

Ordinary Meeting of Council

to be held at the Civic Centre, Civic Drive, Greensborough
on Tuesday 30 July 2019 commencing at 7:00pm.

Agenda

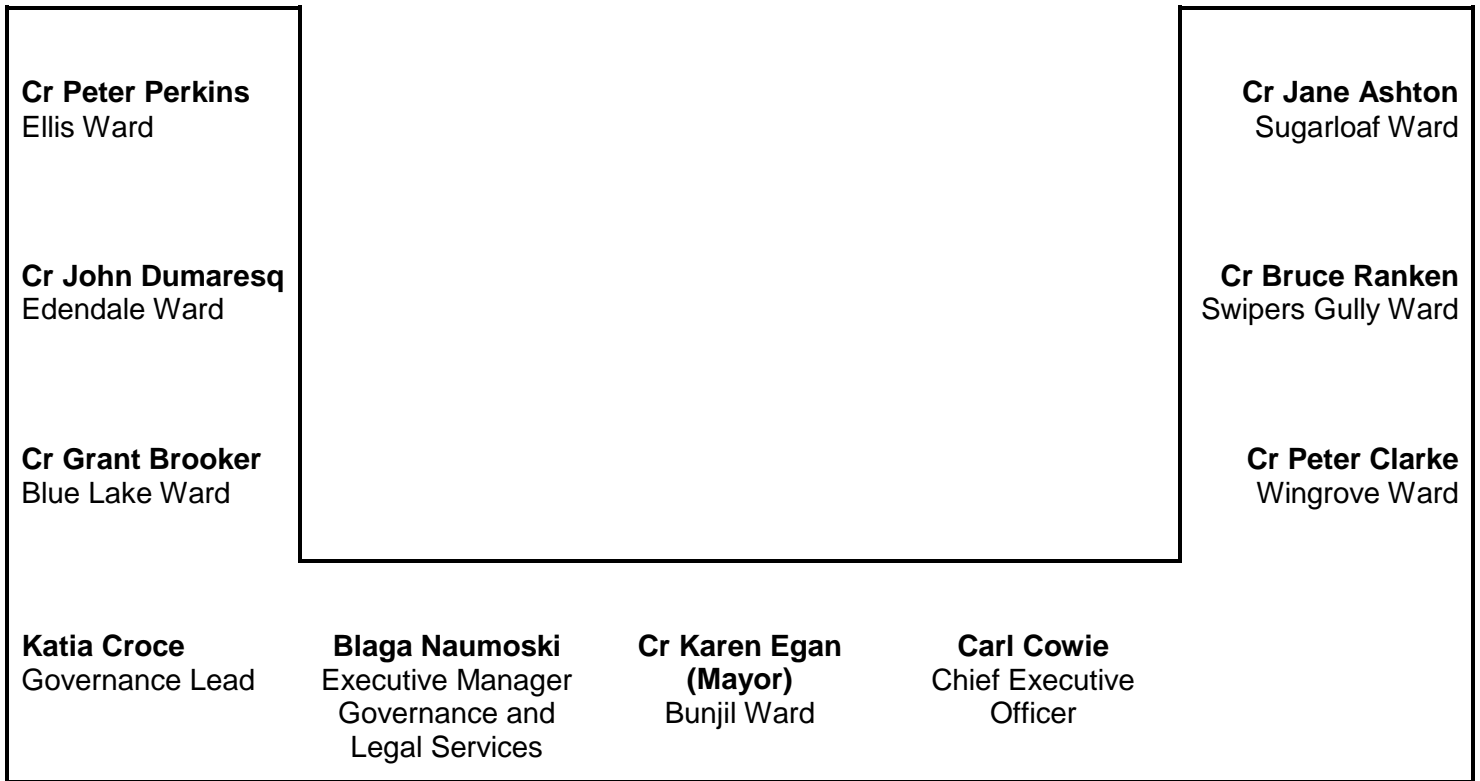
Carl Cowie
Chief Executive Officer

Friday 26 July 2019

Distribution: Public

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Ordinary Meeting of Council seating plan



Visitors in the gallery at Council meetings are:

- Welcome to copies of the reports which will be considered by the Council at the meeting. These are on the table in the foyer.
- Welcome to the tea, coffee and water provided in the foyer.
- Requested to observe Council deliberations quietly in order for Council meetings to run smoothly.
- Advised that the meeting will be recorded and an audio recording of the meeting will be made publicly available on Council's website.

