



LATROBE CITY COUNCIL

**AGENDA FOR THE
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

**TO BE HELD IN NAMBUR WARIGA MEETING ROOM
CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS, MORWELL
AT 6:30 PM ON
23 JUNE 2014**

SM440



Latrobe Community **Vision**

"In 2026 the Latrobe Valley is a liveable and sustainable region with collaborative and inclusive community leadership."

Council **Mission**

Latrobe City continues to implement the values, corporate directions and partnerships necessary to bring reality to the Latrobe's 2026 community vision for a liveable and sustainable region with collaborative and inclusive community leadership.

Council **Values**

Latrobe City Council's values describe how it is committed to achieving the Latrobe 2026 community vision through:

- Providing responsive, sustainable and community focused services;
- Planning strategically and acting responsibly;
- Accountability, transparency and honesty;
- Listening to and working with the community; and
- Respect, fairness and equity.

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1. OPENING PRAYER

Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in Heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE LAND

We respectfully acknowledge that we are meeting here today on the traditional land of the Braiakaulung people of the Gunnai/Kurnai Clan and pay our respect to their past and present elders

3. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

4. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

PLANNING AND GOVERNANCE

6. PLANNING AND GOVERNANCE

**6.1 DRAFT 2014/2015 BUDGET AND STRATEGIC RESOURCE PLAN
2014-2018 - HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS**

General Manager

Planning and Governance

For Decision

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present submissions received in relation to the draft 2014/2015 Budget and Strategic Resource Plan (SRP) 2014-2018 for Council's consideration.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No officer declared an 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 Directions

Regularly report Council decisions and performance to the community.

Establish and maintain rigorous Council policies that comply with legislation and respond to community expectation.

Increase community awareness and satisfaction with Council's services and facilities.

Continuously improve financial management and reporting.

Ensure Latrobe City Council's infrastructure and assets are maintained and managed sustainably.

Strategy & Plans – 10 Year Financial & Resources Plan

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
23 JUNE 2014 (SM440)**

Legislation – Local Government Act 1989

Section 126 (3) of the Local Government Act 1989, states that “A Council must adopt the Strategic Resource Plan not later than 30 June each year.”

Section 127 (1) of the Local Government Act 1989, states that “A Council must prepare a budget for each financial year.”

Section 130 (3) of the Act states that “The Council must adopt the budget by 31 August each year.

Section 130 (4) of the Act states that ‘The Council must submit a copy of the budget to the Minister by 31 August each year.

BACKGROUND

On 19 May 2014, Council resolved to give notice of preparation of the proposed 2014/2015 budget and SRP 2014-2018 and to allow a period of 28 days for submissions.

A person has a right to make a submission under section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, on any proposal contained in the budget.

Public notice of the preparation of the 2014/2015 budget and SRP was subsequently advertised in the Latrobe Valley Express on 22 May 2014, 26 May 2014 and 5 June 2014, advising that both documents were available for inspection at Council’s service centres and on Council’s website.

Submissions in relation to the budget and SRP were received up to 5pm on 18 June 2014. 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 in person before a meeting of the Council. In the public notice Council indicated that a Special Council meeting would be held at 6.30 pm on Monday, 23 June 2014.

ISSUES

At the conclusion of the submission period eight submissions had been received in relation to the draft 2014/2015 Budget and SRP 2014-2018. Those wishing to speak to their submission will have the opportunity to do so at the Special Council Meeting.

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA 23 JUNE 2014 (SM440)

A list of the submissions received is provided below and copies of all submissions are attached.

