Clause 52.06-6 of the Planning Scheme

5.0 Reference document

Car Parking Framework Review Traralgon & Morwell August 2014.

LATROBE PLANNING SCHEME



Map 1 Morwell Activity Centre Parking Precinct

Planning and Environment Act 1987

LATROBE PLANNING SCHEME

AMENDMENT C94

EXPLANATORY REPORT

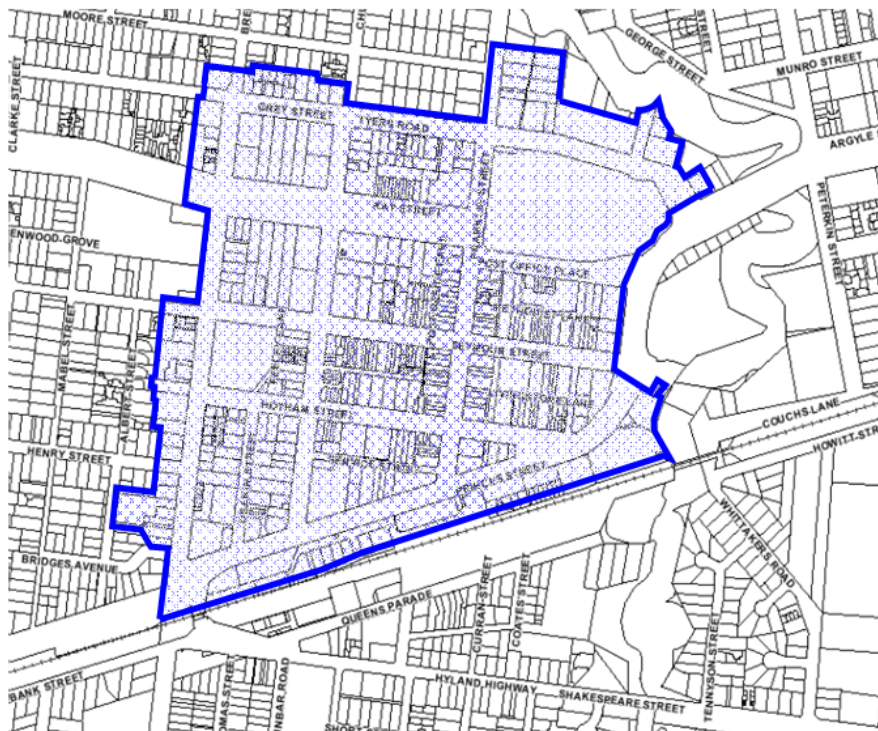
Who is the planning authority?

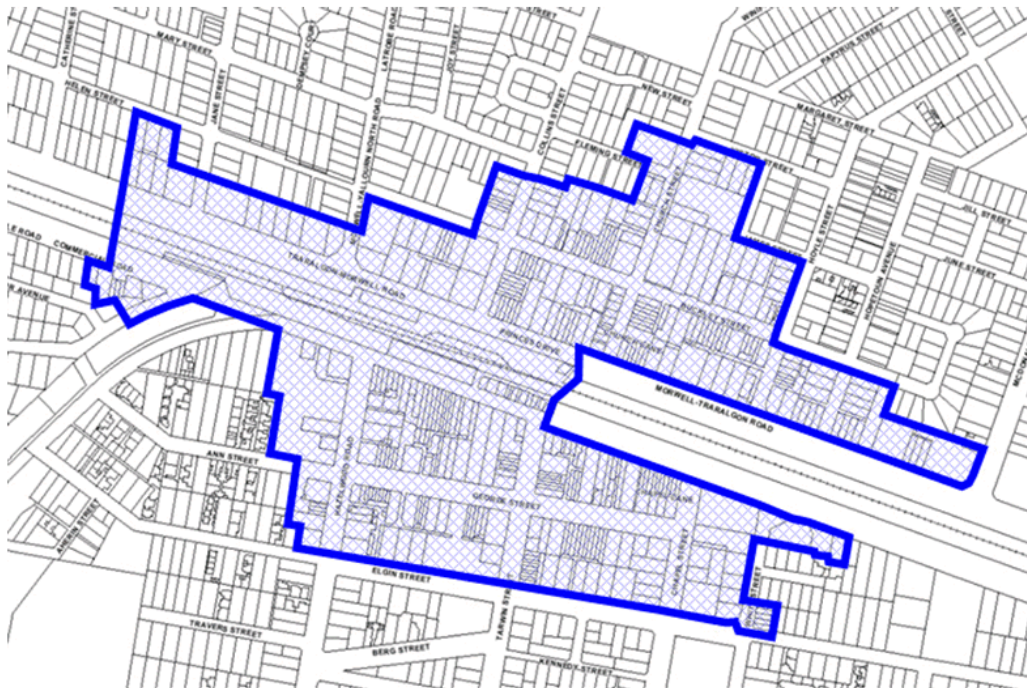
This amendment has been prepared by the Latrobe City Council, which is the planning authority for this amendment.

Land affected by the amendment

The amendment applies to land in Traralgon and Morwell activity centres as delineated on Maps 1 and 2 below.

Map 1 – Traralgon Activity Centre Amendment Area



Map 2 – Morwell Activity Centre Amendment Area**What the amendment does**

The amendment proposes to:

- Apply the Parking Overlay to land within the Traralgon and Morwell Activity Centres.
- Insert Schedules 1 and 2 of the Parking Overlay that are to apply to land within the Morwell and Traralgon Activity Centres.
- Insert the *Car Parking Framework Review August 2014* as a reference document into the scheme in Clauses 21.05 and 21.07 and in proposed Schedules 1 and 2 of the Parking Overlay.

Strategic assessment of the amendment**Why is the amendment required?**

Council carried out a Car Parking Framework Review in relation to Traralgon and Morwell taking into account existing parking demands, character, and economic performance of the respective activity centres. The various studies comprising this review have been consolidated by Traffix Group in the *Car Parking Framework Review August 2014* (the Review).

In order to give effect to the Review, amendments are proposed to the Planning Scheme that introduce Parking Overlays for Traralgon and Morwell prescribing parking rates and cash-in-lieu contributions as relevant.

The Review identified that current parking supply in Traralgon and Morwell is adequate to meet current demands.

The Review acknowledged that the actual parking rates in Morwell are lower than the standard rates set out in clause 52.06 of the Planning Scheme. The purpose of applying the Parking Overlay to Morwell activity centre is therefore to bring the requirements in the planning scheme relating to parking more in line with actual and expected demand. For Morwell, where the car parking requirement cannot be met on-site, the Review recommends that consideration be given to whether the proposed reduction is appropriate having regard to the relevant Clause 52.06-6 decision guidelines. The Review recommends that where the parking requirement under clause 52.06 of the Planning Scheme cannot be met on site in Morwell that no financial contribution should be applied.

The Review identified for Traralgon that forecasted future floor space indicates that new car parking will be required to be constructed in Traralgon to meet future demand generated by the expected increase in floor space. The Review recommends that where the parking requirement under clause 52.06 of the Planning Scheme cannot be met on site in Traralgon, a financial contribution of \$8,000 in respect of each car parking space that is required and which is not provided on the land (but net of car parking credits) should be applied.

How does the amendment implement the objectives of planning in Victoria?

The Amendment implements the objectives of planning in Victoria set out in Section 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* by providing a clear car parking policy framework for the fair, orderly, economic and sustainable use and development of land in Morwell and Traralgon.

How does the amendment address any environmental, social and economic effects?

The amendment will have no adverse environmental, social and economic effects. The amendment promotes the economic and social success of Morwell and Traralgon activity centres by considering the adequacy of parking in these centres to support existing and future activities, and ensuring adequate supply in the future.

The proposed cash-in-lieu contribution of \$8,000 for the Traralgon activity centre is justified in terms of need, nexus, accountability and equity. The cash-in-lieu contribution for the Traralgon activity centre is similar to a previous cash-in-lieu figure that has been used and

therefore isn't considered to have a detrimental economic effect on the Traralgon activity centre. No cash-in-lieu contribution is proposed for the Morwell activity centre.

The amendment also implements the recommended car parking strategy set out in the Review which promotes the sustainable and efficient delivery of car parking within each of the activity centres thereby promoting a positive environmental outcome.

Does the amendment address relevant bushfire risk?

The amendment will have no effect on bushfire risk.

Does the amendment comply with the requirements of any Minister's Direction applicable to the amendment?

The amendment is consistent with the Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes under section 7(5) of the Act.

The amendment complies with the requirements of Ministerial Direction No. 11: Strategic Assessment of Amendments.

The amendment complies with and is affected by Ministerial Direction 15: The Planning Scheme Amendment Process that establishes time frames for completing steps in the planning scheme amendment process.

How does the amendment support or implement the State Planning Policy Framework and any adopted State policy?

The amendment is supported by the State Planning Policy Framework (SPPF).

Clause 11.05-1 promotes the sustainable growth and development of regional Victoria through a network of settlements identified in the Regional Victoria Settlement Framework Plan. Strategies for achieving this planning objective include directing urban growth into major regional cities (e.g. Traralgon and Morwell) of Latrobe as Gippsland's regional city.

In order to strengthen the economic resilience of Gippsland as a region, Clause 11.08-1 of the Planning Scheme promotes the creation of vibrant and prosperous town centres that are clearly defined and provide commercial and service activities that respond to changing population and market conditions.

Morwell and Traralgon, located along the Princes Highway are two key urban centres within Latrobe City with Traralgon being the largest town within the municipality acting as a primary business hub for Latrobe city and the broader region as well. Morwell is the third largest town and provides a second tier retail and commercial role, with Morwell activity centre

acting as a central hub for municipal and state government activities and services. Recent population forecasts suggest that 75% of Latrobe's total growth to 2036 will occur in Traralgon's growth areas and that there will be moderate growth in Morwell.

Clause 18.02-5 of the State Planning Policy Framework (Car Parking) encourages the provision of an adequate supply of car parking that is appropriately designed and located. Strategies for achieving this include:

- Allocate or require land to be set aside for car parking subject to the existing and potential modes of access including public transport, the demand for off-street car parking, road capacity and the potential for demand management of car parking.
- Encourage the efficient provision of car parking through the consolidation of car parking facilities.

The SPPF also states that parking precinct plans should be prepared or required for the design and location of local car parking to:

- Protect the role and function of nearby roads, enable easy and efficient use and the movement and delivery of goods.
- Achieve a high standard of urban design and protect the amenity of the locality, including the amenity of pedestrians and other road users.
- Create a safe environment, particularly at night.
- Facilitate the use of public transport.

The SPPF further states that the amenity of residential land is to be protected from the effects of road congestion created by on-street parking, and that adequate provision for taxi ranks should be planned for.

The purpose of the Review for Traralgon and Morwell is to co-ordinate the efficient provision of car parking in the activity centres having regard to many of the above planning policy objectives.

The amendment is also consistent with Gippsland's Regional Growth Plan 2014 that promotes the sustainable and planned growth of Morwell and Traralgon.

How does the amendment support or implement the Metropolitan Planning Strategy, Plan Melbourne?

The amendment supports the implementation of Plan Melbourne by facilitating key shared infrastructure that supports the growth of the regional city of Latrobe. This is in-line with the 'networked state of cities' concept contained in Plan Melbourne and the promotion of regional growth plans for Victoria. The Gippsland Regional Growth Plan 2014 specifically

promotes the sustainable growth of Latrobe City's key urban centres including Traralgon and Morwell.

How does the amendment support or implement the Local Planning Policy Framework, and specifically the Municipal Strategic Statement?

The amendment is supported by the Local Planning Policy Framework and the Municipal Strategic Statement.

Specifically, the amendment is consistent with:

Clause 21.05 Main Towns

- Encourage the development of new retail, office and residential mixed use developments within the Traralgon and Morwell Primary Activity Centres.
- Encourage increased densities and vertical growth of Traralgon's town centre to support growth of the office sector.

Clause 21.07 Economic Sustainability

- Promote the development of Transit City principles and the creation of private investment opportunities to attract new retail development.
- Undertake a car parking policy review

The provision of suitable car parking arrangements is critical to the development of Traralgon and Morwell activity centres by helping to attract new commercial investment. The amendment proposes implementation of a car parking strategy that will help to support the above strategies.

Does the amendment make proper use of the Victoria Planning Provisions?

The appropriate Victoria Planning Provisions are proposed to be utilised. The amendment has considered and is consistent with the following Victorian State Government Practice and Advisory Notes:

- Practice Note May 2000: Writing schedules
- Practice Note 13 October 2013: Incorporated and reference documents
- Practice Note 22 April 2013: Using the car parking provisions
- Practice Note 46 July 2014: Strategic assessment guidelines for preparing and evaluating planning scheme amendments
- Practice Note 57 April 2013: The Parking Overlay
- Advisory Note 25 June 2012: New car parking provisions
- Advisory Note 34 January 2011: Addressing the *Transport Integration Act 2010* in a planning scheme amendment

How does the amendment address the views of any relevant agency?

The amendment will be referred to all relevant agencies as part of the exhibition process and any comments will be included as necessary. Preliminary feedback has been sought from VicRoads on a number of traffic issues around the Traralgon and Morwell activity centres.

Does the amendment address relevant requirements of the Transport Integration Act 2010?

The amendment will not have a significant impact on the transport system, as defined by Section 3 of the *Transport Integration Act 2010*. The amendment is expected to provide a policy framework whereby traffic and transport issues in Traralgon and Morwell town centres will be better planned that is likely to result in a greater level of efficiency and performance of the town centres. The amendment therefore supports the objectives and principles of the *Transport Integration Act 2010*.

Resource and administrative costs**What impact will the new planning provisions have on the resource and administrative costs of the responsible authority?**

The proposed amendment would not have an unreasonable impact on the resource and administrative costs of the responsible authority. The amendment if approved will result in council collecting and administering funds for cash in lieu contributions. It is not considered that this function will have a significant impact on the resource and administrative costs of the responsible authority.

Where you may inspect this Amendment

The amendment is available for public inspection, free of charge, during office hours at the following places:

Latrobe City Council Corporate Headquarters 141 Commercial Road Morwell VIC 3840	Latrobe City Council Moe Service Centre 44 Albert Street Moe VIC 3825
Latrobe City Council Traralgon Service Centre 34 – 38 Kay Street Traralgon VIC 3844	Latrobe City Council Churchill Service Centre 9 – 11 Phillip Parade Churchill VIC 3842

The Amendment can also be inspected free of charge at the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning website at www.dtpli.vic.gov.au/publicinspection

Submissions

Any person who may be affected by the Amendment may make a submission to the planning authority. Submissions about the Amendment must be received by 8 May 2015.

A submission must be sent to:

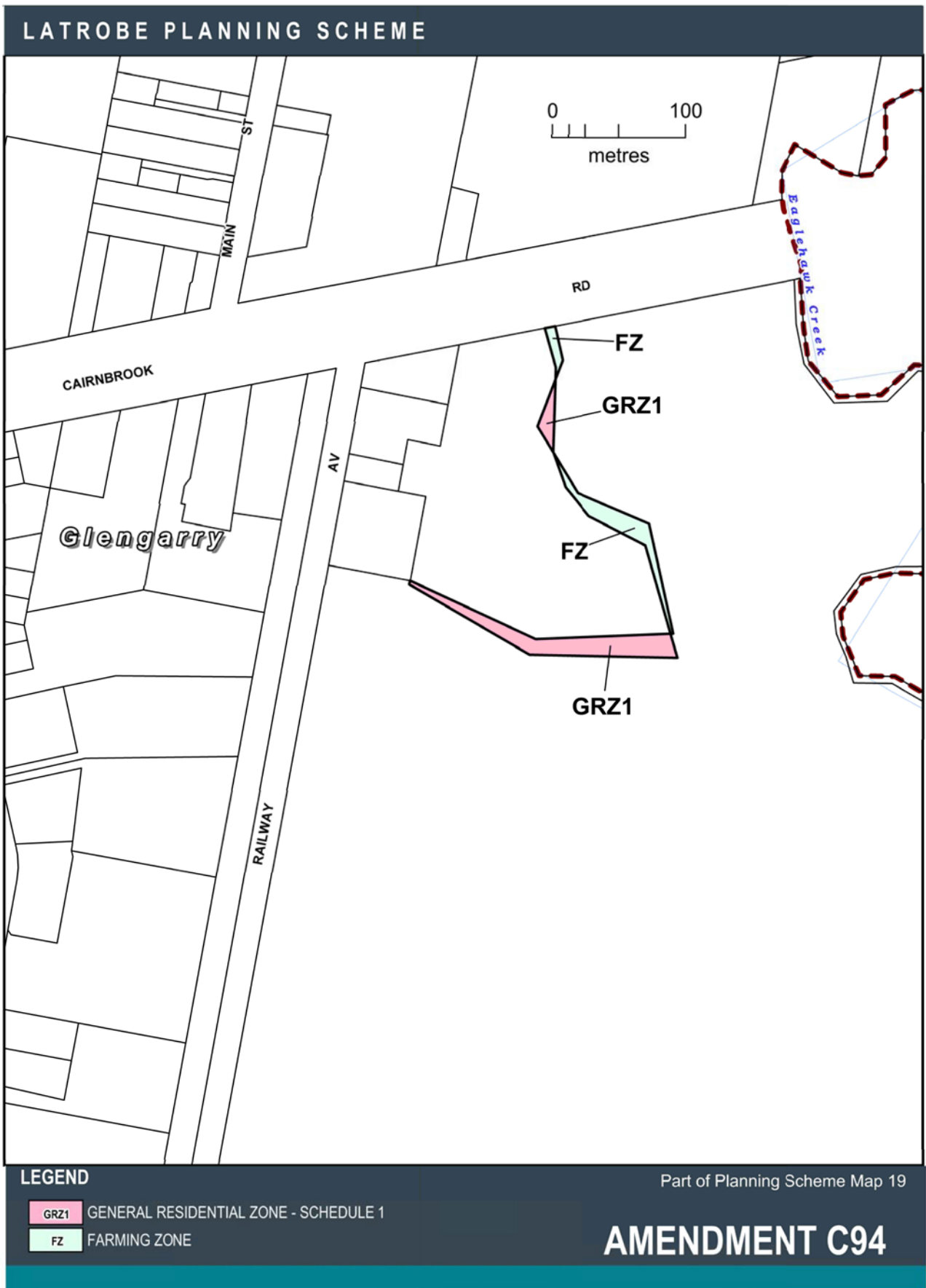
Ms Leanne Khan
Senior Strategic Planner
Latrobe City Council
PO Box 264,
MORWELL VIC 3840

Panel hearing dates

In accordance with clause 4(2) of Ministerial Direction No.15 the following panel hearing dates have been set for this amendment:

Directions hearing: to commence in the week of 3 August 2015

Panel hearing: to commence in the week of 7 September 2015



14.3 SUBMISSION TO EPA INQUIRY**General Manager****City Development****For Decision****PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to consider Latrobe City Council's submission to the State Government inquiry into the Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Minister for Climate Change and Water has established an independent ministerial advisory committee (MAC) to examine the EPA's role and functions. The MAC is undergoing community consultation and has invited submissions to the Inquiry from key stakeholders including local government.

Council's submission has been written in consultation with Councillors and relevant Council officers. The submission details Council's past and current dealings with the EPA and the role and direction of the EPA into the future with regard to the environment and the protection of public health.

The submission identifies Council's reliance on the EPA for the provision of expert advice and its willingness to build on its relationship with the agency into the future. It also provides examples where the EPA has not provided sufficient support to Council and the community in the past.

The submission outlines Council's vision of the EPA into the future, as follows:

- the EPA should be better resourced in order to address the major challenges in the environment and public health that are ahead;
- the EPA should have other arms to enhance the organisation such as research and education which could be undertaken in conjunction with other organisations such as CSIRO;
- the EPA should have a stronger role in enforcement; and
- the EPA should be independent of government as a genuine regulatory body which would report directly to parliament.

Council's submission is attached as Attachment 1.

COUNCIL MOTION**Moved:** Cr Gibbons**Seconded:** Cr Gibson

That Council endorse the Latrobe City Council submission to the EPA Inquiry and forward the submission to the Ministerial Advisory Committee prior to 31 October 2015.

For: Councillors Gibson, Rossiter, White, Sindt, Middlemiss, Harriman and Gibbons

Against: Councillors O'Callaghan and Kam

CARRIED**DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

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

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

This report is consistent with Latrobe 2026: The Community Vision for Latrobe Valley and the Latrobe City Council Plan 2013-2017.

Latrobe 2026: The Community Vision for Latrobe Valley

Strategic Objectives – Advocacy and Partnerships

Latrobe Valley benefits from a range of well-established groups and associations who advocate for and deliver local outcomes. Advocacy towards a shared vision and values, together with collaborative planning and partnerships form the essence of effective community leadership. Community leadership requires a combination of government, business and community members with established local interest. The collaboration of a group of people with diverse expertise, perspective and function ensures best possible outcomes for the community.

Strategic Objectives – Regulation and Accountability

Laws and regulations are an essential part of society in the protection of people's rights, to outline obligations and support community values and cohesion. Both in conjunction with but independent of government, there are also statutory and regulatory authorities. These public bodies work in a regulatory or supervisory capacity, with the responsibility of enacting legislation for a specific area of the law.

Latrobe City Council Plan 2013 - 2017

Theme and Objectives

Theme 4: Advocacy for and consultation with our community

Strategic Direction –

Strengthen the profile of Latrobe City as one of Victoria's four major regional cities

Work in partnerships with all levels of governments to ensure Latrobe City is well supported, resourced and recognised as one of Victoria's four major regional cities

To advocate for and support cooperative relationships between business, industry and the community

Theme 5: Planning for the future

Strategic Direction –

Advocate for planning changes at the state level to reflect regional needs and aspirations

BACKGROUND

The Minister for Climate Change and Water has established an independent ministerial advisory committee (MAC) to examine the EPA's role and functions. The State Government is seeking advice of the MAC on the EPA's most appropriate role in public health issues related to land, air and water pollution, and in protecting the environment. The MAC will also examine how best to prevent contamination of sites as well as the EPA's ability to respond to day-to-day environmental issues.

The MAC will report back to the Minister with recommendations about the way the EPA can execute the right powers, duties and functions to achieve sustainable health for Victoria.

The MAC is seeking views from relevant stakeholders including local government during its community engagement period.

A draft submission was written by Council officers. A presentation to Councillors on the background to the Inquiry and the key themes in the draft submission was undertaken at the Councillor Briefing of 28 September 2015. The draft submission was then provided as a Briefing Paper at the Councillor Briefing of 12 October 2015.

The three members of the MAC, Penny Armytage (Chairperson), Jane Brockington (Deputy Chairperson) and Janice van Reyk met with Councillors Gibbons, Kam and Sindt, the Acting CEO and Council officers on 30 September 2015 for an informal discussion about the Inquiry and issues specifically relating to Latrobe City.

KEY POINTS/ISSUES

A Latrobe City Council submission has been written in response to the invitation from the MAC which summarises issues raised by Councillors and the following Council departments:

- Waste Sustainability
- Emergency Management
- Statutory Planning
- Community Health and Wellbeing
- Environment Sustainability
- Local Laws
- Future Planning

The finalised submission responds to the relevant 'Submission Guidance' questions provided by the MAC as they relate to Council operations.

The submission highlights Council's reliance on the EPA for expert advice and assistance and the need for Council and the EPA to work together more effectively in order to address the present and future issues facing the community with regard to the environment and public health. The submission also emphasises the need for the EPA to take on a greater advocacy role in advising and educating the community on matters under its jurisdiction.

Into the future, Council believes:

- the EPA should be better resourced in order to address the major challenges in the environment and public health that are ahead;
- have other arms to enhance the organisation such as research and education which could be undertaken in conjunction with other organisations such as CSIRO;
- have a stronger role in enforcement; and
- be independent of government as a genuine regulatory body which would report directly to parliament.

Submissions to the Inquiry are due on 31 October 2015.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk has been considered as part of this report and it is considered to be consistent with the Risk Management framework.

There is not considered to be any risks associated with this report.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

Whilst there would be no direct financial and resource implications if Council did not contribute a submission to the MAC, there could be significance implications on finances and resources in the future for Council. The lack of provision of expert information from the EPA could lead to Council having to fund independent experts at considerable cost.

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)**

This in turn could make projects unviable or leave Council legally exposed if experts weren't commissioned.

It is noted that the MAV is making a submission to the Inquiry on behalf of all Victorian councils and it intends to raise similar issues to those that are discussed in Council's submission.

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

The submission to the Inquiry has come about as a result of the current community consultation being undertaken by the MAC. The MAC has invited all stakeholders including local government to make submissions to the Inquiry by 31 October 2015.

Relevant internal departments of Council who have dealings with the EPA were invited to provide input into the drafting of Council's submission.

Councillors were also invited to contribute. This occurred via email, a Councillor Briefing presentation and a Councillor Briefing paper as well as an invitation to the meeting with the MAC on 30 September 2015.

OPTIONS

1. That Council endorse the Latrobe City Council submission to the EPA Inquiry and forward the submission to the Ministerial Advisory Committee prior to 31 October 2015.
2. That Council seek an amendment to the Latrobe City Council submission to the EPA Inquiry and forward the amended submission to the Ministerial Advisory Committee prior to 31 October 2015.
3. That Council does not support the Latrobe City Council submission to the EPA Inquiry to be sent to the Ministerial Advisory Committee.

CONCLUSION

A submission has been prepared on behalf of Council to the EPA Inquiry. The submission responds to the relevant 'Submission Guidance' questions provided by the MAC as they relate to Council operations and highlights Council's reliance on the EPA for expert advice and advocacy. The submission is due to the MAC by 31 October 2015.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Examining the Future Task of Victoria's Environment Protection Authority Discussion Paper (August 2015)

Attachments

1. LCC Submission to EPA Inquiry Oct 2015

14.3

Submission to EPA Inquiry

- 1 LCC Submission to EPA Inquiry Oct 2015 155**

Latrobe City Council Submission to EPA Inquiry



October 2015





Submission to EPA Inquiry
Ministerial Advisory Committee
October 2015

Introduction

Latrobe City Council (Council) appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Inquiry. Council engages with the EPA across a broad spectrum of fields, from land use planning matters and land capability assessments to landfill. In doing so, Council is involved with the EPA as a statutory authority, a customer and a community member. This submission responds to the relevant 'Submission Guidance' questions provided by the Inquiry as they relate to Council operations.

Response to Submission Guidance Questions

1. What do you think are the key environmental challenges which will impact the EPA in the future?

Council believes the key environmental challenges which will impact the EPA in the future are:

- Climate change
- Waste management and future planning
- Helping develop and plan for sustainable communities
- Water quality and availability
- Soil, noise and air quality issues
- The challenge of maintaining workable coal buffer zones
- Industrial diversification of coal use
- Contaminated land and its ability to be rehabilitated for residential uses
- Pressure from the community for up to date relevant information which will be closely scrutinised by the public
- Financial assistance required to manage legacy landfills due to the costs incurred by local government which are placing financial strains on communities
- Prevention of potential hazardous material releases by ensuring that EPA's role as a regulator is strengthened and the agency is resourced adequately to perform this function

2. What aspects of the EPA's work do you value and wish to preserve in the future?

Council values the EPA's presence in the region and the expert advice provided to officers on a number of matters. However both these aspects need to be strengthened with a more visible presence and greater involvement of the EPA when the expertise of the organisation is required. See Question 3 below.

3. How can the EPA effectively work in partnership with other government agencies to meet the environmental challenges of the future?

The EPA can work more effectively in partnership with Council through having EPA officers readily available for council officers to communicate with. In recent times all calls to EPA are required to be directed through to the EPA call centre with EPA officers often



Submission to EPA Inquiry
Ministerial Advisory Committee
October 2015

having their phones diverted to this call centre. Direct access to EPA officers is therefore limited which is a source of frustration as Council relies on the EPA for expert advice. This expert advice needs to be readily available.

It is apparent to Council that EPA officers with key expertise are based in Melbourne and not in regional areas and the EPA's organisational structure is such that higher level decision making is also undertaken in Melbourne. Whilst the EPA has a presence in Latrobe with an office based in Traralgon, officers with the relevant expertise and authorisation are not immediately available to Council. This has consequences particularly in emergency situations as EPA cannot respond immediately and time is wasted while waiting for non-local officers with the relevant expertise and experience to be at hand. Further delays are also experienced with EPA's delegation of decision making which can take too long to respond to an emergency.

Given Latrobe City houses a majority of the State's electricity resources it should be given priority with regard to safety and public health. The relocation of the EPA's Centre for Applied Sciences from Macleod in Melbourne to the Latrobe Valley would have benefits for both the EPA and the community as the EPA would have its expertise and equipment located in an area that requires constant scientific monitoring.

There is also some confusion as to what matters EPA addresses versus Council. Anecdotally the public are often directed to raise issues with local government when the EPA are the responsible authority e.g. noise from commercial sites or complaints in relation to odour or noise from primary production sites. Clearer information should be provided to the public with regard to the roles each agency plays.

The EPA must be visibly present to the community and take up opportunities presented to it to provide input into local government and community processes. The need to be at the coal-face interacting with the community needs to be valued by the EPA and be appropriately resourced to provide this approach. At present the absence of the EPA at community information sessions where EPA issues are being discussed is notable with the void often filled by Council officers. This is an unacceptable situation as Council officers cannot provide the technical advice asked for by the community and cannot speak on behalf of the EPA.

An example of this is a recent planning scheme amendment which involved an Urban Amenity Buffer around the Australian Paper processing plant at Maryvale. The buffer was a significant issue for Council, EPA, Australian Paper and the residents in Traralgon West, and there was a view from the residents that EPA did not make itself available to the community when there were community meetings.

This lack of engagement was an issue raised by the community and as a result of this perception, a recent Council meeting to determine the Panel Report to consider the Urban Amenity Buffer, among other things, was deferred until such time that further consultation could be initiated with all relevant stakeholders, including EPA.



Submission to EPA Inquiry
Ministerial Advisory Committee
October 2015

In these situations, the community should not be expected to fund its own scientific investigations as this is not financially possible. Rather EPA should be providing credible independent and accessible advice to the public and be willing and available to meet community members to discuss issues of this nature.

4. How can the EPA's role in safeguarding the community against the health impacts of pollution be clarified or strengthened?

The EPA needs to be led by personnel with strong scientific backgrounds and ensure it is resourced with experienced officers who can provide consistent advice. It needs to have a high level of understanding of the role of local government and engage itself with the community as an advocate and as an expert. The appointment of a new EPA Gippsland local government / community engagement liaison officer would assist with strengthening EPA's role and function.

The EPA needs to work from a more informed risk management approach before major issues arise and help communities, local government and others to be on the front foot in dealing with this issue.

Good quality accessible information to the general public is key to safeguarding the community against the health impacts of pollution. Information can be disseminated through the EPA's web site, media releases, community meetings, bulletins and newsletters. Improved and more regular media exposure such as a column in the local paper would also be beneficial.

The Hazelwood Mine Fire is an example where the EPA fell short of community expectations before, during and after the fire with little information provided to the community. The EPA's emergency response was sorely limited and information regarding air quality was lacking in detail and accuracy. The community suffered 45 days of intense toxic smoke cover with inadequate data on air quality provided to the Chief Health Officer by the EPA. It is noted that the second inquiry into the Hazelwood Mine Fire examined whether smoke from the fire caused premature deaths in the area and has come about partly as a consequence of the lack of information regarding air quality being provided to the public at the time of the fire.

Following the fire, air quality monitoring stations have been installed in the area however it is understood they are only temporary. Council requests that they remain a permanent fixture near all coal mines and power stations in order to provide 'on the ground' information to the community with regard to air quality. Council strongly believes permanent monitoring stations are also needed in Churchill and Moe. Equipment to monitor contaminated land and air pollution should be available at the EPA's Traralgon office so that it can be utilised as soon as a hazard has been identified. The ongoing dissemination of air quality monitoring information to key stake holders is also strongly encouraged.



Submission to EPA Inquiry
Ministerial Advisory Committee
October 2015

With regard to the auditing of contaminated land, a basic level of competency should be introduced for those who undertake site assessments so that a professional approach that meets a suitable benchmark is able to be achieved, and the consumer can have some degree of confidence in the service they are accessing.

EPA is encouraged to become more involved with consideration of buffer zones for landfills, transfer stations and industry so that the buffers are not diminished by other factors such as planning scheme amendments and VCAT decisions. It is important that the EPA communicates with and provides guidance to councils managing waste facilities and industrial land uses so that these buffer zones are preserved and the future health impacts of the facilities are minimised. More assistance and guidance regarding mitigation issues surrounding existing land use conflicts is required by Council from the EPA.

It is suggested that the EPA could work in conjunction with other scientific organisations such as CSIRO and alliances could be formed to provide scientific information on issues such as climate change and air quality monitoring. This could only strengthen the EPA's knowledge base and credibility in the community.

5. How could statutory frameworks more effectively prevent future environmental risks and land use conflicts?

The EPA needs to work more consultatively with Council when amendments to statutory frameworks are proposed.

As an example, the change in processes that the EPA announced last year in relation to septic tank wastewater permits and approvals is of great concern to Council. The EPA made a decision to remove certificates of approval for septic systems with limited or no consultation with local or state government agencies. This will place more pressure on Council officers to assess new systems that may be developed for septic systems as well as ensuring maintenance standards such as installation, water testing and servicing will be done as part of an appropriate program.

The EPA is encouraged to work with Council in order to have a consistent approach to circumstances when the EPA requires a property to apply to EPA for works approval permits for larger onsite wastewater systems. At present there is limited consistency and it appears to often be related to the EPA officer that takes the phone call. There have been a number of permits that Council has had to issue in relation to wastewater with the loads being well above 5000L per day, however EPA has determined that Council would be the better agency to monitor the system in ground. These decisions need to be made in consultation with Council in order to determine if Council has the expertise and resources to undertake the work.

There are also inconsistencies from EPA as to what information it requires for development application referrals and the types of conditions that are placed on planning permits. Furthermore, it is unclear which agency is to check compliance with permit



Submission to EPA Inquiry
Ministerial Advisory Committee
October 2015

conditions. Council believes EPA planning permit conditions should be followed up for compliance by the EPA as it has officers with the relevant expertise.

EPA issued licenses should be more flexible in their approach. Where industry has existed prior to the introduction of certain regulations and then residential encroachments have occurred, it would be more realistic for the licenses to allow an increase in the number of complaints regarding fugitive emissions than mandate an unrealistic decrease in complaints which cannot be achieved. This would assist industry in regional areas to continue operating and continue providing employment in the area. The relocation of industry in a regional area is generally not an option financially. Industrial and residential uses therefore need to strike a balance where industry can operate near a residential area and still provide an acceptable level of amenity to residents. It is noted that the MAC's Discussion Paper raises the protection of agricultural land as an issue but does not discuss the protection of industry which is of paramount importance to Latrobe City.

The EPA also needs to be transparent about its methodologies as changes and inconsistencies in some cases have raised questions about EPA having preconceived outcomes. This objective would also help with the need for improved relationships with key stakeholders, particularly the community.

6. What role should the EPA play in emergency management?

In an emergency situation there is an expectation that the EPA will provide immediate, accessible and accurate advice regarding potential threats (hazardous materials) to Emergency Management Agencies and communities so they can make sound decisions regarding their health and wellbeing. Information should be available in a range of formats to ensure it is accessible to all members of the community, and should be presented in a way that communities can clearly understand. The information should communicate the level of threat and what actions the community should take to minimise or eliminate any adverse outcomes.

During an emergency event the EPA must form part of the Emergency Management Team (EMT) established by the incident controller to provide information to enable sound decision making that has the community's interest as a first priority. An example of this is the Hazelwood Mine Fire where EPA did not provide sufficient expert information regarding air quality, etc. to allow other government departments provide the appropriate information on the possible health impacts of the fire on the residents of Morwell and beyond.

The EPA should also have a solid and consistent presence in the recovery phase following an emergency with the provision of advice and information.



Submission to EPA Inquiry
Ministerial Advisory Committee
October 2015

7. How can the EPA better identify and, where necessary, address problems that are the result of past activity?

There is a need for the EPA to more directly engage with communities and local government in order to address problems of past activity.

The EPA has changed the guidelines for the rehabilitation of landfill sites with the Best Practice Environmental Management approach to apply to all sites irrespective of environmental risk. This has a very high financial cost to Council as landfill fees charged by Council do not have the rehabilitation cost component at a sufficient level to fund this type of rehabilitation. With standards continuing to rise, the cost is fast becoming beyond reach for many councils. Council believes a more appropriate response to landfill rehabilitation would be a risk-based approach based on the level of environmental risk for each landfill site. Alternatively councils would welcome financial assistance to manage legacy landfills. It is questioned whether 60% of the landfill levy should be spent on EPA operations and this money could be more effectively used for landfill remediation.

Priority improvement projects could be identified and then grants provided to support the mitigation activities required. This could occur on a matching funding formula, similar to Regional Development Victoria grants. Seed grants (grants from the private sector used to support start-up or early stage social enterprises) could also be provided to support local community initiatives to improve the environment and encourage sustainability.

Where EPA approvals have been issued, constant monitoring and enforcement of the conditions of approvals must be undertaken by the EPA, with local government assistance only where appropriate.

A priority list of key past problems to be addressed should be developed with priority actions that should be communicated to the community.

8. What can the EPA do to avoid potential future problems?

The EPA must have appropriate resourcing in order to monitor and enforce conditions on EPA approvals. This will ensure that future problems are avoided as EPA has the expertise to assess the efficacy of systems and procedures put in place by landholders in response to EPA conditions.

The EPA should also proactively contribute more in supporting councils and developers with future planning and providing relevant information and ways to address issues. The provision of timely and relevant information to communities would also assist.

It is noted that existing EPA guidelines and licences are currently providing protection, however more open communication with licence holders and other relevant stakeholders should be undertaken to discuss issues to avoid inherent conflicts of the past.

Existing EPA guidelines are often not reviewed and updated in a timely fashion or conflict with other regulations (see Clause 52.10 of all Victorian Planning Schemes). This conflict



Submission to EPA Inquiry
Ministerial Advisory Committee
October 2015

can give rise to future problems where decisions are made on old policy or where regulations are ambiguous that requires interpretation.

The role of the EPA as an advocate in the community as well as a regulator would assist in educating the community and would aid in avoiding potential future problems.

9. What role should the EPA play in improving environmental outcomes beyond those necessary to safeguard human health?

The EPA should be undergoing ongoing improvement in setting recommended standards in all areas of the environment and identifying and supporting ways to address issues. This will help to establish partnerships with community and industry.

The EPA should also be more active in education and community engagement and liaison, working through existing community, business, and industry structures and with local and State Government. It should play a more supportive role to assist all stakeholders to identify and respond to issues.

10. What role should the EPA play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions?

Landfill management, licence conditions, audits and Best Practice Environmental Management guidelines are considered to be sufficient and working well.

11. How do you see environmental justice being applied to the work of the EPA?

Whilst the current system seems adequate and enforceable under legislation, there is limited information about when environmental justice occurs. This should be publicised more widely including penalties and court action against polluters.

With regard to the Hazelwood Mine Fire, there is a belief in the local community that the operators of the Hazelwood Mine should have been held responsible for the release of hazardous material as a result of the fire. This view was not supported by the State Government and the EPA remained silent on the matter. Environmental justice did not appear to have been applied in this instance.

12. What can we adopt from other regulators and regulatory models to implement best-practice approaches and ensure that the EPA can rise to key future challenges?

No comment to be made.

13. Are there any other issues relevant to the Terms of Reference that you would like to raise?

The EPA needs to be better resourced and have stronger local links with other organisations and the community in order to be more effective. It needs to strengthen its powers to become a highly credible and informative organisation. This could occur



Submission to EPA Inquiry
Ministerial Advisory Committee
October 2015

through its partnership with other organisations such as the CSIRO as well as being independent of government as a genuine regulatory body.

It would also be beneficial if the EPA had another arm that is more research and education based in order to assist in solving local, regional and State problems.

Conclusion

Council is involved with the EPA from many perspectives including emergency management, land fill, environmental health, and land use planning and acknowledges the important role the EPA plays in the community. Council relies on the provision of expert advice from EPA and would like to build on its relationship with the agency into the future. While there are examples where the EPA and Council have worked well together, regrettably there have been instances where the EPA has not provided sufficient support to Council and the community in the past.

Into the future, Council believes:

- the EPA should be better resourced in order to address the major challenges in the environment and public health that are ahead;
- have other arms to enhance the organisation such as research and education which could be undertaken in conjunction with other organisations such as CSIRO;
- have a stronger role in enforcement; and
- be independent of government as a genuine regulatory body which would report directly to parliament.

This submission provides an insight into Latrobe City Council's relationship with the EPA and its aspirations for the agency into the future. Council wishes to thank the Ministerial Advisory Committee for the opportunity to make a submission to the Inquiry.

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)

Cr O'Callaghan declared an indirect interest under Section 78B of *The Local Government Act 1989* in respect to this item.

Councillor Kellie O'Callaghan left the meeting, the time being 7.27pm

14.4 GIPPSLAND REGIONAL PLAN

General Manager

City Development

For Decision

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present to Council the final draft of the Gippsland Regional Plan 2015 for Council endorsement.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Gippsland Regional Plan (GRP) is a long-term strategic plan for improving economic, social and environmental outcomes for the region. It aims to respond to the most significant challenges and opportunities that Gippsland is likely to face over the next 20 years.

The GRP was a result of the combined vision and efforts of the six local governments (through the Gippsland Local Government Network, or GLGN), state government departments, Regional Development Australia Gippsland and a number of businesses and business groups, notably the Committee for Gippsland.

The draft GRP is divided into the four Strategic Themes of Economic Prosperity, Education and Community Wellbeing, Natural Environment Stewardship and Connectivity.

Consultation regarding the draft GRP has been finalised with the draft now being presented to Gippsland Local Government Network Councils for endorsement.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Endorses the Gippsland Regional Plan 2015.
2. Acknowledges that minor alterations and changes may be undertaken to the wording of the Gippsland Regional Plan with the objective of clarifying the Gippsland Regional Plan's Strategic intent.
3. Will not accept or support any changes or amendments to the Gippsland Regional Plan that:
 - Seek to change the overall strategic intent, and
 - Provide any direct reference to future projects.

COUNCIL MOTION

Moved: Cr Middlemiss

Seconded: Cr Gibson

That Council:

1. **Provides in-principle endorsement of the Gippsland Regional Plan 2015 draft 11 with the exception of the Traralgon Truck Bypass.**
2. **Acknowledges that minor alterations and changes may be undertaken to the wording of the Gippsland Regional Plan with the objective of clarifying the Gippsland Regional Plan's strategic intent.**
3. **Will not accept or support any changes or amendments to the Gippsland Regional Plan that:**
 - **seek to change the overall strategic intent, and**
 - **provide any direct reference to future projects.**

For: Councillors Gibson, Rossiter, Sindt, Middlemiss, Harriman and Gibbons

Against: Councillors White and Kam

CARRIED

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

This report is consistent with Latrobe 2026: The Community Vision for Latrobe Valley and the Latrobe City Council Plan 2013-2017.

Latrobe 2026: The Community Vision for Latrobe Valley

Strategic Objectives – Advocacy and Partnerships

In 2026, Latrobe Valley is supported by diversity of government, agency, industry and community leaders, committed to working together to advocate for and deliver sustainable local outcomes.

Strategic Objectives - Economy

In 2026, Latrobe Valley has a strong and diverse economy built on innovative and sustainable enterprise. As the vibrant business centre of Gippsland, it contributes to the regional and broader economies, whilst providing opportunities and prosperity for our local community.

Latrobe City Council Plan 2013 - 2017

Theme and Objectives

Theme 4: Advocacy for and consultation with our community

Strategic Direction – Strengthen our region by actively leading and encouraging partnerships with other local governments, industry and community agencies.

BACKGROUND

The GRP is a long-term strategic plan that aims to address the emerging challenges facing our region.

The first GRP was completed in 2010, and covered the region as defined by the six local government areas of East Gippsland, Wellington, Bass Coast, Baw Baw and South Gippsland Shire Councils as well as Latrobe City Council.

The 2015 GRP has been developed by a partnership of four key stakeholder groups:

- Gippsland Local Government Network (GLGN)
- Committee for Gippsland (C4G)
- Regional Development Australia, Gippsland (RDA)
- Regional Managers' Forum (RMF)

The four strategic themes of the Gippsland Regional Plan are:

- Economic Prosperity
- Education and Community Wellbeing
- Natural Environment Stewardship, and;
- Connectivity.

These themes were identified from a review of the previous plan, which included consultation with the private sector, Gippsland State and Federal Members of Parliament, and the community. Workshops with key stakeholder groups were also conducted.

The GRP provides a framework from which priority projects and initiatives are identified, agreed and advocated for.

KEY POINTS/ISSUES

The GRP articulates a strategic vision for Gippsland. The GRP is built around four strategic themes, each theme comprising objectives and strategic priorities. From these strategic themes priority projects will be identified, agreed, prioritised and implemented. Each theme also has a number of indicators that will be used to benchmark and evaluate the impact of projects.

The Economic Prosperity strategic theme recognises the importance of Gippsland's resource base and provides a range of measures to support further industry development. These include the identification of key infrastructure that will enable economic development, increasing the amount of food produced in Gippsland and gaining policy support for key sectors including coal derivatives, paper and aeronautics.

The focus of the Education and Community Wellbeing theme is raising the level of educational attainment in Gippsland by addressing barriers and pursuing opportunities for increased participation. This includes the further development of education and training facilities.

The Natural Environment Stewardship theme supports the protection of Gippsland's natural environment and the sustainable development of both the built and natural environment. The best practice management of waste, including exploring potential economic development projects that utilise waste are also included within this theme.

The Connectivity theme focuses on improvements to rail and port facilities that lead to greater access to vocational opportunities and improve access to key markets for Gippsland's exports. This theme also supports improvements to regional road and highways and access to high speed broadband.

The four themes of the Gippsland Regional Plan are consistent with the objectives of the Council Plan i.e Job Creation and Economic Sustainability, Appropriate, Affordable and Sustainable Facilities, Services and Recreation, Efficient, Effective and Accountable Governance, Advocacy for and Consultation with our Community and Planning for the Future.

The development and implementation of the Gippsland Regional Plan brings together all of the key stakeholders in the region and provides a framework from which priority projects and initiatives that will drive improved regional capability and identified, agreed and advocated for.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk has been considered as part of this report and it is considered to be consistent with the Risk Management framework.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with the adoption of the Gippsland Regional Plan. Council may be asked to contribute to projects and/or advocacy campaigns from time to time, but these will be considered on a project-by-project basis.

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)****INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CONSULTATION**

The GRP was developed in partnership by the Gippsland Local Government Network, Committee for Gippsland, Regional Development Australia and the Regional Managers' Forum.

Consultation included stakeholders workshops, discussions with individual and stakeholder groups and presentations to each of the Gippsland Local Government Network Councils.

OPTIONS

Council has the following options:

1. Endorse the draft GRP.
2. Not endorse the draft GRP.
3. Seek further information and/or amendments to the draft GRP.

CONCLUSION

The development and implementation of the GRP brings together all of the key stakeholders in the region and provides a framework from which priority projects and initiatives that will improve regional capability can be identified, agreed and advocated for.

The GRP is consistent with Latrobe 2021 and the Council Plan, and recognises the importance of balancing economic development with the sustainable use of Gippsland's resources.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Gippsland Regional Plan 2010

Attachments

1. Draft Gippsland Regional Plan 2015

14.4

Gippsland Regional Plan

- 1 Draft Gippsland Regional Plan 2015 171**

Gippsland Regional Plan

September 2015

DRAFT X

Gippsland Regional Plan

Purpose of the Gippsland Regional Plan

The Gippsland Regional Plan (GRP) is a long-term strategic plan for improving economic, social and environmental outcomes for the Gippsland region and its community. It is a long-term strategic plan that aims to respond to the most significant challenges and opportunities that the Gippsland region is expected to face over the next ten to twenty years.

The development and implementation of the GRP brings together all levels of Government and business, as well as a wide range of agencies and community organisations.

The GRP provides a framework from which priority projects and initiatives that will drive improved regional capability are identified, agreed, and advocated for.

Strategic Partnership

The Gippsland Regional Plan is a partnership initiative between the following parties: -

- **Gippsland Local Government Network (GLGN)**
The Gippsland Local Government Network is an alliance of the six Gippsland Councils being Bass Coast Shire Council, Baw Baw Shire Council, East Gippsland Shire Council, South Gippsland Shire Council and Wellington Shire Council, and Latrobe City Council.
- **RDA Gippsland (RDAG)**
RDA Gippsland, a Commonwealth government appointed body, has a role in strengthening the region and ensuring its long-term sustainability. In relation to regional planning, RDA Gippsland is expected to provide advice to state and federal government, identify any gaps in the regional plan, and assist in the coordination and implementation of the regional plan and other regional development activities.
- **Committee for Gippsland (C4G)**
The Committee for Gippsland is a self-funded organisation that provides peak body representation of business, industry, and community organisations across the Gippsland region. Member organisations include small to medium businesses, large companies, community organisations and education providers in the Gippsland region.
- **Regional Management Forum (RMF)**
The Regional Management Forum comprises of representatives of the various state government authorities that operate throughout Gippsland. This includes Regional Development Victoria, emergency services authorities, Environmental Protection Authority, VicRoads, Department of Justice, Department of Health. The State government authorities contribute to the leadership and strategic planning within the Gippsland region for the benefit of the community through communication, both formal and informal, relationship development, information sharing, networking and assisting with cutting through red tape.
- **Gippsland Regional Plan Leadership Group (GRP Leadership Group)**
The Gippsland Regional Plan Leadership Group consists of members of GLGN, C4G, RDAG and the RMF. The key task of this group is to undertake all the necessary actions in the oversight and operation of the Gippsland Regional Plan and its advocacy framework.
- **Strategy Groups**
The development, and implementation, of the GRP is also supported by GRP Strategy Groups. The Strategy Groups reflect the key strategic themes of the GRP and provide particular knowledge and insight with respect to strategic issues, policy direction, key programs and projects relevant to the theme. The GRP Strategy Groups also consider potential regional projects and provide advice to the GRP Leadership Group with respect to potential priority regional projects.

The GRP Strategy Groups have an identified chair/lead agency and project partners. Membership of strategy groups is at an appropriate senior level within participating organisations. The expectation is that the people represented on each group will have strong organisational knowledge and the authority to make decisions on behalf of their respective organisations.

Gippsland Regional Plan

Executive Summary

The GRP articulates a strategic vision for Gippsland with a narrative that describes the desired future key outcomes for the region. The achievement of the vision and the desired future key outcomes is supported by four key Strategic Themes that are based upon an analysis of the regions economic, social and environmental characteristics, trends, opportunities and challenges - the Strategic Themes are: -

- 1) Economic Prosperity
- 2) Education and Community Wellbeing
- 3) Natural Environment Stewardship
- 4) Connectivity

Each Strategic Theme includes **Objectives** that identify desired outcomes relevant to the theme. **Strategic Priorities** then identify the areas of activity needed to achieve those Objectives. This framework of Objectives and Strategic Priorities provides a platform from which relevant projects and initiatives can be identified, agreed, prioritised and implemented. Each Strategic Theme also has high-level Key Indicators that will be used to: -

- Provide an indicative baseline of current regional performance with respect to the Strategic Theme; and
- Evaluate the impact of projects and initiatives on the region's capability

The **Economic Prosperity** Strategic Theme recognises the importance of Gippsland's natural resources and builds upon these to increase employment and exports through: -

- Identifying and prioritising the key regional level infrastructure that will be required to support economic development, job creation and growth over the next twenty years. This includes understanding the impacts of forecast population, demographic and economic change;
- Improving the effectiveness and efficiency of existing key economic assets including the Macalister Irrigation District (MID);
- Increasing the quantity of food production and value adding in the region and the value of its food related exports;
- Supporting the development of Gippsland's brown coal resources through the development new technologies that secure a future for the resource beyond power generation and the development of government policy that provides a clear signal to potential investors;
- Increasing the level of visitation and number of visitor overnight stays, from both domestic and international visitors, through development of new experiences that leverage the region's key assets, improving existing experiences and investment in related infrastructure;
- Improving processes to facilitate investment attraction, promote the region's competitive strengths and capabilities and increase the export readiness of industries and businesses;
- Developing the capability of the region's workforce to support growth opportunities in the regional economy and improving the vocational opportunities for a wider range of people;
- Fostering greater levels of innovation through improved partnerships between education, research and industry;
- Gaining policy support for Gippsland's key manufacturing sectors including coal derivatives, paper, and the aeronautical sectors

The **Education and Community Wellbeing** Strategic Theme recognises the crucial relationship between educational attainment, prosperity and wellbeing. The theme has a focus on raising the level of educational attainment by identifying and addressing barriers, and pursuing opportunities, for increased tertiary education participation. This includes the development and/or redevelopment of education and training facilities.

The pursuit of improved community wellbeing also recognises the importance of: -

- Seeking support to develop business cases for the expansion and/or redevelopment of a range of the region's hospital facilities including the Latrobe Regional Hospital and the West Gippsland Hospital;
- Undertaking joint health workforce planning, including in the realm of shared and coordinated specialist medical workforce between hospitals in the regions

Gippsland Regional Plan

- Building on current work underway, led by health services in partnership with Department of Health and Human Services and the new Gippsland Primary Health Network, to ensure integrated service delivery across the region, agreeing on respective health service capabilities and enhancing client pathways and outcomes;
- Building on existing population health planning in the region with a view to having one integrated health and well being plan per local government area, with all local stakeholders contributing to its achievement;
- Supporting relevant outcomes from the Royal Commission into Domestic Violence;
- Supporting improved access to a range of opportunities for indigenous people in the region;
- Seeking to improve the capacity and functionality of key arts facilities and improving access to arts programs and experiences for a wider population

The **Natural Environmental Stewardship** Strategic Theme supports: -

- Protecting Gippsland's unique natural environments;
- Sustainable development of the Gippsland's natural and built environments;
- Sustainable use of Gippsland's natural resources; and
- Sustainable and best practice management of Gippsland's waste.

These outcomes are to be pursued through: -

- Researching the implications of the forecast growth and change in the population and employment of Gippsland in the next 20 years with respect to the level of demand for a range of housing products and designs, social service impacts, commercial centre implications, employment demands and transport needs;
- Fostering a shared understanding across agencies, councils and community groups and support implementation of Regional Catchment Management Strategies in order to develop shared policy settings and resource land management approaches for the region's most significant biodiversity assets and natural risks, including high priority waterway and biodiversity programs;
- Attracting increased investment in Gippsland's public parks, such as Wilsons Promontory, in order to support an increase in the community's use of these assets, and their appreciation of the related ecological values. The increased usage will support improved community well-being (both physical and mental) and increased volunteer involvement in land management;
- Undertaking a collaborative approach between local government and government agencies to prepare climate change mitigation and adaption plans;
- Continue the collaborative management of the Gippsland Lakes environment through support of the Gippsland Lakes Coordinating Committee processes involving implementation of key priorities in the East and West Gippsland Waterway Strategies and the Gippsland Lakes RAMSAR Site Management Plan;
- Identifying new opportunities to consider possible regional or statewide waste and resource recovery or bioenergy facilities and explore economic development opportunities arising from the development of new technology at existing waste and resource recovery operations.

The **Connectivity** Strategic Theme focuses on improving people's access to vocational opportunities and services and the efficiency of access to key markets for Gippsland's goods and exports. This will be achieved through working with the State Government to find solutions to the congestion issues on both road and rail through south east Melbourne to improve access to ports and markets and passenger connectivity to Melbourne, and back to the region – these solutions will include improving the: -

- Capacity of the region's rail connectivity to Melbourne
- Access to ports – this may include the further development of the Port of Hastings as Victoria's second major port should it be determined through independent studies that such development will not have a negative impact on the coastal environment of Bass Coast, and in particular, Phillip Island

The Connectivity theme will also seeks to improve regional transport infrastructure including the capacity, functionality, and safety of the Princes Highway and regional highways.

Finally, the Connectivity theme seeks to improve the availability of High Speed Broadband growing the level of engagement of regional businesses and service providers with the digital economy.

Gippsland Regional Plan

Contents

Section	Page
A Vision for Gippsland	7
Gippsland 2025 – A Narrative	7
1. An Overview of the Gippsland Region	9
1.1. Gippsland's Location and Size	9
1.2. Key Towns	9
1.3. Population and Projected Population Growth	9
1.4. Population in Small Towns	10
1.5. Changing Population Age Profiles	10
1.6. Income levels	11
1.7. Strategic Assets	11
2. Strategic Theme - ECONOMIC PROSPERITY	13
2.1. Key Objectives	13
2.2. Overview of the Regional Economy	13
2.3. Characteristics and Trends in the Regional Economy	13
2.3.1. Regional Employment	13
2.3.2. Exports and Expenditure on Local Goods and Services	14
2.4. Key Economic Sectors	14
2.4.1. Food Production and Processing	14
2.4.2. Energy	15
2.4.2.1. Brown Coal	15
2.4.2.2. Gas	15
2.4.2.3. Large Scale Renewable Energy	15
2.4.3. Manufacturing	17
2.4.4. Health	17
2.4.5. The Visitor Economy	17
2.4.6. Defence	18
2.5. Building Improved Economic Capability in the Region	18
2.5.1. Innovation	18
2.5.2. Low Carbon Transition	18
2.5.3. The Regional Workforce and Workforce Planning	18
2.5.4. Employment for People with a Disability	19
2.5.5. Investment Attraction	19
2.5.6. Alignment with State Government's Priority Economic Sectors	19
2.6. Strategic Priorities	19
2.7. Key Indicators	20
3. Strategic Theme - EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING	21
3.1. Objectives	21
3.2. Educational Attainment in Gippsland	21
3.3. Education and Training Facilities	21
3.4. Regional Health Outcomes	22
3.4.1. Healthy Communities	22
3.5. Health Facilities and Services	22
3.5.1. Hospitals	22
3.5.2. Health Services	23
3.5.3. Mental Health Services	23
3.5.4. Positive Ageing	23
3.6. Community Safety and Crime Prevention	24
3.6.1. Crime Prevention	24
3.6.2. Emergency Management	24
3.7. Arts	25
3.8. Aboriginal Communities	25
3.9. Cultural Diversity	25
3.10. Strategic Priorities	26
3.11. Key Indicators	26

Gippsland Regional Plan

Section	Page
4. Strategic Theme - NATURAL ENVIRONMENT STEWARDSHIP	27
4.1. Objectives	27
4.2. Overview	27
4.2.1. Gippsland Regional Growth Plan	27
4.2.2. Gippsland Environment Agencies	27
4.3. Natural Resources	28
4.3.1. Forest, Parks and Reserves	28
4.3.2. Coastal Assets	28
4.3.3. Gippsland Lakes	28
4.3.4. Water	28
4.4. Earth Resources	30
4.4.1. Brown Coal	30
4.4.2. Oil and Gas	30
4.4.3. Sand, Stone and Mineral Extraction	31
4.4.4. Agricultural Land	31
4.4.5. Timber Production	31
4.4.6. Air Quality	31
4.5. Risks and Natural Hazards	31
4.5.1. Flood	31
4.5.2. Bushfire	31
4.5.3. Climate Change, Mitigation and Adaptation	31
4.6. Waste and Resource Recovery	32
4.7. Strategic Priorities	32
4.8. Key Indicators	33
5. Strategic Theme – CONNECTIVITY	34
5.1. Objectives	34
5.2. Introduction	34
5.3. Key Transport Infrastructure	34
5.4. Freight and Logistics	34
5.5. Public Transport	36
5.6. High-Speed Broadband	36
5.7. Strategic Priorities	37
5.8. Key Indicators	38
6. Implementation of the Gippsland Regional Plan	39
Maps	
Gippsland's relative location	9
Gippsland's strategic assets	12
Future Directions of the Gippsland regional economy	15
Future directions for Gippsland's environment and heritage	29
Gippsland's key transport infrastructure	35

Gippsland Regional Plan

A Vision for Gippsland

Gippsland- Australia's smart region with world-class environments, maximising opportunities for investment and employment.

Gippsland in 2025 – A Narrative

The Gippsland region enjoys a strong and collegiate leadership culture that understands regional needs and is committed to achieving agreed regional priorities. This leadership has fostered valuable partnerships across government, community, and industry, which are central to Gippsland's reputation for compelling advocacy, investment attraction and the successful implementation of projects that have had a significant impact on improving regional capability.

The region has experienced significant population growth, which has attracted both demand and investment in services. This population growth has led to even greater population diversity and Gippsland has strengthened its reputation as a welcoming region that highly values tolerance and inclusiveness.

Gippsland is also recognised as a region that has successfully diversified and strengthened its economy through its focus on food production, innovation in clean energy, health services, education and the visitor economy. Despite this transformation, the region recognizes and respects the long-term sustainability of its world-class natural environments and resources.

Gippsland is also proud of the achievements made by its indigenous community, who have embraced the opportunities presented by a greater level of economic diversity, and have grown the levels of participation and leadership.

Gippsland has an international reputation as a producer and processor of high quality food products and has significantly expanded its food production to meet the growing demands of domestic and export markets. The direction provided through the Gippsland Food Plan has underpinned significant industry expansion and greater levels of value adding, in a range of agribusiness areas including production and processing in dairy, meat and horticulture, and other key food processing. Timber production, including plantation forests, has continued to be an important industry particularly for the region's paper manufacturing sector.

The region's health sector remains a major employer through its response to significant growth in the region's population, which has also resulted in a number of the region's hospitals undergoing expansion and development. Community wellbeing has also benefited from a growth in health services, including mental health and an integrated approach to health promotion.

Gippsland's extensive energy sector continues to generate significant economic benefits. The region has adopted a long-term strategic approach to its unique and vast brown coal resource. The leveraging of significant support from the State and Commonwealth Governments facilitated the interest and attention of major investors in low emission and renewable energy technology, as well as the production of coal derivatives. The investors have developed major processing facilities and significant and emerging export markets. The subsequent industry development has generated jobs in a range of highly skilled and value adding areas including construction, technology development and process operations.

Gippsland's manufacturing sector continues to diversify. Along with the development of coal derivative processing, there has been significant growth in downstream food processing and continued investment in paper manufacturing. The aviation manufacturing sector is acknowledged internationally, generating significant exports and employing a highly skilled and expanded workforce. This industry provides effective support to the aviation needs of the refurbished East Sale RAAF Base and the operation of the Defence Force Pilot Training School that has been established in the region.

The visitor economy continues to grow and plays a key role in the regional economy. Increased public and private investment in the sustainable development of tourism assets and their iconic locations, including the Gippsland Lakes, Phillip Island, Mt Baw Baw and Wilsons Promontory National Park has created quality visitor experiences.

High-speed broadband and improved connectivity remain a key regional focus. Many local organisations and firms have leveraged opportunities in the digital economy to establish new business models and markets, grow the professional services sector, foster opportunities for teleworking to grow employment and improve the access to services, particularly for those living in the region's many smaller communities. The use of high speed broadband to foster networking, collaboration and the sharing of information of knowledge and information has become a hallmark of the region's economic success.

Gippsland Regional Plan

Significant population and economic growth has also seen a boom in commercial, industrial and residential construction activity. The region's major population centres have experienced a significant expansion in retail business and commercial activity. The presence of more service providers and facilities has in turn led to improved public transport connections.

The strong growth in regional exports has been enabled by the enhancement of routes to market with new port developments; the effective establishment and operation of the Gippsland Logistics Precinct and major government investment in road and rail infrastructure both in the region and in its corridor to market in greater Melbourne. These improvements have also supported greater connectivity for the regional community.

The continued economic success of Gippsland is underpinned by excellent post secondary educational facilities. Federation University is highly regarded for its close relationship with, and leadership role in, the Gippsland community, and for having worked in close collaboration with other post secondary institutions and industry. This collaboration services the ever expanding and changing skills needs of our diverse workforce and has achieved a significant increase in the number of the regions' young people who have completed post-secondary qualifications. The Gippsland Workforce Development Plan has provided a very effective basis for assessing long-term skills requirements.

Each Local Government Area has implemented key elements of the Regional Growth Plan that balances the need for sustained economic growth with the needs of the environment against the pressures of an expanding and more diverse housing market. This land use planning has also mitigated risks associated with bushfire and flooding and supported high levels of community safety.

DRAFT

Gippsland Regional Plan

1. An Overview of the Gippsland Region

1.1. Gippsland's Location and Size

The Gippsland region is located in the very southeastern corner of the Australian mainland and covers a major part of eastern Victoria with an area of some 41,600 square kilometers. The region is comprised of six Local Government Areas (LGAs) being Latrobe City, Bass Coast Shire, Baw Baw Shire, East Gippsland Shire, South Gippsland Shire and the Wellington Shire.

The region extends from its western end, which adjoins the metropolitan Melbourne's southeastern boundary, to Cape Howe the most easterly point of Victoria. In the north, the region borders New South Wales and much of the region's northern boundary is defined by Victoria's high country – which incorporates Victoria's snow-fields. The region's southern boundary is defined by 700 kilometers of the Victorian coastline. The region contains the largest area of public land in Victoria.

Map of Gippsland Relative Location – to be supplied

1.2. Key Towns

Gippsland's settlement patterns are well established with the Latrobe Valley corridor forming the major economic and population centre of the region. Latrobe City, as Gippsland's regional city, consisting of Moe, Morwell, Traralgon and Churchill, is seen as a collective urban system or networked city.

The regional centres of Bairnsdale, Sale, and Warragul/Drouin are located along the Princes Highway. The regional centres of Leongatha and Wonthaggi, and the townships of Korumburra and Inverloch lie along the Bass and South Gippsland highways. Cowes (Phillip Island), Lakes Entrance, Orbost, Maffra and San Remo are also significant settlement locations.

1.3. Population and Projected Population Growth

The projected changes in the Gippsland region's population over the 20-year period 2011 to 2031 are tabled below.

LGAs	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031	Change in LGA population 2011 to 2031	% increase in LGA population 2011 to 2031	% of Regional Population Growth
Baw Baw Shire	43,387	48,378	55,660	63,128	71,245	27,858	64%	38%
Bass Coast Shire	30,232	33,581	37,898	42,638	46,872	16,640	55%	23%
East Gippsland Shire	42,830	44,611	47,016	49,613	52,242	9,412	22%	13%
LaTrobe City	73,788	73,903	76,319	79,162	82,455	8,667	12%	12%
Wellington Shire	42,064	42,467	44,057	45,849	47,632	5,568	13%	8%
South Gippsland Shire	27,515	28,112	29,677	31,265	32,764	5,249	19%	7%
GIPPSLAND	259,952	271,182	290,751	311,774	333,327	73,375	28%	100%

Source – Victoria in the Future 2015 - DELWP

Gippsland Regional Plan

The projected increase in the regional population – i.e. more than 73,000 people — represents adding a population almost equivalent to that of Latrobe City to the region. This has significant implications for the demand for services, the capacity of infrastructure and for the regional economy as a whole.

Population growth will not occur evenly across the region with the Baw Baw and Bass Coast Shires projected to experience the largest increases in population. This is due to their relative proximity to Melbourne, including the Cardinia Employment Corridor with new residents settling within commuting distance to metropolitan workplaces. This has significant implications for the region’s connectivity to Melbourne.

1.4. Population in Small Towns

Around 40% of the region’s population lives in towns and settlements of less than 1,000 people. These towns are dispersed throughout the region including in the high plains, historic gold mining areas and in agricultural areas giving the region a strong series of towns with local amenity, community character and tourist destinations. The dispersal of these small towns also presents a range of challenges with respect to the delivery of, and/or access to services including health, education and telecommunications.

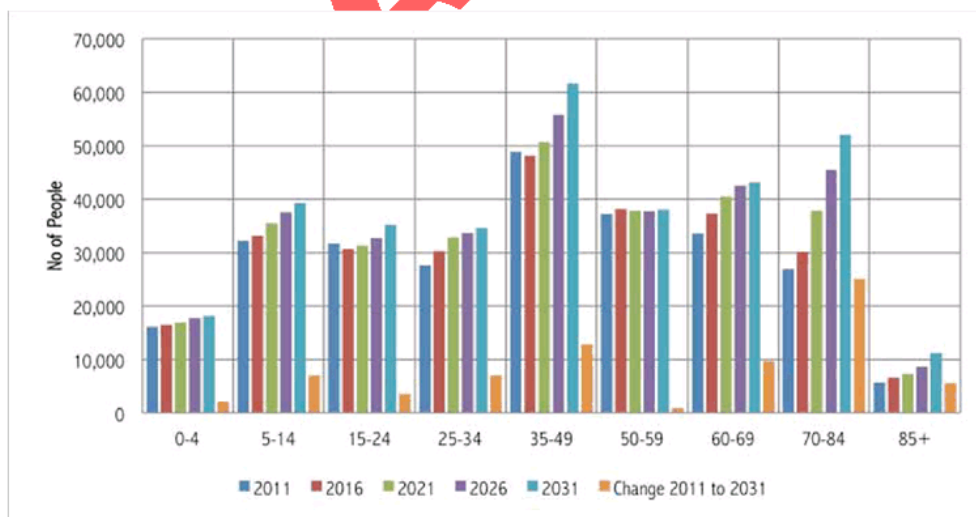
1.5. Changing Population Age Profiles

As the regional population increases there will notable changes in the age profiles: -

- 70 to 84 age group will increase by more than 25,000 people – this has implications for improving the region’s age friendliness and the access to services relevant to the needs of older people;
- 35 to 49 age group will increase by more than 12,000 people – this has implications for goods and services relevant to the needs of household formation;
- 25 to 34 age group will increase by almost 7,000 people – this has implications for access to entry-level housing;
- 15 to 24 age group will increase by more than 3,600 – this has implications for access to tertiary education and vocational training;
- 10 to 14 age groups will increase by almost 7,000 people – this has implications for access to schools and the need for educators.

Overall growth in population also has implications for increase access to health and social services as well as leisure and cultural services.

Projected Changes in Gippsland Regional Population by Age Groups



Source – Victoria in the Future 2015 - DELWP

Gippsland Regional Plan

1.6. Income levels

The levels of median weekly personal, family and household incomes in the Gippsland region are below that of median weekly incomes levels for Victoria and Australia

	East Gippsland	Bass Coast	Wellington	South Gippsland	Latrobe	Baw Baw	Victoria	Australia
Personal*	\$436	\$472	\$479	\$481	\$468	\$511	\$561	\$577
Family	\$990	\$1,071	\$1,168	\$1,148	\$1,236	\$1,273	\$1,460	\$1,481
Household	\$798	\$855	\$905	\$920	\$942	\$1,025	\$1,216	\$1,234

*Note - for people aged 15 years and over
Source – ABS 2011 Census

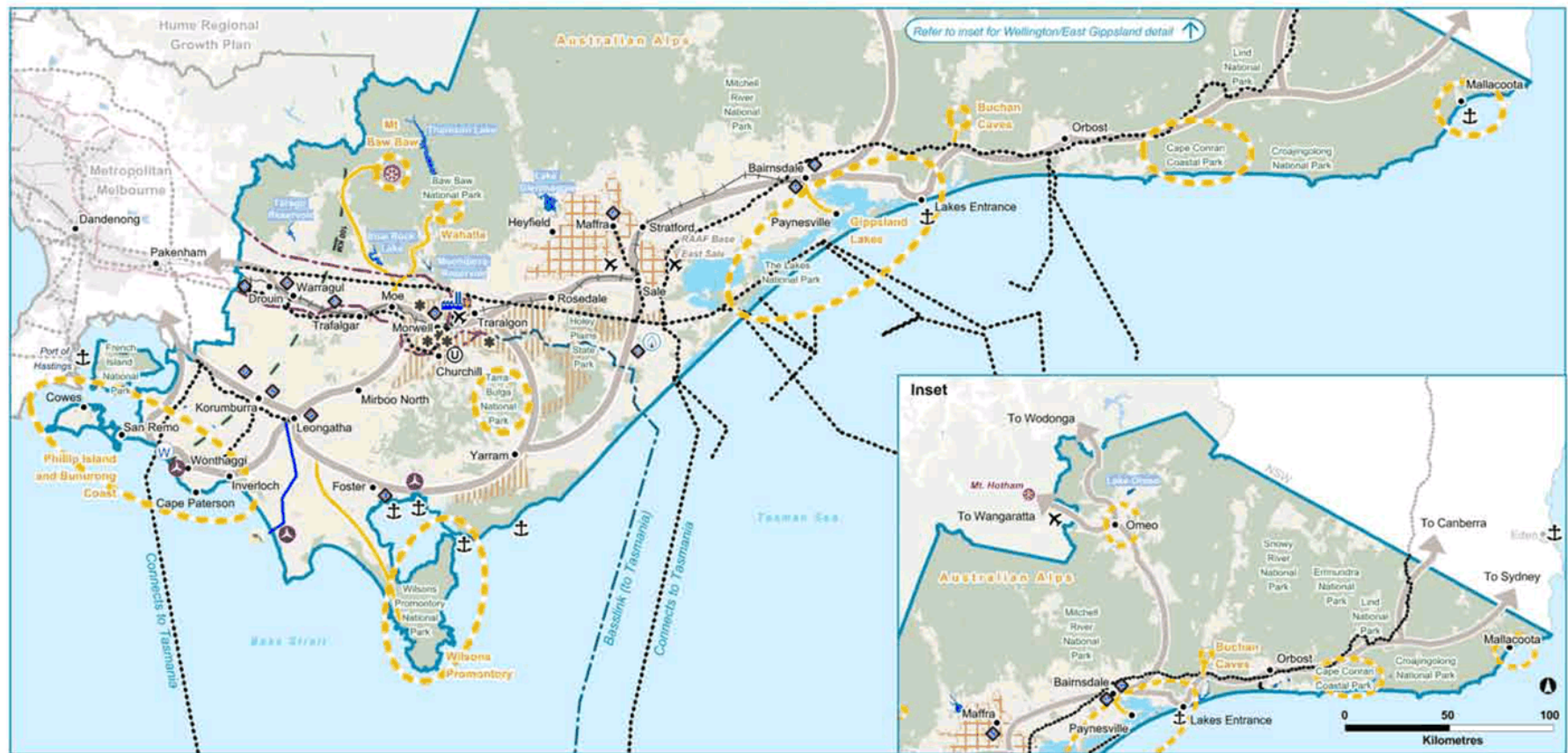
These income levels have implications for the regional community's access to education, health, leisure and cultural services as well as for the demand on social services.

1.7. Strategic Assets

The Gippsland region has a wide range of strategic assets that are importance to both the region and Victoria – these assets include: -

- Water supply – including: -
 - Major water supply dams
 - Wonthaggi desalination plant
 - Macallister Irrigation District
- Energy – including: -
 - Power stations
 - Significant brown coal deposits
 - Major wind farms
 - High voltage transmission lines
 - Offshore oil and gas fields
 - Longford gas plant
 - Oil and gas pipelines
- Agriculture – including significant areas of agricultural land that supports dairy, beef, horticultural and timber production
- Manufacturing – including: -
 - Australia Paper Maryvale
 - Major dairy product manufacturers
 - Major food processors
- Transport – including: -
 - Princes Highway
 - Major regional highways
 - Gippsland rail corridor
 - Latrobe Airport
- Defence facilities – including: -
 - East Sale RAAF Base
 - Australian Defence Force Flying Training School (to be established)
- Tourism – including: -
 - Major National and State Parks - including Wilsons Promontory, Mount Baw Baw and the Alpine, Cape Conran, Morwell, Croajingalong and Tarra Bulga National Parks
 - Gippsland Lakes
 - Phillip Island
 - Alpine resorts

Gippsland - Strategic Assets



- | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| * Power station | Saline waste outfall | Operational wind farm | Ⓢ University | Ⓜ Victorian Desalination Plant | ● Settlement |
| Ⓢ Longford gas plant | ◆ Food manufacturing hub | Ⓢ Alpine resort | ✕ Airport | ● Designated water supply | ● Melbourne's urban area |
| --- Electricity transmission line (500 kV) | Ⓢ Australian Paper Maryvale | Ⓢ Significant tourism asset | Ⓢ Port | ● Lake | Ⓢ Areas within 100 km of central Melbourne |
| --- Basslink (500 kV) | Ⓢ Macalister Irrigation District | --- Linkages to key tourism areas | → Key road corridor | ● Public land | |
| Ⓢ Gas/Oil pipeline | Ⓢ Coal reserve | Ⓢ Australian Paper bioenergy plant | --- Key rail corridor | | |

Gippsland Regional Plan

2. Strategic Theme - ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

2.1. Key Objectives

The key objectives of this strategic theme are to: -

- Grow the number of jobs in the regional economy
- Develop greater economic prosperity and diversity
- Attract greater levels of investment

2.2. Overview of the Regional Economy

Gippsland's economy, and its competitive advantages reflect the region's diverse and world-class natural resources that include: -

- Extensive areas of agricultural land that support dairy, beef, horticultural and timber production;
- Vast reserves of brown coal, and offshore oil and gas fields that are relied upon by Victoria's, and Australia's energy sectors;
- Many iconic locations throughout the region that underpin Gippsland's reputation as a major international and domestic tourism destination.

The region's exports are dominated by energy related resources, including oil and gas production and electricity generation, as well as dairy product manufacturing. Beef, paper products and civil construction are also major exports.

Gippsland's economy is growing - between 2006 and 2011 the total number of jobs in the regional economy grew by more than 3,400.

