

LATROBE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA FOR THE UNSCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING

TO BE HELD IN THE MEETING ROOMS AT GIPPSLAND PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE, TRARALGON AND VIA AUDIO-VISUAL LINK AT 6:00PM ON 15 MAY 2023 UCM591

Please note:

Opinions expressed or statements made by participants are the opinions or statements of those individuals and do not imply any form of endorsement by Council.

By attending a Council Meeting via audio-visual link those present will be recorded or their image captured. When participating in the meeting, consent is automatically given for those participating to be recorded and have images captured.

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COUNCILLOR AND PUBLIC ATTENDANCE

PLEASE NOTE

PURSUANT TO SECTION 61 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2020, A COUNCILLOR MAY ATTEND THIS COUNCIL MEETING REMOTELY BY ELECTRONIC MEANS OF COMMUNICATION; AND

PURSUANT TO SECTION 66 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2020 THIS COUNCIL MEETING MAY BE CLOSED TO IN PERSON ATTENDANCE BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PROVIDED THE MEETING IS AVAILABLE THROUGH LIVE STREAM ON COUNCIL'S INTERNET SITE.

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE LAND

I would like to acknowledge that we are meeting here today on the traditional land of the Brayakaulung people of the Gunaikurnai nation and I pay respect to their elders past and present.

If there are other Elders present I would also like to acknowledge them.

2. THE PRAYER

3. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME

Public Speakers

An opportunity for members of the public to speak to an item on the agenda will be made available by necessary means. To participate, members of the public must have registered before 12noon on the day of the Council meeting.

ITEMS REFERRED BY THE COUNCIL TO THIS MEETING FOR CONSIDERATION

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

Item Number 6.1

15 May 2023

Organisational Performance

DRAFT 2023/24 BUDGET - HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present to Council the submissions received in relation to the draft 2023/24 Budget.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Council resolved on the 3 April 2023 to release the draft budget for public exhibition until 5 May 2023 and invited public comment on the budget via written submission.
- A total of 44 submissions were received in relation to the draft 2023/24 budget, with 10 submitters indicating that they would like to speak to their submissions.
- It is recommended that Council notes and considers these submissions prior to adopting the 2023/24 Budget at the Council Meeting on 5 June 2023.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives, notes and considers all submissions received in relation to the draft 2023/2024 Budget.

BACKGROUND

Council resolved on the 3 April 2023 to release the draft budget for public exhibition until 5 May 2023 and invited public comment on the budget via written submission.

ANALYSIS

Public notice of the preparation of the draft Budget was advertised on Council's website from 4 April 2023 and in the Latrobe Valley Express on 12 April 2023 and 3 May 2023. Budget documentation was made available for inspection at Headquarters, Service Centres and on Council's website.

Submissions on the Budget were open until 5pm on 5 May 2023. A person who has made a written submission to Council and requested that he or she be heard in support of the written submission is entitled to appear before a meeting of the Council. In the public notice Council indicated that written budget submissions would be considered and submitters would have an opportunity to speak to their submissions at an unscheduled Council meeting to be held at 6.00 pm on 15 May 2023.

A total of 44 submissions have been received in relation to the draft 2023/24 Budget. Those wishing to speak to their submission will have the opportunity to do so at the unscheduled Council Meeting.

A copy of each submission received has been included in the attachment to this report, and a summary of the submissions is provided below along with those intending to speak to their submission.

Submitter	Summary of submission	Respondent No.	Indicated wish to speak to submission
Mark Smith	Enhanced Community Grants Program	2	Z
Anonymous	Establishment of pedestrian access between Narracan Lakes Estate and Moe Rail Trail	4	N
Barry Stuckey	Marshalls Road Upgrade	5	Υ
Anonymous	Aged, Disability and Health	3	N
Morwell Historical Society	Implementation of a Rates Rebate/Concession for not for profit, public benefit organisations	44	Y

Submitter	Summary of submission	Respondent No.	Indicated wish to speak to submission
Justin Lipman	Traralgon Skate Park	20	N
Latrobe City Farm Ratepayers Association	Support for the Farm Rate Differential and an increase in the Municipal charge to the maximum allowable.	43	Y
Anonymous	Review Community Group Facility Hire Fees	40	N
7 Individual Submissions	Bus Stop and Playground for The Range Estate Morwell	31,32,33, 34,35,36, 42	2
29 Individual Submissions	Establishment of a skate park, BMX/pump track and fencing at Tyers Community Park	Various	5

RISK ASSESSMENT

RISK	RISK RATING	TREATMENT
COMPLIANCE Council is unable to adopt the budget by the 30 June 2023 in accordance with legislative requirements	Low (Unlikely x Minor)	Budget has been scheduled for adoption by Council on 5 June 2023

CONSULTATION

In accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy, the draft budget has been advertised via public notice in the Latrobe Valley Express and on Council's website with documentation available for viewing at each Service Centre as well as being available on council's website.