Nillumbik Shire Council

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Nillumbik Shire Council

**Agenda of the Ordinary Meeting of Nillumbik Shire Council to be held
Tuesday 30 July 2019 commencing at 7:00pm.**

1. Welcome by the Mayor

Members of the public are advised the meeting will be recorded and an audio recording of the meeting will be made publicly available on Council's website.

2. Reconciliation statement

The reconciliation statement to be read by the Mayor

Nillumbik Shire Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri people who are the Traditional Custodians of this Land. We would also like to pay respect to the Elders both past and present and extend that respect to other Indigenous Australians present.

3. Prayer

A prayer will be read.

4. Apologies

Recommendation

That the apologies be noted.

5. Presentations

Kate Ditcham (Bunjil Ward) receives \$150 as a contribution for being selected to represent Victoria at the Australian Junior Volleyball Championships in Canberra.

Ehva Gutzmit (Blue Lake Ward) receives \$150 as a contribution for being selected to represent Victoria at the School Sport Australia Soccer Championships in Canberra.

6. Confirmation of minutes

Confirmation of minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday 25 June 2019.

Recommendation

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday 25 June 2019 be confirmed.

7. Disclosure of conflicts of interest

Councillors should note that any conflicts of interest should also be disclosed immediately before the relevant item.

8. Petitions

9. Questions from the gallery

10. Reports of Advisory Committees

AC.007/19 Advisory Committee Report

Distribution: Public

Manager: Blaga Naumoski, Executive Manager Governance and Legal Services

Author: Alena Spry, Governance Officer

Summary

Council has a range of Advisory Committees which provide a formal mechanism for Council to consult with key stakeholders, seek specialist advice and enable community participation. Although they do not make any formal decisions, they provide valuable advice to Council.

In accordance with Advisory Committee Terms of Reference, the minutes of meetings are presented to Council.

Attachments

1. Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee minutes - 6 March 2019
2. Arts Advisory Committee minutes - 18 March 2019
3. Recreation Trails Advisory Committee minutes - 23 May 2019
4. Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee minutes - 26 June 2019
5. Positive Ageing Advisory Committee minutes - 5 July 2019

Recommendation

That Council notes the minutes of the following meetings:

- Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee held on 6 March 2019;
- Arts Advisory Committee held on 18 March 2019;
- Recreation Trails Advisory Committee held on 23 May 2019;
- Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee held on 26 June 2019; and
- Positive Ageing Advisory Committee held on 5 July 2019.

12. Officers' reports**OCM.100/19 Bushfire Mitigation Strategy**

Distribution: Public**Manager: Blaga Naumoski, Executive Manager Governance and Legal Services****Summary**

A priority action of the Council Plan 2017-2021 is to develop a Bushfire Mitigation Strategy.

The Bushfire Mitigation Strategy (Strategy) is being designed with the overall objective to achieve the most efficient and effective means to reduce bushfire risk to the community with an emphasis on building community resilience, participation and shared responsibility.

The community has shown strong support of Council's approach in meeting its bushfire mitigation responsibilities.

Following the community consultation phase, Council received 42 submissions in response to the draft Strategy. The themes of these submissions were based on:

- Better localised community based bushfire planning.
- Reducing fuel loads.
- Promotion of biodiversity.
- Environmental concerns such as impact of climate change.
- Improved information to residents.
- Community centric approach to mitigating bushfire with a focus on shared responsibilities and shared obligations.

This report recommends that having received the written submissions and heard the verbal submissions, Council adopts of the Bushfire Mitigation Strategy 2019-2023.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Adopts the Bushfire Mitigation Strategy 2019-2023 (**Attachment 1**).
2. Acknowledges that the Nillumbik Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee (MFMPC) and Nillumbik Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) have reviewed and approved the Bushfire Mitigation Strategy 2019-2023.
3. Requests that officers provide a written response to all named submitters who provided contact details.