2.3. Characteristics and Trends in the Regional Economy

The following sections highlight the key characteristics and trends in Gippsland's regional economy with particular respect to employment, exports and expenditure of goods and services from regional suppliers.

2.3.1. Regional Employment

The total employment estimate for Gippsland Region is 89,386 jobs with the largest number of jobs in the sectors noted in the following table

<i>Industry sector</i>		<i>No of Jobs</i>	<i>% of total jobs</i>
Health Care & Social Assistance	More than 7,000 of these jobs are in "health care services"	11,852	13.3%
Retail Trade		9,872	11.00%
Construction	Construction services – i.e. "tradies" account for more than 4,000 of these jobs	8,136	9.1%
Education & Training	<i>Pre-School, Primary, Secondary & Special Education</i> sector contributes more than 6,000 of these jobs	7,821	8.7%
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	The <i>Sheep, Grains, Beef & Dairy Cattle</i> sector contributes more than 6,000 of these jobs	7,777	8.7%
Manufacturing	<i>Dairy Product Manufacturing</i> contributes 1,284 jobs; <i>Bakery Product Manufacturing</i> contributes 934 jobs; <i>Pulp, Paper & Paperboard Manufacturing</i> contributes 850 jobs	7,679	8.6%
Tourism	These jobs are in a range of sectors with more than 3,400 jobs in the <i>Accommodation & Food Services</i> sector	6,104	6.8%

Source - REMPLAN

Over the period 2006 to 2011, the sectors that experienced the largest employment growth were *Health* and *Construction* where the number of jobs grew by more than 1,600 in each sector. Employment grew by more than 800 jobs in the *Accommodation and Food Services* sector and there was also substantial jobs growth in *Professional Services, Public Administration*, and the *Education and Training* sectors.

During this same period, the number of jobs in the agriculture sector contracted by more than 1,100 and almost 800 in the retail sector. The *Electricity* and the *Saw Mill, Wood and Paper Product Manufacturing* sectors also experienced a sizeable contraction in employment.

Gippsland Regional Plan

2.3.2. Exports and Expenditure on Local Goods and Services

Exports and the expenditure on goods and services from regional businesses generate revenue for the region. These revenues are used to pay wages and salaries, and may be invested in increasing the capability and competitiveness of businesses and support employment growth. Growth in the sectors that are major exporters and/or that have the largest major expenditure on local goods and services will have the widest positive impact on the regional economy.

The regional economy generate exports to the value of more than \$9.4 billion - the major exporting sectors are noted in the following table

		Exports	\$B	% of total exports
<i>Industry Sector</i>				
Manufacturing	<i>Dairy Product Manufacturing</i> contributes more than \$694.3 million regional exports; <i>Pulp, Paper & Paperboard Manufacturing</i> contributes more than \$680 million		\$2.77	29.3%
Mining	<i>Oil & Gas Extraction</i> contributes more than \$1,368 million of regional exports		\$1.83	19.3%
Electricity, Gas, Water & Waste Services	<i>Electricity Generation</i> contributes more than \$1,034.8 million of regional exports		\$1.38	14.6%
Construction	<i>Heavy & Civil Engineering Construction</i> contributes more than \$945.5 million of regional exports		\$1.28	13.5%
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	<i>Sheep, Grains, Beef & Dairy Cattle</i> contributes more than \$769.8 million of regional exports		\$1.02	10.7%

Source - REMPLAN

The total local expenditure estimate for Gippsland Region is more than \$7.8 billion - more than 40% of this expenditure is generated by the construction and manufacturing sectors.

Expenditure on Local Goods and Services

		\$B	% of total expenditure
<i>Industry Sector</i>			
Construction	<i>Heavy & Civil Engineering Construction</i> contributes more than \$639.2 million of local expenditure.	\$1.77	22.7%
Manufacturing	<i>Dairy Product Manufacturing</i> contributes more than \$447.9 million of local expenditure; <i>Pulp, Paper & Paperboard Manufacturing</i> contributes more than \$153.4 million	\$1.58	20.2%

Source - REMPLAN

2.4. Key Economic Sectors

The follow sectors represent key opportunities for investment attraction and employment growth based on the combination of their impact on the regional economy, the capability of associated assets and resources and the future demand for related goods and/or services.

2.4.1. Food Production and Processing

Food production and processing is a key strength of the regional economy. The projected substantial increase in the global demand for food represents a considerable opportunity for Gippsland's food products, and in particular, dairy.

Achieving a significant increase in the volume of food production in the region is a key strategic challenge. The *Gippsland Food Plan* aims to expand the food industry's worth and contribution to the regional economy by promoting growth and attracting investment, pursuing the provision of enabling infrastructure and logistics, supporting innovation and change adaptability through effective advocacy and appropriate policy development. This will require collaboration across industry, research and development providers and government. This strategic focus aims to increase the quantity of food production in the region and grow the value of its related export markets.

The expansion of food production will also need to address potential conflict between community attitudes and industry investment in intensive agriculture and ensure that valuable agricultural land remains a key principle in strategic land use plans.

Investment in relevant infrastructure is key to improving the efficiency and competitiveness of regional food production. This includes the modernisation of the Macalister Irrigation District, which already contributes \$500 million per year to the region's economy.

Gippsland Regional Plan

An increase in Gippsland's food production will provide opportunities for increased food related processing, manufacturing, and related value adding. Support for increased food manufacturing will require: -

- Investment attraction with respect to expanding and/or developing processing facilities;
- Extending the capability of local supply chains;
- Furthering the export readiness of industry;
- Improving the connectivity to ports and other key domestic markets

2.4.2. Energy

Energy production is one of Gippsland's major industries with the region producing around 85 per cent of Victoria's electricity, 97 per cent of Victoria's natural gas, and 14 per cent of Australia's oil. Gippsland's vast brown coal resource, along with oil and gas fields in Bass Strait, allied to existing infrastructure, such as the transmission network, expertise and skills in relation to energy production provides an important competitive advantage and economic development opportunity.

In order to protect and further strengthen Gippsland's competitive position as an energy producing region, there is a need to work with industry, and the community, and position Gippsland as a future leader in new, low emissions energy technologies including renewables.

Over the medium to long term Gippsland has an opportunity to diversify its energy generation mix, and capitalise on the existing infrastructure assets. Such opportunities are likely to emerge as ageing fossil fuel generation assets approach their end-of-life, but are dependent on a supportive state and national policy settings, and market demand. An opportunity exists for regional development groups to work collaboratively with industry, researchers and education providers to develop Gippsland's position as a world-class and innovative energy hub.

2.4.2.1. Brown Coal

The region's vast brown coal resource will continue to provide a significant amount of the State's baseload electricity demand for some time to come. Technologies including coal drying, gasification and liquefaction can transform coal into high quality hydrocarbon products such as fuels and fertilisers, creating a future for brown coal beyond power generation. In addition, Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) technology provides an opportunity to significantly reduce the emissions associated with brown coal combustion and utilization.

Future opportunities for brown coal in a carbon-constrained economy will be largely dependent on projects that are technically sound, commercially viable and socially acceptable. The Victorian and Commonwealth Governments have allocated funding to the Advanced Lignite Demonstration Program (ALDP) to facilitate new, large-scale demonstration coal development projects in the Latrobe Valley.

Further to the above there is a need for well-defined government policy regarding the future utilisation of the region's brown coal resources. This policy needs to provide a clear signal for potential investors and enable the confident determination of regional priorities with respect leveraging energy as a driver for future economic growth.

2.4.2.2. Gas

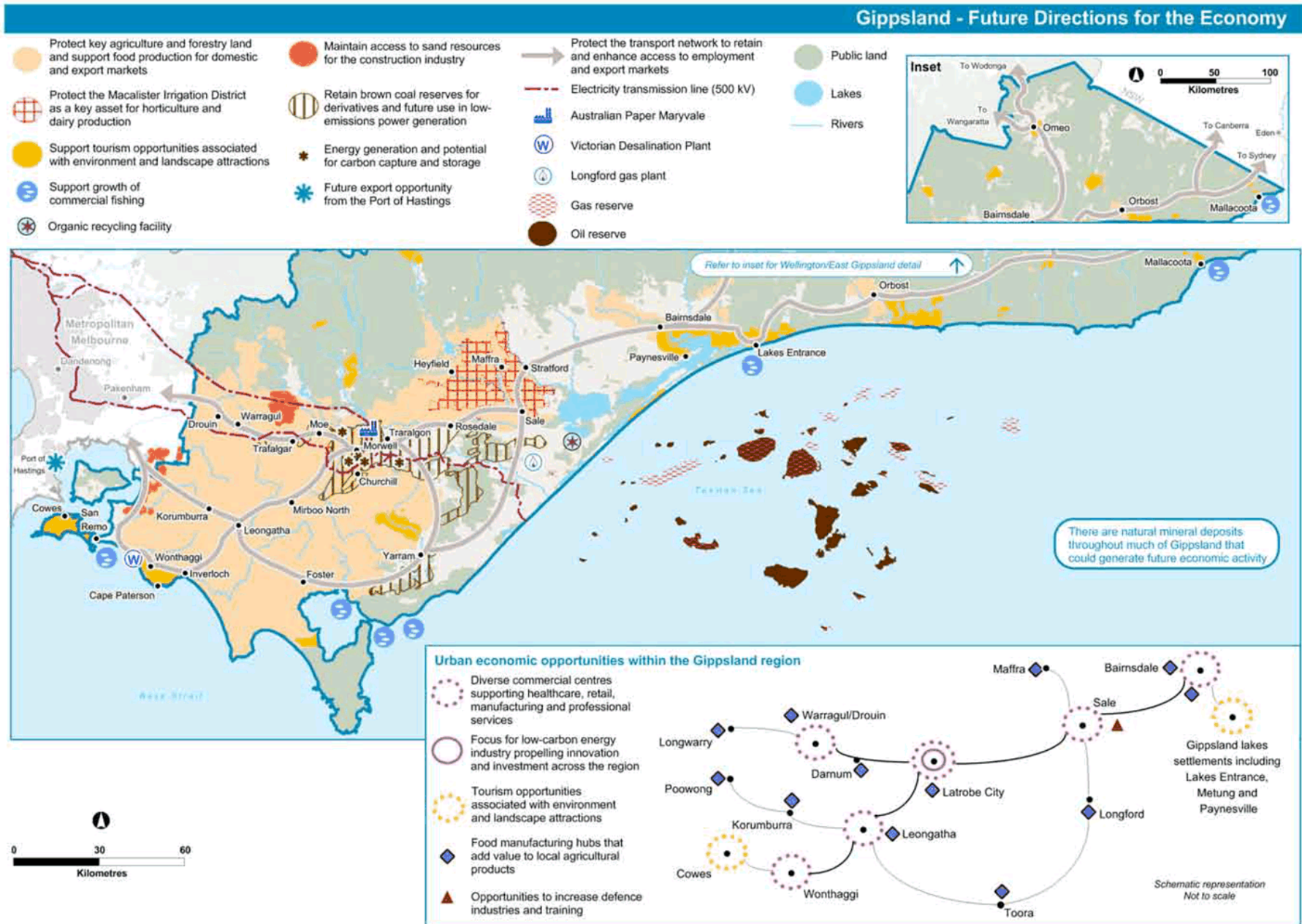
The Australian Energy Market Operator projects that east coast gas demand (including for LNG to export) will almost triple by 2020, from around 700 PJ in 2014 to around 1960 PJ in 2020. The increase in demand will be entirely driven by demand for LNG exports; with domestic gas consumption in eastern Australia expected to fall slowly over this period. Victoria's gas demand is also forecast to fall slowly over this period.

Production of both oil and gas has now peaked and it is estimated that only about 15 per cent of known crude oil reserves and about 40 per cent of known gas reserves still remain for production. The main challenge for the industry is to extend production from existing and new fields and to take into account environmental and social considerations.

2.4.2.3. Large Scale Renewable Energy

Increasing community concern with the issue of climate change, plus the acknowledgement of the need for a transition to a cleaner economy sooner rather than later, will focus the interest of government and industry for investment in this area.

Bioenergy, solar and wind all offer economic, social and environmental opportunities in the region. Large Scale wind projects are suited along the Gippsland Coast, whilst large-scale bioenergy and solar are suited to the Latrobe Valley and Gippsland Plains.



Gippsland Regional Plan

Renewables would include developments such as the Bald Hills Wind Farm in South Gippsland, a 52 wind turbine facility that was commissioned in 2015, was a \$300M investment, creating construction jobs and enough electricity to power 60,000 homes every year. One of the key challenges to growing investment in renewables will be gaining community support for further large-scale developments.

2.4.3. Manufacturing

Outside of food processing, the Gippsland region's other major manufacturing activity is paper manufacturing, which is facing considerable competitive challenges. Allied to this industry is a significant level of plantation forestry in the region and related transport services. The Australian Paper operation has made a \$90M investment in de-inking technology and plant that will remove 80,000 tonnes of wastepaper from Australia's landfill, saving up to 200,000 tonnes of carbon emissions every year - the equivalent to taking more than 70,000 cars off Australia's roads.

Future opportunities for the region also include the development of coal-to-products industries, such as processing brown coal as a potential source of gas, diesel and fertilizer for both domestic and export markets. The Advanced Lignite Demonstration Program involves three companies developing high value energy products from Gippsland's vast coal reserves, including oil, fertiliser and upgraded coal for local and export markets, as well as a number of other very active developments in planning and design are pointing to the future of major process operations in the Latrobe Valley. Should these ventures move to full commercialization there would be a sizeable expansion of the region's manufacturing sector as well as major opportunities for the construction sector associated with the building of the required processing facilities.

Aerospace manufacturing is the next highest manufacturing export after food and paper processing. GippsAero, based in the Latrobe Valley, manufactures the only aircraft of its kind in Australia and is backed by a major international company, Mahindra.

2.4.4. Health

The health sector already generates the largest number of jobs in Gippsland and, as the region's population grows, the demand for health services will increase, as too will health related employment. The "Residential Care & Social Assistance Services" sector - which includes aged care services - contributes more than 4,700 of the health sector jobs and has grown from some 2,600 jobs since 2001 or by 180%.

There is a need to further develop a range of Gippsland's hospitals and major health facilities, including the Latrobe Regional Hospital and the West Gippsland Hospital, to meet an increasing demand which would see further increases in health related employment as well as a number of jobs during construction.

2.4.5. The Visitor Economy

Gippsland's substantial visitor economy has significant opportunities for growth. Destination Gippsland estimates that more than 10.8 million domestic and international and visitors per annum are attracted to the region's significant nature-based experiences including the Gippsland Lakes, Ninety Mile Beach, Wilson's Promontory, Phillip Island Nature Parks and the Mt Baw Baw, Croajingalong, and Tarra Bulga National Parks.

Gippsland's natural tourism product is augmented by food related experiences, which leverage the region's agricultural producers, and are central to a wide range of arts and culture events held across Gippsland all year round. There are opportunities to create indigenous cultural experiences including performance, storytelling, art, guiding and other activities that will grow people's understanding of Aboriginal culture and grow employment and business opportunities for the region's Aboriginal community.

The current level of visitation to the region supports 3,000 businesses and generates more than 15,000 direct and indirect jobs. Destination Gippsland estimates that a 9% increase in the current 5.45 million overnight stays would generate a total of \$2.85 B in economic expenditure and more than 20,000 direct and indirect jobs.

Growing the level of visitation by domestic and international visitors to Gippsland, particularly from growing markets such as China and India, requires: -

- Development of new experiences that leverage Gippsland's unique natural environments and assets and the ongoing improvement of existing experiences;
- Investment in infrastructure that supports improved local amenity, recreational facilities, accommodation, transport services and the upgrade of roads, such as the South Face Road, to provide improved access to the region's high value natural assets and tourism experiences;
- Ongoing development of industry and operators capability including greater engagement with digital platforms that promote Gippsland exceptional offerings

Gippsland Regional Plan

There is also a need to provide tourism operators and investors with an information and regulatory advantage as an incentive for investment and job growth in the nature based tourism sector, benefiting from Gippsland's environmental values.

2.4.6. Defence

The defence sector is prominent in the region through the RAAF Base at East Sale. The establishment of the Defence Force Flying Training School will provide further opportunities for to build on this presence and generate a demand for goods and services beyond than that will be associated with the projected population growth.

2.5. Building Improved Economic Capability in the Region

The following are areas of development required in order for the Gippsland region to best leverage the opportunities inherent in key industry sectors and address key challenges to growing the regional economy

2.5.1. Innovation

There is need for increased innovation in Gippsland's key areas of competitive strengths including, the food manufacturing and energy sectors, to ensure that they continue to drive employment and exports. To this end, the region will work with State Government, Federation University and industry to encourage more investment in research and development and the uptake of new knowledge to firms by supporting regional city innovation clusters that drive innovation, skills and export growth. There is a need to also support businesses to engage researchers to address business problems and challenges.

Key to this will be the establishment of the Gippsland Innovation and Enterprise Centre at Federation University, focusing on industry innovation, research and development, and enterprise stimulation.

2.5.2. Low Carbon Transition

The impacts of climate change, both direct climatic effects and indirect impacts, such as implementation of policy responses necessary to curb greenhouse gas emissions, will present both challenges and opportunities for the Gippsland region.

The projected impact of adapting to this changing physical environment and new policy settings will require Gippsland to rebalance its economy so that it can effectively transition to a future where the region continues to prosper and where resources are used in a sustainable way. Such a transition requires a co-ordinated and focused effort involving all levels of government, private industry, business leaders, unions, non-profit organisations and the community.

Contraction in emissions intensive industries would have widespread negative consequences for the regional economy, employment and communities of Gippsland. However, a low carbon economy will also provide new opportunities to diversify Gippsland's economy through growth in sectors including clean coal technologies, renewable energy, energy efficiency, forestry and agriculture.

There is a need for *Low Carbon Transition Plan* to be developed to guide the transition to a low carbon economy and to optimise the social, economic and environmental outcomes.

2.5.3. The Regional Workforce and Workforce Planning

The number of employed people who reside in the Gippsland Region is estimated to be more than 107,000. More than 22,000 of employed people residing in Gippsland work outside of the region with more than 4,600 of these people working in the construction sector.

The workforce is ageing - more than 47% of the workforce is over 45 years old - in sectors such as Agriculture, Utilities, Health and Education more than 55% of workers aged over 45 years old. As the regional population ages the workforce participation rate is falling. This is a challenge to supporting employment growth in the Gippsland Region

The regional economy is transitioning. Much of the employment growth has been in service sectors including health. This growth, along with the opportunities in energy, coal derivatives, food and the digital economy all have implications for the capabilities of the regional workforce going forward. The *Gippsland Workforce Plan* will identify the future workforce and capabilities required across critical industries within the Gippsland region and position Gippsland for long-term, sustainable future growth.

Gippsland Regional Plan

2.5.4. Employment for People with a Disability

Australia ranks 21st out of 29 OECD countries in employment participation rates for those with a disability. The Gippsland region will seek to improve access to employment and vocational opportunities for people with a disability.

2.5.5. Investment Attraction

A number of economic development related processes, including the Gippsland Food Plan, have identified the need to improve the region's investment attraction capability. Improving Gippsland's connection to its national and global markets by increasing targeted trade and investment attraction will be a key driver of productivity and job creation in the region.

Rapid economic growth in Asia and the signing of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with China, Japan and Korea will create significant opportunities for Gippsland to capitalise on, particularly within Agribusiness - where is a source of competitive advantage for the region.

Invest Gippsland will be a structured approach to investment attraction for Gippsland and, will include: -

- A targeted approach to promoting the region's reputation, competitive advantages and investment opportunities
- Driving more globally competitive behaviour at a business level to increase overall productivity and grow export capability

This will require effective collaboration between State Government, Gippsland's local governments and the region's industries and businesses.

2.5.6. Alignment with State Government's Priority Economic Sectors

The Victorian State Government has identified a number of key areas as priority sectors for economic development these being: -

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| • Food and fibre | • International education |
| • New energy technology | • Professional services |
| • Medical and pharmaceutical technology | • The visitor economy |
| • Transport, defence and construction technology | |

Gippsland has particular strengths in a number of these sectors including food, energy and the visitor economy. There is a need to promote this alignment, including the region's impact on the Victorian economy, in future investment attraction efforts.

2.6. Strategic Priorities

The GRP will identify priority projects and initiatives that address the strategic opportunities and needs associated with improving the region's economic prosperity including: -

- Identifying and prioritising the key regional level infrastructure that will be required to support economic development, job creation and growth over the next twenty years. This includes understanding the impacts of forecast population, demographic and economic change;
- Improving the effectiveness and efficiency of existing key economic assets including the Macalister Irrigation District (MID);
- Increasing the quantity of food production and value adding in the region and the value of its food related exports. This includes the identification of the areas that comprise the region's most versatile and productive agricultural land for food production and working with the community and agricultural sector to identify actions to increase production and profitability in those areas;
- Supporting the development of Gippsland's brown coal resources through the: -
 - Development and facilitation of new coal technologies that secure a future for the resource beyond power generation and are viable in a carbon constrained economy; and the
 - Advocacy for government policy with respect to coal that provides a clear signal to potential investors and the identification of regional priorities

Gippsland Regional Plan

- Increasing the number of domestic and international visitors, and visitor overnight stays through: -
 - Attracting investment in infrastructure that facilitates the improvement of existing high value assets and product development including new experiences in the region's world class wilderness areas;
 - Supporting the Phillip island Strategic Tourism Plan;
 - Providing tourism operators and investors with an information and regulatory advantage as an incentive for investment and job growth in the nature based tourism sector;
- Improving processes to facilitate investment attraction, promote the region's competitive strengths and capabilities and increase the export readiness of industries and businesses
- Developing the capability of the region's workforce to support growth opportunities in the regional economy and improving the vocational opportunities for a wider range of people
- Fostering greater levels of innovation through improved partnerships between education, research and industry
- Gaining policy support for Gippsland's key manufacturing sectors including coal derivatives, paper, and the aeronautical sectors

2.7. Key Indicators

The following indicators will provide insight into the impact of the implementation of the GRP on regional capability with respect to the Economic Prosperity Strategic Theme: -

- Employment – number of jobs and jobs growth;
- Exports – value of exports and export growth;
- Wages and Salaries - value of Wages and Salaries and growth in the value of Wages and Salaries.

DRAFT

Gippsland Regional Plan

3. Strategic Theme - EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

3.1. Objectives

The objectives of the Education and Community Wellbeing Strategic Theme are the: -

- Improved levels of educational attainment against those for the rest of Victoria;
- Improved health outcomes against those for the rest of Victoria;
- Improved access to health services against those for the rest of Victoria;
- Improved levels of community safety against those for the rest of Victoria;
- Improved access for indigenous people to education and employment opportunities.

3.2. Educational Attainment in Gippsland

It is widely accepted that a skilled and educated community increases wellbeing and leads to a more productive economy. Regional Development Victoria report - *Research into Education Aspiration for Regional Victoria* noted that a single additional year of education increases life expectancy by 0.18 years and raises earnings by approximately ten per cent.

The region has some challenges. Long-term data shows that secondary school students in Gippsland are less likely to complete school, to understand the range of post-secondary educational opportunities available to them and to attend tertiary education and are also more likely to "refuse, defer or abandon university places than their metropolitan counterparts." The *On Track Survey* noted that 67% of the 3,560 students who commenced Year 7 in 2008 completed Year 12 in 2013.

The *On Track Survey* – see table below – notes that 38.3% of Gippsland students were opting for higher education compared with 54.3% of students from across Victoria.

Post School destinations of Year 12 or equivalent completers - 2014 *On Track* survey

	Bachelor degree	Certificate IV+	Certificate I-III	All VET Cert-Dip	Apprenticeship	Traineeship	All App/Train	Deferred	Employed full-time	Employed part-time	All Employed	Looking for work	NIJFET	Unknown	Total Survey Respondents
Gippsland	526 38.3%	133 9.7%	58 4.2%	191 13.9%	101 7.4%	61 4.4%	162 11.8%	210 15.3%	64 4.7%	144 10.5%	208 15.2%	64 4.7%	11 0.8%	0	1,372
Victoria	17477 54.3%	4005 12.4%	1161 3.6%	1523 4.7%	732 2.3%	1523 4.7%	732 7.0%	3039 9.4%	850 2.6%	2073 6.4%	1178 9.1%	144 3.7%	1	1	32,183

Source – Gippsland LLEN

The *On Track Survey* also identifies that 11.8% of Gippsland students were opting for apprenticeships and traineeships compared with 7.0% of students from across Victoria.

It is generally recognised that one of the most significant impediments to educational attainment in regional Victoria—including Gippsland—is participation - more specifically, aspiration and access.

The formation of the Federation University campus at Churchill provides a significant opportunity for Gippsland with respect to improving access to tertiary education. The University is reporting a 20% increase in student enrolments from 634 in 2014 to 760 in 2015. The largest percentage – some 21% - of enrolments are in nursing; this augurs well for the projected increase for the demand for health related services and related employment.

The establishment of the *Gippsland Education and Industry Skills Council* will seek to foster improved educational attainment. The Council would focus on the identification of barriers to and opportunities for increased tertiary education participation, attainment and retention, informed by local tertiary education providers, employers, industry and the community.

3.3. Education and Training Facilities

There must also be recognition that learning and education occurs in formal and informal ways and settings; across a spectrum from small local organisations to vocational education and training (VET) providers, to workplaces to a large globally oriented university.

Gippsland Regional Plan

Federation Training is also of significant importance to the region and improving access to vocational related training will be key. The development of the *Port of Sale Education* precinct is critical to sustainable operation of Federation Training. This development will have a significant impact on Federation Training's financial efficiency and its ability to effectively deliver training programs and services.

3.4. Regional Health Outcomes

Life expectancy for males and females in Gippsland is less than the Victorian average with the life expectancy for males being significantly lower than the Victorian average

Life Expectancy Gippsland and Victoria - 2007

		95% CI				
		LE	LL	UL		
Female	Gippsland	84.0	83.3	84.7		0.72%
	Victoria	84.4	84.2	84.6		0.12%
Male	Gippsland	78.1	77.3	78.9	L	-0.51%
	Victoria	80.3	80.1	80.5		0.37%

Notes: Sig indicates a life expectancy at birth significantly higher (H) or lower (L) than the Victorian average. LE is the estimated number of years of expected life. UL/LL is the Upper/Lower 95% confidence interval (CI).

Source – Gippsland Health Online

The rate of disease burden per 1,000 persons can be used to compare the health status of LGAs with the region or Victorian rate. The Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) is a measure of the disease burden in a population combining the loss of years of life due to premature mortality and the loss of healthy years of life due to disease or injury. A high DALY rate indicates poor health status of the population. A low DALY rate reflects better health status. The DALY rates for males, and females, in Gippsland are higher than the DALY rates for all of Victoria. This indicates that Gippsland has a health status below that for all of Victoria.

DALY Rates Gippsland and Victoria

	Males	Females
Gippsland	159.0	140.0
Victoria	143.0	129.1

Source – Gippsland Health Online

3.4.1. Healthy Communities

A number of programs have been developed and delivered in the region during recent years to encourage healthy lifestyles and to improve health literacy. However, increased support and additional funding is needed, particularly for evidence based activities and programs that promote healthier lifestyles where people 'work, live and play', and to address some of the underlying social determinants including social inclusion, self-esteem, connectedness and resilience. This means health services, local government, and a range of other stakeholders are required to support further investment and outcomes in these areas.

3.5. Health Facilities and Services

Improved access to health facilities and services is a key element in achieving greater levels of community wellbeing.

3.5.1. Hospitals

Gippsland is serviced by the Latrobe Regional Hospital (LRH) at Traralgon, the major regional hospital, four sub-regional facilities located in Warragul (West Gippsland), Bairnsdale, Sale/Maffra and Wonthaggi, and local health services located in Leongatha/Korumburra, Foster, Omeo, Yarram and Orbost. With Baw Baw and Bass Coast shires among the fastest growing municipalities in Victoria, existing hospitals including, Warragul, Wonthaggi and Latrobe are under increasing pressure to accommodate rising demand.

There is a need to build capacity in acute hospital services to meet future needs. Some of this capacity can be created by service model changes and process re-design, and some will require new and expanded infrastructure, particularly in areas of high population and demand growth. LRH, as the Regional Referral Hospital, needs to expand its capacity and capability in several areas to reduce the need for Gippsland patients to visit Melbourne hospitals for specialist tertiary services. Stage 2A of a capital expansion is currently being initiated at LRH, with further stages required over time. Likewise, the West Gippsland Hospital services a sub-region experiencing the fastest population growth in Gippsland, and among the fastest in Victoria. A new hospital will be critical to underpinning and accommodating this exciting period of growth.

Gippsland Regional Plan

3.5.2. Health Services

A range of community health services, mental health services, health planning and coordination organisations and networks including Aboriginal health organisations also support the region. The regional health and aged care service system also includes at its core local government, specialist consulting practitioners, private allied health practitioners, private hospitals, aged care services, pharmacists, dentists, ambulance and a range of other health-related services. There is a need to address demand pressures at a number of levels, and to deliver more person centred services to people in the right place and at the right time.

The number of health professionals per 1,000 population in the region is lower than that for Victoria with the exception being nurses/midwives according to the 2012 *Gippsland Regional Health Status Profile* issued by the Department of Health.

	General practitioners	Specialist medical practitioners	Nurses/midwives	Pharmacists	Physiotherapists
per 1,000 population					
Gippsland	1.09	0.23	16.57	0.79	0.58
Victoria	1.33	0.69	15.47	0.86	0.93

Gippsland health services increasingly need to work as a 'health system' to ensure integrated pathways for clients navigating a complex service system. Health services in high growth areas, including West Gippsland Healthcare Group and Bass Coast Regional Health, need to expand and renew infrastructure in line with their respective capabilities, consistent with the capabilities of neighboring health services.

Many of the future strategies will need to build on and expand community and home based services, which have already seen significant growth, particularly in aged care. Major reforms in aged care, disability and mental health services – underpinned by the commencement of the National Disability Insurance Scheme – will support this shift, and be driven by more *client directed care* principles – including more personal control of funding packages for a range of supports. Better integrating care in this environment will be critical – between GPs, health services, aged care providers and many others – Primary Health Networks working closely with state funded services and networks will be critical to this.

Workforce availability, and workforce re-design are going to be critical in supporting expanded bed, community and home based services into the future.

Population health and primary and secondary prevention initiatives will also become increasingly critical to prevent the onset of chronic disease and to intervene and manage chronic illness earlier and more effectively where it is identified. Primary prevention is the domain of traditional health services – but also local government, education, business and a range of leaders who can influence behavior change and help address improvements in the underlying social determinants of health.

3.5.3. Mental Health Services

There are a range of state and Commonwealth funded mental health services in the clinical and non-clinical domains across Gippsland. Many of these services have been expanded or recommissioned in recent years to be more person centred and recovery oriented. There is a need to better integrate and expand these services over time, and to ensure appropriate prevention and early intervention services are in place and built upon – many of which are the domain of the universal health system and not specialist mental health providers. Medicare Local Gippsland's *Priority Health Needs in Gippsland* report, published in June 2014 highlights a deficiency in the availability of mental health support services in Gippsland and there is high demand for primary mental health services and counselling in the region that is not being adequately met.

3.5.4. Positive Ageing

Given the projected significant increase in the size of the region's population of older people there is a need to work to improving the awareness of, and responses to, the needs of an ageing community. This includes integrating the needs of older people into broader community planning and development programs, and recognising the expertise and contribution offered by older people.

Gippsland Regional Plan

The demand for services relevant to the needs of older people is already above that for all of Victoria and the availability of aged care places is below that for all of Victoria as noted in the following table.

	HACC clients aged 70 plus per 1,000 target population	Aged care places (high care) per 1,000 target population	Aged care places (low care) per 1,000 target population
Gippsland	410.9	46.2	34.5
Victoria	339.6	45.8	41.7

Source – Gippsland Health Online

3.6. Community Safety and Crime Prevention

Community safety and crime prevention is a joint responsibility across all levels of government and in the community service sector in Gippsland.

3.6.1. Crime Prevention

Strategic guidance to crime prevention initiatives is provided by Justice Reference Groups in South West Central Gippsland and Gippsland East. A committee has formed in each area, co-chaired by the Department of Justice and Regulation and the Victoria Police that involves support from local government, state government and community service agencies. The groups promote a whole-of-government integrated approach to service delivery that enhances crime prevention and community safety in the region. Both groups work in partnership and collaboration to focus on information sharing, discussion of emerging issues, and sharing best practice.

Family violence is a major concern across the region as are issues relating to the "ice" drug.

The statistics reported by the Victoria Police relating to the number of family incidents where charges have been laid in Gippsland are tabled below. They indicate that there has been a patent increase in these events across all the LGAs in the region, which is indicative of an increased trend in the incidence of domestic violence.

Number of Family Incidents Where Charges Have Been Laid in Gippsland

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	% change from 2009/10 to 2013/14
Bass Coast	242	249	309	431	488	202%
South Gippsland	160	193	246	267	318	199%
Baw Baw	253	316	434	437	552	218%
Latrobe City	1,018	1,239	1,810	1,990	2,044	201%
East Gippsland	387	553	639	835	1,000	258%
Wellington	267	360	544	576	640	240%
Gippsland	2,327	2,910	3,982	4,536	5,042	217%

Source – Victoria Police

The State Government is undertaking a Royal Commission into family violence and the development of a family violence index. The GRP will seek to identify actions that are relevant to outcomes of these activities.

The Gippsland region has also received a large amount of crime prevention funding through a range of grants in the last 3 years - these include: -

- Preventing Violence Against Women and Children – the Gippsland Women's Health Service has received \$600,000 funding for the Gippsland Regional PVAW Strategy and deliver a coordinated partnership approach to Prevention of Violence against Women and Children;
- The Lakes Entrance Aboriginal Health Association has received Koori Community Safety Grant funding of more than \$580,000 to deliver the Strong Men, Strong Communities Project to support Koori men in East Gippsland to rejecting violence and helping to support the development of male community leaders and mentors;
- The East Gippsland Ice Prevention Working Group (Orbost) and AFL Gippsland (based in Morwell) have received grants as part of the Victorian Government's *Ice Action Plan*

3.6.2. Emergency Management

Emergency Management is a joint responsibility managed by multiple response, relief and recovery agencies across Gippsland. The Gippsland region formed a Regional Strategic Fire Management Committee (RSFMPC) in 2008 and brought together regional response and relief & recovery committees to form a Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee (REMP) in 2012.

Gippsland Regional Plan

The REMPC has the responsibility for providing the highest level of strategic direction for and leading the approaches taken to all elements of Emergency Management throughout the region. The following sub-committees report to the REMPC:

- Gippsland Regional Strategic Fire Management Planning Committee (RSFMPC);
- Gippsland Regional Risk Working Group (RRWG);
- Gippsland Region Relief and Recovery Working Group (GRR&RWG)

3.7. Arts

Gippsland is home to several major performing arts centres and galleries, some of which are in need of redevelopment, refurbishment and in some cases replacement. There are significant 'gaps' in the geographic placement of these large facilities. Across the region there are also many community run spaces – galleries, theatres, artist run initiatives (ARIs), and workshop spaces.

Considerable deficiencies exist in terms of the breadth and access Gippsland residents have to arts experiences when compared with other regions across the state. These deficiencies may be geographic, economic, physical or social and can impact significantly on the liveability of the region. It is essential that the broadest aspects of accessibility and cultural diversity are considered when looking at the complete arts environment.

As Gippsland's population grows and diversifies, the level and type of support required for artists, arts organisations and creative communities will increase, as will community accessibility expectations. Work is needed to identify both strategies for supporting and developing Gippsland's creative communities, and to plan for arts programs, initiatives and environments that can cater to community need with a view to enhancing Gippsland's position as a lifestyle destination of choice.

3.8. Aboriginal Communities

Gippsland is home to several significant aboriginal communities. This includes peoples of the Gunaikurnai, Bidawal, Boonwurrung, Woiwurrung, Jaithmathang and Monero/Ngarigo Nations as well as Aboriginal and Torres Strait people from other regions of Australia. This Plan acknowledges and will actively seek to complement the specific statewide and regional strategies and plans already underway or being implemented which are specifically directed at Aboriginal people.

Gippsland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community are subject to a higher level and unacceptable rate of unemployment. Local Governments are encouraged to provide training and employment as a direct employer and also should be encouraging employment within business and industry through procurement practices. The employment aligns to and works collaboratively with both State and Federal Government priorities identified through: -

- Indigenous Advancement Strategy;
- Indigenous Procurement Policy;
- Victorian Aboriginal Economic Strategy;
- Closing the Gap through place based employment in local government;
- Council's Recognition and Commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

3.9. Cultural Diversity

The region has had many people settle from other cultures – historically these arrivals were from the United Kingdom and Europe and, more recently, arrivals have included people from Asia, Africa and South America.

While Gippsland's cultural diversity of the region is much lower than the Victorian average, the region welcomes a range of cultures, identifying ways that inclusiveness can be encouraged and leveraging the benefits of diversity to promote improved community wellbeing.

Gippsland Regional Plan

3.10. Strategic Priorities

The GRP will identify priority projects and initiatives that address the strategic opportunities and needs associated with improving the region's educational attainment and community wellbeing including: -

- Identifying barriers to, and opportunities for, increased tertiary education participation, attainment and retention through a process that is informed by local tertiary education providers, employers, industry and community;
- Supporting Federation University in growing enrolments – particularly by people from the Gippsland community;
- Developing improved vocational training facilities in Sale and other locations in the region;
- Seeking support to develop business cases for the expansion and/or redevelopment of a range of the region's hospital facilities;
- Undertaking joint workforce planning, including in the realm of shared and coordinated specialist medical workforce between hospitals in the regions;
- Building on current work underway, led by health services in partnership with Department of Health and Human Services and the new Gippsland Primary Health Network, to ensure integrated service delivery across the region, agreeing on respective health service capabilities and enhancing client pathways and outcomes;
- Building on existing population health planning in the region with a view to having one integrated health and well being plan per local government area, with all local stakeholders contributing to its achievement;
- Supporting relevant outcomes from the Royal Commission into Domestic Violence;
- Supporting improved access to a range of opportunities for indigenous people in the region;
- Seeking to improve the capacity and functionality of key arts facilities and improving access to arts programs and experiences for a wider population

3.11. Key Indicators

The following indicators will provide insight into the impact of the implementation of the GRP on regional capability with respect to the Education and Community Wellbeing Strategic Theme: -

- Number of Gippsland residents completing Year 12
- Number of Gippsland residents enrolling in tertiary education studies
- Number of Gippsland residents completing tertiary education studies
- Number of hospital beds per Gippsland residents
- Number of health professionals per Gippsland residents

The Gippsland Regional Resilience Monitor will also be used to evaluate the impact of the implementation of the Education and Community Wellbeing Strategic Theme.

Gippsland Regional Plan

4. Strategic Theme - NATURAL ENVIRONMENT STEWARDSHIP

4.1. Objectives

- Protecting Gippsland's unique natural environments
- Sustainable development of the Gippsland's natural and built environments
- Sustainable use of Gippsland's natural resources
- Sustainable management of Gippsland's waste

4.2. Overview

Gippsland has a greater diversity of natural resources than any other region in Victoria. The region has large areas of valuable habitat including alpine areas, rivers and wetlands, large areas of public space – including iconic national and state parks, more than 700 kilometers of coastline, a wide range of agricultural spaces with high levels of annual rainfall, and significant reserves of brown coal, oil and gas.

These natural assets are fundamental to the wellbeing of the region's community, and economy, and are significant assets for Victoria with respect to energy and water supplies as well as recreation and tourism. The effective stewardship of these assets is of critical importance to the future of the Gippsland region.

4.2.1. Gippsland Regional Growth Plan

The *Gippsland Regional Growth Plan* is a key to the effective stewardship of the region's built and natural environments. The Plan provides a strategic framework for future development of the region and has as one of its key principles to "Promote a healthy environment by valuing Gippsland's environmental and heritage assets, and by minimising the region's exposure to natural hazards and risks"; the Plan: -

- Provides a framework for strategic land use and settlement planning that can sustainably accommodate growth
- Identifies important economic, environmental, social and cultural resources to be protected, maintained or developed
- Provides direction for accommodating growth and change including residential, employment, industrial, commercial, agriculture and other rural activities
- Shows which areas of land can accommodate growth and which are to be preserved
- Identifies opportunities for supporting regional level infrastructure, providing an essential contribution to the long-term sustainability of the region

The regional growth plan seeks to accommodate an additional 116,000 persons by 2041 and maximise urban growth in six defined places: with Latrobe City as the regional city and regional centres at Bairnsdale, Leongatha, Sale, Warragul/Drouin and Wonthaggi. This approach will enable urban growth to reduce impacts on areas with high environmental and cultural heritage values and to avoid or better manage natural risks. The plan recognises the need to respond to a population that is significantly more diverse in age, household type and employment needs.

4.2.2. Gippsland Environment Agencies

The Gippsland Environment Agencies (GEA) group is comprised of the region's environmental agency leaders and has been established so as to facilitate members working together on common goals. The group is embarking upon a process to identify regional priority projects.

There are four catchment management authorities that cover the Gippsland region: East Gippsland, West Gippsland, Port Phillip and Western Port, and North East. These authorities have prepared Regional Catchment Strategies to prioritise and guide strategies for achieving improved environmental outcomes in the region. The plans are supported by the: -

- Gippsland Regional Sustainable Water Strategy;
- Work of the Gippsland and Central Coastal Boards to manage strategic coastal and marine issues through the preparation of coastal action plans
- RAMSAR Site Management Plans
- Regional Waterway Strategies; and
- Climate Change Mitigation and Adaption Plans.

Gippsland Regional Plan

4.3. Natural Resources

4.3.1. Forest, Parks and Reserves

The Gippsland region is unique in Victoria with approximately three-quarters of the region being forested public lands and national parks – including Wilsons Promontory, Mount Baw Baw and the Alpine, Cape Conran, Morwell, Croajingalong and Tarra Bulga National Parks - natural watercourses and floodplains. Many of the region's natural attractions - including the Gippsland Lakes - are world-class tourism destinations and have a major impact on Gippsland experiencing more than ten million visitors per annum.

The region's wilderness and public lands have inherent value as places where people can connect to the natural world, appreciate the landscape, and observe and interact with native wildlife. Protection of these places and their environmental and cultural heritage assets acknowledges their value and ensures they remain intact for the flora and fauna they include, and for the benefit of future generations.

Gippsland's timber resource is comprised of native forest and plantation estates, providing building materials, pulp and paper production and employment for local communities. Nearly one-quarter of Victoria's plantation estate is located within Gippsland.

The stewardship of these assets needs to support a range of outcomes including: -

- Improving the quality and extent of remnant vegetation, especially significant areas as identified in regional catchment strategies;
- Economic opportunities for landholders in the region involving the management of ecosystem services and on-farm carbon sequestration
- Any changes in landscape, fire and flood risks that may result from increasing forested vegetation cover, especially where occurring in close proximity to settlements;
- Tourism and recreation attractors for the region that benefit from its environmental values;
- Connectivity between public lands that can provide biodiversity and climate adaptation benefits as well as enabling people to walk and cycle through and between public lands;
- Opportunities for diversification into a broader range of wood products and to more fully utilise timber residues in new processes such as renewable biomass energy

4.3.2. Coastal Assets

Gippsland has 700 kilometers of coastline, which includes Westernport and Phillip Island, the Ninety Mile Beach, and the waterways of the Gippsland Lakes.

The region's coastline includes a range of waterways, coastal, estuary and marine assets that are critical for supporting commercial and recreational fisheries and tourism. Many of these coastal assets are under significant pressure for development given the opportunities they present for the region's economic and population growth. Important built assets, infrastructure and environmental and cultural heritage assets along the region's coast may be at increased risk due to coastal storms, sea level rise, catchment flooding, coastal erosion and inundation as a result of climate change. There are also wide ranges of coastal communities of which many attract significant peak populations during holiday periods.

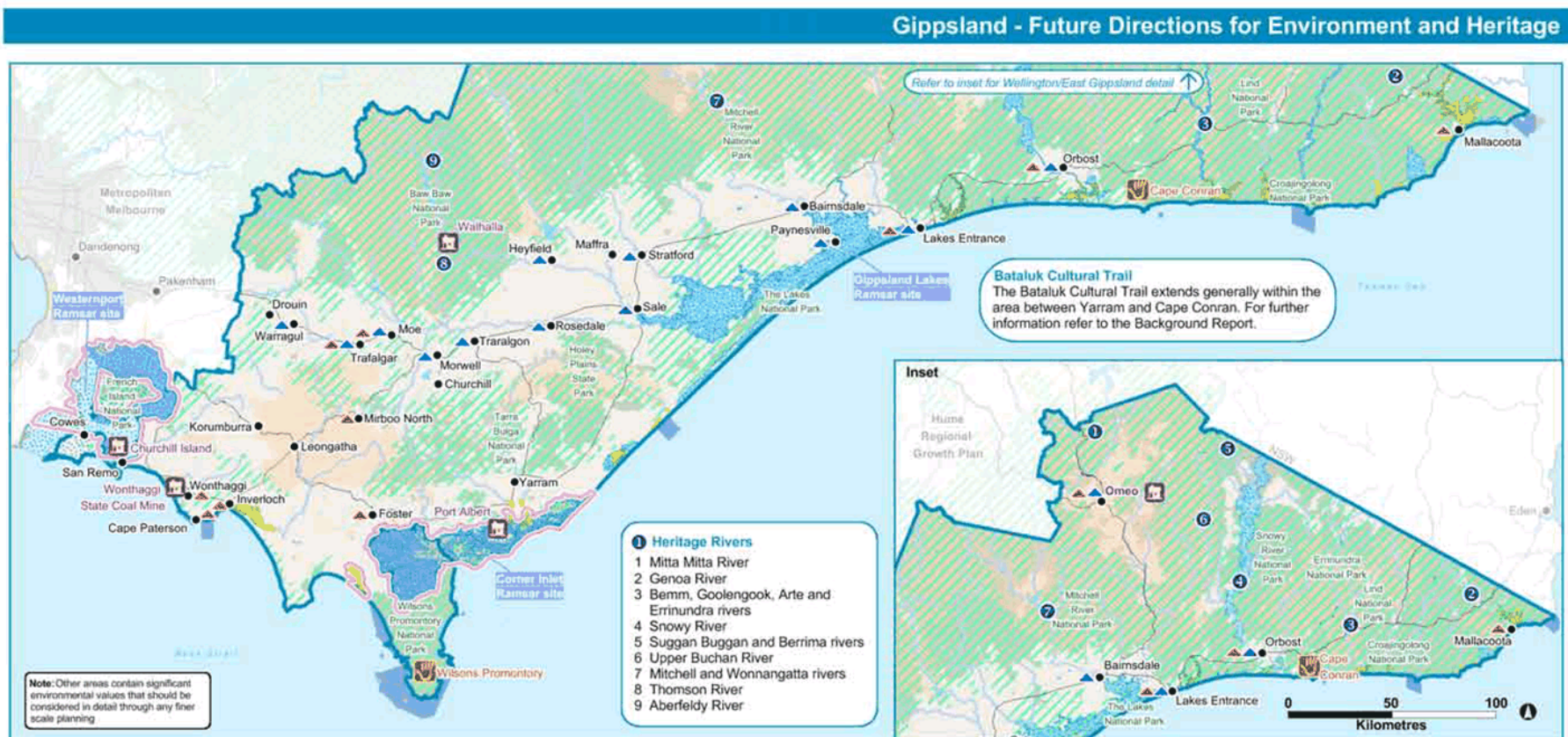
The *Gippsland and Central Region Coastal Action Plans* seek to address these issues and the Local Coastal Hazard Assessments for Western Port and the Gippsland Lakes and 90 Mile Beach will provide additional data to inform planning.

4.3.3. Gippsland Lakes

The Gippsland Lakes has particular importance for its environmental, recreational and economic value. The Gippsland Lakes and adjoining wetlands occupy approximately 600 square kilometres in a catchment that comprises almost 10% of the land area of Victoria. The Gippsland Lakes RAMSAR Site Management Plan and East and West Gippsland Waterway Strategies aim to improve the environmental health of the Gippsland Lakes and protect the value of this important asset. The strategies articulate priorities for additional government funding of \$2.5 million annually for projects that enhance the Lakes environmental, social, cultural and economic values.

4.3.4. Water

The Gippsland region contains all or part of 13 significant river catchments - being the Genoa, Thurra, Cann, Snowy, Tambo, Nicholson, Mitchell, Avon, Thomson, Latrobe, Tarwin, Bass and Bunyip rivers - incorporating nine heritage rivers and numerous nationally and internationally significant wetlands. It also contains Victoria's largest free-flowing river, the Mitchell, with upper reaches of high environmental significance.



Avoid or minimise the impact of development on high value environmental and cultural heritage assets, including significant landscapes.

Support initiatives to enable the establishment, protection and reconnection of ecosystems through large-scale native vegetation corridor projects.

Reduce the impact of development on the quality and security of water resources.

Reduce the impact of development on high value coastal, estuarine and marine assets such as the Gippsland Lakes and Corner Inlet.

Manage risks to settlements by directing development away from areas of unacceptable risk from natural hazards.

- Aboriginal cultural heritage⁽¹⁾
- Marine parks/reserves
- Urban flood considerations⁽⁵⁾
- Historic place⁽²⁾
- Estuaries
- Urban bushfire considerations⁽⁶⁾
- Areas containing high value terrestrial habitat⁽³⁾
- Shorebird sites
- Settlement
- Public land
- Regionally significant wetlands⁽⁴⁾
- Melbourne's urban area
- Declared water supply catchment
- Lakes
- Freeways and highways
- Rivers

(1) Many other Aboriginal heritage sites, places and objects occur across the region

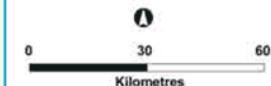
(2) Many other historic places occur across the region

(3) Represents the three highest levels of NaturePrint strategic natural values

(4) Legislatively protected wetlands, significant recreational lakes and water storages. Includes Ramsar sites of international significance

(5) Urban flood considerations are based on existing overlays

(6) Bushfire considerations may be based on one or more of the following: existing overlays, advice from CFA or Regional Bushfire Planning Assessments. Does not include Bushfire Prone Areas.



Gippsland Regional Plan

The region's coastal wetlands and inlets include the Gippsland Lakes, Anderson Inlet and Corner Inlet, which attract tourists to the region. Waterways are also valued for the recreational opportunities they provide, their cultural values and their role in the landscape supporting a range of ecological processes. Environmental water allocations are particularly important for the health of the region's waterways.

Water catchments and storage reservoirs provide supply for Gippsland's urban, rural, recreational and industrial users and make a significant contribution to Melbourne's water supply. Pressure for increased settlement and tourism development exists in some declared water supply catchments and needs to be carefully managed to protect both water quality and water supply.

The *Gippsland Regional Growth Plan* notes, "planning for future urban and economic development should incorporate measures to reduce demand for water where possible, including through water sensitive urban design and opportunities for urban water harvesting" - and that - "new urban areas should include provision of recycled water to reduce demand for potable water."

The *Gippsland Regional Growth Plan* also notes that "reduced rainfall, increased evaporation, reduced snowfall and more severe droughts and altered forest structures may reduce runoff to critical water catchments as a result of climate change. This could affect the health of Gippsland's waterways and the region's ability to supply Melbourne with water, as well as affecting Gippsland's resident and industry users, including electricity generators in the Latrobe Valley. More frequent bushfire and increased temperatures also have implications for water quality and may impact on human health and regional tourism."

The *Gippsland Sustainable Water Strategy* sets out a long-term plan to secure the region's water future. The strategy identifies threats to water availability and identifies policies and actions to help water users, water corporations and catchment management authorities manage and respond to those threats over the next 50 years.

4.4. Earth Resources

Earth resources are a substantial contributor to Gippsland and Victoria's economy and employment. The region's assets are in energy production, potable and irrigation water for agriculture, forestry, and landscape features that support tourism and recreation. Our clean and productive natural environment underpins our agricultural future, and this plan acknowledges our vital custodial role in this regard.

4.4.1. Brown Coal

Gippsland has one of the world's largest deposits of brown coal, estimated at 33 billion tonnes of potential economic resource including 13 billion tonnes that is yet to be allocated. The coal resource is predominantly used for electricity generation at power plants located close to the coal source in the Latrobe Valley.

The State has relied on Gippsland's brown coal resource as a cost-effective means of securing baseload power for many years. However, with electricity demand falling due to rising prices, reduced industrial demand and an increase in the uptake of household solar PV generation, the demand for the region's brown coal for power generation is also expected to fall (particularly as more renewable energy sources come online). Investment in new technologies that utilize the brown coal resource for purposes other than power generation with an appropriate emissions profile in a carbon constrained economy can ensure ongoing use of the resource and subsequent regional economic benefits.

Gippsland's reliance on the economic value of brown coal is likely to be impacted by state, national and/or global initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The region will need to invest in innovation and technology to realise opportunities for alternative use of its brown coal resource based on clean coal technology, carbon capture and storage, and other products derived from brown coal such as liquid fuels, fertilisers and solid fuels. The region will also need to investigate opportunities to develop renewable energy resources in the region including, geothermal, wind, hydro-electric, wave and tidal generation.

4.4.2. Oil and Gas

Gippsland produces 97 per cent of Victoria's natural gas and about 14 per cent of Australia's crude oil via the Gippsland Basin in Bass Strait. Oil and gas are two of the region's most important natural resources and important drivers of economic growth for both Gippsland and Victoria.

The international demand for these resources is growing. The Australian Energy Operator projects that east coast gas demand (including for LNG to export) will almost triple by 2020, from around 700 PJ in 2014 to around 1960 PJ in 2020. The increase in demand will be entirely driven by demand for LNG exports; with domestic gas consumption in eastern Australia expected to fall slowly over this period. Victoria's gas demand is also forecast to fall slowly over this period.

Gippsland Regional Plan

However, production of both oil and gas has now peaked and it is estimated that only about 15 per cent of known crude oil reserves and about 40 per cent of known gas reserves still remain for production. The main challenge for the industry is to extend production from existing and new fields and to take into account environmental and social considerations.

4.4.3. Sand, Stone and Mineral Extraction

Gippsland is a major provider of sand to the construction industry, with important resources in the Grantville-Nyora area and near Trafalgar. Hard rock resources are distributed across the region. There are also other economic opportunities associated with the likes of gold, copper, tin, lead, iron, rutile and zircon.

4.4.4. Agricultural Land

Gippsland has extensive areas of agricultural land that underpin the region's strengths in dairy, beef and horticultural production and exports. The productive land resource and infrastructure such as the Macalister Irrigation District are important assets that position the region to further develop its food production and processing opportunities.

The effective stewardship of the region's significant areas of agricultural land needs to:-

- Resolve competing demand from other land uses and in particular, population growth;
- Manage community concerns and industry interests with respect to intensive agriculture;
- Reduce the extent of soil erosion and salinity;
- Address the impacts of climate change – this will include leverage of the outcomes of the *Agriculture Industry Transformation Project* – which is a partnership between Gippsland's local governments and Melbourne University, with support from RDAG. The project has delivered a powerful evidence based tool which uses data and patterns of weather changes to assist agribusinesses understand the potential impacts of climate change and support farmers in their decision making around innovation and adaptation

4.4.5. Timber Production

Gippsland's timber resource is comprised of native forest and plantation estates. The combined output supports a significant timber and pulp and paper sector that employs around 3,400 people. Future timber industry development needs to consider potential impacts on water supply, natural risk impacts and the impact of climate change.

4.4.6. Air Quality

Air quality is a key factor in sustaining community wellbeing and visitation to the region. The levels of smoke and gases associated with fire events in the Latrobe Valley's brown coal open cut in 2014 highlighted how poor air quality has a negative impact on both local communities and inhibiting the level of visitation to the region. This event highlighted the importance of programs and approaches to minimizing the risk of bushfire in the region.

4.5. Risks and Natural Hazards

4.5.1. Flood

Significant areas of the Gippsland region are subject to flood risks. Land use planning decisions should be based on the best quality information on flood hazard to minimise risk to life, property, community infrastructure and environmental assets.

4.5.2. Bushfire

The Gippsland region has a number of high bushfire hazard areas that intersect with settlements as well as areas experiencing rural residential and tourism expansion. Regional and localised planning considers bushfire risk in detail, with the assistance of planning tools such as the Bushfire Management Overlay, Regional Bushfire Planning Assessments and Bushfire Prone Areas. The regional settlement framework included in the Gippsland Regional Growth Plan has been developed to reduce risk from bushfire.

4.5.3. Climate Change, Mitigation and Adaptation

The Gippsland Regional Plan and Regional Catchment Management Strategies recognise the potential risks to Gippsland's natural environments, settlements and economy from climate change, and the comparative advantages of Gippsland in comparison with other areas in the state along with potential economic diversification opportunities associated with climate change and a low carbon economy.

Gippsland Regional Plan

More information is needed on the likely impacts of climate change on specific industries and landscape types across the region and the opportunities that may arise from these changes such as new industries and diversified use of existing commodities. This information will assist with strategic land use planning, including consideration of any potential increase in exposure to natural hazards.

4.6. Waste and Resource Recovery

The Victorian State-wide Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan indicates that Victoria's waste and resource recovery sector employs about 8,000 people, turns over about \$2 billion and manages over 12.3 tonnes of solid waste per year. The Gippsland Waste and Resource Recovery Group has responsibility for the development of the Regional Waste and Resource Recovery Implementation Plan that will involve: -

- Infrastructure planning,
- Joint procurement facilitation,
- Providing regional knowledge into state-wide market development strategies; and
- Educating business and communities.

Gippsland has seen the closure of over 30 landfills in the past 15 years and the development of a significant network of transfer stations and infrastructure to promote resource recovery. A higher value placed on recovered materials presents an opportunity to consider any new waste facilities in a regional and/or statewide context, and to explore economic development opportunities arising from the development of new technology. Available and appropriately zoned land in close proximity to Melbourne strengthens its ability to explore economic development opportunities arising from the development of new technology at existing waste and resource recovery operations.

4.7. Strategic Priorities

The GRP will identify priority projects and initiatives that address the strategic opportunities and needs associated with improving the stewardship of the region's natural environment including: -

- Researching the implications of the forecast growth and change in the population and employment of Gippsland in the next 20 years with respect to the level of demand for a range of housing products and designs, social service impacts, commercial centre implications, employment demands and transport needs;
- Fostering a shared understanding across agencies, councils and community groups and support implementation of Regional Catchment Management Strategies in order to develop shared policy settings and resource land management approaches for the region's most significant biodiversity assets and natural risks, including high priority waterway and biodiversity programs;
- Attracting increased investment in Gippsland's public parks, such as Wilsons Promontory, in order to support an increase in the community's use of these assets, and their appreciation of the related ecological values. The increased usage will support improved community well-being (both physical and mental) and increased volunteer involvement in land management;
- Undertaking a collaborative approach between local government and government agencies to prepare climate change mitigation and adaption plans;
- Continue the collaborative management of the Gippsland Lakes environment through support of the Gippsland Lakes Coordinating Committee processes involving implementation of key priorities in the East and West Gippsland Waterway Strategies and the Gippsland Lakes RAMSAR Site Management Plan;
- Identifying new opportunities to consider possible regional or statewide waste and resource recovery or bioenergy facilities and explore economic development opportunities arising from the development of new technology at existing waste and resource recovery operations.

Gippsland Regional Plan**4.8. Key Indicators**

The following indicators will provide insight into the impact of the implementation of the GRP on regional capability with respect to the Natural Environment Stewardship Strategic Theme: -

- Increased planning for, and awareness of, the need to provide services and diversity in housing and employment that respond to predicted changes in the demographics of Gippsland's population;
- Improved consistency across planning schemes and regional catchment strategies in respect of natural environment stewardship;
- Coordinated resource land management approaches for the region's most high priority waterway and biodiversity programs;
- Renewable and low carbon energy projects being planned and developed;
- Preparation of climate change mitigation and adaptation plans for Westernport and the Gippsland Lakes;
- Investment in regional waste and recovery facilities and reduced volume of waste to landfill;
- Annual reporting on the stewardship and condition of Gippsland's environment;
- Increased community participation in the management of public land.

DRAFT

Gippsland Regional Plan

5. Strategic Theme - CONNECTIVITY

5.1. Objectives

- Improved access to other domestic, and international markets for Gippsland's producers and exporters
- Improve the community's ability to access services and vocational opportunities
- Improve the community's access to mobile broadband services

5.2. Introduction

The *Gippsland Regional Growth Plan* notes "efficient transport connections are needed to provide access to services and employment across Gippsland as well as inter-regional destinations. As the region's population continues to grow and change, it is important to plan transport infrastructure projects to promote enhanced connectivity, capitalise on economic opportunities and monitor the demand and the viability of providing additional public transport services."

Gippsland's location, size, topography, and settlement patterns pose challenges for businesses attempting to access customers in the region and markets outside of the region and for community members wanting to access services and vocational opportunities.

The access to markets for industry in the Gippsland region is largely dependent on its linkages to Melbourne and transport hubs such as the Port of Melbourne and Melbourne Airport.

Tourism is also highly dependent on having efficient connectivity to Melbourne as well as ready access to a wide range of locations and tourism experiences throughout the region.

Improved access to high speed broadband (HSBB) is central to improving the region's businesses access to markets and customers, and community access to services and information.

5.3. Key Transport Infrastructure

The Princes Highway and the Gippsland rail line serve as the region's key transport corridor to Melbourne and connecting the regional centres of Warragul, Latrobe City, Sale and Bairnsdale.

The Princes Highway provides freeway and/or dual lane access from Melbourne through to Traralgon and single lane on to the NSW border. The highway is being duplicated for some of the distance between Traralgon towards Sale and further funding is required to complete the final 14 kilometres of this task.

Secondary major transport routes are the Bass and South Gippsland highways, which connect Wonthaggi and Leongatha to Melbourne as well as providing important linkages within the region and further east. North-south routes, including the Strzelecki Highway, connect southern Gippsland to the Princes Highway and Latrobe City. The Grand Ridge Road, the Hyland Highway and the Great Alpine Road are important scenic routes for tourists.

The Gippsland rail line has regular Vline passenger services to Traralgon – up to 18 on a weekday - with some of these services going through to Bairnsdale. Key centres that are not along the Gippsland rail line are serviced by Vline bus services.

There are no scheduled aviation passenger services to Gippsland, however the region has a number of airports and aerodromes that are able to receive chartered aviation passenger services. The Latrobe Valley Airport and West Sale Aerodrome can receive multi-engine jet aircraft as can the East Sale RAAF facility.

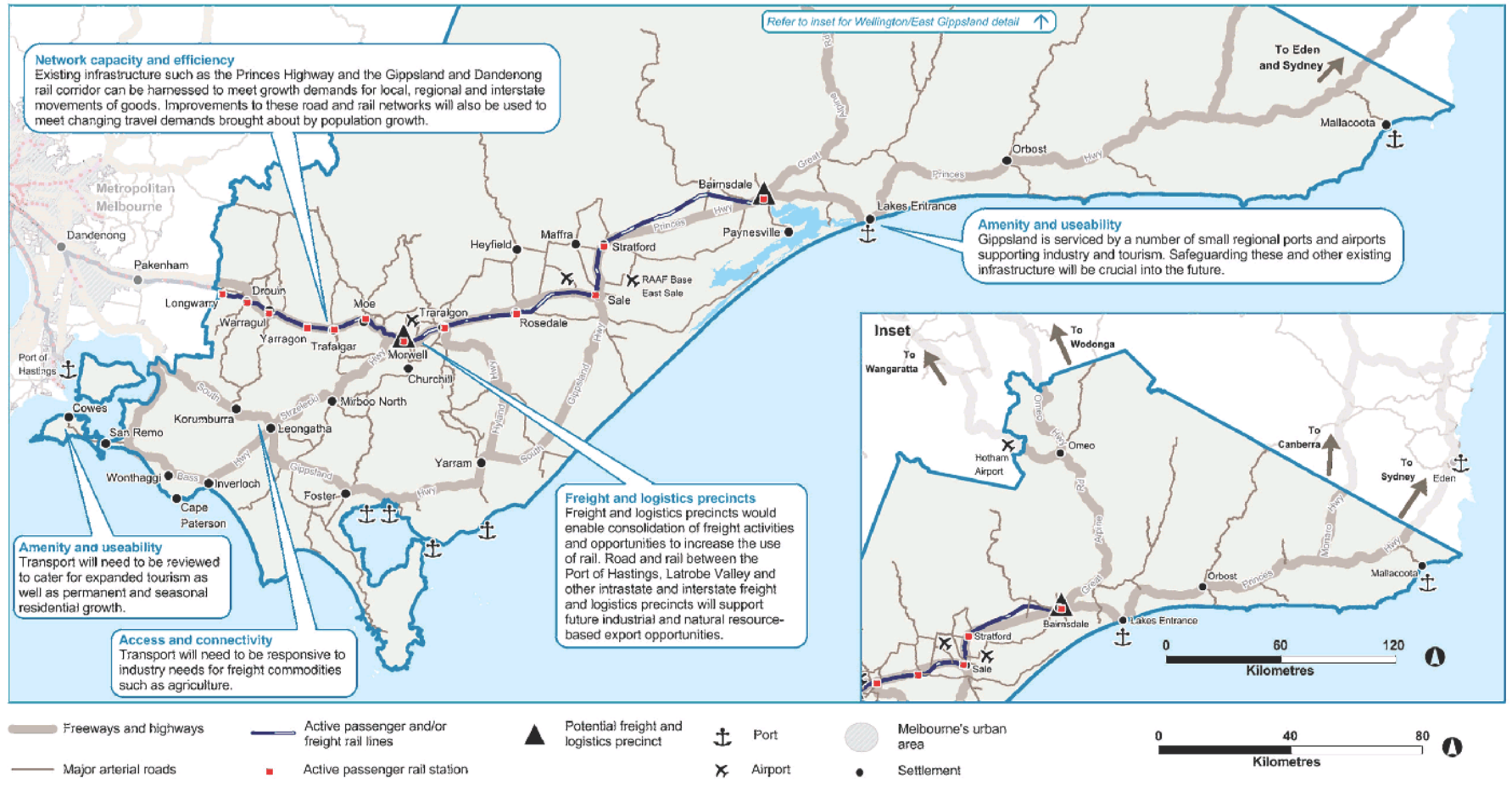
5.4. Freight and Logistics

Gippsland's economy is highly dependent on the ability of regional businesses to be able to move freight efficiently and effectively to markets within and outside of the region.

The region generates a significant volume of exports in agriculture and manufacturing and has a freight task that the *Gippsland Freight Strategy* estimates to be more than 24 million tonnes per annum. More than 50% of the task is being moved to a destination within the region and more than 30% being transported to and from Melbourne. There are also significant volumes of timber being freighted across the Victorian-New South Wales border.

Projected growth in food exports to Asia and the potential for export of high value added brown coal derivatives will see a significant increase in the region's freight task. The *Gippsland Freight Strategy* notes that, in the future, export of value-added coal products could eventually become Victoria's largest single transport task.

Gippsland **Map 16: Future directions for transport**



Supply chains

A strategic approach to local road management for freight transport as a component of the supply chain will be required, particularly in areas with expanding dairy and horticultural industries.

Technological advancements

The rollout of the National Broadband Network will change the way that people manage their work and lives. Transport plans will need to be flexible enough to adapt to changing demand patterns and ensure infrastructure and services fit future demand.

Safe, reliable and resilient network

It is essential that the transport network is well maintained and able to withstand disruption from a variety of sources including natural hazards. The role of settlements and their future growth capacity should be informed by the extent of existing infrastructure and the degree of intra-regional and inter-regional connectivity.

Access and connectivity

Growth will not be experienced in all areas. Maintaining access for smaller communities to education, employment and other facilities will be critical as the demography changes. Future expansion of community transport and taking resources to the people may be required.

©The State of Victoria, Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure, 2014. The State of Victoria does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of information in this publication and any person using or relying upon such information does so on the basis that the State of Victoria shall bear no responsibility or liability whatsoever for any errors, faults, defects or omissions in the information.



Gippsland Regional Plan

Road and rail improvements that facilitate increased freight access to Melbourne's distribution and export hubs will enhance the competitiveness of these sectors.

The possibility of the further development of the Port of Hastings as Victoria's second major port, supporting expansion in containers, bulk and oil and gas industries represents a significant opportunity for the Gippsland region with respect to its ability to move goods to export markets. However, any further development of the Port of Hastings needs to be informed by an independent: -

- Economic, environmental and social impact study of the Port of Hastings Container Expansion Project on the Bass Coast municipality – in particular Phillip Island;
- Peer review of documentation being prepared by the Port of Hastings Development Authority to inform an Environmental Effects Statement.

Improving the capability of regional transport infrastructure is also key. The *Gippsland Freight Infrastructure Master Plan*, released in 2014 supports the directions contained within the freight strategy and outlines a series of ranked priorities including the: -

- South Gippsland Highway Upgrade - this includes a number of projects that would benefit freight along the route including a high priority for the realignment of the road at Black Spur, Koonwarra
- Development of a business case for a Traralgon Truck Priority/Bypass
- Strzelecki Highway Bridge and Road Upgrade – including further overtaking lanes and bridge widening

5.5 Public Transport

Reliable public transport is critical to Gippsland's ability to function as a region, connect to other parts of Victoria and in maintaining community connectedness.

The Vline train services are key element of the public transport mix for Gippsland. Vline data for Gippsland notes that there were 2,003,752 trips for the 2013/14 Financial Year, which was up from 1,893,156 in the previous year. There are already serious congestion and capacity issues on peak hour Vline trains, and there is an urgent need for extra carriages and services. Many of the people moving into region are commuting to city for work each day and this will exacerbate this need. Vline has also noted that with additional patronage comes the need for either additional feeder local bus services or station car parking, which is already at capacity. Any significant increase in rail services beyond Traralgon will require the development of a passing opportunity between Traralgon and Sale or Sale and Bairnsdale.

There is also a need for improved access for people not living aligned to train line – particularly in the South Gippsland and Bass Coast Shires as well as additional bus services.

The *Gippsland Regional Growth Plan* notes the need to: -

- Ensure that planning for new residential developments, industry and employment areas should be conducive to public transport provision;
- Improve and modify public transport services to better meet market needs;
- Support the provision of public transport services for those without access to private vehicles and to improve access to services and employment

The region will work with the State Government in the development of the *Regional Network Development Plan*, to ensure that public transport services reflect Gippsland needs and can respond to a growth in demand associated with an increasing population.

5.6. High-Speed Broadband

The issue of improved access high-speed broadband (HSBB) remains a key priority in terms of developing and improving economic, social, education and health outcomes across Gippsland. Data from Telstra's Gippsland's regional management notes that the people access HSBB through either fixed and/or mobile services and that: -

- 83% of the population aged 14 plus have a mobile phone service (55% post - paid & 28% pre-paid)
- 34% of the population aged 14 plus have a dedicated mobile broadband plan
- 42% of Households have fixed broadband (ADSL)

The Telstra data also notes that Gippsland's regional coverage of fixed broadband is about 5% lower than the rest of regional Victoria however, Gippsland has a higher adoption of mobile broadband. These differences can be attributed to limitations of Gippsland's current fixed broadband infrastructure and the region's geographically dispersed population.

Gippsland Regional Plan

Opportunities to improve coverage and/or access to HSBB will benefit the region. Given the projected development of the HSBB network in Gippsland – see <http://www.nbnco.com.au/> - then opportunities to improve coverage for commuters on Gippsland rail services and the tourism industry in Lakes Entrance would have high impact on increased access and productivity.

It is key that businesses, communities and individuals understand how they can effectively leverage existing levels of broadband and engage more widely with the digital economy and the opportunities at hand.

There is a need to continue to leverage the experiences of the, now implemented, *Gippsland Broadband Engagement Strategy* in order to continue to build improvements in community capacity around HSBB. The development of a HSBB Opportunities Study would identify leading practices, both in the region and beyond, in the use of HSBB to deliver services and/or access markets and promote these to the regional community, service providers and industry. Recent studies by Price Waterhouse Coopers on digital growth indicate that, small businesses can generate additional output from better use of internet and mobile technology. The study estimates that, over the next 10 years, small businesses in the federal electorates of: -

- McMillan can unlock an additional \$181 million of outputs; or approximately \$36,500 per small business
- Gippsland can unlock an additional \$185 million of output; or approximately \$41,300 per small business

5.7. Strategic Priorities

The GRP will identify priority projects and initiatives that address the strategic opportunities and needs associated with improving the region's connectivity.

There is a need for the Gippsland Region and the State Government to work together to find solutions to the congestion issues through Southeast Melbourne on both road and rail to improve access to markets and passenger connectivity to Melbourne, and back to the region – these solutions may include: -

- Improving the capacity of the region's rail connectivity to Melbourne
 - Improved access and capacity of the Dandenong rail corridor
 - Enhancing rail capacity via passing loops in conjunction with the Dandenong Rail Capacity Program
 - Providing additional train paths to retain direct linkages to Melbourne's central business district through the Melbourne Metro project
 - Improved capacity of passenger rail service to Melbourne
- Improving the capacity of regional rail infrastructure
 - Duplicate single track sections of the rail line between Longwarry and Bunyip.
 - Replace Avon River Rail Bridge near Stratford
- Further development of the Port of Hastings as Victoria's second major port, supporting expansion in containers, bulk and oil and gas industries should it be determined through independent studies that such development will not have a negative impact on the Bass Coast, and in particular, Phillip Island

Continue to improve regional transport infrastructure including: -

- Improving the capacity and functionality of the Princes Highway including: -
 - Completion of the Traralgon to Sale Duplication (14km not yet funded)
 - Traralgon Truck Priority/Bypass - Business case required for Traralgon Bypass
 - Additional overtaking lanes east of Orbost
- Improving the capacity and functionality of regional highways including: -
 - South Gippsland Highway Upgrade - number of projects would benefit freight along the route. High priority is the realignment at Black Spur, Koonwarra
 - Strzelecki Highway Bridge and Road Upgrade - Further overtaking lanes and bridge widening
 - Access and safety improvements along Phillip Island Road

Continue to improve the availability of, and engagement with HSBB including: -

- Improved availability of HSBB along Gippsland transport corridor
- Reducing mobile blackspots in areas of the region that experience high levels of visitation
- Further identification of how regional businesses can engage with the digital economy to grow their revenue

Gippsland Regional Plan**5.8. Key Indicators**

The following indicators will provide insight into the impact of the implementation of the GRP on regional capability with respect to the Connectivity Theme: -

- Number of VLine Services/Passenger Capacity
- Travel times to Port of Melbourne/Melbourne Airport from key locations in the region
- Freight costs
- Percentage of population with access to mobile broadband

DRAFT X

Gippsland Regional Plan

6. Implementation of the Gippsland Regional Plan

The implementation of the Gippsland Regional Plan will have three key elements

1 Project Development:

Building on the strategic themes and priorities of the Gippsland Regional Plan, projects are put forward by relevant organisations and entities including Councillors, community groups, businesses and any other parties with an interest or suggestion of how to improve and add value to the communities in the Gippsland region. These projects are further investigated and developed, as appropriate, by the Strategy Groups.

The suggested projects are reviewed by the Strategy Groups and ultimately evaluated by the GRP Leadership Group. The evaluation process is a rigorous evaluation matrix, which ensures only the highest priority and actionable projects are selected for the One Gippsland advocacy program.

Projects that may require further review with respect to how they may add value to the region will be retained for further investigation and/or development.

2 Advocacy:

One Gippsland is the united voice of Gippsland, advocating for the highest agreed regional priorities arising from the Gippsland Regional Plan.

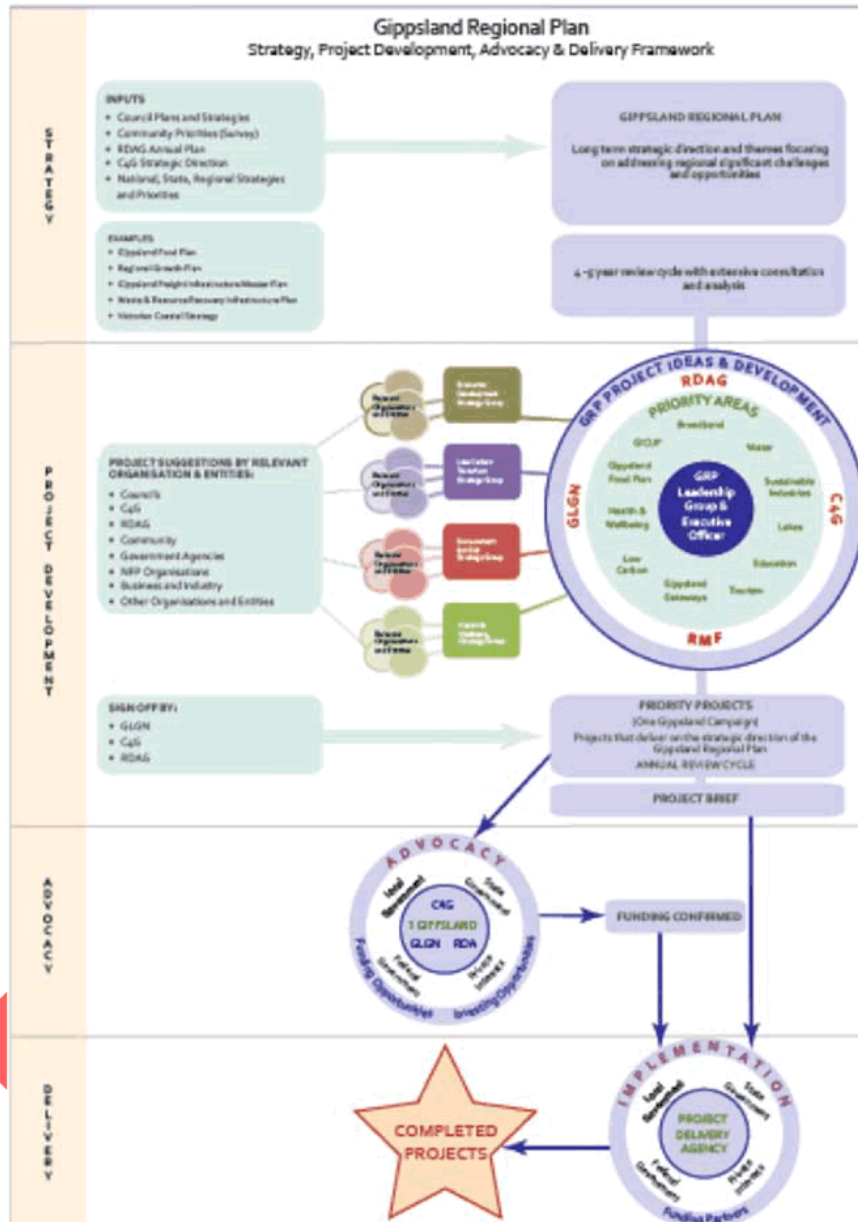
One Gippsland is a consortium of Gippsland's three peak representative bodies, including the Committee for Gippsland, the Gippsland Local Government Network, and Regional Development Australia – Gippsland. It aims to advocate for a carefully selected package of transformational projects for the Gippsland region to both state and federal governments for funding.

