



LATROBE CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

HELD IN NAMBUR WARIGA MEETING ROOM
CORPORATE HEAD QUARTERS, MORWELL
AT 5:30PM ON
29 JULY 2013

SM415

PRESENT:

Councillors:	Cr Sandy Kam, Mayor	East Ward
	Cr Peter Gibbons	West Ward
	Cr Dale Harriman	East Ward arrived at 5.38pm
	Cr Graeme Middlemiss	Central Ward
	Cr Kellie O'Callaghan	East Ward
	Cr Michael Rossiter	East Ward
	Cr Christine Sindt	Central Ward
Officers:	Paul Buckley	Chief Executive Officer
	Michael Edgar	General Manager Community Liveability
	Carol Jeffs	General Manager Governance
	Allison Jones	General Manager Economic Sustainability
	Zemeel Saba	General Manager Organisational Excellence
	Grantley Switzer	General Manager Recreation, Culture & Community Infrastructure
	Tom McQualter	Manager Council Operations & Legal Counsel

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1. OPENING PRAYER

The Opening Prayer Was Read By The Mayor.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE LAND

The Recognition Of Traditional Landholders Was Read By The Mayor.

3. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Cr Gibson – West Ward
Cr White – South Ward

4. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

4.1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cr Sindt advised the Council of an interest in relation to the first speaker
Dr Steb Fisher.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Suspension of Standing Orders

Moved: Cr O'Callaghan
Seconded: Cr Gibbons

That Standing Orders be suspended to allow members of the gallery to address Council in support of their submissions.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Standing Orders were suspended at 5.37 pm

Cr Sindt left the Council due to an interest in Speaker 1 at 5.37 pm.

Dr Steb Fisher addressed Council in relation to Item 6.1 Draft 2013/2014 Budget – Hearing of Submissions.

Cr Sindt returned to the Council at 5.41 pm.

Mr Robert Farmer addressed Council in relation to Item 6.1 Draft 2013/2014 Budget – Hearing of Submissions.

Mr Leigh Taylor addressed Council in relation to item 6.1 Draft 2013/2014 Budget – Hearing of Submissions.

Mr Simon Hemming addressed Council in relation to item 6.1 Draft 2013/2014 Budget – Hearing of Submissions.

Moved: Cr Middlemiss
Seconded: Cr Harriman

That Standing Orders be resumed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Standing Orders were resumed at 5.54 pm

GOVERNANCE

5. GOVERNANCE

6.1 DRAFT 2013/2014 BUDGET - HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS

GENERAL MANAGER

Governance

For Decision

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present submissions received in relation to the draft 2013/2014 budget 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 MINUTES 29 JULY 2013 (SM415)

Legislation – Local Government Act 1989

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 24 June 2013, Council resolved to give notice of preparation of the proposed 2013/2014 budget 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 release of the 2013/2014 budget was subsequently advertised in the Latrobe Valley Express on 27 June 2013, 1 July 2013, and 11 July 2013 advising that the budget is available for inspection at Council’s service centres and on Council’s website.

Submissions in relation to the budget were received up to 5.00 pm on 24 July 2013. 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 gave notice that such a meeting would be held at 5.30 pm on Monday, 29 July 2013.

ISSUES

At the conclusion of the submission period 8 submissions had been received in relation to the draft 2013/2014 budget. Those wishing to speak to their submission will be present at the Council Meeting.

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 2013/2014 budget will need to be taken into account in the consideration of budget submissions.

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

Engagement Method Used:

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 29 JULY 2013 (SM415)

Copies of the draft budget have been available for inspection at Council offices and on the web site since 27 June 2013.

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 8 submissions had been received.

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 the retention of the farm differential rate
Mr Steb Fisher, President Grand Strzelecki Track	Request to increase the current contribution by Latrobe City Council from \$5,600 per year to \$16,800 per year
Tracey Gaudion	Agnes Brereton Netball Courts Traralgon would like to see an upgrade to spectator facilities.
Danielle Schoer, Netball Coach Flinders Flames	Support for the upgrade of the Agnes Brereton Netball Courts in Traralgon
Bonny Lia	Support for the upgrade of the Agnes Brereton Netball Courts in Traralgon
Jacqui Maskrell	Support for the upgrade of the Agnes Brereton Netball Courts in Traralgon
Colin Brick, OA Secretary Boolarra Memorial Park Committee of Management	Request a review of the Annual Maintenance Grant funding.
Leigh Taylor, President Yallourn Golf Club	Request review of proposed rates for 2013/14 based on Cultural & Recreational Lands Act 1963.