Name	Summary of issue
Latrobe City Farm Ratepayers Association	Support for the retention of the farm differential rate
Churchill Bowls Club	Seeking priority in funding for the Churchill Bowls Club new bowling green
Traralgon Olympians Soccer Club	Request to reconsider the funding arrangement for the Change Pavilion so that it is included in the "funded" capital works budget and not linked to asset sales.
Boolarra Memorial Park Committee of Management	Request for an allocation of \$7K to undertake independent community consultation process in order to produce a masterplan for Boolarra Memorial Park Multi-Purpose Complex
Moe & District Netball Association	Support for the redevelopment of the Moe Park Netball Courts
Old Gippsdown Reserve Committee of Management	Request for an increase in the annual funding from \$20K to \$50K per year
Mr Jim Churchill Dalkeith Heights Retirement Village	Request to re-consider a differential rate of 25% reduction for retirement villages.
Rural Reserves Committees of Management	Consideration of funding levels for rural reserves managed by Committees of Management.

FINANCIAL, RISK AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

Risk has been considered as part of this report and it is considered to be consistent with the Risk Management Plan 2011-2014.

The financial implications of any proposed changes to the draft 2014/2015 budget and SRP 2014-2018 will need to be taken into account in the consideration of budget submissions.

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

Engagement Method Used:

Copies of the draft Budget and SRP have been available for inspection at Council offices and on the Council web site since 20 May 2014, ensuring a minimum of 28 days were available for submissions to be received.

A person has a right to make a submission under section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, on any proposal contained in the budget.

Details of Community Consultation / Results of Engagement:

At the conclusion of the submission period eight submissions had been received.

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
23 JUNE 2014 (SM440)****OPTIONS**

Under the provisions of section 223 of the *Local Government Act* 1989, Council must provide the opportunity for submissions to be considered at a meeting of Council. This is a legislative requirement.

CONCLUSION

On 19 May 2014 Council gave notice of preparation of the proposed 2014/2015 budget and SRP 2014-2018, and has provided the opportunity for submissions to be heard at this meeting of Council. This allows Council sufficient time to consider submissions received in relation to the proposed 2014/2015 budget and SRP 2014-2018 prior to considering the budget at the next Ordinary Council Meeting, to be held at 6.00pm on Monday, 30 June 2014.

Attachments

1. Submissions

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes and considers all submissions received in relation to the draft 2014/2015 Budget and Strategic Resource Plan 2014-2018.

6.1

DRAFT 2014/2015 BUDGET AND STRATEGIC RESOURCE PLAN 2014-2018 - HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS

1	Submissions	9
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LATROBE CITY FARM RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT

Mr Graeme O'Hara
P/O Box 22
Yinnar 3869

**SECRETARY**

Jenny Thompson
225 Church Road
Hazelwood North 3840



15/5/14

SUBMISSION TO LATROBE CITY COUNCIL FOR FARM RATE DIFFERENTIAL

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Our Farm Rate Differential has been in place in excess of Thirty Seven 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 that property in a rent or lease situation. The rate of return on Farm Land continues to be unable to return this Five Percent Figure.

Our Committee and members congratulate past councils for recognizing the inequity that does exist.

FARM LAND RATING

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.

MUNICIPAL CHARGE

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

COMMENTS OF CONCERN FROM MEMBERS ON LAND VALUATIONS

The past two years Farm Valuations have levelled in some cases but in some cases fallen. Councils contracted {Independent} Valuers don't seem to acknowledge this fact. A number of Property Auctions have been passed in not making their Shire Valuation.

ZONING CHANGES

Requires careful planning and considerations->{ EG.} Agriculture to Rural Living. 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 setting an equitable rate. Farm Businesses are logistically low users of Council Services but they contribute substantially to both Latrobe Cities economy and rate revenue.

Mr Graeme O'Hara
President

Latrobe City Farm Ratepayers Association

Submission to Latrobe City Council

2014/2015 Draft Budget

On behalf of the

Churchill Bowls Club

PERM

LATROBE CITY COUNCIL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT	
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Matt Rogers

Latrobe City Council

Date 16/06/2014

**Churchill Bowls Club Submission, regarding the Latrobe City Council
2014/2015 Draft Budget.**

In October 2011, Latrobe City Council handed down the Master Plan key recommendations, that a bowls facility be established at Gaskin Park Churchill. In 2012 Latrobe City Councils Recreation, Culture & Community Infrastructure document indicated that a funding application would be applied for in 2014/2015, to construct a lawn bowls green at Gaskin Park Churchill, envisaged for 2015.