Attachments

1. Bushfire Mitigation Strategy 2019-2023
2. Bushfire Mitigation Strategy Submission Summary

12. Officers' reports

OCM.100/19 Bushfire Mitigation Strategy

Background

1. The Bushfire Mitigation Strategy 2019-2023 (Strategy) has been designed with the overall objective to achieve the most efficient and effective means to reduce bushfire risk to the community with an emphasis on building community resilience, participation and shared responsibility.
2. A draft Strategy was prepared in August 2018 and a three-week public consultation period occurred in September 2018, with fifteen submissions received.
3. At its 16 October 2018 meeting, the Future Nillumbik Committee supported the engagement of bushfire management specialist Craig Lapsley to:
 - review the current Strategy and submissions;
 - define intent and purpose;
 - coordinate the future consultation process; and
 - report back to Council on the outcome.
4. The outcome of the engagement resulted in an *Emergency Management Future Directions Plan* (Plan), prepared with the aim of providing a framework to support Council moving toward a best practice model for emergency management planning and emergency preparedness.
5. The Plan has informed the new Strategy, which has been developed to drive change through being more strategically focussed and agile.
6. The following is a timeline of consultation that has taken place:

Date	Activity
December 2018 and March 2019	A progress report was tabled at Council’s MEMPC and MFMPC providing an overview of the issues, all of which have been taken into consideration when redrafting the Strategy.
19 February 2019 and 26 March 2019	Councillor Briefings to update on progress of the development of the Strategy.
March 2019	The new Strategy was tabled at the MFMPC and a working group was established to prepare an Implementation Plan to determine the actions that will help deliver on the goals identified in the revised Strategy. The Strategy was also tabled at the MEMPC.
30 April 2019	Ordinary Council Meeting endorsed public consultation.

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OCM.100/19 Bushfire Mitigation Strategy

Date	Activity
1 May 2019 to 28 May 2019	The community was given the opportunity to lodge submissions. Public exhibition was open for 28 days and concluded on 28 May 2019.
11 June 2019	Future Nillumbik Committee – hearing of submissions.

Policy context

7. This report directly supports the achievement of Council Plan 2017-2021 strategy:
 - 3.2.1 Develop a comprehensive Fire Mitigation Strategy.

Budget implications

8. The implementation of actions and programs to be developed in more detail at the next phase and will be funded primarily through Council’s operational budget with future years programs to be considered as part of Council’s annual budget.

Consultation/communication

9. Community feedback was sought from community members and agency representatives, Councillors, Council officers and all who had previous involvement in the draft Bushfire Mitigation Strategy or made previous submissions to the draft Bushfire Mitigation Strategy.
10. Following feedback, the Strategy was developed collaboratively with the agencies represented on the MFMPC which is a subcommittee of Councils MEMPC.
11. The draft was viewed by 226 individuals via Council’s Participate Nillumbik website and shared with Council’s committees and networks, resulting in 42 submissions received.

Issues/options

12. The responsibility of bushfire preparation and mitigation is both a public authority responsibility and a private landowner responsibility.
13. Council’s Bushfire Mitigation Strategy is a priority action of the Council Plan and is a strategic document of importance that helps support Council’s commitment to adopt a best practice approach to emergency and bushfire management.
14. Through the establishment of the operating principles and the four strategic priorities, the revised Strategy addresses how Council will meet its bushfire mitigation responsibilities and help guide its program of bushfire mitigation in accordance with legislative requirements, stakeholder expectations and industry best practice.
15. The main objective of the development of this Strategy is to:
 - a) set the foundations of how Council working with the community will mitigate the risk of bushfire; and