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 24 June 2013 Council gave notice of preparation of the proposed 2013/2014 budget, and has provided the opportunity for submissions to be

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
29 JULY 2013 (SM415)**

heard at this meeting of Council. This allows Council sufficient time to consider submissions received in relation to the proposed 2013/2014 budget prior to considering the budget at the next Ordinary Council Meeting, to be held at 5.30pm on Monday, 5 August 2013.

Attachments

1. 2013/14 Budget Submissions Attachment - 29 July 2013
2. Tramps and Yallourn North Action Group Submissions

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes and considers all submissions received in relation to the draft 2013/2014 budget.

Moved: Cr O'Callaghan

Seconded: Cr Sindt

That the Recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Please note Cr Harriman arrived at 5.38pm after the vote on this matter had taken place.

6.1

DRAFT 2013/2014 BUDGET - HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS

- 1 2013/14 Budget Submissions Attachment - 29 July 2013 13**
- 2 Tramps and Yallourn North Action Group Submissions..... 23**

LATROBE CITY FARM RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT

Mr Graeme O'Hara
C/O Post Office
Yinnar 3869

Phone 0351 631 225
Mobile 0427849158

13/6/13

SECRETARY

Jenny Thompson
225 Church Road
Hazelwood North 3840

Phone 0351 661237

PRESENTATION TO LATROBE CITY COUNCIL. FARM RATE DIFFERENTIAL

SUBMISSION FOR FARM RATE DIFFERENTIAL

On behalf of our Committee and Members we thank Council for the opportunity to present our Submission for the retention of our Farm Rate Differential.

We take the opportunity to congratulate all Councillors on their successful results in the recent Four Ward Boundary Election.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Our Farm Rate Differential has been in place in excess of Thirty Six Years. Jeanette Powell Minister for Local Government is Encouraging all Regional Councils to reduce the rate burden placed on Farms by the use of the Differential Rate as defined By the Valuation Of Land Act 1960.

The Net Annual Value{NAV} of Urban Dwelling and Farm Land was legislated at Five Percent of the Capital Improved Value{CIV} of the said property and the rate in the dollar set by the Council was related to that NAV of the assessed property. NAV was purported to represent the return on the assessed property in a rented or leased situation. The rate of return on Farm Land continues to be unable to return this 5% Figure today as adverse climate conditions, local Market Fluctuations, the High Australian Dollar having an extreme effect on our Export Competition forcing Farms to a negative figure.

To the credit of past councils the differential has been maintained to this day. Our Committee and Members congratulate Council for recognizing the inequity that does exist.

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FARM LAND RATING

Farming is by nature a land based activity. The farm business has a very large proportion of its total assets invested in land. All of this land which is required for its productivity is assessed for rating purposes. As the farm business improves its Productivity via the land so does that lands value increase, thus lifting its assessable value for rating purposes. This differs from The Urban or Industrial situation where the performance of the Business, or the individual operating within the assessable Property, has no bearing on the value of the property.

The Act in providing Councils with the flexibility of a Differential Rate for Farm Land recognises the inequities that do exist When the high level of the business asset is invested in the assessable land and that same land returns a low level of Percentage Return.

MUNICIPAL CHARGE

Our Association supports Council decision to maximise the Municipal Charge collected up to 20% of the total rate revenue as the Act allows. We view this Municipal Charge as an equal contribution by all rate payers for the many and increasing number of Services provided by Council.

CONCLUSION

The Farm Ratepayers Association acknowledges the long history this Municipality has addressed in understanding the inequities That Farm Businesses face inherit with the Rating System. The Farm Rate Differential is a tool provided by the Local Government Act to assist in setting an equitable rate. In the past the Farm Rate Differential has been as much as 54% of the General Rate. It presently sits at 75%.

Farm Businesses are logistically low users of the Council Services, but they contribute substantially to both Latrobes Economy And Rate Revenue.

COMMENTS OF CONCERN

We take this opportunity to bring to Councils notice the following Members concerns.