In addition, Council hosted a Facebook Live session with the community on 2 May 2023, which included 626 views and a total reach of 2,139 Facebook users.

COMMUNICATION

The draft budget was communicated through media, Council's website, and social media forums, which included a front page story in the Latrobe Valley Express on the 12 April 2023 and public notices on the 12 April 2023 and 3 May 2023.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Officers preparing this report have declared they do not have a conflict of interest in this matter under the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

APPENDIX 1 IMPACT ASSESSMENT Social N/A Cultural N/A Health N/A Environmental N/A

Economic

N/A

Financial

As this report is to facilitate the presentation of submissions received in relation to the draft budget only, there are no financial implications associated with this report. Council will respond to the submissions and consider any financial impacts as part of the adoption of the budget at the Council Meeting in June.

Attachments

1. 23/24 Budget Submissions

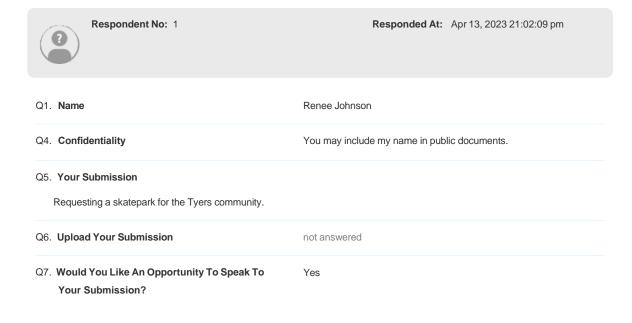
6.1

Draft 2023/24	Budget -	Hearing of	Submissions

1

23/24 Budget Submissions11

Unscheduled Council Meeting Agenda 15 May 2023





Responded At: Apr 15, 2023 07:10:39 am

Q1.	Name	Mark Smith
Q4.	Confidentiality	You may include my name in public documents.

Q5. Your Submission

I would love to see the Community Grants Program enhanced. We, as the community, are constantly told every 6 months how valuable this program is, and it is, I dare say councils return on investment in some many ways would be very significant from this program given what the community gains and adds to the funds provided through Community Grants. Be it from an increased amount available for each type of grant, or simply supporting more grant submissions, either way an increase in the amount available would see tremendous community return and energy into the community through a bit more support in this regard.

Q6. Upload Your Submission	not answered
Q7. Would You Like An Opportunity To Speak To Your Submission?	No



Responded At: Apr 18, 2023 17:20:25 pm

Q1. Name	Anonymous
Q4. Confidentiality	Please withhold my name from public documents.
Q5. Your Submission More money should be spent on aged and disabled also health	
Q7. Would You Like An Opportunity To Speak To Your Submission?	No



Responded At: Apr 18, 2023 17:20:25 pm

Q1. Name Anonymous

Q4. Confidentiality Please withhold my name from public documents.

Q5. Your Submission

Latrobe City Council Subject: Proposal for the construction of a pedestrian footpath connecting Narracan Lakes estate to the Railtrail Introduction: We are proposing the construction of a pedestrian footpath that will connect the new Narracan Lakes estate off Hayes road in Newborough to the Railtrail. Currently, there is no way for pedestrians to safely access the Railtrail from the new development, forcing them to walk along the dangerous 100-kilometer an hour Thompsons road. The proposed footpath would provide a safe and accessible route for residents of Narracan Lakes estate to access the Railtrail and its amenities. Need for the Footpath: Currently, there is no safe pedestrian access from the Narracan Lakes estate to the Railtrail. Pedestrians are forced to walk along Thompsons road, which is a high-speed, dangerous road. This poses a significant safety risk to pedestrians, particularly those with young children or mobility impairments. There have been several incidents of pedestrians being hit by vehicles while attempting to cross Thompsons road, and we believe that a pedestrian footpath is necessary to ensure the safety of residents. Proposed Solution: We propose the construction of a pedestrian footpath that will connect the Narracan Lakes estate to the Railtrail. The footpath will begin at the intersection of Hayes road and Thompsons road, where a safe pedestrian crossing should be constructed. The footpath will follow the storm drain, which runs parallel to Thompsons road, and provide a safe and accessible route for residents to access the Railtrail. The footpath will be constructed to meet all necessary safety standards and will be accessible to pedestrians of all ages and abilities. Supporting Evidence: The construction of pedestrian footpaths and safe crossings is not a new concept for the Latrobe City Council. In fact, the council has a history of undertaking similar projects. For example, the council recently constructed a pedestrian footpath along Old Sale Road in Traralgon, which provides a safe and accessible route for pedestrians to access local amenities. Furthermore, a study by the Pedestrian Council of Australia found that the provision of safe and accessible pedestrian infrastructure improves community health, reduces traffic congestion, and promotes sustainable transport. Conclusion: The proposed pedestrian footpath connecting the Narracan Lakes estate to the Railtrail will provide a safe and accessible route for residents to access the Railtrail and its amenities. The footpath will also improve community health, reduce traffic congestion, and promote sustainable transport. We strongly urge the Latrobe City Council to support this proposal and undertake the necessary construction to make it a reality. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely,

Q7. Would You Like An Opportunity To Speak To Your Submission?