Furthermore this support for a lawn bowls green in Churchill was forthcoming at the subsequent council meeting on the 03/03/2014 where Latrobe City Councillors voted to approve funding for the proposed synthetic bowls green in Churchill in the 2014/2015 budget.

Recently 2 members of the Churchill Bowls Club K.Turpin and W.Brown met with M. Rogers and K.Tsebelis from Latrobe City Council, to discuss certain aspects of the 2014/2015 Draft Budget which is to be discussed and voted upon at a Council meeting on the 23/06/2014.

The discussion centred around the fact, that there would be a shortfall in the amount of money available for some projects listed for funding in 2014/2015 Draft Budget. To overcome this dilemma, council intends selling off some of its property assets, to raise enough money to increase the amount of funding available, however if these property sales don't eventuate, funding will be prioritised.

It has now been 8 years since the Churchill Bowls Clubs inception; as a club we have reached a point in our the clubs development, where it is now crucial to obtain the funding for our bowls green in the 2014/2015 Budget, for the club to move forward. **A successful budget outcome, will allow us to implement our recruitment campaign, inclusive bowls programs and other bowls activities, which are currently held in abeyance, until funding of our green is approved in full.**

As with any sporting club, recruitment is a vital component in regard to an organisations viability and long term future, this is especially so for the Churchill Bowls Club, whose core values are built around people policies. At this point in time, we have a significant recruitment campaign set in place and ready to go, unfortunately, until a lawn bowls green is established in Churchill, potential members are reluctant to outlay large sums of money to join a club where no bowls green exists. This delay in our recruitment program impacts on our inclusiveness and curtails the number and quality of people available for governance and general duties required to run a successful club.

On behalf of the Churchill Bowls Club & the Churchill & district community, I would once again ask Latrobe City Councillors for your support in ensuring this worthwhile project receives a high priority in the 2014/2015/ Draft Budget. Your support in this matter will ensure the Churchill Bowls Club acquires a lawn bowls facility in 2015 enabling the club to carry out its objective of providing a diverse sporting and social activity for all demographic groups in the Churchill and District communities.

I am sure Churchill and District residents would be extremely grateful to have a bowls facility established in Churchill on the 50th anniversary of its being.

Thank you

W.Brown
President
Churchill Bowls Club



TRARALGON OLYMPIANS SOCCER CLUB

Incorp A000004998 B

ABN : 71 820 628 375

P.O. Box 1414, Traralgon 3844
 traralgon.olympians@gmail.com
 olympians.sportingpulse.net



Founded 1980

LATROBE CITY COUNCIL
 INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

RECEIVED

17 JUN 2014

PELM

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Matthew Rogers, Manager Finance
 Latrobe City Council
 PO Box 264
 Morwell VIC 3840

via email:- Matthew.Rogers@latrobe.vic.gov.au

11th June 2014

Dear Matthew

Draft Budget and 2014-2018 Strategic Resource Plan

We are writing in relation to the abovementioned Draft Budget.

We wish to submit that Traralgon Olympians Soccer Club Committee & players are not happy with the project being attached to the sale of Council assets.

The project, namely the Junior/Female Changing Room Facilities, has State Government Funding approval of \$50,000- and our Club is also making a considerable contribution of approx \$20,000 towards this project

Funding of our project is now not a guarantee as history of Council property sales has shown this to be a very drawn out process, if any sale at all.

When State Government funding was approved it was understood that Latrobe City Council would guarantee the funding (from Capital works funds) for our project which was likely to commence late 2014, this project has been in the system and worked towards with Council for some years.