LAND VALUATIONS

The past two years Farm Valuations have levelled in some cases fallen. Valuers don't seem to accept this fact. A number of Property Auctions have been passed in, not making their Shire Valuations.

ZONING CHANGES

Requires careful planning and consideration. Eg Agriculture to Rural Living. Valuers will introduce the " Potential Rate " thus rendering the Farm Property unviable.

HOUSE PERMITS APPLICATIONS

For Properties less than 40 Hectares this needs consideration when a Family Farm may require an extra home for a family member assisting with the farm operation. Many Farms have multiple Titles less than 40 Hectares.

MEDIA RELEASE!!

Jeanette Powell Minister for Local Government

As a result from the review of Local Government Differential Rating Powers. This review involved ten public forums held across Victoria and was chaired by David Morris the Parliamentary Secretary for Local Government.

Recommendation

Regional Councils should provide lower Differential Rates for Farm Lands within their Municipality.

The State Minister for Agriculture Peter Walsh is also a strong advocate for regional Councils to introduce a Farm Rate Differential.

Yours faithfully
Graeme O'Hara



President
Latrobe City Farm Rate Payers Association

President: Steb Fisher
Secretary: Pam Pattison
Treasurer: Ken Harris

ABN 63 750 408 516
Inc. no. A00547065
www.grandstrzeleckitrack.org.au



**Grand
Strzelecki
Track**

15th May 2013

The Latrobe City Council

BUDGET SUBMISSION FOR THE GRAND STRZELECKI TRACK

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

The Grand Strzelecki Track is now one year old and after the excitement of its opening and the celebration of the completion of a project so many years in the making, the committee has been grappling with the challenges of providing for the needs of the many walkers who are visiting.

There are still some capital works, for example campgrounds, track improvements and toilets to be built, and we are applying for grants to do this. However as we get to grips with the needs of keeping the track open, it is clear that the current revenues (\$8,000 per year from Latrobe and Wellington jointly and a few thousand dollars a year from map sales) are not enough to cover the considerable maintenance costs and flood and fire damage costs, which we currently estimate to be about \$60,000 per year.

We are also in need of administrative support and are planning to raise funds for an executive officer.

We are being considered as part of the Victorian Trails Strategy for "Iconic" status. This would be part of a strategy by Tourism Victoria to attract many overseas visitors to the area.

With this in mind and with the uncertainty of grant applications, we would ask that the two councils increase their respective contributions – in the case of Latrobe City Council from \$5,600/year to \$16,800/year.

I would be happy to present our case in more detail at a meeting of the council.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Steb Fisher
President, Grand Strzelecki Track

From: Tracey [REDACTED]
Date: 18 June 2013 9:55:52 AM AEST
To: Kellie O'Callaghan <Kellie.O'Callaghan@latrobe.vic.gov.au>, Sandy Kam <Sandy.Kam@latrobe.vic.gov.au>, Darrell White <Darrell.White@latrobe.vic.gov.au>, Sharon Gibson <Sharon.Gibson@latrobe.vic.gov.au>, Peter Gibbons <Peter.Gibbons@latrobe.vic.gov.au>, Christine Sindt <Christine.Sindt@latrobe.vic.gov.au>, Dale Harriman <Dale.Harriman@latrobe.vic.gov.au>, Michael Rossiter <Michael.Rossiter@latrobe.vic.gov.au>, Graeme Middlemiss <Graeme.Middlemiss@latrobe.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Traralgon Netball Courts

I am writing to you today as a mother of a keen netballer. My daughter has played two years as a Traralgon representative netballer, and we have been to many other netball facilities in this time. I would like to make you aware of how bad our netball facilities are. As a spectator, I am lucky to stand on concrete at the Agnes Brereton courts, there is no shelter for me, and seating on concrete step retaining walls for 3 of the 8 courts only. Although they are picturesque to look at from a distance, the courts are extremely inadequate. Granted, netball is a winters sport, and having said that we expect wet, cold weather. At each court there is a small coaches/scorers box, which is too small for any substitute players to stand in as well, let alone 14 players bags, drink bottles, jumpers, coats etc.

There is always a huge number of people trying to watch the netball matches every Saturday, but it is not encouraging spectators, when there is no shelter to stand under and no seating to sit on. Last week's netball matches were cancelled due to "safety reasons", there was no water over any court on Saturday, and patchy rain through the day. Therefore I assume it was unsafe for spectators, umpires & coaches.