3 Delivery:

Once a successful advocacy program has been achieved and funding secured, the project is then undertaken by the relevant authority. This may be a local government authority, private sector or state government agency as appropriate.

DRAFT

Gippsland Regional Plan



**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)**

Councillor Kellie O'Callaghan returned to the meeting, the time being 7.57pm

14.5 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ENGAGEMENT PLAN**General Manager****City Development****For Information****PURPOSE**

An Economic Development Engagement Plan has been developed for Council's consideration in accordance with the Chief Executive Officer's established Key Performance Indicators.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has adopted a range of Key Performance Indicators (KPI) and targets for the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Under the strategic direction of Economic Sustainability, Council has determined a target milestone for one of the key performance indicators is to:

'Develop an engagement plan with Council staff, investors, business and industry leaders to improve information sharing and active communication completed by the end of September 2015'.

An engagement plan has therefore been developed in line with the established KPI. The engagement plan provides an overview of the activities to be undertaken between Council staff, investors, government and business and industry leaders to support Economic Development in Latrobe City.

COUNCIL MOTION

Moved: Cr White
Seconded: Cr Gibbons

That Council:

- 1. Approves the 2015/16 Economic Development Engagement Plan to improve information sharing and active communication with Council staff, investors, government, business and industry leaders.**
- 2. Receives quarterly reports during the 2015/16 financial year on the activities of the Economic Development Engagement Plan, and**
- 3. Receives a report in September 2016 detailing the annual results of the Economic Development Engagement Plan.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

This report is consistent with Latrobe 2026: The Community Vision for Latrobe Valley and the Latrobe City Council Plan 2013-2017.

Latrobe 2026: The Community Vision for Latrobe Valley Strategic Objectives – Economy

In 2026, Latrobe Valley has a strong and diverse economy built on innovation and sustainable enterprise. The vibrant business centre of Gippsland contributes to the regional and broader communities, whilst providing opportunities and prosperity for our local community.

Latrobe City Council Plan 2013 - 2017

Theme and Objectives

Theme 1: Job creation and economic sustainability

- Actively pursue long term economic prosperity for Latrobe City, one of Victoria's four major regional cities
- Actively pursue further diversification of business and industry in the municipality
- Actively pursue and support long term job security and the creation of new employment opportunities in Latrobe City

Strategic Direction – Job creation and economic sustainability

- Provide incentives and work proactively to attract new businesses and industry to locate in Latrobe City.
- Assist existing small and medium enterprises to expand and sustain employment opportunities.
- Work in partnership with business, industry and government to create new jobs and investment in Latrobe City.
- Provide timely and targeted infrastructure to support economic growth and the marketability of Latrobe City to industry and investors.
- Promote and support the development and economic return of the tourism and events sector.
- Maximise access to Federal and State Government funds for jobs creation.
- Enhance community and business confidence in the future of the local economy.
- Promote research and development for new products and processes to exploit the significant coal resource of the Latrobe Valley.

BACKGROUND

Council has adopted a range of Key Performance Indicators (KPI) and targets for the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Under the strategic direction of Economic Sustainability, Council has determined a Key Performance Indicator is to “facilitate the economic development of Latrobe City by improving communications between planners, economic development staff and industry, investors, businesses and other relevant stakeholders”. The target milestone for this key performance indicator is to:

‘Develop an engagement plan with Council staff, investors, business and industry leaders to improve information sharing and active communication completed by the end of September 2015’.

An engagement plan has therefore been developed in line with the established KPI. The engagement plan provides an overview of the activities to be undertaken between Council staff, investors, government and business and industry leaders to support Economic Development in Latrobe City.

DISCUSSION

In accordance with the established KPI’s, an Economic Development Engagement Plan has been developed (refer to attachment 1). The engagement plan provides an overview of the specific activities to be undertaken between Council staff, investors, business and industry leaders which support Economic Development in Latrobe City.

The Economic Development Engagement Plan is broken down into four key areas which include:

- Communications;
- Workshops/Forums;
- Advocacy;
- Meetings;
- Delegations; and
- Projects

The range of engagement points between Council and the business community is growing. Council’s LinkedIn profile was launched in September 2015 and has already generated 493 impressions (views), The Business Development e-newsletter is issued monthly to 1000 subscribers; this number continues to grow. The Business Connect hardcopy newsletter is sent to over 3000 businesses and individuals quarterly and has a low (less than 5%) return rate. If returns are encountered, the addresses are updated within our database before the next issue is released.

Due to the variety of engagement activities to be undertaken, a collaborative approach is essential. A range of teams across Council will contribute to the success of the delivery of this engagement plan including; Economic Development, Regional Strategy, Statutory Planning, Future Planning, Latrobe Regional Airport, Tourism, Infrastructure Planning and Recreation.

Delivery of the engagement program will be reported on throughout the financial year via regular InterPlan reporting to Council. Additionally, a report for the 2015/16 financial year will be provided encapsulating the results of activities, and will include recommendations to improve the engagement activities.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk has been considered as part of this report and it is considered to be consistent with the Risk Management framework. This report is not considered to present a risk to Council.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

The activities outlined in this report are considered able to be accommodated within the 2015/16 economic development departmental budget with the exception of new activities or projects to be explored. These activities will be the subject of separate reports for Council's consideration if additional budget is required.

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

Engagement Method Used:

Internal departments within Latrobe City, including Economic Development, Regional Strategy, Statutory Planning, Future Planning, Latrobe Regional Airport, Tourism, Infrastructure Planning and Recreation were engaged in the development of this engagement plan. Regular update meetings will be conducted in the delivery of the plan as activities are undertaken and issues arise for consideration.

Details of Community Consultation / Results of Engagement:

This report outlines a plan for engagement with the Latrobe City investor, government and business sectors of the community. Its results will be proactively monitored and reported on periodically to Council

OPTIONS

Council has two options for consideration with this Economic Development Engagement Plan:

1. Note the plan and receive regular reporting on its progress and activities; or
2. Request additional activities be undertaken within the plan.

CONCLUSION

The Economic Development Engagement Plan has been provided to Councillors in line with the agreed Chief Executive Officer's Key Performance Indicators. Councillors will receive regular reports on the progress of activities within the plan. The Economic Development Engagement Plan is therefore recommended for approval by Council.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Nil

Attachments

1. Economic Development Engagement Plan

14.5

Economic Development Engagement Plan

1	Economic Development Engagement Plan	217
----------	---	------------

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ENGAGEMENT PLAN

ACTIVITY	AUDIENCE	FREQUENCY	RESPONSIBILITY
COMMUNICATIONS			
E newsletter – Planning information (e.g. VCAT outcomes, statistics, etc.)	Developers Consultants	Quarterly	Statutory Planning
E Newsletter – business information	All businesses in LCC	Monthly	Economic Development
Business Connect Magazine	All businesses in LCC	Quarterly	Economic Development
Social media business engagement via LinkedIn.com	Opt-in business interaction via social media	Daily/As needed	Economic Development
WORKSHOPS/FORUMS			
Developers Forum	Developers Consultants Investors	Quarterly	Economic Development Statutory Planning Future Planning
Special Workshops (e.g. MSS)	Developers	As Needed	Future Planning
Project Related Workshops	Developers Investors Consultants	As Needed	Future Planning
Industry Breakfasts	Businesses Industry Councillors	Six-monthly	Economic Development
Industry Roundtables	Businesses Industry Councillors	Quarterly	Economic Development
Call Centre Industry Forum	Existing call centre management	Six-monthly	Economic Development

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ENGAGEMENT PLAN

ACTIVITY	AUDIENCE	FREQUENCY	RESPONSIBILITY
ADVOCACY			
Victorian and Australian Government Industry Tours	Relevant Departmental officers	Six-monthly	Economic Development
Canberra Delegations	Federal Parliamentarians	Six-monthly	Economic Development
Parliamentarian Briefing Notes	State and Federal Parliamentarians	As Needed	Economic Development
Securing our Future Publication	State and Federal Parliamentarians	As Needed	Economic Development
Submissions	State and Federal Government	As Needed	Economic Development
Site visits and meetings with key businesses and industries	State and Federal Government Parliamentarians	As Needed	Economic Development
MEETINGS			
Regular meetings (proactive approach to development)	Developers Consultants Investors	Regular (as needs)	Statutory Planning Future Planning
Targeted industry meetings with key stakeholders	Developers Consultants Investors	One per person per year	Statutory Planning Future Planning Infrastructure Planning Economic Development
Internal Meetings	Economic Development Statutory Planning	Quarterly	Statutory Planning Economic Development
Personal Meetings with large businesses	Large Businesses	Annual	Economic Development

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ENGAGEMENT PLAN

ACTIVITY	AUDIENCE	FREQUENCY	RESPONSIBILITY
MEETINGS (CONTINUED)			
Attend Business Associations/Chambers	Small Businesses	Six-monthly	Economic Development
Project Facilitation (e.g. business & Vic Roads)	Businesses Developers	As Needed	Statutory Planning Future Planning Economic Development
Development Assessment Team (e.g. residential subdivisions)	Infrastructure Development, Recreation, Finance, Statutory Planning, Future Planning and Property	Monthly	Future Planning with input from Infrastructure, Recreation, Finance and Statutory Planning
Liaison with government departments	Key government departments	As Needed	Statutory Planning Future Planning Economic Development
Quarterly Meetings with Government departments (e.g. Vic Roads, Gippsland Water, WGCMA, RDV)	Key government departments Executive & officer level	Quarterly	Future Planning Statutory Planning
Advisory Committee Meetings (e.g. Gippsland Carbon Transition Committee, Timber Umbrella Group and Industry Forum)	Internal and external Committee Member	Quarterly	Economic Development
Education Provider meetings – meetings on specific opportunities including councillor presentations and council engagement	Federation University, Monash University, Federation Training	Six-Monthly or as required	Economic Development
Airport Meetings	Airport Tenants	Monthly	Latrobe Regional Airport
DELEGATIONS			
Outbound Trade Delegations	Sister Cities in conjunction with cultural exchanges Other cities/countries where opportunity presents	At least Annually to take advantage of cultural exchanges	Economic Development/International Relations

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ENGAGEMENT PLAN

ACTIVITY	AUDIENCE	FREQUENCY	RESPONSIBILITY
DELEGATIONS (CONTINUED)			
Inbound Delegations	Sister Cities	Annually	Economic Development/International Relations
Inbound Delegations	Other countries	As Needed	Economic Development/International Relations
PROJECTS			
Develop a program for targeted engagement with Top 20 businesses in collaboration with state government	Top 20 businesses	Project	Economic Development
Deliver “Streamlining Business Interaction” project to simplify applications and internal referrals for new and existing businesses within Latrobe City.	Business investment enquiries/opportunities	Project	Economic Development
Investigate viability of developing a “shop-front” presence for Economic Development to provide better access to small business	Small business enquiries	Project	Economic Development

INFRASTRUCTURE AND RECREATION

15. INFRASTRUCTURE AND RECREATION

**15.1 HYDROTHERAPY POOL TRIAL OPERATIONS AT LATROBE
LEISURE MOE NEWBOROUGH**

General Manager

Infrastructure and Recreation

For Decision

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information and discuss options for the future of the hydrotherapy trial conducted at Latrobe Leisure Moe Newborough (LLMN) main pool since June 2015.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report has been developed in response to Council's decision to undertake a three month hydrotherapy trial at LLMN following the submission of a petition requesting the temperature be raised due to the Warragul pool being closed for renovations (18 months).

The trial has seen an increase in attendance of 385 customers over the three month trial period, of which 99 customers were in at the pool specifically for hydrotherapy. There has been one letter of objection from the Gippsland Flippers, a group of eight to ten swimmers, their issue being the pool is too hot for them to swim. There are other options for them, with the pools at Morwell and Churchill which they are currently utilising.

Over the trial period there does not appear to be any increase to the running cost, however, any minor increase in running cost would be covered by the increase in income which is estimated at \$2,000 over the trial period. This is essentially due to the additional 385 customers.

It is recommended that the pool continue to be heated to 32.5 degrees for hydrotherapy until the end of the 2015/16 financial year and that a further report be presented to Council prior to the end of the financial year for Council to decide whether to continue with the hydrotherapy until September 2016, at which stage it is anticipated the Warragul pool will be completed.

COUNCIL MOTION

Moved: Cr Kam
Seconded: Cr Gibson

That Council:

1. Continues to heat the Latrobe Leisure Moe Newborough pool one day per week for the remainder of the 2015/16 financial year.
2. Requests a further report presented to council prior to the end of the financial year detailing the metrics of the extension to the heating of the pool for hydrotherapy.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

This report is consistent with Latrobe 2026: The Community Vision for Latrobe Valley and the Latrobe City Council Plan 2013-2017.

Latrobe 2026: The Community Vision for Latrobe Valley

Strategic Objectives - Recreation

In 2026, Latrobe Valley encourages a healthy and vibrant lifestyle, with diversity in passive and active recreational opportunities and facilities that connect people with their community.

Latrobe City Council Plan 2013 - 2017

Theme and Objectives

Theme 2: Appropriate, affordable and sustainable facilities, services and recreation

Objective - To provide facilities and services that are accessible and meet the needs of our diverse community.

Objective - To enhance the visual attractiveness and liveability of Latrobe City.

Strategic Directions:

Develop and maintain community infrastructure that meets the needs of our community.

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)**

Promote and support opportunities for people to enhance their health and wellbeing.

Encourage and create opportunities for more community participation in sports, recreation, arts, culture and community activities.

BACKGROUND

On 10 March 2015, 23 March 2015 and 30 March 2015, Latrobe City Council received letters from Lenore Cox and the Advance Morwell Group, requesting Latrobe City Council raise the pool temperature at Latrobe Leisure Morwell or Moe Newborough above 32 degrees one day per week. Following these letters three further petitions were received by Council officers.

On 1 April 2015 the Leisure Centre in Warragul was closed to the public for an estimated period of 18 months for major redevelopments, as a result of the closure of that facility, the only dedicated hydrotherapy pool in the Baw Baw/Latrobe City region was closed. Those who wish to access a hydrotherapy pool on an ongoing basis would need to travel to Cranbourne, Pakenham or Sale.

On 25 May 2015 Council resolved to undertake a hydrotherapy trial at LLMN for a period of three months which began 28 June 2015. Prior to the beginning of the trial, Latrobe Leisure installed a digital thermal controller at LLMN to ensure the pool temperature could be accurately managed.

KEY POINTS/ISSUES**Latrobe Leisure Moe Newborough**

Prior to the trial program, Latrobe Leisure had a digital thermometer installed at LLMN to ensure the facility was able to control and manage the rise and fall of the water temperature. The time estimated to raise the pool temperature from 30.5 degrees to 32.5 degrees at LLMN is 18 to 22 hours. To then reduce the pool temperature to 30.5 degrees it is taking more than 20 hours which is longer than initially anticipated. This is leaving the pool at approximately 31.7 degrees for pool opening at 6.00am on the Monday. We have had further verbal complaints regarding the pool being "hot" to swim in from regular lap swimmers on the Sunday.

Considering the heating and cooling of the pool is taking approximately the same amount of time, there has been no increase in the cost of gas to operate the pool over the three month trial. Having said this, there is no guarantee that there will not be any increase costs should the program be extended, this will be monitored and any increase reported back to Council.

Since the beginning of the hydrotherapy trial program, the Gippsland Flippers Group consisting of eight to ten people per week have been forced to move to Latrobe Leisure Morwell to undertake their regular lap swimming program as the pool at LLMN is now too hot for them on

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)

Sundays. There has been no other official displacement of any other user groups to date.

Facility Attendance

During the hydrotherapy trial there has been an increase in the total number of attendance compared to the same period of time in 2014. The overall attendance increase is 385 compared to the same dates in 2014.

LLMN will commence collection of additional information by recording casual patron's postcode to try and ascertain the geographical reach.

There have been 99 attendances for hydrotherapy over the entire three month program. Although only 99 attendances have been recorded as specific attendances for hydrotherapy purposes, there has been an increase to the attendances of children and families over the winter months as they utilise the warmer water one day per week.

Attendances from June to September (aquatic only)	2014	2015	Total Attendance Increase
Total attendances during the hydrotherapy trial on Sundays only:	774	1159	385

T

The feedback from the hydrotherapy attendees has been very positive, although LLMN is only averaging 9.9 hydrotherapy attendees per week for the length of the trial.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk has been considered as part of this report and it is considered to be consistent with the Risk Management framework.

The result of raising the temperature of the pool by two degrees for one day per week, means that the pool is too hot for lap swimmers. Lap swimmers and in particular, the swimming clubs within Latrobe City Council have indicated that a pool temperature over 30.5 degrees is too hot for regular lap swimming. By raising the pool temperature over the weekend, it will impact those regular users of the space and potentially force them to travel to another leisure centre to complete lap swimming.

Should this program be extended there is a risk that some members and patrons may cease swimming on the Sunday or move to another facility as they find it hard to deal with the increased water temperature.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

Over the three month hydrotherapy program there was no indication that the program had affected the gas bill at the facility. It is expected that there will be minimal costs associated with this program moving forward, however, this cannot be fully determined for another three months until all accounts are received.

The additional 385 attendances over the trial period equates to approximately \$2,000 of additional income, these figures have been collated for the Sundays during the trial period only.

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)**

Officers will continue to monitor financial costs and any significant increases to be reported to Council at that time. Any additional cost of raising and lowering the pool temperatures at LLMN have not been forecasted in the current financial year and are not included in the 2015/16 financial year budget forecasting.

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

Latrobe Leisure has been liaising with all stakeholders during the trial program. The main concern for lap swimmers is that on a regular basis the pool on a Monday morning is remaining at a minimum of 31.7 degrees which has caused some verbal complaints from patrons as the general temperature of the pool is 30.5 degrees.

In the report to Council on 25 May 2015, officers advised that the most appropriate day to raise the pool temperature was the Sunday. This day has the least effect on our customers overall.

Unfortunately, since the introduction of the hydrotherapy trial, the Gippsland Flippers group have moved to the Latrobe Leisure Morwell facility.

OPTIONS

That Council:

1. Continue to heat the Latrobe Leisure Moe Newborough pool one day per week for the remainder of the 2015/16 financial year and a further report presented to council prior to the end of the financial year detailing the metrics of the extension to heating of the pool for hydrotherapy.
2. Cease the hydrotherapy program at Latrobe Leisure Moe Newborough at the end of October 2015 and communicate this to all Latrobe Leisure members.

CONCLUSION

This report has been developed in response to Council's decision to undertake a three month hydrotherapy trial at LLMN in response to a petition requesting the temperature be raised due to the Warragul pool being closed for renovations (18 months).

The trial has seen an increase in attendance of 385 customers over the three month trial period, of which 99 customers were specifically for hydrotherapy.

Over the trial period there does not appear to be any increase to the running cost, however, any minor increases in running cost would be covered by the increase in income which is estimated at \$2,000 over the trial period. This is essentially due to the additional 385 customers.

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)**

It is recommended that the pool continue to be heated to 32.5 degrees for hydrotherapy until the end of the 2015/16 financial year and that a further report be presented to Council prior to the end of the financial year for Council to decide if we continue with the hydrotherapy until September 2016, at which stage the Warragul pool will be completed.

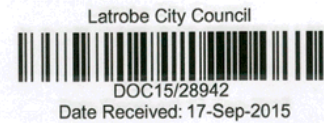
Attachments

1. Letter of Concern - Gippsland Flippers
2. Response to Letter of concern Gippsland Flippers

15.1

Hydrotherapy Pool Trial Operations at Latrobe Leisure Moe Newborough

- 1 Letter of Concern - Gippsland Flippers 229**
- 2 Response to Letter of concern Gippsland Flippers..... 233**



ABN: 46 407 400 396

CORRESPONDENCE TO: 20 LYNNE AVE, MOE SOUTH, VIC 3825

President: Don Coupe
Ph. (03) 5127 2446
donald.coupe@bigpond.com

Secretary: Sue Graham
Ph. (03) 5127 5743
psg@speedweb.com.au

Chief Executive Officer
Latrobe City Council
141 Commercial Rd
Morwell, Vic 3840

Dear Sir,

RE: WARMING OF THE MOE/NEWBOROUGH LEISURE CENTRE POOL

I am writing this letter to you regarding the above concern on behalf of the adult swimming club, Gippsland Flippers Masters Swimming Club.

As you will read below, Gippsland Flippers has a lot to offer swimmers in the Latrobe Valley, and as the President of the club, I would ask that our complaint over the warming of the Moe/Newborough Leisure Centre, (thereby making it impossible for our club to operate out of there each Sunday,) be registered. We have attempted to swim in the overheated water on a couple of occasions, each time finding it physically exhausting and generally unhealthy to swim in. Research reveals that swimming in overheated water can cause the body temperature to elevate, leading to dehydration, imbalance of electrolytes and muscle spasms. (www.livestrong.com) We do, however, respect that Council is trying hard to overcome a difficult situation.

Our club has been operating for over 34 years, swimming in pools all over the Latrobe Council jurisdiction. In these 34 years, we have been up to 60 members strong. For the past 13 years, we have dedicated each Sunday to swimming at the Moe/Newborough Leisure Centre.

In recent times, we still have an active core of around 30 swimmers who join us at varying times for our many diverse events and therefore induce, in some small way, the annual attendances at each of the 3 pools.

To outline these events, our week begins with the Club swim each Sunday at Newborough, each swimmer either swimming to their own program, or to programs pre-set by the club. All members of the community are invited to come and swim with us, as it is a good session to ease into the club and try out Masters Swimming to see if they like it. It is a social session and stroke correction is on offer if required.

On the last Sunday of each month, we swim at Morwell for our 'coached Brunch swim'. This involves being coached in technique and fitness for an hour, followed by a shared Brunch which each swimmer provides. It is a very social and informative session for the swimmer looking for an instructive session.

Every Wednesday evening, we have another coached session at Churchill pool. This is an hour long and generally for the fitter person looking for an aerobic workout.

As Masters Swimming motto is 'fitness, fun and friendship', I feel our club offers this and much more. All sessions are open to anyone (18 years+) who thinks they may benefit from the classes we offer, and the minimum requirement to join us is the capacity to capably swim 25 metres, so participants do not need to be an elite swimmer. We do not, however, provide swimming lessons but believe swimming is a key to maintaining good health into old age.

Some of the centres do provide Adult Learn to Swim classes, and it seems once participants complete their lessons, they have nowhere to go. Once they are proficient at swimming 25 metres, Gippsland Flippers may be able to assist these people to stay motivated, practice in a club setting and continue to improve indefinitely.

I believe the staff at all of the Leisure Centres would generally not be aware of every option our club can offer, we would like the Managers to inform their staff so referrals to our club can be made. We have generally found the staff at the centres to be very co-operative and will normally offer help to our club when required.

Therefore, this letter is addressing two issues – ONE, that we register our complaint about the temperature of the Newborough pool each Sunday, making it impossible for us to hold our usual club swim there. Our swimmers will not attend the pool on a Sunday, as they know it is not feasible to swim there. To compare, the pool temperatures at Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre, which has state-of-the-art facilities, runs their main pool at 27degC, LTS/play pools at 29degC and their purpose built Hydrotherapy pool at 34degC. (www.melbournesportshub.com.au).

And TWO, can staff at the Leisure Centres please be made aware of all the options our club can offer to swimmers? We have notice boards at each pool, which are kept up-to-date with contact details. Upcoming swim meets are posted on the boards, and general information about our sessions. Another area where Council might help us is publicity. Over a period of over 30+ years, we have not yet had an article about our Club in 'The Link'. Perhaps a short overview and photo could be included in a forthcoming edition? We have made attempts to put an article into 'The Link', to be informed that our article must be in keeping with the theme of the Link, and that the pages allocated to public articles are few and get filled very quickly. Just recently, there was an article about keeping elderly fit, and we felt that our club could have offered a valuable and informative article to that edition.

It is high time that Latrobe Council seriously consider the construction of a Hydrotherapy pool within the Shire, given that there are 3 superb complexes and none offer this obviously much needed facility.

Yours sincerely,



Don Coupe
President



Sue Graham
Secretary

Gippsland Flippers Masters Swimming Club

Our Ref: 1369418
PS:TV

1 October 2015

Mr Don Coupe
President
Gippsland Flippers
20 Lynne Avenue
MOE SOUTH VIC 3825

Dear Mr Coupe

POOL TEMPERATURE AT LATROBE LEISURE MOE NEWBOROUGH

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the temperature of the pool at Latrobe Leisure Moe Newborough.

Your concerns have been documented, along with other recommendations to be presented at the Ordinary Council Meeting scheduled for Monday, 26 October 2015. You are most welcome to register to attend this Council meeting and have an opportunity to speak to Council about your concerns. You will be allocated three minutes to address Council and then respond to any questions from Councillors.

If you would like to register to address Council at this meeting, please contact Kylie Stockdale, Council Operations Administration Officer on telephone (03) 5128 5717 or email councilopsadminsm@latrobe.vic.gov.au. Registrations close at midday on the day of the Council meeting.

It is great to hear about the longevity of your club and the service you offer to the adult community with your diverse programs and it is pleasing to see you taking advantage of all our facilities across Latrobe Leisure.

As you have mentioned, we have provided notice boards for our user groups at each facility and you have been utilising this for the Gippsland Flippers. For any other advertising at our facilities, it is the responsibility of the individual user groups to organise this.

Sourcing stories for our Link magazine is generally undertaken in the months leading up to distribution. Currently, Latrobe City Council produces two editions of the magazine per year. It is a 16 page magazine divided into two sections. The first section concentrates on Latrobe City Council activities, events, messages from the Mayor, the Chief Executive Officer, youth, sister cities and a "What's on" guide. The central eight pages have a community focus and are themed, for example; the upcoming issue will feature around ten stories on 'Out and About in Latrobe City'.

We have a Link committee comprising of officers from our Community Relations Team and three Councillors. Meetings are held prior to each edition where potential stories and contacts are discussed. Other stories and contacts are sourced from within our organisation.

It is very rare for a story to be sourced as a 'cold call' from a community member however, our Communications Team is more than happy to speak with community members who feel their group or activity might make a good story for our Link magazine, but often the timing is not appropriate or the story does not fit the theme. In most cases the community is directed to the local media who are always looking for community stories.

Yours sincerely

STEVEN PIASENTE
Acting Chief Executive Officer

**15.2 TRARALGON WEST SPORT COMPLEX PETITION - STATUS
REPORT****General Manager****Infrastructure and Recreation****For Decision****PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the petition lodged regarding the incomplete fit out of the Traralgon West Sporting Complex.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report seeks to provide Council with an update on the petition requesting Council to consider assisting the user groups of the Traralgon West Complex with some funding, or support a funding application to complete the second storey of the Traralgon West Sporting Pavilion.

Council officers have arranged a meeting with the user groups from the Traralgon West Sporting Complex and Latrobe City Councillors to discuss this matter on the 12 November 2015.

A further report will be presented to a future Council meeting detailing and outcomes and recommendations from this meeting.

COUNCIL MOTION**Moved:** Cr Kam**Seconded:** Cr Rossiter**That Council:**

- 1. Notes the report.**
- 2. Requests officers to notify the head petitioner about the Council decision in relation to the petition.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

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

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

This report is consistent with Latrobe 2026: The Community Vision for Latrobe Valley and the Latrobe City Council Plan 2013-2017.

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)***Latrobe 2026: The Community Vision for Latrobe Valley*

Strategic Objectives – To ensure effective two-way communication and consultation processes with the community in all that we do.

*Latrobe City Council Plan 2013 - 2017**Theme and Objectives*

Theme 4: Advocacy for and consultation with our community

Strategic Direction – Work with the community to ensure effective community consultation and engagement in all that we do.

BACKGROUND

A petition with 118 signatures was received by Council on the 14 August 2015.

The petition requested the following;

We would like Council to consider assisting the user groups of the Traralgon West Complex with some funding, or support a funding application to see the second storey of this great community facility completed. The user groups are prepared to assist with funding, both cash and in kind if the project was given the much needed support from Council.

We would like the opportunity to address Council at a future Council meeting to discuss this petition and the project in more detail.

It is usual practice for petitions to lay on the table as per Clause 63 of Council's Local Law No.1

At the Ordinary Council meeting of 14 September 2015 Council resolved the following:

MOTION

Moved: Cr Kam

Seconded: Cr Rossiter

That Council:

- 1. Agrees to lay the petition on the table requesting Council provide assistance to complete the first floor of the Traralgon West Sporting Pavilion.*
- 2. Request a report be presented to the 26 October 2015 Ordinary Council meeting providing Council with information in relation to the petition.*
- 3. Notify the head petitioner about the Council decision in relation to the petition.*
- 4. That a meeting is arranged between Officers, Councillors and user groups to discuss the petition while the petition lays on the table*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

KEY POINTS/ISSUES

Council officers have arranged a meeting with all user groups of the Traralgon West Sporting Complex and Latrobe City Councillors for the 12 November 2015 on site at the Traralgon West Sporting Complex. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the issues raised in the petition, and explore options for the fit out of the upstairs of the facility.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk has been considered as part of this report and it is considered to be consistent with the Risk Management framework.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial or resource implications as a result of this report.

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CONSULTATION*Engagement Method Used:*

All user groups of the Traralgon West Sporting Complex and all Latrobe City Councillors will be invited to attend a meeting, on site at the Traralgon West Sporting Complex to discuss the issues raised in the petition.

An agenda will be circulated to all invitees one week prior to the meeting.

Details of Community Consultation / Results of Engagement:

The head petitioner has been advised in writing that the petition has been received and will be presented to Council on 14 September 2015.

OPTIONS

Council has the following options:

1. Note the report.
2. Not note the report and seek further information.

CONCLUSION

Council officers have arranged a meeting with all user groups from the Traralgon West Sporting Complex and Latrobe City Councillors to discuss the issues raised in the petition lodged with Council on 14 August 2015.

Following this meeting, a report will be presented to Council detailing the outcomes and recommendations from the meeting.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Nil

Attachments
Nil

COMMUNITY SERVICES

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)

Cr White declared an indirect interest under Section 78B of *The Local Government Act 1989* in respect to this item.

Councillor Darrell White left the meeting, the time being 7.56pm

16. COMMUNITY SERVICES

16.1 NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR GAMBLING REFORM

General Manager

Community Services

For Decision

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement in becoming an 'Alliance Supporter' of the Alliance for Gambling Reform.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report seeks Council's endorsement in becoming an 'Alliance Supporter' of the Alliance for Gambling Reform. The Victorian Local Government Association (VLGA) and the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) are seeking support from Councils and organisations to join the Alliance and become part of a new movement for change.

The Alliance is a national collaboration of organisations with a shared concern about the harmful impacts of gambling in Australia. It represents the key organisations that have attempted to collaborate and pool their respective efforts, resources and talents to seek important reform in this area.

Australians spend more per person on gambling than any other country in the world with \$16.3 billion being spent in the year to March 2014. This is largely from low-income and vulnerable citizens. Gambling is one of Australia's biggest causes of inequality and hardship.

This motion seeks Council's endorsement for involvement in supporting the Alliance and its campaign plan.

COUNCIL MOTION

Moved: Cr Gibbons

Seconded: Cr Middlemiss

That Council endorse its involvement in supporting the Alliance and its campaign plan and become an 'Alliance Supporter' of the Alliance for Gambling Reform.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

This report is consistent with Latrobe 2026: The Community Vision for Latrobe Valley and the Latrobe City Council Plan 2013-2017.

Latrobe 2026: The Community Vision for Latrobe Valley

Strategic Objectives – Advocacy and Partnerships

In 2026, Latrobe Valley is supported by diversity of government, agency, industry and community leaders, committed to working together to advocate for and deliver sustainable local outcomes.

Latrobe City Council Plan 2013 - 2017**Theme and Objectives**

Theme 1: Job creation and economic sustainability

Strategic Direction – Actively pursue long term economic prosperity for Latrobe City, one of Victoria's four major regional cities.

BACKGROUND

Australians spend more per person on gambling than any other country in the world with the Australian gambling industry pocketing \$16.3 billion dollars in the year to March 2014. This is largely from low-income and vulnerable citizens. A complacent attitude to the gambling industry has resulted in few marking, planning or technology constraints.

Over the past twenty years this is an industry that has flourished in Australia, without reasonable regulatory controls or even a genuine community conversation.

In 2014 approximately 70 other Councils participated in a state wide local government campaign, *Enough Pokies*. Latrobe City Council did not participate at the time. The campaign sought to highlight the frustrations of Councils and communities across the state and the current inadequate regulatory framework for poker machine licensing in Victoria.

Building on the work of *Enough Pokies* is a key part of the mission of the Alliance and Victorian local government is a key driving force behind the Alliance with the MAV and VLGA.

Enough Pokies was successful in bringing together a coalition of councils advocating for pokies licensing system reform. The campaign was assisted by a specialist communications firm and achieved significant media coverage including in The Age, The Herald Sun, The Guardian and the ABC. The campaign also commissioned an experienced barrister to draft legislative amendments proposing improvements to the *Gambling Regulation Act* to better protect vulnerable communities from the targeted

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)**

exploitation of the big gaming operators. The new state government has agreed to meet to consider these amendments further in July 2015.

The new, national Alliance for Gambling Reform has been established to further build on the *Enough Pokies* campaign and includes additional legislative changes to minimise the harm caused by poker machines operators that target vulnerable communities.

The Alliance is planning to launch the campaign later this year through various methods including media outlets and educational tools.

The first campaign goal of the Alliance is to lower the maximum bet on poker machines in Victoria to \$1 per bet by the end of 2018, complemented by a suit of policies which reduce the harm caused by poker machines.

Latrobe City Council received correspondence in June 2015 from VLGA, MAV and Enough Pokies inviting Council to join the Alliance for Gambling Reform.

As an 'Alliance Supporter', Council is not responsible for the activities of the Alliance and, although it is not likely, if there were any concerns about any action or position taken by the Alliance in the future, it would be entirely open to Council to resolve to cease to be Alliance Supporter at any time.

KEY POINTS/ISSUES

Australians spend more per person on gambling than any other country in the world. Poker machines constitute up 60% (\$9.8 billion) of Australian total gambling losses.

During the past twenty years this is an industry that has been unleashed on Australia, without reasonable regulatory controls or even a genuine communication conversation.

The Alliance for Gambling Reform (Alliance) is a newly formed national collaboration of organisations with a shared concern about the harmful impacts of gambling in Australia. In becoming an 'Alliance Supporter', Council is supporting the movement to make a difference.

As an 'Alliance Supporter' Council is not responsible for the activities of the Alliance and, although it is not likely, if there were any concern about any action or position taken by the Alliance in the future, it would be entirely open to Council to resolve to cease to be an Alliance Supporter at any time.

As an 'Alliance Supporter' it is envisaged that Council's logo may be displayed along with the logos of other Alliance Supporters on the Alliance website when it is established. Council will also be able to use the Alliance's logo to promote the Alliance in appropriate ways and may consider coordinating some local events to coincide with the launch of the Alliance's campaign later in the year.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk has been considered as part of this report and it is considered to be consistent with the Risk Management framework.

On becoming an Alliance member Council is not responsible for the activities of the Alliance and, although it is not likely, if there were any concerns about any action or position taken by the Alliance in the future, it would be entirely open to Council to resolve to cease to be an Alliance Supporter at any time.

There are not considered to be any risks associated with this report.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications associated with Latrobe City Council becoming an alliance Supporter. It is envisaged that there could be some staff in-kind support from time to time associated with supporting the activity of the Alliance however this support is not mandatory and any requests for assistance will be determined on case by case at the time.

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

Engagement Method Used:

There has been no engagement internally or externally in relation to the development of this report.

OPTIONS

Council has the following options:

1. That Council endorse its involvement in supporting the Alliance and its campaign plan and become an 'Alliance Supporter' of the Alliance for Gambling Reform
2. That Council notes the formation of the Alliance for Gambling Reform however declines the invitation to become an Alliance member of the National Alliance for Gambling Reform.
3. That Council takes no action on the matter.

CONCLUSION

The Alliance seeks to campaign for reforms to the gambling industry to reduce harm from poker machines and to protect disadvantaged communities from the infiltration of increasing numbers of poker machines. The mission of the Alliance aligns builds on the *Enough Pokies* campaign and it is recommended that Council endorse involvement in supporting the Alliance.

Supporting the National Alliance for Gambling Reform is consistent with Latrobe City Council's strategic framework and has the potential to enhance the reputation of the Council.

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)**

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Nil

Attachments

1. VLGA Gambling Reform June 20015

16.1

National Alliance for Gambling Reform

- 1 VLGA Gambling Reform June 2015 245**



Mr Gary Van Driel &
Mayor Cr Dale Harriman
Latrobe City Council
PO Box 264
MORWELL 3840

29 June 2015

Dear Mayor Harriman & Mr Van Driel,

INVITATION: EXCLUSIVE BRIEFING ON NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR GAMBLING REFORM

A new, national *Alliance for Gambling Reform* is being established that builds on the *Enough Pokies* campaign and includes additional legislative changes to minimise the harm caused by poker machine operators that target vulnerable communities.

You are invited to a local government exclusive and confidential briefing with *Tim Costello* for founding council members:

Tuesday 4 August, 12noon to 2.00pm
Municipal Association of Victoria
60 Collins Street, Melbourne CBD
Level 11 – please see reception on arrival
RSVP to events@vlga.org.au by Tuesday 28 July

Please find attached a short overview of this new and exciting alliance. To become a *founding member of the Alliance for Gambling Reform* simply arrange for relevant Council staff person to contact the National Campaign Manager, Tony Mohr on 0402 336 416 or tony@agr.org.au

We anticipate launching the campaign in August, to co-coincide with a game-changing, national media event that will re-ignite the debate on poker machine reforms across the country.

To maximise the impact of the launch of this new alliance, we ask that the Alliance be kept confidential until we launch.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Cr Sebastian Klein
President, Victorian Local Governance Association

Cr Bill McArthur
President, Municipal Association of Victoria

ALLIANCE FOR GAMBLING REFORM

Australians spend more per person on gambling than any other country in the world - almost double that of New Zealand.

Poker machines are the crystal meth of gambling, making up 60% (\$9.8 billion) of Australia's total gambling losses.

Australians spend more money gambling than on other activities that can be addictive and dangerous including alcohol, tobacco and all illegal drugs. It is a major driver of household debt, and family and personal dysfunction.



The Australian gambling industry pocketed \$16.3 billion dollars in the year to March 2014, largely from low-income and vulnerable citizens. A complacent attitude to the gambling industry has resulted in few marketing, planning or technology constraints.

It's time to tackle one of Australia's biggest causes of inequality and hardship.

Some of our largest companies and investment funds have a vested interest in poker machine gambling. Governments want few restraints given that \$5.5 billion flow into their coffers every year. This is a difficult problem to unlock. Many Australians have a stake in the future of the gambling industry through their superannuation, equity investments and participation in clubs and pubs.

Over the past twenty years this is an industry that has been unleashed on Australia, without reasonable regulatory controls or even a genuine community conversation.



JOIN A NEW, POWERFUL ALLIANCE

Leaders including Tim Costello and academic Dr Charles Livingstone are collaborating with local government partners, the Australian and Victorian Inter-church Taskforces on Gambling, the Uniting Church, the Salvation Army and grassroots groups such as PokiesHarmWhittlesea.org and the Gambling Impact Society (NSW).

Join the Alliance for Gambling Reform to be a part of a new movement for change

Our alliance members represent over 77 organisations and tens of thousands of Australians. But we need more. We have a massive opportunity to make a difference, but we need a deep alliance to do it.

WE HAVE THE SOLUTIONS FOR CHANGE

We have the solutions to harm caused by poker machines. Our goal is to minimise the harm caused by poker machines through legislation to limit maximum bets to \$1, supported by a suite of complimentary policies including maximum loses of \$120 per hour, no cash out in venues, reducing operating hours and changes to machine licensing legislation.

Our campaign will win because we have a strong strategy:

1. **Build a national supporter base** for poker machine reform, with alliance members
2. **Re-frame the debate** back to the root cause of the problem – machines that are designed for addiction.
3. **Commission research** to provide a real evidence base for meaningful reform and revenue alternatives.
4. **Engage selected AFL and community clubs** by demonstrating that their members want to see their club lead.
5. **Use our community power to move politicians** to support the reforms adopted by leading clubs, so that all clubs and pubs are made safe from machines that were designed to be dangerous.

We have the ability to reach out to even more citizens and empower them to be a part of a campaign for systemic change. Together we can reign in a powerful source of harm and inequality in Australia.

JOIN THE ALLIANCE – MAKE A DIFFERENCE

By joining as an alliance member now, you'll be helping to forge this new Alliance. We need your ideas and feedback so we can ensure that this campaign is delivering what you need. As an Alliance member you can contribute by;

- Publically supporting the campaign
- Promoting the campaign to your networks
- Sharing your ideas
- Supporting a community event

The Alliance supports members and makes participation easy with;

- Recognition of your support on our website
- Ready to use, customisable flyers, emails and social media content
- Video's and fact sheets to use at events
- Tools that allow you to communicate with your networks and stakeholders
- How to guides and support for community film nights and events

The campaign is in development and we need your feedback and ideas to help ensure it's a broad, engaging campaign. We aim to launch the campaign in August with a series of planned activities and opportunities. Your active participation will make a profound difference to the lives of so many Australians impacted by an industry that urgently needs reform.

For more information please contact Tony Mohr on 0402 336 416 tmohr4@gmail.com



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA



CORPORATE SERVICES

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)

Councillor Darrell White returned to the meeting, the time being 7.57pm

17. CORPORATE SERVICES

17.1 ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS

General Manager

Corporate Services

For Decision

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present to Council, the Assembly of Councillor forms submitted since the Ordinary Council Meeting held 17 August 2015.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following Assemblies of Councillors have taken place:

Date:	Assembly Details / Matters Discussed:	In Attendance:	Conflicts of Interest Declared:
07 October 2015	Tourism Advisory Board	Councillors: Cr Sindt, Cr White Officers: Linda Brock	Nil
09 October 2015	War Memorials Advisory Committee	Councillors: Cr Harriman Officers: Henry Morrison	Nil
13 October 2015	Churchill and District Community Hub Advisory Committee / User Group Joint meetings	Councillors: Cr White Officers: Steve Piasente, Carole Ayres, Susanne Scarlett, Henri Bauer, Tessa Prestipino	Nil

COUNCIL MOTION

Moved: Cr Gibson
Seconded: Cr Rossiter

That Council receives and notes the Assemblies of Councillors records submitted which have been held within the period 07 October 2015 to 13 October 2015.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)**

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

Attachments

1. Tourism Advisory Board 07 October 2015
2. War Memorials Advisory Committee 09 October 2015
3. Churchill and District Community Hub 13 October 2015

17.1

Assembly of Councillors

- | | | |
|----------|---|------------|
| 1 | Tourism Advisory Board 07 October 2015 | 253 |
| 2 | War Memorials Advisory Committee 09 October 2015..... | 255 |
| 3 | Churchill and District Community Hub 13 October 2015 | 257 |



Assembly of Councillors Record

This form **MUST** be completed by the attending Council officer and returned **IMMEDIATELY** to the Council Operations Team for filing. {see over for Explanation/Guide Notes}.

Assembly details:	Tourism Advisory Board Meeting
Date:	7 October 2015
Time:	5.30pm
Assembly Location:	Nambur Wariga, HQ Morwell

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillors:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cr Christine Sindt	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Graeme Middlemiss	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Peter Gibbons
	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Dale Harriman	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Kellie O'Callaghan	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Sandy Kam
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cr Darrell White	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Michael Rossiter	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Sharon Gibson
Officer/s:	Linda Brock		
Matter/s and main topic/s discussed: <i>Provide dot points only, not the minutes of the meeting</i>	Terms of Reference and membership Attraction icon for Latrobe City		
Confidential/ Not confidential	Are the matters considered confidential under the Local Government Act? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES: (refer to page 2)

Councillors:	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Christine Sindt	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Graeme Middlemiss	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Peter Gibbons
	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Dale Harriman	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Kellie O'Callaghan	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Sandy Kam
	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Darrell White	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Michael Rossiter	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Sharon Gibson
Officer/s:			
Times that Officers / Councillors left/returned to the room:			

Completed by: Linda Brock, Tourism Coordinator, 7.10.15





Assembly of Councillors Record Explanation / Guide Notes
Required pursuant to the Local Government Act 1989 as amended.

1. Section 80A requirements (re: Written Record to be made by Council staff member):

Amendments to the Local Government Act 1989 (Section 80A), operative from 2 December 2008 now stipulate:

"At an assembly of Councillors, the Chief Executive Officer must ensure that a written record is kept of:

- the names of all Councillors and members of Council staff attending;
- the matters considered;
- any conflict of interest disclosures made by a Councillor attending under subsection (3);
- whether a Councillor who has disclosed a conflict of interest as required by subsection (3) leaves the assembly."

The above required information is:

- to be reported to an Ordinary meeting of the Council; and
- incorporated in the minutes of that Ordinary meeting.

2. Section 76AA definition:

"**Assembly of Councillors** (however titled, e.g: meeting / inspection / consultation etc) is a meeting of an advisory committee of the Council, if at least one Councillor is present, or a planned or scheduled meeting of at least half of the Councillors and one member of staff which considers matters that are intended or likely to be;

- The subject of a decision of the Council; or
- Subject to the exercise of a function, duty or power of the Council that has been delegated to a person or committee.

Brief Explanation:

Some examples of an *Assembly of Councillors* will include:

- Councillor Briefings;
- on site inspections, generally meetings re: any matters;
- meetings with residents, developers, other clients of Council, consultations;
- meetings with local organisations, Government Departments, statutory authorities (e.g. VicRoads, etc);

providing **at least 5 Councillors and 1 Council staff member are present** and the matter/s considered are intended **or likely to be** subject of a future decision by the Council **OR** an officer decision under delegated authority.

Effectively it is probable, that any meeting of at least 5 Councillors and 1 Council staff member will come under the new requirements as the assembly will in most cases be considering a matter which will come before Council or be the subject of a delegated officer's decision at some later time. If you require further clarification, please call the Manager Council Operations – Legal Counsel.

Please note: an Advisory Committee meeting requires only one Councillor to be in attendance. An advisory committee is defined as any committee established by the Council, other than a special committee, that provides advice to:

- the Council; or
- a special committee; or
- a member of Council staff who has been delegated a power, duty or function of the Council under section 98.

3. Section 80A and 80B requirements (re: Conflict of Interest):

Councillors and officers attending an Assembly of Councillors must disclose any conflict of interest.

Section 80A(3)

"If a Councillor attending an Assembly of Councillors knows, or would reasonably be expected to know, that a matter being considered by the assembly is a matter that, were the matter to be considered and decided by Council, the Councillor would have to disclose a conflict of interest under section 79, the Councillor must disclose either:

- (a) immediately before the matter in relation to the conflict is considered; or
- (b) if the Councillor realises that he/she has a conflict of interest after consideration of the matter has begun, as soon as the Councillor becomes aware of the conflict of interest, leave the assembly whilst the matter is being considered by the assembly."

Section 80B

A member of Council staff who has a conflict of interest (direct or indirect) in a matter in which they have a delegated power, duty or function must:

- not exercise the power or discharge the duty or function;
- disclose the type of interest and nature of interest to the in writing to the Chief Executive Officer as soon as he/she becomes aware of the conflict of interest. In the instance of the Chief Executive Officer having a pecuniary interest, disclosure in writing shall be made to the Mayor.



Assembly of Councillors Record

This form **MUST** be completed by the attending Council officer and returned **IMMEDIATELY** to the Council Operations Team for filing. {see over for Explanation/Guide Notes}.

Assembly details:	War Memorial Advisory Committee Meeting
Date:	Friday, 9 October 2015
Time:	11.00 am – 12 Noon
Assembly Location:	Latrobe City Council Corporate Headquarters

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillors:	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Christine Sindt	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Graeme Middlemiss	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Peter Gibbons
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cr Dale Harriman	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Kellie O'Callaghan	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Sandy Kam
	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Darrell White	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Michael Rossiter	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Sharon Gibson
Officer/s:	Henry Morrison		
Matter/s and main topic/s discussed: <i>Provide dot points only, not the minutes of the meeting</i>	Preservation of war memorials located within Latrobe City with representatives of the various RSL sub branches.		
Confidential/ Not confidential	Are the matters considered confidential under the Local Government Act? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES: (refer to page 2)

Councillors:	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Christine Sindt	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Graeme Middlemiss	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Peter Gibbons
	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Dale Harriman	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Kellie O'Callaghan	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Sandy Kam
	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Darrell White	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Michael Rossiter	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Sharon Gibson
Officer/s:	Nil		
Times that Officers / Councillors left/returned to the room:	Not applicable		

Completed by: Henry Morrison Coordinator Property & Statutory Services 14 October 2015



Assembly of Councillors Record Explanation / Guide Notes

Required pursuant to the Local Government Act 1989 as amended.

1. Section 80A requirements (re: *Written Record to be made by Council staff member*):

Amendments to the Local Government Act 1989 (Section 80A), operative from 2 December 2008 now stipulate:

"At an assembly of Councillors, the Chief Executive Officer must ensure that a written record is kept of:

- the names of all Councillors and members of Council staff attending;
- the matters considered;
- any conflict of interest disclosures made by a Councillor attending under subsection (3);
- whether a Councillor who has disclosed a conflict of interest as required by subsection (3) leaves the assembly."

The above required information is:

- to be reported to an Ordinary meeting of the Council; and
- incorporated in the minutes of that Ordinary meeting.

2. Section 76AA definition:

"**Assembly of Councillors** (however titled, e.g: meeting / inspection / consultation etc) is a meeting of an advisory committee of the Council, if at least one Councillor is present, or a planned or scheduled meeting of at least half of the Councillors and one member of staff which considers matters that are intended or likely to be;

- The subject of a decision of the Council; or
- Subject to the exercise of a function, duty or power of the Council that has been delegated to a person or committee.

Brief Explanation:

Some examples of an *Assembly of Councillors* will include:

- Councillor Briefings;
- on site inspections, generally meetings re: any matters;
- meetings with residents, developers, other clients of Council, consultations;
- meetings with local organisations, Government Departments, statutory authorities (e.g. VicRoads, etc);

providing **at least 5 Councillors and 1 Council staff member are present** and the matter/s considered are intended **or likely to be** subject of a future decision by the Council **OR** an officer decision under delegated authority.

Effectively it is probable, that any meeting of at least 5 Councillors and 1 Council staff member will come under the new requirements as the assembly will in most cases be considering a matter which will come before Council or be the subject of a delegated officer's decision at some later time. If you require further clarification, please call the Manager Council Operations – Legal Counsel.

Please note: an Advisory Committee meeting requires only one Councillor to be in attendance. An advisory committee is defined as any committee established by the Council, other than a special committee, that provides advice to:

- the Council; or
- a special committee; or
- a member of Council staff who has been delegated a power, duty or function of the Council under section 98.

3. Section 80A and 80B requirements (re: **Conflict of Interest**):

Councillors and officers attending an Assembly of Councillors must disclose any conflict of interest.

Section 80A(3)

"If a Councillor attending an Assembly of Councillors knows, or would reasonably be expected to know, that a matter being considered by the assembly is a matter that, were the matter to be considered and decided by Council, the Councillor would have to disclose a conflict of interest under section 79, the Councillor must disclose either:

- (a) immediately before the matter in relation to the conflict is considered; or
- (b) if the Councillor realises that he/she has a conflict of interest after consideration of the matter has begun, as soon as the Councillor becomes aware of the conflict of interest, leave the assembly whilst the matter is being considered by the assembly."

Section 80B

A member of Council staff who has a conflict of interest (direct or indirect) in a matter in which they have a delegated power, duty or function must:

- not exercise the power or discharge the duty or function;
- disclose the type of interest and nature of interest to the in writing to the Chief Executive Officer as soon as he/she becomes aware of the conflict of interest. In the instance of the Chief Executive Officer having a pecuniary interest, disclosure in writing shall be made to the Mayor.



Assembly of Councillors Record

This form **MUST** be completed by the attending Council officer and returned **IMMEDIATELY** to the Council Operations Team for filing. {see over for Explanation/Guide Notes}.

Assembly details:	Churchill and District Community Hub Advisory Committee/User Group Joint meetings.
Date:	Tuesday 13 October, 2015
Time:	4.00pm to 5.50pm
Assembly Location:	Meeting room, Churchill and District Community Hub, Phillip Parade, Churchill.

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillors:	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Christine Sindt	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Graeme Middlemiss	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Peter Gibbons
	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Dale Harriman	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Kellie O'Callaghan	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Sandy Kam
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cr Darrell White	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Michael Rossiter	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Sharon Gibson
Officer/s:	Steve Piasente – General Manager Community Infrastructure & Recreation Carole Ayres – (Executive Officer) Susanne Scarlett – Early Education Teacher, Churchill Preschool Henri Bauer – Team Leader MCH Tessa Prestipino – Coordinator Community Information		
Matter/s and main topic/s discussed: <i>Provide dot points only, not the minutes of the meeting</i>	Community Garden Project Memorandum of Understanding (draft) Options for development of retaining wall around Community Garden Project Churchill & District Community Hub Four Year Strategic Plan Year One Actions Solar Energy usage Painting of internal rooms at preschool and child care centre Lockdown options Air lock door Security grill for library Evacuation Drill proposed for Friday 16 October 2015 Proposed meeting dates for joint meetings for the remainder of 2015		
Confidential/ Not confidential	Are the matters considered confidential under the Local Government Act? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES: (refer to page 2)

Councillors:	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Christine Sindt	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Graeme Middlemiss	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Peter Gibbons
	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Dale Harriman	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Kellie O'Callaghan	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Sandy Kam





	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Darrell White	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Michael Rossiter	<input type="checkbox"/> Cr Sharon Gibson
Officer/s:			
Times that Officers / Councillors left/returned to the room:			



Completed by: Carole Ayres, EA Community Services

Assembly of Councillors Record Explanation / Guide Notes

Required pursuant to the Local Government Act 1989 as amended.

1. Section 80A requirements (re: *Written Record to be made by Council staff member*):

Amendments to the Local Government Act 1989 (Section 80A), operative from 2 December 2008 now stipulate:

"At an assembly of Councillors, the Chief Executive Officer must ensure that a written record is kept of:

- the names of all Councillors and members of Council staff attending;
- the matters considered;
- any conflict of interest disclosures made by a Councillor attending under subsection (3);
- whether a Councillor who has disclosed a conflict of interest as required by subsection (3) leaves the assembly."

The above required information is:

- to be reported to an Ordinary meeting of the Council; and
- incorporated in the minutes of that Ordinary meeting.

2. Section 76AA definition:

"Assembly of Councillors (however titled, e.g: meeting / inspection / consultation etc) is a meeting of an advisory committee of the Council, if at least one Councillor is present, or a planned or scheduled meeting of at least half of the Councillors and one member of staff which considers matters that are intended or likely to be;

- The subject of a decision of the Council; or
- Subject to the exercise of a function, duty or power of the Council that has been delegated to a person or committee.

Brief Explanation:

Some examples of an *Assembly of Councillors* will include:

- Councillor Briefings;
- on site inspections, generally meetings re: any matters;
- meetings with residents, developers, other clients of Council, consultations;
- meetings with local organisations, Government Departments, statutory authorities (e.g. VicRoads, etc);

providing **at least 5 Councillors and 1 Council staff member are present** and the matter/s considered are intended **or likely to be** subject of a future decision by the Council **OR** an officer decision under delegated authority.

Effectively it is probable, that any meeting of at least 5 Councillors and 1 Council staff member will come under the new requirements as the assembly will in most cases be considering a matter which will come before Council or be the subject of a delegated officer's decision at some later time. If you require further clarification, please call the Manager Council Operations – Legal Counsel.

Please note: an Advisory Committee meeting requires only one Councillor to be in attendance. An advisory committee is defined as any committee established by the Council, other than a special committee, that provides advice to:

- the Council; or
- a special committee; or
- a member of Council staff who has been delegated a power, duty or function of the Council under section 98.

3. Section 80A and 80B requirements (re: Conflict of Interest):

Councillors and officers attending an Assembly of Councillors must disclose any conflict of interest.

Section 80A(3)

"If a Councillor attending an Assembly of Councillors knows, or would reasonably be expected to know, that a matter being considered by the assembly is a matter that, were the matter to be considered and decided by Council, the Councillor would have to disclose a conflict of interest under section 79, the Councillor must disclose either:

- (a) immediately before the matter in relation to the conflict is considered; or
- (b) if the Councillor realises that he/she has a conflict of interest after consideration of the matter has begun, as soon as the Councillor becomes aware of the conflict of interest, leave the assembly whilst the matter is being considered by the assembly."

Section 80B

A member of Council staff who has a conflict of interest (direct or indirect) in a matter in which they have a delegated power, duty or function must:

- not exercise the power or discharge the duty or function;
- disclose the type of interest and nature of interest to the in writing to the Chief Executive Officer as soon as he/she becomes aware of the conflict of interest. In the instance of the Chief Executive Officer having a pecuniary interest, disclosure in writing shall be made to the Mayor.

17.2 COUNCIL COMMITTEES**General Manager****Corporate Services****For Decision****PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to present to Council a list of inactive council committees that should be abolished as they are no longer necessary.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Latrobe City Council currently has 59 committees which councillors and/or council officers and community members are appointed to. These are:

- Section 86 Special Committee (3)
- Operational (Works) Committee (7)
- Advisory Committee (39)
- User Group (10)

Council is required to maintain a list of special committees that it establishes or abolishes during the financial year in accordance with the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2004*.

It has been identified that four advisory committees had been abolished by council at the ordinary council meeting held on 22 April 2013.

These committees were:

- Latrobe City Climate Change Consultative Committee
- Latrobe City Investment Advisory Committee
- Low Carbon Emissions Future Transition Committee
- Mayoral Investment Attraction Working Group

However, the *Latrobe City Council, Instrument of Delegation 2012-2016 Council Delegates and Committees* (Council Delegates and Committees) list had not been updated to remove the above mentioned committees. This administrative process will be now finalised.

Following a review of the above mentioned committees by council officers it has been confirmed that a number of committees have also remained inactive for an extended period of time (over twelve months).

It is therefore recommended that the following committees are also abolished and the council delegates and committees list is updated accordingly.

- City Image Strategy Project Reference Group
- Community Engagement Reference Group
- Coal Land Use Planning Committee

COUNCIL MOTION

Moved: Cr White
Seconded: Cr Gibbons

That Council recognise that the roles of the following committees are not required at present, abolish the following advisory committees and updates the *Latrobe City Council, Instrument of Delegation 2012-2016 Council Delegates and Committees Document* accordingly:

- 1. City Image Strategy Project Reference Group**
- 2. Community Engagement Reference Group**
- 3. Coal Land Use Planning Committee**

For: Councillors Gibson, Rossiter, White, Sindt, O'Callaghan, Middlemiss, Harriman and Gibbons

Against: Councillor Kam

CARRIED

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

This report is consistent with Latrobe 2026: The Community Vision for Latrobe Valley and the Latrobe City Council Plan 2013-2017.

Latrobe 2026: The Community Vision for Latrobe Valley

Strategic Objectives - Governance

Latrobe City Council Plan 2013 - 2017

Theme and Objectives

Theme 3: Efficient, effective and accountable governance

Theme 4: Advocacy for and consultation with our community

Theme 5: Planning for the future

BACKGROUND

To assist council in the delivery of a range of complex tasks, committees are constituted to undertake specific delegated functions (special committees) or to provide expert advice on specific topics or projects (advisory committees). These committees provide insight and information

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)

that council may not otherwise receive either internally or externally. The role of a committee is to inform and enhance, not replace the role or responsibilities of council and individual councillors.

Latrobe City Council currently has 59 committees which councillors and/or council officers and community members are appointed to. These are:

- Section 86 Special Committee (3)
- Operational (Works) Committee (7)
- Advisory Committee (39)
- User Group (10)

At the council meeting held on 5 November 2014, council resolved:

That consideration of the General Terms of Reference for Council Advisory Committees be deferred to a future Council Meeting to enable further consideration of policy and governance matters.

Councillor briefings have occurred in order to provide further consideration of all of the policy and governance implications.

At the council meeting held on 27 July 2015, council resolved to adopt a new Terms of Reference for Advisory Committees, as well as the revised Establishment of Council Committee Policy.

This has led to the commencement of the review of each current advisory committee.

KEY POINTS/ISSUES

A briefing was held on 21 September 2015 with councillors to discuss the committee review project and the research and consultation outcomes identified at that point in time.

Council is required to maintain a list of special committees that it establishes or abolishes during the financial year in accordance with the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2004*. It was identified that four advisory committees had been abolished by Council on 22 April 2013, however, the *Latrobe City Council, Instrument of Delegation 2012-2016 Council Delegates and Committees* (Council Delegates and Committees) list had not been updated. This administrative process will be now finalised.

These committees were:

- Latrobe City Climate Change Consultative Committee
- Latrobe City Investment Advisory Committee
- Low Carbon Emissions Future Transition Committee
- Mayoral Investment Attraction Working Group

The following committees have also been identified as inactive by council officers. It is recommended that these are abolished for the reasons outlined below.

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)

- City Image Strategy Project Reference Group

The City Image Strategy Project Reference Group was established to provide input into the development, support the promotion, to assist in the review and inclusion of community consultation feedback and suggestions; and to be a key reviewer during the development of the City Image Strategy.

Council deferred the project indefinitely on 3 June 2013.

As such, until such time that the project is reconvened, it is appropriate to abolish the committee, to allow for the objectives and membership to be re-established for the project.
- Community Engagement Reference Group

The Community Engagement Reference Group was established to review and monitor the implementation of actions outlined in the Community Engagement Plan 2010-2014.

Research conducted suggests that the committee has not met since early 2014.

It is appropriate to abolish the committee at this stage, as a reference group has not been recommended as the governance structure of the Community Engagement Strategy presented at the council meeting on 14 September 2015.
- Coal Land Use Planning Committee

The Coal Land Use Planning Committee was reconvened on 23 May 2011 to track along with the Morwell Land Movement. Minutes from that meeting state that information to be presented as part of the I&D (now Councillor Briefings) sessions rather than a committee meeting to keep all councillors in the loop.

Councillors identified that it may be appropriate for this committee to be reconvened based on the recent planning panel recommendation for the Traralgon Growth Areas Review.

Buffer issues have been a discussion point in the Housing Strategy Project Reference Group, and Council is advocating for a policy update by the state government. Until such time that the state government does decide the policy is to be reviewed, there are no specific objectives for the committee to work towards.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk has been considered as part of this report and it is considered to be consistent with the risk management framework.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

There are no known financial implications by abolishing the proposed committees as they are currently not active. If council decided to activate the committees again, there will be resource and financial implications to support them.

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)****INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CONSULTATION**

Councillors and officers have been consulted in relation to the status of these committees in order to inform the recommendation.

OPTIONS

Council has the following options:

1. To support the recommendation and abolish the committees;
2. To support the recommendation in part, and abolish one or two of the committees; or
3. To not support the recommendation and request officers to develop further options to reactivate the committees.

CONCLUSION

The abolishment and updating of the council delegates and committees list is one step in the Council Committees Review Project. It will allow officers to focus on reviewing active committees and supporting them appropriately.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Council Committee Register

Establishment of Council Committee Policy

Latrobe City Council, Instrument of Delegation 2012-2016 Council Delegates and Committees

Attachments

Nil

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)****17.3 PROPOSED ROAD DISCONTINUANCE - CRAIGBURN PLACE,
TRARALGON EAST****General Manager****Corporate Services****For Decision****PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to consider a request from SMEC Australia, on behalf of AGL Loy Yang Pty Ltd, for Council to undertake the statutory process to discontinue part of Craighburn Place, Traralgon East.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has received a request from SMEC Australia, on behalf of AGL Loy Yang Pty Ltd, requesting that Council discontinue and transfer part of Craighburn Place, Traralgon East.

This road reserve was formerly part of the Hyland Highway however its classification as a state highway was rescinded by VicRoads in 2004 and it subsequently became a local unclassified road which is the responsibility of Council.

Council can discontinue a road reserve pursuant to Section 206 and Schedule 10 Clause 3 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

COUNCIL MOTION**Moved:** Cr Rossiter**Seconded:** Cr White**That Council:**

- 1. In accordance with Schedule 10 Clause and section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989 (Act)*, authorise the commencement of the statutory procedures relating to Council's intention to discontinue and sell by private treaty part of Craighburn Place, Traralgon East, (subject land) by giving public notice and inviting written submissions on the proposal in the Latrobe Valley Express.**
- 2. Receives written submissions and hear submissions on the proposal to discontinue and transfer the subject land from persons who have made a written request to be heard in person or by a party representing them as specified in their submission in accordance with the Act, at its Ordinary Meeting of Council on Monday, 7 December 2015.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

This report is consistent with Latrobe 2026: The Community Vision for Latrobe Valley and the Latrobe City Council Plan 2013-2017.

Latrobe 2026: The Community Vision for Latrobe Valley

Strategic Objectives - Governance

In 2026, Latrobe Valley has a reputation for conscientious leadership and governance, strengthened by an informed and engaged community, committed to enriching local decision making.

Latrobe City Council Plan 2013 - 2017

Theme and Objectives

Theme 3: Efficient, effective and accountable governance

Strategic Direction – To provide open, transparent and accountable governance.

Legislation

Local Government Act 1989

Section 206 and Schedule 10 Clause 3 of the Local Government Act 1989 gives Council the power to discontinue roads:

“A Council may, in addition to any power given to it by Sections 43 and 44 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* –

- (i) discontinue a road, or part of a road, by a notice published in the Government Gazette; and
- (ii) sell the land from that road (if it is not Crown Land), transfer the land to the Crown or itself or retain the land.”

This power is subject to Section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* which requires Council “publish a public notice stating that submissions in respect of the matter specified in the public notice will be considered in accordance with this section”.

Council must then consider any submissions that have been received and any person who has made a submission and requested they be heard are entitled to appear before a meeting of Council.

Policy – Council has not adopted a policy relating to the discontinuance of roads.

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)****BACKGROUND**

Craigburn Place originally formed part of the Hyland Highway until its classification as a state highway was rescinded by VicRoads via a notice in the Victoria Government Gazette on 25 March 2004. This rescission made the road a local unclassified road and a municipal road under the care and management of Council.

Council currently maintains the first 660 meters of Craigburn Place from Shakespeare Street to an existing gate installed by AGL Loy Yang Pty Ltd and it is listed as a sealed access road on Council's Public Road Register.

There are three properties that utilise Craigburn Place for access (50 Stuart Street, 60 Craigburn Place and 65 Craigburn Place) however this is before the existing gate and not from the section of the road that would be discontinued and transferred.

All land beyond this point is owned by AGL Loy Yang Pty Ltd.

KEY POINTS/ISSUES

SMEC Australia, on behalf of AGL Loy Yang Pty Ltd, have requested that Council undertake the statutory process to discontinue and transfer part of Craigburn Place, Traralgon East, as shown in green on the attached plan. (Attachment One)

A similar application has also been made to the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning for the closure and purchase of the former Hyland Highway beyond this point as this is a government road.

The section of Craigburn Place, Traralgon East, that is proposed to be discontinued and transferred to AGL Loy Yang Pty Ltd is not maintained by Council and is not currently accessible to the public.

Section 206 and Schedule 10 Clause 3 of the *Local Government Act 1989* allows Council to exercise its powers over roads including the discontinuance and sale of a road as set out in Schedule 10 of the Act.

In exercising this power, Council must give public notice of its intention to consider the discontinuance of a road and invite public submissions. Once Council has considered any written submissions, Council can then decide whether to proceed with the potential discontinuance and transfer of the land.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk has been considered as part of this report and it is considered to be consistent with the risk management framework.

There is not considered to be any risks associated with this report.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

Costs associated with this statutory process are officer's time and resources in the preparation of Council reports and the cost of public notices in the Latrobe Valley Express inviting submissions. Subject to Council finalising the statutory process, the cost of an independent valuation a notice published in the Victoria Government Gazette would also be incurred.

The cost of the public notice, gazette notice and valuation are borne by the applicant.

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CONSULTATION*Engagement Method Used:*

It is proposed to seek public comment via:

- Public notices published in the Latrobe Valley Express
- Letters to any adjoining property owners in Craighburn Place
- Notice displayed at the corporate headquarters and Traralgon Service Centre, and
- Details placed on the Latrobe City Council website.

Details of Community Consultation / Results of Engagement:

In accordance with Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 any submissions received regarding this matter will be referred for consideration at a future meeting of Council.

OPTIONS

Council has the following options:

1. Commence the statutory process to discontinue part of Craighburn Place, Traralgon East, by giving public notice, or
2. Decline to commence the statutory process to discontinue part of Craighburn Place, Traralgon East, and advise AGL Loy Yang Pty Ltd accordingly.

CONCLUSION

The section of Craighburn Place, Traralgon East, is not required as part of Council's road network, is not presently maintained by Council and is not accessible to the public.

It is recommended that Council gives notice of its intention to consider the potential discontinuance and sale by private treaty of this section of Craighburn Place, Traralgon East, to AGL Loy Yang Pty Ltd in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989*.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Nil

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)**

Attachments

1. Plan showing section of Craighburn Place, Traralgon East, to be discontinued.

17.3

Proposed Road Discontinuance - Craighburn Place, Traralgon East

- 1 Plan showing section of Craighburn Place, Traralgon
East, to be discontinued. 271



**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)**

**17.4 PROPOSED COUNCIL POLICY FOR THE PROTECTION OF
HUBERT OSBORNE PARK**

General Manager

Corporate Services

For Decision

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the proposed Protection of Hubert Osborne Park Policy (the Policy) for adoption.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is in response to community concern around the proposed sale of Hubert Osborne Park (the Park) and the subsequent Council resolution not to sell the Park and prevent the sale of the Park into the future.

External legal advice highlights that Council cannot completely 'bind' itself in future as to the sale of the freehold lots that it owns in relation to the Park. As a result, any Council resolution to do so could be overturned if a future Council wished to proceed with the sale of the Park.

The attached draft policy imposes criteria which discourages Council accepting future proposals to sell the Park. This policy would merely stand as a guide only and serve as a pro-active mechanism of consultation between Council and the public if adopted.

COUNCIL MOTION

Moved: Cr Rossiter

Seconded: Cr Gibson

That Council adopts the Protection of Hubert Osborne Park Policy.

LOST UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCIL MOTION

Moved: Cr Kam

Seconded: Cr Gibson

That Council release the draft policy for community consultation for at least 28 days, and a report be brought back to Council

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

This report is consistent with Latrobe 2026: The Community Vision for Latrobe Valley and the Latrobe City Council Plan 2013-2017.

Latrobe City Council Plan 2013 - 2017

Theme and Objectives

Theme 3: Efficient, effective and accountable governance

Theme 4: Advocacy for and consultation with our community

BACKGROUND

In 2007 Council proposed an extension to the Kay Street Kindergarten located on Hubert Osborne Park in Traralgon. At this time, the Save Osborne Park Community Group was formed to provide representation for residents concerned about saving the park.

In 2010 Council considered a proposal to sell part of Hubert Osborne Park to assist in the development and financing of a new indoor Aquatic and Leisure Centre associated with the Traralgon Activity Centre Plan. Neither of these proposals proceeded after strong opposition from the local community and the Save Osborne Park Community Group.

At the ordinary Council meeting held on 23 May 2011 Council resolved:

That having considered all submissions received in respect to the Traralgon Indoor Aquatic and Leisure Centre Feasibility Study 15 July 2010, Council resolves the following:

1. *To not pursue the sale of any land on the Hubert Osborne Park site for the purpose of funding an indoor aquatic facility.*
2. *To not pursue the development of an indoor aquatic facility at Catterick Crescent.*
3. *To authorise the Chief Executive Officer to prepare a further report for consideration of Council in respect to the future use of the current Traralgon Outdoor Pool site and Traralgon Croquet Club site which considers the following options:*
 - a. *Developing an indoor aquatic and leisure centre on the site currently occupied by the Traralgon Outdoor Pool (outlined in Development Scenario 1 in the Traralgon Indoor Aquatic and Leisure Centre Feasibility Study 15 July 2010);*
 - b. *Identifying opportunities for modifications to the current Traralgon Outdoor Pool to facilitate increased patronage/usage, including costs associated with any potential works; and*
 - c. *Maintaining the status quo in respect to the current outdoor pool and associated infrastructure on the site.*

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)

4. *To refer any development options in respect to the provision of improved aquatic infrastructure for Traralgon to Latrobe City Council's ten year financial plan for consideration.*
5. *That Council investigate the use of a legal or other instrument over the land at Hubert Osborne Park that would protect it from sale in the future and that a report be presented to Open Council on its findings.*
6. *That an invitation be extended to the following stakeholders to establish a working party that would be consulted by the CEO in relation to the work undertaken at point 3 which would include:*
 - *Traralgon Swimming Club*
 - *Traralgon Community Development Association*
 - *Save Hubert Osborne Park Group*
 - *Traralgon Croquet Club*

Council officers subsequently sought advice from Maddocks Lawyers regarding mechanisms that would restrict the sale of Hubert Osborne Park in the future.

There already exists a number of matters that would restrict a potential sale of the Park. Council does not own all the lots that make up the park, and there are also a number of statutory requirements under the *Crown Land Act 1978*, *Local Government Act 1989*, *Subdivision Act 1988* and the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, that would have to be complied with before a sale could be possible. However it is still recommended that Council adopts a policy which covers the current Councils intent for Hubert Osborne Park for transparency purposes.

On 5 December 2011, Council resolved:

1. *That Council does not sell any land making up the Hubert Osborne Park in Traralgon.*
2. *That a draft policy be prepared relating to Hubert Osborne Park and be presented to Council for consideration.*

A policy was drafted and legal advice sought as to whether and how Council could legally prevent the future sale of the park.

The attached proposed policy is now presented to Council for adoption.

KEY POINTS/ISSUES

There are no legally binding options that Council can enforce to prevent the sale of the Park. Council decisions to do so can be overturned by Council if a future sale were to proceed with the Park.

A draft policy has been developed and attached to this report which highlights the public's concern over the future of the Park and reinforces Council's current position not to sell the Park.

The proposed draft policy imposes criteria that discourages any future proposal to sell the Park.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk has been considered as part of this report and it is considered to be consistent with the Risk Management framework.

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CONSULTATION*Engagement Method Used:*

Consultation was sought by Council officers with the Save Hubert Osborne Park Community Group and with Councillors in the development of this policy.

External legal advice was also sought as to the Councils rights and responsibilities regarding the prevention of any future sell of the Park.

OPTIONS

Council may:

1. Adopt the proposed Protection of Hubert Osborne Park Policy without amendment;
2. Adopt the proposed Protection of Hubert Osborne Park Policy with amendments;
3. Not adopt the proposed Protection of Hubert Osborne Park Policy.

CONCLUSION

It is the recommendation that after previous community consultation and legal advice that Council adopt the Policy for the Protection of Hubert Osborne Park.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Nil

Attachments

1. Council Policy for the Protection of Hubert Osborne Park

17.4

Proposed Council Policy for the Protection of Hubert Osborne Park

- 1 Council Policy for the Protection of Hubert Osborne Park..... 277



Establishment of Council Policy for the
Protection of Hubert Osborne Park
DRAFT

Version Number	DRAFT Version 1.1 15-POL-1
Approval Authority	Council
Date of Last Review	July 2015
Next Review due	July 2017
Superseded Documents	N/A
Responsible Area	Corporate Services
Legislative References	Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978 Planning and Environment Act 1987 Local Government Act 1989 Subdivision Act 1988

Title: Council Policy for the Protection of Hubert Osborne Park

Revision No. 1

Owner: Coordinator Property and Statutory

Date of Approval: Draft

Next Review Date: July 2017

Department: Corporate Services

Page 2 of 12

When printed, document becomes UNCONTROLLED

Establishment of Council Policy for the Protection of Hubert Osborne Park

15-POL-1

BACKGROUND

In 2007, Latrobe City Council proposed an extension to the Kay Street Kindergarten located on Hubert Osborne Park. At this time, the Save Osborne Park Community Group was formed to provide representation for residents concerned about saving the park. In 2010 Latrobe City Council considered a proposal to sell part of Hubert Osborne Park to assist in the development and financing of a new indoor Aquatic Centre for Traralgon. Neither of these proposals proceeded after strong opposition from the local community and the Save Osborne Park Community Group.