No



Responded At: Apr 18, 2023 17:20:25 pm

Q1. Name Barry Stuckey

Q4. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents.

Q5. Your Submission

Last year Marshalls Road upgrade was in budget. It seems to have vanished. A project overdue since around 2016 may not commence till 2024. It seems the funding model is one reason for delays. This high maintenance section of road is not safe for cars or cyclists. Neither councillors nor staff can find a fast-track solution. After 6 to 8 years it seems Gippsland Water is a "new" delay. Details I have provided are with several city engineers who come and go. Please read their files about this road and its lack of lighting. One lesson could be to avoid vague yet complex funding models which probably leave the City solely liable if accidents or injury.

Q7. Would You Like An Opportunity To Speak To Your Submission?

Yes



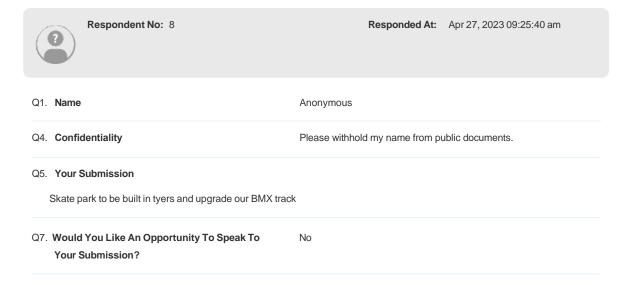
Responded At: Apr 27, 2023 09:10:51 am

Q1. Name	Caleb
Q4. Confidentiality	You may include my name in public documents.
Q5. Your Submission Requesting a Skatepark be built in Tyers	
Q7. Would You Like An Opportunity To Speak To Your Submission?	Yes



Responded At: Apr 27, 2023 09:25:40 am

Q1. Name	Jake Johnson
Q4. Confidentiality	You may include my name in public documents.
Q5. Your Submission I think the Tyers community would really Benefit from having a skate park and pump track seeing as there's nothing for the kids around the area.	
Q7. Would You Like An Opportunity To Speak To Your Submission?	No

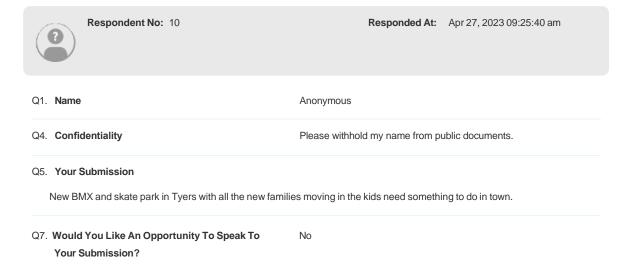


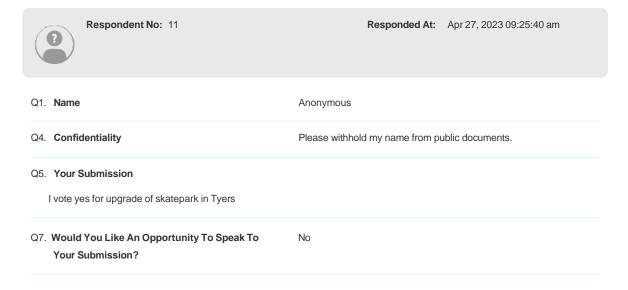


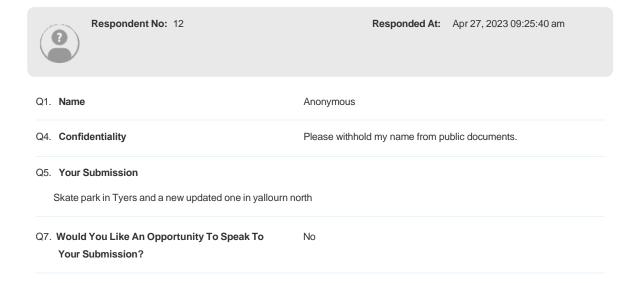
Your Submission?