12. Officers' reports

OCM.100/19 Bushfire Mitigation Strategy

- b) determine a joint strategy and supporting suite of implementation actions based upon a common understanding of bushfire risk across the landscape and determine appropriate management strategies and actions to reduce that risk.
16. Following the community consultation phase, Council received 42 submissions in response to the draft Strategy. The themes of these submissions were based on:
- Better localised community based bushfire planning.
 - Reducing fuel loads.
 - Promotion of biodiversity.
 - Environmental concerns such as impact of climate change.
 - Improved information to residents.
 - Community centric approach to mitigating bushfire with a focus on shared responsibilities and shared obligations.
17. A summary of the submissions with officer responses can be seen in **Attachment 2**.
18. Overall the feedback received by the community is supportive of Council's approach in meeting its bushfire mitigation responsibilities. There was strong support of the operating principles and the four strategic priorities that shape the Strategy.
19. Through consultation the strategic themes and operating principles have been strengthened to ensure a balance between the environment and bushfire mitigation is achieved.
20. Council's *Green Wedge Management Plan* has significant alignment to the Strategy and has helped inform the Strategy. The interface and alignment of the environmental and bushfire issues will require a strategic approach and constant dialogue to assist in achieving a balanced and integrated approach.
21. The success of the Implementation Plan will also rely heavily on strong partnerships and relationships underpinned by shared responsibility and shared obligation. A greater importance is placed on having a community centric and connected approach to bushfire mitigation. Amendments were made to the Strategy to emphasis the role of community in mitigating bushfire.
22. Other amendments include improving clarity in sentences, grammar and outlining the mechanism for reporting with a view to enhancing transparency with the community.
23. Comments around the inclusion of climate change and biodiversity were made throughout the submission process. While officers acknowledge the importance of climate change and biodiversity principles and understand the significance of preserving the Green Wedge, contributing to global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to promoting a healthy and safe community, these are key Shire-wide issues and fall outside the scope of this Strategy.
24. The complexity on the use of planning permits for the removal of vegetation for bushfire safety was a matter raised by some submitters. The Victorian Planning Scheme supports hazard reduction through the use of 10/30 and 10/50 rules. These provisions allow property owners to clear vegetation to help protect property from bushfires without a planning permit. Since the introduction of 10/30 and 10/50 rules,

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OCM.100/19 Bushfire Mitigation Strategy

the need for a planning permit for the removal of vegetation has been significantly reduced.

25. Outside of the 10/30 and 10/50 rules a planning permit may be required to manage vegetation on land. Property owners are encouraged to discuss with Council planners to confirm if a permit is required to be lodged. Council offers a duty planner service and pre-application meeting process that is free to the property owner. Council is however restricted when assessing these applications as they must apply State Planning Provisions that are mandatory.
26. Submissions were also received relating to land use planning and building planning with some comments extended to the ability to re-settle after a bushfire. These issues are very complex and beyond the bounds of this strategy and therefore will need to be dealt with separate to this Strategy.
27. It is important to note that this Strategy is designed as a framework for ongoing community consultation rather than being an endpoint and establishes a continuing objective for ongoing community engagement and consultation.
28. Council will oversee this Strategy through the MF MPC a subcommittee of the MEMPC. The MF MPC will develop an Implementation Plan with the support of Council management. The Implementation Plan will appoint responsibility for actions to increase safety, promote best practice, fulfil legislative requirements, and balance these factors with environmental assets and values, and most of all, protect life and property.

Conclusion

29. This report recommends that having taken into account the impact and influence of all submissions, approve the Bushfire Mitigation Strategy 2019-2023.

12. Officers' reports

OCM.101/19 Yarra Ranges Tourism Partnership

Distribution: Public

Manager: Kylie Lethbridge, Executive Manager Economic Development and Tourism

Author: Danielle Phyland, Coordinator Economic Development and Tourism

Summary

This report provides a review a year on from the commencement of Council's Partnership Agreement with Yarra Ranges Tourism.

The positive results demonstrated are significant and clearly articulate the return on Council's investment.

The Partnership has facilitated achievements across the areas identified as a priority for the tourism industry in Nillumbik such as: visitor services, branding, product development, marketing, and integration with the broader Victorian visitor economy.

Year Two of the Partnership will see a renewed focus on Nillumbik within the broader Yarra Ranges and Dandenongs region via the development of a new strategic plan and continued focus on product development, events, visitor services, marketing and advocacy.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Acknowledges the deliverables derived from Year One of the Yarra Ranges Tourism Partnership Agreement.
2. Supports the continuation of the Partnership for Year Two.