It also led to Council resolving on 5 December 2011 to not sell any part of Hubert Osborne Park and to request the development of a policy to prevent the sale, lease or change of use of any part of the land into the future.

1. Purpose

This policy has been prepared and adopted by Council to:

- 1.1 protect Hubert Osborne Park as a community asset for public use;
- 1.2 demonstrate Council's commitment to retaining Hubert Osborne Park as a community asset for future use by the public.

On 5 December 2011 Council resolved to not sell any part of the land that makes up the Hubert Osborne Park. However, in the event that Council ever seeks to change any of the existing uses of the Hubert Osborne Park, or sell or lease part or all of Hubert Osborne Park this policy will ensure that Council;

- 1.3 include local residents in the decision-making process on whether to sell, lease or change the existing uses of Hubert Osborne Park (or part of it) by way of community consultation;
- 1.4 set out additional procedures (further to the existing legislative requirements) with which Council must comply before it can consider selling, leasing or changing the existing use of Hubert Osborne Park; and
- 1.5 inform the community of the steps with which Council would need to comply before determining whether to sell, lease or change the existing uses of Hubert Osborne Park.

2. Description of Hubert Osborne Park and application of this Policy

2.1 Description of Hubert Osborne Park

Hubert Osborne Park is bounded by Kay, Breed, Seymour and Mabel Streets in the Traralgon central business district. It is made up of 10 separate lots, of which:

- 2.1.1 2 lots are owned by the Victorian Government. They are Crown land reserved for recreational purposes (**Crown Allotments**). At the time of making this policy, Council was the committee of management responsible for the Crown lots under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*; and
- 2.1.2 8 lots are owned by Council.

Title: Council Policy for the Protection of Hubert Osborne Park
Date of Approval: Draft

Revision No. 1 Owner: Coordinator Property and Statutory

Next Review Date: July 2017 Department: Corporate Services

When printed, document becomes UNCONTROLLED

Establishment of Council Policy for the Protection of Hubert Osborne Park

15-POL-1

The entire park is reserved under the Latrobe Planning Scheme (**the Scheme**) for public purposes and recreation (PPRZ).

2.2 *Current use of Hubert Osborne Park*

Hubert Osborne Park is used by the community as passive open space, a recreational park and playground, aquatic facility, croquet club, pre-school, barbeque, picnic area and car-park.

There is also an air monitoring station on the site utilised by the Environment Protection Agency.

2.3 *Application of this policy*

The requirements of this policy apply to any sale or proposed sale, any lease or proposed lease and any change of the existing uses of Hubert Osborne Park (or any part of Hubert Osborne Park) by Council.

Paragraphs 4 to 8 set out the requirements of this policy with which Council must comply before it determines whether to sell or otherwise transfer ownership of all or part of Hubert Osborne Park, lease any or all of Hubert Osborne Park or change any of the existing uses of Hubert Osborne Park in any way whatsoever including any reduction in the passive open space. For clarity, no land within the boundary of the Traralgon Outdoor Pool is considered passive open space for the purpose of this Policy,

Paragraphs 4 to 8 detail the existing statutory and policy requirements with which Council must comply in addition to this new policy, before Council determines whether to sell or otherwise transfer ownership of all or part of Hubert Osborne Park.

REQUIREMENTS UNDER THIS POLICY

3 Council must undertake a community survey of local residents

3.1.1 In addition to the processes outlined at paragraphs 4 to 8 below, Council must conduct a community survey to ascertain public opinion on any proposed sale of all or part of Hubert Osborne Park, any proposed lease of all or part of Hubert Osborne Park and any proposed change of use of the existing facilities in any way whatsoever that make up part of Hubert Osborne Park including any reduction in the existing passive open space.

3.1.2 The community survey is a two-step process that will survey residents;

- (a) Within five hundred meters of Hubert Osborne Park (as shown in appendix two);
- (b) Within the Traralgon and Traralgon East districts including all people who reside within the 3844 postcode.

3.1.3 The community survey for residents within 500 metres of Hubert Osborne Park must;

- (a) Not be conducted at same time as any public process outlined at paragraphs 6 to 8 below;
- (b) Be directed at residents over the age of 18 years;
- (c) Survey all residential properties located within 500 meters of Hubert Osborne Park;

Title: Council Policy for the Protection of Hubert Osborne Park
Date of Approval: Draft

Revision No. 1 Owner: Coordinator Property and Statutory

Next Review Date: July 2017 Department: Corporate Services

When printed, document becomes UNCONTROLLED

Establishment of Council Policy for the Protection of Hubert Osborne Park

15-POL-1

- (d) Set out the timeframe for residents to respond to a the survey;
- (e) Be designed to ask residents a "yes" or "no" question about whether Council should:
 - (i) sell, lease or change the existing use of all or part of Hubert Osborne Park; or
 - (ii) retain ownership, not lease or not change the existing use of Hubert Osborne Park; and
- (f) be retaken in the event that less than 50 percent of residents over the age of 18, to whom the survey was delivered or conducted, respond to the survey. For clarity, any survey that is not returned to Council is not an implied consent to any proposal whatsoever.

3.1.4 The community survey for all residents of Traralgon and Traralgon East who have the 3844 postcode must:

- (a) be undertaken at the same time as the survey set out in paragraph 3.1.3
- (b) be directed at residents over the age of 18 years;
- (c) survey all households located within the localities of Traralgon and Traralgon East (as identified by reference to the 3844 postcode).
- (d) set out the timeframe for residents to respond to the survey;
- (e) be designed to ask residents a "yes or no" question about whether Council should:
 - (iii) sell, lease or change the existing use of all or part of Hubert Osborne Park; or
 - (iv) retain ownership, not lease or not change the existing use of Hubert Osborne Park; and
- (f) be retaken in the event that less than 20 percent of residents over the age of 18, to whom the survey was delivered or conducted, respond to the survey. For clarity, any survey that is not returned to Council is not an implied consent to any proposal whatsoever.

4. Factors which Council MUST consider before deciding to sell Hubert Osborne Park

4.1 Before determining whether to sell, lease or change the existing use in any way whatsoever of all or part of Hubert Osborne Park, Council must (in order of precedence):

- 4.1.1 Obtain a majority the results of the community survey from both;
 - (a) The residents within 500 meters of Hubert Osborne Park; and
 - (b) The residents in the Traralgon and Traralgon East areas including all residents who have a 3844 postcode;

Title: Council Policy for the Protection of Hubert Osborne Park
Date of Approval: Draft

Revision No. 1 Owner: Coordinator Property and Statutory

Next Review Date: July 2017 Department: Corporate Services

When printed, document becomes UNCONTROLLED

Establishment of Council Policy for the Protection of Hubert Osborne Park

15-POL-1

- 4.1.2 provide replacement comparable public open space in the form of a park area, in close proximity to Hubert Osborne Park;
- 4.1.3 consider the purpose for which the potential purchaser or tenant intends to purchase or lease Hubert Osborne Park (or part of Hubert Osborne Park).

EXISTING PROTECTIONS AND PROCESSES BEFORE ANY SALE CAN TAKE PLACE

The following part of this policy sets out the existing processes with which Council must comply before it can sell or otherwise transfer ownership of Hubert Osborne Park.

5. Council cannot sell the Crown Allotments because it does not own them

The Crown Allotments are owned by the Victorian Government, with Council being responsible for their care and management as a committee of management under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act*. Therefore, Council cannot sell the Crown allotments of Hubert Osborne Park because it holds no title to the lots. It would be for the Victorian Government to determine whether to sell the land.

If the Victorian Government transfers the Crown Allotments to Council (though it has given no indication that it might) then the remainder of this policy applies to those lots in the same way as it applies to the 8 lots of Hubert Osborne Park which are owned by Council.

6. Limitation in the *Subdivision Act 1988*

6.1 *Reservation for public purposes recorded on title*

In the event that the Victorian Government transfers the Crown Allotments to Council, the two Crown Allotments would remain reserved for public purposes, and the reservation would remain recorded on title.

To sell land that is reserved for public purposes Council would need to:

- 6.1.1 amend the Scheme or obtain a planning permit to alter the use of Hubert Osborne Park; and
- 6.1.2 remove the reservation from Hubert Osborne Park, by following the process set out in section 24A of the *Subdivision Act*.

Amending the Scheme or obtaining a planning permit would involve Council applying to itself (as responsible authority) or the Minister for Planning pursuant to the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. Both applications would require:

- public notice; and
- if objections were received in relation to the proposal, public submissions processes,

and both applications could ultimately be refused by the decision-maker following these processes.

If, however, Council then successfully obtained a planning permit or amended the Scheme, it would then need to lodge for registration with the Titles Office a certified plan in accordance with section 24A of the *Subdivision Act*. Assuming all of the above requirements are met, then the reserve status of the Crown lots could be removed and the lots would vest in Council as ordinary freehold

Title: Council Policy for the Protection of Hubert Osborne Park
Date of Approval: Draft

Revision No. 1 Owner: Coordinator Property and Statutory

Next Review Date: July 2017 Department: Corporate Services

When printed, document becomes UNCONTROLLED

Establishment of Council Policy for the Protection of Hubert Osborne Park

15-POL-1

land, to be used for a purpose consistent with any Act under which Council operates and the Scheme (see section 24A(7)(b) *Subdivision Act*).

If Council sought to sell the Crown Allotments, it would be required, by sections 20(4) and 24A(7)(a) of the *Subdivision Act*, to provide replacement public open space in its municipal district (see paragraph 7 below). Council would also be required to apply the proceeds of the sale of the Crown Allotments (if sold) to pay the expenses incidental to the sale and any remaining proceeds to recreational and cultural purposes.

As this would eventually be a sale of Council-owned land, Council would also need to comply with the requirements of section 189 of the *Local Government Act 1989* as set out below.

All of the above assumes that the Victorian Government would want to transfer ownership of the Crown lots, which may well be unlikely.

6.2 Replacing any public open space sold

The remaining 8 lots which Council owns are not reserved on title for public purposes. However, these lots – as well as the Crown Allotments – do constitute 'public open space' under the *Subdivision Act* because the entire Hubert Osborne Park is land in a plan reserved under the Scheme for public recreation and similar purposes. Therefore, should Council attempt to sell any of the land in Hubert Osborne Park, it will need to provide replacement open space (see section 20(4) *Subdivision Act*).

7. Limitations in the *Local Government Act 1989*

Council owns 8 lots of Hubert Osborne Park. Section 189 of the *Local Government Act* imposes restrictions on Council's power to sell land owned by it. The provision requires that Council:

- 7.1 gives public notice of its intention to sell or exchange the land at least four weeks prior to the sale or exchange;
- 7.2 obtains a valuation of the land no older than 6 months from the date of the sale or exchange; and
- 7.3 (in most cases) undertakes a submissions process pursuant to section 223 of the *Local Government Act*.

Members of the community can therefore express any concerns about a proposed sale of Hubert Osborne Park through the submissions process. Council will be bound to consider all submissions when deciding whether to sell or exchange the land.

Council would not be bound to follow the requirements in section 189 of the *Local Government Act* if it decides to transfer, exchange or lease Hubert Osborne Park, without consideration, to the Crown, a Minister, a public body, trustees appointed under an Act or a hospital in certain circumstances (please refer to s.191 *Local Government Act*).

8. Scheme limitations

Hubert Osborne Park is reserved for public purposes and recreation, meaning the Scheme permits a range of public uses to take place at the park as of right (such as carnivals, sporting facilities and the like). Other uses including retail premises generally require a planning permit unless carried out in accordance with legislation.

Title: Council Policy for the Protection of Hubert Osborne Park
Date of Approval: Draft

Revision No. 1 Owner: Coordinator Property and Statutory

Next Review Date: July 2017 Department: Corporate Services

When printed, document becomes UNCONTROLLED

Establishment of Council Policy for the Protection of Hubert Osborne Park

15-POL-1

Council could attempt to sell the freehold lots with the zoning remaining over Hubert Osborne Park. However, the zone would significantly limit any use to which the potential purchaser might put Hubert Osborne Park, and could be unattractive to a potential purchaser. Council would still need to follow the process in section 189 of the *Local Government Act* as outlined in paragraph 7 above to sell Council-owned land.

Council could only remove the PPRZ from Hubert Osborne Park by application to the Minister for Planning for an amendment to the Scheme. Council, as owner of the freehold lots, could also apply to itself as planning authority under the *Planning and Environment Act*, though this option would be less appropriate in the circumstances and the ultimate decision would need to be approved by the Minister for Planning. The application process would also involve a public process should any submissions opposing the rezoning be received.

9. Sale of Council Owned Property Policy

Council also has a Sale of Council Owned Property Policy (**the Existing Policy**) with which it must comply before selling Council-owned land (that is, the 8 lots of Hubert Osborne Park). This policy requires Council to:

- 9.1 determine whether a property is surplus to Council requirements, by considering the questions outlined at paragraph 4 of the Existing Policy;
- 9.2 invite submissions from the community where it determines that the property is surplus to Council requirements;
- 9.3 provide community organisations with first opportunity to express an interest in purchasing properties deemed surplus to Council and community requirements;
- 9.4 in certain circumstances and once the above requirements have been met, put the property to sale by public auction;
- 9.5 in certain circumstances, only accept a purchase price for the land at or above 90% of the valuation obtained pursuant to section 189 of the *Local Government Act*; and
- 9.6 seek quotations or tenders for real estate services when required.

Title: Council Policy for the Protection of Hubert Osborne Park
Date of Approval: Draft

Revision No. 1 Owner: Coordinator Property and Statutory

Next Review Date: July 2017 Department: Corporate Services

When printed, document becomes UNCONTROLLED

Establishment of Council Policy for the Protection of Hubert Osborne Park

15-POL-1

Relationship to Council Plan & Latrobe 2026

This policy relates to the following Strategic Objectives outlined in Latrobe 2026: The Vision for Latrobe Valley:-

- Governance** *In 2026, Latrobe Valley has a reputation for conscientious leadership and governance, strengthened by an informed and engaged community, committed to enriching local decision making.*
- Built Environment** *In 2026, Latrobe Valley benefits from a well-planned built environment that is complimentary to its surroundings, and which provides for a connected and inclusive community.*
- Recreation** *In 2026, Latrobe Valley encourages a healthy and vibrant lifestyle, with diversity in passive and active recreational opportunities and facilities that connect people with their community.*
- Culture** *In 2026, Latrobe Valley celebrates the diversity of heritage and cultures that shape our community, with activities and facilities that support the cultural vitality of the region.*
- Economy** *In 2026, Latrobe Valley has a strong and diverse economy built on innovative and sustainable enterprise. The vibrant business centre of Gippsland contributes to the regional and broader economies, whilst providing opportunities and property for a local community.*
- Community** *In 2026, Latrobe Valley is one of the most liveable regions in Victoria, known for its high quality health, education and community services, supporting communities that are safe, connected and proud.*

Title: Council Policy for the Protection of Hubert Osborne Park
Date of Approval: Draft

Revision No. 1 Owner: Coordinator Property and Statutory

Next Review Date: July 2017 Department: Corporate Services

When printed, document becomes UNCONTROLLED

Establishment of Council Policy for the Protection of Hubert Osborne Park

15-POL-1

This policy relates to the following Strategic Objectives as outlined in the Council Plan 2013-2017:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Appropriate, Affordable & Sustainable Facilities, Services & Recreation | <i>To promote and support a healthy, active and connected community</i> |
| | <i>To provide facilities and services that are accessible and meet the needs of our diverse community</i> |
| Efficient, Effective & Accountable Governance | <i>To achieve the highest standards of financial probity and meet all statutory obligations</i> |
| | <i>To provide open, transparent and accountable governance</i> |
| Advocacy for & Consultation With Our Community | <i>Work in partnerships with all levels of governments to ensure Latrobe City is well supported, resourced and recognised as one of Victoria's four major regional cities</i> |
| | <i>To advocate for and support cooperative relationships between business, industry and the community</i> |
| | <i>To ensure effective two-way communication and consultation processes with the community</i> |

Title: Council Policy for the Protection of Hubert Osborne Park
Date of Approval: Draft

Revision No. 1 Owner: Coordinator Property and Statutory

Next Review Date: July 2017 Department: Corporate Services

When printed, document becomes UNCONTROLLED

Establishment of Council Policy for the Protection of Hubert Osborne Park

15-POL-1

Definitions

Act	In the context of this policy, means the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i>
Community Facility	Real property accommodating community infrastructure, such as public halls, recreation facilities and the like, which have broad community use and are used for multi-purpose cultural, community and/or recreational purposes.
Council	Means Latrobe City Council, being a body corporate constituted as a municipal Council under the Act.
Council Controlled Property	Real property in which the Council has a major and controlling interest whether through: (a) A lease or licence; (b) As committee of management under the <i>Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978</i> ; (c) Some other grant, demise, gift, benefit or bequest; or (d) Specific legislation or law enacted by the Parliament.
Council officer	Means the Chief Executive Officer and staff of Council appointed by the Chief Executive Officer.
Council Owned Property	Real property to which the Council has title whether: (a) In fee simple estate; (b) By possession; (c) A restrictive Crown grant; (d) A restrictive, in fee simple Crown grant; or (e) An in fee simple Crown grant.
Councillor(s)	Means the individuals holding the office of a member of Latrobe City Council

Title: Council Policy for the Protection of Hubert Osborne Park
Date of Approval: Draft

Revision No. 1 Owner: Coordinator Property and Statutory

Next Review Date: July 2017 Department: Corporate Services

When printed, document becomes UNCONTROLLED

Establishment of Council Policy for the Protection of Hubert Osborne Park

15-POL-1

This policy has been reviewed after giving proper consideration to all the rights contained within the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*; and any reasonable limitation to human rights can be demonstrably justified.

Signed : _____ Date : ... / ... /2015
Chief Executive Officer

DRAFT

Title: Council Policy for the Protection of Hubert Osborne Park
Date of Approval: Draft

Revision No. 1 Owner: Coordinator Property and Statutory

Next Review Date: July 2017 Department: Corporate Services

When printed, document becomes UNCONTROLLED

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)****17.5 CONTRACT VARIATIONS REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY TO
30 SEPTEMBER 2015****General Manager****Corporate Services****For Information****PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a summary of all contract variations for the period 1 July 2015 to 30 September 2015.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Policy – Procurement Policy 14 POL-7

4.6.7 Variations Reporting

All contract variations approved by the Chief Executive Officer are required to be reported to Council on a quarterly basis.

Contract variations are detailed in the attachment.

COUNCIL MOTION**Moved:** Cr White**Seconded:** Cr Rossiter

That Council receives and notes this report on contract variations approved by the Chief Executive Officer under delegation during the period 1 July 2015 to 30 September 2015.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

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

Attachments
1. Variation Details

17.5

Contract Variations Report for the period 1 July to 30 September 2015

1	Variation Details.....	291
----------	-------------------------------	------------

Contract No. and Title:		LCC-177 Moe Rail Precinct Revitalisation Project - Stage 1					
Contractor:		Building Engineering Pty Ltd					
Date Council Awarded Contract:		11/08/2014	Date Council delegated authority to the Chief Executive Officer to approve contract variations within budgeted amount:				N/A
Original Contract Value:		\$11,990,080.00					
Contract Variation No.	Variation description	Date variation approved by CEO	Variation amount	Previous value of variations to date	Total value of variations	Total variation % of original contract value	Revised contract value
19	Design change in lift wall height	29/07/2015	\$3,946.80	\$64,847.47	\$68,794.27	0.57%	\$12,058,874.27
20	Beam at grid 2 on level 1 and structural changes	29/07/2015	\$12,746.00	\$68,794.27	\$81,540.27	0.68%	\$12,071,620.27
21	Additional soil removal at eastern carpark	29/07/2015	\$6,231.50	\$81,540.27	\$87,771.77	0.73%	\$12,077,851.77
22	Leak detection system	5/08/2015	\$27,900.00	\$87,771.77	\$115,671.77	0.96%	\$12,105,751.77
23	Design changes to mezzanine beams	25/08/2015	\$7,542.70	\$115,671.77	\$123,214.47	1.03%	\$12,113,294.47
24	Credit for alternative access floor	24/09/2015	-\$6,000.00	\$123,214.47	\$117,214.47	0.98%	\$12,107,294.47

Contract No. and Title:		LCC-209 Pavement Rehabilitation of Airfield Road at Traralgon - Stage 1					
Contractor:		QR Construction (Gippsland) Pty Ltd					
Date Council Awarded Contract:		13/10/2014	Date Council delegated authority to the Chief Executive Officer to approve contract variations within budgeted amount:				N/A
Original Contract Value:		\$840,680.50					
Contract Variation No.	Variation description	Date variation approved by CEO	Variation amount	Previous value of variations to date	Total value of variations	Total variation % of original contract value	Revised contract value
6	Vehicle crossing at farm property adjacent to 100 Airfield Road	5/05/2015	\$4,160.00	\$110,378.19	\$114,538.19	13.62%	\$955,218.69

Contract No. and Title:		LCC-212 Latrobe City Hyland Highway Landfill - Construction of Landfill Cell 4					
Contractor:		RTL Mining and Earthworks Pty Ltd					
Date Council Awarded Contract:		21/11/2014	Date Council delegated authority to the Chief Executive Officer to approve contract variations within budgeted amount:				N/A
Original Contract Value:		\$1,586,375.00					
Contract Variation No.	Variation description	Date variation approved by CEO	Variation amount	Previous value of variations to date	Total value of variations	Total variation % of original contract value	Revised contract value
4	Survey, extension of pipe culvert and increase in height of south batter sub-base	8/09/2015	\$24,567.00	\$20,259.78	\$44,826.78	2.83%	\$1,631,201.78

Contract No. and Title:		LCC-216 Pavement Rehabilitation of Fourth Road at Hazelwood North					
Contractor:		Sure Constructions (Vic) Pty Ltd					
Date Council Awarded Contract:		15/09/2014	Date Council delegated authority to the Chief Executive Officer to approve contract variations within budgeted amount:				24/11/2014
Original Contract Value:		\$1,428,239.27					
Contract Variation No.	Variation description	Date variation approved by CEO	Variation amount	Previous value of variations to date	Total value of variations	Total variation % of original contract value	Revised contract value
11	Relocate existing water meter	19/08/2015	\$6,138.41	\$167,508.37	\$173,646.78	12.16%	\$1,601,886.05

Contract No. and Title:		LCC-229 Services of Environmental Auditor for the Hyland Highway Landfill Cell 4 Construction					
Contractor:		GHD Pty Ltd					
Date Acting CEO Awarded Contract:		21/11/2014	Date Council delegated authority to the Chief Executive Officer to approve contract variations within budgeted amount:				N/A
Original Contract Value:		\$25,515.00					
Contract Variation No.	Variation description	Date variation approved by CEO	Variation amount	Previous value of variations to date	Total value of variations	Total variation % of original contract value	Revised contract value
1	Response to query from TPCC regarding gluing and cross-seams and approval for minor variation regarding GLC testing method	16/09/2015	\$738.50	\$0.00	\$738.50	2.89%	\$26,253.50

Contract No. and Title:		LCC-240 Reconstruction of Spry Street at Morwell					
Contractor:		Sure Constructions (Vic) Pty Ltd					
Date Council Awarded Contract:		15/12/2014	Date Council delegated authority to the Chief Executive Officer to approve contract variations within budgeted amount:				15/12/2014
Original Contract Value:		\$263,829.00					
Contract Variation No.	Variation description	Date variation approved by CEO	Variation amount	Previous value of variations to date	Total value of variations	Total variation % of original contract value	Revised contract value
2	Additional subgrade and subbase pavement treatment	2/07/2015	\$1,658.00	\$15,000.00	\$16,658.00	6.31%	\$280,487.00

Contract No. and Title:		LCC-246 Pavement Rehabilitation of Balfour Place at Churchill					
Contractor:		Sure Constructions (Vic) Pty Ltd					
Date Council Awarded Contract:		9/02/2015	Date Council delegated authority to the Chief Executive Officer to approve contract variations within budgeted amount:				N/A
Original Contract Value:		\$524,055.44					
Contract Variation No.	Variation description	Date variation approved by CEO	Variation amount	Previous value of variations to date	Total value of variations	Total variation % of original contract value	Revised contract value
3	Postpone works due to inclement weather	24/09/2015	\$14,845.57	\$9,720.20	\$24,565.77	4.69%	\$548,621.21
4	Construct retaining wall	24/09/2015	\$9,738.88	\$24,565.77	\$34,304.65	6.55%	\$558,360.09
5	modify kerb and drainage pit a south carpark entrance	24/09/2015	\$7,588.15	\$34,304.65	\$41,892.80	7.99%	\$565,948.24

Contract No. and Title:		LCC-259 Drainage Augmentation at Moe-Walhalla Road, Moe					
Contractor:		ACE Earthmoving Pty Ltd					
Date Council Awarded Contract:		2/03/2015	Date Council delegated authority to the Chief Executive Officer to approve contract variations within budgeted amount:				N/A
Original Contract Value:		\$500,699.35					
Contract Variation No.	Variation description	Date variation approved by CEO	Variation amount	Previous value of variations to date	Total value of variations	Total variation % of original contract value	Revised contract value
3	Installation of 18m of 150mm PVC drainage pipe for a property connection, removal and disposal of concrete and bricks from drain batter and supply and lay a Tensar TX-G under vehicle crossings	17/07/2015	\$7,981.46	\$14,215.00	\$22,196.46	4.43%	\$522,895.81

17.6 ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15**General Manager****Corporate Services****For Information****PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to present the Latrobe City Council Annual Report 2014/15 in accordance with Section 134 of the *Local Government Act 1989*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Local Government Act 1989* requires Latrobe City Council to submit the Annual Report, including the audited financial, standard and performance statements, to the Minister for Local Government within three months of the end of the financial year. Accordingly a copy of Latrobe City Council's Annual Report 2014/15 was sent to the Minister and was also loaded to the Know Your Council Local Government Portal on 30 September 2015.

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989*, the *Local Government Amendment (Performance Reporting and Accountability) Act 2004*, the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014*, Council is required to consider the Annual Report at a meeting of Council within one month after providing the Annual Report to the Minister.

Council is also required to give fourteen days' notice of the meeting and make copies of the Annual Report available for public inspection.

In accordance with the above mentioned legislative requirements, an advertisement was published in the Latrobe Valley Express on Monday, 12 October 2015, inviting the public to inspect Latrobe City Council's Annual Report and informing the public that the Annual Report would be presented at the Council Meeting on 26 October 2015. Hard copies of the Annual Report are also available at services centres and libraries for viewing and electronically via Council's website.

A copy of Latrobe City Council's Annual Report 2014/15, as presented to the Minister for Local Government, is attached (Attachment 1) and has previously been provided to Councillors as a hard copy.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the Latrobe City Council Annual Report 2014/15 in accordance with Section 134 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

COUNCIL MOTION

Moved: Cr White
Seconded: Cr Gibbons

That the amended Annual Report 2014-15 be considered and noted by Council.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

This report is consistent with Latrobe 2026: The Community Vision for Latrobe Valley and the Latrobe City Council Plan 2013-2017.

Latrobe 2026: The Community Vision for Latrobe Valley

Strategic Objectives - - Governance

In 2026, Latrobe Valley has a reputation for conscientious leadership and governance, strengthened by an informed and engaged community, committed to enriching local decision making.

Latrobe City Council Plan 2013 - 2017

Theme and Objectives

Theme 3: Efficient, effective and accountable governance

To achieve the highest standards of financial probity and meet all statutory obligations.

To provide open, transparent and accountable governance.

Strategic Direction –

Regularly report Council decisions and performance to the community.

Increase community awareness and satisfaction with Council's services and facilities.

Continuously improve financial management and reporting.

Legislation –

Local Government Act 1989 – section 131, 132, 133, 134.

Government Amendment(Performance Reporting and Accountability) Act 2004

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)**

Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014

In particular, Section 134 of the Local Government Act 1989, states that:

(1) A Council must consider the annual report at a meeting of the Council.

(2) The meeting-

(a) must be held as soon as practicable but within the time required by the regulations, after the Council has sent the annual report to the Minister;

(b) must be advertised at least 14 days before the meeting is held in a public notice that states-

(i) that the annual report will be discussed at the meeting; and

(ii) the place from which copies of the annual report can be obtained before the meeting;

(c) must be kept open to the public while the annual report is discussed.

BACKGROUND

Latrobe City Council's Annual Report provides a detailed summary of Council's delivery of annual actions, service provision and performance indicators in accordance with the 5 themes of the *Council Plan 2013-2017*.

The content and structure of the Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with best practice guidelines provided by the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) and legislative reporting requirements specific to Victorian Local Government.

The Annual Report also provides a financial snapshot supported by a comprehensive account of Council's financial performance including audited financial, standard and performance statements.

The Annual Report also includes the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework Key Performance Indicators, Governance and Management Checklist and Performance Statement in accordance with the *Local Government Amendment (Performance Reporting and Accountability) Act 2004* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014*.

As part of Council's commitment to environmental best practice and to avoid increased printing costs, a minimum number of Annual Reports have again been printed this year. Hard copies are available for inspection at all Latrobe City Council service centres and libraries and are available electronically from Council's website.

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)

This year's Annual Report is again being supported by a LINK article which provides key highlights from the full document and directs the community members to where they can view the full report either in hard copy or electronic format.

KEY POINTS/ISSUES

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989* and the *Local Government Amendment(Performance Reporting and Accountability) Act 2004*, the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014, Council is required to consider the Annual Report at a meeting of Council within one month after providing the Annual Report to the Minister.

Council is also required to give fourteen days' notice of the meeting and make copies of the Annual Report available for public inspection.

The above legislative requirements have been achieved.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk has been considered as part of this report and it is considered to be consistent with the Risk Management framework.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications as a result of Council's consideration of this report.

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

The acting Chief Executive Officer, acting Executive Team members and Managers of Latrobe City Council informed and reviewed the content of the Annual Report to ensure its accuracy.

Council's Audit Committee reviewed the financial, standard and performance statements of Latrobe City Council's Annual Report 2014/15 and authorised its content.

The Victorian Auditor General's Office has conducted a comprehensive audit of the financial, standard and performance statements.

OPTIONS

There is a statutory requirement for Council to consider the Annual Report within one month of forwarding the report to the Minister for Local Government.

CONCLUSION

Latrobe City Council's Annual Report 2014/15 has been prepared in accordance with the legislative requirements of the *Local Government Act 1989*, and is presented for Council's consideration.

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)**

The Victorian Auditor General's Office has conducted a comprehensive audit of the financial, standard and performance statements, and issued unqualified reports for all statements. Council's Audit Committee has reviewed and endorsed the financial, standard and performance statements of Latrobe City Council's Annual Report 2014/15.

Latrobe City Council's Annual Report 2014/15 was emailed to the Minister for Local Government and was also loaded to the Know Your Council Local Government Portal on 30 September 2015.

Attachments

1. Latrobe City Council Annual Report 2014-15

17.6

Annual Report 2014-15

- 1 Latrobe City Council Annual Report 2014-15 305**



LATROBE CITY COUNCIL

2014 - 15 ANNUAL REPORT





FRANKLIN STREET BRIDGE IN TRARALGON

**LATROBE
CITY
COUNCIL
2014-15
ANNUAL
REPORT**

PREAMBLE

ABOUT THIS REPORT



INDIGENOUS SMOKING CEREMONY HELD DURING RECONCILIATION WEEK

Welcome to the Latrobe City Council Annual Report

Latrobe City Council is proud to present the 2014-15 Annual Report to our community. The report provides a comprehensive account of operations, and the various accomplishments and challenges throughout the year.

This Annual Report measures our performance against strategic objectives set in the Council Plan 2013-2017 and provides an overview of our financial performance.

This Annual Report highlights the breadth and diversity of services we provide, and demonstrates our commitment to transparency and accountability to our community.

Traditional Owners

Latrobe City Council acknowledges that prior to colonial settlement, the Braiakaulung people of the Gunaikurnai clan were the occupiers and traditional owners of the land that is now known as Latrobe City.

PREAMBLE

WHY WE HAVE AN ANNUAL REPORT

As a requirement under the *Local Government Act 1989*, councils are required to report to the community on a variety of topics covering council operations, performance and finances.

How to obtain a copy of this report

A copy of this report can be found on the Latrobe City website www.latrobe.vic.gov.au by searching "Annual Report" and downloading or viewing a printed version at any one of our libraries or service centres. An accessible version is also available on our website.

To obtain this information in languages other than English, or in other formats, please contact Latrobe City Council on 1300 367 700.

MOE SERVICE CENTRE
44 Albert Street
Moe

MORWELL LIBRARY
63 – 65 Elgin Street
Morwell

CHURCHILL SERVICE
CENTRE AND LIBRARY
9-11 Philip Parade
Churchill

MOE LIBRARY
30 Kirk Street
Moe

LATROBE CORPORATE
HEADQUARTERS
40 Commercial Road
Morwell

TRARALGON SERVICE
CENTRE AND LIBRARY
34 – 38 Kay Street
Traralgon

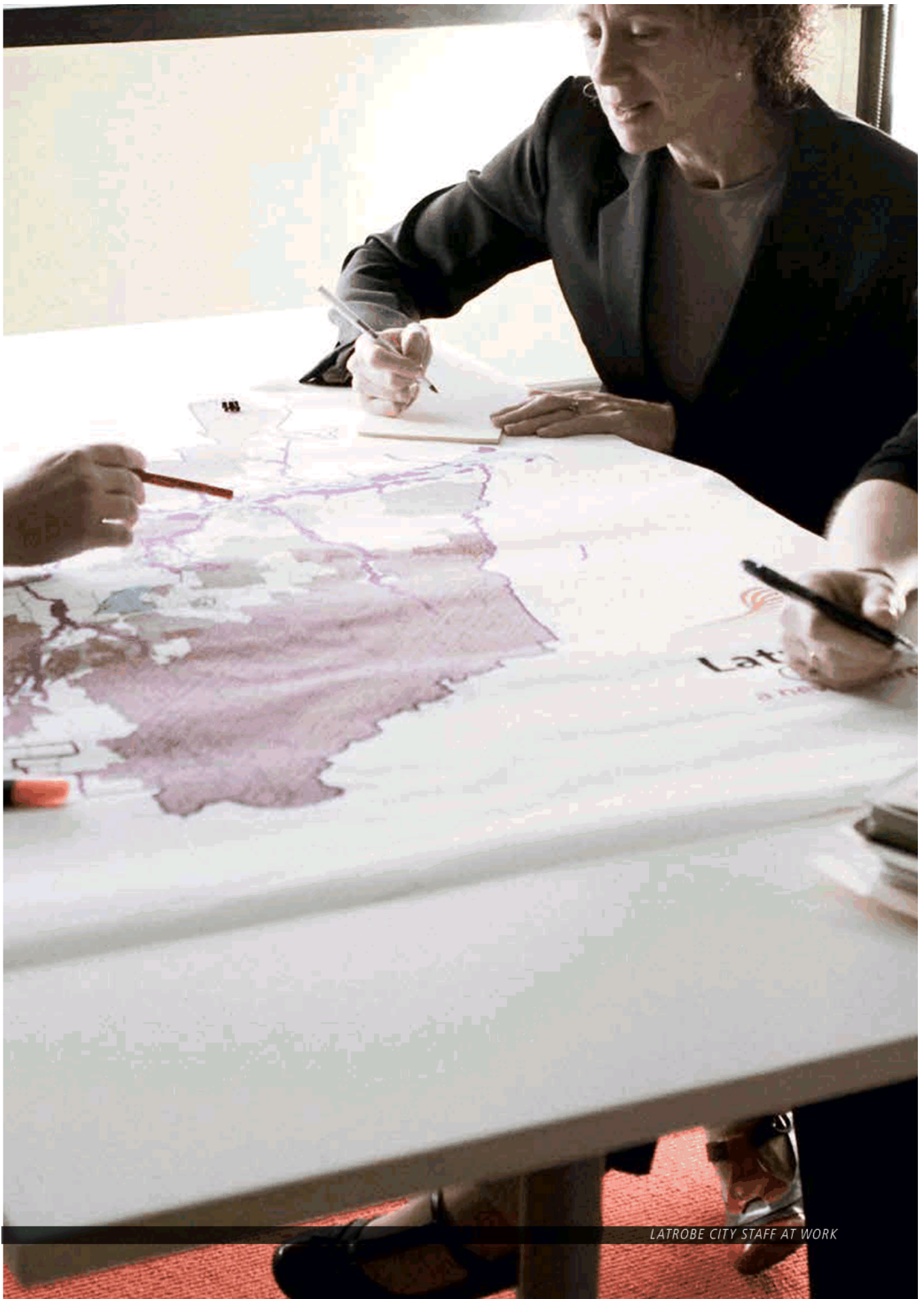




TABLE OF CONTENTS

BASKETBALLER AT CHURCHILL LEISURE CENTRE

PREAMBLE

Preamble	2	Project Highlights	82
Latrobe City snapshot	8	Works, recreation and roads	84
Latrobe's demographics	10	Capital works highlights	87
		Children, community and wellbeing	88
		Arts and tourism	90
		Economic development	92
		Land use planning	94
Our Leadership	12	Events	96
Mayor's report	14	Visual and performing arts	98
Your representatives on Council	16	Sporting events	100
Ward information	16	Community events	102
What council does and how council works	18	Youth events	104
Council committee membership	20		
Youth Council	24		
Our People	26	Community Recognition	106
Chief Executive Officer's report	28	Australia Day Awards	106
Organisational structure	30	Community Grants	111
Services snapshot	32		
Our employees	34		
Staff recognition	38		
Setting Our Direction	40	Achieving Best Value	114
Council plan 2013 – 2017	42		
Financial snapshot	44	Finance and Performance Statements	119
How your rates are spent	48	Overview of financial performance	121
		Financial statements	127
		Notes to the financial report	132
		Financial certification	173
		Performance certification	183
		LGPRF—	
		governance and management checklist	186
How are we Performing?	50	Statutory Information	190
Council report card	51	Audit committee attendance	191
<i>Theme 1</i>		Victorian local government indicators	198
Job creation and economic sustainability	52		
<i>Theme 2</i>		Glossary	199
Appropriate, affordable and sustainable facilities, services and recreation	58		
<i>Theme 3</i>		Index	203
Efficient, effective and accountable governance	66		
<i>Theme 4</i>			
Advocacy for and consultation with our community	74		
<i>Theme 5</i>			
Planning for the future	78		

PREAMBLE

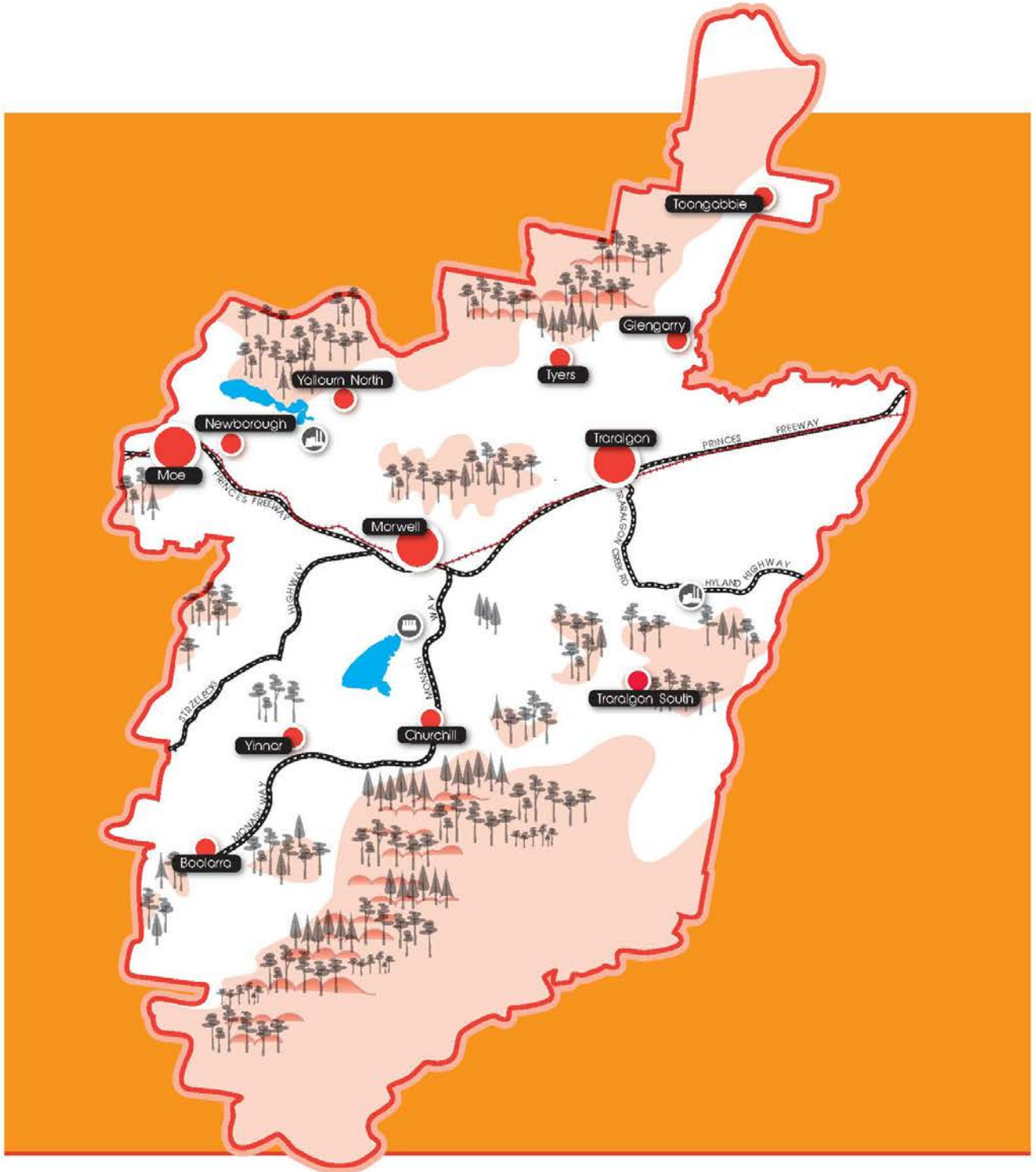
LATROBE CITY **SNAP SHOT**

Latrobe City is Victoria's eastern Regional City and Gippsland's primary service centre and employment hub, providing retail, entertainment, education, government and health services to the region.

Latrobe City is a 90 minute drive east of Melbourne covering an area of 1,425 square kilometres, situated between the Strzelecki Ranges to the south and the Great Dividing Range to the north. The City is made up of four major towns—Churchill, Moe/Newborough, Morwell and Traralgon; and seven rural townships of Boolarra, Glengarry, Toongabbie, Tyers, Traralgon South, Yallourn North and Yinnar.

The combination of major employers, the City's regional significance and affordable housing makes Latrobe City a centre of opportunity for both business and residents.

PREAMBLE

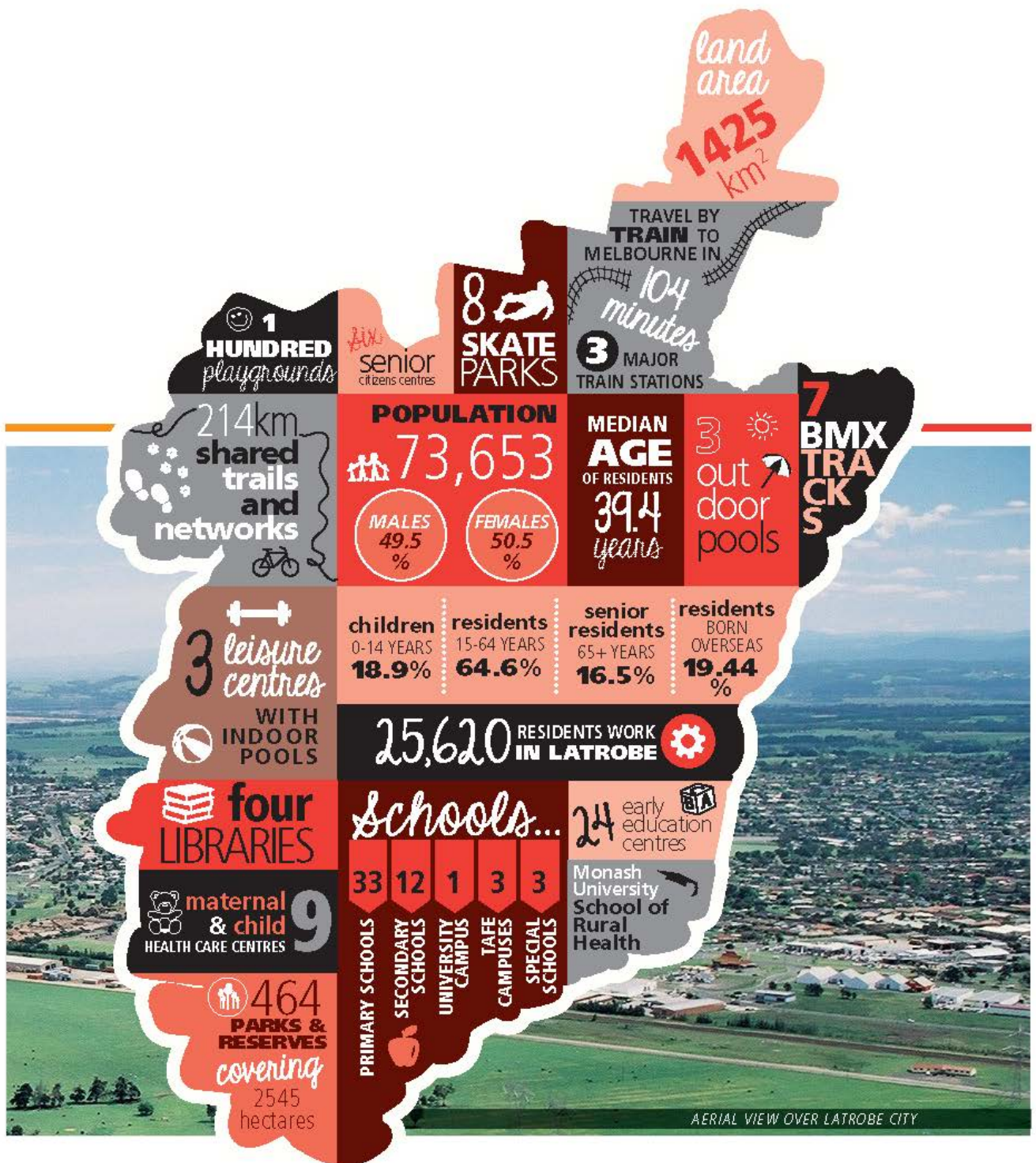


PREAMBLE

LATROBE'S DEMOGRAPHICS



PREAMBLE



OUR LEADERSHIP

Latrobe City Council is a public statutory body which operates under the legislative requirements of the *Local Government Act 1989*. This Act sets out the role of the Council as an elected body to provide leadership for the good governance of the municipal district and the local community.



GARY VAN DRIEL, LATROBE CITY CEO (LEFT) AND CR DALE HARRIMAN, MAYOR WITH LATROBE CITY RESIDENT (RIGHT)

OUR LEADERSHIP



MAYOR'S REPORT

Cr Dale Harriman

Council understands the importance of balancing the delivery of quality services across Latrobe City. Through good fiscal management over the 2014-15 period we have been able to maintain local services while providing one of the lowest rate rises in ten years for 2015-16.

We can look back over the 2014-15 financial year with a sense of satisfaction and achievement. Over this twelve month period Council:

- appointed a new Chief Executive Officer, Gary Van Driel
- made a submission to the Hazelwood Mine Fire Enquiry
- made submissions to the Federal Government's Agricultural Competitiveness Green Paper, Energy Green Paper and Meeting Future Market Demand: Australia's Forest Products and Forestry Industry Issues Paper.
- sent two delegations to Canberra in March and June 2015 where councillors, the Chief Executive Officer and staff met with parliamentarians to advocate for issues affecting our region. Specific issues included keeping Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC) in Traralgon, and an appeal for more investment in the region to promote jobs growth.
- adopted a Concept Plan to achieve economic diversification for Latrobe City

Our main focus this year has firmly been on growing local employment opportunities. It is therefore very satisfying to see that Latrobe City has seen an increase in job growth in the 2014-15 financial year after negative growth in the previous reporting period.

We also aim to achieve a high level of liveability for our community. Council understands the importance of balancing the delivery of quality services across Latrobe City with our community's capacity to pay rates and service fees. Through good fiscal management over the 2014-15 period we have been able to maintain local services while providing one of the lowest rate rises in ten years for 2015-16.

Our Capital Works program has continued with the Moe rail precinct initiated and moving ahead on time and on budget. New land developments have also been launched in Traralgon with growth opportunities in Morwell West and Lake Narracan to be finalised in 2015-16.

As a Council we are always looking to the future and will continue to focus on growing jobs in our region, diversifying our traditional industries and providing a well-planned, liveable community.



CR DALE HARRIMAN
Latrobe City Mayor

OUR LEADERSHIP

Your Representatives on Council

Latrobe City's Council was elected on 27 October 2012 for a four year term, consisting of nine Councillors representing four wards.

Ward Information

The Councillors elected to these ward areas are as follows:

Central Ward



Cr Graeme Middlemiss

Phone: 0417 379 059
Email: graeme.middlemiss@latrobe.vic.gov.au

Cr Graeme Middlemiss is a Central Ward Councillor who was first elected in 1997 during the first La Trobe Shire Council elections. He has held a position in Council for 17 years and served a term as Mayor from March 2003 to March 2004.



Cr Christine Sindt

Phone: 0499 981 233
Email: christine.sindt@latrobe.vic.gov.au

Cr Christine Sindt is a Central Ward Councillor who was first elected in October 2012.

West Ward



Cr Peter Gibbons (Deputy Mayor*)

Phone: 0499 981 266
Email: peter.gibbons@latrobe.vic.gov.au

Cr Peter Gibbons is a West Ward Councillor who was first elected in October 2012.



Cr Sharon Gibson

Phone: 0429 338 762
Email: sharon.gibson@latrobe.vic.gov.au

Cr Sharon Gibson is a West Ward Councillor who was first elected in December 2008 and then again in October 2012. Cr Gibson was Mayor from November 2013 to October 2014 after serving as Deputy Mayor three times consecutively.



OUR LEADERSHIP



East Ward

**Cr Dale Harriman (Mayor*)**

Phone: 0419 399 093

Email: dale.harriman@latrobe.vic.gov.au

Cr Dale Harriman is an East Ward Councillor and Mayor. He is currently serving a second term and was first elected in August 2011 (following a resignation), and again in October 2012.

**Cr Sandy Kam**

Phone: 0427 556 967

Email: sandy.kam@latrobe.vic.gov.au

Cr Sandy Kam is an East Ward Councillor who was first elected in 2007 (following a resignation) and then again in 2008 and 2012. Cr Kam held a term as Mayor from November 2012 to November 2013.

**Cr Kellie O'Callaghan**

Phone: 0400 696 324

Email: kellie.o'callaghan@latrobe.vic.gov.au

Cr Kellie O'Callaghan is an East Ward Councillor who was first elected in 2008, and then again in October 2012. Cr O'Callaghan held a term as Mayor from December 2009 to December 2010.

**Cr Michael Rossiter**

Phone: 0499 981 242

Email: michael.rossiter@latrobe.vic.gov.au

Cr Michael Rossiter is an East Ward Councillor who was first elected in October 2012.

South Ward

**Cr Darrell White**

Phone: 0417 377 645

Email: darrell.white@latrobe.vic.gov.au

Cr Darrell White is a South Ward Councillor who was first elected in 1997 during the first La Trobe Shire Council elections. Cr White has held a position in Council for 17 years and has previously held the position of Mayor three times.

** The Mayor and Deputy Mayor were elected at the Special Council Meeting held on 10 November 2014.*

OUR LEADERSHIP

What Council does and How Council works

Councils are representative governments elected by the community to manage local issues and to establish and plan for the community's needs.

Latrobe City Council is a public statutory body which operates under the legislative requirements of the *Local Government Act 1989*. This Act sets out the role of the elected Council who are responsible for the leadership and good governance of the municipal district and local community. Council oversees the annual budget, long term financial plan, development and implementation of strategies and plans and establishes local policies in response to local needs and priorities.

Management of the day to day operational matters is the role of the Chief Executive Officer, under delegation of the Council and in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Council meetings and decisions

Council meetings are held at Latrobe City Council Corporate Headquarters in Morwell at 6.00 pm every third week. Each Council meeting includes a public question time as a standard agenda item, designed to encourage community participation in the overall affairs of Council.

A Council meeting is where Councillors are able to make formal decisions on items presented to them. Council meetings include ordinary meetings (the regular meetings held), special meetings and statutory meetings which are all open to the public (unless Council resolves to close the meeting in accordance with guidelines of the *Local Government Act 1989*). All Council meeting dates are advertised in the Latrobe Valley Express newspaper and detailed on the Latrobe City Council website.

Councillors also meet for confidential briefing meetings. At these meetings, Councillors have the opportunity to discuss strategic items in relation to Council business and to hear briefings on matters of interest to the community. These confidential briefing meetings are considered as assemblies of Councillors,

and records are tabled accordingly at Council meetings as per the requirements in the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Latrobe City Council currently holds public presentation sessions. These are designed to allow members of the community, organisations and other stakeholders to speak to Councillors on important issues. These sessions are held the week prior to a Council meeting, between 5.00pm – 6.00pm at corporate headquarters.

The Council meeting schedule, agendas and minutes are available from the Latrobe City Council website: www.latrobe.vic.gov.au

Council meeting attendance 2014-15

During 2014-15, there were 15 Ordinary Council Meetings and 8 Special Council Meetings held. Councillor attendance at these meetings is shown in the below table.

Councillor	Ordinary Council Meeting	Special Council Meeting
Cr Graeme Middlemiss	15	8
Cr Christine Sindt	14	7
Cr Dale Harriman	14	7
Cr Sandy Kam	15	8
Cr Kellie O'Callaghan	15	7
Cr Michael Rossiter	14	8
Cr Darrell White	15	7
Cr Peter Gibbons	15	7
Cr Sharon Gibson	13	8

Code of Conduct

Under the *Local Government Act 1989*, all councils within Victoria must ensure that they adopt a Councillor Code of Conduct.

The code establishes the rules of ethical behaviour, relationships between councillors and staff, and dispute resolution during their term of office. A review of the code was undertaken during 2013 and the revised code was adopted by Council on 16 September 2013.

The Code of Conduct provides guidelines on:

- Councillor behaviour,
- Conflict of interest procedures,
- Dispute resolution procedures.

The code affirms principles of behaviour requiring that councillors:

- Act honestly,
- Exercise reasonable care and diligence,
- Use their position properly,
- Not make improper use of information acquired because of their position.

Latrobe City Council's Code of Conduct is available at: www.latrobe.vic.gov.au

Councillor Remuneration

From July 2014, the Mayoral allowance was \$69,324.85 and the councillor allowance \$22,405.48 per annum, plus the equivalent of the superannuation guarantee contribution of 9.5%.

On 7 November 2014, the Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure (refer circular No. 24/2014) advised all councils that a notice was published in the Government Gazette G45 dated 6 November 2014, providing for a 2.5% adjustment to apply to all mayoral and councillor allowances to take effect from 1 December 2014. Under Section 73B (5) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, a Council must increase the Mayoral and councillor allowances by this adjustment.

Consequently, from 1 December 2014, mayoral and councillor allowances were increased to \$ 71,057.97 and \$22,965.62 per annum respectively, plus the equivalent of the superannuation guarantee contribution of 9.5%.

In addition to councillor allowances, councillors are provided with a number of resources and support to assist them in undertaking their duties. This includes office administration and support, professional development support, and equipment such as mobile phones, laptops, iPads and printers/faxes. Councillors are also entitled to seek reimbursement for expenses such as travel and child care.

The Mayor receives a vehicle for the duration of his or her term, a dedicated office and support from an assistant. These expenses and resources are specified in the Provision of Resources and Support to Councillors policy, available from the Latrobe City Council website: www.latrobe.vic.gov.au

Councillor representation on Committees

To assist Council in the delivery of a range of complex tasks, committees are constituted to undertake specific delegated functions (special committees) or to provide expert advice on specific topics or projects (advisory committees). These committees provide insight and information that Council may not otherwise receive either internally or externally. The role of a committee is to inform and enhance, not replace the role or responsibilities of Council and individual Councillors.

Latrobe City Council currently has 59 committees which Councillors and/or officers are appointed to.

These are as follows:

- Section 86 Special Committee (3)
- Operational (Works) Committee (7)
- Advisory Committee (39)
- User Group (10)

These committees are governed under the Establishment of Council Committee Policy, which defines the types of committees that we currently have.

OUR LEADERSHIP

Council Committee membership

● Member ● Alternate

Committee	Cr Gibbons	Cr Gibson	Cr Harriman	Cr Kam	Cr Middlemiss	Cr O'Callaghan	Cr Rossiter	Cr Sindt	Cr White
Alliance of Councils for Rail Freight Development	●				●				
Apprenticeships Group Australia Board		●							●
Audit Committee - (Pursuant to s.139 of the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i>)						●	●		●
Australia Day Advisory Committee								●	●
Australian Paper Community Environmental Consultative Committee					●				
Baw Baw Latrobe Local Learning & Employment Network Board							●		
Braiakaulung Advisory Committee						●			●
Callignee and Traralgon South Sporting and Facility User Group Committee							●		
Carbon Transition Committee	●		●						
Chief Executive Officer Performance Review Committee		●	●				●		●
Churchill & District Community Hub Advisory Committee									●
City Image Strategy Project Reference Group								●	
Coal Land Use Planning Committee	●	●	●	●	●				
Community Engagement Reference Group	●			●			●		
Crinigan Bushland Reserve Committee of Management					●				
Disability Reference Committee		●				●			
Early Years Reference Committee						●		●	
Edward Hunter Heritage Bush Reserve Committee of Management	●	●							
Friends of the Traralgon Railway Reservoir Conservation Reserve Committee			●						
Gippsland Local Government Network (GLGN)			●						
Gippsland Regional Waste Management Group (GRWMG) Board	●				●				
Gippsdown Reserve Committee of Management Inc.	●	●							
International Power Hazelwood Environmental Review Committee									●
Jumbuk and Yinnar South Timber Traffic Reference Group				●					●
Latrobe City Cultural Diversity Advisory Committee	●			●					
Latrobe City Hyland Highway Municipal Landfill Consultative Committee	●		●						

OUR LEADERSHIP

Committee	Cr Gibbons	Cr Gibson	Cr Harriman	Cr Kam	Cr Middlemiss	Cr O'Callaghan	Cr Rossiter	Cr Sindt	Cr White
Latrobe City Industry Forum	●	●	●						
Latrobe City International Relations Committee	●							●	●
Latrobe City Lake Narracan User Group Committee	●	●							
Latrobe City Synthetic Sports Field User Group Committee									●
Latrobe Leisure Churchill User Group									●
Latrobe Leisure Moe Newborough User Group	●	●							
Latrobe Leisure Morwell User Group					●			●	
Latrobe Leisure Traralgon Sports Stadium User Group			●	●					
Latrobe Regional Airport Board				●	●				
Latrobe Regional Gallery Advisory Committee	●								●
Latrobe Regional Motorsport Complex User Group		●			●				
Latrobe Settlement Committee	●					●			
Latrobe Tourism Advisory Board								●	●
Link Editorial Committee		●	●		●				
Loy Yang Power Environmental Review Committee								●	
Mathison Park Advisory Committee									●
Mayoral Sponsorship Committee	●		●						
Moe Southside Community Precinct User Group Committee	●	●							
Moe Yallourn Rail Trail Committee Inc.	●	●							
Morwell CBD Safety Group				●	●			●	
Morwell Centenary Rose Garden Advisory Committee					●			●	
Morwell River Neighbourhood Improvement Plan Steering Committee									●
Morwell Town Common Development Plan Project Control Group					●			●	
Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV)			●	●					
Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee - (Pursuant to sect. 21 of the Emergency Management Act 1986)		●	●					●	
Oldsmobile Management Committee			●						
Ollerton Avenue Bushland Reserve Committee of Management	●	●							

OUR LEADERSHIP

Council Committee membership (continued)

● Member ● Alternate

Committee	Cr Gibbons	Cr Gibson	Cr Harriman	Cr Kam	Cr Middlemiss	Cr O'Callaghan	Cr Rossiter	Cr Sindt	Cr White
Positive Ageing Reference Group				●		●			
Procedural Breaches Advisory Committee		●		●					●
Rail Freight Working Group	●				●				
Regional Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee (RAJAC)		●							
Regional Cities Victoria			●						
Roadsafe Gippsland Community Road Safety Council		●		●					
Sale of Goods from Council Properties Committee		●		●					
Social Planning for Wellbeing Committee				●					
South East Australian Transport Strategy (SEATS)	●				●				
The Yallourn North Community Housing Committee					●				
Timber Towns Victoria		●	●	●					
Traralgon Aquatic Facility Working Party			●						
Traralgon CBD Safety Committee				●			●		
Traralgon Creek Neighbourhood Improvement Plan Steering Committee				●					
Traralgon East Community Centre Advisory Committee						●	●		
Traralgon Parking Precinct Plan Working Group			●						
Traralgon Recreation Reserve and Showgrounds User Group Committee				●					
Traralgon West Sporting Complex User Group Committee				●					
TRU Energy Yallourn Environmental Review Committee								●	
Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA)	●		●						
Victory Park Precinct Advisory Committee			●	●					
War Memorials Advisory Committee			●						
Warren Terrace Hazelwood North Recreation Reserve Advisory Committee				●		●			
West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority – Central Catchment Ecosystem Advisory Group (CCEAG)		●		●					

Council delegations

The elected Council's powers under the *Local Government Act 1989* or any other Act may be delegated by an instrument of delegation to a Special Committee of Council, to the Chief Executive Officer or to an individual Council Officer. Council generally delegates powers, duties and functions to the Chief Executive Officer who is empowered to further delegate some or all of those powers to other officers.

Delegation is a vital element in assisting Council administration to function effectively and efficiently. Delegation facilitates the achievement of good governance for the community by empowering appropriate members of staff or committees to make decisions on behalf of Council. When enacting on a delegated power, the staff member or committee is acting on behalf of Council.

The delegation document also provides that only certain officers are allowed to make decisions of a financial nature, and the limit of their authority is carefully specified to ensure prudent financial management. Decisions under delegations are sometimes restricted by limitations imposed by Council or the Chief Executive Officer, including numerous requirements to report back on the decisions that have been made under that delegation. Decisions made under a delegation must always adhere to existing Council policy or directions.

Assembly of Councillors

Any scheduled meeting between five or more councillors and one council staff member, or an advisory committee meeting with one councillor present, is considered an 'Assembly of Councillors' under the *Local Government Act 1989*. A record of each 'Assembly of Councillors' is tabled at an Ordinary Council meeting.



COUNCIL CHAMBERS , CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS MORWELL

OUR LEADERSHIP

Youth Council

The Latrobe City Youth Council provides an opportunity for local young people to meet regularly and express their views on issues that affect them and their peers.

The group is drawn from a range of schools, towns and ages to ensure youth councillors are representative of the diverse range of young people that reside in Latrobe City. Youth Council meetings are held fortnightly during school term.

2014 Youth Council: July 2014 – December 2014

Fourteen young people were recruited to the 2014 Youth Council Program.

Samantha Heatherington	Brodie Logue	Gregory Evans
Daniel Lithgow	Daniel Frost	Luke Smith
Tearna Schumann	Kristen Schumann	Nathan Smith
Natasha Exell	Rory Smith	Harmony Nolan
Tim Beattie	Arron Smith	

Key Achievements included:

- Participation in the 2014 Sister Cities National Youth Conference held in Bunbury, Western Australia, where representatives had the opportunity to share ideas and expand their awareness of youth issues at a national and international level.
- Remembrance Day services held at the Morwell RSL.
- A visit to Parliament House, Victoria with the opportunity to meet with Russel Northe MP, the local member for Morwell, and other Victorian MPs to debate youth issues.
- UN-Youth Evatt Debating competition.
- Discussion with the Latrobe City Environmental Health Unit about local issues.
- Assisted the Community Development Team at the Community Safety Forum in October 2013.
- Attended the Halogen 10,000 Idea State Youth Conference.
- Meeting with Federal Minister Health the Honourable Peter Dutton MP.



LATROBE CITY YOUTH COUNCIL 2014

OUR LEADERSHIP

2015 Youth Council January 2015 – June 2015

Ten young people were recruited to the 2015 Youth Council Program.

Kristen Schumann
Tearna Schumann
Gregory Evans
Brodie Logue

Daniel Lithgow
Maneesha Nambirajan
Samantha Heatherington
Joshua Monaghan

Christopher Evans
Nyalat Pel Kun

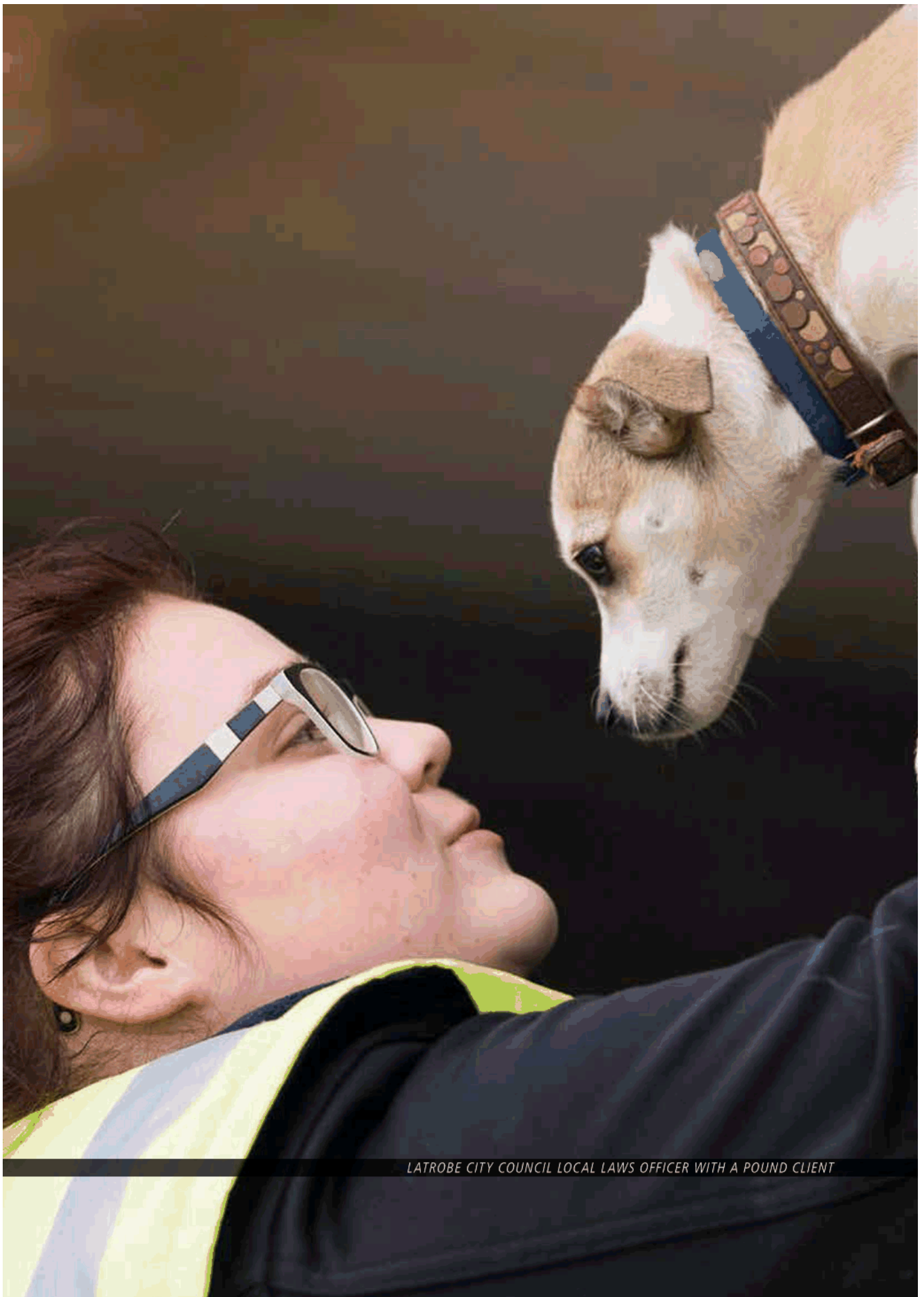
Key achievements included:

- Presenting the Young Australian of the Year Award at the annual Australia Day service held at Kernot Hall, Morwell.
- Youth Council was represented at several ANZAC Day services within the Latrobe area, performing a major role once again with the Morwell RSL.
- Working with council staff in the planning of the 2015 Gippsland Youth Councils Summit. The Youth Council assisted with the coordination of the agenda and running sheet, sourcing key note speakers, and acquiring facilities to host the summit.
- Met with representatives from Latrobe Community Health Services to learn about problems and local issues caused by gambling.
- Met with representatives from Latrobe Regional Hospital Mental Health Unit to learn about the issues faced by Latrobe City residents who experience mental health issues.
- Youth Delegates had the opportunity to attend the two day Foundation for Young Australia's Change It Up program held in Leongatha.



OUR PEOPLE

We strive to provide the best possible services and support for our community, our region and all that it has to offer.



LATROBE CITY COUNCIL LOCAL LAWS OFFICER WITH A POUND CLIENT

OUR PEOPLE



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Gary Van Driel

I am excited about playing a part in the region's future and leading the operations of Latrobe City Council with a focus on our strategic direction, performance indicators and great service provision.

OUR PEOPLE

Organisational Direction

It is with great pleasure that I present Latrobe City Council's Annual Report. This report documents the achievements of Council for 2014-15 in accordance with Section 131 of the Local Government Act 1989.

As a new arrival to the area, commencing at Council on 19 January 2015, I am excited about playing a part in the region's future and leading the operations of Latrobe City Council with a focus on our strategic direction, performance indicators and great service provision.

I am passionate about creating a strong customer service ethic cross the organisation and providing cost-effective, efficient and valuable services to our community. I believe that the ability to deliver great customer service is a result of a strong organisational culture, which in turn is based on agreed values and behaviours. We intend to keep building a culture of excellent customer service at Latrobe City Council.

Creating a safe working environment is also a priority for the organisation. Although the number of Occupational Health and Safety incidents at Council increased in 2014-15, this is a focus area and we are striving for improvement in the 2015/16 reporting period.

Council staff continue to provide a wide range of services and I thank them for their efforts.

Financial position

Latrobe City Council is currently in a sound financial position, delivering an operating surplus of \$24.9

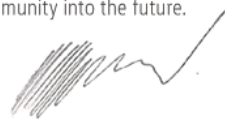
million in 2014-15. We deliver one of the lowest rate rises in the state in 2015/16 at 3.15%. We will continue to apply strong fiscal management principles to achieve financial sustainability as we enter into an environment of rate capping and a reduction in community grants.

As one of Victoria's key regional economies, and the commercial centre of Gippsland, we are invested in continuing to provide the best possible facilities, services, advocacy and leadership for Latrobe City.

Capital Works

Our ongoing capital works program, totalling \$40.627 million in 2014-15, has delivered essential infrastructure upgrades, such as road refurbishments, landfill rehabilitation, leisure and recreation facility upgrades and progress of major projects. We look forward to delivering further infrastructure upgrades and the completion of the Moe Rail Precinct in 2015/16.

We intend to continue to work to achieve value for money and improvement across all areas of the organisation while achieving Council's strategic objectives, ensuring we best meet the needs of our community into the future.

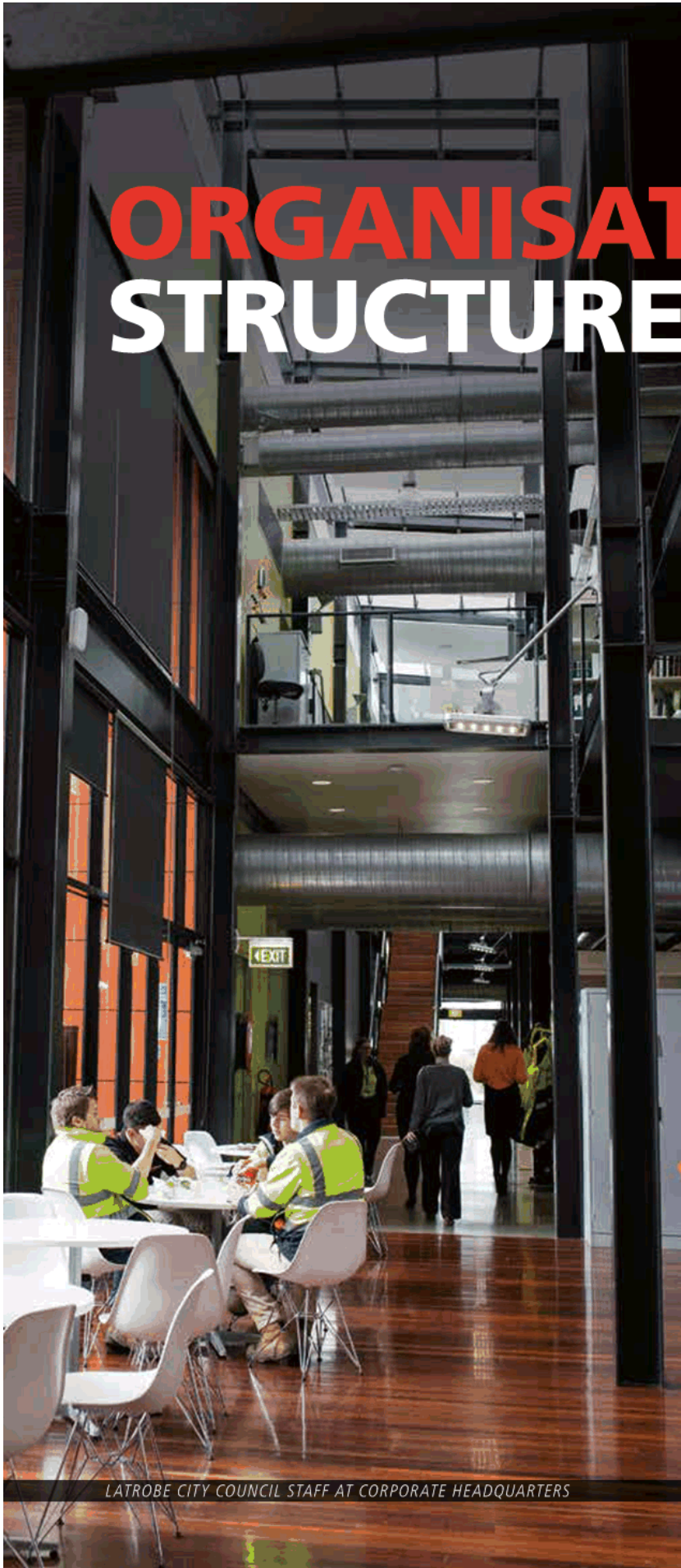


GARY VAN DRIEL
Chief Executive Officer, Latrobe City



CR HARRIMAN AND GARY VAN DRIEL WITH HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF VICTORIA, THE HONORABLE ALEX CHERNOV AND MRS CHERNOV DURING THEIR VISIT IN MAY 2015

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



LATROBE CITY COUNCIL STAFF AT CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

OUR PEOPLE

Office Executive	Community Liveability	Community Infrastructure & Recreation	Planning & Economic Sustainability	Corporate Services
Chief Executive Officer Gary Van Driel	General Manager Sara Rhodes-Ward	General Manager Steven Piasente	General Manager Phil Stone	General Manager Sarah Cumming
Executive Manager Office of the Chief Executive Peter Mangan (Acting)	Manager Community Information Services Ronda Bruerton (Acting)	Manager Infrastructure Development Damian Blackford	Manager Future Planning Gail Gatt (Acting)	Manager Information Services Christine Wright
Manager Community Relations Jacinta Saxton	Manager Child & Family Services Kate Kerslake (Acting)	Manager Infrastructure Operations Neil Churton (Acting)	Manager Statutory Planning Debbie Tyson	Manager People & Development Mary-Lou Dixon
Manager Regional Strategy Bruce Connolly	Manager Community Health & Wellbeing Helen Taylor	Manager Recreation Liveability Jamey Mullen	Manager Economic Development Geoff Hill	Manager Corporate Strategy Nathan Misiurka
	Manager Community Development Steve Tong	Manager Waste Sustainability Wayne Sim (Acting)	Manager Events, Arts, Tourism & IR Bill McPherson (Acting)	Manager Risk & Compliance Allison Down
	Manager Healthy Communities Alistair Edgar		General Manager Latrobe Regional Airport Neil Cooper	Manager Finance Matthew Rogers

OUR PEOPLE

SERVICES SNAPSHOT

Environment



- Council emissions reporting (water, electricity, gas and fuel)
- Approximately 400km of rural roadside weed management
- Vegetation removal permit assessments
- Vehicle emissions offsets (tree plantings)
- Participate in industry and community environment networks
- Committees and Networks
- Bushland Reserve Management
- Forestry Coup Compliance Reviews
- Environmental education services
- Trust for Nature Property Rate Rebates
- Biodiversity Protection Incentive Program grants
- Community tree planting
- Waterway management services

Culture, Leisure and Recreation



- 3 indoor pools and 3 outdoor pools
- 14 indoor stadiums
- Traffic School
- Lake Narracan and Hazelwood Pondage caravan parks
- 60 Sporting Reserves, BMX Tracks and Skate Parks
- Latrobe Performing Arts performances and venues
- Gallery programs and exhibitions
- Arts education and public activities
- Sister Cities Partnership Program
- Maintain parks, gardens and playgrounds
- Operate Council nursery
- Roadside spraying and tree planting

Running Council



- Freedom of information requests
- Facilitate Council elections
- Planning and performance reporting
- Financial management
- IT, document management and geographic information services
- Human resources services
- Risk management and insurance
- Occupational health and safety
- Facilitate internal audits
- Communications and community engagement
- Property and statutory services
- Mayoral and councillor support

Aged and Disability Care



- Home, personal and respite care
- Disability support services and home maintenance
- Social support programs
- Planned activity groups
- We Care program
- Meals on wheels
- Operate Senior Citizen centres
- Support community volunteering
- Health promotion
- Disease prevention strategies

Tourism and Events



- Support Latrobe City and broader Gippsland's tourism industry
- Operate Visitor Information Centre and services
- Develop, attract and promote events
- Support community and council civic events
- Facilitate the community event Grant Program

Community Safety



- Car parking services
- Animal management services
- Implementing Council Local Laws, environmental standards and relevant legislation
- School crossing supervision
- Fire risk prevention property notices
- Animal management including cat cage hire, animal adoptions and microchipping
- Pet care education and promotion
- Unsightly/unsafe property inspections
- Road safety education and awareness

 <h3>Community Information and Development</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operate Latrobe City service centres • Provide information on council services • Processing customer requests • Support the delivery of projects, programs, strategies and action plans • Advocate on behalf of the community • Prepare communities for disasters • Emergency support services • Disability support services • Assist with training and employment opportunities for indigenous community, and promote social justice and reconciliation • Healthy Communities program 	 <h3>Infrastructure Waste and Recycling</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of major capital and civil works • Design of public infrastructure (roads, paths, bridges, etc) • Maintain public infrastructure • Fixed plant and equipment maintenance and upgrades • Asset management • Traffic management • Building maintenance and upgrades • After hours emergency works • Planning future infrastructure needs • Rubbish collection, recycling and transfer stations • Landfill facilities construction, maintenance and rehabilitation • Lead initiatives to divert waste from landfill 	 <h3>Planning and Building</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building permit services • Pool barriers audit program • Land use planning and permit application services • Planning mediation services • Land use planning research, policy and re-zoning • Facilitate council and community initiated planning scheme amendments • Planning scheme reviews • Coordination of new infrastructure and services to support new communities • Building audits and education
 <h3>Economic Development</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage, maintain and develop the Latrobe Regional Airport • Support aviation manufacturing • Business development, support and training services • Economic modelling data • New business start up and support • Pursue new business investment employment growth • Major Projects Summit • Regional strategy and partnerships 	 <h3>Family and Children</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preschool and prekindergarten services across 24 preschools • Early childhood health and development • Maternal and child health services • Best Start program for infants • Preschool Field Officer program for children with additional needs • Prevention and intervention of factors affecting young children and their families • Operate 3 long day care centres • Operate family day care scheme 	 <h3>Libraries</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operation of public Libraries • Provision of library education programs • Provide resources for the community including books, CDs and DVDs, audio books, hard copy and online newspapers and magazines • Provide community access to WiFi and the internet • Preschool story time • Your Tutor (online program) • School holiday programs • Work experience placements • Author talks and guest speakers/ presentations

OUR PEOPLE

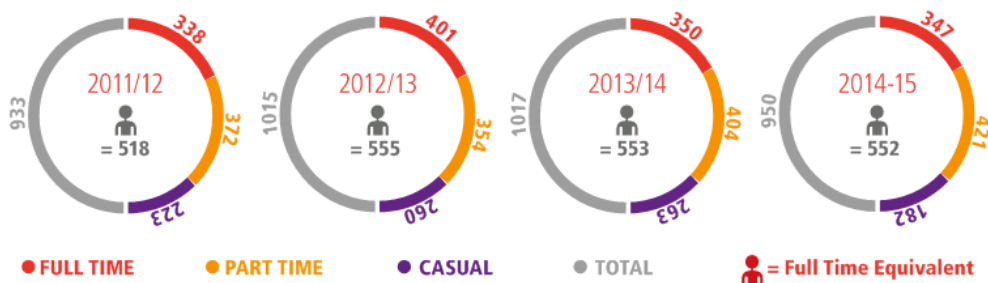
OUR EMPLOYEES

Latrobe City Council is committed to attracting, developing and retaining employees who have a diverse range of qualifications, abilities and a passion for delivering quality services to the community. We value and celebrate the contribution of our people, working together in a spirit of honesty, teamwork and trust.