Today, we were to take part in the next stage of the winter round robin, (through our local school) but it has been cancelled, and to some extent I am relieved, because as a parent, it is uncomfortably wet under foot and quite dangerous especially for my 83 year old father in law that likes to watch his granddaughter play. I have discourage him from coming down the last couple of weeks.

I believe if there were better spectator areas, for example -shelters and concrete flooring and seating (any seating, would be wonderful) this would make the world of difference. Therefore encouraging more players, (because their parents/guardians would be happier standing watching) to play this fantastic game.

It is actually embarrassing to see other towns facilities and compare them to what we have at Traralgon.

Yours truly

Tracey Gaudion.
Traralgon

From: Danielle Schoer [REDACTED]
To: "matthew.rodgers@latrobe.vic.gov" <matthew.rodgers@latrobe.vic.gov>
Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable
Mime-Version: 1.0 (1.0)

Hi Matthew,

As a mother of two, junior netball players and coach to 17 girls, I am excited to hear that an upgrade of the Breed Street courts may be finally realised.

There are times when I have chosen to forfeit a game rather than risk the safety of my players. I am relieved to know that this may not be the case in the future.

After visiting the Sale netball facility during a recent tournament, I was most impressed by the standard of their courts. This also made me realise how inferior the Traralgon facility is, in comparison.

I strongly believe that an upgrade of the Breed Street courts and facilities would ensure that the future of Traralgon netball remains strong and would encourage other clubs to support our tournaments.

Kind regards,

Danielle Schoer
Netball Coach
Flinders Flames
[REDACTED]

From: bonny lia [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 25 June 2013 5:46 PM
To: Matthew Rogers
Subject: draft budget

I follow the draft budget particularly the netball court upgrade I have children playing on them and they desperately need something done. I also coach and umpire you go to other netball facilities and tbh ours are very poor compared to those.

I really look forward to the upgrades happening

thanks
bonny lia

From: Jacqui [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 8 July 2013 3:13 PM
To: Matthew Rogers
Subject: COUNCIL BUDGET - NETBALL COURTS UPGRADE

Hi Matthew,

I wish to advise the Latrobe City Council that I agree and support the budget, in particular the upgrade to the Traralgon netball courts.

Kind Regards

Jacqui Mackrell

To: **Simon Clark**
Manager, Recreation Liaison
Latrobe City

11th December, 2012

Cc **Cr Darrell White**

Increase in Maintenance Grant

Dear Simon,

Given that Latrobe City will shortly be entering into the budget preparation stage for 2013/2014, the Boolarra Memorial Park Committee of Management would like to formally request a review of the funding received as their Annual Maintenance Grant.

The Boolarra Recreation Reserve is managed by a Committee of Management that looks after the reserve and its facilities in the interests of the Boolarra community. The clubs using the reserve do so under the conditions allowed by the committee, and the committee works hard to meet their particular needs and the needs of the community as a whole in maintaining and improving the reserve.

The committee currently receives an annual grant of \$15,180. We rely heavily on volunteer labour, machinery and equipment to undertake our activities but there is a limit to what we can reasonably expect in this regard. While we believe we have been quite successful in maintaining and improving facilities and amenities it needs to be acknowledged that our facilities are ageing and require ever increasing attention particularly in regard to safety and other compliance requirements which seem to be ever increasing.

Our ability to maintain and improve our facilities has, to a large extent, been due to the fact that we have been able to pick up various grants to supplement the Council grant.

Because we are part of the community, and members of the user groups, we are able to understand their needs and undertake the maintenance they require, when they require it. We have very good relationships with the user groups in the park, and we receive very positive feedback on the condition of the facilities. In fulfilling our role of maintaining the facilities we also take a significant burden off council officers who would otherwise be obligated to undertake the liaison and work.

However it is becoming increasingly difficult to manage within the maintenance funding provided, and this is understandable when it is considered that:

- There has been no change to the funding since 2007.
- CPI over that time has been 16%. Equivalent to \$2,400.
- We have a large exposure to electricity prices, which have increased well above the rate of CPI, and are likely to continue to do so. While there is an element of

user pays in our arrangements with the user groups, it is still a significant impost on the Park.