Other projects, for example, Agnes Brereton, is in the 2014/15 draft budget which has no other funding, neither State Government or other contribution. As funding for this project has not yet been approved we ask why Traralgon Olympians Facilities has not been prioritised in the Capital funding of Councils 2014/15 Budget.

We hope Council reconsiders this Project as a priority and includes it in the 2014/15 funded Capitals works budget.

Yours In Sport

Con Kattos
 President



Emy Panayiotou
 Secretary



SUBMISSION TO THE LATROBE CITY COUNCIL DRAFT 2014/15 BUDGET**BACKGROUND**

The Boolarra Memorial Park Multi-Purpose Complex is seeking the support of Council in our endeavours to develop a concept plan for the redevelopment of our facilities.

The current facilities were built many years ago by volunteers largely with recycled materials. The "Nissan Hut" is dilapidated and for the most part unusable. The change rooms are outdated and do not meet contemporary OHS or other standards.

The Memorial Park was affected by 2009 bushfires. Some minor improvements have been made over the years with the partial implementation of the **Southern Towns Recreational Plan**. The plan acknowledged the need to replace the Nissan Hut but a submission prepared by Latrobe City in 2009 was unfortunately unsuccessful.

Well attended community forums conducted in 2013 by the Boolarra Community Development Group and the Bendigo Community Bank identified the replacement of these facilities and the establishment of a Multi-Purpose Complex as a priority for the community.

A sub-committee of the Park Committee of Management has been established with representatives of the BCDG and the broader community. Recent applications for grants to the Bendigo Community Bank and the Mirboo North Community Foundation were successful and we have raised \$14,000 towards the cost of this project. If we are not able to gain a further financial contribution to complete our project then we jeopardise this funding and may have to return it.

Our project aims to develop a masterplan with indicative costings that will be used as a basis for future capital works funding applications.

We have retained the services of a highly regarded, understanding architect who is willing to develop plans and engage a quantity surveyor for the design stage of the project.

We have received an indicative quotation from the well regarded community consultation experts ESA (Equal Say Australia) for \$7,000. Their proposal is to undertake a process of meeting with user groups, facilitated broader community consultation sessions and produce a report that would outline design principals. Our architects could then use this information to prepare a masterplan with input from a quantity surveyor.

OUR REQUEST OF COUNCIL

In order to further any realistic progress with the project we need the support of Latrobe City Council. As such our request is:

- That the council acknowledge and recognise the efforts made by Boolarra Memorial Park Committee in raising significant funding on our own behalf for this important project.
- That in recognition of the Committee's efforts and as an indication of Council's support a financial contribution of \$7,000 be made to the Boolarra Memorial Park Committee to assist us to undertake an independent community consultation process to establish community expectations and to develop future demand and utilisation assessments in order to produce a master plan for future development.

CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS SUBMISSION:

John Cargill
President
Boolarra Memorial Park Committee of Management
Park Rd
Boolarra 3870



Latrobe City Councillor,

I am writing to you in relation to the redevelopment of the Moe Park netball courts home to Moe and District Netball Association.

Moe and District Netball Association has been based at the Moe Netball Park in Saviages Rd Moe for over thirty years. It has always been an exceptionally strong club from its inception. However in the thirty years the Association has been at the netball park, there has only been one small upgrade.

In 1991 the Association in conjunction with Moe City Council resurfaced approximately three courts and placed lighting on four courts. There has been no other significant work since 1991. So as you can appreciate the courts are no longer compliant with Netball Australia standards and are in average to poor condition. The lack of lighting and the condition of the courts means that the Netball Association is struggling to meet demand within the district.

We had our most successful year last year participation wise, yet we still were unable to accommodate at least seven teams and approximately 80 current or future netballers.