As of 30 June 2015, Latrobe City Council employed 950 people, comprising full-time, part-time and casual employees. The number of equivalent full-time positions (EFT) is 552. The total number of employees is down by 67 from the previous year, however the EFT has remained virtually unchanged as has the level and diversity of services we provide.

Workforce Details

Workforce Staffing Levels



Workforce Profile

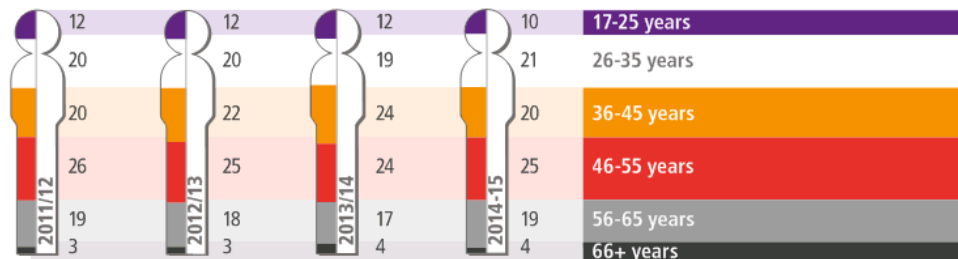


Workforce Details Table

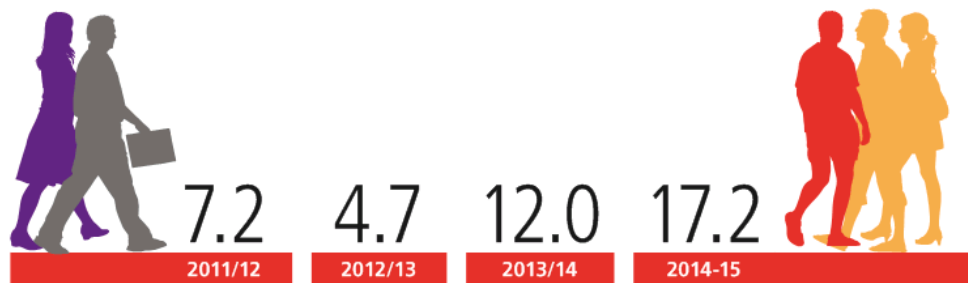
	SALARY BANDING								
	2014-2015	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Permanent Full Time - Female	0	1	4	23	27	25	22	1	18
Permanent Full Time - Male	0	5	50	16	21	20	17	6	3
Permanent Part Time - Female	111	20	28	58	9	10	0	0	24
Permanent Part Time - Male	10	2	16	5	1	0	0	0	0
Casual - Female	5	21	46	23	2	0	0	0	45
Casual - Male	1	2	28	3	1	0	0	0	6

NOTE: The above table does not include temporary staff.

Workforce by Age



Staff Turnover



Latrobe City Council’s turnover of employees for 2014-15 was 17.2 per cent, which was an increase from the previous period. The review and rationalisation of casual staff who had not worked for a period of 12 months was a significant factor in the increase. Council carefully reviews feedback from exiting employees to identify any issues that lead to their departure. Above results include seasonal and casual staff.

OUR PEOPLE

Occupational Health and Safety

The focus on OHS at Latrobe City Council recognises that the health and wellbeing of our staff is a high priority. A number of initiatives have been launched to raise awareness and heighten the importance of safety at work.

The 2014-15 year saw an increase in the number of incidents reported. This was achieved by the awareness campaign to encourage staff to identify hazards and report near misses. As a consequence the number of incidents reported increased by 13 percent, however the number of medical treatment injuries was down by 40 percent.

The main causes of incidents making up 18 percent were occupational stress, slips, trips and falls and 19 percent respectively of the total incidents reported.

OHS highlights

- WorkSafe Week activities during October 2014.
- Workplace level 2 first aid training was provided for 75 staff members.
- Sun Smart education and skin checks sessions for all outdoor staff.
- An increase in the number of OHS online inductions for new and existing employees.
- Development of online OHS induction tailored for contractors for roll out in 2015/16.
- Council's asbestos register was updated to include all council owned and operated facilities and asbestos incident management procedures to be rolled out during 2015-16.
- Six WorkSafe improvement notices issued, all of which were met within timeframe.

OHS Committee

Attendance at the corporate Occupational Health and Safety Committee meetings has increased and the frequency of meetings changed from bi-monthly to monthly to ensure a tighter follow up on OHS issues and a renewed focus on injury prevention.

WorkCover

The trend for WorkCover claims during 2014-15 has seen an increase in the incidence of psychological claims associated with stress, and there has also been a high rate of claims associated with back injuries. These claims combined make up 11 of the 25 claims in the 2014-15 year (44%) with the highest expenditure associated with these claims being related to stress. The rates of injury at Latrobe City Council are above the average industry rates for the sector and the organisation has seen an increase in lost days by injured workers. Total lost time this year Vs last year is 636 days lost in 2014-15 compared to 316 in 2013-14.

Latrobe City Council continues to work with injured staff to have them return to work as quickly as possible and to assist this, the organisation has increased the skills of return to work support by providing Return to Work coordinator training. Latrobe has been working proactively with its WorkCover insurer CGU to improve performance and seek efficient and effective solutions in the management and support for injured staff.

CGU worked with Council on a number of claims reviews and has provided training to LCC staff in the use of their online reporting systems that will enable council to report more technical claims information. Further improvements to reporting are needed and once established will improve the accuracy of the information used to manage the claims of injured workers.

WorkCover Claims

Year	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014-15
Standard Claims	9	16	13	12
Minor Claims	8	7	5	13
Claims Closed	4	18	8	13
Total Claims	17	23	18	25

Premium History

Year	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014-15
Premium Cost	\$706,340	\$927,574	\$1,188,807	\$1,099,054



LATROBE CITY COUNCIL EMPLOYEE AT CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO)

Latrobe City Council is committed to providing a workplace environment which embraces diversity, and actively manages the workplace to minimise discrimination, harassment and bullying. All employees, contractors, volunteers and agents are entitled to be treated fairly and equitably. The tools that council uses to support a discrimination free workplace include training for all staff, the provision of policies and procedures and the opportunity for ongoing participation in initiatives that assist in supporting and promoting diversity.

Employee Assistance Program

Latrobe City Council understands the importance of supporting the wellbeing of its staff and their families. The Employee Assistance Program is a confidential source of support, accessible to all staff which is provided by professional counsellors. Counselling and coaching sessions are confidential and support the identification of resolutions that are suited to the individual staff member. These sessions are accessible across a range of locations, both during and outside of business hours.

Industrial Relations

Latrobe City Council Enterprise Agreement 2012- 2015 expires on 30 July 2015. The organisation commenced negotiations for the 2015 agreement.

Learning and Development

Latrobe City Council is committed to providing employees with high quality learning and development opportunities. The skills and knowledge obtained support employees to work effectively and contribute to the organisation's success, providing excellent outcomes for our community and support attraction and retention of our workforce.

Employees can undertake internal and external Learning and Development programs that contribute to their skills in the following areas:

- Working more effectively with the community;
- Delivering better services;
- Operating safely and effectively; and
- Managing their own performance and the performance of others.

During 2014-15, learning and development opportunities for employees focussed on the following areas:

- Occupational Health & Safety
- Bullying & Harassment Prevention
- Fraud Awareness
- Conflict of Interest Awareness

Externally facilitated programs in foundation and advanced Community Engagement, conducting effective performance conversations, positive workplace behaviours and contact officer training were also delivered throughout the year to support our employees in professional and personal development.

OUR PEOPLE

STAFF RECOGNITION

Award highlights

Community Development

**Karleen Plunkett ,
Disability Services Officer**
Inductee to Victoria's
Honour Roll for Women

In March 2015, Karleen Plunkett was one of 22 women inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll for Women in recognition of her tireless work in the support of people with disabilities. Karleen has served the Latrobe City community as council's Disability Services Officer for the past 13 years and is the architect of the council's Disability Action Plan.

Karleen's commitment to women's health started in the 1990s working in the western suburbs of Melbourne. Today she is member of the Public Transport Access Committee advising the state government, the Government Disability Planners Network and a member of Women with Disabilities Victoria. The induction to the Victoria's Honour Roll for Women culminates a career assisting those with a disability to access health services, in particular access to specialist women's health services.

Procurement

**Jaime Aitken
Coordinator, Procurement**
Innovation and Collaboration in
Procurement Award

Coordinator, Procurement for Latrobe, Jaime Aitken was awarded the Procurement Excellence Award 2014 – Innovation and Collaboration in Procurement from Procurement Australia in October 2014.

This award was won for the development and implementation of the animation clip 'Doing Business with LCC'. This was a first for local Councils and seen as an innovative way to educate suppliers on how to do business with LCC.

Planning

**Deanne Smith,
Senior Strategic Planner**
Women's Planning Network 'Female
Achiever of the Year Award' 2015

The inaugural Women's Planning Network 'Female Achiever of the Year Awards' were announced at the International Women's Day breakfast at Parliament House on 5 March 2015 where Deanne Smith, Senior Strategic Planner, Latrobe City Council, was awarded an inaugural Female Achiever of the Year Award together with Amanda Dodd, Coordinator Environmental Planning, Hume City Council.

Auspiced by the Planning Institute of Australia the award 'is awarded to a woman who has achieved success in her planning role and is striving for and achieving great outcomes in the planning profession.



JAIME AITKEN (CENTRE) ACCEPTING THE
INNOVATION AND COLLABORATION IN PROCUREMENT AWARD

Years of service

As part of Latrobe City Council’s Years of Continuous Service Employee Recognition Program we wish to recognise employee’s ongoing commitment to our organisation and community. Congratulations to the following employees that have recently achieved a new milestone during 2014-15.

10 YEARS	15 YEARS	20 YEARS	25 YEARS	30+ YEARS
2005	2000	1995	1990	1985
Matthew Birkbeck	Donna Maskiell	Kerryn Ashton	Kay Jellis	Barbara McLaren
Bronwyn Evans	Christine Bianconi	Vikki Petesic	Lucia Del Busso	Thomas Vogt
Dorothy Mccann	Margaret Dalde	Anna Doyle	Linda Davies	
Laura Colantuono	Josephine Phoenix		Steven Stroud	
Suzanne Deely	Caroline Bolding			
Dianne Simic	Janice Greenwood			
Faye Dubaich	Joanne Keily			
Maree Adams	Philip Taylor			
Carol Evans	Michael Barrett			
Kaye Ross	Timothy Duff			
Heimo Ahonen	John Zalesiak			
Colin Sim				
Dianne Berkhout				
Daniel Scholes				
Donna Lothian				
Katherine Wood				
Suzanne Payne				
Christine Spark				
Judith Mckeon				
Belinda De Fontaine				
Laura Buckton				



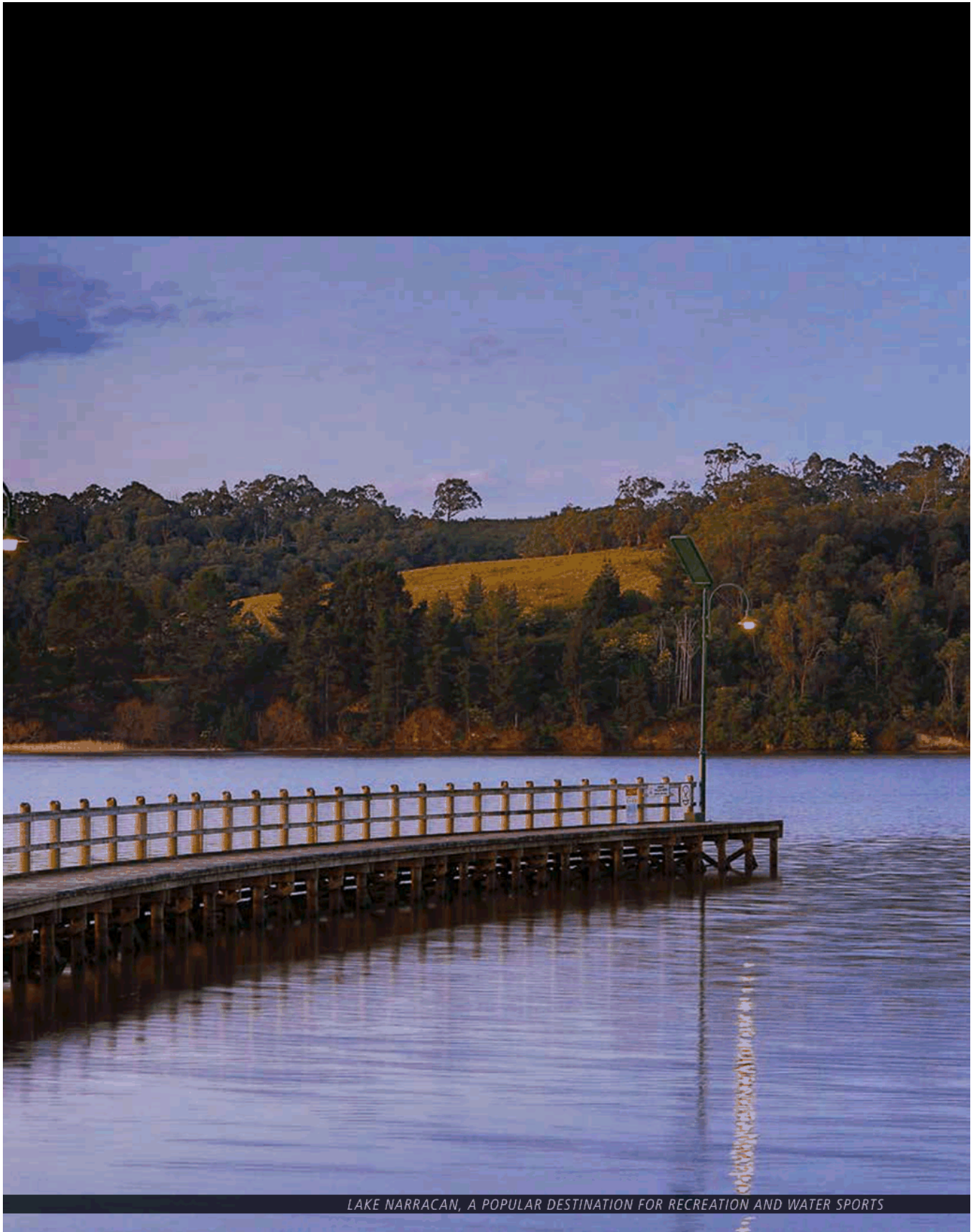
SETTING OUR DIRECTION

Latrobe 2026 Community Vision

“In 2026 the Latrobe Valley is a liveable and sustainable region with collaborative and inclusive community leadership.”

Latrobe 2026 was developed in partnership with the community and outlines the community's vision for the future development of the region, building on its strength as one of Victoria's key regional economies and its position as the commercial centre of Gippsland with a focus on education, health and community services and facilities.

Adopted in 2010, the Community Vision sets down the aspirations of the community and guides council in its activities and services, underpinning the Council Plan 2013 - 2017.



LAKE NARRACAN, A POPULAR DESTINATION FOR RECREATION AND WATER SPORTS

SETTING OUR DIRECTION

Latrobe City Council Plan 2013 - 2017

Responding to Latrobe 2026 Community Vision, the Council Plan defines the mission and values of the organisation and the objectives to be achieved.

Latrobe City Council's Mission

To provide the best possible facilities, services, advocacy and leadership for Latrobe City, one of Victoria's four major regional cities.

Latrobe City Council's Values

Latrobe City Council's values describe how it is committed to achieving the Latrobe 2026 Community Vision through:

- Providing affordable people focussed community services
- Planning strategically and acting responsibly, in the best interests of the whole community
- Accountability, transparency and honesty
- Listening to and working with the community
- Respect, fairness and equity
- Open to and embracing new opportunities

The Council Plan 2013 – 2017 is structured around five Themes and supporting Objectives which provide the framework for Strategic Directions and supporting Strategies and Plans which define what Council will work to achieve. Performance Indicators have been included to monitor Latrobe City Council's achievement of the objectives of the Council Plan.



Council Plan Themes:

- 01 JOB CREATION & ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY
- 02 APPROPRIATE, AFFORDABLE & SUSTAINABLE FACILITIES, SERVICES & RECREATION
- 03 EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE & ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE
- 04 ADVOCACY FOR & CONSULTATION WITH OUR COMMUNITY
- 05 PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

The Council Plan is accompanied by the Strategic Resource Plan and an Annual Action Plan. The Strategic Resource Plan sets out the financial and non-financial resources required to achieve the objectives of the Council Plan. The Annual Action Plan outlines the Major Initiatives and actions to be undertaken each year to deliver on the Council Plan.

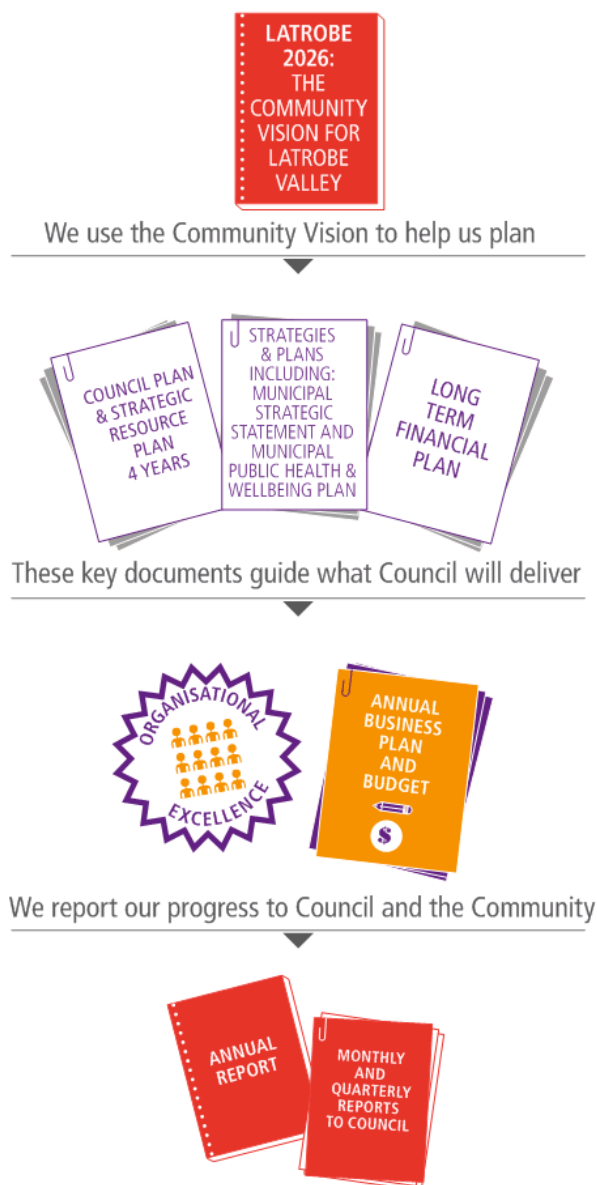
For a copy of the Council Plan 2013-2017, current Budget, Strategic Resource Plan or Annual Action Plan go to: www.latrobe.vic.gov.au or call 1300 367 700.

Planning and Reporting

Each year, the organisation reviews its four-year business plans, setting out activities and objectives that align with the strategic directions of the Council Plan.

Delivering on the objectives of the Council Plan is measured against the achievement of identified actions and a number of performance indicators that form part of the performance reporting process. This process is outlined in the following Planning and Reporting Framework:

Setting Our Direction

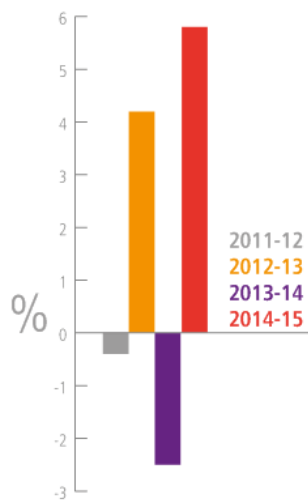


FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT



Latrobe City Council's financial position continues to remain sound. A summary of our performance is outlined below. Detailed information relating to Council's financial performance is included within the Financial Statements and Performance Statement sections of this report.

Operating Position



Adjusted Underlying Result

Definition

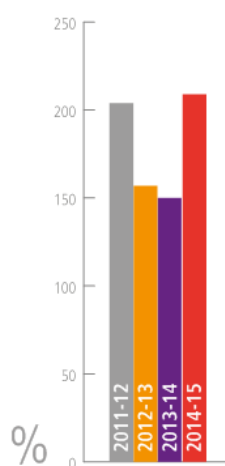
The adjusted underlying result measures council’s surplus/deficit as a percentage of revenue, adjusted for once off capital grants, non-monetary asset contributions and monetary contributions to fund capital expenditure from other sources.

Financial Performance

Council achieved an overall surplus of \$24.86 million in 2014-15 and an adjusted underlying surplus of \$7.26 million or 6% when compared to adjusted underlying revenue, which compares favourably to the expected target of >0%.

The result is higher than previous years mainly due to Federal Assistance Grants for 2015-16 being received in advance from the Victorian Grants Commission. Sustaining an adjusted underlying surplus is a critical financial strategy that provides capacity to meet renewal requirements of the community assets under council’s control.

Liquidity



Working Capital Ratio

Definition

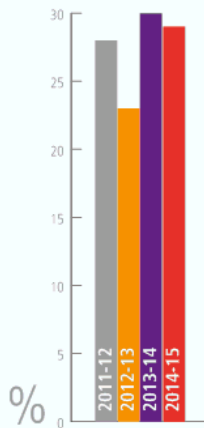
Capital ratio represents current assets as a percentage of current liabilities. The ratio reveals if there is sufficient working capital available to pay bills as and when they fall due.

Financial Performance

Cash and other financial assets (investments greater than 90 days) have increased by \$16.60 million mainly due to Federal Assistance Grants for 2015/16 advanced to council in June 2015 together with funds set aside to meet future principal repayments on interest only borrowings and capital funding for incomplete projects carried forward for future expenditure. These factors have contributed to council achieving a result of 209% in 2014-15, just over the target band of 120%-200%. The increase in ratio over the prior two years shows council’s strong cash position.

SETTING OUR DIRECTION

Obligations



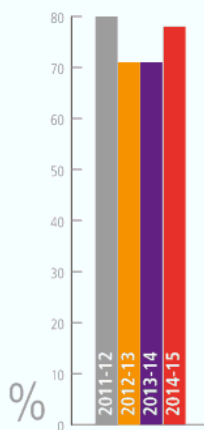
Loan and Borrowings Ratio

Definition

The loan and borrowings ratio compares council’s borrowings as a percentage of rate revenue generated. The level of borrowings should be appropriate to the size and nature of Council’s activities.

Financial Performance

Council’s ratio has remained steady in 2014-15 compared to previous years at 29%. This is in the mid-range of the expected range of 0%-50%, demonstrating that Council continues to have a strong capacity to meet long term obligations



Asset Renewal Ratio

Definition

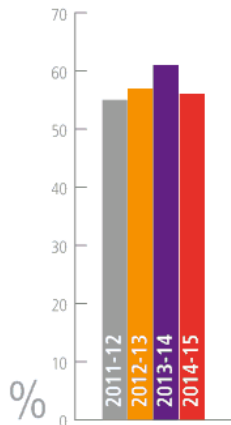
The asset renewal ratio represents the funds spent on renewing existing assets as a percentage of accounting depreciation of the same assets. Asset renewal is a critical part of the council’s responsibility to ensure that infrastructure assets are maintained and continue to be available for use by the community.

Financial Performance

Council’s asset renewal ratio in 2014-15 is 78%; within mid-range of the target value of 50%-100%. Council invested \$15.34 million in renewal works during 2014-15 on various assets including roads, bridges, drainage and leisure centres.



Stability and Efficiency



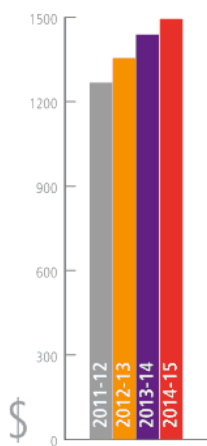
Rates Concentration Ratio

Definition

The rates concentration ratio measures council's ability to generate revenue from a range of sources. The ratio represents rate revenue as a percentage of total revenue less once off capital grants, non-monetary asset contributions and contributions to fund capital expenditure from other sources which is expressed as the adjusted underlying revenue.

Financial Performance

Council's ratio for 2014-15 is 56%, within the expected range of 40% - 80%. Total adjusted underlying revenue in 2014-15 is \$123.44 million which comprised largely of rate revenue, grants and user fees and fines.



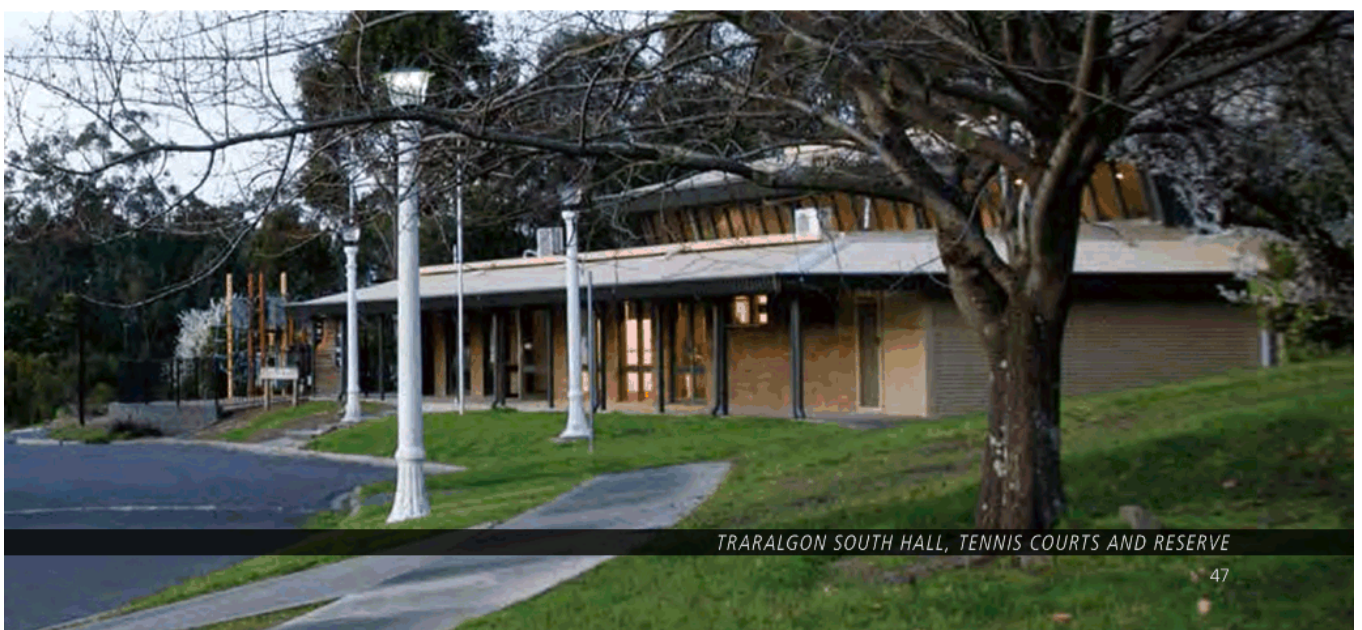
Revenue Level Ratio

Definition

The revenue level ratio is a measure of the residential rate revenue per residential property assessment. The ratio assesses whether resources are being used efficiently to deliver services. The ratio is calculated on the average value of a residential property and assumes a standard service charge for a three bin kerbside collection service.

Financial Performance

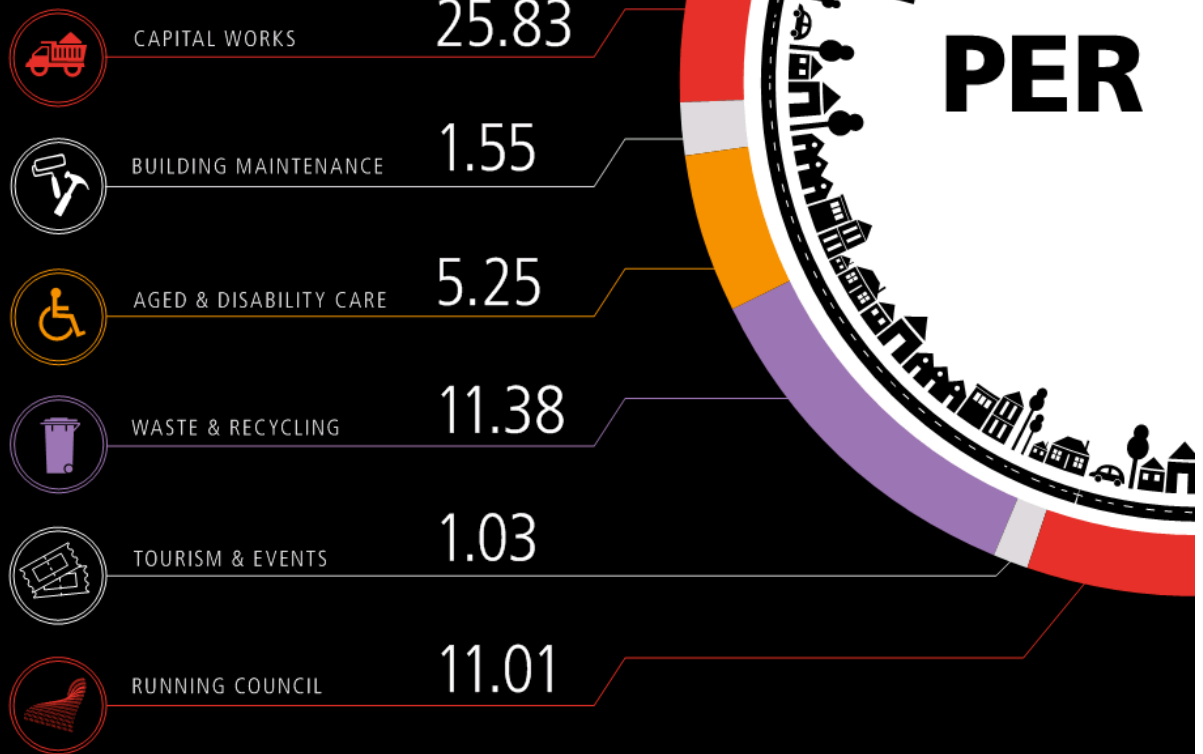
Council's revenue level ratio in 2014-15 is \$1,494, which is within the expected range of \$800-\$1800



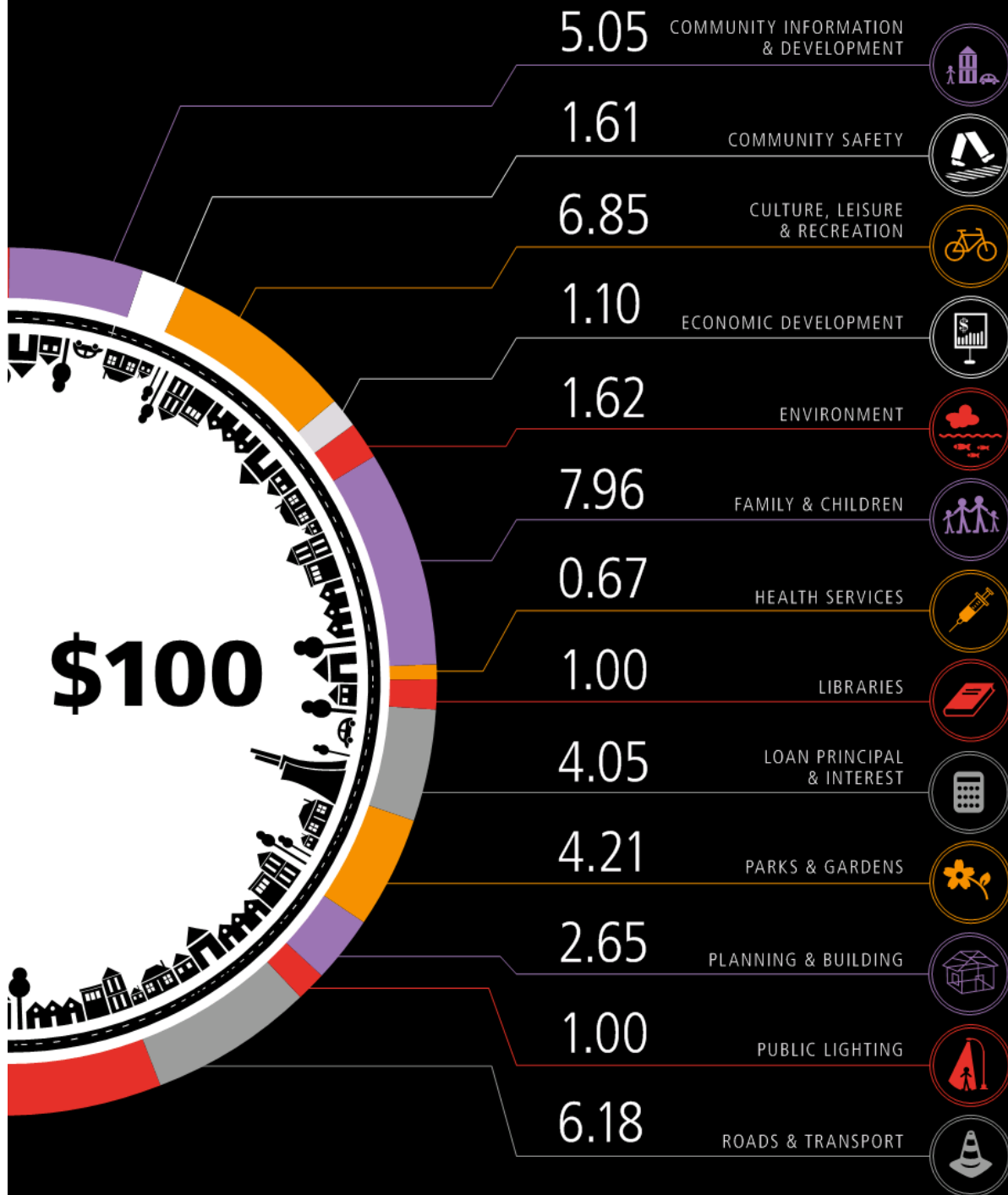
TRARALGON SOUTH HALL, TENNIS COURTS AND RESERVE

SETTING OUR DIRECTION

HOW YOUR RATES ARE SPENT



SETTING OUR DIRECTION



HOW ARE WE PERFORMING?




STORYTIME FOLLOWED BY CRAFT SESSIONS AT OUR LIBRARIES ARE VERY POPULAR EVENTS

HOW ARE WE PERFORMING?

COUNCIL REPORT CARD

The following Report Cards have been arranged by the five themes of the Council Plan and linked to their corresponding Objectives. Where available 2013-14 results have been provided. The Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LPRF) results have also been included.

There are three measure types included in the report cards as shown below:

<p>Major Initiatives Most significant Annual Actions included within the Latrobe City Council Annual Budget 2014-15</p> <p>Annual Actions Projects or initiatives included within the Latrobe City Council Annual Budget 2014-15</p>	<p>DELIVERY</p>	<p>Measured by the delivery of listed projects</p> <p>Achieved: Green</p> <p>Part Achieved: Amber</p> <p>Not Achieved: Red</p>
<p>Council Plan Indicators Measure or performance indicators included within the Council Plan 2013-2017.</p>	<p>TREND</p>	<p>Measured by the comparison or trend with the previous year</p> <p>Achieved: Green</p> <p>Part Achieved: Amber</p> <p>Not Achieved: Red</p> <p>Not Available: Grey</p>
<p>Local Government Performance Reporting Framework indicators Standard performance indicators required across all Victorian Local Government Areas.</p>	<p>RANGE</p>	<p>Measured by the expected range</p> <p>Example shown below:</p> 

Results at a glance



HOW ARE WE PERFORMING?

Results in detail

THEME 01 – JOB CREATION AND ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY



LOY YANG MINE

HOW ARE WE PERFORMING?

Objective:

Actively pursue long term economic prosperity for Latrobe City, one of Victoria's four major regional cities

Measure Type	Action	2014-15 Result	Commentary
Annual Action	Progress Council's decision in respect to the provision of a performing arts and convention centre for Latrobe City to enhance Latrobe City's cultural infrastructure and programs and to attract business tourism to Latrobe City.	Achieved	This review was completed to confirm the community's preferred location and business case prior to seeking grant funding support.
Annual Action	Deliver Year 2 Actions of the Latrobe City Events Strategy and Action Plan 2013-2017 to present an exciting and diverse events calendar that benefits our community, economy and profile of our city.	Achieved	All actions were delivered on time and on budget.
Annual Action	Develop a Latrobe City Council 2014-2018 Arts Strategy and Action Plan for Council endorsement.	Not Achieved	This project is not expected to be completed until December 2015.
Annual Action	Participate in the Gippsland Local Government joint initiative, 'Creative Gippsland' to support greater recognition and promotion of arts across Gippsland.	Achieved	A significant collaboration between Gippsland municipalities to support visual and performing arts across the region.

HOW ARE WE PERFORMING?

Results in detail

Objective (continued):
Actively pursue long term economic prosperity for Latrobe City, one of Victoria's four major regional cities

Measure Type	Measure	2013/14 Result	2014-15 Result	Commentary
Council Plan Indicator	Number of international, national, state and regional events held in Latrobe City.	438	514	76 more events were supported and delivered, increasing economic benefits for the community.
Council Plan Indicator	Return on investment per \$1 spent from Council's contribution to major events held in Latrobe City.	\$90.77	\$125.93	The increased number and variety of events has resulted in an estimated benefit of \$9,129,708 to the local economy.
Council Plan Indicator	Mean taxable income of residents benchmarked against other regional cities.	\$51,498	-	Data not available for 2014-15.
Council Plan Indicator	Number of people who attend Latrobe City Council's performing arts, visual arts and arts education public programs annually.	93,270	98,807	Significant increase of 5537 attendees was achieved across performing and visual arts programs.
LGPRF	Relative socio-economic disadvantage index	N/A	1	Index for Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage. 1 = most disadvantaged, 10 = least disadvantaged Expected Range : 1 - 10

Objective:
Actively pursue further diversification of business and industry in the municipality

Measure Type	Action	2014-15 Result	Commentary
Major Initiative	Complete construction of the Gippsland Heavy Industry Park road infrastructure to support existing and new industry expansion.	Achieved	Upgrades to road infrastructure to improve access were completed to support heavy industry expansion opportunities.
Annual Action	In accordance with the Economic Sustainability Strategy, continue to pursue employment generating opportunities and aerospace manufacturing at the Latrobe Regional Airport.	Achieved	Activities included working with Mahindra, GippsAero and the establishment of training partnerships with Federation Training.

HOW ARE WE PERFORMING?

JOB CREATION AND ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

THEME 01

Measure Type	Action	2014-15 Result	Commentary
Annual Action	Advocate for the creation of an industrial park and the Gippsland Logistics Precinct.	Achieved	Proposal prepared for the private development and operation of road and rail freight transport links for the Gippsland region, supported by Victorian Government's \$10 million contribution.
Annual Action	Actively pursue new power generation and brown coal opportunities within Latrobe City and provide business development assistance to energy related industry.	Achieved	Continued to seek and support energy and coal derivative investment opportunities.
Annual Action	Pursue research and development in brown coal innovation for future economic growth and diversification within Latrobe City.	Achieved	A highlight was attending the Brown Coal Innovation Australia Research Symposium during February 2015.

Measure Type	Measure	2013/14 Result	2014-15 Result	Commentary
Council Plan Indicator	Number and value of business expansion, job creation and investment attraction funding applications supported by Council.	5	12	Two organisations were supported for their application to the Australian Small Business Advisory Services and ten businesses were supported for their applications to the Grow Your Business program.
Council Plan Indicator	Percentage change in employment rates by industry sector.	7.5%	6.9%	Unemployment rates have decreased from 7.5% in June 2014 to 6.9% in March 2015 - ABS.
Council Plan Indicator	Number of new business registrations by sector with Latrobe City.	623	560	Overall result was down, however significant increases occurred in construction (17.86%) and professional, scientific and technical services (11.96%).

HOW ARE WE PERFORMING?

Results in detail

Objective:**Actively pursue and support long term job security and the creation of new employment opportunities in Latrobe City**

Measure Type	Action	2014-15 Result	Commentary
Major Initiative	Support the establishment of research facilities in Latrobe City to enable development of innovative technology including for the forestry, wood and paper sectors.	Achieved	This is an ongoing action coordinated by Latrobe City Council which fosters the development of forestry, wood and paper; coal; and agriculture technology in the Latrobe Valley.
Annual Action	Commence the review of the 2009 Latrobe Regional Airport Master Plan.	Achieved	The Latrobe Regional Airport Masterplan will guide the future development of the airport and support industry and employment growth.
Annual Action	In accordance with the Economic Sustainability Strategy, provide assistance to local businesses to grow and expand through referrals, the provision of statistical and site information and relevant funding opportunities.	Achieved	Program includes provision of one-to-one support to new and existing businesses.
Annual Action	Prepare the Latrobe City Economic Sustainability Strategy 2015-2019 to guide the economic development service for the next five years.	Part Achieved	The research and consultation to support the development of the strategy has been completed. The strategy is to be completed early 2016.

Measure Type	Measure	2013/14 Result	2014-15 Result	Commentary
Council Plan Indicator	Number of Council jobs funded through the federal and state governments.	133	127.46	The ratio of grant funds to employee costs is calculated for each program or project which is supported by government grant funding. This figure is based on the adopted 2014-15 Budget.
Council Plan Indicator	Number of businesses supported through direct contact with Latrobe City Council's Economic Development Department, including factors of attraction, job creation and investment value.	285	360	The Economic Development Department supported 360 businesses and 36 industry groups and associations in the 2014-15 financial year
Council Plan Indicator	Annual employment growth rate in Latrobe City benchmarked against other regional cities.	-5.26%	0.93%	During 2014-15, Latrobe City experienced a 0.93% increase in the number of jobs, increasing to 33,565 in 2014-15 from 33,258 in 2013-14. Ballarat experienced a decline of 0.20%, Greater Bendigo experienced an increase of 8.70% and Geelong experienced a decline of 4.78%.
Council Plan Indicator	Number of trainee and apprentice positions available in Latrobe City each year.	6861	5,606	The total number of trainee and apprentice positions available in Latrobe City for 2014-15 totalled 5,606, which indicates a reduction from the previous year result. Source: National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER).

HOW ARE WE PERFORMING?

**JOB CREATION AND
ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY**

**THEME
01**



POWER INDUSTRY EMPLOYEES IN LATROBE

HOW ARE WE PERFORMING?

Results in detail

THEME 02 – APPROPRIATE, AFFORDABLE & SUSTAINABLE FACILITIES, SERVICES & RECREATION



TRAINING AT GLENGARRY NETBALL COURTS

HOW ARE WE PERFORMING?

Objective:
**To promote and support a healthy,
 active and connected community**

Measure Type	Action	2014-15 Result	Commentary
Major Initiative	Finalise the detailed design of the Morwell to Traralgon shared pathway feasibility study to improve connectivity between the two towns.	Not Achieved	Survey and design is expected to be completed during 2015/16.
Annual Action	Progress the development of the Latrobe City Tracks, Trails and Pathways Strategy.	Achieved	The draft Tracks Trails and Paths Strategy, was developed during 2014-15 and released for public exhibition and feedback on the 26 May to the 7 July 2015. The final strategy will be presented to Council in late 2015.
Annual Action	Manage the annual legislative requirements of the Latrobe City Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.	Achieved	Year One action plan review complete in consultation with Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan partners.
Annual Action	Undertake a review of the Latrobe City Playground Strategy.	Part Achieved	The draft Playground Strategy was developed during 2014-15 and will be released for public exhibition on 14 September 2015 for an eight week period. The final strategy will be presented to Council in early 2016.
Annual Action	Deliver the Events Community Grants Program to support not-for-profit community focussed groups for projects that will assist in the ongoing development of community facilities and to meet the social, recreational and cultural needs of the community.	Achieved	27 community event grants were provided to help communities stage events.
Annual Action	Deliver and promote the Annual Latrobe Regional Gallery Exhibition program to provide a variety of local and nationally significant exhibitions.	Achieved	Exhibition program offers free access to a variety of national and state touring, self-curated and community exhibitions.
Annual Action	Complete the development of the Catterick Crescent and Maryvale reserve Master Plans including the Traralgon Sports Stadium.	Not Achieved	Community consultation has been completed, with the finalisation of the Master Plans expected during 2015/16.
Annual Action	Investigate Hazelwood Pondage waterway management options and pursue resolution of appropriate lease arrangements with International Power.	Achieved	The new lease secures use of the pondage for water sport activities and provides greater certainty for potential investments.

HOW ARE WE PERFORMING?

Results in detail

Objective (continued):
To promote and support a healthy, active and connected community

Measure Type	Action	2014-15 Result	Commentary
Annual Action	Support early childhood services and schools to increase physical activity and establish active transport for students, staff & families through the BE ACTIVE Program.	Achieved	Supported Walk to School, Ride 2 Schools, Premier's Active April, Alice Project, Physical Activity Policy Workshops, and planning priority routes to schools for walking and cycling.
Annual Action	Increase children's services and school registrations in the achievement program to create healthier environments and promote the health and wellbeing of children and young people.	Achieved	57 services participated in the Achievement Program, which provided policy development support, physical activity and healthy eating workshops.
Annual Action	Undertake a review of Senior Citizen's Centres to increase community utilisation rates.	Achieved	The review identified that senior citizen centres are well utilised, with minimal vacancies in the busy calendar of activities. Attendance numbers were gathered with ongoing monitoring continuing each quarter.

Measure Type	Measure	2013/14 Result	2014-15 Result	Commentary
Council Plan Indicator	Number of visitors and memberships for Latrobe City Council's leisure facilities, stadiums and reserves annually.	429934	415,207	Due to a cooler summer season in 2014-15 attendances are down on 2013-14.
Council Plan Indicator	Number of shared pathways, pedestrian footpaths, bicycle paths and walking trails constructed and maintained annually.	723.2	730.6	Private development and council's works programs provided an increase of 7.4 kilometres of pathways.
Council Plan Indicator	Report annual health and well-being community indicators as described by the Healthy Together Latrobe Strategic Roadmap.	Achieved	Achieved	The Achievement Program, Healthy Food Connect, Think on Your Feet and Health Champions are key activities that have been delivered to support community health and wellbeing.

HOW ARE WE PERFORMING?

APPROPRIATE, AFFORDABLE & SUSTAINABLE FACILITIES, SERVICES & RECREATION

THEME 02

Objective:

To provide facilities and services that are accessible and meet the needs of our diverse community

Measure Type	Action	2014-15 Result	Commentary
Annual Action	Implement year three actions and amendments of the Latrobe City Council Playground Improvement Implementation Plan 2011-2016 to enhance social and health outcomes and improve local neighbourhood amenity. (C0060, C0674)	Part Achieved	Stearman Reserve and Brooke Street Reserve complete. Helen Street Reserve and Boolarra Railway Park underway.
Annual Action	Progress Council's decision in respect to the delivery of the Gippsland Regional Aquatics Centre in Traralgon.	Achieved	The concept design and car parking study has been completed. The concept design will now be presented to Council and external funding bodies to progress the project to detailed design and funding.
Annual Action	Commence implementation of the Latrobe City Public Open Space Strategy.	Part Achieved	Project is expected to be completed during 2015-16.
Annual Action	Deliver the Annual Capital Works Program.	Part Achieved	A number of projects were not delivered due to a variety of factors including weather, contractual issues and supply constraints.
Annual Action	Progress Council's decision in respect to the delivery of the Moe Rail Precinct Revitalisation Project.	Part Achieved	Construction commenced later than expected due to contract negotiations and are progressing with project completion scheduled for 2015-16.
Annual Action	Implement the Waste Education Plan as a key objective of the Latrobe City Council Waste Management Strategy.	Achieved	Key highlights during 2014-15 were the extension of the vermicomposting program across schools.
Annual Action	In consultation with the senior community, review the Latrobe City Council Positive Ageing Plan 2009-2012 as a guiding document that identifies the needs and aspirations of our older community members.	Part Achieved	Warm weather resulting in low attendance at consultation meetings. Project will be completed during 2015-16.

HOW ARE WE PERFORMING?

Results in detail

Objective (continued):**To provide facilities and services that are accessible and meet the needs of our diverse community**

Measure Type	Measure	2013/14 Result	2014-15 Result	Commentary
Council Plan Indicator	Number of visits to Latrobe City Council libraries to access services, activities, education programs annually.	230,630	214,956	The decline in the number of visits may be due to members accessing library resources online. During the Morwell mine fire, low attendance was recorded at the Morwell library.
Council Plan Indicator	Overall customer satisfaction in the annual Latrobe City Council Maternal and Child Health Services Survey.	97%	100%	Of those that responded to the 2014-15 survey, 100% of respondents rated the service as satisfactory, good or excellent.
Council Plan Indicator	Overall customer satisfaction in the annual Latrobe City Council's Home and Community Care Services Survey.	93%	97%	711 surveys were sent out to Home and Community Care clients. 335 surveys were returned and 97% indicated that they were happy with their current services.
Council Plan Indicator	Latrobe City Council's satisfaction rating for recreational facilities in the annual Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey.	68	65	Satisfaction ratings for recreational facilities reduced by two points during 2014-15.
LGPRF	Number of WorkSafe reportable safety incidents at aquatic facilities	N/A	0	No reportable incidents demonstrates the high priority of safety across our aquatic facilities. Expected Range : 0 - 20
LGPRF	Percentage of library items purchased in the past 5 years	N/A	53.7%	This result is at the lower end of the expected range however indicates that over half of the library collection has been renewed. Expected Range : 50% – 100%
LGPRF	Percentage of the local community that are active library members	N/A	16.05%	39% of Latrobe library members are aged over 55. With the number of older community members in decline and new younger community members under-represented in the membership demographic. Expected Range : 10% – 50%

HOW ARE WE PERFORMING?

APPROPRIATE, AFFORDABLE & SUSTAINABLE FACILITIES, SERVICES & RECREATION

THEME 02

Measure Type	Measure	2013/14 Result	2014-15 Result	Commentary
LGPRF	Number of kerbside bin collection requests per 1000 households	N/A	275.5	The Local Government Performance Reporting Framework definition specifies any customer request relating to bins is registered in the calculation. This result is consistent with prior years with 275.5 in 2013-14, 291.4 in 2012-13 and 262.6 in 2011-12 Expected Range : 2 – 200
LGPRF	Percentage of kerbside collection waste that is not taken to landfill	N/A	55.12%	This result is mid-range within the expected range. Expected Range : 20% – 80%
LGPRF	Number of health inspections per aquatic facility	N/A	2	This result is mid-range within the expected range. Expected Range : 1 – 4
LGPRF	Number of loans per library collection item	N/A	2.96	This result is at the lower end of the expected range. Expected Range : 1 – 10
LGPRF	Average number of days taken for new clients to commence the Home & Community Care service	N/A	28.9	This result is at the high end of the expected range. Expected Range : 1 – 30
LGPRF	Number of Kerbside collection bins missed per 10,000 bins	N/A	2.96	This result represents a high level of accuracy in bin collections. Expected Range : 1 – 100
LGPRF	Percentage of Community Care Common Standards met by the Home & Community Care service	N/A	100%	This result is affected by lower participation rates as children grow older. Expected Range : 80% – 100%
LGPRF	Percentage of Aboriginal children enrolled in the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) service who participate in the service	N/A	69.03%	An excellent result reflecting the high standard of Maternal and Child Health services. Expected Range : 80% – 100%
LGPRF	Percentage of Home & Community Care participation by Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) people	N/A	19.47%	Results within expected range. Expected Range : 10% – 40%

HOW ARE WE PERFORMING?

Results in detail

Objective (continued):
To provide facilities and services that are accessible
and meet the needs of our diverse community

Measure Type	Measure	2013/14 Result	2014-15 Result	Commentary
LGPRF	Percentage of children enrolled in the Maternal and Child Health service who participate in the service	N/A	73.65%	Participation reduces as the child grows in age from two to five years as does the number of scheduled visits. Expected Range : 80% – 100%
LGPRF	Percentage of infants enrolled in the Maternal and Child Health service that receive a first home visit	N/A	110.4%	The DHHS formula is constructed in a way that permits results greater than 100% Expected Range : 80% – 100%
LGPRF	Percentage of target population that receive a Home & Community Care service	N/A	14.73%	Results are at the lower end of the expected range. Expected Range : 10% – 40%
LGPRF	Percentage of children born who enrol in the Maternal and Child Health service	N/A	101.6%	The formula for this indicator is constructed in a way that permits results greater than 100% Expected Range : 80% – 100%
LGPRF	Percentage of cats or dogs reclaimed by owners from the Pound	N/A	35.56%	This result is below the expected range, however 63.8% of animals are re-homed or re-housed. Expected Range : 40% – 90%
LGPRF	Number of visits to aquatic facilities per head of municipal population	N/A	5.06	This result is within the expected range. Expected Range : 1 – 10

HOW ARE WE PERFORMING?

APPROPRIATE, AFFORDABLE & SUSTAINABLE FACILITIES, SERVICES & RECREATION

THEME 02

Objective:

To enhance the visual attractiveness and liveability of Latrobe City

Measure Type	Action	2014-15 Result	Commentary
Annual Action	Develop and deliver initiatives to improve the visual attractiveness of our towns.	Achieved	A range of open space improvements have been undertaken during 2014-15. These include the replacement and/or removal of inappropriate bollards, bins and seating in Morwell and Moe.
Annual Action	Work with Vic Roads and VicTrack for improvements to the maintenance and attractiveness of road and railway reserves, including town entrances.	Achieved	Regular meetings with VicTrack and VicRoads focus on improving the attractiveness of our town entrances and railway reserves. Improvements to the Moe town entrance and the land abutting the Moe train station have been planned.

Measure Type	Measure	2013/14 Result	2014-15 Result	Commentary
Council Plan Indicator	Opinion of visitors on the cleanliness and attractiveness of Latrobe City.	87%	74%	74% of visitors to Latrobe City rated the cleanliness as good and above. Overall result is down from 2013/14.
Council Plan Indicator	Number of requests from the community for rubbish collection received annually.	321	376	The number of requests from the community for rubbish collection rose by 55 during 2014-15.
Council Plan Indicator	Latrobe City Council's mean score for the appearance of public areas in the annual Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey.	67	67	The level of community satisfaction has not changed during 2014-15.
LGPRF	Number of sealed local road requests per 100 km of roads	N/A	29.27	This result is at the low end of the expected range. Expected Range 0 - 200
LGPRF	Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with sealed local roads	N/A	52	This result is at the lower end of the expected range. Expected Range 50 - 200
LGPRF	Percentage of sealed local roads not requiring renewal works	N/A	99.67	This result is at the high end of the expected range. Expected Range 70% - 100%

HOW ARE WE PERFORMING?

Results in detail

THEME 03 – EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE & ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE



LATROBE CITY STAFF AT CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

HOW ARE WE PERFORMING?

Objective:**To achieve the highest standards of financial probity and meet all statutory obligations**

Measure Type	Action	2014-15 Result	Commentary
Annual Action	Undertake Strategic Risk and Insurable Risk Profiling, to review the strategic risk register and insurance program to ensure sufficient coverage for potential loss of council assets and activities.	Part Achieved	A review of Council's Strategic Risk registers and associated controls was commenced. The review of Council's insurance program was not delivered, however is to be completed during 2015-16.
Annual Action	Facilitate the development of the Annual Budget and present to Council for consideration.	Achieved	The 2015/16 Budget was approved by Council on 25 May 2015
Annual Action	Deliver 100% of Major initiatives for 2014-15.	Part Achieved	Four of seven Major initiatives were achieved.

Measure Type	Measure	2013/14 Result	2014-15 Result	Commentary
Council Plan Indicator	Provide financial reports quarterly and annually.	4	4	All financial reports were provided to Council on time. Improvements to the format and content of performance reports to be undertaken during 2015/16.
Council Plan Indicator	Percentage of actions completed in the annual Internal Audit Plan.	35%	57%	57% of actions to be delivered during 2014-15 were completed.
LGPRF	Non-current liabilities as a percentage of own source revenue (<i>represents the percentage of income required from the community to meet long-term commitments</i>).	N/A	36.91%	The result is significantly influenced by increasing costs to restore landfill sites. Expected Range 0% - 50%
LGPRF	Value of infrastructure per head of municipal population (<i>indicates the investment in public infrastructure [i.e. roads, drains, buildings, footpaths etc.] per person living within Latrobe City</i>).	N/A	\$12,685.10	This result is at the lower end of the expected range. Expected Range \$5,000 - \$30,000
LGPRF	Recurrent grants per head of municipal population (<i>recurrent grants are received on a re-occurring annual basis, this measures the level of re-occurring government funding provided per person living within Latrobe City</i>).	N/A	\$423.82	This result is in the mid area of the expected range. Expected Range \$100 - \$1,000

HOW ARE WE PERFORMING?

Results in detail

Objective (continued):
To achieve the highest standards of financial probity and meet all statutory obligations

Measure Type	Measure	2013/14 Result	2014-15 Result	Commentary
LGPRF	Own source revenue per head of municipal population (<i>represents the amount of council revenue received on average from each resident of Latrobe City</i>).	N/A	\$1,230.91	This result is in the mid area of the expected range. Expected Range \$500 - \$2000
LGPRF	Expenses per property assessment (<i>the amount of annual expenditure incurred by Council per rateable property assessment</i>).	N/A	\$3,126.64	This result is at the mid to high end of the expected range. Expected Range \$2,000 - \$4,000
LGPRF	Asset renewal expenses as a percentage of depreciation (<i>the amount of money being spent on renewing or refurbishing existing public assets, compared to the depreciation of the assets each year</i>).	N/A	79.86%	This result is within the expected range. Expected Range 50% - 100%
LGPRF	Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit) as a percentage of adjusted underlying revenue (<i>measures the cents per dollar of surplus available to fund loan repayments, new and upgraded assets</i>).	N/A	5.82%	The result is mainly due to Federal Assistance Grants for 2015-16 being received in advance from the Victoria Grants Commission. Expected Range -20% - 20%
LGPRF	Rate revenue as a percentage of adjusted underlying revenue (<i>indicates the percentage of councils normal revenue stream that is obtained through rates</i>).	N/A	55.85%	The result is mainly due to Federal Assistance Grants for 2015-16 being received in advance from the Victoria Grants Commission. Expected Range 40% - 80%

Objective:
To provide open, transparent and accountable governance

Measure Type	Action	2014-15 Result	Commentary
Major Initiative	Develop and implement a risk and compliance framework to guide decision making, reporting and service delivery across the organisation.	Not Achieved	Project was unable to be completed within specified timeframe due to a change in direction, with Risk Management Strategy
Annual Action	Implement processes to ensure compliance with the changed environment for the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework.	Achieved	The Local Government Performance Reporting Framework has been implemented and independently audited.

HOW ARE WE PERFORMING?

EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE & ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE

THEME 03

Measure Type	Action	2014-15 Result	Commentary
Annual Action	Implement and report on annual actions for the Latrobe City Cultural Diversity Action Plan 2014-2018.	Part Achieved	The Plan was adopted by Council in March with reporting covering the period from March-June 2015.
Annual Action	Review the suitability and accessibility of the Council meeting format and schedule to create better opportunities for interaction between Council and the community.	Achieved	Council changed to a three weekly meeting cycle which provides an opportunity for community members to present to councillors.
Annual Action	Support delivery of Council's Audit Programs to assist in maintaining statutory obligations and ensuring the highest standards of organisational excellence are met.	Achieved	Internal audits completed or commenced as part of the program included a review of financial controls and fraud assessment, procurement, purchasing cards, payroll and asset management.
Annual Action	Commence development of the Drainage Asset Management Plan (DAMP).	Part Achieved	This is a component of a major review of all asset management plans and is to be completed during 2015/16.
Annual Action	Review Local Law No. 3 to ensure protection of Council assets and local amenity during building works and present to Council for consideration	Achieved	Local Law 3 was reviewed and adopted by Council on 22 September 2014.
Annual Action	Finalise the review of Local Law No. 2 which contributes to the peace, order and good governance of Latrobe City and present to Council for consideration	Not Achieved	Project was unable to be completed within specified timeframe due staff vacancies. Project is expected to be completed during December 2015.
Annual Action	Review the Council Plan 2013-2017, present to Council for consideration and submit to the Minister for Local Government within the legislated timeframe.	Achieved	Council reviewed and endorsed the Council Plan with no change, prior to submitting to the Minister during March 2015.
Annual Action	Commence the review of the Building Asset Management Plan by collating building data to ensure a clear, achievable plan for future management of Council owned building assets.	Achieved	Data collection, collation of building plans, mapping and information structure has been completed to date.
Annual Action	Advocate for the progression of an appropriate Tyers sewerage/wastewater management system solution.	Not Achieved	Council has not developed an overall solution. The Environment Protection Agency has confirmed however that any upgrades to existing septic tanks within the township are not required to confine discharge on site acknowledging that new systems will improve discharge quality.

HOW ARE WE PERFORMING?

Results in detail

Objective (continued):
To provide open, transparent and accountable governance

Measure Type	Measure	2013/14 Result	2014-15 Result	Commentary
Council Plan Indicator	Compare and report our annual Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey results.	Completed	Completed	The annual survey results have been assessed and a Councillor briefing is scheduled to be held during August 2015.
Council Plan Indicator	Report the number and type of community complaints received and resolved annually, including response time frames.	101	84	84 complaints were recorded and were actioned according to the process and timeframes outlined in the Citizen Complaints Policy and Procedure.
Council Plan Indicator	Percentage of procurement that is awarded to businesses that have a head office in Latrobe City, are owned by a Latrobe City resident or source a high percentage of goods and services from Latrobe City annually.	48%	46%	46% of suppliers engaged were located within Latrobe City which is proportionally consistent with the 2013-14 year.
Council Plan Indicator	Percentage of Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey respondents who are satisfied that Council is open about the decisions it makes.	N/A	43%	2014-15 is the first year this question has been asked of the community.
LGPRF	Percentage of Councillor attendance at Council meetings	N/A	96.14%	This result represents natural attendance fluctuations due to competing commitments. Expected Range 80% - 100%
LGPRF	Percentage of Council decisions made at meetings closed to the public	N/A	46.82%	The high number of decisions made at meetings closed to the public is primarily due to decisions regarding contractual matters. The result is outside the expected range. Expected Range 0% - 25%
LGPRF	Number of successful animal management prosecutions	N/A	4	Latrobe has a low prosecution rate as mediation and mutual resolution is more desirable than court action. Expected Range 0 - 50
LGPRF	Average number of days taken to action food complaints from the public	N/A	1.75	This result is at the lower end of the expected range. Expected Range 1 - 10
LGPRF	Percentage of Class 1 & 2 food premises that receive a food safety assessment	N/A	95.12	This result is at the upper end of the expected range. Expected Range 60% - 100%
LGPRF	Average number of days taken to action animal management requests	N/A	7.08	This result is within the expected range. Expected Range 1 - 10

HOW ARE WE PERFORMING?

EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE & ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE

THEME 03

Measure Type	Measure	2013/14 Result	2014-15 Result	Commentary
LGPRF	Percentage of critical and major non-compliance notifications under the Food Act 1984 followed up by council	N/A	90.77%	This is an excellent result and at the upper end of the expected range. Expected Range 70% - 100%

Objective:

Work to minimise rate increases for our community

Measure Type	Action	2014-15 Result	Commentary
Major Initiative	Develop a "Position Paper" to advance financial return to the community for mining and power generation activities within Latrobe City.	Achieved	A position paper was prepared outlining the existing payment arrangements for mining and power generation industries.
Annual Action	Complete the annual review of Latrobe City Council's Procurement Policy in accordance with the requirements of the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i> .	Part Achieved	Procurement Policy has been reviewed and is to be presented to Council during August 2015.

Measure Type	Measure	2013/14 Result	2014-15 Result	Commentary
Council Plan Indicator	Report performance improvement and initiatives to increase efficiency of our services as required by Best Value legislation annually.	100%	100%	The Annual Report details initiatives that demonstrate compliance with Best Value requirements.
Council Plan Indicator	Report Council's performance against the Victorian Local Government Indicators annually.	Completed	Completed	The Local Government Indicators have been included in this report.
Council Plan Indicator	Deliver 100% of Key Strategic Activities and Annual Council Plan Indicator Actions annually.	72%	73%	50 of 68 major initiatives and annual actions were delivered.
LGPRF	Cost of kerbside recyclables bin collection service per bin	N/A	\$48.20	This result is within the expected range. Expected Range \$10 - \$100
LGPRF	Rate revenue as a percentage of property values (capital improved value)	N/A	0.7%	This result is at the high end of the expected range. Expected Range 0.2% - 0.7%
LGPRF	Average residential rate revenue per residential property assessment	N/A	1494.32	This result is within the expected range. Expected Range \$80 - \$1,800
LGPRF	Expenses per head of municipal population (<i>expenditure per person living within Latrobe City Council</i>).	N/A	\$ 1593.61	This result is within the expected range. Expected Range \$1,000 - \$3,000

HOW ARE WE PERFORMING?

Results in detail

Objective (continued):
To provide open, transparent and accountable governance

Measure Type	Measure	2013/14 Result	2014-15 Result	Commentary
LGPRF	Current assets as a percentage of current liabilities (<i>the amount of cash available to pay upcoming bills</i>).	N/A	208.9%	Result is within the expected range. This includes unspent government grants and capital works in progress. Expected Range 100% - 300%
LGPRF	Cost of statutory planning service per planning application	N/A	\$2,196.83	This result is at the lower end of the expected range. Expected Range \$500 - \$10,000
LGPRF	Cost of food safety service per food premises registered with council	N/A	\$512.07	This result is at the lower end of the expected range. Expected Range \$500 - \$1,200
LGPRF	Unrestricted cash as a percentage of current liabilities (<i>indicates if sufficient cash is available to pay bills when restricted cash [trust funds, security deposits etc.] is excluded</i>).	N/A	96.89%	This result is at the lower end of the expected range. Expected Range 0% - 200%
LGPRF	Cost of outdoor aquatic facilities per visit	N/A	\$9.70	This result is at the lower end of the expected range. Expected Range \$5 - \$50
LGPRF	Cost of indoor aquatic facilities per visit	N/A	\$2.49	This result is within the expected range. Expected Range -\$10 - +\$10
LGPRF	Cost of sealed local road reconstruction per square metre of road surface	N/A	\$112.55	This result is within the expected range. Expected Range \$30 - \$300
LGPRF	Cost of sealed local road resealing per square metre of road surface	N/A	\$14.14	This result is within the expected range. Expected Range \$5 - \$30
LGPRF	Cost of the library service per visit to the library	N/A	\$9.59	This result is within the expected range. Expected Range \$3 - \$20
LGPRF	Cost of kerbside garbage bin collection service per bin	N/A	\$100.38	This result is within the expected range. Expected Range \$20 - \$200
LGPRF	Cost of council's governance service per Councillor	N/A	\$42,232.23	This result is within the expected range. Expected Range \$10,000 - \$100,000
LGPRF	Cost of animal management service per registered cat or dog	N/A	\$43.24	This result is within the expected range. Expected Range \$10 - \$60
LGPRF	Percentage of resignations and terminations compared to average staffing numbers.	N/A	\$11.4	This result is within the expected range.

HOW ARE WE PERFORMING?

EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE & ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE

THEME 03

Objective:
Effectively manage Council debt to minimise long term cost

Measure Type	Action	2014-15 Result	Commentary
Annual Action	Review the 10 Year Financial Plan in order to align with the objectives of the Council Plan Indicator 2013-2017.	Not Achieved	The 10 Year Financial Plan review is expected to be completed during 2015-16.

Measure Type	Measure	2013/14 Result	2014-15 Result	Commentary
LGPRF	Loans and borrowings as a percentage of rates	N/A	29.3%	This result is expected to decrease over the next five years Expected Range 0% - 50%
LGPRF	Loans and borrowings repayments a percentage of rate revenue (<i>indicates the amount per dollar of rate revenue required to repay existing borrowings</i>).	N/A	17%	The result is influence by the \$8.2 million repayment of an interim loan facility for council's 2014 borrowings. Expected Range 0% - 50%



LATROBE CITY STAFF

HOW ARE WE PERFORMING?

Results in detail

THEME 04 – ADVOCACY FOR & CONSULTATION WITH OUR COMMUNITY



CUSTOMERS AT CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS SERVICE CENTRE

HOW ARE WE PERFORMING?

Objective:
**Strengthen the profile of Latrobe City
 as one of Victoria's four major regional cities**

Measure Type	Action	2014-15 Result	Commentary
Annual Action	Support the extension of 'Gippsland's Gateways' project through improvements to rail, road and ports, in particular proposed rail access to the Port of Hastings, the establishment of the North East freeway link and construction of West link as an alternative	Achieved	The project involved lobbying to support the development of the Port of Hastings and improvements to the Gippsland Railway Line.
Annual Action	In collaboration with community, business and government bodies develop a transition plan to identify opportunities for economic diversification, environmental improvements and the long term sustainability and resilience of Latrobe City and the surrounding region.	Achieved	Council has continued efforts to secure new industry and employment opportunities for Latrobe City and the region. Example??
Annual Action	Develop a revised 'Securing our Future' publication that identifies local opportunities and challenges and supports advocacy initiatives with State and Federal Governments.	Not Achieved	The project is currently on hold. Although a revised document was not developed a number of issue-specific parliamentary submissions were prepared to support state and federal government advocacy efforts.

Measure Type	Measure	2013/14 Result	2014-15 Result	Commentary
Council Plan Indicator	Number of Latrobe City Council meetings held with State and Federal Government representatives annually.	60	41	There was a reduction in the overall number of meetings held. Key point engagement related to the retention of jobs in the Australian Securities and Investments Council (ASIC).

HOW ARE WE PERFORMING?

Results in detail

Objective:

Work in partnerships with all levels of governments to ensure Latrobe City is well supported, resourced and recognised as one of Victoria's four major regional cities

Measure Type	Action	2014-15 Result	Commentary
Annual Action	Conduct quarterly briefing sessions with parliamentarians representing the Executive Office municipal area to provide advice, promote and advocate for local and regional priorities.	Achieved	Discussions during 2014-15 centred on the Latrobe Performing Arts Centre, Australian Paper, Centre for Resource Innovation, coal mining, the ASIC Registry and the Morwell Main Drain court proceedings.
Annual Action	Lobby Federal, State and Local Government organisations to source locally produced Australian Paper.	Achieved	Key initiatives included supporting the use of Australian made office paper, via a delegation to Canberra and a range of communications to government departments.

Objective:

To advocate for and support cooperative relationships between business, industry and the community.

Measure Type	Action	2014-15 Result	Commentary
Annual Action	Council will meet with major local companies regularly to increase understanding and target support for local business and industry.	Achieved	The initiative involved maintaining regular contact with Latrobe City's major employers including Australian Paper, Loy Yang Power, Mahindra Gippsaero and Lion.

Objective:

To ensure effective two-way communication and consultation processes with the community

Measure Type	Action	2014-15 Result	Commentary
Annual Action	Develop Latrobe City Council's Community Engagement Plan to establish more effective and focussed community consultation procedures.	Part Achieved	Project was unable to be completed within specified timeframe. The project is expected to be completed during August 2015.
Annual Action	Deliver Year 3 actions from the Latrobe City International Relations Plan 2011-2014 to enhance cultural and economic benefits.	Achieved	International Relations Program supports exchange in trade, science and technology, culture, education, sport and health.

HOW ARE WE PERFORMING?

ADVOCACY FOR & CONSULTATION WITH OUR COMMUNITY

THEME 04

Measure Type	Action	2014-15 Result	Commentary
Annual Action	Deliver Sporting Hall of Fame program in 2014.	Achieved	The Sporting Hall of Fame Inductions were held in conjunction with the 2015 Australia Day Awards Ceremony.
Annual Action	Deliver the Children's Services Expo during Children's Week to promote early years services provided across Latrobe City.	Achieved	The fifth annual Latrobe City Children's Expo was delivered on 23 October 2014.