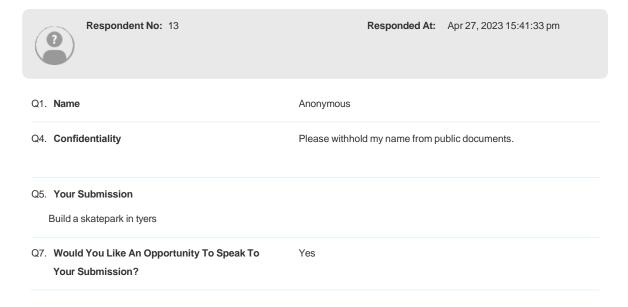
Responded At: Apr 27, 2023 09:25:40 am

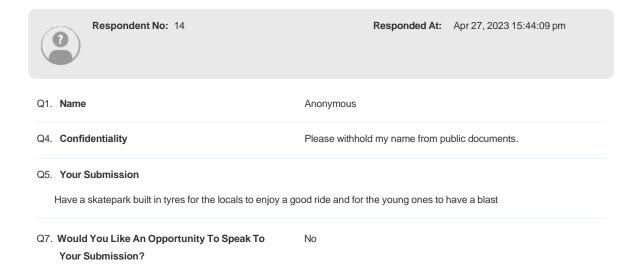
Q1. Name	Kayla mclure
Q4. Confidentiality	You may include my name in public documents.
Q5. Your Submission Upgraded pump track or bike park for Tyers, my now 3 year old who has just learnt to ride without training wheels has to be taken into surrounding towns because our closest dirt track is not suitable.	
Q7. Would You Like An Opportunity To Speak To	No

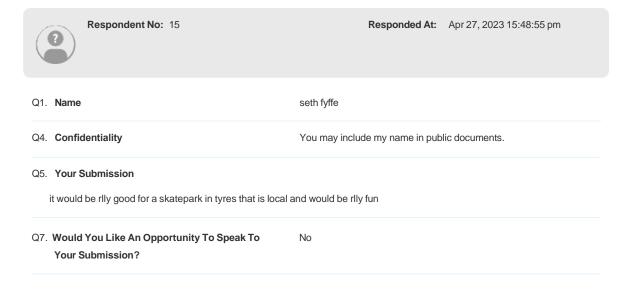














Responded At: Apr 27, 2023 16:56:59 pm

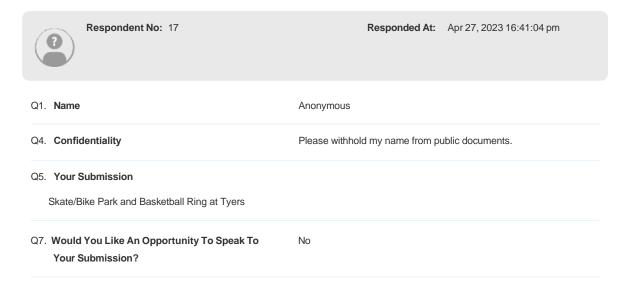
Q1. Name	Tyers and District Community Association
Q4. Confidentiality	You may include my name in public documents.

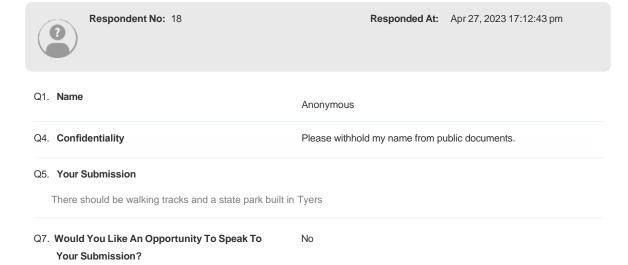
Q5. Your Submission

The Tyers and District Community Association would like to request the allocation of funds towards the development of a Skate Park/Pump Track. As identified in the LCC Skate and BMX Plan (2009) the existing dirt BMX track and jumps requires remodelling and the site overall requires regular ongoing maintenance. The track is very basic in its design and construction, and hence attracts minimal use. The TDCA request that Council consider a full redevelopment of the existing BMX track including the addition of a skate park. The inclusion of a skate park is popular within the community and would be a wonderful addition given Tyers growing population. The TDCA are willing to contribute funds towards the project of approx \$60.000 and assist Council with community consultation in regards to design/layout etc.

No

Q7. Would You Like An Opportunity To Speak To Your Submission?







Responded At: Apr 27, 2023 18:51:01 pm

Q1. Name Anonymous

Q4. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents.

Q5. Your Submission

Adequate fencing around the current park in Tyers. Many more children reside in Tyers now and use the park, and some with needs and it would be a major safety feature to add considering all the traffic we now have, and the large trucks that pass through town due to the ongoing works at the new bridge, and surrounding roads.

Q7. Would You Like An Opportunity To Speak To Your Submission?

No



Responded At: Apr 27, 2023 19:13:58 pm

Q1. Name Justin lipman

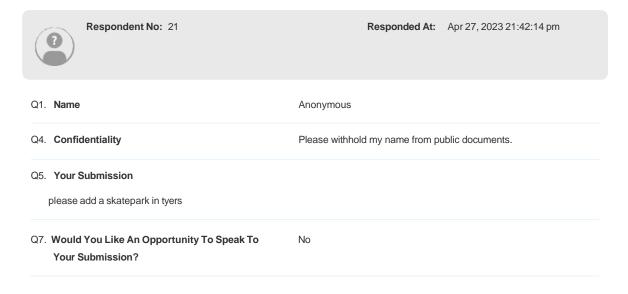
Q4. Confidentiality You may include my name in public documents.