Last year we ran two seasons Winter and Twilight, we also ran the biggest Net set and Go program outside metropolitan Melbourne. Winter is now traditionally our smaller season with twenty two teams and approximately 200 children aged from six to thirteen participating on a Saturday morning. Twilight is now the bigger season last year we had seventy six teams which equates to approximately seven hundred and fifty children aged between six and fifteen participating, and as previously mentioned we still had to turn seven teams away. Net Set and Go had sixty five children aged from five to eight participate in a skills based program designed to be an introduction to the game netball. It was exceptionally successful and most of those children have or will go on to play netball this year.

While these figures are excellent they only begin to demonstrate how important netball is to the Moe community. We have spent the last two years really pushing for cultural diversity and inclusion and are proud of our commitment to the Sudanese community with approximately twenty Sudanese girls and boys participating in netball. Two of who have gone on to represent the Association at a regional level. At a committee level this has meant that we have had to assist the families with transport and other logistical problems but with such a consistent participation rate and some of the new programs we are undertaking this year including Cultural awareness training we are confident that we can build stronger relationships with the community.

Community is what is pushing this redevelopment. While Moe and District netball is predominately a junior association it has a major role in netball in Gippsland and Latrobe Valley. We are the only junior feeder club for any number of football netball teams, including Moe in the Gippsland League then in Mid Gippsland we feed Newborough, Hill End, Trafalgar, Thorpdale, Yallourn North and to a lesser extent Mirboo north, Boolarra and Morwell East. The better our children are the stronger these clubs are.

The State government have recognised this, resulting in a grant to replace the current unsatisfactory lighting at the association. However this is only part of the redevelopment. The courts need resurfacing and the drainage needs to be dealt with, the canteen doesn't meet Latrobe Cities own Codes and the car parking needs to be adequate.

At the end of last twilight season we had cancelled seven games and postponed our grand finals by a week because the courts were unsuitable in the wet, posing a real risk to player safety. This year we have been unable to use two courts due to their condition, which in winter is fine but come twilight when we need all courts operational. If they aren't this could possible result in us having to turn more teams away. We also had approximately 170 cars parked on the road each week of twilight last year. This created real traffic management issues but more importantly real safety issues for our players and spectators as they made their way across the road and in and out of traffic to get to the courts. While the courts are in desperate need of redevelopment netball in Moe is thriving.

WE can grow even bigger and the redevelopment is an integral part of that. Our aim over the next five years provided we can move forward with the infrastructure. We will move the winter competition from a Saturday morning to a Thursday night, and on that Thursday night figures suggest that we could go from twenty junior teams in wither to around fifty just by moving the times. We then would also run a strong adult competition after the junior one. Inviting all the Football Netball clubs in the district to run their senior teams. This has been met with great support from the FNC as it gives them a chance to pit themselves against opponents of equal quality but not affecting their Football netball results.

We hope to hold at least one Netball Victoria sanctioned netball tournament a season. This would result people outside the area coming to Moe. We hope this would bring a cash injection not only to the Association but also local business

We are looking at offering an all abilities program similar to Net Set and Go. Where people with a disability can participate in a netball program tailored to their abilities.

The local masters will continue to use the Association as training facility. We project that they will continue to increase in numbers. This will result in us being able to offer them a competition at a later stage.

The redevelopment of the netball park is vital to the future of Moe and district netball association. It offers a large cross section of the Moe community an opportunity to participate in Netball and we hope that you will support its redevelopment.

Regards

Tamara Kennedy

On Behalf of Moe and District Netball Association.



18 June 2014

Cr. Sharon Gibson, Mayor
La Trobe City Council
PO Box 264
Morwell 3840

Dear Mayor,

I am writing to you to expand on a submission we sent earlier this year and hope to clarify the current position at Old Gippstown, Moe and our plans for the future.

I would firstly like to thank Latrobe City Council for its continued support of Old Gippstown in its many forms, in particular the \$20,000 annual funding received.