Attachments

1. Yarra Ranges Tourism activity report Nillumbik Shire Council June 2019

Background

1. Yarra Ranges Tourism (YRT) is the official regional tourism organisation for the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges region, which includes Nillumbik Shire Council.
2. At the 31 July 2018 Ordinary Council Meeting, a resolution was passed that Council:
 - a) Enters into a Partnership Agreement with Yarra Ranges Tourism for 2018/19 in the amount of \$70,000.
 - b) Endorses the integration of Nillumbik within the broader regional marketing and public relations campaign and supports the development and distribution of new, traditional and online visitor servicing material.
3. The priority areas that were identified for the focus of the Partnership Agreement in Year One were:
 - a) Visitor services and information delivery in and outside the region, including digital and print.

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OCM.101/19 Yarra Ranges Tourism Partnership

- b) Integration and extension of the Artisan Hills brand messages in the wider Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges marketing program.
- c) Development of specific "trails" promoting local visitor experiences and associated businesses in the Nillumbik Shire.
- d) Dedicated marketing campaigns and access to opportunities offered by Visit Victoria.
- e) Public relations activities to promote Nillumbik as a destination and its visitor experiences.
- f) Assistance in accessing other resources not previously available to Council, e.g. Government funding, through advocacy and/or auspicing.
- g) Assistance with event and product development.
- h) Support in the development of market research activities and inclusion in any regional research.
- i) Access to industry networking and development programs.

Policy context

- 4. This report directly supports the achievement of Council Plan 2017-2021 strategy:
 - Develop and market the tourism industry in Nillumbik.

Budget implications

- 5. The partnership cost for 2018/2019 was \$70,000.
- 6. Given this is a partnership approach to the reintegration of Nillumbik Shire, officer time has also been a contributing factor to the generation of the results achieved (see **Attachment 1**).
- 7. While it is difficult to quantify the dollar figure generated from the Partnership, the value over and above the original commitment is evident in the results presented.

Issues/options

- 8. Key highlights from Year One include:
 - a) Twenty-five Nillumbik businesses are now financially engaged with YRT, and appear on the official visitor map and online resources. 200,000 visitor maps were printed and distributed both domestically and internationally through Melbourne Airport, visitor information services, local tourism businesses, transport hubs and international trade shows.
 - b) The micro-site www.visitnillumbik.com.au has been created and populated with existing and new content and imagery.
 - c) Two dedicated illustrated trail maps feature Nillumbik partners in the 'Art Lives Here Trail' and 'A Month of Sundays'. In addition, Yarrambat Golf Course also appears on the 'Golf Trail' map. Maps are available through the website and in print from visitor information carousels located across the broader Yarra Ranges region.
 - d) Five visitor information carousels have been introduced to key visitor nodes:

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OCM.101/19 Yarra Ranges Tourism Partnership

- Dark Horse Café, Watsons Creek
 - Hurstbridge Post Office Cafe, Hurstbridge
 - Montsalvat, Eltham
 - Nillumbik Cellars, Diamond Creek
 - Nillumbik Civic Centre, Greensborough
- e) The YRT autumn networking event was held in Nillumbik at Fondata 1872 in March 2019, with 76 partners from across the region in attendance.
- f) Nillumbik partner businesses were highlighted collectively over 60 times in 23 specific posts since July 2018. These posts reached a total of 85,900 consumers.
- g) Council's application to Visit Victoria's Regional Events Fund for Open Farm Day 2019 for \$10,000 was successful as a result of the Tourism Board endorsement.
- h) A dedicated marketing campaign was delivered promoting the Nillumbik Prize for Contemporary Art Exhibition with a selection of social media micro-influencers visiting and promoting the exhibition and local businesses.
- i) Three digital visitor screens (\$16,000 per asset) have been purchased for installation in Eltham, Diamond Creek and Hurstbridge.

9. In Year Two there will be a continued focus on:

- a) Updating the Strategic Plan;
- b) Product development;
- c) Business engagement;
- d) Digital content and imagery;
- e) Event funding and attraction;
- f) Further integration of Nillumbik visitor experiences in the marketing and public relations campaign;
- g) Increased collaboration around industry development and networking activities; and
- h) Advocacy.

Conclusion

10. The demonstrated results for Year One of the Partnership are positive and have established a foundation for future deliverables through the Partnership.
11. Officers recommend the Yarra Ranges Tourism Partnership continue in 2019/2020 to build on the success of the initial year.
12. Officers will report on the results of Year Two of the Partnership in July 2020.