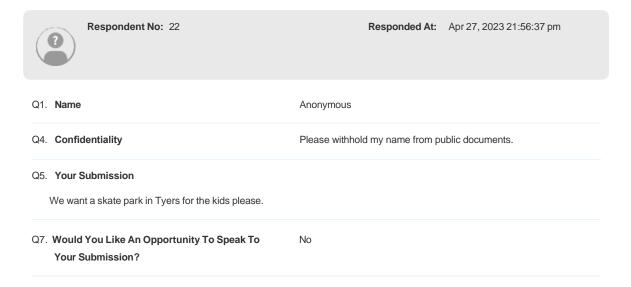
Q5. Your Submission

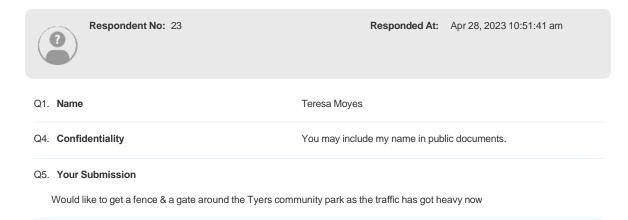
I would like to see more skateparks being built in Latrobe city. Traralgon is a huge town and the skatepark is beyond a joke. I'm 36 years old and the skatepark hasn't changed since I was a kid. My son just completed in the Australian scooter titles in Melbourne. He came 4th in Australia in 12 and unders. He has been giving th opportunity to compete in the world title. We travel to Melbourne most weekends so he can practice. This comes at a huge cost and would love if he can practice in his home town. Wellington shire has been building and updating there skateparks. The little pump track you built is fine for little kids. There has been talk of a new skatepark in traralgon for as long as I can remember but nothing has happened! When the time comes to building a new skatepark you need to talk to the riders and there parents. It's no good building one if you don't listen to the people. Skateparks can make the town look really nice. They don't have to have the stigma of trouble makers and kids causing trouble. Build it in the right spot and there will be no trouble and kids will look after it. I believe Kay st across from the pool would be an ideal spot.

No

Q7. Would You Like An Opportunity To Speak To Your Submission?



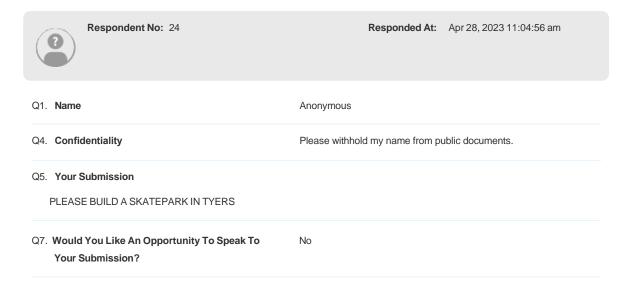




No

Q7. Would You Like An Opportunity To Speak To

Your Submission?



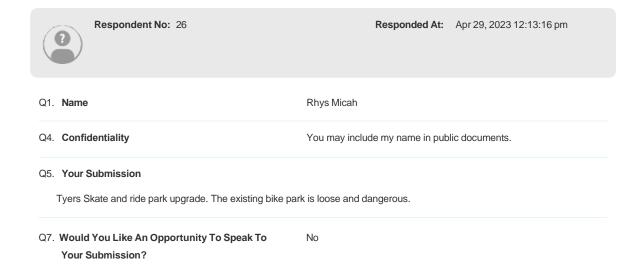


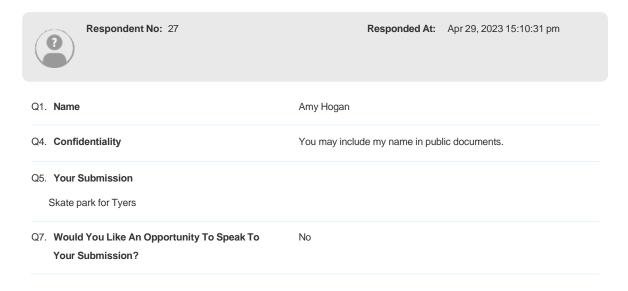
Responded At: Apr 29, 2023 09:20:27 am

Q1. I	Name	Anonymous
Q4. (Confidentiality	Please withhold my name from public documents.
L	Q5. Your Submission I would like to see a skate park built in Tyers. I would like to see funds put towards maintaining surrounds of Lake Narracan all year round (just like Blue Rock Lake is maintained)	

Q7. Would You Like An Opportunity To Speak To Your Submission?