Old Gippstown has undergone a lot of changes since 2011, both in terms of governance and management of the park. These changes have had a positive impact on the park's operation and we are now at a stage where we need to take the operations to the next level and guarantee its position in the community and its long-term future.

In recognition of the special uniqueness of the Park as a major tourist attraction, its impact on the liveability of Moe and Latrobe City residents and contribution to the local economy, the Committee of Management is submitting a request for an increase in the annual funds from \$20,000 to \$50,000 so that Old Gippstown may realise its true potential.

This funding is being sought to maintain management and existing park programs, repair and improve buildings and exhibits and implement new initiatives. The renovations will significantly lift the presentation and standards of the park, enhance the profile of Latrobe City and provide a positive experience for visitors encouraging greater spend in our economy.

Examples of proposed capital works projects: we have prioritised restumping and new windows at the state school at a cost of \$20,000.00, asphaltting the car park \$15,000.00, structural maintenance at the Printer's Shop at estimated cost of \$8,000.00 and resurfacing of some internal roadways at a cost of \$2,000.00.

The works to the school are an immediate priority as it is the major facility for our successful schools program. The program brings many students to Moe to experience life as school was at the turn of the century.

Lloyd Street, Moe, Victoria, 3825 (PO Box 337, Moe, 3825) Ph: (03) 5127 3082 Fax:
(03) 5127 8709
ABN No. 99 724 971 481 Email: enquiries@gippslandheritagepark.com.au



It is of benefit as an educational program but also offers us repeat visitation as many families return to experience Old Gippsland themselves. Currently 200 students visit per month.

Old Gippsland was established in 1973 and has been in business for more than 40 years. The Heritage Park depicts the settlement period of the Gippsland region between 1840 and 1930 with more than 40 authentic buildings and artefacts from across the region. It is Latrobe Valley's most visited tourist attraction with more than 48,000 visitors annually.

The Committee's core value is to preserve the heritage of Gippsland for our future generations.. This is achieved through its valuable list of long term volunteers that contribute many hours of unpaid work in maintaining its exhibits and displays.

This also addresses many issues that volunteers experience outside of their volunteer work at Old Gippsland, such as social isolation and provides an important sense of community through social inclusion for our volunteer workforce and the region in general. As such Old Gippsland has been recognised in Gippsland as a social enterprise.

To complement the valuable work of our volunteers, Old Gippsland also has a Centrelink Work for the Dole program as well as a Corrections Victoria program for offenders to complete their community work. Through Fulham Prison Old Gippsland provides work for inmates to facilitate re entry into society.

Old Gippsland also has excellent support from service clubs including Lions, Rotary and Apex. Numerous other clubs and organisations use the facilities for meetings and social events.

The committee commissioned a business plan in 2011 which identified its many strengths and how to expand, they are largely dependent on funding.

The committee also has been working with consultant Neville Penrose to establish targets and policies to allow for a structured business model. Mr Penrose's work has been funded by the Department of Environment and Primary Industry. Mr Penrose has commissioned 16 new policies to be considered by the Committee since January 2014. These policies will strengthen the governance of the business and the Committee of Management.

We believe with adequate funding Old Gippsland could tap into the immediate tourist markets of Casey and Cardinia Shires and further afield to Melbourne's east. The park is within an easy hour's drive of Victoria's growth region. The Park has flat terrain lending itself to easy access for elderly tourists, those with special needs or young families with prams.

Lloyd Street, Moe, Victoria, 3825 (PO Box 337, Moe, 3825) Ph: (03) 5127 3082 Fax:
(03) 5127 8709
ABN No. 99 724 971 481 Email: enquiries@gippslandheritagepark.com.au



With a greater injection of funds we can ensure that Old Gippsland can continue to share our rich history with all and continue to provide and expand on its truly unique social enterprise for the benefits of Moe and the greater Gippsland communities.

Please contact Victor de Beer, Secretary, Gippsland Reserve Committee of Management on 0439 329 475 if you would like to discuss this letter further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Victor de Beer", is written over a faint, circular stamp or watermark.