Measure Type	Measure	2013/14 Result	2014-15 Result	Commentary
Council Plan Indicator	Percentage of Community Safety Committee meetings attended by Council representatives annually.	100%	100%	All meetings contained Latrobe City official representation.
Council Plan Indicator	Percentage of Local Environmental Review Committee meetings attended by Council representatives annually.	100%	93%	The July 2014 Environment Review Committee meeting was unable to be attended by council representatives.
Council Plan Indicator	Levels of community satisfaction with Council's overall performance and its relationship with the community as described by the annual Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey.	59	55	Overall community satisfaction with council performance has decreased. The 2014-15 result is three points lower than the Regional Centres average of 58.
Council Plan Indicator	Percentage of Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey respondents who are satisfied that Council provides an opportunity to have a say on important local issues.	55	52	The 2014-15 result is three points lower than the Regional Centres average of 55.
Council Plan Indicator	Number of people participating in volunteering to support Latrobe City Council events and service delivery annually.	380	604	There has been a significant increase due to the inclusion of volunteers who support sporting events.
LGPRF	Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with community consultation and engagement.	N/A	52	This result at the low end of the expected range and is one point lower than the average Regional Centres score of 53. Expected Range 50 - 100
LGPRF	Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with council decisions in the interests of the community.	N/A	49	This result is outside the expected range. The Regional Centres average is 52 and the State-wide average is 55. Expected Range 50 - 100

HOW ARE WE PERFORMING?

Results in detail

THEME 05 - PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE



LATROBE CITY PLANNERS AT WORK

HOW ARE WE PERFORMING?

Objective:
**To provide a well-planned,
 connected and liveable community**

Measure Type	Action	2014-15 Result	Commentary
Annual Action	Work closely with key stakeholders to progress the assessment of Development Plans and subsequent planning permits to ensure new communities are well planned and provided with necessary public infrastructure.	Achieved	Work continues to develop strong relationships with applicants and referral agencies to ensure Development Plans result in high quality outcomes for the community.
Annual Action	Progress preparation of a Precinct Structure Plan for the Lake Narracan Growth Area including planning scheme amendment documentation and a revised Moe/Newborough Structure Plan.	Achieved	The Lake Narracan Precinct Structure Plan will provide a unique housing and lifestyle opportunity, not presently offered within the municipality.
Annual Action	Participate in the delivery of the Waterhole Creek Waterway Management Plan, together with the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority and identified stakeholders.	Achieved	Revegetated sections of Waterhole Creek through Morwell with over 7000 plants. Conducted willow removal, installed a bush tucker garden and supported the development of an Aboriginal cultural heritage trail.
Annual Action	Implement actions from the Latrobe City Natural Environment Sustainability Strategy to achieve identified biodiversity and sustainability outcomes.	Achieved	Replaced over 2,300 Council building lights with energy efficient LEDs, provided Council officer support for five volunteer bushland committees of management, planted over 10,000 native plants, and treated over 1,200km of rural roadsides for woody weeds.

HOW ARE WE PERFORMING?

Results in detail

Objective (continued):**To provide a well-planned, connected and liveable community**

Measure Type	Measure	2013/14 Result	2014-15 Result	Commentary
Council Plan Indicator	Number of objections and or complaints received from the community each year in relation to new residential developments and growth areas annually.	41	242	71 residential planning permit applications received an objection. 161 objections were received to strategic growth projects initiated by council and the community. A number of large strategic projects were on public exhibition during 2014-15 which has significantly increased the result.
Council Plan Indicator	Number of community members who have participated in consultation activities undertaken as part of strategic planning projects.	6456	6381	Strong community participation across strategic land use planning projects continued in 2014-15.
Council Plan Indicator	Number of planning permit applications received annually by category.	331	271	The number of applications reduced during 2014-15. It is noted however that building permit application increased in the same period.
LGPRF	Municipal population per kilometre of road	N/A	46.73	This result is at the lower end of the expected range and reflects the rural nature of the municipality.

Objective:**To provide clear and concise policies and directions in all aspects of planning**

Measure Type	Action	2014-15 Result	Commentary
Major Initiative	Assess 85% of planning permit applications within 60 days as reported in the Department of Planning and Community Development Planning Permit Application Reporting System (PPARS).	Achieved	89% of applications were assessed within the 60 day time-frame due to improvements to policies and procedures.

Measure Type	Measure	2013/14 Result	2014-15 Result	Commentary
Council Plan Indicator	Latrobe City Council's mean score for Council planning processes and outcomes in the annual Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey.	69	67	While the number is down 2 points lower than 2013-14 this result is comparable.

HOW ARE WE PERFORMING?

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

THEME 05

Objective:

Advocate for planning changes at the state level to reflect regional needs and aspirations

Measure Type	Action	2014-15 Result		Commentary
Major Initiative	Finalise the Latrobe Planning Scheme review to provide a strategic vision for land use planning in Latrobe City.	Part Achieved		A review of the Latrobe Planning Scheme is required every four years. The review is expected to be completed during September 2015

Measure Type	Measure	2013/14 Result	2014-15 Result	Commentary
Council Plan Indicator	Number of vacant lot residential property sales in Latrobe City each year.	270	216	Vacant allotment sales vary with the economic climate. The number has declined in 2014-15.

Objective:

To reduce the time taken to process land use and development planning applications

Measure Type	Action	2014-15 Result		Commentary
Annual Action	Undertake improvements to Council's statutory planning procedures and delegations to improve timely processing of planning applications.	Achieved		A significant improvement in application processing has resulted with 89% of applications processed within 60 statutory days.
Council Plan Indicator LGPRF	Percentage of planning permit applications by category processed within 60 statutory days annually.	70%	89%	The top five category of planning permit applications that Latrobe City received during 2014-15 were: Subdivision (combined) – 67 applications One or more new buildings – 56 applications Single dwellings – 39 applications Change of use or extension of a use – 32 applications Multiple dwellings/unit development – 29 applications Expected range 50% - 100%.
Council Plan Indicator LGPRF	Annual percentage of council planning permit decisions upheld by Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal, where an appeal has been lodged.	73%	80%	This result is at the high end of the expected range. Expected range 50% - 100%.
LGPRF	Median days taken to decide planning applications	N/A	74	This result is in the mid-range of the expected range and is a positive outcome. Expected range 20 - 200.



A FAVOURITE WITH CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, THE MORWELL TOWN COMMON HAS DOUBLED IN SIZE FOLLOWING THE INSTALLATION OF EXTRA EQUIPMENT PROVIDING ACCESS FOR ALL AGES AND ABILITIES

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

This section details some of the diverse range of projects and service highlights during the financial year.



WORKS, RECREATION AND ROADS

ARTISTS IMPRESSION
OF MOE RAIL PRECINCT

Moe Rail Precinct Revitalisation Project

Stage 1 works are now well underway, with several trades on site the building is starting to take shape. Construction activity is set to ramp up over coming months and be completed in early 2016.

The Moe Rail Precinct Revitalisation Project will provide a library, council service centre, community kitchen, public meeting rooms, consulting suites, public toilets, café and public plaza.

Works to be carried out in subsequent stages will provide civic open spaces including the development of a public park, streetscape improvements, reconstruction of George Street into a public transport interchange, construction of landscaped and open green spaces, and a youth precinct.

With a floor area of almost 2000 square metres, the building will accommodate the needs of community in a variety of spaces, while revitalising Moe's CBD, and providing a catalyst for new business investment opportunities.

Gippsland Regional Aquatics Centre

Progressing delivery of the Gippsland Regional Aquatics Centre in Traralgon remains high on the list of priorities. The concept design and car parking study have been completed and detailed designs commenced that will support applications for external funding support.

The aquatic centre will provide a state of the art facility providing for broad community aquatic and leisure activities, incorporating an indoor eight lane, 50 metre pool, four lane outdoor 25 metre pool and play areas catering for a range of activities from learn to swim, through to elite training facilities.

Upgrade of Agnes Brereton Reserve Pavilion

The Agnes Brereton Reserve Pavilion Upgrade Project was funded by Latrobe City Council with assistance from Victorian Government's Community Facility Funding Program.

Upgrade works included a new commercial grade kitchen and kiosk, public toilets, change room facilities, first-aid room, refurbished club rooms with new reverse cycle air conditioning, sheltered pavilion area and new access path from Breed Street for spectators and players.

Morwell Town Common Recreation Reserve

The new all-inclusive, all-abilities play space and car park at the Morwell Town Common Recreation Reserve was officially opened 24 September 2014, providing a modern and bright play space which will encourage people and groups to gather, socialise and play.

The play space design incorporates and interfaces with the existing playground and has incorporated universal design principles to ensure useability and accessibility for people of any age and ability; an includes new play equipment, a maze, seating, picnic tables, barbecue facilities as well as beautification of the site through plantings, a new car park and shady trees.

The project was jointly funded by the Victorian Government's Regional Growth Fund – Putting Locals First and Latrobe City Council.

Hickox Street Footpath

In response to a need for safe walking access to the railway reserve in Traralgon, a footpath has been constructed from the corner of Hickox Street and Rose Avenue on the western side of Hickox Street to the main gates and car park of the reserve. The footpath was also extended west from the corner to the northern gates on Rose Avenue across from the intersection of Francis Street. Children from local schools in the area now are able to safely access the reserve for outdoor activities without the concern of passing vehicles.

Crinigan Road Bushland Reserve Amenities

A new toilet block at the Crinigan Bushland Reserve in Morwell has recently been completed. The project means a more amenable visit for those who regularly use the reserve for walking and recreation, and will enable our enthusiastic volunteers and picnickers to spend longer periods of time in this large bushland reserve.

The toilet block includes solar panels, water tanks and a closed septic system for sustainability. The block offers a high level of comfort and visual appeal with concreting at the front and landscaping works around. Along with a car park upgrade, path upgrade, new seating and entrance gates, Crinigan Road Bushland Reserve is getting the facilities it needs to make this hidden gem in urban Morwell a more accessible place to spend time.

Morwell-Traralgon Shared Pathway

The Traralgon to Morwell Shared Pathway feasibility study was endorsed by Council in December 2013. Council has since undertaken investigations into potential native vegetation impacts, completed path designs and commenced scoping of detailed bridge and boardwalk features to withstand local flooding and ensure the safety of pathway users.

Once constructed, the shared pathway will provide a safe and scenic cycle or walking route between Traralgon and Morwell, along with new connections to nearby open space and recreation reserves.

BUSINESS AS USUAL

Newman Park Access Track and Carpark

Newman Park is a vibrant area that attracts many visitors, both local and from the wider community and features a miniature steam train, playground, electric barbecues, park benches and toilet facilities. While the facility is managed by Latrobe City Council, the Gippsland Model Engineering Society, who operates miniature trains in Newman Park is a key stakeholder. A new access track to the Soundshell and car parking area provides for safer park access for visitors, and construction was completed in April 2015.

Morwell Rose Garden Tourism Shelter

The Morwell Rose Garden tourism shelter and storage shed was officially opened on 28 October 2014. The shelter complements the existing rose garden development to the north and provides visitors with a comfortable rest area and tourist information relating to the surrounding area. The adjoining storage area provides rose garden volunteers with a secure space to house their equipment.

The project was delivered in collaboration with the Morwell Centenary Rose Garden Advisory Committee, Bendigo Bank, Advance Morwell and Regional Development Victoria.

Tyers Public Hall Refurbishment

The refurbishment works comprised upgrades to the rear store room which included; construction of stabilising steel columns and new roofing, increased storage, raised floor level to remove trip hazards, new fire-rated door and framing, and lighting.

This project was delivered in partnership with the Tyers and District Community Association, Tyers Hall Committee and the Victorian Government.

Transfer Station Upgrades

With the support of the community, improvements to waste management facilities and establishment of increased collection services for recycling, council has successfully diverted 55% of waste from landfill.

Upgrades to Latrobe's waste transfer stations completed in 2014/15 include a "Detox Your Home" facility, conveyor and compactor systems to allow screening and removal of recyclables and cardboard compactors. Other improvements to transfer stations included improvements to drainage, fire services, asphaltting and general beatification works.

Landfill Rehabilitation Program

The landfill rehabilitation program comprises a series of programmed works to maintain existing landfill facilities in accordance with Environment Protection Authority (EPA) requirements and best practice standards.

Works completed involve the rehabilitation of completed landfill cells and the installation of landfill gas management infrastructure at the Hyland Highway.

Ongoing monitoring and maintenance of closed landfill sites at Moe and Morwell continues, with the completion of a hydrogeological assessment and preparation of a Landfill Rehabilitation Plan.

Roads Projects

Each year the Gravel Re-sheet and Rural Gravel Road Sealing programs are allocated significant resources to keep our rural roads navigable, while other works in urban areas target specific issues such as flooding hot spots, dangerous intersections and rehabilitation works on sealed roads. Collectively in 2014-15 council expended \$13.14 million on sealed and unsealed roads including re-sheeting, re-sealing, kerb and channel, traffic control improvements and general roads maintenance.

Capital Works Highlights

Project	14/15 Actual Expenditure
Growing Aerospace Manufacturing at LRA	2,873,201
Local Road Reseals Program	2,757,403
Local Roads Reseal Prep Program	2,003,829
Fleet Replacement Program	1,238,717
Churchill ACP Pedestrian Plaza/Access Rd	1,096,270
Gravel Road Resheets Program	996,285
Road Rehab Program - Airfield Road	877,417
Footpath replacement program	646,534
Nation Building Blackspot Program	563,742
Road Rehab Program - Marshals Road	549,607
Plant Replacement Program	524,250
I.T. Equipment Purchases	484,830
Kerb and Channel Replacement Program	433,499
Rural Gravel Road Sealing Program	430,476
Agnes Brereton Reserve pavilion	399,764
Crinigan Road, Morwell - Drainage	383,564
Community Minor Capital Works Program	335,190
Road rehabilitation Mary Street, Morwell	334,554
Leisure Centre Maintenance and Upgrade	428,196
Wright Street Footbridge Design - Traralgon	302,094
Milburn Court Drainage	270,883
TEDAS Pavilion	233,621
New Footpaths to Link Existing Footpath Networks	192,497
Morwell Town Common AAA Playground	191,196
Newman Park, Traralgon - Access track & Carpark	183,533
Morwell Town Common Carpark	171,541
Minor sealing works program (difficult to maintain sections)	147,297
Crinigan Bushland Reserve Redevelopment	135,360
Roundabout Rehab program	119,364
Traralgon City Soccer - Lighting Project	115,523
Cumberland Park Preschool Carpark, Traralgon	109,256



CHILDREN, COMMUNITY AND WELLBEING

International Safe Community

Since 1996 Latrobe City has been recognised as an International Safe Community by the World Health Organisation (WHO). An international safe community is required to meet the following six WHO safe community indicators to become and remain a designated safe community:

- a community based on partnership and collaborations
- programs covering both genders and all ages, environments, and situations
- programs for high-risk groups and environments, and programs that promote safety for vulnerable groups
- programs that document the frequency and causes of injuries
- evaluation tools for community programs
- being a part of national and international Safe Communities networks

Council produces an annual report to maintain its designation as an International Safe Community which is available on Latrobe's website at www.latrobe.vic.gov.au.

Some of the activities highlighted in this year's report are:

- Improved public lighting around Churchill's Monash Way Underpass
- Improved public lighting at the Morwell East Residents' Association Park
- Latrobe Best Start grant funding for programs targeting disadvantaged children
- Pedestrian Safety and Footpath replacement program
- Mobility Maps and the Gippsland Accessible Tourism resource kit
- Improved community assets including the Churchill Taxi Rank and Bus shelter and new rest station in George St Moe
- CBD Safety Committees
- Evaluation of Traralgon's Closed Circuit Television system.

FUN AT THE ANNUAL CHILDREN'S EXPO ORGANISED BY CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

Be Active Program

The BE ACTIVE Program supports early childhood services and schools to increase physical activity and establish active transport for students, staff and families.

As part of this program, 13 registered schools participated in the month long VicHealth's Walk 2 School Campaign, with St Mary's Primary School receiving the Victorian South Eastern Region award. Other initiatives included the Smart Steps for Families Initiative and working with schools and parents to develop safe walking and riding routes to and from local schools.

Latrobe City Disability Action Plan

The Latrobe City Disability Action Plan aims to ensure people with a disability have equitable access to infrastructure and services provided by Latrobe City Council.

Nine of the 14 projects listed in the 2014/15 Disability Action Plan; have been completed. Highlights include actions to support employment opportunities with the roll out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), seeking funding opportunities to improve safety strategies for pedestrians at roundabouts, improved signage and accessibility to Latrobe City Leisure Centres and improving accessibility of the council's website.

Children's Expo

The Children's Expo puts the spotlight on early childhood development, a time of enormous growth that lays the framework for a person's future.

The fifth annual Latrobe City Children's Expo was delivered on 23 October 2014, which attracted more than 1500 community members to enjoy a day of free entertainment and activities for young children and gather service information relevant to family needs across 52 displays. A record number of sponsors and stakeholders supported the event including the Best Start Partnership, Healthy Together Latrobe, Morwell & District Community Recovery Committee, Bankmecu and Federation Training.

Senior Citizen's Centre Review

Senior Citizen's Centres provide a place for our older community members to stay connected and interact with their peers through various events and planned activities. Quite often meeting people at these centres is the only form of social interaction members have, so it is vitally important to ensure they are provided the space to gather together.

The review identified that senior citizen centres are well utilised, with minimal vacancies in the busy calendar of activities on offer to older members of the community. Consultations with members of each centre were completed to identify opportunities to improve access and remove potential barriers. Attendance numbers were gathered with ongoing monitoring continuing each quarter.

Microchipping Program

Delivered in partnership with local veterinarians, the microchipping program provides the community with discounted microchipping for their pets. The program includes a municipal wide education campaign to promote responsible pet ownership and inform the community of the legislative requirements for microchipping. This program is delivered in accordance with the Latrobe City Council Domestic Animal Management Plan 2013-2017.

2014 Seniors Week

With the support of the community, Latrobe City Council delivered an annual Seniors Week program of activities, providing a wide range of activities to support participation. Senior Citizen of the Year is awarded during this week. The 2014 Seniors' week was well attended and received excellent feedback.

Zinio E-Magazines

Introduced across our Libraries in early 2015, Zinio for Libraries is an online resource that provides Library members unlimited access to digital magazines, which can easily be viewed on any Internet-enabled device inside or outside of the library. Zinio's unique technology digitally recreates a magazine page for page, including full colour pictures, intuitive navigation, key word article search and interactive elements such as audio and video.



ARTS & TOURISM

EXHIBITION
AT LATROBE
REGIONAL GALLERY

Arts Strategy and Action Plan

The new Arts Strategy and Action Plan will guide future visual and performing arts programs and initiatives, while strengthening Latrobe City's standing as eastern Victoria's regional city. The plan identifies opportunities to support local and regional artists in showcasing their work and provides direction to the growth of arts within our schools and broader community.

The Latrobe City Council 2014-2018 Arts Strategy and Action Plan is to be presented to Council for consideration and adoption by 31 December 2015.

Creative Gippsland

The Gippsland Local Government joint initiative, 'Creative Gippsland' supports greater recognition and promotion of arts across the Gippsland region. Now in its 14th year, the program provides opportunities for either professional, emerging or hobby artists to have their work displayed via the Creative Gippsland website, events and exhibitions.

A highlight of this initiative is the Gippsland Arts Festival. The 2015 festival saw the exchange of artists and their ideas across Gippsland with a variety of exhibitions and free workshops ranging from play writing, photography, music classes and visual exhibitions.

A particular highlight of the program was the traditional forms of crafts, where artists created textile objects for display at the highly regarded Johnston Collection House in Melbourne.

Latrobe Performing Arts and Convention Centre Review

To enhance Latrobe City's cultural infrastructure and provide a facility that will attract business tourism and investments to the municipality, work has continued in progressing the provision of a performing arts and convention centre for Latrobe City.

Following a Council resolution in late 2014, Council implemented a review of the Latrobe Performing Arts and Convention Centre feasibility study to re-affirm the location, costs and business case prior to progressing applications for external funding assistance.

Visitor Information Centres

The Visitor Information Centre (VIC) offer information and assistance to visitors, new residents, institutions, business operators and community.

Latrobe City's VIC renewed its accreditation under the national program enabling the use of the blue and yellow 'i' brand.

Tourism Partnerships

Strong relationships with Destination Gippsland and the Gippsland Regional Tourism Network delivered a number of projects and promotional activities. A key activity included promotion of Gippsland at various events including; the Caravan, Camping, Fishing & Outdoors Super Show and Victorian Four Wheel Drive Show. Business focussed promotions were also in place at the Asia Pacific Incentives & Meeting Expo (AIME) and business showcase events.

Other key initiatives included collaboration with Destination Gippsland on the development of the Morwell Mine Fire Tourism Recovery Action plan.

Sister Cities Abroad

Latrobe City has two formal sister city relationships with Takasago City and the City of Taizhou. These relationships support deeper understanding of each other's culture, traditions, society and people; and provide a framework for cultivating mutual economic benefit across a host of trade, industry and business sectors.

The completion of the 2014 music exchange program was a particular highlight of the program during 2014, while Federation University is now exploring closer cooperation with Taizhou educational institutions.

Events Strategy and Action Plan 2013-2017

The newly developed Latrobe City Events Strategy and Action Plan 2013-2017 presents an exciting and diverse events calendar that will benefit our community, economy and profile. Planned events will also assist in bringing communities together, building capacity and skills, volunteering, fundraising, and the promotion of cultural diversity, understanding and social inclusion.

Council will continue to grow and promote Latrobe City as a highly attractive and sustainable events destination and build economic, community and city image outcomes.

See Events Across Latrobe City on page 96 for a detailed look at the events of 2014-15.

BUSINESS AS USUAL

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Australia's First Wood Encouragement Policy

On the 15 December 2014, Latrobe City Council adopted the *Wood Encouragement Policy*. The policy aims to promote the use of wood as the preferred material in both the construction and fit out of Council buildings and infrastructure. The policy will see Latrobe City join other nations driving timber for social, environmental and industry development reasons.

Building on the already vibrant Forestry, Wood & Paper Products sector in Latrobe City, the Wood Encouragement Policy will be a key driver in attracting advanced wood manufacturing investment, and research and development to Latrobe City. For further information visit the Latrobe City Council's website www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/woodencouragement

Supporting Local Industry

Australian Paper is Latrobe City's largest private sector employer and the only manufacturer of fine office paper in Australia. Its future relies on growing its share of the market against cheaper international competitors.

Council's Economic Development team provided assistance to Australian Paper to support a comprehensive campaign to grow the use of Australian made office paper. Activities included sending a delegation to Canberra to lobby a number of federal government's key influencers.

Grow Your Business Program

Upskilling local business enterprise is critically important to growing local employment opportunities.

With funding from the Victorian Government, two 'Grow your Business' programs were delivered. The program provides group training to support businesses in the development of better business practices and processes and to share challenges, experiences and insights.

On completion of the first program the 10 participating businesses, developed plans that collectively identified opportunities to increase revenue by \$72.3 million over three years and increase employment by an estimated 201 employees.

Gippsland Gateways – Logistics Precinct

The 'Gippsland's Gateways' project aims to improve rail, road and access to port to grow the region's export potential. The creation of the Gippsland Logistics Precinct therefore remains a priority of council.

Council is currently seeking developer and operator investment interest from the private sector, supported by \$10 million of Victorian Government funding support.

Other activities included lobbying state government for the development of the Port of Hastings and further upgrades to the Gippsland Railway Line.

Growing Aerospace Manufacturing

With support from the Regional Development Fund Victoria, this project aims to improve the physical infrastructure both for Latrobe Regional Airport and existing aerospace manufacturing facilities occupied by Mahindra and GippsAero.

As a result of improved facilities employment at the airport is expected to increase from 130 to an estimated 230 during 2015, including 45 apprentices and traineeships; while aircraft production has increased from 11 aircraft two years ago to 36 per annum from January 2015 and a planned 52 per annum in the future.

Diversifying Our Economy

Ensuring the long term economic diversification and environmental sustainability of Latrobe City and the broader Gippsland region is of pivotal importance. Latrobe City has traditionally been recognised as the centre of Victoria's electricity industry, which is derived from one of the largest brown coal reserves in the world. The economy of Latrobe is currently in a state of transition, with an imperative to move from strong reliance on its traditional role towards a more diversified and progressive position within the state and national economy.

During 2014-15, Latrobe City Council have undertaken a range of activities to support the diversification of the economy, including:

- adoption of the Wood Encouragement Policy in December 2014
- working with key stakeholders regarding low carbon policy and the associated issues and opportunities
- establishment of the Gippsland Collaborative Waste Investment Initiative Request for Proposal (RFP) process designed for consolidated waste management infrastructure in the region on behalf of six Gippsland Local Government Areas.

Innovation In Brown Coal

Council continued to support research and development in brown coal innovation, attending the Brown Coal Innovation Australia Research Symposium during February 2015.

Council also remains active in ongoing discussions with Federation University and Earth Resources Victoria in the development of new and cleaner methods of using brown coal.

Establishing a Centre for Resource Innovation

In partnership with a wide variety of stakeholders, Latrobe City Council has continued working towards the establishment of research facilities in the region to enable development of innovative technology across the forestry, wood and paper, coal and agricultural sectors.

Key activities have included consultation with Federation University to understand potential opportunities for partnerships, a delegation to Canberra to meet relevant Ministers and meeting with Wood Products Victoria to discuss industry participation in this initiative. This is major initiative and will be an ongoing action for council.



LAND USE PLANNING

PRINCES FREEWAY, MORWELL

Lake Narracan Precinct Structure Plan

The Lake Narracan Precinct Structure Plan and revised Moe/Newborough Structure Plan represent a unique residential development opportunity for Latrobe City, paving the way for approximately 3800 new housing lots.

Significant community consultation was undertaken, with more than 55 meetings held with landowners and over 390 submissions received to the proposed growth plans.

The Lake Narracan Precinct Structure Plan will create key linkages between the precinct and the existing Moe and Newborough townships through careful planning of the road, waterway, shared path and open space networks, while retaining the existing character of the lake foreshore and provide for increased community access to the lake.

The project has been progressed to the Minister for Planning for consideration and approval of an amendment to the Latrobe Planning Scheme.

Latrobe City Planning Scheme Review

Undertaken every four years, the review of the planning scheme provides the opportunity assess the strategic vision for land use planning in Latrobe City.

The Planning Scheme outlines the framework for decisions about land use and development while providing directions for the preservation of environmental values, heritage, land for housing; economic development, open space, transport and identification of infrastructure needs.

The review is expected to be completed during September 2015.

Traralgon Growth Area Review

The Traralgon Growth Areas Review commenced during 2012 and aims to provide long term urban growth strategy for Traralgon and surrounds, including the Traralgon/Morwell Growth Corridor, Glengarry and Tyers.

Following significant background research and stakeholder engagement, the draft reports were released for formal public exhibition and an independent planning panel was subsequently appointed by the Minister for Planning to consider submissions.

Council subsequently received a panel report on the 18 June 2015 which is to be made available to the community from July 2015.

Introducing new Residential Zones

New residential zones introduced to the Victoria Planning Provisions 1 July 2013 provide greater clarity about the type of development that can be expected and assist in better managing housing growth by:

- encouraging residential growth in and around activity centres
- limiting housing growth in areas that are distant from shops and public transport
- allowing moderate growth and diversity of housing that respects existing neighbourhood character, heritage and environmental or landscape characteristics.

The introduction of the Residential Growth Zone and Neighbourhood Residential Zone within the Latrobe Planning Scheme will better respond to both present and future interests of the community.

BUSINESS AS USUAL

EVENTS

Throughout the year there are many events undertaken across community. On many occasions, Latrobe City is involved in supporting the community in small ways to encourage and support the delivery of events.

Why hold events?

Latrobe City takes a proactive approach to fostering local events and staging significant state, national and international events to attract visitors, build economic and social connections and market the liveability of the region to people outside the municipality, thus strengthening the City's image as a highly desirable place to live, work and play.

During 2014/15 a total of 514 events were held in four categories :

International : 7
National : 12
State/Regional : 76
Community : 419

In addition to showcasing Latrobe City to visitors and providing opportunities for our community to participate in and watch high quality events.

Throughout the year the economic benefit of events is estimated to be:

Direct: \$6,086,472.00 +
Indirect: \$3,043,236.00
= Total Economic Benefit :
\$9,129,708.00

July 2014

4 – 6 July:
Latrobe City Mixed Triples Bocce Classic Championships

18 – 20 July:
Cricket Victoria Indoor 6 a side

19 – 20 July:
National Archery Championships

26 – 27 July:
Gymnastics Victoria State Pennant Championships

26 – 27 July:
Motorcycling Victoria Junior Motocross State Titles

August 2014

2 – 3 August:
Australasian C & D Sprint Go Kart Championships

22 August – 27 September:
Latrobe Valley Eisteddfod

28 – 30 August:
NBL Preseason Community Camp and Match

September 2014

4 – 7 September:
Tour of Gippsland

6 – 7 September:
Australian Volleyball League Training Camp – University Blues

6 – 7 September:
Shell Advance Gippsland Motocross Series

13 – 14 September:
Gumleaf Quilters 5th Biennial Quilt and Craft Exhibition

October 2014

11 – 12 October:
Hazelwood Open Water Victorian State Swimming Championships

16 October:
Barry Sheene Ride to the GP

20 – 24 October:
School Sports Australia National Touch Football Championships

25 October – 9 November:
Latrobe City Traralgon International Tennis Championships

November 2014

1 – 2 November:
State Field Archery Championships

7 – 9 November:
GDF SUEZ Australian Energy 35th Tyers Art Festival

28 – 30 November:
ReActivate Summer Festival

29 – 30 November:
Antiques and Collectables Fair

December 2014

6 December:
Gippsland Motorcycle Toy Run

13 – 18 December:
Volleyball Australia Junior Training Camp

20 December:
Duncan's Run Hundred

22 December:
ICC Cricket World Cup Tour

EVENTS

January 2015

5 – 9 January:

Gippsland Cricket League Junior Country Week

12 – 15 January:

Energy Australia Latrobe City Classic Singles Bowls Championships

15 – 22 January:

Loy Yang Power ITF Junior Tennis Tournament

16 January:

Traralgon Summer Nights Festival

19 January:

Latrobe City Classic Pairs Bowls Tournament

25 – 25 January:

Eastern Districts Fire Brigade Championships

25 – 26 January:

Australasian Raffa Championships

26 January:

Australia Day Celebrations across Latrobe City

31 January – 1 February:

Little Athletics Victoria State Multi Championships

February 2015

21 – 22 February:

Basketball Victoria Country Under 16 and 18 Country Championships

28 February – 1 March:

AFL Victoria Youth Girls Training Camp

27 February – 1 March:

Gippsland Homexpo Leisurefest Roadshow

March 2015

7 March:

AFL NAB Challenge Match

7 – 9 March:

TABA Basketball Tournament

29 – 30 March:

Gippsland Girls Cricket Carnival

13 – 15 March:

25th Anniversary National Eisteddfod Conference

April 2015

3 – 6 April 2015:

Inline Hockey Australasian Club Championship

11 – 12 April:

Gippsland Baseball Championships

8 – 10 April:

Australian Hovercraft Federations Nations National Rally " OzHover 15"

25 April:

ANZAC Centenary celebrations

May 2015

2 May:

Latrobe City DanceSport Classic

23 – 24 May:

Latrobe Valley Victorian Veterans Badminton Championships

30 – 31 May:

Basketball Australia National Championships 3 x 3 (3 on 3) Qualifier

June 2015

6 – 7 June:

Victorian Darts Classic

6 – 8 June:

Biennial Gippsland Model Railway Expo

6 – 8 June:

Sauna Sail

19 – 20 June:

ReActivate Winter Festival

21 June:

Win Network 48th Traralgon Marathon

26 June – 4 July:

Morwell Festival of Dance

SAUNA SAIL JUNE 2015

EVENTS

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

The Latrobe Regional Gallery has eight gallery spaces and a sculpture courtyard that showcases travelling exhibitions, exclusive curated exhibitions, local artists and a permanent collection.

A diverse and exciting program of workshops, artist talks and special events throughout the year ensures that the very best of traditional and contemporary art can be fully explored.

Jean Galbraith and Friends: A Shared Passion for Nature

Jean Galbraith was one of Australia's most influential writers on gardens and native plants. The exhibition *Jean Galbraith and Friends: A Shared Passion for Nature* explored Galbraith's achievements and connection with her beloved valley.

The exhibition included the work of friends who shared her passion for nature: the botanical art of Betty Conabere, and a collaboration with Edna Walling that had been hidden away in Jean Galbraith's papers for many years.

Tibetan Monks

Sacred Footsteps from the Roof of the World

In April, Latrobe Regional Gallery hosted the Geelong Drol Kar Buddhist Centre touring program Sacred Footsteps from the Roof of the World.

During the five-day program the monks produced a Mandala, a floor sand-painting that celebrates the life and achievements of Buddha and Tibetan culture. As well as the mandala there were a number of public programs on offer, including guided meditations and a Buddhist talk.

After 65— The Legacy of Op

25 April 2015 – 26 July 2015

The *Legacy of Op* was curated by Latrobe Regional Gallery and showcased op art inspired art works from 1965 – 2015. Highlights include early works by John Vickery and David Aspden, as well as more contemporary works, such as the 'Score for Dance' installation by Nathan Gray, which encompassed the entire rear of the gallery. The works all create an 'optical illusion' effect when viewed, and demonstrated the strong technical skill of the artists in the exhibition.

Performing Arts

In 2014-15 Latrobe Performing Arts had a dynamic year of shows, films, exhibitions, education workshops and community engagement opportunities.

Among the highlights for the year were the live music shows featuring well known Australian singers such as Rick Price and Vika Bull.

Once again, The Wiggles visited Latrobe City to the sheer delight of young audiences.

Peter Pan the pantomime was a wonderful community engagement experience for the cast, crew and audience members during the January school holidays.

Notably, two engaging Indigenous pieces were programmed that featured the talented actress Ursula Yovich and musician Dewayne Everettsmith.

The Gippsland Theatre Network, a partnership with East Gippsland Shire Council, Wellington Shire Council, Baw Baw Shire Council and Cardinia Shire Council theatres has seen the increased profile of the Theatre Gippsland network, including greater opportunities for marketing and show presentation.



BOYS IN THE BAND PERFORMANCE, 2015

EVENTS

SPORTING EVENTS

Latrobe City Council Events Team directs significant energy and effort in attracting and hosting sporting events. The economic benefits to the municipality are a tangible reward for this hard work.

Major Sport Events

NBL Preseason Community Camp and Match:

28 – 30 August 2014

The community camp included open training sessions, coach the coach, Melbourne United players attending local community games and schools culminating in a preseason exhibition seeing Melbourne United take on the Townsville Crocodiles.

School Sports Australia National Touch Football Championships:

20 – 24 October 2014

Latrobe City hosted under 12 and under 15 boys and girls touch football players from every state and territory in Australia. A total of 1,399 people attended the five day event including overseas, interstate, intrastate and local players, support personnel, spectators, event staff and organisers.

**TOTAL ECONOMIC BENEFIT:
\$1,573,365.00**

Latrobe City Traralgon International ATP Challenger :

25 October – 9 November 2014

This event attracted 32 of the top Australian and International tennis players who are trying to get their ranking up into the top 100 in the world. Players competed for a lucrative US \$50,000.00 prize.

There were a total of 598 people who attended the 18 day event including players, support personnel, spectators, Tennis Australia and Traralgon Tennis Association staff.

Due to the reputation Latrobe City has with hosting international tennis events, Latrobe City was selected to host this event back to back.

**TOTAL ECONOMIC BENEFIT:
\$614,100.00**

Little Athletics Victoria State Multi Championships:

31 January – 1 February 2015

Victoria's top young athletes, from under 9s to Under 16s participated in sprints, throws, jumps and distance events combining multiple disciplines of Track and Field.

A total of 698 people who attended the two day event including intrastate, regional and local players, support personnel, spectators, event staff and organisers.

**TOTAL ECONOMIC BENEFIT:
\$ 827,595.00**

Basketball Victoria Country Under 16 and Under 18 Country Championships:

21 – 22 February 2015

Latrobe City played host to some of the best under 16 and 18 basketball teams in regional Victoria. Boys' and girls' teams played two days of competition against teams from all over the state with a total of 2,106 people attending including interstate, intrastate and local players, support personnel, spectators, event staff and organisers.

**TOTAL ECONOMIC BENEFIT:
\$1,174,083.00**

AFL NAB Challenge Match:

7 March 2015

Latrobe City hosted the AFL NAB Challenge match that saw St Kilda football club take on Essendon football club. Total crowd attendance for the preseason match was 5,542 with this match being one of a small number of AFL NAB Challenges selected to be televised on Fox Sports around Australia.



AFL NAB CUP CHALLENGE MATCH HELD IN LATROBE CITY IN MARCH 2015

EVENTS

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Australia Day 2015 - Township Celebrations

Latrobe City Celebrated Australia Day 2015 with a variety of different events and activities including township breakfasts and celebrations, ambassador luncheon and a Civic function which included a citizenship ceremony, Latrobe City and Australia Day Awards presentations and Sporting Hall of Fame Inductees. Over 4,745 people attended Latrobe City sponsored events on the day.

Each township community celebration was run by their local community group or township association, supported by Latrobe City. Each community celebration had its own unique feel and style.

Across the municipality festivities included raising of the flag, singing the national anthem, live music, children's painting competitions, gumboot and rolling pin tossing contests as well as free community barbecues, classic car parade and local community Australia Day Awards.

2015 Australia Day Awards & Citizenship Civic Function

Latrobe City Council invited the community to join in its Australia Day Awards Ceremony and Civic Function.

The Latrobe Music Ensemble started proceedings by entertaining those present with their musical abilities, which enhanced the program. The First Traralgon Scouts set the scene with the flags of the nations, escorting in the twenty three Citizens to be naturalised at this event, coming from 10 countries – these were: Brazil; India; Malta; Nigeria; Philippines; South Africa; Sri Lanka; United Kingdom; Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

Australia Day Awards were presented for

- Citizen of the Year,
- Young Citizen of the Year,
- Community Event of the Year, and
- Community Service of the Year.
- Nine Latrobe City Australia Day Recognition Awards, consisting of the Adult Citizen Category and Community Event Categories.

Incorporated into the Australia Day Celebrations was the announcement of the new inductees into the Latrobe City Sporting Hall of Fame.

Those present were invited to afternoon tea at the end of the proceedings.



ONE OF THE MANY EVENTS HELD ACROSS LATROBE CITY ON AUSTRALIA DAY



EVENTS

Sporting Hall Of Fame

Recognition of our sporting champions is an integral part of developing a positive attitude to competitive sport and Latrobe City's 2014 Sporting Hall of Fame Inductions were held in conjunction with the 2015 Australia Day Awards Ceremony on 26th January 2015. The awards give the opportunity to members of the local community to view and celebrate the successes of other local community members.

The Sporting Hall of Fame Awards fall into two categories; a Legends category for athletes who have achieved success at the highest possible level within their chosen sport, and a Members category for non-competing individuals who were involved in their chosen sport at the highest possible level including coaches, officials, sports medical practitioners and administrators.

The 2014 Inductees into the Latrobe City Sports Hall of Fame under the Legend category:

- Lorraine Steel – Lawn Bowls
- Murray French – Tennis

The 2014 Inductees into the Latrobe City Sports Hall of Fame under the Member category:

- Valma Dukes Lethaby – Basketball
- John White – Cricket

GDF Suez Health Heart Walk

The annual Heat Walk is a free event hosted by GDF Suez Australian Energy to celebrate Australia Day and encourage people to be active and healthy. Participants gathered at Victory Park at 8.30 am to join in the City's flag raising ceremony and a breakfast provided by the Traralgon Lions Club before a pre-walk warm up. Walkers had the choice of following one or two marked routes around Traralgon – one 2,7 km or a 4 km route, which takes around 20 to 25 minutes to complete. All walkers who crossed the finish line were given a raffle ticket which gave them free entry into the post event draw for some fantastic prizes.

Free entertainment by Koko the Clown was provided for adults and children alike as well as free face painting.

ANZAC Centenary Commemoration

This year Council supported ANZAC Day providing traffic management and approvals for 11 ANZAC Centenary activities.

Yallourn North

ANZAC Day Service
– 20th Anniversary of the Memorial

Yinnar

ANZAC Day Parade

Yallourn/Newborough

ANZAC Day Parade

Moe

ANZAC Day Dawn Service
ANZAC Day Parade

Morwell

ANZAC Day Dawn Service
ANZAC Day Parade

Traralgon

ANZAC Day Dawn Service
ANZAC Day Parade

Tyers

ANZAC Day Dawn Service

Churchill

ANZAC Day Service

Glengarry

ANZAC Day Parade



YOUTH EVENTS

Latrobe City Skate Park Series

MORWELL SKATE PARK IS A POPULAR FACILITY AND ONE OF THE LOCATIONS OF THE LATROBE CITY SKATE PARK SERIES

The Latrobe City Youth Leadership Program has been active for over twenty years and aims to empower and build the capacity of local young people through positive mentoring, personal development and participation.

Working with the YMCA Action Sports and the Victorian Skateboarding Association, the Latrobe City Council Youth Leadership Program formed the Latrobe City Skatepark Committee. A number of training days were held for participants to support the delivery of skate park events across Latrobe City.

The program exceeded initial targets, reaching over 1500 people aged between 6 – 35 years of age who attended seven major skate park events:

- Traralgon Skate Park Saturday 23 August 2014
- Morwell Skate Park Friday 19 September 2014 (under lights)
- Morwell Skate Park Saturday 4 October 2014
- Churchill Skate Park Sunday 26 October 2014
- Morwell Skate Park Sunday 1 February 2015
- Yinnar Skate Park Sunday 19 April 2015
- Glengarry Skate Park Sunday 19 April 2015

2015 Gippsland Youth Council Summit

The Youth Council's Summit was a two and a half day program which brought together 45 youth delegates from the six local government areas across Gippsland. The ongoing theme for the Youth Summit was: How to make Gippsland a Better Place for Young People.

Nathan Hulls, Youth Motivational Speaker encouraged the delegates to decide their own destiny and learn to do the best with the cards that are dealt in life. Nathan's presentations were uplifting and encouraged attendees to be the best person that they can be.

On the evening of Monday 29 June 2014, a semi-formal dinner in the function room at the Churchill Hotel supported by a number of special guests including local Members of Parliament, Local Council Chief Executive Officers and Councillors was held. The range of activities and discussion over dinner provided opportunities for people to get to know each other, to raise and discuss topics important to them and to talk about their experience at the Summit.

Youth Events Calendar

Throughout the year a number of specific youth events and programmes were delivered.

- Hosted the Victorian Regional FReeZA Summit.
- A key contributor to the continuation of Regional Youth Affairs Network (RYAN) on a quarterly basis.
- Hosted the Annual Gippsland Regional Round of the Evatt Trophy - a Victorian UN-Youth debating competition.
- Supported Headspace to deliver the FReeZA program.
- Supported CREATE foundation by attending monthly meetings.
- Facilitated the monthly Latrobe Youth Network (LYN) meeting.
- Attended regular Gippsland Youth Commitment (GYC) Transition and Reengagement meetings.
- Hosted and assisted the delivery of "Deadly Health Race" - a health awareness program for indigenous secondary school students.
- Attended monthly Advisory Committee – Gippsland Youth Leadership and Participation Project.
- Assisted with the Road Safe Bike Challenge.
- Attended bi-monthly L2P Program Steering Committee Meeting.
- Presented on the role of Local Government to a number of primary and secondary schools throughout the Latrobe City area.
- Latrobe City assisted The Smith Family to host mock job interviews for the VCAL students seeking employment.
- Worked with Baw Baw Latrobe Local Learning and Employment Network (BBLEEN) on the various projects.
- Assisted with KEMPE "Read the Play" program
- Monthly participation with the "StraightTALK" Program hosted by The Smith Family.
- Participated as an active member of the monthly LV Sports and Recreation Network Meeting hosted by Latrobe Community Health Services.
- Assisted students to gain work experience hours.
- Attended the Bass Coast Youth Service Providers Meeting.
- Attended the Baw Baw Youth Service Providers Meeting.
- Attended the Wellington Youth Service Providers Meeting.

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION

Latrobe City Council Australia Day Awards

2015 Citizen Of The Year:

Lois Williams

Lois has lived in Latrobe City since 1964 and has always been an active member of her community. She has devoted her life to the advancement and well-being of other people both young and old and even though her husband Bryan passed away earlier this year, she continues unselfishly to plan and coordinate a range of activities for the older citizens of Latrobe City.

Lois started her working life as a teacher at Moe High School in 1965 and soon became involved in other community activities and was accredited to run a Pastoral Care Program. She followed her families' interest in sport and became involved with the Newborough Football Club and the Yallourn swimming club, lobbying to have an Indoor heated pool at Newborough. After her involvement in the Swimming club she joined the Yallourn Golf Club. Lois is life member of the Mid Gippsland Football League, Yallourn Golf Club, and the Central Gippsland Out and About Recreational Network.

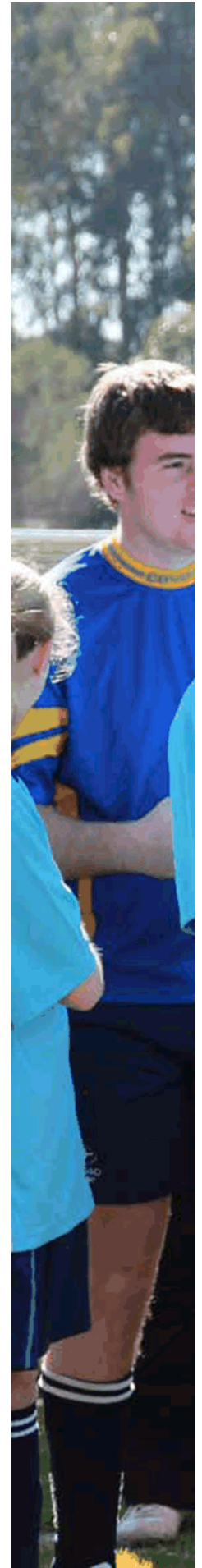
Lois also organises shipments of textbooks and educational material to needy primary schools in Vanuatu, knits woollen singlets for AIDS affected babies in Africa and supplies premature baby wear, and beanies to the Churchill Lions Club for distribution.

2015 Young Citizen Of The Year:

Brodie Logue

Brodie is a 15 year old student at Flinders Christian College and a member of the Latrobe City Youth Council. Brodie is active in the community and is proud of his achievements and community contributions.

- Member of the Morwell Mine Fire Community Recovery Committee
- Deputy Youth Mayor on the Latrobe City Youth council
- Has raised \$750 for Berry Street Morwell
- Represent Victoria at the 100th Centenary of the ANZAC at Gallipoli
- Strong Advocate for the Morwell Mine Fire Long Term Health Study.





YOUNG PARTICIPANTS AT BARINGA SCHOOL FRIENDSHIP GAMES

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION

2015 Community Event Of The Year:

Baringa School Friendship Games

Baringa School is now in its 7th year staging its annual soccer tournament for Special Schools from across Gippsland entitled the Friendship Games. The tournament extends the invitation across Victoria, hosting Officer Specialist and Wangaratta Special School as well as all of the Gippsland Special Schools including Bairnsdale, Sale Traralgon, Warragul, Wonthaggi, Leongatha, and of course Baringa in Moe.

This year's tournament hosted 200 students. Students are awarded medals and prizes at the end of the day with the help of generous sponsors.

This program enables students with a disability to experience success in a sporting activity feeling uninhibited and encourages fitness. Students from mainstream schools participate to assist, taking on roles in the opening ceremony and umpiring games, developing awareness of disability.

2015 Community Service Of The Year:

The Kelso Road Project

A group of Yallourn North residents came to the aid of one of their friends who had suffered personal tragedy and was living in a home in dire need of repair. The local community galvanised and decided to do something about it. Their lead inspired many to donate work-hours, others to donate money for materials and still others to donate material and services. The result is a refurbished house and garden that is now safer and easier to maintain. For the owner and her family it means that treasured memories and possessions have a home with extended longevity.

The project was commenced as the 2013-14 holiday period approached which meant that people were more able to give time for all the necessary construction work. This flexibility, together with the number of people involved, meant that what eventuated was an almost total refurbishment completed in weeks, not months. This is a prime example of a small community banding together to help a member of the community.

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION

Latrobe City Council Recognition Awards

Adult Citizen

Dr Fred Edwards

Since arriving in Australia from England in 1990, Dr Fred Edwards has devoted himself to providing medical services to Gippsland for 23 years. Dr Edwards was one of the first practitioners to open bulk billing clinics in the community, therefore making good medicine accessible to all. Throughout his time he has worked tirelessly to not only provide good quality medicine, but also to increase the medical resources in the rural area, by mentoring non-vocationally registered Doctors, registrars and students and supported the expansion and establishment of many clinics in the region.

Dr Edwards first started work as a General Practitioner in Churchill at the Community Health Centre in 1990, however, in 1993 he decided to open his own clinic, Hazelwood Health Centre. Initially he was operating out of a caravan, such was his drive and eventually he then moved into the present premises at Churchill.

Donna Faulkner

Donna Faulkner was nominated for the success she has had in creating social inclusion for people with a disability, injury or health condition over the past 20 years. Through this time Donna has assisted more than 1600 people into employment, helping increase disability awareness throughout Australia.

In 2001 Donna established Work Solutions Gippsland to provide specialist employment service for people with a disability and became one of only five private providers in Australia. Work Solutions Gippsland was founded by Donna and has grown from three offices with eight staff to ten offices with 37 staff.

Work Solutions Gippsland has assisted 957 people with a disability into open employment across Gippsland making a major contribution to these people's lives.

Lisa Sinha

Lisa Sinha is the Director of Gippsland Multicultural Services assisting refugees and migrants in Latrobe City for the last 20 years. Lisa has the strongest belief and passion in access and equity for migrants and refugees.

Lisa is known across Gippsland for her humanitarian work and ease with which she engages with everyone she meets. Lisa actively advocates, supports and engages with diverse communities to use their strengths and abilities to empower themselves, create more opportunities and increase their sense of belonging.

In more recent times during the Hazelwood Mine Fire (2014), Lisa has worked tirelessly to make sure that the CALD communities were safe, had a voice and were represented in the enquiry process.

Jill Williams

Jill has completed a very impressive 28 years' service with the Moe Fire Brigade. Her service started in 1986 as a volunteer fire fighter and continued in 2005 as a Brigade member. In 2007 she took on the role as Brigade Treasurer which she still holds today.

Jill was training in the 'We Care Program' administered by Latrobe City Council in 2006 which encourages personal 'one-on-one' friendships with the frail and elderly, including being involved in regular outings and has continued with this program till today.

In 2009 she joined Moe's 'Meals on Wheels' as a committee member and still delivers regular meals.

Jill, although not in full health herself, has continued to contribute so much voluntary service to our community.

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION

Community Event Of The Year 2013 Duncan's Run 100

This event is a trail run in memory of runner Duncan Orr who passed away from an accident in 2013. Duncan held the goal to use the beauty of our area at Tarra-Bulga National park to hold a 100km trail run on the Grand Strzelecki Track, part of the iconic Strzelecki Ranges. The inaugural run was held on 21 and 22 December 2013 and was a huge success.

The event was organised by his wife Anna who along with family and friends of Duncan. The event was well supported by runners from the ultra-marathon running community whose friendly attitude made it a great day to remember Duncan and saw local, interstate and overseas competitors compete on the day.

The event was also well supported by the Grand Strzelecki Track, Friends of Tara Bulga, Balook and District Residence Association, Parks Victoria, HVP Plantations, GDF SUEZ Hazelwood, the Traralgon Harriers, the Australian Ultra Runners Association Inc. and Latrobe City Council.

German Club Astoria – Oktoberfest

The annual Club Astoria Oktoberfest has been held 13 years and is seen by many as the 'go-to' event in the area for all ages.

The Oktoberfest showcases many aspects of German culture that has been synonymous with festivities and good cheer. This year in particular the Oktoberfest drew record crowds that were estimated to be over 2000 people.

Feedback from visitors was very positive, with many enthusing about how much they had enjoyed the food, dancing, music and atmosphere.

Club Astoria is proud of its record of staging a safe event that caters to the broad community promoting multi-cultural harmony while having a fun-filled time within German culture and tradition. The event has certainly been embraced and supported by the Gippsland community with visitors attending from Melbourne and across Gippsland.

Community Service Of The Year

Make Moe Glow

For the past eight years or so, Make Moe Glow has been the instigator of a large number of projects designed to improve and maintain the aesthetic condition of the locality and to foster a greater sense of community pride. During the last two years, Make Moe Glow has been the creator of at least nine significant projects in Moe with more planned and some still on-going.

- Indigenous Art Show at the Moe Town Hall.
- 'Code 1' Victoria Police Rock Band fundraisers for local schools breakfast programmes.
- Create new Moe post cards and a Ollerton Bush flora/fauna DVD
- Repair and re-painting of the Moe CBD seats.
- Seat art at Moe Post Office by local artists.
- Restore and relocate Walhalla to the Moe Railway Station precinct.
- Moe Railway Station precinct station master statue restoration.
- Re-introduce the Moe Grevillia Bronze Rambler to the town's gardens.
- Moe Visitor Guide, accepted by the Federation Square Visitor Centre in Melbourne.

The Morwell Neighbourhood House

The Morwell Neighbourhood House and Learning Centre Inc. is a grass roots organisation providing vital support to the Latrobe Valley Community actively engaging, supporting and advocating for the community on a range of issues.

During the 2014 Mine Fire emergency, the Neighbourhood House became a critical partner to authorities and emergency services. They provided innovative approaches to community building and local support with a particular focus on those more vulnerable within the community, of which there are many.



LATROBE CITY COMMUNITY GROUP MEMBERS

COMMUNITY GRANTS

Latrobe City Community Grant Programs provides financial support to community groups that will assist in the provision of facilities, programs and services that benefit our community.

Minor Capital Works

Burnet Park Guides Campsite Committee Kitchen range-hood

Newborough Yallourn United Soccer Club Weather proof soccer pitch

Latrobe Valley Triathlon Club Event road safety signage

Traralgon and District Art Society Repairs and repainting of Traralgon historical railway station building

Moe United Soccer Club Incorporated Upgrade of swimming club windows

Pax Hill Pre School Traralgon Outdoor undercover play area

Churchill Community Garden Churchill community garden project

Victorian Field & Game Association - Traralgon Branch Inc. Automatic external defibrillator

Churchill Bowls Club Electrical wiring and fittings to amenities block

Us and Them Tourers Kitchen repairs and electrical works

Cooinda Hill Inc. Automatic opening doors

Traralgon Playgroup Inc. Shade sail over baby crawling area

Callignee and Traralgon South Cricket Club Turf mower

Newborough Urban Fire Brigade Defibrillator

Old Gipstown (AKA Gipstown Reserve Committee of Management) Laptop computer and printer

Mathison Park Advisory Committee Drinking fountain

Traralgon South and District Association Computer equipment

Traralgon Tyers United Football Netball Club Inc. Kitchen upgrade & refurbishment

Newborough Girl Guides (Girl Guides Victoria) Kitchen refurbishment

1st Churchill Scout Group Oven

Gippsland Model Engineering Society Stage 2 west perimeter fence

Traralgon Golf Club Tee sign project

Orana Senior Citizens Club Computer equipment

Traralgon East Senior Citizens Centre Inc. Refrigerator

Yallourn North Bowling Club Concrete surrounds

Boolarra Men's Shed Inc. Metal workshop extension

Victoria State Emergency Service Moe Unit Blinds for meeting room

Yallourn North Hall and Recreation Reserve Ride on mower

Barrier Breakers Inc. Reverse cycle air conditioner

Rotary Club of Traralgon Central Inc. Gazebos, base kits and screening

Boolarra & District Horse & Trail Riding Club Inc. Arena fencing

Latrobe Valley U3A Inc. Computer equipment

Gippsland Employment Skills Training Inc. Toilet block for "Green Patch Moe"

Yallourn North Cricket club Replacement of cricket nets

CFA Traralgon West Rural Fire Brigade Computer system

Morwell Football Netball Club Social room upgrade

Latrobe Valley Water Ski Club Inc. Refitting of kitchen

Newborough Senior Citizens Large refrigerator

Traralgon Bridge Club Replacement of electric stove

Yinnar & District Memorial Hall Inc. New chairs x 50 for the hall

Traralgon Hockey Club Coaches box team shelter

Glengarry Recreation Reserve Committee of Management Glengarry Tennis Club Seating

Latrobe Valley Support Network Inc. Upgrade front access

Toongabbie Cricket Club Dethatching machine

Churchill Central Preschool Fitted sandpit cover

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION

Community Grants 2014/15 (Continued)

Morwell Cricket Club Electronic scoreboard	Tyers Tennis Club Inc. Kitchen upgrade & refurbishment	The Latrobe Valley Voices Keyboard
Maltese Australian Community Centre & Social Club LV Inc. Exterior painting	Traralgon South Tennis Club Spectator viewing shelter	Churchill Football Netball Club Inc. Netball change rooms
Gippsland Immigration Park Inc. Restore sections of the northern pathway to match the southern section	Toongabbie Mechanics Institute Committee Inc. Hall floor resurfacing	Toongabbie Golf Club Commercial dishwasher
Yallourn North & District Historical Society Computer system	1st Morwell Scout Group Meeting room wall	Toongabbie and District Men's Shed Incorporated Electrical power connection
Traralgon Football Netball Club Inc. Canteen extension & improvements	Twin City Archers Gippsland Inc. Electrical supply to workshop and sheds	Toongabbie and District Pony Club Inc. Round yard/safety training pen
Morwell Baseball Club Line marking machine	Newborough Football Netball Club Storage shed and recladding	Central Gippsland Cricket Association Administration equipment
Traralgon Olympians Soccer Club Inc. Re-wiring of clubroom	Gippsland Goannas Over Sixty Cricket Club Inc. Automated external defibrillator	Coal Country Camera Club Digital equipment
Girl Guides Association of Victoria Kitchen upgrade	Hazelwood Cemetery Trust Electrical generator	Glengarry Cricket Club Electronic scoreboard
Traralgon Swimming Club Equipment shed	Interchange Gippsland Events & program shelter equipment	Glengarry Football Netball Club Security lockup roller doors
Gippsland Soccer League Ground improvements	Gormandale Cricket Club Decking project	Pax Hill Tennis Club Tennis court fencing
Moe Golf Club Inc. Central heating unit	Yallourn North Playgroup Active learners program	Yinnar Recreation Reserve Committee of Management External repainting of pavilion
Morwell Centenary Rose Garden Management Committee Construction of brick planter boxes and edging in the information display	1st Moe Scout Group Staircase / Front double door	Tyers and District Community Association Kitchen upgrade
Latrobe Cricket Club Retractable netting	Morwell Tigers Yinnar Cricket Club Practice net upgrade	German Australian Society Inc. German - Club Astoria Partial Roofing replacement
Gippsland Soccer League Referees Ground improvements	1st Glengarry Scout Group Fence project	1st Newborough Scout Group Removal of asbestos wall
Sara Court Kindergarten Playground refit	Morwell Golf Club Solar energy project	Yinnar Football & Netball Club Refurbishment of the internal shower & toilet facilities
Crinigan Bushland Reserve Committee of Management Upgrade of signage	St John Ambulance Latrobe Division Oxygen response unit	The Lions Club of Traralgon Inc. Crowd control & safety barriers
Moe Hockey Club Coaches boxes and team shelter	Tyers Lightning Soccer Club Ground drainage and surface upgrade	Morwell Netball Association Gazebo shelter
Newborough Junior Football Club Electrical canteen appliances	Gippsland Carers Association Inc. Office furniture	Traralgon Little Athletics Centre Long jump pit refurbishment
Churchill Hockey Club Coaches boxes and team shelter	Toongabbie & District Riders Club Inc. Safety barrier fencing	Traralgon & District Agricultural Society Inc. Computer equipment and software
Moe Early learning Centre Preschool Platform for the 'Let's Cook Project'	Traralgon West Cricket Club Roller for preparation of turf wickets	Tyers Rural Fire Brigade Kitchen appliances
Morwell Croquet Club Inc. Steel shed	Moe Cricket Club Synthetic wicket	
	Moe Newborough Baseball Club Inc. Kitchen fridge & oven	
	Morwell East Football Netball Inc. Upgrade of canteen/kitchen facilities	
	Latrobe Valley Aero Club Refurbishment of clubrooms	

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION

Community Grants 2014/15 *(Continued)*

Events

Pistons Car Club Hazelwood car and bike show

Central Gippsland Kennel Club Inc. All breeds championship dog shows

Central Gippsland Aboriginal Health Services Community family day

Boolarra Pony Club Inc. Boolarra pony club gymkhana

Tyers Art Festival GDF SUEZ Australian Energy 35th Tyers Art Festival

Traralgon Motorcycle Club Shell Advance Gippsland motocross series

Grand Strzelecki Track Inc. Duncan's run hundred

Moe Bowling Club Inc. Latrobe City Classic pairs and Ladies Classic pairs

Gippsland Plains Rail Trail Committee of Management Mother's day classic fun run/walk

Latrobe Valley Mixed Dart League Inc. The Victorian darts classic

Fil-oz Senior Citizen Seniors multicultural event Harmony Day and food festival

Churchill & District News Junior fishing competition

Italian Australian Bocce Club Latrobe city mixed triples bocce classic championships

International Women's Group Inc. International women's group "harmony day multicultural celebrations"

Latrobe Valley Badminton Association Incorporated Veterans Committee Latrobe Valley Victorian Teams event-Veterans Badminton

Senior Citizens of Greek Orthodox Community of Gippsland Harmony day multicultural celebrations

Italian Australian Coordinating Committee of Gippsland Ballo della republica - celebrating Italian national day

Traralgon Chamber of Commerce & Industry Inc. Traralgon summer nights festival

Good Beginnings Australia Christmas family fun day

Traralgon & District Cricket Association Gippsland Cricket League junior country week

Latrobe Valley Philatelic Society Stamp fair

Yallourn North Action Group Yallourn North Christmas festival

Traralgon Harriers Athletics Club 48th Traralgon marathon running festival

Coal Country Camera Club Out of the box and into the light

Spinete social club Inc. The Spinete Fiesta

Churchill and District Community Association Churchill 50th Anniversary of Proclamation

Community Development

Yallourn Old Girls' Association Inc. Digital copy of SEC Contact magazines

Churchill and District News Churchill and District news publication

Latrobe Valley Pain Support Group Pain Support Group - Building Up

Latrobe Valley University of the Third Age Inc. Courses and activities for retirees

International Women's Group Inc. Activities & support for women

Morwell Historical Society Inc. Churchill 50th Jubilee and local military history

Probus Club of Traralgon Combined Incorporated Monthly news bulletin

Loud Empire Giving youth of Latrobe a community voice

Traralgon Seniors Citizens Inc. Computer & software

Gippsland Asbestos Related Diseases Support Inc. Asbestos Council of Victoria

Asbestos newsletter

Make Moe Glow Inc. Reprint of the Moe visitors guide

Newborough Playgroup Inc. Toy replacement program

Morwell Neighbourhood house and Learning Centre Community Lunch

Boolarra Youth Group Youth opportunities for leisure outings

The Global Studio Inc. Connecting migrant women and new arrivals through art

Italian Elderly Citizen Group Morwell Social interaction and support for elderly citizens

Interchange Gippsland Community newsletter

Morwell Swimming Club Incorporated Web page development

The Latrobe Valley Voices Skill development for singers

Churchill Tennis Club Refrigerator



ACHIEVING BEST VALUE

*CORPORATE
HEADQUARTERS
MORWELL*

Best Value legislation establishes the overall objective service excellence and continuous improvement.

Achieving Best Value

The *Local Government Act 1989* 208B Best Value Principles incorporates six Best Value Principles, outlined in the table below:

Best Value Principle	Implementation at Latrobe City Council
<p>Quality and cost standards.</p> <p>The extent to which services are achieving or exceeding relevant key performance indicators for service quality and cost.</p>	<p>Latrobe City Council measures the standard of service through a range of quality and cost measures including industry standards.</p>
<p>Responsive to community needs.</p> <p>The extent to which the community feels that we not only understand what the community is seeking from our services but also the extent that current services reflect their needs. Community needs are established through the analysis of customer requests, community feedback and survey results.</p>	<p>During 2014/15, Latrobe City Council sought feedback from residents and business groups via a variety of methods including online and telephone surveys, submissions to major projects and provision of community information sessions on major projects and program initiatives. Community feedback helps the organisation set targets for continuous improvement in service delivery and provide data to support Best Value principles in our planning, decision-making and actions.</p>
<p>Accessible services.</p> <p>The extent to which services are able to be readily accessible to all members of the community.</p>	<p>Annual service plans are developed for each business unit of the organisation and barriers to accessibility are addressed through these plans. The achievement of actions identified by the annual Latrobe City Disability Action Plan (DAP) remains an ongoing priority of council.</p>
<p>Continuous improvement.</p> <p>The extent to which our work is continuously improved.</p>	<p>Continuous improvement is a core part of our service delivery and is demonstrated throughout the report where comparisons are made to previous year's performance results.</p>
<p>Community consultation.</p> <p>Community engagement is any process that involves the public in problem solving or decision making and uses public input to assist with decisions.</p>	<p>Latrobe City Council promotes community engagement activities in a number of ways to ensure our community is well informed about the opportunity to have a say on the projects and initiatives that interest or may affect them.</p>
<p>Report regularly to the community.</p>	<p>Reporting regularly to the community is done through a number of avenues including: Advisory Committees, our website, Facebook, Twitter, newsletters, local media and the Annual Report.</p>

ACHIEVING BEST VALUE

Best Value Highlights

Improving Planning Permit Services

Every week a planning permit is delayed, the cost of a project can rise significantly, increasing the frustration of community members and developers. Council is therefore committed to improving responsiveness and is continually looking for ways to make improvements to Council's planning permit services.

During 2014-15 the Statutory Planning team has been implementing improvements to deliver more efficient and effective planning outcomes including; measuring and monitoring performance statistics, tracking progress of applications and revising council delegations.

A significant improvement in permit application process times has resulted with 89% of applications now processed within 60 statutory days.

Geographic Information Systems Upgrades

Latrobe City Council utilises an in-house Geographic Information Systems GIS system, to provide mapping information to council officers as support to completing their day to day work.

The most used feature of the GIS is the aerial photography, assisting council officers in decision making and reduces the number of site visits required. In January 2015, the imagery was updated, showing details of ground based features such as roads, rivers and

vegetation as well as housing, industrial sites and is used extensively in disaster management.

GIS tools have now been integrated with Council's document management system, providing easy access to information in relation to properties, enhancing customer services, streamlined administration, improved system security and removed the additional costs of data storage.

Fire Prevention Mobile Inspection Technology

The Latrobe City Council Fire Management Plan (FMP) outlines council's responsibility to ensure the municipality is prepared for the fire season each year.

A key component of the FMP requires the implementation of a pre-fire season inspection program.

To assist in the responsibilities of council under the CFA Act, council has introduced a GIS compatible fire inspection information system that was introduced as a prototype in 2013/14, whereby property information and inspection details can be registered in the field and subsequently loaded onto council's corporate computer system.

Key improvements include the ability of council officers to identify reoccurring offenders pre-season; the ability to issue pre-season warning notices and the flexibility of specifying certain

firebreak widths. This additional functionality and improved system will enable officers to be more proactive in fire prevention efforts for the community.

Promoting Opportunities To "Have A Say"

During 2014-15 a marketing campaign was conducted to promote the opportunities to participate in Council decision making. Council actively promoted its 'Have A Say' webpage and the Community Sounding Board, which provides registered members with a newsletter on key projects seeking community input.

The campaigns included television, radio and newspaper advertising, social media promotions and face to face interaction at local events and shopping plazas. Subscribers to the Community Sounding Board increased from just over 60 members in July 2014 to 319 members in June 2015, exceeding the target of 300 members by the end of the financial year.

Best Value Highlights

Risk and Insurance Profiling

A Strategic Risk and Insurable Risk Profiling was commenced in 2014-15 to ensure sufficient coverage for potential loss of council assets and activities.

The review of insurable risks against Council's insurance program will ensure appropriate policies, coverage, and excesses, support greater insurance protection for council assets and activities and reduce the potential financial impact.

Early Learning And Care Program Client Satisfaction Survey

To ensure the community is satisfied with Latrobe City Council Early Learning and Care programs, an annual review of client satisfaction is completed.

The client satisfaction survey has been undertaken for the past 10 years. The annual survey provides the team with valuable feedback in relation to the planning, coordination and implementation of the program to ensure the needs of the community are met. Feedback received in this survey assists in identifying the priorities for the year and allows us to refine the programs we deliver.

Library Customer Satisfaction Survey

To ensure our libraries are keeping pace with community needs, a library customer satisfaction survey is conducted every two years, the most recent survey taking place during 2014-15. The survey is conducted via on-line methods as well as face to face consultation with members of the community in our major retail spaces. This face to face interaction with people who may not usually visit local libraries, provides a valuable opportunity to promote library services and resources which are available to the community. Survey responses are collated and compared with previous results and utilised to inform the various library services.

Planning for The Introduction Of Swift One Card

During 2014/15 planning was completed for the conversion of all Latrobe City Libraries library cards to be automatically converted to a 'Swift One Card' from July 2015. This new service will allow Library members to borrow items, request holds for pickup and pay outstanding bills at any public library branch that is part of the Swift Library Consortium network across Victoria. The enhanced service allows members to borrow and return items directly at over 100 libraries across Victoria, improve access to collections and pay fees and at any participating library. No matter where Library members travel throughout Victoria they are sure to find a Swift One Card library nearby.

Vermicomposting Program

Vermicomposting is the use of worms to break down organic waste into re-usable materials.

After many years of developing the system, the Latrobe Community Vermicomposting Program has now successfully installed over 130 worm farms in more than 50 schools and kindergartens across Latrobe City. The Gippsland Waste and Resource Recovery Group estimates that the program is currently diverting an estimated 1500 litres of food waste from landfill each week or approximately nine tonnes per year.

The program has now attracted interest from a number of Melbourne Councils, including Boroondara City and Hume City, who have recently purchased the uniquely designed system.

The Program has also assisted Gippsland Employment and Skills Training (GEST) to attract an \$11,000 grant from Sustainability Victoria to install a 25 bin vermicomposting system to divert organic waste from cafes and businesses in the township of Moe.

This is a significant initiative creating employment and providing a valuable service while recycling waste that would otherwise have been buried in landfill.

ACHIEVING BEST VALUE



TRARALGON SKATE PARK

Implementing the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework

In April 2014 the Victorian Government introduced the new Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF), which established a new reporting framework across a range of council operations.

To meet the new Local Government Performance Reporting Framework requirements, Council has established a direct data extraction methodology to source data from corporate systems that we use every day.

This automated data flow has alleviated the need for staff to perform manual data entry, often multiple times; while increasing the reliability of data and enabling the analysis of service performance overtime.

Following the establishment of automated KPI reporting and analysis capabilities, the opportunity now exists to build on the principles that underpin Local Government Performance Reporting Framework and extend this throughout the organisation, to deliver meaningful performance measures across all Council service areas to support future continuous improvement initiatives.

Latrobe City Council's results along with commentaries have been included in the Council Report Card section of this Annual Report and are to made available online to the community

118

LATROBE CITY COUNCIL

FINANCE & PERFORMANCE STATEMENTS



FINANCE & PERFORMANCE STATEMENTS

Table of Contents

Overview of Financial Performance	121	NOTE 15 (a) Other Expenses	
Our Sources of Income	122	– Landfill Rehabilitation	152
Our Expenses	122	NOTE 15 (b) Other Expenses	152
Balance Sheet	123	NOTE 16 Cash and Cash Equivalents	153
Financial Strength	123	NOTE 17 Trade and Other Receivables	153
Cash Position	124	NOTE 18 Other Financial Assets	154
Capital Spending	125	NOTE 19 Non-Current Assets Classified	
Future Impact and Challenges	126	as Held for Sale	154
Comprehensive Income Statement	127	NOTE 20 Other Assets	154
Balance Sheet	128	NOTE 21 Property, Infrastructure,	
Statement of Changes in Equity	129	Plant and Equipment	155
Statement of Cash Flows	130	NOTE 22 Intangible Assets	160
Statement of Capital Works	131	NOTE 23 Trade and Other Payables	160
Notes to the Financial Report	132	NOTE 24 Trust Funds and Deposits	160
Introduction	132	NOTE 25 Provisions	161
NOTE 1 Significant Accounting Policies	132	NOTE 26 Interest-Bearing Loans	
NOTE 2 Budget Comparison	141	and Borrowings	162
NOTE 3 Rates and charges	147	NOTE 27 Reserves	163
NOTE 4 Statutory Fees and Fines	147	NOTE 28 Reconciliation of Cash Flows	
NOTE 5 User Fees	148	from Operating Activities to Surplus/ (Deficit)	164
NOTE 6 Grants	148	NOTE 29 Financing Arrangements	164
NOTE 7 Contributions	150	NOTE 30 Commitments	165
NOTE 8 Net Gain/ (Loss) on Disposal of		NOTE 31 Operating Leases	166
Property, Infrastructure, Plant		NOTE 32 Contingent Liabilities and	
and Equipment	150	Contingent Assets	166
NOTE 9 Other Income	150	NOTE 33 Financial Instruments	169
NOTE 10 Employee Costs	150	NOTE 34 Related Party Transactions	171
NOTE 11 Materials and Services	151	NOTE 35 Events Occurring	
NOTE 12 Bad and Doubtful Debts	152	after Balance Date	172
NOTE 13 Depreciation and Amortisation	152	Certification of the Financial Statements	173
NOTE 14 Borrowing Costs	152		

Overview of Financial Performance

Latrobe City concluded 2014/15 in a strong financial position. All the key financial indicators demonstrate that Council is being managed in a financially prudent and responsible manner. The financial statements have been audited by the Victorian Auditor-General and reviewed by Council's Audit Committee. Council continues to strive to deliver a high level of value for the community.

A key financial challenge for Latrobe City Council into the future is to continue to deliver community services and programs while balancing the need to invest in infrastructure to ensure Latrobe City remains a community with high levels of liveability and sustainability.

Please refer to the 2014/15 Financial Statements and accompanying notes for further information.

\$

24.86

MILLION OPERATING SURPLUS

Income Statement

The operating surplus reported in the 2014/15 financial statements is \$24.86 million, which compares with a budgeted surplus of \$11.88 million. When adjusted for non-recurrent income items such as capital grants and non-monetary contributions and underlying surplus of \$7.26 million was achieved compared to a budgeted underlying loss of \$2.73. It should be noted that it is important for Council to generate operating surpluses in order to ensure that funds are available to cover expenditure requirements that are not recognised in the Income Statement (i.e. capital upgrade and new asset expenditure, and the repayment of borrowings).

This favourable variance to budget was mainly attributable to;

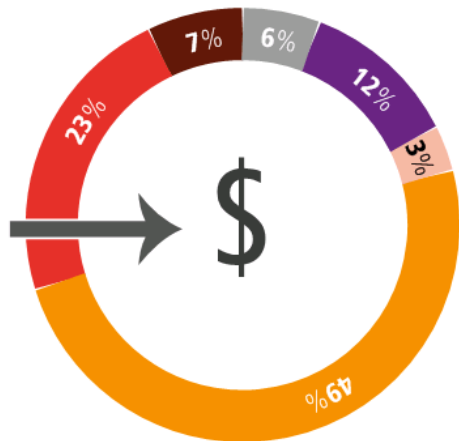
- Victoria Grants Commission funding for the 2015/16 financial year that was advanced to Council in June 2015.
- Additional Non-monetary contributions (developer contributed assets).

Summary of financial performance for year ended 30 June 2015

	Actual \$'000	Budget \$'000
Total Income	142,229	128,400
Total Expenditure	(117,374)	(116,520)
Surplus for the reporting period	24,855	11,880
Less non-recurrent income items	(17,599)	(14,607)
Adjusted underlying surplus	7,256	(2,727)

FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE STATEMENTS

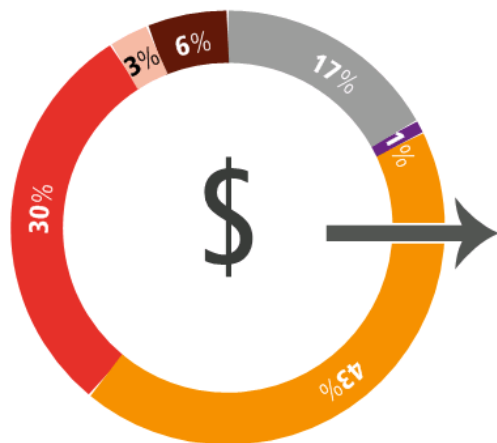
Our sources of income*



- Contributions
- User Charges & Statutory Fees & Fines
- Other Income
- Rates
- Operating Grants
- Capital Grants
- Net gain on disposal of assets (0%)

*The percentage of total income generated by rates is lower than normal due to the advance of 2015/16 Federal Assistance grants in June 2014. When adjusted for this income the ratio of rates to total income is 51%.