No







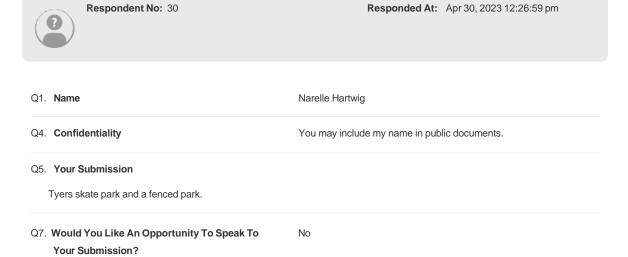
Responded At: Apr 29, 2023 15:10:31 pm

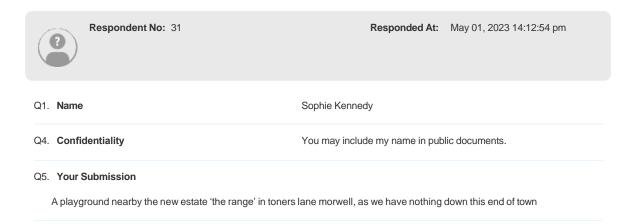
Q1. Name	Debbie Grist
Q4. Confidentiality	You may include my name in public documents.
Q5. Your Submission A skatepark, upgrade to the bmx track and secure fencing around the facility would be great for our growing, family friendly community.	
Q7. Would You Like An Opportunity To Speak To Your Submission?	No



Responded At: Apr 30, 2023 02:26:25 am

Q1. Name	Anonymous
Q4. Confidentiality	Please withhold my name from public documents.
Q5. Your Submission Would like ask that a skate park be made in Tyers for the children to use	
Q7. Would You Like An Opportunity To Speak To Your Submission?	No





No

Q7. Would You Like An Opportunity To Speak To

Your Submission?



Responded At: May 01, 2023 14:38:03 pm

Q1. Name Jacob McCormack

Q4. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents.

Q5. Your Submission

Requesting a park/play area within the Mary street/parkview boulevard /wedge street area. Plenty of children in the estate, precisely 30 and the closest park being Helen st near the Morwell club. Would love to see something within the estate to make a fantastic family neighbourhood

Q7. Would You Like An Opportunity To Speak To Your Submission?

Yes





Responded At: May 01, 2023 19:10:14 pm

Q1. Name Josie Briggs

Q4. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents.

Q5. Your Submission

We would love if you could consider in the budget putting a park in the new estate the range in Morwell. As a big part of this community have young children that would definitely benefit from a park within walking distance from our homes. We know many families that have also addressed this to the community. Thanks for taking the time to read this. Looking forward to hearing the outcome Thank you © Josie Briggs

Q7. Would You Like An Opportunity To Speak To Your Submission?



Responded At: May 01, 2023 21:53:14 pm

Q1. Name Anonymous

Q4. Confidentiality Please withhold my name from public documents.

Q5. Your Submission

Hi, I live in the Range estate in Morwell. A few of my neighbours have requested for a park for the children in our estate and I believe this would be a valuable investment. There is nothing better than seeing children play outside. I am not yet a mother but when I do have children, it would be great to know there is one close to home. Thank you Warm regards,

Q7. Would You Like An Opportunity To Speak To Your Submission?



Responded At: May 01, 2023 23:42:45 pm

Q1. Name Melissa Phillips

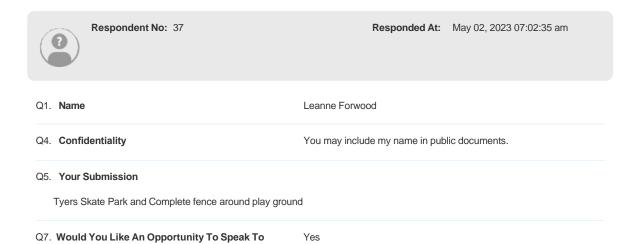
Q4. Confidentiality You may include my name in public documents.

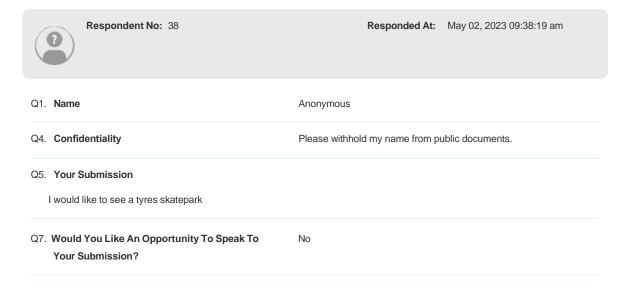
Q5. Your Submission

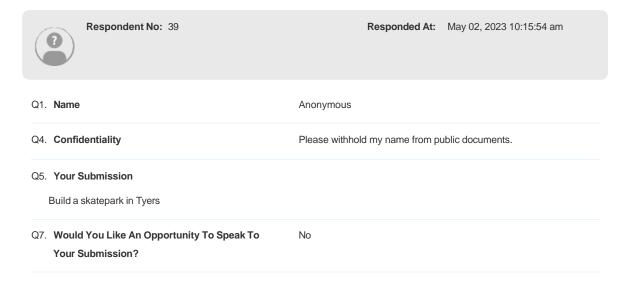
We need a bus stop for school children in the new Range Estate off of Mary Street. The nearest high school is 4.8kms and there are many children moving into the new estatevthat would benefit from the additional bus stop. I would also like to request a park with swings for children of all age ranges. Maybe it would be nice to also include a basketball hoop to help promote fitness for teens. With a bus stop and a park, our town could show the rest of the state that we are family friendly and it would encourage more people coming to the Latrobe valley which will benefit business owners and the council. It's a win win. Please consider. We desperately need a bus stop. Thank you.