Victor de Beer
Secretary
Old Gippsland Reserve Committee of Management

Lloyd Street, Moe, Victoria, 3825 (PO Box 337, Moe, 3825) Ph: (03) 5127 3082 Fax:
(03) 5127 8709
ABN No. 99 724 971 481 Email: enquiries@gippslandheritagepark.com.au

Mr Jim Churchill
Unit 43



Latrobe City Council
141 Commercial Rd
Morwell Vic 3840

June 18, 2014

email: matthew.rogers@latrobe.vic.gov.au

Dear Councillors,

Re: 2014/2015 Budget released for public submissions

We are in receipt of Council's response to our request for the introduction of a differential rate for retirement villages, from Mr Matthew Rogers, dated 4 June 2014.

We would like to accept the opportunity to make a submission to the Council and the 2014/2015 budget for your consideration and ask you to accept our question as follows:

Question:

The residents of Dalkeith Heights Retirement Village ask the Council of Latrobe City:

Could the Council of Latrobe City please reconsider Dalkeith Heights Retirement Village residents request for a Differential rate to be struck for the next financial year 2014/2015, and the consideration of a 25% reduction in our rates ?

For the following reasons:

- Please refer to our previous correspondence to Council dated 17 January 2012
- Dalkeith Heights Retirement Village offers infrastructure on private land that is privately maintained, thus a reduced impact on the Latrobe City infrastructure – eg roads, footpaths, kerbs, gutters, street sweeping, public lighting, drainage, Community Centre, swimming pool, library etc.
We request that Council please consider the reduced impact on the Latrobe City budget for managing such infrastructure and services, as residents fully fund the maintenance and upkeep / upgrade of this infrastructure.
- From our investigations it would appear that the financial return to Latrobe City per square metre is far in excess of comparable land in the same area. Due to the high density nature of our Village, our units are valued well in excess of homes in the adjacent Erin Park when considering area of land and dwelling size.

- Other Victorian municipal councils have taken the opportunity to reflect the financial commitment of residents of Retirement Villages to the management of their own physical infrastructure and have struck differential rates translating in rate reduction of approximately 25%.
(eg Brimbank, Frankston, Knox City, Seaford, Manningham, Yarra Ranges)
- The State Government has advised that in Victoria, democratically elected councillors are responsible for making financial decisions about the level of rates required to meet their communities' need for services and local government has the opportunity to consider the decision to implement a differential rate.
- Retirement Villages, such as Dalkeith Heights offer a major boost to the regional Latrobe City economy – by way of the initial development and subsequent flow on to the real estate market where downsizing enables property sales as well as the large percentage of new residents to Latrobe City who come from other municipalities to our great region. We thus inject value into our regional economy.
- Benefit to the community: Latrobe City is relieved of the financial commitment to provide housing for retirees where Not for Profit organisations (such as the owner of Dalkeith Heights (Anglican Aged Care Service t/as Benetas)) provide housing for Lease by retirees; thus alleviating capital expenditure and ongoing maintenance of housing which is a substantial cost saving for local government.
Our community offers a high level of safety and protection for older people which in turn reduces demand on Police and other community resources.
Also add in the volunteer capacity of retirees who give much back to our local community in a variety of ways for many years – this translates to another great cost saving to local government and the community.