- Our Latrobe City rates for rubbish collection have increased by 74% over the same period, from \$1,064 to \$1,850.
- All other maintenance contract arrangements entered into by Latrobe City would have some arrangement for ongoing adjustments associated with CPI and changed conditions.

The committee discussed its concerns with Cr Darrell White at our Triennial Meeting, where we also discussed a number of significant ongoing maintenance and safety issues that we are obligated to address on behalf of the community and users of the park.

In view of these pressures, this committee proposes a 25% increase in the maintenance grant. This recognizes the 16% CPI from 2007 to 2012, plus an allowance for the additional CPI to June 2012. It also makes some allowance for the impact of electricity prices, and the large increase in garbage rates.

We are happy to discuss this proposal with yourself or any other City officers.

Yours sincerely,



Colin Brick, OA
Secretary
Boolarra Memorial Park Committee of Management
5163 1212



YALLOURN
GOLF CLUB

Gippsland's Finest

YALLOURN GOLF CLUB INC.

ABN: 96 034 156 212

Golf Links Road
Yalourn Heights VIC 3825

POST TO: PO Box 42
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WEBSITE: www.yallourngolfclub.com.au

23rd July 2013

Matthew Rogers
Manager Finance
Latrobe City
PO Box 264
Morwell 3840

Dear Matthew,

ASSEMENT: 429860

Firstly, thank you for your availability and willingness to continue to meet in what's been a fairly lengthy process. We recently received your correspondence that the review had been completed and Latrobe City Council had found reason to reduce our rates back to pre-revaluation levels (plus CPI)

However, the cultural and recreational lands act 1963 is quite clear. Under section 4 it states that in lieu of rates that would be otherwise be payable in respect to recreational lands there shall be paid to the council in each year the amount the council thinks reasonable for services provided.

Therefore, we have the following concerns.

- If the review found justification to reduce our rates, why the return to pre revaluation levels?
- What are the services provided by the council that warrants this being a "reasonable" charge?
- As per your correspondence, dated 16/07/13(of which I have included in this submission) the ratable amount is excluding municipal charge and the garbage charge. What other services are provided to the golf club other the shared public road outside the course?

We believe that taking into consideration the above and the Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963, the amount payable should be municipal charge, garbage charge, and a levy of between \$500 - \$1000 for "services provided" by the council. Furthermore we believe this should be backdated to include the previous year as this has been an ongoing issue.

As a non for profit, volunteer run, non-government funded organization that has been serving the community since 1926, I'm sure you can appreciate that every dollar is critical to our club and our 300 plus members. With the new fire services levy about to become a major issue for all clubs in Victoria, I implore to consider what has been put in front of you and issue a reduction in our levy accordingly.

Yours Sincerely

Leigh Taylor

YALLOURN
GOLF CLUB



Traralgon and Morwell Pedallers Inc.
Reg. No. A0030190W

84 Grubb Avenue
Traralgon
Vic 3844

Re: 2013 Draft Budget

Dear Councillors

It is with interest and anticipation that we read your proposal for the Traralgon to Morwell shared pathway.

Although it is not our preferred route, we are pleased that some action is being undertaken to help get families, community groups and future generations out enjoying our great countryside.

As a cycling club we hope that commencement of the pathway happens soon so that some of our aging members will be able to enjoy the proposed facilities.

Congratulations on getting the ball rolling.

Len Byl
Secretary
Traralgon and Morwell Pedallers (TRAMP's)

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LATROBE CITY COUNCIL	
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT	
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June 28th 2013

Comments to Council re- Budget - Yallourn North

North Road Rossmore Avenue Intersection

The Mayor and Councillors Assembled

Latrobe City

P.O. Box 264

Morwell 3840

latrobe@latrobe.vic.gov.au

Dear Councillor Kam and Councillors

Members of the Yallourn North community have noted with relief and gratitude that there has been a very positive response to our request for the allocation of funding, through the budget, to work on the Rossmore-North Road intersection. The Yallourn North Action Group would like to thank Councillors for their consideration of this project and for its budget inclusion.

We now look forward to the works process that will make this intersection much safer for all road users in that locality, but most particularly for pedestrians for whom the present configuration has been a real and ongoing danger.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Gaulton

Secretary

Yallourn North Action Group

c/- 93 Kelso Road

Yallourn North.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 5.55 PM.

I certify that these minutes have been confirmed.

Mayor: _____

Date: _____