Our expenses



- Depreciation & Amortisation
- Finance Costs
- Employee Costs
- Materials & Services
- Other Expenditure
- Landfill Rehabilitation
- Bad & Doubtful Debts (0%)

\$
51.57
MILLION
RECEIVED IN GRANTS
AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Balance Sheet

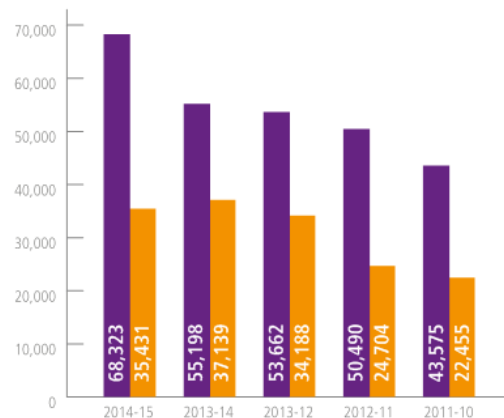
Council ended the financial year with net assets of \$1,159.60 million, an increase of \$131.21 million from the previous year

	Actual \$'000	Budget \$'000
Total Assets	1,228,486	1,133,833
Total Liabilities	(68,891)	(55,823)
Net Assets	1,159,595	1,078,010

Net assets at 30 June 2015 were higher than budget by \$81.59 million. Total assets exceeded budget by \$94.65 million which resulted mainly from an increase in other financial assets and asset revaluation movements. The increase in other financial assets is due to a higher proportion of council funds being held in longer term investments and higher than budgeted surplus funds as result of carried forward capital works projects and grant funding for 2015/16 received in advance. Total Liabilities also exceeded budget by \$13.07 million as a result of higher than anticipated Trade Payables and increases in landfill rehabilitation provisions.

Financial Strength

The Working Capital Ratio assesses Council's ability to meet current commitments and is calculated by measuring current assets against current liabilities. Council's ratio of 2.09:1 is an indicator of a sound financial position, having \$2.09 of current assets for every \$1 of current liabilities. The level of working capital over the past five years shows that Council's ability to meet current commitments has consistently been strong. When adjusted for Federal Assistance Grants received in advance the ratio is 1.93:1 which is a truer indication of the normal position.



FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE STATEMENTS

Cash Position

Council had cash holdings of \$18.24 million at 30 June 2015. The cash holdings are lower than budgeted due to an increased proportion of cash invested in longer term deposits (\$44.2 million) and therefore recognised as other financial assets. Total cash and investments holdings includes trust funds and deposits of \$2.61 million, unexpended grants of \$11.13 million and \$2.62 million reserved for specific purposes associated with carried forward projects, liabilities for employee provisions and landfill reserves to assist in funding future landfill cell constructions and rehabilitation obligations.

\$

62.54

MILLION

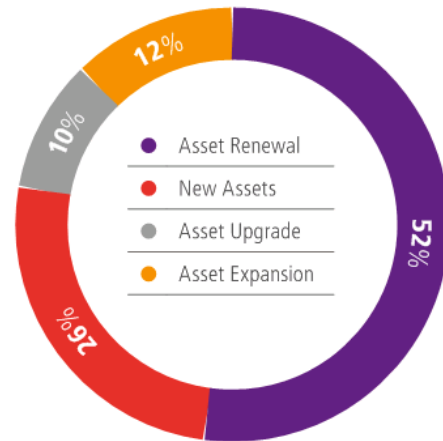
TOTAL CASH AND INVESTMENTS

	Actual \$'000	Budget \$'000
Cash flows from operating activities	42,730	33,263
Cash flows from investing activities	(66,853)	(41,595)
Cash flows from financing activities	(267)	(1,120)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	(24,390)	(9,452)
Cash at the beginning of the financial year	42,632	34,136
Cash at the end of the financial year	18,242	24,684
Other financial assets (investments greater than 90 days)	44,298	0
Total cash & investments	62,540	24,684

The budget had assumed that capital works projects, including those carried over from the previous financial year, would be completed in 2014/15. At year end, there were a number of capital projects not completed (mainly due to delays arising from weather conditions, and planning and design issues) and multi-year projects that will be expended over future financial years. This together with government grant funds received in advance and surplus generated to meet future landfill and interest only loan principal repayments resulted in higher cash and investment balances than budgeted.

Capital Spending

Latrobe City Council’s continuing commitment to renewing existing infrastructure is highlighted in the graph at right. Capital expenditure during 2014/15 was \$29.49 million. A large proportion of this was spent on roads and associated works (52%) and land, buildings and improvements (20%).



	"Actual \$'000"	"Budget \$'000"
Artworks	15	15
Land, Buildings & Improvements	5,878	11,179
Aerodromes	2,873	1,300
Drainage	1,604	1,455
Plant & Equipment	1,823	2,115
Computers & Telecommunications	501	510
Roads, Paths, Bridges & Carparks	15,387	21,937
Furniture & Equipment	3	20
Other	9	1,138
Playgrounds	285	761
Waste Management	1,108	2,800
Total Capital Works	29,486	43,230

Capital expenditure was \$13.74 million lower than budget mainly due to a number of projects not being completed during the 2014/15 financial year. This was partially contributed to by projects funded in one year but staged over multiple years together with delays arising from weather conditions and planning and design issues. The funding for these incomplete projects will be carried forward to the 2015/16 year.



 FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE STATEMENTS

Future Impact & Challenges

The Council Plan 2014-2018, supported by the Strategic Resource Plan, is a four year strategic plan targeting allocation of resources to meet the strategic objectives set by Council. A key component of the Strategic Resource Plan is the Long Term Financial Strategy, which expresses the strategic objectives and strategies of the Council Plan in financial terms. The table below depicts key financial information as forecast in Council's Strategic Resource Plan. Latrobe City Council projects a surplus will continue to be achieved over the four years of the Plan which will provide a sustainable level of funding for the renewal and refurbishment of community assets.

	Actual \$'000			Budget \$'000	Forecast \$'000		
	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19
Financial Performance							
Rate revenue	62,637	66,355	69,606	71,900	74,198	76,567	79,007
Total revenue	115,113	119,377	142,229	127,892	127,892	128,351	128,182
Total expenditure	105,590	111,978	117,374	115,930	116,131	118,077	121,658
Net results for year	9,523	7,399	24,855	11,962	11,692	10,274	6,524
Cash Flows							
Surplus from operations	31,824	18,263	45,557	28,353	32,262	32,412	29,557
Capital expenditure	24,286	24,108	29,486	35,226	32,179	27,134	24,597
Net cash inflow/ (outflow)	(60)	14,970	(24,390)	(3,436)	(664)	(762)	(240)



WORKS IN CHURCHILL HAVE CONTINUED IN 2014-15

Comprehensive Income Statement

For the Year Ended 30 June 2015

	NOTE	2015 \$'000s	2014 \$'000s
INCOME			
Rates and charges	3	69,606	66,355
Statutory fees and fines	4	1,763	1,723
User fees	5	15,120	14,481
Grants - operating	6	32,428	20,965
Grants - capital	6	10,529	6,884
Contributions - Monetary	7	784	130
Contributions - Non monetary	7	7,828	4,578
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	8	21	(533)
Other Income	9	4,150	4,221
Total Income		142,229	118,804
EXPENSES			
Employee Costs	10	(50,234)	(49,900)
Materials and services	11	(35,400)	(34,113)
Bad and doubtful debts	12	(53)	(8)
Depreciation and amortisation	13	(19,781)	(22,196)
Borrowing Costs	14	(1,055)	(1,211)
Landfill Rehabilitation	15 (a)	(7,035)	-
Other Expenses	15 (b)	(3,816)	(3,723)
Total Expenses		(117,374)	(111,151)
Surplus for the year		24,855	7,653
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Items that will not be reclassified to surplus or deficit in future periods			
Net Asset Revaluation increment	27	106,350	866
Total comprehensive result		131,205	8,519

The above comprehensive income statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

 FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE STATEMENTS

Balance Sheet

As at 30 June 2015

	NOTE	2015 \$'000s	2014 \$'000s
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	16	18,242	42,632
Trade and other receivables	17	8,196	7,195
Other financial assets	18	44,298	3,310
Non-current assets classified as held for sale	19	926	-
Other assets	20	2,353	2,061
Total current assets		74,015	55,198
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Trade and other receivables	17	8	17
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	21	1,154,113	1,031,528
Other financial assets	18	2	2
Intangible assets	22	348	770
Total non-current assets		1,154,471	1,032,317
TOTAL ASSETS		1,228,486	1,087,515
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	23	13,338	10,635
Trust funds and deposits	24	2,610	2,521
Provisions	25	13,773	12,935
Interest-bearing loans and borrowings	26	5,710	10,823
Total current liabilities		35,431	36,914
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provisions	25	18,776	13,383
Interest-bearing loans and borrowings	26	14,684	8,828
Total non-current liabilities		33,460	22,211
TOTAL LIABILITIES		68,891	59,125
NET ASSETS		1,159,595	1,028,390
EQUITY			
Accumulated surplus		650,502	625,945
Reserves	27	509,093	402,445
TOTAL EQUITY		1,159,595	1,028,390

The above balance sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the Year Ended 30 June 2015

	NOTE	TOTAL \$'000s	ACCUMULATED SURPLUS \$'000s	REVALUATION RESERVE \$'000s	OTHER RESERVES \$'000s
2015					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		1,028,390	625,945	400,119	2,326
Surplus for the period		24,855	24,855	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment	27(a)	106,350	-	106,350	-
Transfers to other reserves	27(b)	-	(349)	-	349
Transfers from other reserves	27(b)	-	51	-	(51)
Balance at end of the financial year		1,159,595	650,502	506,469	2,624
2014					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		1,022,233	620,526	399,253	2,454
Prior Year correction of errors					
Error in Landfill provision	1(aa)	(6,152)	(6,152)	-	-
Found Assets	1(aa)	4,949	4,949	-	-
Previously disposed assets	1(aa)	(1,159)	(1,159)	-	-
Restated Opening Equity		1,019,871	618,164	399,253	2,454
Surplus for the period		7,653	7,653	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment	27(a)	866	-	866	-
Transfers to other reserves	27(b)	-	(36)	-	36
Transfers from other reserves	27(b)	-	164	-	(164)
Balance at end of the financial year		1,028,390	625,945	400,119	2,326

The above statement of changes in equity should be read with the accompanying notes.



LATROBE CITY IT STAFF

 FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE STATEMENTS

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended 30 June 2015

	NOTE	2015 \$'000s	2014 \$'000s
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Rates and charges		68,800	65,560
Statutory fees and fines		1,764	1,722
User fees		15,912	15,247
Grants - operating		32,412	20,711
Grants - capital		10,709	6,994
Contributions - monetary		818	131
Interest received		1,789	2,072
Trust funds and deposits taken		14,961	18,732
Other receipts		2,466	1,108
Net GST refund/(payment)		1,859	1,960
Employee Costs		(49,425)	(49,462)
Materials and services		(40,529)	(44,449)
Trust funds and deposits repaid		(14,873)	(18,254)
Other payments		(3,933)	(3,808)
Net cash provided by operating activities	28	42,730	18,264
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		(26,659)	(24,108)
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		794	570
Payments for Investments		(97,608)	(48,310)
Proceeds from sale of investments		56,620	64,500
Net cash used in investing activities		(66,853)	(7,348)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Finance costs		(1,009)	(1,211)
Proceeds from borrowings		11,566	8,970
Repayment of borrowings		(10,824)	(3,705)
Net cash provided by/ (used in) financing activities		(267)	4,054
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(24,390)	14,970
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the financial year		42,632	27,662
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	29	18,242	42,632
Financing arrangements	30		
Restrictions on cash assets	16		

The above statement of cash flows should be read with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Capital Works

For the Year Ended 30 June 2015

	NOTE	2015 \$'000s	2014 \$'000s
Property			
Land		414	-
Total Land		414	-
Buildings		5,464	3,496
Total buildings		5,464	3,496
Total property		5,878	3,496
Plant and equipment			
Plant, machinery and Equipment		1,823	1,817
Fixtures, fittings and furniture		3	63
Computers and telecommunications		351	676
Art collection		15	15
Software		150	58
Total plant and equipment		2,342	2,629
Infrastructure			
Roads		13,139	14,361
Bridges		700	353
Footpaths and cycleways		1,364	1,552
Drainage		1,604	263
Waste management		1,108	27
Parks, open space and streetscapes		285	584
Aerodromes		2,873	688
Off Street car parks		184	124
Other infrastructure		9	31
Total Infrastructure		21,266	17,983
Total capital works expenditure		29,486	24,108
Represented by:			
New asset expenditure		7,574	2,353
Asset renewal expenditure		15,340	18,656
Asset expansion expenditure		3,712	1,215
Asset upgrade expenditure		2,860	1,884
Total capital works expenditure		29,486	24,108

The above statement of capital works should be read with the accompanying notes.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT

for the year ended 30 June 2015

Introduction

The Latrobe City Council was established by an Order of the Governor in Council on 2 December 1994 and is a body corporate. The Council's main office is located at 141 Commercial Road Morwell 3840.

Statement of compliance

These financial statements are general purpose financial report that consists of a Comprehensive Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows, Statement of Capital Works and notes accompanying these financial statements. The general purpose financial report complies with Australian Accounting Standards (AAS), other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB), the Local Government Act 1989 and the Local Government (Financial and Reporting) Regulations 2014.

NOTE 1 Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of accounting

The accrual basis of accounting has been used in the preparation of these financial statements, whereby assets liabilities, equity, income and expenses are recognised in the reporting period to which they relate, regardless of when cash is received or paid.

Judgements, estimates and assumptions are required to be made about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated judgements are based on professional judgement derived from historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised and also in future periods that are affected by the revision. Judgements and assumptions made by management in the application of AAS's that have significant effects on the financial statements and estimates relate to:

- The fair value of land, buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment (refer note 1 (m))
- The determination of depreciation for buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment (refer to note 1 (n))
- The determination of employee provisions (refer note 1 (s))

Unless otherwise stated, all accounting policies are consistent with those applied in the prior year. Where appropriate, comparative figures have been amended to accord with current presentation, and disclosure has been made of any material changes to comparatives.

(b) Change in accounting policies

There have been no changes in accounting policies from the previous period.

(c) Principles of consolidation

The consolidated financial statements of Council incorporate all entities controlled by Council as at 30 June 2015, and their income and expenses for that part of the reporting period in which control existed.

Subsidiaries are all entities over which Council has control. Council controls an entity when it is exposed to, or has rights to, variable returns from its involvement with the entity and has the ability to affect those returns through its power to direct the activities of the entity. Subsidiaries are fully consolidated from the date on which control is transferred to the Council. They are deconsolidated from the date that control ceases.

Where dissimilar accounting policies are adopted by entities and their effect is considered material, adjustments are made to ensure consistent policies are adopted in these financial statements.

NOTE 1 Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

In the process of preparing consolidated financial statements all material transactions and balances between consolidated entities are eliminated.

Entities consolidated into Council include:

- No entities identified

(d) Committees of Management

All entities controlled by Council that have material revenues, expenses, assets or liabilities, such as committees of management, have been included in this financial report. Any transactions between these entities and Council have been eliminated in full. The Yallourn North Community Housing Committee is not included in this financial report based on their materiality.

(e) Accounting for investments in associates and joint arrangements**Associates**

Associates are all entities over which Council has significant influence but not control or joint control. Investments in associates are accounted for using the equity method of accounting, after initially being recognised at cost.

Joint Arrangements

Investments in joint arrangements are classified as either joint operations or joint ventures depending on the contractual rights and obligations each investor has, rather than the legal structure of the joint arrangement.

(i) Joint operations

Council recognises its direct right to the, and its share of jointly held assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses of joint operations. These have been incorporated in the financial statements under the appropriate headings.

(ii) Joint ventures

Interests in joint ventures are accounted for using the equity method. Under this method, the interests are initially recognised in the consolidated balance sheet at cost and adjusted thereafter to recognise Council's share of the post-acquisition profits or losses and movements in other comprehensive income in profit or loss and other comprehensive income respectively.

(f) Revenue Recognition

Income is recognised when the Council obtains control of the contribution or the right to receive the contribution, it is probable that the economic benefits comprising the contribution will flow to the Council and the amount of the contribution can be measured reliably.

Rates and Charges

Annual rates and charges are recognised as revenues when Council issues annual rates notices. Supplementary rates are recognised when a valuation and reassessment is completed and a supplementary rates notice issued.

Statutory fees and fines

Statutory fees and fines (including parking fees and fines) are recognised as revenue when the service has been provided, the payment is received, or when the penalty has been applied, whichever first occurs.

User fees

User fees are recognised as revenue when the service has been provided or the payment is received, whichever first occurs.

Grants

Grant income is recognised when Council obtains control of the contribution. This is normally obtained upon their receipt (or acquittal) or upon earlier notification that a grant has been secured, and are valued at their fair value at the date of transfer.

Where grants or contributions recognised as revenues during the financial year were obtained on condition that they be expended in a particular manner or used over a particular period and those conditions were undischarged at balance date, the unused grant or contribution is disclosed in note 6. The note also discloses the amount of unused grant or contribution from prior years that was expended on Council's operations during the current year.

NOTE 1 Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Contributions

Monetary and non monetary contributions are recognised as revenue when Council obtains control over the contributed asset.

Sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

The profit or loss on sale of an asset is determined when control of the asset has irrevocably passed to the buyer.

Interest

Interest is recognised as it is earned.

Dividends

Dividend revenue is recognised when the Council's right to receive payment is established.

Other Income

Other income is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and is recognised when Council gains control over the right to receive the income.

(g) Fair value measurement

Council measures certain assets and liabilities at fair value where required or permitted by Australian Accounting Standards. AASB 13 Fair value measurement, aims to improve consistency and reduce complexity by providing a definition of fair value and a single source of fair value measurement and disclosure requirements for use across Australian Accounting Standards.

AASB 13 defines fair value as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Fair value under AASB 13 is an exit price regardless of whether that price is directly observable or estimated using another valuation technique.

All assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the financial statements are categorised within a fair value hierarchy, described as follows, based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole:

Level 1 — Quoted (unadjusted) market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities

Level 2 — Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is directly or indirectly observable; and

Level 3 — Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is unobservable.

For the purpose of fair value disclosures, Council has determined classes of assets and liabilities on the basis of the nature, characteristics and risks of the asset or liability and the level of the fair value hierarchy as explained above.

In addition, Council determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by re-assessing categorisation (based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the end of each reporting period.

(h) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits at call, and other highly liquid investments with original maturities of 90 days or less, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.

(i) Trade and other receivables

Receivables are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method. A provision for doubtful debts is recognised when there is objective evidence that an impairment has occurred.

(j) Other financial assets

Other financial assets are valued at fair value, being market value, at balance date. Term deposits are measured at amortised cost. Any unrealised gains and losses on holdings at balance date are recognised as either a revenue or expense.

NOTE 1 Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**(k) Inventories**

Inventories held for distribution are measured at cost adjusted when applicable for any loss of service potential. Inventories are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

All other inventories, including land held for sale, are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Where inventories are acquired for no cost or nominal consideration, they are measured at current replacement cost at the date of acquisition.

(l) Non-current assets classified as held for sale

A non-current asset classified as held for sale (including disposal groups) is measured at the lower of its carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell, and are not subject to depreciation. Non-current assets, disposal groups and related liabilities and assets are treated as current and classified as held for sale if their carrying amount will be recovered through a sale transaction rather than through continuing use. This condition is regarded as met only when the sale is highly probable and the asset's sale (or disposal group sale) is expected to be completed within 12 months from the date of classification.

(m) Recognition and measurement of property, plant and equipment, infrastructure and intangibles**Acquisition**

The purchase method of accounting is used for all acquisitions of assets, being the fair value of assets provided as consideration at the date of acquisition plus any incidental costs attributable to the acquisition. Fair value is the amount for which the asset could be exchanged between knowledgeable willing parties in an arm's length transaction.

Where assets are constructed by Council, cost includes all materials used in construction, direct labour, borrowing costs incurred during construction, and an appropriate share of directly attributable variable and fixed overheads.

In accordance with Council's policy, the threshold limits detailed in Note 1n have applied when recognising assets with an applicable asset class and unless otherwise stated are consistent with the prior year.

Revaluation

Subsequent to the initial recognition of assets, non-current physical assets, other than plant and equipment, are measured at their fair value, being the amount for which the assets could be exchanged between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arm's length transaction. Subsequent to the initial recognition of assets, non-current physical assets, other than plant and equipment, are measured at their fair value, being the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. At balance date, the Council reviewed the carrying value of the individual classes of assets measured at fair value to ensure that each asset materially approximated its fair value. Where the carrying value materially differed from the fair value at balance date, the class of asset was revalued.

Fair value valuations are determined in accordance with a valuation hierarchy. Changes to the valuation hierarchy will only occur if an external change in the restrictions or limitations of use on an asset result in changes to the permissible or practical highest and best use of the asset. Further details regarding the fair value hierarchy are disclosed at Note 21, Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment, and infrastructure.

In addition, Council undertakes a formal revaluation of land, buildings, and infrastructure assets on a regular basis ranging from 3 to 5 years. The valuation is performed either by experienced council officers or independent experts.

Where the assets are revalued, the revaluation increments are credited directly to the asset revaluation reserve except to the extent that an increment reverses a prior year decrement for that class of asset that had been recognised as an expense in which case the increment is recognised as revenue up to the amount of the expense. Revaluation decrements are recognised as an expense except where prior increments are included in the asset revaluation reserve for that class of asset in which case the decrement is taken to the reserve to the extent of the remaining increments. Within the same class of assets, revaluation increments and decrements within the year are offset.

Land under roads

Council recognises land under roads it controls at fair value.

NOTE 1 Significant Accounting Policies *(continued)*

(n) Depreciation and amortisation of property, plant and equipment, infrastructure and intangibles

Buildings, land improvements, plant and equipment, infrastructure, and other assets having limited useful lives are systematically depreciated over their useful lives to the Council in a manner which reflects consumption of the service potential embodied in those assets. Estimates of remaining useful lives and residual values are made on a regular basis with major asset classes reassessed annually. Depreciation rates and methods are reviewed annually.

Where assets have separate identifiable components that are subject to regular replacement, these components are assigned distinct useful lives and residual values and a separate depreciation rate is determined for each component.

Road earthworks are not depreciated on the basis that they are assessed as not having a limited useful life.

Straight line depreciation is charged based on the residual useful life as determined each year.

Depreciation periods used are listed below and are consistent with the prior year unless otherwise stated.

ASSET CATEGORY	Depreciation Period	Threshold Limit \$'000
Property		
land	N/A	Nil
buildings	50 years	10.0
Plant & Equipment		
plant, machinery and equipment	5 - 10 years	1.0
fixtures, fittings and furniture	5 - 10 years	1.0
computers and telecommunications	3 years	1.0
art works collection	N/A	0.5
Infrastructure		
road pavements and seals	14 - 87 years	10.0
road formation and earthworks	N/A	10.0
road kerb and channel	80 years	10.0
bridges deck	60 - 75 years	10.0
bridges substructure	60 - 75 years	10.0
footpaths and cycleways	30 - 60 years	10.0
drainage	100 years	10.0
waste management	2 years	10.0
parks, open space and streetscapes	20 years	5.0
Off street car parks		
Intangible Assets		
software	5 years	5.0

(o) Repairs and maintenance

Routine maintenance, repair costs and minor renewal costs are expensed as incurred. Where the repair relates to the replacement of a component of an asset and the cost exceeds the capitalisation threshold the cost is capitalised and depreciated. The carrying value of the replaced asset is expensed.

NOTE 1 Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**(p) Impairment of assets**

At each reporting date, council reviews the carrying value of its assets to determine whether there is any indication that these assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the assets carrying value. Any excess of the assets carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the comprehensive income statement, unless the asset is carried at the revalued amount in which case, the impairment loss is recognised directly against the revaluation surplus in respect of the same class of asset to the extent that the impairment loss does not exceed the amount in the revaluation surplus for that same class of asset.

(q) Trust funds and deposits

Amounts received as deposits and retention amounts controlled by Council are recognised as trust funds until they are returned, transferred in accordance with the purpose of the receipt, or forfeited (refer to Note 24).

(r) Borrowings

Borrowings are initially measured at fair value, being the cost of the interest bearing liabilities, net of transaction costs. The measurement basis subsequent to initial recognition depends on whether the Council has categorised its interest-bearing liabilities as either financial liabilities designated at fair value through the profit and loss, or financial liabilities at amortised cost. Any difference between the initial recognised amount and the redemption value is recognised in net result over the period of the borrowing using the effective interest method.

The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the interest bearing liabilities. The Council determines the classification of its interest bearing liabilities at initial recognition.

Borrowing costs

Borrowing costs are recognised as an expense in the period in which they are incurred, except where they are capitalised as part of a qualifying asset constructed by Council. Except where specific borrowings are obtained for the purpose of specific asset acquisition, the weighted average interest rate applicable to borrowings at balance date, excluding borrowings associated with superannuation, is used to determine the borrowing costs to be capitalised.

Borrowing costs include interest on bank overdrafts, interest on borrowings, and finance lease charges.

(s) Employee Costs

The calculation of employee costs and benefits includes all relevant on-costs and are calculated as follows at reporting date.

Wages, salaries and annual leave

Liabilities for wages and salaries, including non-monetary benefits and annual leave expected to be wholly settled within 12 months of the reporting date are recognised in the provision for employee benefits in respect of employee services up to the reporting date, classified as current liabilities and measured at their nominal values.

Liabilities that are not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months of the reporting date are recognised in the provision for employee benefits as current liabilities, measured at present value of the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement.

Long Service Leave

Liability for long service leave (LSL) is recognised in the provision for employee benefits.

Current Liability - unconditional LSL is disclosed as a current liability even when the council does not expect to settle the liability within 12 months because it will not have the unconditional right to defer settlement of the entitlement should an employee take leave within 12 months

The components of this current liability are measured at :

- present value - component that is not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months.
- nominal value - component that is expected to be wholly settled within 12 months.

Classification of employee costs

Non-current liability - conditional LSL that has been accrued, where an employee is yet to reach a qualifying term of employment, is disclosed as a non-current liability. There is an unconditional right to defer settlement of the entitlement until the employee has completed the requisite years of service.

This non-current LSL liability is measured at present value.

NOTE 1 Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

(t) Landfill rehabilitation provision

Under legislation Council is obligated to rehabilitate landfill sites to a particular standard. The forecast life of the Highland Highway landfill site is based on current estimates of remaining capacity and the forecast rate of infill. The provision for landfill rehabilitation has been calculated based on the present value of the expected cost of works to be undertaken. The expected cost of works has been estimated based on current understanding of work required to restore the sites to a suitable standard. Accordingly, the estimation of the provision required is dependent on the accuracy of the forecast timing of the work, work required and related costs.

(u) Leases

Finance leases

Leases of assets where substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the asset, are transferred to the Council are classified as finance leases. Finance leases are capitalised, recording an asset and a liability at the lower of the fair value of the asset and the present value of the minimum lease payments, including any guaranteed residual value. Lease payments are allocated between the reduction of the lease liability and the interest expense. Leased assets are depreciated on a straight line basis over their estimated useful lives to the Council where it is likely that the Council will obtain ownership of the asset, or over the term of the lease, whichever is the shorter. Council currently has no finance leases.

Operating leases

Lease payments for operating leases are required by the accounting standard to be recognised on a straight line basis, rather than expensed in the years in which they are incurred.

(v) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

(w) Financial guarantees

Financial guarantee contracts are not recognised as a liability in the balance sheet unless the lender has exercised their right to call on the guarantee or Council has other reasons to believe that it is probable that that right will be exercised. Any details of guarantees that Council has provided, that are not recognised in the balance sheet are disclosed at Note 32 Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets.

(x) Contingent assets and contingent liabilities and commitments

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Balance Sheet, but are disclosed by way of a note and, if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value. Contingent assets and liabilities are presented inclusive of GST receivable or payable respectively.

Commitments are not recognised in the Balance Sheet. Commitments are disclosed at their nominal value by way of note and presented inclusive of the GST payable.

(y) Pending accounting standards

Certain new AAS's have been issued that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2015 reporting period. Council has assessed these pending standards and has identified that no material impact will flow from the application of these standards in future reporting periods.

(z) Rounding

Unless otherwise stated, amounts in the financial report have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars. Figures in the financial statements may not equate due to rounding.

**NOTE 1 Significant Accounting Policies (continued)****(aa) Prior year corrections****Found assets**

During the reporting period a number of infrastructure assets under Council's control which had not been previously recognised in the balance sheet were identified as being incorrectly omitted. These assets have been recognised as an adjustment to opening accumulated surplus and the 2013/2014 comparative figures for Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment.

Previously disposed assets

During the reporting period it was discovered that a road which had previously been passed over to VicRoads control in a prior period had not been disposed from Council's asset register. This disposal has been recognised as an adjustment to opening accumulated surplus and the 2013/2014 comparative figures for Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment.

Landfill Rehabilitation

A review of Council's accounting treatment for Landfill rehabilitation identified that it was no longer in line with current industry guidelines and accounting standards. Subsequently amendments have been made to opening accumulated surplus and 2013/2014 balance sheet comparative figures to reflect these changes which were as follows;

1. Landfill rehabilitation asset reclassified from Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment to Intangible assets.
2. The written down value of all closed landfill sites and completed cells at the current Highland Highway site were amended to zero as the assets no longer exist.
3. The Highland Highway landfill rehabilitation provision liability previously included the whole site (8.2ha), including areas set aside for future cells (4.0ha). The valuation was amended to only reflect used and current cell areas in use (4.2ha). Future provisions will be recognised when new cells commence taking waste.
4. It was identified that the previous valuations for the rehabilitation of closed landfill sites did not include a provision for aftercare.

A third balance sheet has not been presented to disclose the prior year error as they were considered not material to the comparative amounts included in the Balance Sheet. The net changes are displayed in the following table;



NOTE 1 Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

	2013/2014 Restated Balances
	\$'000s
Summary of Prior Year Adjustments	
Non-current assets:	
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	1,036,036
<i>Found Assets</i>	
Roads	2,912
Bridges	177
Footpaths and cycleways	1,549
Drainage	167
Land under roads	144
<i>Previously disposed assets</i>	
Roads	(1,159)
<i>Landfill Rehabilitation</i>	
Reclassification to Intangible assets	(8,298)
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	1,031,528
Intangible assets	239
<i>Landfill Rehabilitation</i>	
Reclassification to Intangible assets	8,298
Adjustment re reduction in provision for Hyland Highway to exclude future cells (4ha) not yet constructed or in use.	(3,852)
Write-off value of closed landfills in previous years	(3,915)
Intangible assets	770
Non-current liabilities:	
Provisions	14,998
<i>Landfill Rehabilitation</i>	
Increase in provision due to recognition of aftercare costs not previously recognised	2,237
Adjustment re reduction in provision for Hyland Highway landfill provision to exclude future cells not yet constructed (4ha).	(3,852)
Provisions (non current)	13,383
Equity:	
Accumulated surplus	628,307
Found Assets	4,949
Previously disposed assets	(1,159)
Increase in provision due to recognition of aftercare costs not previously recognised	(2,237)
Write-off value of closed landfills in previous years	(3,915)
Accumulated surplus	625,945

NOTE 2 Budget Comparison

The budget comparison notes compare Council's financial plan, expressed through its annual budget, with actual performance. The *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014* requires explanation of any material variances. Council has adopted a materiality threshold of the lower of 10 percent or \$250,000 where further explanation is warranted. Explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality threshold unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

The budget figures detailed below are those adopted by Council on 30 June 2014. The Budget was based on assumptions that were relevant at the time of adoption of the Budget. Council sets guidelines and parameters for revenue and expense targets in this budget in order to meet Council's planning and financial performance targets for both the short and long-term. The budget did not reflect any changes to equity resulting from asset revaluations, as their impacts were not considered predictable.

These notes are prepared to meet the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1989* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014*.

Income and Expenditure

	BUDGET 2015 \$'000s	ACTUAL 2015 \$'000s	VARIANCE 2015 \$'000s	VARIANCE 2015 %	REF
INCOME					
Rates and charges	69,400	69,606	206	0%	
Statutory fees and fines	1,674	1,763	89	5%	
User fees	13,073	15,120	2,047	16%	1
Grants - operating	24,756	32,428	7,672	31%	2
Grants - capital	13,721	10,529	(3,192)	(23%)	3
Contributions - monetary	61	784	723	1185%	4
Contributions - non monetary	2,000	7,828	5,828	291%	5
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	-	21	21	100%	6
Other Income	3,715	4,150	435	12%	7
Total Income	128,400	142,229	13,829	11%	
EXPENSES					
Employee costs	(51,262)	(50,234)	1,028	(2%)	8
Materials and services	(37,495)	(35,400)	2,095	(6%)	9
Bad and doubtful debts	(16)	(53)	(37)	231%	10
Depreciation and amortisation	(23,300)	(19,781)	3,519	(15%)	11
Borrowing Costs	(1,129)	(1,055)	74	(7%)	
Landfill Rehabilitation	-	(7,035)	(7,035)	100%	12
Other Expenses	(3,318)	(3,816)	(498)	15%	13
Total Expenses	(116,520)	(117,374)	(854)	1%	
SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	11,880	24,855	12,975	109%	

NOTE 2 Budget Comparison (continued)

Explanation of Material Variations – Income and Expenditure

In some line items the adopted budget has been reclassified to align the categories with those set out in the *Local Government Model Financial Report 2014-15*. This has resulted in the following amendments;

- Statutory fees and fines have been separated from user fees,
- Grants - operating grants (recurrent) and Grants - operating grants (non-recurrent) have been consolidated,
- Capital grants (recurrent) and Capital grants (non-recurrent) have been consolidated,
- \$20K has been moved from Grants – capital to Contributions – monetary,
- Developer Contributions has been renamed to Contributions – monetary,
- Developer contributed Assets has been renamed to Contributions – non monetary,
- Interest has been combined with Other income,
- \$1.835 million has been moved from Other expenses to Materials and services in the budget mainly relating to advertising, promotion and insurance premiums to bring their classification into line with the *Local Government Model Financial Report*.

REF	ITEM	EXPLANATION
1	User fees	Outcome: Favourable \$2.047 million or 16% The additional income is principally a result of higher than expected landfill gate fees and subdivision supervision fees.
2	Grants – operating	Outcome: Favourable \$7.672 million or 31% The favourable variance is mainly a result of the early receipt of \$5.691 million of the 2015-16 Victoria Grants Commission grant allocations. In addition Council received grant funding for various programs not included in the budget such as Community Resilience and Health promotion.
3	Grants – capital	Outcome: Unfavourable \$3.192 million or 23% The unfavourable variance is mainly a result of the timing of grant instalments for projects that run over multiple years or have been delayed, the main example being the Moe Rail Precinct Revitalisation Project.
4	Contributions - monetary	Outcome: Favourable \$0.723 million or 1,183% The favourable variance is mainly a result of higher than expected public open space and road infrastructure contributions from property developers for which it is difficult to predict the timing of receipt.
5	Contributions – non monetary	Outcome: Favourable \$5.828 million or 291% Infrastructure asset contributions from developers were higher than expected due to the difficulty in predicting the timing and value of these contributions.
6	Net gain on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	Outcome: Favourable \$0.021 million or 100% A small overall gain mainly as a result of favourable trade in prices received for fleet and plant items.
7	Other income	Outcome: Favourable \$0.435 million or 12% The favourable variance is mainly a result of higher than expected interest income generated by increased funds available for investment and higher penalty interest on overdue rates balances.

NOTE 2 Budget Comparison (continued)

8	Employee costs	Outcome: Favourable \$1.028 million or 2% The favourable result is mainly a result of vacant staff positions across the organisation together with associated lower superannuation, workcover and fringe benefits tax expenses than anticipated.
9	Materials and services	Outcome: Favourable \$2.095 million or 6% The favourable variance is largely a result of some expenditure that relates to external funding and other programs which will be carried over and spent in the 2015/2016 financial year. In addition Council was able to achieve some cost efficiencies across various areas including fleet and street lighting.
10	Bad and doubtful debts	Outcome: Unfavourable \$0.037 million or 230% Doubtful debts are higher than anticipated in the budget due to one disputed sundry debtor. This is identified as a material variance due to the minor budget amount provided leading to a large percentage variance.
11	Depreciation and Amortisation	Outcome: Favourable \$3.519 million or 15% Council has changed the method in which it accounts for rehabilitation of its closed landfills and completed landfill cells, to bring it in line with industry and audit recommendations. This has led to most of the assets being written off in a prior year adjustment and amortisation expense is now only calculated on the current cells in use.
12	Landfill rehabilitation	Outcome: Unfavourable \$7.035 million or 100% A review of Council's landfill rehabilitation provision valuations has identified that the estimated cost to restore Council's closed and current landfills has materially varied from the previous amounts provided for. This expense item is a result of the associated increase in the provision.
13	Other	Outcome: Unfavourable \$0.498 million or 15% The unfavourable variance is largely due to increased EPA landfill levies as a result of higher than anticipated commercial waste levels and is fully funded by additional gate fee income.

NOTE 2 Budget Comparison (continued)

b) Capital Works

	BUDGET 2015 \$'000s	ACTUAL 2015 \$'000s	VARIANCE 2015 \$'000s	VARIANCE 2015 %	REF
Property					
Land	-	414	(414)	(100%)	1
Total Land	-	414	(414)	(100%)	
Buildings	11,179	5,464	5,715	51%	2
Total buildings	11,179	5,464	5,715	51%	
Total property	11,179	5,878	5,301	47%	
Plant and equipment					
Plant, machinery and equipment	2,115	1,823	292	14%	3
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	20	3	17	85%	4
Computers and telecommunications	510	351	159	31%	5
Art collection	15	15	-	0%	
Software	-	150	(150)	(100%)	6
Total plant and equipment	2,660	2,342	318	12%	
Infrastructure					
Roads	19,942	13,139	6,803	34%	7
Bridges	500	700	(200)	(40%)	8
Footpaths and cycleways	1,494	1,364	130	9%	
Drainage	1,455	1,604	(149)	(10%)	9
Waste management	2,800	1,108	1,692	60%	10
Parks, open space and streetscapes	252	285	(33)	(13%)	11
Aerodromes	1,300	2,873	(1,573)	(121%)	12
Off Street car parks	510	184	326	64%	13
Other infrastructure	1,138	9	1,129	99%	14
Total Infrastructure	29,391	21,266	8,125	28%	
Total capital works expenditure	43,230	29,486	13,744	32%	
Represented by:					
New asset expenditure	13,339	7,574	5,765	43%	15
Asset renewal expenditure	22,023	15,340	6,683	30%	16
Asset expansion expenditure	3,328	3,712	(384)	(12%)	17
Asset upgrade expenditure	4,540	2,860	1,680	37%	18
Total capital works expenditure	43,230	29,486	13,744	32%	

NOTE 2 Budget Comparison (continued)**Explanation of Material Variations – Capital Works**

In some line items the adopted budget has been reclassified to align the categories with those set out in the *Local Government Model Financial Report 2014-15*. This has resulted in the following amendments;

- The Land, Buildings and Improvements category has been separated into four new categories being Land, Buildings, Aerodromes and Other Infrastructure.
- The Furniture and Equipment category has been renamed to Fixtures, fittings and furniture and fitness equipment has been moved into Plant, Machinery and Equipment while a new category for Computers and telecommunications has been created.
- Landfill Cell Construction has been renamed to Waste management.
- Playgrounds have been renamed to Parks, open space and streetscapes

REF	ITEM	EXPLANATION
1	Land	Outcome: Overspend \$0.414 million or 100% This expenditure relates to land transfers in the Moe Rail Precinct Revitalisation project that was all classified as Buildings in the budget. The overall project remains within budget.
2	Buildings	Outcome: Underspend \$5.715 million or 51% The main reason for this variance is that the adopted budget originally anticipated higher expenditure on the Moe Rail Precinct Revitalisation Project in the 2014/2015 reporting period, this funding along with some other projects which have been delayed for various reasons will now be carried forward for completion in the 2015/2016 financial year.
3	Plant, machinery and equipment	Outcome: Underspend \$0.292 million or 14% The favourable variance is due to delays in the delivery of two major plant items and a delay in the replacement of some vehicles due to a review of Council's fleet replacement program.
4	Fixtures, fittings and furniture	Outcome: Underspend \$0.017 million or 86% Council has a small contingency budget for replacement of fixtures, fittings and furniture. Approximately \$10K of the budgeted amount was expended during the period, however most purchases were under Council's capitalisation threshold of one thousand dollars and therefore were treated as an expense item in the Comprehensive Income Statement.
5	Computers and telecommunications	Outcome: Underspend \$0.159 million or 31% The replacement budget for computers was not separated for software (intangible asset) purchases therefore this saving is largely offset by the over expenditure in the software category.
6	Software	Outcome: Overspend \$0.150 million or 100% The budget allocation for this category was included under computers and telecommunications.
7	Roads	Outcome: Underspend \$6.803 million or 34% The favourable variance is largely the result of the Heavy Industrial Park infrastructure project which was budgeted for in 2014/2015 but is a staged project over two financial years. In addition there have been delays experienced in the road rehabilitation program due to weather and other factors for which the funding will be carried over to complete the projects in the 2015/2016 financial year.

NOTE 2 Budget Comparison (continued)

8	Bridges	Outcome: Overspend \$0.200 million or 40% The unfavourable variance is mainly due to the Wright Street footbridge project that was budgeted for in the previous financial year but not completed until the current reporting period.
9	Drainage	Outcome: Overspend \$0.149 million or 10% The variance is largely a result of expenditure on drainage assets under projects that were not separately classified by each asset component in the budget. The main examples being the Heavy Industrial park project and Churchill Town Centre project.
10	Waste Management	Outcome: Underspend \$1.692 million or 60% This variance is due to delays in the construction of cell 4 at the Highland Highway landfill site. The funds will be carried over to complete this project in the 2015/2016 reporting period.
11	Parks, open space and streetscapes	Outcome: Overspend \$0.033 million or 13% This variance is associated with expenditure for the Morwell Town Common Access All Abilities playground project for which funding was carried forward from the previous reporting period.
12	Aerodromes	Outcome: Overspend \$1.573 million or 121% This variance is associated with expenditure for the Growing Aerospace project at Latrobe Regional Airport for which government funding was carried forward from the previous reporting period.
13	Off street car parks	Outcome: Underspend \$0.326 million or 64% This variance is largely due to expenditure for the Newman Park project budgeted as car park but mainly relating to roads and footpath assets.
14	Other infrastructure	Outcome: Underspend \$1.129 million or 99% This variance mainly relates to the Hazelwood Pondage Caravan Park waste water upgrade project which will be completed in the 2015/2016 financial reporting period.
15	New asset expenditure	Outcome: Underspend \$5.765 million or 43% The variance is mainly related to the Moe Rail Precinct Revitalisation and Cell 4 Highland Highway Landfill projects which will be completed in the 2015/2016 financial reporting period.
16	Asset renewal expenditure	Outcome: Underspend \$6.683 million or 30% This variance mainly relates to the Heavy Industrial Park and Road Rehabilitation projects which will be completed in the 2015/2016 financial reporting period.
17	Asset expansion expenditure	Outcome: Overspend \$0.385 million or 12% This variance is associated with expenditure for the Growing Aerospace project at Latrobe Regional Airport for which government funding was carried forward from the previous reporting period.
18	Asset upgrade expenditure	Outcome: Underspend \$1.680 million or 37% This variance mainly relates to the Hazelwood Pondage Caravan Park waste water upgrade and Moe North West Drainage projects which will be completed in the 2015/2016 financial reporting period.

NOTE 3 Rates and charges

Council uses Capital Improved Value (CIV) as the basis of valuation of all properties within the municipal district. The CIV of a property is the value of its land and all its improvements.

This valuation base was used to calculate general rates, excluding valuations for power generation companies and Australian Paper Maryvale Ltd:

The valuation base used to calculate general rates for 2014/15 was \$10,001,756,000 (2013/14 was \$9,909,313,000).

The applicable rates in the CIV dollar were:

	2015 \$	2014 \$
General	0.00458663	0.00442245
Farm	0.00343997	0.00331684
Cultural and recreational	0.00229332	0.00221123

This derived rate revenues of:

	2015 \$'000s	2014 \$'000s
General rates	44,751	42,770
Municipal charge	4,660	4,444
Garbage charge	9,984	9,555
EPA Victoria landfill levy	645	592
Supplementary rates and rates adjustments	503	181
Cultural and recreational	50	48
Revenue in lieu of rates	9,013	8,765
Total rates and charges	69,606	66,355

The date of the latest general revaluation of land for rating purposes within the municipal district was 1 January 2014, and the valuation was first applied in the rating year commencing 1 July 2014.

The date of the previous general revaluation of land for rating purposes within the municipal district was 1 January 2012, and the valuation first applied to the rating year commencing 1 July 2012.

NOTE 4 Statutory Fees and Fines

Infringement and costs	439	448
Town Planning Fees	34	32
Land information certificates	43	41
Permits	387	378
Other	95	90
Health Registrations	348	334
Animal Registrations	417	400
Total Statutory fees and fines	1,763	1,723

\$ FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE STATEMENTS
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

	2015 \$'000s	2014 \$'000s
NOTE 5 User Fees		
Aged and health services	1,956	1,990
Leisure centre and recreation	2,274	2,267
Child care/children's programs	5,334	5,078
Waste management services	4,426	4,054
Other fees and charges	1,130	1,092
Total User fees	15,120	14,481

NOTE 6 Grants

Grants were received in respect of the following:

Summary of Grants		
Commonwealth funded grants	6,644	5,626
State funded grants	36,313	22,223
Total	42,957	27,849

Grants – Operating

Recurrent – Commonwealth Government

Victorian Grants Commission	17,119	5,585
Family Day Care	101	127
Employment Facilitation	298	306
Other	57	115

Recurrent – State Government

Aged and Disability Programs	4,864	4,448
Preschools	3,664	3,660
Family and Children Programs	790	885
Maternal and Child Health	505	482
Libraries	494	481
Enhanced Home Visiting Program	203	210
Arts Programs	161	145
Rural Access Program	114	109
School Crossing Supervision	97	100
Community Health	898	-
Community Support and Development Programs	659	-
Other	-	223
Total Grants – Operating (Recurrent)	30,024	16,876

NOTE 6 Grants (continued)

	2015 \$'000s	2014 \$'000s
Non-Recurrent – Commonwealth Government		
Natural Disaster Recovery	-	900
Other Recreation Facilities	-	824
Energy Efficiency Lighting	1,015	23
Other	29	25
Non-Recurrent – State Government		
Healthy Communities	205	844
Natural Disaster Recovery	119	776
Economic Development	263	207
Other Recreation Facilities	375	161
Community Support and Development Programs	249	135
Other	149	194
Total Grants – Operating (Non-Recurrent)	2,404	4,089
Total Grants – Operating	32,428	20,965
Grants –Capital		
Recurrent – Commonwealth Government		
Roads to Recovery Program	1,192	1,175
Total Grants –Capital (Recurrent)	1,192	1,175
Non-Recurrent – Commonwealth Government		
Aerodromes	2,100	600
Buildings	1,100	1,069
Roads	751	485
Non-Recurrent – State Government		
Aerodromes	740	754
Buildings	2,174	2,316
Roads	2,217	484
Drainage	36	-
Footpath	39	-
Off-street Carparks	102	-
Playgrounds	78	-
Total Grants –Capital (Non-Recurrent)	9,337	5,708
Total Grants – Capital	10,529	6,884
Total Grants	42,957	27,849
Conditions on Grants		
Grants recognised as revenue during the year that were obtained on condition that they be expended in a specified manner that had not occurred at balance date were:	10,202	4,189
Grants which were recognised as revenue in prior years and were expended during the current year in the manner specified by the grantor were:	(4,412)	(11,182)
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Restricted Assets Resulting from Grant Revenues for the Year	5,790	(6,993)

\$ FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE STATEMENTS
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

	2015 \$'000s	2014 \$'000s
--	-----------------	-----------------

NOTE 7 Contributions

Monetary	784	130
Non-Monetary	7,828	4,578
Total Contributions	8,612	4,708

Contributions of non-monetary assets were received in relation to the following asset classes

Land	409	-
Infrastructure	7,419	4,578
	7,828	4,578

NOTE 8 Net Gain/ (Loss) on Disposal of Property, Infrastructure, Plant and Equipment

Proceeds of Sale	794	570
Write down value of Assets Disposed	(773)	(1,103)
Total Net Gain/ (Loss) on Disposal of Property, Infrastructure, Plant and Equipment	21	(533)

NOTE 9 Other Income

Interest	2,021	1,899
Other Rent	794	714
Insurance	119	224
Sales	634	759
Contributions Other	368	298
Other	214	327
Total other income	4,150	4,222

NOTE 10 Employee Costs

(a) Employee Costs

Salaries and Wages	43,919	43,211
Workcover	779	980
Superannuation	3,911	3,904
Fringe Benefits Tax	519	618
Other	1,106	1,187
Total Employee Costs	50,234	49,900

	2015 \$'000s	2014 \$'000s
--	-----------------	-----------------

NOTE 10 Employee Costs (continued)**(b) Superannuation**

Council made contributions to the following funds:

Defined Benefits Funds

Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	426	516
Employer contributions payable at reporting date	-	-
	426	516

Accumulation Funds

Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	3,017	2,924
Employer contributions payable at reporting date	468	464
	3,485	3,388

Council makes the majority of its employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to the Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (the Fund). This Fund has two categories of membership, accumulation and defined benefit, each of which is funded differently. Obligations for contributions to the Fund are recognised as an expense in Comprehensive Income Statement when they are made or due.

Accumulation

The Fund's accumulation categories, Vision MySuper/Vision Super Saver, receives both employer and employee contributions on a progressive basis. Employer contributions are normally based on a fixed percentage of employee earnings (for the year ended 30 June 2015, this was 9.5% required under Superannuation Guarantee legislation (for 2013/14, this was 9.25%)).

Defined Benefit

Council does not use defined benefit accounting for its defined benefit obligations under the Fund's Defined Benefit category. This is because the Fund's Defined Benefit category is a pooled multi-employer sponsored plan.

There is no proportional split of the defined benefit liabilities, assets or costs between the participating employers as the defined benefit obligation is a floating obligation between the participating employers and the only time that the aggregate obligation is allocated to specific employers is when a call is made. As a result, the level of participation of Latrobe City Council in the Fund cannot be measured as a percentage compared with other participating employers. Therefore, the Actuary is unable to allocate benefit liabilities, assets and costs between employers for the purposes of AASB 119.

NOTE 11 Materials and Services

Materials and Services	8,425	8,576
Contract Payments	17,204	16,562
Building Maintenance	152	175
General Maintenance	1,605	1,231
Utilities	3,090	3,190
Office Administration	334	339
Information Technology	1,696	1,800
Insurance	1,059	997
Consultants	1,835	1,243
Total Materials and Services	35,400	34,113

\$ FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE STATEMENTS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

	2015 \$'000s	2014 \$'000s
--	-----------------	-----------------

NOTE 12 Bad and Doubtful Debts

Other Debtors	52	8
Rates debtors	1	-
Total Bad and Doubtful Debts	53	8

NOTE 13 Depreciation and Amortisation

Property	3,673	3,586
Plant and Equipment	2,314	2,386
Infrastructure	13,222	14,311
Intangible assets	572	1,913
Total Depreciation and Amortisation	19,781	22,196

Refer to Note 21 for a more detailed breakdown of depreciation and amortisation charges.

NOTE 14 Borrowing Costs

Interest on Borrowings	1,055	1,211
Total Borrowing Costs	1,055	1,211

NOTE 15 (a) Other Expenses – Landfill Rehabilitation

Hyland Highway	3,042	-
Moe	1,146	-
Morwell	3,160	-
Other	(313)	-
Total Other Expenses	7,035	-

NOTE 15 (b) Other Expenses

Auditors' Remuneration - VAGO	56	60
Auditors' Remuneration - Internal	84	39
Audit Other	35	41
Councillors' Allowances	276	268
Operating Lease Rentals	228	186
Grants	1,305	1,519
Levies	1,832	1,610
Total Other Expenses	3,816	3,723

	2015 \$'000s	2014 \$'000s
--	-----------------	-----------------

NOTE 16 Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash on Hand	15	18
Cash at Bank	14,227	21,064
Short Term Deposits	4,000	21,550
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	18,242	42,632

Council's cash and cash equivalents are subject to external restrictions that limit amounts available for discretionary use. These include:

Trust Funds and Deposits (Note 24)	2,610	2,521
Total Restricted Funds	2,610	2,521

Total Unrestricted Cash and Cash Equivalents	15,632	40,111
---	---------------	---------------

Intended Allocations

Although not externally restricted the following amounts have been allocated for specific future purposes by Council:

Reserve funds allocated for specific future purposes (Note 27 (b))	2,624	2,326
Unexpended Grants (Note 6 – net increase of \$5.79 million from 2014 to 2015)	11,127	5,336
Total Funds Subject to Intended Allocations	13,750	7,662

NOTE 17 Trade and Other Receivables**Current**

Rates Debtors	4,069	3,221
Goods and Services Tax (GST)	1,079	943
Other debtors	3,128	3,074
Provision for doubtful debts - other debtors	(80)	(43)
Total Current Trade and Other Receivables	8,196	7,195

*Rates are payable by four instalments during the year or by lump sum in February. Arrears attract interest, currently at the rate of 9.5% per annum.

Non-Current

Other debtors	8	17
Total Non-Current Trade and Other Receivables	8	17

Total Trade and Other Receivables	8,204	7,212
--	--------------	--------------

(a) Ageing of Receivables

At Balance date other debtors representing financial assets were past due but not impaired. These amounts relate to a number of independent customers for whom there is no recent history of default. The ageing of the Council's Trade & Other Receivables (excluding statutory receivables i.e Rates and GST) was:

Current (not yet due)	559	467
Past due by up to 30 days	2,009	2,326
Past due between 31 and 60 days	78	84
Past due between 61 and 90 days	24	48
Past due by more than 90 days	466	166
Total Trade and Other Receivables	3,136	3,091

FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE STATEMENTS
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

	2015 \$'000s	2014 \$'000s
--	-----------------	-----------------

NOTE 17 Trade and Other Receivables (continued)

(b) Movement in Provision for Doubtful Debts

Balance at the beginning of the year	43	53
New Provisions recognised during the year	70	18
Amounts already provided for and written off as uncollectible	(21)	(12)
Amounts provided for but recovered during the year	(12)	(16)
Balance at the end of the year	80	43

(c) Ageing of Individually Impaired Receivables

At balance date, other debtors representing financial assets with a nominal value of \$80K (2014 \$43K) were impaired. The amount of the provision raised against these debtors was \$80K (2014 \$43K). They individually have been impaired as a result of their doubtful collection. Many of the long outstanding past due amounts have been lodged with Council's debt collectors or are on payment arrangements.

Current (not yet due)	-	-
Past due by up to 30 days	-	-
Past due between 31 and 60 days	-	-
Past due between 61 and 90 days	-	-
Past due by more than 90 days	80	43
Total Trade and Other Receivables	80	43

NOTE 18 Other Financial Assets

Current

Term Deposits with a maturity term > 90 Days	44,298	3,310
Total Current Other Financial Assets	44,298	3,310

Non-Current

MAPS Group Ltd. Shares	2	2
Total Non-Current Other Financial Assets	2	2

Total Other Financial Assets

44,300 **3,312**

NOTE 19 Non-Current Assets Classified as Held for Sale

Cost of Acquisition	926	-
Total Non-Current Assets Classified as Held for Sale	926	-

NOTE 20 Other Assets

Prepayments	331	294
Accrued Income	2,022	1,767
Total Other Assets	2,353	2,061

**NOTE 21 Property, Infrastructure, Plant and Equipment**

Land and Buildings	Note	Land - specialised (incl Land under roads)	Land - non specialised	Total Land	Buildings - specialised	Total Buildings	Work In Progress	Total Property
At fair value 1 July 2014		132,451	87,270	219,720	183,493	183,493	4,880	408,094
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2014		-	-	-	(3,585)	(3,585)	-	(3,585)
		132,451	87,270	219,720	179,909	179,909	4,880	404,509
Movements in fair value								
Acquisition of assets at fair value		824	-	824	1,430	1,430	4,033	6,288
Revaluation increments/decrements		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fair value of assets disposed		(156)	-	(156)	-	-	-	(156)
Impairment losses recognised in operating result		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers		(572)	-	(572)	(264)	(264)	(104)	(940)
		96	-	96	1,166	1,166	3,929	5,192
Movements in accumulated depreciation								
Depreciation and amortisation		-	-	-	(3,673)	(3,673)	-	(3,673)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Impairment losses recognised in operating result		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers		-	-	-	14	14	-	14
		-	-	-	(3,659)	(3,659)	-	(3,659)
At fair value 30 June 2015		132,547	87,270	219,817	184,659	184,659	8,810	413,286
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2015		-	-	-	(7,243)	(7,243)	-	(7,243)
		132,547	87,270	219,817	177,416	177,416	8,810	406,043


FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE STATEMENTS
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

NOTE 21 Property, Infrastructure, Plant and Equipment (continued)

	Plant and Equipment	Note	Plant machinery and equipment	Fixtures fittings and furniture	Computers and telecomms	Art Collection	Total plant and equipment
At fair value 1 July 2014			13,890	1,332	4,732	2,948	22,902
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2014			(6,247)	(1,049)	(3,127)	-	(10,423)
			7,643	283	1,605	2,948	12,479
Movements in fair value							
Acquisition of assets at fair value			1,823	3	351	15	2,191
Revaluation increments/decrements			-	-	-	-	-
Fair value of assets disposed			(1,717)	-	(17)	-	(1,734)
Impairment losses recognised in operating result			-	-	-	-	-
Transfers			-	-	-	-	-
			106	3	333	15	457
Movements in accumulated depreciation							
Depreciation and amortisation			(1,727)	(85)	(502)	-	(2,314)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals			1,044	-	16	-	1,060
Impairment losses recognised in operating result			-	-	-	-	-
Transfers			-	-	-	-	-
			(683)	(85)	(486)		(1,254)
At fair value 30 June 2015			13,996	1,335	5,065	2,963	23,359
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2015			(6,929)	(1,134)	(3,613)	-	(11,676)
			7,067	201	1,452	2,963	11,683

**NOTE 21 Property, Infrastructure, Plant and Equipment (continued)**

Infrastructure	Note	Roads	Bridges	Footpaths and cycleways	Drainage	Waste Management	Parks open spaces and streetscapes	Aerodromes	Off street car parks	Work In Progress	Total Infrastructure
At fair value 1 July 2014		605,510	41,542	73,138	153,549	5,102	2,762	688	10,682	5,021	897,994
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2014		(163,487)	(14,475)	(36,662)	(61,671)	(3,405)	(1,090)	(1)	(2,664)	-	(283,454)
		442,023	27,067	36,476	91,878	1,697	1,672	687	8,018	5,021	614,539
Movements in fair value											
Acquisition of assets at fair value		12,769	556	1,799	6,604	-	271	2,873	184	3,628	28,684
Revaluation increments/decrements		69,830	12,534	(3,144)	30,874	-	-	-	357	-	110,451
Fair value of assets disposed		(2,784)	(243)	(106)	(24)	-	(14)	-	(613)	-	(3,784)
Impairment losses recognised in operating result		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers		2,059	405	-	-	-	8	1,367	113	(3,972)	(21)
		81,874	13,252	(1,452)	37,454	265	4,240	41	(345)	(345)	135,329
Movements in accumulated depreciation											
Depreciation and amortisation		(8,088)	(539)	(1,204)	(1,510)	(1,542)	(125)	(14)	(200)	-	(13,222)
Accumulated depreciation of revaluation		2,590	(6,172)	15,488	(17,748)	-	-	-	1,741	-	(4,100)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals		3,431	114	63	11	-	13	-	210	-	3,841
Impairment losses recognised in operating result		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		(2,067)	(6,597)	14,347	(19,247)	(1,542)	(112)	(14)	1,751	-	(13,481)
At fair value 30 June 2015		687,384	54,794	71,686	191,003	5,102	3,027	4,928	10,723	4,676	1,033,323
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2015		(165,554)	(21,072)	(22,315)	(80,918)	(4,946)	(1,202)	(15)	(913)	-	(296,936)
		521,830	33,722	49,371	110,085	155	1,825	4,913	9,809	4,676	736,387

NOTE 21 Property, Infrastructure, Plant and Equipment (*continued*)

Valuation of land and buildings

Valuation of land and buildings were undertaken by a qualified independent valuer, CJA Lee Property – Valuers and Consultants (Registration number: 61902). The valuation of land and buildings is at fair value, being market value based on highest and best use permitted by relevant land planning provisions. Where land use is restricted through existing planning provisions the valuation is reduced to reflect this limitation. This adjustment is an unobservable input in the valuation. The adjustment has no impact on the comprehensive income statement.

Specialised land is valued at fair value using site values adjusted for englobo (undeveloped and/or unserviced) characteristics, access rights and private interests of other parties and entitlements of infrastructure assets and services. This adjustment is an unobservable input in the valuation. The adjustment has no impact on the comprehensive income statement.

Any significant movements in the unobservable inputs for land and land under roads will have a significant impact on the fair value of these assets.

Details of the Council's land and buildings and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 30 June 2015 are as follows:

	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
	\$'000s	\$'000s	\$'000s
Land – Non Specialised	-	87,270	-
Land – Specialised	-	-	132,547
Buildings – Specialised	-	-	177,416
Total	-	87,270	309,963

Valuation of infrastructure

Valuation of infrastructure assets has been determined in accordance with an independent valuation undertaken by Assetic Pty Ltd MIE(Aust) CPEng, NPER : Membership 1102199.

The valuation is at fair value based on replacement cost less accumulated depreciation as at the date of valuation.

Details of the Council's infrastructure and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 30 June 2015 are as follows:

	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
	\$'000s	\$'000s	\$'000s
Roads	-	-	521,830
Bridges	-	-	33,722
Footpaths and cycleways	-	-	49,371
Drainage	-	-	110,085
Waste management	-	-	155
Parks, open space and streetscapes	-	-	1,825
Aerodromes	-	-	4,913
Off street car parks	-	-	9,809
Total	-	-	731,710

NOTE 21 Property, Infrastructure, Plant and Equipment (continued)**Description of significant unobservable inputs into level 3 valuations**

Specialised land and land under roads is valued using a market based direct comparison technique. Significant unobservable inputs include the extent and impact of restriction of use and the market cost of land per square metre. The extent and impact of restrictions on use varies and results in a reduction to surrounding land values between 5% and 95%. The market value of land varies significantly depending on the location of the land and the current market conditions.

Specialised buildings are valued using a depreciated replacement cost technique. Significant unobservable inputs include the current replacement cost and remaining useful lives of buildings. Current replacement costs are calculated on a square metre basis and ranges from \$350 to \$6,462 per square metre. The remaining useful lives of buildings are determined on the basis of the current condition of buildings and vary from 30 years to 50 years. Replacement cost is sensitive to changes in market conditions, with any increase or decrease in cost flowing through to the valuation. Useful lives of buildings are sensitive to changes in expectations or requirements that could either shorten or extend the useful lives of buildings.

Infrastructure assets are valued based on the depreciated replacement cost. Significant unobservable inputs include the current replacement cost and remaining useful lives of infrastructure. The remaining useful lives of infrastructure assets are determined on the basis of the current condition of the asset and vary from 0 to 100 years. Replacement cost is sensitive to changes in market conditions, with any increase or decrease in cost flowing through to the valuation. Useful lives of infrastructure are sensitive to changes in use, expectations or requirements that could either shorten or extend the useful lives of infrastructure assets.

	2015 \$'000s	2014 \$'000s
Reconciliation of specialised land		
Land under roads	18,108	18,174
Parks, reserves and other	114,439	114,276
Total specialised land	132,547	132,450



POPPIES PLANTED IN COUNCIL GARDENS FOR REMEMBRANCE DAY

NOTE 22 Intangible Assets

	2015 \$'000s	2014 \$'000s
Software	299	240
Landfill Air Space	49	530
Total Intangible Assets	348	770

	Software \$'000s	Landfill Air Space \$'000s	Total \$'000s
Gross Carrying Amount			
Balance at 1 July 2013	832	18,751	19,583
Additions from Internal Developments	58	-	58
Other	-	71	71
Prior Period Adjustment	-	(3,852)	(3,852)
Balance at 1 July 2014	890	14,970	15,860
Additions from Internal Developments	150	-	150
Balance at 30 June 2015	1,040	14,970	16,010

Accumulated Amortisation and Impairment

Balance at 1 July 2013	(571)	(8,691)	(9,262)
Amortisation Expense	(80)	(1,833)	(1,913)
Prior Period Adjustment	-	(3,915)	(3,915)
Balance at 1 July 2014	(651)	(14,439)	(15,090)
Amortisation Expense	(90)	(482)	(572)
Balance at 30 June 2015	(741)	(14,921)	(15,662)

Net Book Value at 30 June 2014

240 **530** **770**

Net Book Value at 30 June 2015

299 **49** **348**

NOTE 23 Trade and Other Payables

Trade Payables	11,065	8,529
Accrued Expenses	2,273	2,106
Total Trade and Other Payables	13,338	10,635

NOTE 24 Trust Funds and Deposits

Refundable deposits	1,980	1,558
Fire Service Levy	357	307
Retention amounts	218	625
Other refundable deposits	55	31
Total Trust Funds and Deposits	2,610	2,521

Purpose and Nature of Items

Refundable deposits – Deposits are taken by Council as a form of surety in a number of circumstances, including in relation to contracts, asset protection, planning permit works and the use of civic facilities.

Fire Service Levy – Council is the collection agent for fire services levy on behalf of the State Government. Council remits amounts received on a quarterly basis. Amounts disclosed here will be remitted to the state government in line with that process.

Retention amounts - Council has a contractual right to retain certain amounts until a contractor has met certain requirements or a related warrant or defect period has elapsed. Subject to the satisfactory completion of the contractual obligations, or the elapsing of time, these amounts will be paid to the relevant contractor in line with Council's contractual obligations.

NOTE 25 Provisions

	Annual Leave \$'000s	Long Service Leave \$'000s	Landfill Rehabilitation \$'000s	Total \$'000s
2015				
Balance at Beginning of the Financial Year	3,930	8,256	14,132	26,318
Additional Provisions	3,751	1,430	7,038	12,219
Amounts Used	(3,570)	(1,261)	(1,618)	(6,449)
Increase in the discounted amount arising because of time and effect of any change in the discount rate	6	459	(3)	462
Balance at the End of the Financial Year	4,117	8,884	19,549	32,550
2014				
Balance at Beginning of the Financial Year	3,707	8,164	16,415	28,285
Prior period corrections (Note 1 (aa))				
Increase in provision due to recognition of aftercare costs not previously recognised	-	-	2,236	2,236
Adjustment re reduction in provision for Hyland Highway landfill provision to exclude future cells (4ha) not yet constructed	-	-	(3,852)	(3,852)
Revised balance at the beginning of the Financial Year	3,707	8,164	14,799	26,669
Additional Provisions	3,805	742	-	4,547
Amounts Used	(3,587)	(807)	(738)	(5,131)
Increase in the discounted amount arising because of time and effect of any change in the discount rate	5	156	71	233
Balance at the End of the Financial Year	3,930	8,256	14,132	26,318

	2015 \$'000s	2014 \$'000s
--	-----------------	-----------------

(a) Employee Provisions**Current Provisions Expected to be wholly settled within 12 months**

Annual Leave	3,822	3,650
Long Service Leave	1,963	1,882
	5,785	5,532

Current Provisions Expected to be wholly settled after 12 months

Annual Leave	295	280
Long Service Leave	5,368	5,003
	5,663	5,283
Total Current Provisions	11,448	10,815

Non-Current

Long Service Leave	1,553	1,370
Total Non-Current Provisions	1,553	1,370

Aggregate Carrying Amount of Employee Provisions

Current	11,448	10,815
Non-Current	1,553	1,370
Total Aggregate Carrying Amount of Employee Provisions	13,001	12,185

The following assumptions were adopted in measuring the present value of employee benefits:

Weighted average increase in Employee Costs	4.44%	4.44%
Weighted average discount rates	2.58%	3.06%
Weighted average settlement period	12 mths	12 mths

NOTE 25 Provisions (continued)

	2015 \$'000s	2014 \$'000s
(b) Landfill Restoration		
Current	2,325	2,120
Non-Current	17,224	12,012
	19,549	14,132

The following assumptions were adopted in measuring the present value of landfill rehabilitation:

Weighted average increase in costs	2.75%	3.39%
Weighted average discount rates	2.09%	2.70%
Weighted average settlement period	4.7 yrs	5.3 yrs

(c) Summary of provisions

Current	13,773	12,935
Non-current	18,776	13,383
	32,549	26,318

NOTE 26 Interest-Bearing Loans and Borrowings**Current**

Borrowings – Secured	5,710	10,823
Total Current	5,710	10,823

Non-Current

Borrowings – Secured	14,684	8,828
Total Non-Current	14,684	8,828

Total Interest-Bearing Loans and Borrowings	20,394	19,651
--	---------------	---------------

All borrowings are secured over Council's Rate Revenue

The maturity profile for Council's borrowings is:

Not later than one year	5,710	10,823
Later than one year and not later than five years	14,155	7,485
Later than five years	529	1,343
	20,394	19,651

NOTE 27 Reserves**(a) Asset Revaluation Reserves**

	Balance at beginning of reporting period \$'000s	Increment/ (Decrement) \$'000s	Balance at end of reporting period \$'000s
2015			
Property			
Land	167,239	-	167,239
Buildings	89,547	-	89,547
	256,786	-	256,786
Infrastructure			
Roads	61,716	72,420	134,136
Bridges	22,620	6,362	28,982
Footpaths and cycleways	6,967	12,344	19,311
Off street carparks	4,982	2,098	7,080
Drainage	46,244	13,126	59,370
Parks, open space and streetscapes	63	-	63
	142,592	106,350	248,942
Other			
Artworks	727	-	727
Other	14	-	14
	741	-	741
Total Asset Revaluation Reserves	400,119	106,350	506,469
2014			
Property			
Land	166,373	866	167,239
Buildings	89,547	-	89,547
	255,920	-	256,786
Infrastructure			
Roads	61,716	-	61,716
Bridges	22,620	-	22,620
Footpaths and cycleways	6,967	-	6,967
Off street carparks	4,982	-	4,982
Drainage	46,244	-	46,244
Parks, open space and streetscapes	63	-	63
	142,592	-	142,592
Other			
Artworks	727	-	727
Other	14	-	14
	741	-	741
Total Asset Revaluation Reserves	399,253	866	400,119

The asset revaluation reserve is used to record the increased (net) value of Council's assets over time.

NOTE 27 Reserves (continued)

(b) Other Reserves

	Balance at beginning of reporting period \$'000s	Transfer from accumulated surplus \$'000s	Transfer to accumulated surplus \$'000s	Balance at end of reporting period \$'000s
2015				
Developer Contributions	2,326	(51)	349	2,624
Total Other Reserves	2,326	(51)	349	2,624
2014				
Developer Contributions	2,454	(164)	36	2,326
Total Other Reserves	2,453	(164)	36	2,326

Purpose and Nature of Other Reserves

Developer Contributions – The development contribution reserve is maintained to account for funds held by the Council for specific development purposes include off street parking, drainage, playgrounds and public open spaces and tree planting development.

NOTE 28 Reconciliation of Cash Flows from Operating Activities to Surplus/ (Deficit)

	2015 \$'000s	2014 \$'000s
Surplus for the year	24,855	7,653
Depreciation and Amortisation	19,781	22,195
Net (gain)/loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	(21)	533
Contributions Non-monetary assets	(7,828)	(4,578)
Finance Costs	1,055	1,211
Changes in Assets and Liabilities		
(Increase)/ decrease in trade and other receivables	(992)	(2,691)
(Increase)/ decrease in prepayments	(37)	(86)
(Increase)/ decrease in accrued income	(255)	(275)
Increase/ (decrease) in trade and other payables	(149)	(5,753)
Increase/ (decrease) in trust funds and deposits	88	478
Increase/ (decrease) in provisions	6,233	(423)
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	42,730	18,263

NOTE 29 Financing Arrangements

Facilities		
Bank Overdraft	1,000	1,000
Interest-bearing loans and borrowings	20,394	19,651
Total Facilities	21,394	20,651
Unused Facilities	1,000	1,000

NOTE 30 Commitments

The Council has entered into the following commitments

	Not Later than 1 Year	Later than 1 Year and Not Later than 2 Years	Later than 2 Years and Not Later than 5 Years	Later than 5 Years	Total
	\$'000s	\$'000s	\$'000s	\$'000s	\$'000s
2015					
Operating					
Recycling	1,723	1,396	195	-	3,314
Garbage Collection	2,902	2,982	4,639	-	10,523
Courier Service	57	39	-	-	96
Consultancies	482	-	-	-	482
Cleaning contracts for council amenities/streets	473	168	-	-	641
Cleaning contracts for council buildings	403	-	-	-	403
Meals for Delivery	200	-	-	-	200
Total	6,240	4,585	4,834	-	15,659
Capital Construction					
Plant, Machinery and Equipment	75	-	-	-	75
Buildings	8,956	-	-	-	8,956
Drainage	322	-	-	-	322
Footpaths	60	-	-	-	60
Roads	1,047	-	-	-	1,047
Landfill	907	-	-	-	907
Total	11,367	-	-	-	11,367
2014					
Operating					
Garbage Collection	3,110	3,203	8,447	-	14,760
Recycling	1,451	1,397	2,439	-	5,287
Cleaning Contracts for Council amenities/streets	385	198	-	-	583
Cleaning Contracts for Council Buildings	475	5	-	-	480
Meals for Delivery	96	-	-	-	96
Consultancies	89	-	-	-	89
Sanitary Disposal Services	56	5	-	-	61
Courier Services	23	-	-	-	23
Total	5,628	4,803	10,887	-	21,318
Capital Construction					
Buildings	5	-	-	-	5
Roads	680	-	-	-	680
Bridges	353	-	-	-	353
Total	1,038	-	-	-	1,038

NOTE 31 Operating Leases

Operating Lease Commitments

At the reporting date, the Council has the following obligations under non-cancellable operating leases for the lease of equipment and land and buildings for use within Council's activities (these obligations are not recognised as liabilities):

	2015 \$'000s	2014 \$'000s
Not later than one year	95	163
Later than one year and not later than five years	398	403
Later than five years	1,329	1,401
	1,822	1,967

NOTE 32 Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Contingent Liabilities

A Supreme Court action was issued against Latrobe City Council in relation to the ownership of the Morwell Main Drain. Latrobe City Council will be defending this claim in the Supreme Court with proceedings that began on the 6 July 2015. As this matter is yet to be finalised there is no present obligation, and as the financial outcomes are unable to be reliably estimated, no provision has been made in the financial report.

In the 2014/15 financial year, Latrobe City Council referred allegations of fraud to the Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission. This matter is still under investigation, and details and outcomes of the investigation were unknown, at the time of the compiling of the Annual Report.

Council has set aside a provision for the rehabilitation of landfill sites. The amounts provisioned are management's best estimates of the cost to rehabilitate these sites however until the rehabilitation plans have been designed and approved by the Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) there is a possibility that Council's obligations could further increase in respect to these sites.

Council has obligations under a defined benefit superannuation scheme that may result in the need to make additional contributions to the scheme to ensure that the liabilities of the fund are covered by the assets of the fund. As a result of the volatility in financial markets the likelihood of making such contributions in future periods exists. At this point in time it is not known if additional contributions will be required, their timing or potential amount.

Funding arrangements

Latrobe City Council makes employer contributions to the defined benefit category of the Fund at rates determined by the Trustee on the advice of the Fund's Actuary.

The Fund's latest actuarial investigation was held as at 30 June 2014 and it was determined that the vested benefit index (VBI) of the defined benefit category of which Latrobe City Council is a contributing employer was 103.4%. To determine the VBI, the fund Actuary used the following long-term assumptions:

Net investment returns	7.5% pa
Salary information	4.25% pa
Price inflation (CPI)	2.75% pa.

Vision Super has advised that the estimated VBI at 30 June 2015 was 105.8%

The VBI is to be used as the primary funding indicator. Because the VBI was above 100%, the actuarial investigation determined the defined benefit category was in a satisfactory financial position and that no change was necessary to the defined benefit category's funding arrangements from prior years.

NOTE 32 Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets (continued)**Employer contributions****Regular contributions**

On the basis of the results of the most recent full actuarial investigation conducted by the Fund's Actuary as at 30 June 2014, Latrobe City Council makes employer contributions to the Fund's Defined Benefit category at rates determined by the Fund's Trustee. For the year ended 30 June 2015, this rate was 9.5% of members' salaries. This rate will increase in line with any increase to the Superannuation Guarantee (SG) contribution rate

In addition, Latrobe City Council reimburses the Fund to cover the excess of the benefits paid as a consequence of retrenchment above the funded resignation or retirement benefit.

Funding calls

If the defined benefit category is in an unsatisfactory financial position at actuarial investigation or the defined benefit category's VBI is below its shortfall limit at any time other than the date of the actuarial investigation, the defined benefit category has a shortfall for the purposes of SPS 160 and the Fund is required to put a plan in place so that the shortfall is fully funded within three years of the shortfall occurring. The Fund monitors its VBI on a quarterly basis and the Fund has set its shortfall limit at 97%.

In the event that the Fund Actuary determines that there is a shortfall based on the above requirement, the Fund's participating employers (including [Employer name]) are required to make an employer contribution to cover the shortfall.

Using the agreed methodology, the shortfall amount is apportioned between the participating employers based on the pre-1 July 1993 and post-30 June 1993 service liabilities of the Fund's defined benefit category, together with the employer's payroll at 30 June 1993 and at the date the shortfall has been calculated.

Due to the nature of the contractual obligations between the participating employers and the Fund, and that the Fund includes lifetime pensioners and their reversionary beneficiaries, it is unlikely that the Fund will be wound up.