Q7. Would You Like An Opportunity To Speak To Your Submission?

Your Submission?









Responded At: May 03, 2023 09:30:03 am

Q1. Name Anonymous

Q4. Confidentiality Please withhold my name from public documents.

Q5. Your Submission

The CWA Morwell Evening ladies meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at the Rose Garden Room in Maryvale Road. We have met there for the past 6 years. Currently we do not pay for room hire for this room, however, on 2 occasions we have had to justify why we don't pay. As a charity the money that we raise goes back into our local community and feel it is very unfair to have to pay for room hire. At our meetings we discuss upcoming events that we are participating in or running, which we raise money for our local community, as an example from our recent scone drive, we made a large donation to the Morwell Historical Society. Not only does it not seem unfair to charge charities that assist the local community from a commercial standpoint it is not economically viable. The fee that is charged to hire the room is considerably swallowed up by administrative costs. Therefore, I would like to propose that the CWA Morwell Evening Branch be able to hire the Rose Garden Room free of charge to meet as we are providing a community service and our focus is definitely on the wellbeing of our local community.

Q7. Would You Like An Opportunity To Speak To Your Submission?



Responded At: May 04, 2023 20:33:09 pm

Q1. Name Jesse Krekelberg

Q4. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents.

Q5. Your Submission

New Tyres BMX, I'd love to get a new BMX track here in Tyres and I'd love to be apart of putting it all together. It would be great for the community and the local Tyres kids to use since getting into town on a weekend is a lot harder

Q7. Would You Like An Opportunity To Speak To Your Submission?

Yes



Responded At: May 04, 2023 22:27:33 pm

Q1. Name Anonymous

Q4. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents.

Q5. Your Submission

1st May 2023

To whom it may concern,

Re: Consideration to be given to the development and installation of a community playground in 'The Range Estate' Morwell.

I am writing this submission for attention and consideration to be given to the development and installation of a community playground in 'The Range Estate', Morwell. Currently there is no community playground in this area nor are there any future plans for one to be developed. This seems unreasonable given there are plans to develop further stages within the estate.

The nearest park in this area is the Helen Street Park in Morwell. To walk to this park requires you to walk up a significant hill. This is achievable for an adult but not for a small child or toddler. The next closest park is the Wooden Park on Elgin Street. This is approximately 2.5km away from 'The Range Estate'.

Community playgrounds are imperative for child development. Playgrounds provide opportunities for children to play on equipment that allows them to develop a range of necessary skills that will assist them in all aspects of life. These skills include, but are not limited to the development of cognitive, emotional, and social skills. They help to support and strengthen a child's fine and gross motor skills, imagination, coordination, strength, self-confidence and critical thinking.

Not only do community playgrounds offer the critical components of supporting child development. They help to develop a sense of community and create an inclusive space for all. Providing opportunities for positive community engagement and connection, whilst also providing families with the opportunities to be active, enjoy time outdoors together and engage in positive play which in turn helps to support and strengthen family relationships. Every child deserves the opportunity to access safe, fun and inclusive playground and play areas that ultimately help to support the overall health and wellbeing of a community.

Thank you for reading this submission and considering this request. If you require anything further in relation to this submission, I can be contacted on

Yours sincerely,

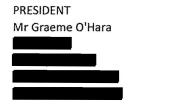
Q7. Would You Like An Opportunity To Speak To

Ye

Your Submission?

Name: Latrobe City Farm Ratepayers

LATROBE CITY FARM RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION



SECRETARY
Graeme Goldsworthy

21st April 2023

SUBMISSION TO LATROBE CITY COUNCIL

FARM RATE DIFFERENTIAL

Our Committee and members thank the council for the opportunity to present this Submission for the retention of our Farm Rate Differential. We acknowledge and commend the Council for their support in previous years.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Our Farm Rate Differential has been in place for forty plus years. The Minister for Local Government is encouraging all regional councils to reduce the rate burden placed on farms by the use of the Differential Rate System Valuation of Land Act, 1960.

The NAV of Farm Land was legislated at Five Percent of the CIV of the said property. The NAV purported to represent the return of the property in a rent or lease situation. The rate of return on Farm Land does not return this Five Percent Figure. Farm ratepayers pay significantly more than township rate payers and have less access to the services offered by council. Our Committee Members congratulate past councils for recognising the inequity that does exist. The impact of potential

zone changes from Farm zone to Rural Residential allows Council to implement the potential rate. This results in substantial rating increases with no change in the farmer's usage of the land or income. This has threatened the farm sustainability of some farms in our area.