We thank you for considering our submission

Yours faithfully,

Jim Churchill
Dalkeith Heights Retirement Village

SUBMISSION TO THE LATROBE CITY COUNCIL DRAFT 2014/15 BUDGET

JOINT SUBMISSION FROM THE LATROBE CITY COUNCIL

RURAL RESERVE COMMITTEES OF MANAGEMENT, COMPRISING:

1. Boolarra Memorial Park Committee of Management
2. Callignee & Traralgon South Sports Facilities User Group Committee
3. Glengarry Recreation Reserve Committee of Management
4. Toongabbie Recreation Reserve Committee of Management
5. Tyers Recreation Reserve Committee of Management
6. Yallourn North Hall and Recreation Reserve Committee of Management
7. George Bates Recreation Reserve Committee of Management
8. Yinnar Recreation Reserve Committee of Management

Contact for any further detail on this submission:

Mr Colin Brick OA

Secretary, Boolarra Memorial Park Committee of Management

BACKGROUND

1. This is a joint submission from the eight Latrobe City Council appointed rural reserve Committees of Management (for the purpose of this submission referred to as CoM's).
2. We are appointed by Council, maintain Council reserves, and undertake all maintenance functions at the reserves on behalf of Council.
3. We are in reality, a group of volunteers that replace paid Council labour at huge saving to ratepayers.
4. The towns and districts we serve comprise approximately XXX residents of Latrobe City.
5. The Council reserves we maintain accommodate over 30 sporting and recreation clubs comprising approximately literally thousands of participants as well as many members of the community utilising the reserves for passive recreation.

ISSUES

6. We willingly contribute many hours of voluntary labour to maintain Council facilities, but cannot continue this work without our CoM's being fairly funded by Council.
7. There is no transparent or consistent approach to funding the CoM's and this leads to significant inequity and a massive funding gap between CoM's and Council owned and managed reserves.
8. We are proud of the work we do on behalf of Council for the community, but there is widespread dissatisfaction amongst our volunteers with the inequity of current arrangements.
9. We collectively feel that our goodwill and efforts as volunteers is being taken for granted, not acknowledged, appreciated or understood by Latrobe City Council.
10. Our volunteers are actively saying – what's the point of the CoM's when we get treated so poorly and are doing Councils work for little return for our effort or community.
11. There has been virtually no change to the funding since 2007; CPI over that time has been approximately 21%. This is despite numerous approaches and deputations to Council officers, Councillors and Council itself to seek what we believe is simply a fair go – nothing more.
12. We have a large exposure to electricity prices and water prices, which have increased well above the rate of CPI, and are likely to continue to do so.
13. Most of the CoM facilities are category B reserves. The average cost to Council to maintain and manage a Council category B reserve exceeds \$34,000. The

average annual maintenance grant supplied to a CoM category B reserve is \$15,000. This comparison clearly demonstrates the inequity of the current system – it simply disadvantages CoM's and our volunteers.

14. The annual operating grant has no provision for capital equipment replacement. The CoM's have to fund this through other means adding to the financial burden and creating further inequity.
15. The annual operating grant to CoM's also does not include cyclical maintenance works that Council funds for its managed reserves, but does not for CoM's.

These include items such as:

- Arborists inspections & tree works
- Playground safety inspections
- Oval restoration works such as verti-draining
- Fertilising / turf rejuvenation

16. The original intent of establishing CoM's was to encourage community involvement on the management of Council owned reserves, and for the savings made in maintenance costs to be utilised by CoM's to upgrade and improve facilities for the benefit of the community.
17. The erosion of the annual operating grant over time now means that this doesn't even cover operating costs – there is no capacity to fund any improvement works at all, or replace worn out equipment such as mowers. The benefit in setting up CoM's has been lost by Council neglect and taking us for granted.

OUR REQUEST OF LATROBE CITY COUNCIL

18. The Latrobe City Council appointed rural reserve Committees of Management are treated equitably when compared to Council owned and managed reserves.
19. Council acknowledge this inequity and our inability to continue our work under the current arrangements by allocating an immediate additional \$10,000 per annum to each rural reserve Committee of Management (all up only an \$80,000 increase). This goes some way, but not all to bridging the gap between the original operating grant amount and CPI rises over past years.
20. That the annual operating grant for each rural reserve Committee of Management be increased each year by the consumer price index (CPI) following the base being reset as part of the 2014/15 LCC budget process.