If there is a surplus in the Fund, the surplus cannot be returned to the participating employers.

In the event that a participating employer is wound-up, the defined benefit obligations of that employer will be transferred to that employer's successor.

Latest actuarial investigation surplus amounts

The Fund's latest actuarial investigation as at 30 June 2014 identified the following in the defined benefit category of which [Employer name] is a contributing employer:

- A VBI surplus of \$77.1 million; and
A total service liability surplus of \$236 million.

The VBI surplus means that the market value of the fund's assets supporting the defined benefit obligations exceed the vested benefits that the defined benefit members would have been entitled to if they had all exited on 30 June 2014.

The total service liability surplus means that the current value of the assets in the Fund's defined benefit category plus expected future contributions exceeds the value of expected future benefits and expenses.

Latrobe City Council was notified of the results of the actuarial investigation during January 2015.

NOTE 32 Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets *(continued)*

Superannuation contributions

Contributions by Latrobe City Council (excluding any unfunded liability payments) to the above superannuation plans for the financial year ended 30 June 2015 are detailed below:

Scheme	Type of scheme	Rate	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
Vision Super	Defined benefits	9.5%	426	516
Vision Super	Accumulation	9.5%	3,017	2,924

In addition to the above contributions, Latrobe City Council has paid unfunded liability payments to Vision Super totalling \$Nil paid during the 2014/15 year (2013/14 Nil).

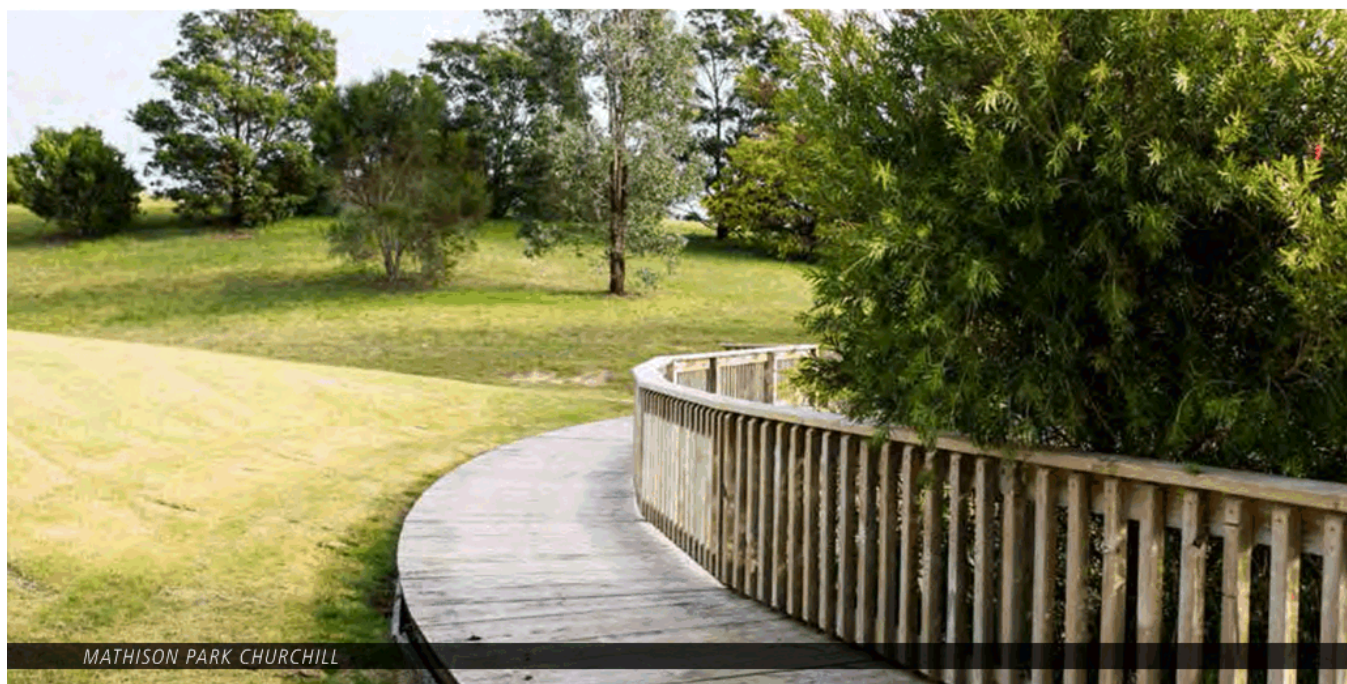
There were \$468K contributions outstanding and \$0 loans issued from or to the above schemes as at 30 June 2015.

The expected contributions to be paid to the defined benefit category of Vision Super for the year ending 30 June 2016 is \$542K.

Contingent Assets

Construction of infrastructure assets by developers in the course of creating new subdivisions results in the infrastructure assets being vested in Council when Council issues a Statement of Compliance. These assets are brought to account as revenue and capitalised. At reporting date, developers had commenced construction of assets that will eventually be transferred to Council contingent upon Council issuing a Statement of Compliance.

Due to the nature of the arrangements in place and the assets involved, a contingent asset cannot be reliably measured prior to completion.



NOTE 33 Financial Instruments

(a) Objectives and Policies

The Council's principal financial instruments comprise cash assets, term deposits, receivables (excluding statutory receivables), payables (excluding statutory payables) and bank borrowings. Details of the significant accounting policies and methods adopted, including the criteria for recognition, the basis of measurement and the basis on which income and expenses are recognised, in respect of each class of financial asset, financial liability and equity instrument is disclosed in Note 1 of the financial statements. Risk management is carried out by senior management under policies approved by the Council. These policies include identification and analysis of the risk exposure to Council and appropriate procedures, controls and risk minimisation.

(b) Market Risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of our financial instruments will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. The Council's exposures to market risk is primarily through interest rate risk with only insignificant exposure to other price risks and no exposure to foreign currency risk.

Interest Rates Risk

Interest rate risk refers to the risk that the value of a financial instrument or cash flows associated with the instrument will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates. Council's interest rate liability risk arises primarily from long term loans and borrowings at fixed rates which exposes us to fair value interest rate risk / Council does not hold any interest bearing financial instruments that are measured at fair value, and therefore has no exposure to fair value interest rate risk. Cash flow interest rate risk is the risk that the future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. Council has minimal exposure to cash flow interest rate risk through its cash and deposits that are at floating rate.

Investment of surplus funds is made with approved financial institutions under the *Local Government Act 1989*. Interest rate risk is managed by adopting an investment policy that ensures:

- conformity with State and Federal regulations and standards,
- diversification by credit rating, financial institution and investment product,
- monitoring of return on investment
- benchmarking of returns and comparison with budget.

Maturity will be staggered to provide for interest rate variations and to minimise interest rate risk.

There has been no significant change in the Council's exposure, or its objectives, policies and processes for managing interest rate risk or the methods used to measure this risk from the previous reporting period.

Interest rate movements have not been sufficiently significant during the year to have an impact on the Council's year end result.

(c) Credit Risk

Credit risk is the risk that a contracting entity will not complete its obligations under a financial instrument and cause us to make a financial loss. Council has exposure to credit risk on some financial assets included in the balance sheet. To help manage this risk the Council:

- has a policy for establishing credit limits for the entities it deals with;
- may require collateral where appropriate; and
- only invests surplus funds with financial institutions which have a recognised credit rating specified in our investment policy.

Receivables consist of a large number of customers, spread across the ratepayer, business and government sectors. Credit risk associated with the Council's financial assets is minimal because the main debtor is secured by a charge over the rateable property.

There are no material financial assets which are individually determined to be impaired.

NOTE 33 Financial Instruments *(continued)*

(c) Credit Risk *(continued)*

Council may also be subject to credit risk for transactions which are not included in the balance sheet, such as when Council provide a guarantee for another party. Details of our contingent liabilities are disclosed in note 32.

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date to recognised financial assets is the carrying amount, net of any provisions for impairment of those assets, as disclosed in the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements. Council does not hold any collateral.

(d) Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk includes the risk that, as a result of Council's operational liquidity requirements Council will not have sufficient funds to settle a transaction when required, Council will be forced to sell a financial asset at below value or may be unable to settle or recover a financial asset.

To help reduce these risks Council:

- have readily accessible standby facilities and other funding arrangements in place;
- have a liquidity portfolio structure that requires surplus funds to be invested within various bands of liquid instruments;
- monitor budget to actual performance on a regular basis; and
- set limits on borrowings relating to the percentage of loans to rate revenue and percentage of loan principal repayments to rate revenue.

The Council's maximum exposure to liquidity risk is the carrying amounts of financial liabilities as disclosed in the face of the balance sheet and the amounts related to any financial guarantees disclosed in Note 32, and is deemed insignificant based on prior periods' data and current assessment of risk.

There has been no significant change in Council's exposure, or its objectives, policies and processes for managing liquidity risk or the methods used to measure this risk from the previous reporting period.

With the exception of borrowings, all financial liabilities are expected to be settled within normal terms of trade. Details of the maturity profile for borrowings are disclosed at Note 26.

Unless otherwise stated, the carrying amounts of financial instruments reflect their fair value.

(e) Fair Value

Unless otherwise stated, the carrying amount of financial instruments reflect their fair value

Fair value hierarchy

Council's financial assets and liabilities are not valued in accordance with the fair value hierarchy, Council's financial assets and liabilities are measured at amortised cost.

(f) Sensitivity Disclosure Analysis

Taking into account past performance, future expectations, economic forecasts, and management's knowledge and experience of the financial markets, Council believes the following movements are 'reasonably possible' over the next 12 months:

- A parallel shift of + 1% and -1% in market interest rates (AUD) from year-end rates of 2%.

These movements will not have a material impact on the valuation of Council's financial assets and liabilities, nor will they have a material impact on the results of Council's operations.

NOTE 34 Related Party Transactions**(a) Responsible Persons**

Names of persons holding the position of a Responsible Person at the Council at any time during the year are:

		From	To
Councillors:	Darrell White	01/07/14	30/06/15
	Graeme Middlemiss	01/07/14	30/06/15
	Sandy Kam	01/07/14	30/06/15
	Kellie O'Callaghan	01/07/14	30/06/15
	Sharon Gibson	01/07/14	30/06/15
	Dale Harriman	01/07/14	30/06/15
	Michael Rossiter	01/07/14	30/06/15
	Christine Sindt	01/07/14	30/06/15
	Peter Gibbons	01/07/14	30/06/15
Chief Executive Officer:	John Mitchell (Acting)	01/07/14	24/12/14
	Vince Haining (Acting)	17/09/14	17/10/14
	Vince Haining (Acting)	24/12/14	18/01/15
	Gary Van Driel	19/01/15	30/06/15

(b) Remuneration of Responsible Persons

The numbers of Responsible Persons whose total remuneration from Council and any related entities, excluding retirement benefits, fall within the following bands:

	2015 No.	2014 No.
Income Range		
\$20,000 - \$29,999	7	7
\$40,000 - \$49,999	1	1
\$50,000 - \$59,999	2	-
\$60,000 - \$69,999	-	1
\$100,000 - \$109,000	1	-
\$140,000 - \$149,999	1	1
\$210,000 - \$219,999	-	1
Total	12	11

	2015 \$'000s	2014 \$'000s
Total Remuneration for the reporting year for Responsible Persons included above amount to:	573	650

FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE STATEMENTS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

NOTE 34 Related Party Transactions *(continued)*

(c) Senior Officers Remuneration

A Senior Officer other than a Responsible Person, is an officer of Council who:

- has management responsibilities and reports directly to the Chief Executive; or
- whose total annual remuneration exceeds \$136,000 (2013/14 \$133,000).

The number of Senior Officers other than the Responsible Persons, are shown below in their relevant income bands:

	2015 No.	2014 No.
Income Range		
<\$136,000	-	2
\$136,000 - \$139,999	2	3
\$140,000 - \$149,999	7	3
\$150,000 - \$159,999	2	2
\$160,000 - \$169,999	3	-
\$170,000 - \$179,999	-	2
\$190,000 - \$199,999	-	1
\$220,000 - \$229,999	-	1
Total	14	14

	2015 \$'000s	2014 \$'000s
Total Remuneration for the reporting year for Senior Officers included above amount to:	2,083	2,187

(d) Responsible Persons Retirement Benefits

No retirement benefits have been paid during the reporting period by Council in connection with the retirement of responsible persons of the Council. (2013/14 \$Nil)

(e) Loans to Responsible Persons

No Loans have been made, guaranteed or secured by the council to a responsible person of the council, or a related party of a responsible person during the reporting period. (2013/14 \$Nil)

(f) Transactions with Responsible Persons

During the period Council entered into the following transactions with responsible persons or related parties of responsible persons:

- Morwell Bowling Club**
Councillor Darrell White is a Director of Morwell Bowling Club. For the year ended 30 June 2015, Council paid Morwell Bowling Club \$7,730.50 for Catering and Room Hire.
- South Eastern Australian Transport Strategy Inc (SEATS)**
Councillor Graeme Middlemiss is the Secretary and Executive Member of South East Australia Transport Strategy Inc (SEATS). For the year ended 30 June 2015, Council paid SEATS \$6,664.60 for a membership subscription.
- Barrier Breakers**
Councillor Sandy Kam is the Returning Officer of Barrier Breakers. For the year ended 30 June 2015, Council paid Barrier Breakers \$1,540 for Community Grants Program.
- Timber Towns Victoria**
Councillor Sandy Kam is the Deputy Chair (Vice President) of Timber Towns Victoria. For the year ended 30 June 2015, Council paid Timber Towns Victoria \$2,750 for membership subscription.
- National Timber Council Association**
Councillor Sandy Kam is the President of National Timber Council Association. For the year ended 30 June 2015, Council paid National Timber Council Association \$2,750 for membership subscription.
- John Mitchell Consulting Pty Ltd**
John Mitchell is the Managing Director of John Mitchell Consulting Pty Ltd. For the year ended 30 June 2015, Council paid John Mitchell Consulting Pty Ltd \$8,983 for consultancy work in relation to his knowledge of issues occurring during his period of employment with Council. All services were performed after his employment with Council had concluded.

NOTE 35 Events Occurring after Balance Date

No matters have occurred after balance date that requires disclosure in the financial report. (2013/14, Nil)

Certification of the Financial Statements

In my opinion the accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989*, the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014*, Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

Principal Accounting Officer



Matthew Rogers, CPA
Dated: 15 September 2015

In our opinion the accompanying financial statements present fairly the financial transactions of Latrobe City Council for the year ended 30 June 2015 and the financial position of the Council as at the date.

As at the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances which would render any particulars in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

We have been authorised by the Council and by the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014* to certify the financial statements in their final form.

Councillor



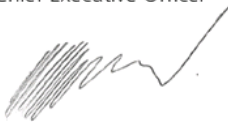
Cr. Darrell White
Dated: 15 September 2015

Councillor



Cr. Michael Rossiter
Dated: 15 September 2015

Chief Executive Officer



Gary Van Driel
Dated: 15 September 2015

 FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE STATEMENTS

VAGO

Victorian Auditor-General's Office

Level 24, 35 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
Telephone 81 3 8601 7000
Facsimile 81 3 8601 7010
Email comments@audit.vic.gov.au
Website www.audit.vic.gov.au

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Councillors, Latrobe City Council

The Financial Report

The accompanying financial report for the year ended 30 June 2015 of Latrobe City Council which comprises the comprehensive income statement, balance sheet, statement of changes in equity, statement of cash flows, statement of capital works, notes comprising a summary of the significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the certification of the financial statements has been audited.

The Councillors' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Councillors of Latrobe City Council are responsible for the preparation and the fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, and the financial reporting requirements of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

The Councillors are responsible for such internal control as the Councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

As required by the *Audit Act 1994* and the *Local Government Act 1989*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit, which has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require compliance with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and that the audit be planned and performed to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The audit procedures selected depend on judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, consideration is given to the internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.

An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Councillors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Auditing in the Public Interest

Independent Auditor's Report (continued)*Independence*

The Auditor-General's independence is established by the *Constitution Act 1975*. The Auditor-General is not subject to direction by any person about the way in which his powers and responsibilities are to be exercised. In conducting the audit, the Auditor-General, his staff and delegates complied with all applicable independence requirements of the Australian accounting profession.

Opinion

In my opinion the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Latrobe City Council as at 30 June 2015 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with applicable Australian Accounting Standards, and the financial reporting requirements of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

MELBOURNE
17 September 2015


John Doyle M.Acc FCA
Auditor-General



Performance Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2015

Description of municipality

Latrobe City is Victoria's eastern Regional City and Gippsland's primary service centre and employment hub, providing retail, entertainment, education, government and health services to the region with a population of 73,653¹.

Latrobe City is located an hour and half drive east of Melbourne covering an area of 1,425 square kilometres situated between the Strzelecki Ranges to the south and the Great Dividing Range to the north. The city is made up of four major towns; Churchill, Moe/Newborough, Morwell and Traralgon; and seven rural townships of Boolarra, Glengarry, Toongabbie, Tyers, Traralgon South, Yallourn North and Yinnar. The rural landscape in between townships houses a large population of hard working farmers and residents who enjoy the peace and tranquillity that comes with country life.

¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics 3218.0 Regional Population Growth Australia, 31 March 2015 E.R.P 2014

Sustainable Capacity Indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2015

<i>Indicator/measure</i>	Results 2015	Material Variations
Own-source revenue <i>Own-source revenue per head of municipal population</i> [Own-source revenue / Municipal population]	\$1,231	No material variations
Recurrent grants <i>Recurrent grants per head of municipal population</i> [Recurrent grants / Municipal population]	\$424	No material variations
Population <i>Expenses per head of municipal population</i> [Total expenses / Municipal population]	\$1,594	No material variations
<i>Infrastructure per head of municipal population</i> [Value of infrastructure / Municipal population]	\$12,685	No material variations
<i>Population density per length of road</i> [Municipal population / Kilometres of local roads]	47	No material variations
Disadvantage <i>Relative socio-economic disadvantage</i> [Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage by decile]	1	No material variations

Definitions

"adjusted underlying revenue" means total income other than—
(a) non-recurrent grants used to fund capital expenditure; and
(b) non-monetary asset contributions; and
(c) contributions to fund capital expenditure from sources other than those referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b)

"infrastructure" means non-current property, plant and equipment excluding land

"local road" means a sealed or unsealed road for which the council is the responsible road authority under the *Road Management Act 2004*

"population" means the resident population estimated by council

"own-source revenue" means adjusted underlying revenue other than revenue that is not under the control of council (including government grants)

"relative socio-economic disadvantage", in relation to a municipality, means the relative socio-economic disadvantage, expressed as a decile for the relevant financial year, of the area in which the municipality is located according to the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (Catalogue Number 2033.0.55.001) of SEIFA

"SEIFA" means the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas published from time to time by the Australian Bureau of Statistics on its Internet website

"unrestricted cash" means all cash and cash equivalents other than restricted cash.

 FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE STATEMENTS

Service Performance Indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2015

<i>Service/indicator/measure</i>	Results 2015	Material Variations
Governance		
Satisfaction <i>Satisfaction with council decisions</i> [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how council has performed in making decisions in the interest of the community]	49	No material variations
Statutory Planning		
Decision making <i>Council planning decisions upheld at VCAT</i> [Number of VCAT decisions that did not set aside council's decision in relation to a planning application / Number of VCAT decisions in relation to planning applications] x100	80.0%	No material variations
Roads		
Satisfaction <i>Satisfaction with sealed local roads</i> [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how council has performed on the condition of sealed local roads]	52	No material variations
Libraries		
Participation <i>Active library members</i> [Number of active library members / Municipal population] x100	16.1%	No material variations
Waste Collection		
Waste diversion <i>Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill</i> [Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins] x100	55.1%	No material variations
Aquatic facilities		
Utilisation <i>Utilisation of aquatic facilities</i> [Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Municipal population]	5.1	No material variations
Animal management		
Health and safety <i>Animal management prosecutions</i> [Number of successful animal management prosecutions]	4.0	No material variations
Food safety		
Health and safety <i>Critical and major non-compliance notifications</i> [Number of critical non-compliance notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises followed up / Number of critical non-compliance notifications and major non-compliance notifications about food premises] x100	90.8%	No material variations

Service Performance indicators (continued)

Service/indicator/measure	Results 2015	Material Variations
Home and community care Participation <i>Participation in HACC service</i> [Number of people that received a HACC service / Municipal target population for HACC services] x100	14.7%	No material variations
Participation <i>Participation in HACC service by CALD people</i> [Number of CALD people who receive a HACC service / Municipal target population in relation to CALD people for HACC services] x100	19.5%	No material variations
Maternal and child health Participation <i>Participation in the MCH service</i> [Number of children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of children enrolled in the MCH service] x100	73.7%	No material variations
Participation <i>Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children</i> [Number of Aboriginal children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of Aboriginal children enrolled in the MCH service] x100	69.0%	

Definitions

"Aboriginal child" means a child who is an Aboriginal person

"Aboriginal person" has the same meaning as in the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006

"active library member" means a member of a library who has borrowed a book from the library

"annual report" means an annual report prepared by a council under sections 131, 132 and 133 of the Act

"class 1 food premises" means food premises, within the meaning of the *Food Act 1984*, that have been declared as class 1 food premises under section 19C of that Act

"class 2 food premises" means food premises, within the meaning of the *Food Act 1984*, that have been declared as class 2 food premises under section 19C of that Act

"Community Care Common Standards" means the Community Care Common Standards for the delivery of HACC services, published from time to time by the Commonwealth

"critical non-compliance outcome notification" means a notification received by council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the *Food Act 1984*, or advice given to council by an authorized officer under that Act, of a deficiency that poses an immediate serious threat to public health

"food premises" has the same meaning as in the *Food Act 1984*

"HACC program" means the Home and Community Care program established under the Agreement entered into for the purpose of the Home and Community Care Act 1985 of the Commonwealth

"HACC service" means home help, personal care or community respite provided under the HACC program

"local road" means a sealed or unsealed road for which the council is the responsible road authority under the *Road Management Act 2004*

"major non-compliance outcome notification" means a notification received by a council under section 19N(3) or (4) of

the *Food Act 1984*, or advice given to council by an authorized officer under that Act, of a deficiency that does not pose an immediate serious threat to public health but may do so if no remedial action is taken

"MCH" means the Maternal and Child Health Service provided by a council to support the health and development of children within the municipality from birth until school age

"population" means the resident population estimated by council

"target population" has the same meaning as in the Agreement entered into for the purposes of the Home and Community Care Act 1985 of the Commonwealth

"WorkSafe reportable aquatic facility safety incident" means an incident relating to a council aquatic facility that is required to be notified to the Victorian WorkCover Authority under Part 5 of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004*.

"VCAT decisions upheld" is defined as rulings in favour of council's original decision and includes where there have been variations that do not materially affect the intention of the original decision. Decisions "set aside" include decisions of VCAT that set aside the original decision of council and therefore result in the original decision of Council being overturned.

 FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE STATEMENTS

Financial Performance Indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2015

Dimension/ <i>indicator/measure</i>	Results	Forecasts				Material Variations
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
Operating position						
Adjusted underlying result						
<i>Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit)</i>	5.8%	1.4%	2.6%	3.4%	4.5%	The higher result in 2015 is mainly due to Federal Assistance Grants for 2015/2016 being received in advance from the Victoria Grants Commission.
[Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit) / Adjusted underlying revenue] x100						
Liquidity						
Working capital						
<i>Current assets compared to current liabilities</i>	208.9%	156.9%	160.2%	180.4%	138.1%	All results are within the expected range, 2015 results includes unspent Government Grants and Capital Works in progress.
[Current assets / Current liabilities] x100						
Unrestricted cash						
<i>Unrestricted cash compared to current liabilities</i>	96.9%	87.5%	89.1%	108.6%	88.5%	2018 result includes additional cash holdings associated with the repayment of interest only borrowings in 2019.
[Unrestricted cash / Current liabilities] x100						
Obligations						
Loans and borrowings						
<i>Loans and borrowings compared to rates</i>	29.3%	25.1%	24.7%	24.1%	24.1%	The decreasing forecast trend reflects the scheduled repayment of debt exceeding new borrowings over the next four years.
[Interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue] x100						
<i>Loans and borrowings repayments compared to rates</i>	17.0%	4.8%	3.8%	3.6%	2.8%	The high result in 2015 was due to the \$8.2M repayment of an interim loan facility for Council's 2014 borrowings. These funds were subsequently refinanced by the MAV's <i>Local Government Funding Vehicle (LGFV)</i> .
[Interest and principal repayments on interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue] x100						
Indebtedness						
<i>Non-current liabilities compared to own source revenue</i>	36.9%	28.3%	26.2%	24.6%	11.8%	The higher result in 2015 is mainly due to an increase in the estimated cost to restore Council's landfills to EPA requirements and the subsequent increase in the provision for landfill rehabilitation. The lower forecast result in 2019 is due to the reclassification of the LGFV interest only loan to Current Liabilities.
[Non-current liabilities / Own source revenue] x100						
Asset renewal						
<i>Asset renewal compared to depreciation</i>	79.9%	86.4%	71.3%	73.6%	76.4%	No material variations
[Asset renewal expenses / Asset depreciation] x100						

Financial Performance Indicators (continued)

Dimension/indicator/measure	Results	Forecasts				Material Variations
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
Stability						
Rates concentration						
Rates compared to adjusted underlying revenue [Rate revenue / Adjusted underlying revenue] x100	55.9%	61.1%	62.2%	62.7%	62.0%	The lower result in 2015 is mainly due to Federal Assistance Grants for 2015/2016 being received in advance from the Victoria Grants Commission.
Rates effort						
Rates compared to property values [Rate revenue / Capital improved value of rateable properties in the municipality] x100	0.70%	0.71%	0.73%	0.75%	0.77%	No material variations
Efficiency						
Expenditure level						
Expenses per property assessment [Total expenses / Number of property assessments]	\$3,127	\$3,070	\$3,057	\$3,089	\$3,164	No material variations
Revenue level						
Average residential rate per residential property assessment [Residential rate revenue / Number of residential property assessments]	\$1,494	\$1,535	\$1,576	\$1,619	\$1,662	No material variations
Workforce turnover						
Resignations and terminations compared to average staff [Number of permanent staff resignations and terminations / Average number of permanent staff for the financial year] x100	11.4%	11.5%	11.5%	11.5%	11.5%	No material variations

Definitions

"adjusted underlying revenue" means total income other than—
 (a) non-recurrent grants used to fund capital expenditure; and
 (b) non-monetary asset contributions; and
 (c) contributions to fund capital expenditure from sources other than those referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b)

"adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit)" means adjusted underlying revenue less total expenditure

"asset renewal expenditure" means expenditure on an existing asset or on replacing an existing asset that returns the service capability of the asset to its original capability

"current assets" has the same meaning as in the AAS

"current liabilities" has the same meaning as in the AAS

"non-current assets" means all assets other than current assets

"non-current liabilities" means all liabilities other than current liabilities

"non-recurrent grant" means a grant obtained on the condition that it be expended in a specified manner and is not expected to be received again during the period covered by a council's Strategic Resource Plan

"own-source revenue" means adjusted underlying revenue other than revenue that is not under the control of council (including government grants)

"population " means the resident population estimated by council

"rate revenue" means revenue from general rates, municipal charges, service rates and service charges

"recurrent grant " means a grant other than a non-recurrent grant

"residential rates" means revenue from general rates, municipal charges, service rates and service charges levied on residential properties

"restricted cash " means cash and cash equivalents, within the meaning of the AAS, that are not available for use other than for a purpose for which it is restricted, and includes cash to be used to fund capital works expenditure from the previous financial year

"unrestricted cash " means all cash and cash equivalents other than restricted cash.



Other Information

For the year ended 30 June 2015

1. Basis of preparation

Council is required to prepare and include a performance statement within its annual report. The performance statement includes the results of the prescribed sustainable capacity, service performance and financial performance indicators and measures together with a description of the municipal district and an explanation of material variations in the results. This statement has been prepared to meet the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1989* and *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014*.

Where applicable the results in the performance statement have been prepared on accounting bases consistent with those reported in the Financial Statements. The other results are based on information drawn from council information systems or from third parties (e.g. Australian Bureau of Statistics).

The performance statement presents the actual results for the current year and for the prescribed financial performance indicators and measures, the results forecast by the council's strategic resource plan. The *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014* requires explanation of any material variations in the results contained in the performance statement. Council has adopted materiality thresholds relevant to each indicator and measure and explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality thresholds unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

The forecast figures included in the performance statement are those adopted by council in its strategic resource plan on 25 May 2015 and which forms part of the council plan. The strategic resource plan includes estimates based on key assumptions about the future that were relevant at the time of adoption and aimed at achieving sustainability over the long term. Detailed information on the actual financial results is contained in the General Purpose Financial Statements. The strategic resource plan can be obtained by contacting council.

Certification of the Performance Statement

In my opinion, the accompanying performance statement has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014*.

Principal Accounting Officer



Matthew Rogers, CPA
Dated: 15 September 2015

In our opinion, the accompanying performance statement of the Latrobe City Council for the year ended 30 June 2015 presents fairly the results of council's performance in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014*.

The performance statement contains the relevant performance indicators, measures and results in relation to service performance, financial performance and sustainable capacity.

At the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances that would render any particulars in the performance statement to be misleading or inaccurate.

We have been authorised by the council and by the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014* to certify this performance statement in its final form.

Councillor



Cr. Darrell White
Dated: 15 September 2015

Councillor



Cr. Michael Rossiter
Dated: 15 September 2015

Chief Executive Officer



Gary Van Driel
Dated: 15 September 2015



VAGO

Victorian Auditor-General's Office

Level 24, 35 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
Telephone 61 3 8601 7000
Facsimile 61 3 8601 7010
Email comments@audit.vic.gov.au
Website www.audit.vic.gov.au

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Councillors, Latrobe City Council

The Performance Statement

The accompanying performance statement for the year ended 30 June 2015 of Latrobe City Council which comprises the statement, the related notes and the Council approval of the performance statement has been audited.

The Councillors' Responsibility for the Performance Statement

The Councillors of Latrobe City Council are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the performance statement in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989* and for such internal control as the Councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the performance statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

As required by the *Local Government Act 1989*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the performance statement based on the audit, which has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require compliance with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and that the audit be planned and performed to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the performance statement is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the performance statement. The audit procedures selected depend on judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the performance statement, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, consideration is given to the internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the performance statement in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the overall presentation of the performance statement.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Independent Auditor's Report (continued)

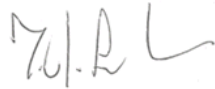
Independence

The Auditor-General's independence is established by the *Constitution Act 1975*. The Auditor-General is not subject to direction by any person about the way in which his powers and responsibilities are to be exercised. In conducting the audit, the Auditor-General, his staff and delegates complied with all applicable independence requirements of the Australian accounting profession.

Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion, the performance statement of Latrobe City Council in respect of the 30 June 2015 financial year presents fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989*.

MELBOURNE
17 September 2015


John Doyle M.Acc FCA
Auditor-General

FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE STATEMENTS

Local Government Performance Reporting Framework— Governance and Management Checklist

The checklist provides an indication of Council's governance frameworks including community engagement, planning, monitoring and decision making.

The completion of the checklist is a legislative requirement under the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Theme	Checklist Item	Definitions	Yes / No	Date of operation of policy and expiry date / strategy	If no policy/ strategy - insert explanation
1. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	Community engagement policy	Policy outlining Council's commitment to engaging with the community on matters of public interest	No	No policy	Policy has been drafted and will be presented to Council for adoption in 2015/16.
	Community engagement guidelines	Guidelines to assist staff to determine when and how to engage with the community	Yes	Community Engagement Plan 2010 - 2014 provides guidance to staff in engagement with the community. Date of operation: October 2010	
2. PLANNING	Strategic Resource Plan	Plan under section 126 of the Act outlining the financial and non-financial resources required for at least the next 4 financial years	Yes	Strategic Resources Plan 2015-19 Adopted in accordance with section 126 of the Act. Date of operation: 30 June 2015.	
	Annual budget	Plan under section 130 of the Act setting out the services to be provided and initiatives to be undertaken over the next 12 months and the funding and other resources required	Yes	Integrated Planning Framework Adopted in accordance with section 130 of the Act. Date of operation: 30 June 2015.	
	Asset management plans	Plans that set out the asset maintenance and renewal needs for key infrastructure asset classes for at least the next 10 years	No	No plans	The existing Asset Management Strategy provides guidance for the development of a series of Asset Management Plans over the next three years

FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE STATEMENTS

Theme	Checklist Item	Definitions	Yes / No	Date of operation of policy and expiry date / strategy	If no policy/ strategy - insert explanation
2. PLANNING (Continued)	Rating strategy	Strategy setting out the rating structure of council to levy rates and charges	Yes	Debtor Control Policy Part of the 10 year financial plan Date of operation: 16th July 2012	
	Risk policy	Policy outlining Council's commitment and approach to minimising the risks to Council's operations	Yes	Latrobe City Council Risk Policy Date of operation: 23 May 2011	
	Fraud policy	Policy outlining Council's commitment and approach to minimising the risk of fraud	Yes	Latrobe City Council Fraud Policy Date of operation: 7 February 2011	
	Municipal emergency management plan	Plan under section 20 of the Emergency Management Act 1986 for emergency prevention, response and recovery	Yes	Latrobe City Council Emergency Management Plan Date of operation: 17 November 2011 Currently up for re audit on the 17 October 2015	
	Procurement policy	Policy under section 186A of the Act outlining the matters, practices and procedures that will apply to all purchases of goods, services and works	Yes	Latrobe City Council Procurement Policy Date of operation: 28 January 2014	
	Business continuity plan	Plan setting out the actions that will be taken to ensure that key services continue to operate in the event of a disaster	Yes	Latrobe City Council Business Continuity Plan Date of operation: June 2011 with minor review annually.	
	Disaster recovery plan	Plan setting out the actions that will be undertaken to recover and restore business capability in the event of a disaster	Yes	Strategy Disaster Recovery Plan Date of operation: 2013	

FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE STATEMENTS

**Local Government Performance Reporting Framework—
Governance and Management Checklist** *(continued)*

Theme	Checklist Item	Definitions	Yes / No	Date of operation of policy and expiry date / strategy	If no policy/ strategy - insert explanation
3. MONITORING	Risk management framework	Framework outlining Council's approach to managing risks to the Council's operations	Yes	Risk Management Framework Date of operation: 1 May 2011	
	Audit committee	Advisory committee of Council under section 139 of the Act whose role is to oversee the integrity of Council's financial reporting, processes to manage risks to the Council's operations and for compliance with applicable legal, ethical, and regulatory requirements	Yes	Established in accordance with section 139 of the Act Audit Committee Report Date of operation: 7 February 2011	
	Internal audit	Independent accounting professionals engaged by the Council to provide analyses and recommendations aimed at improving Council's governance, risk and management controls	Yes	Internal Audit Plan Date of operation: 18 November 2014 Pitcher Partners were appointed as our current provider	
	Performance reporting framework	A set of indicators measuring financial and non-financial performance including the performance indicators referred to in section 131 of the Act	Yes	Integrated Planning Framework Date of operation: 14 December 2011	
4. REPORTING	Council plan reporting	Report reviewing the performance of the Council against the Council Plan including the results in relation to the strategic indicators for the first six month of the financial year	Yes	Integrated Planning Framework Date of operation: 14 December 2011	
	Financial reporting	Quarterly statements to Council under section 138(1) of the Act comparing budgeted revenue and expenditure with actual revenue and expenditure	Yes	Statements presented to Council in accordance with section 138(1) of the Act Finance Report Quarterly statements are provided to councillors every quarter of the financial year.	

FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE STATEMENTS

Theme	Checklist Item	Definitions	Yes / No	Date of operation of policy and expiry date / strategy	If no policy/ strategy - insert explanation
4. REPORTING (Continued)	Risk reporting	Six-monthly reports of strategic risks to Council's operations, their likelihood and consequences of occurring and risk minimisation strategies	Yes	Risk Management Report are sent out to councillors every quarter of the financial year. Date of operation: Meeting of Council following the end of each quarter.	
	Performance reporting	Six-monthly reports of indicators measuring results against financial and non-financial performance including the performance indicators referred to in section 131 of the Act	Yes	Quarterly performance reports are presented to Council. Date of operation: Meeting of Council following the end of each quarter.	
	Annual report	Annual report under sections 131, 132 and 133 of the Act to the community containing a report of operations and audited financial and performance statements	Yes	Considered at meeting of the Council in accordance with section 134 of the Act. Annual report is prepared annually. Date of operation : 30 September annually	
5. DECISION MAKING	Councillor Code of Conduct	Code under section 76C of the Act setting out the conduct principles and the dispute resolution processes to be followed by all Councillors	Yes	Reviewed in accordance with section 76C of the Act. Councillor Code of Conduct Date of operation: 16 September 2013	
	Delegations	A document setting out the powers, duties and functions of Council and the Chief Executive Officer that have been delegated to members of staff	Yes	S5 Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) (adopted) S6. Instrument of Delegation to members of council staff (adopted) S7. Sub-Delegation by Chief Executive Officer to Staff (noted) Date of operation: 11 June 2015	
	Meeting procedures	A local law governing the conduct of meetings of Council and special committees	Yes	Meeting procedures local law made in accordance with section 91(1) of the Act Local Law 1 Date of operation: 23 March 2014	



STATUTORY INFORMATION

Audit Committee

The Audit and Risk Committee's purpose is to assist council in the discharge of its oversight and corporate governance responsibilities, to oversee and monitor the integrity of council's financial and risk reporting, processes to manage risks to Council's operations and for compliance with applicable legal, ethical and regulatory requirements. At each meeting the audit committee examines progress against identified actions.

The committee is an advisory committee and does not exercise executive powers, but is entitled to receive whatever information, presentations by Officers or explanations it considers necessary to fulfil its purpose.

The council appoints as members of the committee, two councillors and one alternate; and three external members, one of whom is appointed by council as chair of the committee. The external members are selected from the broader community after having invited applications by public advertisement.

Audit and Risk Committees undertake a range of activities as follows:

- Internal audit program
- Risk Management
- Audit Committee Charter Review
- Outstanding Debtors Review (this one is actually recorded in the minutes as bad debts review)
- Local Government Reporting Framework (this was your presentation)
- Procurement Review
- IT Security Audit
- Fraud and Corruption Risk Review

RECEPTION AT MORWELL SERVICE CENTRE, CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

Audit Committee Attendance

Latrobe City Council Audit Committee Attendance 2014-15

Date	19 September 2014	4 December 2014	5 March 2015	4 June 2015
Members	Roma O'Callaghan Cr Darrell White Bev Excell Cr Michael Rossiter Joanne Booth	Roma O'Callaghan Cr Darrell White Bev Excell Cr Michael Rossiter Joanne Booth	Roma O'Callaghan Cr Darrell White Bev Excell Cr Michael Rossiter Joanne Booth	Roma O'Callaghan Cr Darrell White Bev Excell Cr Michael Rossiter Joanne Booth
Attendees	Cr Sandy Kam Vince Haining (Acting CEO) Matthew Rogers (Manager Finance) Alison Coe (General Manager Corporate Services) Allison Down (Manager Risk and Compliance) Sarah Cumming (Executive Manager) Natalie James (Pitcher Partners) Nicholas Hill (Senior Consultant) Mayor Sharon Gibson Cr Kellie O'Callaghan Cr Peter Gibbons Cr Christine Sindt Cr Dale Harriman	Cr Sandy Kam Lyndon Webb (Monitor) John Mitchell (Acting CEO) Alison Coe (General Manager Corporate Services) Sara Cumming (Executive Manager Chief Executive Office) Sara Rhodes-Ward (General Manager Community Liveability) Steven Piasente (General Manager Community Infrastructure and Recreation) Matthew Rogers (Manager Finance) Emma Bertoli (minute taker). Nicholas Hill of Pitcher Partners via teleconference Joshua Kapolice of Pitcher Partners via teleconference Mayor Cr Dale Harriman Cr Kellie O'Callaghan Cr Peter Gibbons Cr Graeme Middlemiss Cr Sharon Gibson Cr C Sindt Phil Stone (General Manager Planning & Economic Sustainability)	Latrobe City Council: Gary Van Driel (Chief Executive Officer) Sara Rhodes-Ward (General Manager Community Liveability) Steven Piasente (General Manager Community Infrastructure and Recreation) Phil Stone (General Manager Planning and Economic Sustainability) Sarah Cumming (Acting General Manager Corporate Services and Executive Manager Chief Executive Office) Matthew Rogers (Manager Finance) Allison Down (Manager Risk and Compliance) Amy Phillips (Coordinator Governance) Cr Sandy Kam Natalie James (Pitcher Partners) Nicholas Hill (Pitcher Partners)	Latrobe City Council: Gary Van Driel (Chief Executive Officer) Sara Rhodes-Ward (General Manager Community Liveability) Steven Piasente (General Manager Community Infrastructure and Recreation) Phil Stone (General Manager Planning and Economic Sustainability) Sarah Cumming (Acting General Manager Corporate Services) Peter Mangan (Acting Executive Manager Chief Executive Office) Matthew Rogers (Manager Finance) Allison Down (Manager Risk and Compliance) Amy Phillips (Coordinator Governance) Cr Sandy Kam Cr Sharon Gibson Natalie James (Pitcher Partners) Rochelle Wrigglesworth (VAGO Representative) Christian Thomas (Compliance Officer)

STATUTORY INFORMATION

Internal Audit

In 2014-15 an extensive internal audit program was commenced covering a wide group of council functions. Independent Auditors were engaged to conduct a number of audits to assist council assess the appropriateness of council practices and procedures.

Audits covering a range of council functions are to be conducted and presented to Council with recommendations to improve operational processes procedures.

Audits covering the below following key areas have been presented to Council:

- Financial Controls & Fraud Assessment
- Purchasing Cards
- Payroll
- Procurement

Insurance Audits

Latrobe City Council participates in an insurance scheme that is specific to Victorian Local Government. The scheme carries out audits and reviews of Council's risk management on a regular basis and the results are used for benchmarking Local Government authorities across Victoria.

A review of Council's public liability risk management in relation to road, footpath and tree management, was undertaken in June 2015 with the report and recommendations to be received in 2015-16.

Insurance

Latrobe City Council has a responsibility to ensure that the nature and extent of insurance cover is adequate and has insurance policies including:

- public liability and professional indemnity
- industrial special risk (i.e. property and art work) and business interruption
- Councillor and officer liability
- motor vehicles
- hangar keeper's liability, and
- personal accident/corporate travel

These insurances are reviewed annually and adjusted accordingly, having consideration for the various associated risks, past history and the benefit of expert advice.

Latrobe City Council liaises regularly with its insurers regarding claims and risk mitigation activates, as well as changes in legislation, court decisions and industry best practice.

Risk Management

In 2014-15, council undertook a review of the Risk Management Plan 2011-14, and subsequently commenced development of the Risk Management Strategy 2015-18. The Risk Management Plan and the new Strategy set out Latrobe City Council's commitment to risk management and is aligned to the risk management standard, AS/ISO 31000. It is applicable to the management of all risks facing the organisation including: financial, reputational, Occupational Health and Safety (OHS), personnel, environmental, and legislative.

Risk Management actions and initiatives implemented during 2014-15 included:

- consideration of strategic and organisational risk registers as part of organisational business planning and budgeting
- continued to embed risk management, with the improved consideration of risk across organisational processes
- implementation of risk management software, to assist in the recording, reporting, management and review of strategic and operational risk
- continued involvement in risk networks and forums
- review of insurance policies and participation in insurance audits
- continued the comprehensive review of council's Business Continuity Plan to ensure Latrobe City Council is in the best position to respond to a business disruption
- handled insurance claims and renewals, including council's property, motor vehicle, public liability and professional indemnity
- processing of public liability claims, including receipt of 122 reports/approaches, resulting in 24 claims, with 12 of those accepted or settled

Documents for Public Inspection

Under legislation, certain information held within Latrobe City Council is available for viewing by the public during normal office hours or by prior arrangement at Latrobe City Council's Corporate Headquarters, 141 Commercial Road, Morwell.

Summarised below is a list of documents that are available for public inspection in accordance with section 11 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2004*. In accordance with section 222 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, inspection of these documents can be arranged by contacting Latrobe City Council on 1300 367 700.

- Details of current allowances fixed for the mayor and councillors under section 74 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.
- Details of senior officers' total salary packages for the current financial year and the previous financial year.
- Details of overseas or interstate travel taken in an official capacity by councillors or council officer in the previous 12 months (with the exception of interstate travel by land for less than three days).
- Names of council officers who were required to submit a return of interest during the financial year and the dates the returns were submitted.
- Names of councillors who submitted a return of interest during the financial year and the dates the returns were submitted.
- Agendas and minutes for ordinary and special council meetings held in the previous 12 months kept under section 93 of the Act, except where such minutes relate to parts of meetings which have been closed to members of the public under section 89 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.
- A list of special committees established by Latrobe City Council and the purpose for which each committee was established.
- A list of all special committees established by Latrobe City Council which were abolished or ceased to function during the financial year.
- Minutes of special committees established under section 86 of the *Local Government Act 1989* and held in the previous 12 months, except if the minutes relate to parts of meetings which have

been closed to members of the public under section 89 of the Act.

- A register of delegations made pursuant to the Act.
- Submissions received during the previous 12 months in accordance with the process outlined in Section 223 of the Act.
- Agreements to establish regional libraries under Section 196 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.
- Details of property, finance and operating leases involving land, buildings, plant, computer equipment or vehicles entered into by the council as lessor or lessee.
- Register of authorised officers appointed under section 224 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.
- A list of donations and grants made by Latrobe City Council during the financial year.
- Organisations of which Latrobe City Council was a member during the financial year.
- Contracts valued at \$100,000 or more that Latrobe City Council entered into during the financial year without first engaging in a competitive process and that are not contracts referred to in section 186[5] of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Other Information Available to the Public

- The Councillor Reimbursement Policy (known as Provision of Resources and Support to Councillors Policy 11POL-5)
- The Councillor Code of Conduct
- Records of Assembly of Councillors
- Register of Interests
- Local Laws 1, 2 and 3
- The Council Plan
- The Strategic Resource Plan
- The Annual Budget
- The Annual Report including the Auditor's Report
- All adopted council policies

A number of these documents are also available on Latrobe City Council's website.

STATUTORY INFORMATION

Information Management

Freedom of Information

Where documents are not available for public inspection or available on Latrobe City Council's website, then access to them may be sought pursuant to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act). The FOI Act grants the public the right to seek access to all Latrobe City Council documents. This general right of access is limited by a number of exceptions and exemptions, which have been prescribed to protect public interests and the private and business affairs of people about whom Latrobe City Council holds information.

Local governments are required to publish information about the documents they hold, particularly those which affect members of the public in their dealings with Council. Each person has a legally enforceable right to access information, limited only by exemptions necessary for the protection of the public interest and the private and business affairs of persons from whom information is collected by Latrobe City Council. People may request inaccurate, incomplete, out of date or misleading information in their personal records be amended. People may appeal against a decision not to give access to information or not amend a personal record.

Latrobe City Council received 18 requests to access information under the Freedom of Information Act 1982, in the 2014/15 financial year. This is three less than the previous year. Freedom of Information requests must be made in writing and accompanied by a \$26.50 application fee. A total of six requests were made under the hardship provisions of the Act and no fee was charged. Requests for access to information should be addressed to:

Freedom of Information Officer
Latrobe City Council
PO Box 264
MORWELL VIC 3840

In accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*, Latrobe City Council must decide if this information will be provided within 45 days. Of the 18 requests received, all were processed within the statutory timeframe.

Information Privacy

Latrobe City Council is obliged to ensure the personal privacy of all residents and ratepayers in accordance with the *Information Privacy Act 2001*. Latrobe City Council will only collect, use or disclose personal information where it is necessary to perform Latrobe City Council functions or where required by law.

Latrobe City Council has adopted a Privacy Policy which can be obtained upon request.

Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities

The *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* ('Charter') came into force in 2008 and contains 20 fundamental rights that reflect the four basic principles of freedom, respect, equality and dignity. The charter introduces standards to ensure that human rights are considered when making laws and decisions and when providing services.

The rights are as follows:

- Freedom
- Freedom from forced work
- Freedom of movement
- Freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief
- Freedom of expression
- Right to peaceful assembly and freedom of association
- Right to property
- Right to liberty and security of person
- Right to a fair hearing
- Rights in criminal proceedings
- Right not to be tried and punished more than once
- Protection from retrospective criminal laws
- Respect

- Right to life
- Protection of families and children
- Cultural rights, including the recognition of the distinct cultural rights of the Aboriginal people of Victoria
- Equality
- Recognition of equality before the law
- Entitlement to participate in public life (including voting)
- Dignity
- Protection from torture and cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment
- Protection of privacy and reputation
- Humane treatment when deprived of liberty
- Appropriate treatment of children in the criminal process.

Latrobe City Council policies have been adopted following proper consideration of all the rights contained within the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.

During 2014/15, Latrobe City Council received no complaints in relation to Human Rights.

Further Reading

www.humanrightscommission.vic.gov.au
www.justice.vic.gov.au

Protected Disclosures

The *Protected Disclosures Act 2012* (the Act) has replaced the *Whistleblowers' Protection Act 2001* in Victoria. The Act encourages and facilitates disclosures of wrongful acts by protecting those who disclose wrongful acts.

The Act relates to the behaviours and actions of council officers and Councillors. A person is entitled to make a complaint pursuant to the Act by contacting the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC) on 1300 735 135.

Latrobe City Council supports the aims and objectives of the Act and has implemented the Protected Disclosure Procedure in accordance with the Act.

During the 2014-15 financial year there were no reported Protected Disclosures made to Council.

Carers Recognition Act 2012

The *Carers Recognition Act 2012* ('the Act') came into effect on 1 July 2012 and formally recognises and values the role of carers and the importance of care relationships in the Victorian community. The Act defines a carer as someone who provides care to another person, and includes carers under the age of 18. Carers can provide care for a person who:

- has a disability
- has a mental illness
- has an ongoing medical condition
- is an older person with care needs

Care relationships also include those situations where a person is being cared for in a foster, kinship or permanent care arrangement.

Within the *Carers Recognition Act 2012* Latrobe City Council is required to report annually on its care measurement obligations under section 11 of the Act. Council has taken all practicable measures to comply with its responsibilities outlined in the Act. Latrobe City Council has promoted the principles of the Act to people in care relationships who receive Council services; to people in care relationships, and to the wider community by:

- distributing printed material through relevant Latrobe City Council services;
- displaying posters at Latrobe City Council community venues;
- providing links to state government resource materials on Latrobe City Council's website; and
- providing information to organisations represented in Latrobe City Council/community networks.

Latrobe City Council has taken all practicable measures to ensure staff, council agents and volunteers working for Latrobe City Council are informed about the principles and obligations of the Act by including information on the care relationship in:

- Latrobe City Council induction and training programs for staff working in home and community care and disability services.

Latrobe City Council conducts induction and training

STATUTORY INFORMATION

programs for staff working in front-line positions with the general community, and induction and training programs for volunteers working directly with the community.

Latrobe City Council has taken all practicable measures to review and modify policies, procedures and supports to include recognition of the carer relationship.

Latrobe City Council's Aged and Disability Services, with funding from the Victorian Department of Health, has continued to provide a Couples' Respite Program. The program's strength is its recognition of care relationships, with 40 couples currently being supported. Couples in a care relationship have had the opportunity to attend musicals in Melbourne, go on holidays together, build reassuring friendships with couples and hear from informative guest speakers.

Disability Action Plan

Victorian State Disability Plan 2013-2016

The Victorian State Disability Action Plan has as its vision :

"An inclusive Victorian society that enables people with a disability, their families and carers to fulfil their potential as equal citizens"

Four main goals are laid down in the plan to ensure people with disability will be equal citizens:

- a strong foundation in life;
- upholding rights and promoting participation;
- accessing information, transport, buildings and places;
- a contemporary approach through disability system reform

Latrobe City Disability Action Plan

The Latrobe City Disability Action Plan aims to ensure people with a disability have equitable access to infrastructure and services provided by Latrobe City, in accordance with the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*, *Disability Act 2006* and the Victoria State Disability Action Plan and its goals.

The principles of the Latrobe City Disability Action Plan require all council employees to act in good faith and to take into consideration the intent of the plan in their day to day business.

Nine of the 14 projects listed in the 2014-15 Disability Action Plan have been completed. Highlights include; actions to support employment opportunities with the roll out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and improving signage and accessibility to Latrobe City Leisure Centres.

A copy of the plan can be downloaded from www.latrobe.vic.gov.au

Domestic Animal Management Plan

The Domestic Animal Management Plan has been developed in accordance with Section 68A of the Domestic Animals Act 1994 and sets out a formalised approach to increase the awareness of domestic animal management practices within Latrobe City.

Actions have been developed in seven key areas with a focus on staff training; community awareness and responsibilities; the provision of accessible, relevant and timely information and a simplified process for the reporting of issues.

Training of Authorised Officers

To ensure all staff involved in animal management have the knowledge and skills necessary to carry out their work safely and effectively, training of authorised officers was undertaken.

Registration and Identification

Maximise the number of registered and identifiable domestic animals residing within Latrobe City to aid compliance and facilitate reuniting lost pets with their owners in a timely manner.

Animal Nuisance Complaints

Minimise the number of complaints received by Council while increasing community satisfaction with Council's response to investigating complaints.

Dog Attacks

Minimise the risk to the community of dog attacks while increasing community understanding of potential aggressive animal behaviour and the benefits of dog socialisation and obedience training.

Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted Breed Dogs

Meeting legislative requirements relating to dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs while educating the community about such breeds.

Over Population and High Euthanasia

Encourage responsible pet ownership by promoting desexing and confinement of dogs and cats to reduce the incidence of unwanted pet litters and feral domestic animals; while increasing the number of animals successfully re-housed.

Domestic Animal Businesses

To support and regulate domestic animal businesses established within the municipality.

Cultural Diversity

Cultural Diversity Action Plan 2014-2018

Latrobe City has a vibrant social and culturally diverse community comprised of people from many different nations across the world. A total of 9,930 or 13.7% of Latrobe City residents were born overseas and 6.9% of people in Latrobe City speak a language other than English at home.

The plan describes council's commitment to recognising, valuing and supporting cultural diversity. It is intended to be a long-term plan that guides and strengthens council's ability to embrace cultural and linguistic diversity.

In order for these values to be put into practice, and to continuously measure our progress, the plan has four objectives:

1. Equal access to services, resources and facilities for all our residents.
2. Active community consultation and participation.
3. Celebrating and valuing community diversity and cultural expression.
4. Leadership and advocacy.

A copy of the plan can be downloaded from www.latrobe.vic.gov.au

An annual report on progress made against each of the actions within the plan will be presented to council and the Cultural Diversity Advisory Committee each year and the plan will be subject to annual review and actions will be revised and updated as part of council's commitment to culturally diverse communities.

STATUTORY INFORMATION

Victorian Local Government Indicators

The Victorian Local Government Indicators are designed to quantify aspects of expenditure, the cost of service and infrastructure provision, customer satisfaction and governance. As a comparison, figures from the past three years have been provided.

CATEGORY	VLGI #	DESCRIPTION	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Cost of Governance	1	Average rates and charges per assessment	\$1,582	\$1,683	\$1,778	\$1,664
	2	Average residential rates and charges per assessment	\$1,250	\$1,346	\$1,431	\$1,484
Sustainability	3	Average liabilities per assessment	\$1,642	\$1,651	\$1,623	\$1,652
	4	Operating result per assessment	\$169	\$256	\$205	\$596
Services	5	Average operating expenditure per assessment	\$2,911	\$2,839	\$2,985	\$2,815
	6	Community satisfaction rating for the overall performance of Council	61	53	59	55
Infrastructure	7	Average capital expenditure per assessment	\$625	\$653	\$644	\$707
	8	Renewal gap	103%	96%	107%	81%
	9	Renewal and maintenance gap	102%	98%	105%	87%
Governance	10	Community satisfaction rating for the Council's advocacy and community representation on key local issues	56	49	56	52
	11	Community satisfaction rating for the Council's engagement in decision making on key local issues	54	50	55	54

GLOSSARY

Latrobe City Council's adopted strategies and plans are available on Latrobe City Council's website

www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/CouncilDocuments

Advisory Committee

Specialist appointees who form a committee that provides advice to Latrobe City Council on matters relating to the delivery of strategies, services and activities.

Advocacy

To provide support to a cause or to make public recommendation.

Annual Action

Significant actions for Latrobe City Council to be delivered during the next year and are linked to a strategic direction of the Council Plan. Annual Actions are strategic in nature e.g. strategy/plan, major capital projects, significant community interest, key risk control, Council resolutions or legislative requirements.

Annual Business Plan

The Annual Business Plan, together with the Annual Budget, is Latrobe City Council's short term planning document. The Annual Business Plan consists of actions which support the delivery of the Council Plan and Organisational Excellence @ Latrobe. The Annual Budget identifies the financial and non-financial resources required to support the Plan.

Annual Report

The Annual Report is an annual reporting tool to provide an update to Latrobe City Council stakeholders and the Minister for Local Government on how Latrobe City Council has achieved against

the commitments made in the Council Plan and Strategic Resources Plan. In accordance with section 131 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, it includes a report of Latrobe City Council's operations, audited standard and financial statements, performance statement (section 132) and report on the performance statement (section 133).

Asset

Property that is owned by Latrobe City Council.

Best Value principles

Contained in the Local Government Act 1989, the six principles must be observed by all Victorian councils. The principles aim to enable councils to determine the most effective means of providing a service to the community.

Building Act 1993

The primary purposes of this Victorian Government legislation is to regulate building work and building standards, accreditation of building products and constructions methods and provision of building and occupancy permit systems and dispute resolution mechanisms.

Capital Works

Projects undertaken to either renew, upgrade or construct assets owned by Latrobe City Council.

Community Grants

Latrobe City Council allocates a sum of money for the Community Grants Program as part of its annual budget process. This funding is shared between various non-profit community groups and organisations who apply for grants under a range of categories.

Council

The collective group of nine Councillors who set the strategic direction for Latrobe City Council, monitor organisational performance, liaise with stakeholders and ensure operational compliance.

Council Plan

A rolling plan that contains four-year strategies and indicators of outcomes, together with a Strategic Resources Plan that contribute to achieving the key objectives of the Latrobe community vision.

Councillor

A member of the community elected in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989 to represent the residents of a ward within the municipality as a member of Council.

Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006

Legislation created to protect and promote human rights. It sets out freedoms, rights and responsibilities.

GLOSSARY

Glossary *(continued)***Development Plan**

A plan that aims to coordinate the layout of new subdivisions and is particularly useful to ensure the integrated development of land where there are several properties in separate ownership. The plan may also provide certainty about the nature and staging of new subdivision developments over a period of time. A development plan can provide direction and coordination of infrastructure networks, public open space and housing types.

Disability Action Plan

A plan developed by Latrobe City Council which ensures the needs of people with a disability are included in all aspects of Latrobe City Council's services and infrastructure.

Feasibility Study

The evaluation or analysis of the potential impact of a proposed project.

Freedom of Information Act 1982

The purpose of this Act is to give members of the public rights of access to official documents of the Government, the Commonwealth and of its agencies.

Gippsland Local Government Network

An alliance of the six Municipal Councils located in Gippsland. The Mayor and Chief Executive Officer of each council meet regularly, with the primary objective to work collaboratively on a range of issues and projects of mutual interest.

Gippsland Logistics Precinct

A Latrobe City Council-owned 64 hectare precinct adjacent to the

existing rail line in Morwell to be developed to establish a centre for the efficient and cost effective movement of freight to and from the Gippsland region.

Governance

How Council operates as a decision-making body.

Indicators

Performance measures that provide a range of economic, environmental and social indicators, identifying the extent to which an objective has been achieved.

Indigenous

Originating in a particular geographic region or environment and native to the area and/or relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Information Privacy Act 2001

The purpose of this Act is to create a scheme for the responsible collection and handling of personal information across the Victorian public sector.

Infrastructure

Basic community facilities such as roads, drains, footpaths and public buildings, etc.

Landfill

Engineered containment facility licensed by the Environment Protection Authority to accept specific solid waste.

Latrobe 2026: The Community Vision for Latrobe City

The Community Vision was generated after identifying three broad concepts shared by the Latrobe City community; Sustainability, Liveability and

Leadership. A further nine strategic objectives were identified to take Latrobe City forward; Economy, Natural Environment, Built Environment, Our Community, Culture, Recreation, Governance, Advocacy and Partnerships, and Regulation and Accountability. Development of the community vision was facilitated by Latrobe City Council in consultation with many organisations, agencies, groups and individuals. The Latrobe 2026 Community Vision is an important long term strategic document for Latrobe City Council which provides the principal direction to the Council Plan.

Latrobe Planning Scheme

The planning scheme that sets out policies and requirements for the use, development and protection of land located in Latrobe City.

Local Government Act 1989

This Victorian Government legislation outlines the intention for councils to provide a democratic and efficient system of Local Government in Victoria. It also gives councils the power to meet the needs of their communities, and provides the basis for an accountable system of governance in Victoria.

Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey

Undertaken by a consulting group on behalf of the Department of Planning and Community Development. The survey tracks residents' views on Council's performance on nine service areas and four governance measures, showing progress, improvements and areas for improvement.

Local Government Performance Reporting Framework

A set of State Government mandated key performance indicators common to all local councils measuring their performance.

Local Laws

Laws under the jurisdiction of Latrobe City Council and enforced by Latrobe City Council employees and/or Victoria Police.

Local Planning Policy Framework

The framework provides the strategic basis for land use planning as controlled by the Latrobe Planning Scheme. The framework consists of the Municipal Strategic Statement together with the Local Planning Policy.

Major Initiative

Most significant actions for delivery over the current 12 month period and are linked to a strategic direction of the Council Plan.

Main Town Structure Plans

Plans developed by Latrobe City Council that identify areas where land is earmarked for future residential and industrial expansion in and around Latrobe City's main towns, based on predictions of future population growth for the municipality.

Mission

The overall corporate philosophy that articulates how the Latrobe community vision will be achieved.

Municipality

A geographical area that is delineated for the purpose of Local Government.

Organisational Excellence Strategy

A strategy developed by Latrobe City Council that relates to how the organisation functions internally, and focuses on how Latrobe City Council can improve its performance at organisational, team and individual levels.

Performance Indicator

Measures used to monitor the performance of Latrobe City Council in achieving the objectives of the Council Plan.

Plan

Focussed and structured detail of action to be undertaken, involving a series of specific steps, to implement the objectives and goals of an overarching strategic direction.

Planning and Environment Act 1987

This Victorian Government legislation establishes a framework for planning the use, development and protection of land in Victoria in the present and long-term interests of all Victorians.

Policy

A set of principles intended to influence and provide direction for council decisions, actions, programs and activities.

Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008

This Victorian Government legislation replaces the previous Health Act 1958. It aims to achieve the highest attainable standard of public health and well-being in Victoria, through the update and modernisation of Victoria's public health framework.

Quarterly Report

A three monthly report to Councillors on how the organisation is progressing against the commitments made in the Council Plan as well as operational, financial and statutory information.

Regional Cities Victoria

An organisation representing the ten largest provincial centres in Victoria, comprising the municipalities of Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Horsham, Latrobe City, Mildura, Shepparton, Wangaratta, Warrnambool and Wodonga. The Mayor and Chief Executive Officer of each council meet regularly, with the primary objective to expand the population of regional Victoria through promoting business and Government investment and skilled migration to regional centres.

Service

A service identified by Latrobe City Council to be provided to the community during the four year period of the Council Plan.

Sister City

An agreement between two cities in different countries that share cultural contact as a means of promoting cross-cultural awareness and interaction. Latrobe City has sister city affiliations with China and Japan.

Statutory Body

Statutory bodies (or statutory authorities) are organisations established under an Act of the Victorian Parliament or Australian Parliament for a public purpose.

GLOSSARY

Glossary *(continued)***Strategic Direction**

Under each strategic objective of the Council Plan are Strategic Directions. Strategic Directions further detail the key areas Latrobe City Council will focus on achieving over the next four years.

Strategic Resources Plan

A component of the Latrobe City Council Plan and is prepared in accordance with section 126 of the Local Government Act 1989. It identifies the financial and non-financial resources required by Latrobe City Council over the next four years to implement the Council Plan.

Strategy

A long term systematic plan of action to achieve defined outcomes in an area of council activity or responsibility. A series of objectives is set out to meet these goals and specific actions are determined to meet these objectives.

Structure Plans

A document that provides direction for planning and development of a defined precinct. Structure plans are subject to community consultation and may be incorporated into the Latrobe Planning Scheme.

Values

Represent underlying attitudes and beliefs within the organisation that are demonstrated through organisational practices, processes, and behaviours.

Victorian Auditor General's Office

A public sector audit organisation providing auditing services to the Victorian Parliament and Victorian public sector agencies and authorities.

Vision

A statement of direction that defines the aspirations of Latrobe City Council, and serves to guide all organisational objectives.

Ward

An area of the municipality identified for the purpose of representation. Latrobe City Council has four wards with a total of nine councillors.

INDEX

A

Advisory Committee 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 115, 188, 190, 197, 199
Arts 32, 53, 54, 91, 99
Assembly of Councillors 23, 193
Audit Committee 20, 188, 190, 191, 121
Auditor General's Report 184 – 185
Awards & Recognition 38 – 39, 102 – 103, | 106 – 109

B

Best value 71, 114 – 118, 199

C

Capital Works Highlights 87
Capital Works 15, 29, 48, 61, 72, 111, 120, 123, 124 – 125, 199
Carers Recognition Act 2012 195
Certification of the financial statements 173
Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities 194 – 195, 199
Chief Executive Officer Report: 28 – 29, 13, 15, 18, 20, 23, 31, 105, 189, 190 – 191
Children, Community and Wellbeing 88 – 89
Code of Conduct 19, 189, 193
Community Events 102 – 103
Community Grants 110 – 113
Community Recognition and Awards 106 – 109
Community Satisfaction Survey 62, 65, 70, 77, 80, 200
Contents 7
Council Approval of the Performance Statement 183
Council Committee Membership 20 – 22
Council Delegations 23
Council Meetings 18, 70, 75, 193
Council Plan 3, 40, *Themes* 42 – 43, 51, 54 – 56, 60, 62, 65, 67, 69, 70, 71, 73, 75, 77, 80 – 81, 126, 188, 193, 199 – 202
Council Report Card 51 – 81
Councillors 16, 18 – 19, 32, 69, 70, 72, 105, 171, 188 – 190, 193, 195, 199 – 202

Councillor Allowance 19
Councillor code of conduct 19
Council Remuneration 19
Council Representation on Committees 19 – 22
Cultural Diversity 197

D

Delegation 15, 19, 23, 76, 81, 92 – 93, 116, 189, 193
Demographics 10
Disability Action Plan 38, 89, 115, 196, 200
Documents for public inspection 193 – 194
Domestic Animal Management Plan 196

E

Economic Development 92, 49, 56, 92, 95
Economy 53 – 54, 91, 93, 200
Elected 12, 16 – 18, 23, 199
Employee Assistance Program 37
Equal Employment Opportunity 37
Events 53 – 54, 59, 77, 90 – 91, 96 – 105, 112

F

Finance and Performance Statements 119 – 184
Financial Report Overview 120 – 125
Financial Report 132 – 172
Financial Snapshot 44 – 47
Freedom of Information 32, 194, 200

G

Glossary 199 – 202
Governance 12, 18, 22 – 23, 42, 66, 68 – 70, 72, 186, 188, 190 – 191, 198, 200
Governance and Management Checklist 185 – 188

H

Have A Say 77, 115 – 116
How are we Performing 50
How Council Works 18
How to obtain a copy of this report 4
How your Rates are spent 48 – 49

INDEX

I

Independent Auditor's Report 183, 174 – 175
Index 203 – 204
Information Management 194
Industrial Relations 37
Information Privacy 194, 200
Insurance 32, 67, 89, 117, 192, 196
Insurance Audits 192
Internal Audit Program 190, 192

L

Land use planning 33, 80, 81, 94 – 95, 201
Latrobe 2026 40, 42, 200
Latrobe City Snapshot 8
Learning and Development 37
Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF) 51 – 81, 118, 186 – 189

M

Mayor 13, *Report 14 – 15*, 16 – 17, 19, 21, 32, 106, 191, 193, 190, 200 – 201
Mission 42, 201

N

Natural Environment 79, 200
Notes to the Financial Report 132 – 172

O

Objective 3, 42 – 43, 51 – 81, 199 – 202
Occupational Health and Safety 29, 32, 36 – 37, 192
Organisational Excellence @ Latrobe 69, 199, 201
Organisational Structure 30 – 31
Other Information Available to the Public 193
Our Community 71, 74 – 77, 111, 115
Our Employees 34
Our Leadership 12
Our People 26
Our Performance 44, 51 – 81, 186 – 189

P

Performance Indicator 42 – 43, 51, 115, 188 – 189, 201
Performance Statement 44, 119, 189, 199
Planning and Reporting 43

Population 64, 67 – 68, 71, 80, 197, 201

Project Highlights 85
Protected Disclosures 195

Q

Quality and Cost Measure 115

R

Rates 15, 47, 48 – 49, 68, 73, 121 – 122, 147, 187, 198
Recreation 29, 32, 49, 58 – 65, 84 – 85, 111 – 112, 200
Report Card 51
Risk Management 32, 68, 178 – 179, 190, 192

S

Senior Officer 34, 193
Services Snapshot 32 – 33
Service Provision 28 – 29
Setting our Direction 40 – 49
Sporting Events 100 – 101
Statutory Information 190

T

Tourism 32, 48, 90 – 91
Traditional Owners 3

V

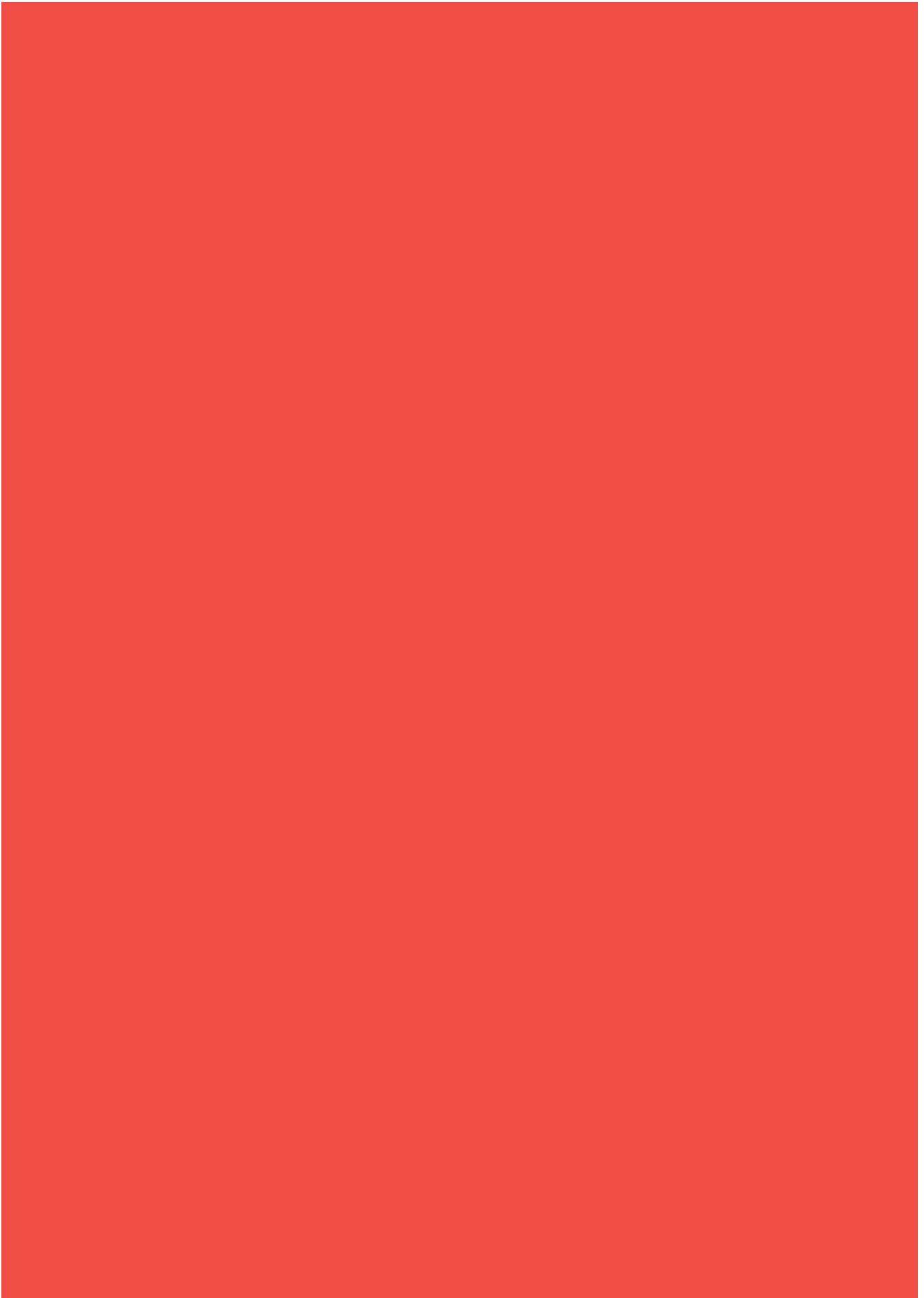
Values 29, 42, 71, 95, 195, 197, 202
Victorian Local Government Indicators 71, 198
Vision 40, 42, 81, 95, 196, 199, 200 – 201
Visual and Performing Arts 98 – 99
Volunteers 32, 37, 77, 79, 85 – 86, 91, 108, 185 – 186, 195 – 196

W

Ward Information 16 – 17
Welcome 3
Why we have an annual report 4
Workcover 36
Workforce Details 34 – 35
Works, Roads and Recreation 84 – 86

Y

Youth Council 24 – 25, 105 – 106
Youth Events 104 – 105
Youth Leadership Program 104 – 105



Latrobe City Council

Telephone 1300 367 700

Facsimile (03) 5128 5672

Post PO Box 264, Morwell, 3840

Email latrobe@latrobe.vic.gov.au

Website www.latrobe.vic.gov.au

Latrobe City Council Service Centres and Libraries

Morwell Corporate Headquarters
141 Commercial Road, Morwell

Morwell Library 63-65 Elgin Street, Morwell

Moe Moe Service Centre
44 Albert Street, Moe

Moe Library 30 Kirk Street, Moe

Traralgon Traralgon Service Centre and Library
34-38 Kay Street, Traralgon

Churchill Churchill Community Hub
9-11 Philip Parade, Churchill

To obtain this information in languages other than English, or in other formats, please contact Latrobe City Council on 1300 367 700.

URGENT BUSINESS

18. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil reports

MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

19. MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

Section 89(2) of the Local Government Act 1989 enables the Council to close the meeting to the public if the meeting is discussing any of the following:

- (a) Personnel matters;
- (b) The personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer;
- (c) Industrial matters;
- (d) Contractual matters;
- (e) Proposed developments;
- (f) Legal advice;
- (g) Matters affecting the security of Council property;
- (h) Any other matter which the Council or Special Committee considers would prejudice the Council or any person;
- (i) A resolution to close the meeting to members of the public.

COUNCIL MOTION

Moved: Cr Rossiter
Seconded: Cr Gibson

That the Ordinary Meeting of Council closes this meeting to the public to consider the following items which are of a confidential nature, pursuant to section 89(2) of the Local Government Act (LGA) 1989 for the reasons indicated:

19.1 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS HELD OVER

Agenda item 19.1 *Confidential Items Held Over* is designated as confidential as it relates to a matter which the Council or special committee considers would prejudice the Council or any person (s89 2h)

19.2 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Agenda item 19.2 *Adoption of Minutes* is designated as confidential as it relates to a matter which the Council or special committee considers would prejudice the Council or any person (s89 2h)

19.3 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Agenda item 19.3 *Confidential Items* is designated as confidential as it relates to a matter which the Council or special committee considers would prejudice the Council or any person (s89 2h)

19.4 ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCILLORS

Agenda item 19.4 *Assemblies of Councillors* is designated as confidential as it relates to a matter which the Council or special committee considers would prejudice the Council or any person (s89 2h)

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
26 OCTOBER 2015 (CM471)**

19.5 PROPOSED SALE AND RELOCATION OF MOE WORKS DEPOT
Agenda item 19.5 *Proposed Sale and Relocation of Moe Works Depot* is designated as confidential as it relates to contractual matters (s89 2d) and proposed developments (s89 2e)

19.6 2015/16 COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM
Agenda item 19.6 *2015/16 Community Grants Program* is designated as confidential as it relates to a matter which the Council or special committee considers would prejudice the Council or any person (s89 2h)

19.7 LATROBE CITY TRUST - APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE TRUSTEES
Agenda item 19.7 *Latrobe City Trust - Appointment of Community Representative Trustees* is designated as confidential as it relates to a matter which the Council or special committee considers would prejudice the Council or any person (s89 2h)

19.8 PROPOSED SETTLEMENT
Agenda item 19.8 *Proposed Settlement* is designated as confidential as it relates to legal advice (s89 2f)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Meeting closed to the public at 8.19pm.

The meeting re-opened to the public at 9:19pm

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 9:19pm

I certify that these minutes have been confirmed.

Mayor: _____

Date: _____