FARM LAND RATING

The recent influx of city investors with substantial off farm income paying unsustainable high prices will bring about a revaluation of properties supported by off farm income. Farming is a land based activity. As the Farm Business improves its productivity via the land, the Land Value increases lifting its assessable rate value.

Our Association supports Council to maximise the Municipal Charge up to the Twenty Percent of Total Rate Value. We view this charge as an equal contribution by Rate Payers.

COMMENTS OF CONCERN FROM MEMBERS ON LAND VALUATIONS AND REZONING

Farmers have seen a decrease in farm incomes due to the impact of recent floods causing loss of fencing and loss of production from inundated pastures.

Full time farmers have concerns about the recent sales of farmland by buyers with substantial non-agricultural income. This has led to increases of up to 20% in some areas. This will cause rate rises which will make their farming business less viable.

ZONING CHANGES

Zoning changes require careful planning, rating should continue for Farm Zones 1 and 2 (EG) Agriculture to Rural Living until such time as the owner submits a plan of subdivision

within its rezoned category. Valuers are able to introduce the POTENTIAL RATE thus rendering the farm property unviable due to the increased Rate Burden.

CONCLUSION

The Farm Rate Differential is a tool provided by the Local Government Act to assist in the setting an equitable rate. Farm Businesses are logistically low users of Council Services but they contribute substantially to both the Latrobe Cities economy and rate revenue. Agricultural production within Latrobe City is a large contributor for the growing Gippsland Food Bowl. The seasons have changed dramatically with drought turning into flooding rains causing inundation to farming land and the costs involved in refencing and debris removal.

Yours faithfully

GRAEME O'HARA

LATROBE CITY FARM RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

grad

Name: Morwell Historical Society

From: "Morwell Historical Society" <morwellhs@gmail.com>

 Sent:
 Thu, 27 Apr 2023 21:38:51 +1000

 To:
 latrobe@latrobe.vic.gov.au

Subject: Morwell Historical Society - Latrobe City Council 2023/2024 Draft Budget -

submission

<u>↑ EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust</u> the sender and know the content is safe. <u>↑</u>

ATTENTION: Mr. Matthew Rogers, Chief Financial Officer

Re: Council Budget 2023/24

With the recent changes to the Local Government Act, which will commence 20 June 2023, the Morwell Historical Society would like to request a rebate on our rates.

As you would be aware, the legislative change allows rebates and concessions to be provided to properties providing a 'public benefit' at Council's discretion.

The Society is of the belief that we would be one of very few properties which are owned by a community organisation and meet the criteria of the legislation.

The Society's ABN is No. and it is registered with the Australian Charities and Notfor-profits Commission as a Charity.

We have three regular Open Days per month on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday and the last Sunday of the month, or at other times by appointment, and entry is free of charge.

Council will recall that the Society purchased the Masonic Lodge building in Hazelwood Rd Morwell in 2015 with short term loans from members. The original purchase was \$250,000 and at this point in time, we have reduced this debt to \$60,000 with continual fundraising, support from local businesses and donations from community members.

The Society was formed in 1962 with the ongoing goal to preserve and record the history of Morwell and surrounding areas and to make information in our archives readily available to the public and to promote an interest in the history of Morwell.

The Society exists to support the local community and provide a "public benefit". The Society provides displays and exhibitions of memorabilia from the past, remembering and recording details of past events and the history of families who have lived in the area.

Our building is one of the few remaining historical buildings in the central business district and provides a permanent and secure place for our growing repository of archives.

Document Set ID: 2471361 Version: 1, Version Date: 28/04/2023 We continue to make improvements to our building by applying for Government grants and we include a Local Cash Contribution and an In-Kind Contribution for these projects.

We continue to 'scrimp and save' to meet our operating costs. Our dedicated volunteers assist with fundraising e.g. Bunnings BBQs, and manage the maintenance of our building.

The displays we offer provide a platform to celebrate times past, where people can come together, congregate and share stories and build community connectedness. We believe our facilities offer a welcoming environment to members and visitors and encourage social participation in the Society's activities where they can feel supported and included.

Since the closure of the Hazelwood Power Station, the Society has had an ongoing display of items received from former workers and the owners of the former Hazelwood Power Station – valuable documentation such as photos, large prints, books and memorabilia. This has been important for the transitioning workforce as we prepare for what comes next for our town and region.

The Society is extremely grateful for the support provided by Latrobe City Council and the partnership we currently have with regards to Streets and Parks and Reserves names, however we seek Council's support in utilising the recent changes to the Local Government Act to assist with a rate rebate.

As President of the Society, I would like to speak to our submission at the Meeting of Council to be held on Monday, 15th May 2023. My contact number is

On behalf of Morwell Historical Society

Alan McFarlane President Morwell Historical Society 12 Hazelwood Road MORWELL

Email: morwellhs@gmail.com

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