12. Officers' reports

OCM.102/19 June Interim Financial Report

Distribution: Public

Manager: Vince Lombardi, Chief Financial Officer

**Author: Robert Malignaggi, Business Services Lead
Melika Sukunda, Manager Finance**

Summary

This report outlines Council's interim financial performance for the period ended 30 June 2019.

The June draft interim financial report is the fourth report presented to Council on the year-to-date performance against the adopted 2018-2019 Budget, which includes changes resulting from the Mid-Year Financial Review process.

Quarterly reports are presented to Council for the September, December and March quarters. However due to the timing and preparation of the Annual Report, an interim quarterly report is prepared for the June quarter. This is to comply with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1989* which requires that a financial report be presented to Council every three months.

The interim financial report shows a draft Net Profit of \$15.485 million. This is an improvement of \$8.385 million compared to the Mid-Year Financial Review in January 2019, when a profit of \$7.099 million was forecast. This favourable variance has been achieved through a combination of increased income received and effective management of operational expenditure.

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the Draft Interim Financial Report for the period ended 30 June 2019 (**Attachment 1**).

Attachments

1. Draft Interim Financial Report 30 June 2019

Background

1. With the end of the financial year at 30 June 2019, a draft result is now available.
2. The reporting process compares actual performance to budgeted targets. It should be noted that this is only an interim report as the annual external financial audit is yet to be completed. The audited financial statements will be presented in August 2019.
3. There are two profitability measures referred to in this report; Net Profit and Net Surplus.
 - a) **Net Profit:** The periodic financial reports (monthly and quarterly) presented to Council report on the Net Profit. The Net Profit is a statutory accounting measure which is reported on in the Annual Report. This measure captures all of the financial activity for the year which includes both cash and non-cash items.

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OCM.102/19 June Interim Financial Report

b) **Net Surplus:** The Net Surplus captures Council’s cash position at the end of financial year. This is an important measure as it provides insight into the cash used in operating activities during the year.

4. Council has ended the financial year in a better than expected position generating a strong Net Profit as per the table below:

	Mid-Year Budget Review (forecast position)	Year-to-date Actuals	Favourable Variance
Net Profit (statutory accounting)	7,099,098	15,484,539	8,385,441
Net Surplus/(Deficit) (cash position)	(2,963,811)	(1,205,975)	1,757,836

5. This result is driven by careful management of operating expenditure by the organisation and better than expected revenue received during the year.

Policy context

6. This report directly supports the achievement of Council Plan 2017-2021 strategy:

- Ensure responsible and efficient management of Council's financial resources.

Budget implications

7. This is a standard reporting item to Council, the associated costs for which are included in the current Budget.

Consultation/communication

8. Not applicable.

Draft Interim Income Statement

9. The Draft Interim Income Statement (the statement) for the period ended 30 June 2019 is provided as **Attachment 1**. The statement details variances and commentary to the Mid-Year Financial Review.

10. The statement includes operating income and expenditure items generating a draft Net Profit for the year ended 30 June 2019.

11. The draft Net Profit figure is a statutory accounting measure which will be reported in the Annual Report. More broadly, a strong profit result contributes to Council achieving financial sustainability targets of a low risk assessment with the Victorian Auditor General’s Office.

12. Council closed the period ended 30 June 2019 with a strong draft profit result of \$15.485 million. This represents a favourable variance of \$8.385 million above the forecast profit of \$7.099 million from Mid-Year Financial Review in January 2019 (highlighted in yellow in **Attachment 1**).

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OCM.102/19 June Interim Financial Report

Draft Net Deficit

13. The final line of the statement details the draft net deficit for the period ended 30 June 2019.
14. The draft net deficit reflects the overall operating performance of the business for the 12 month period. It excludes items which are of a non-cash nature or capital related.
15. At the Mid-Year Financial Review in January 2019, Council forecast a deficit of (\$2.964 million) as detailed in **Attachment 1**.
16. The draft net deficit for the period ended 30 June 2019 is \$1.206 million.
17. The improved result when compared to the Mid-Year Financial Review is largely driven by:
 - a) better than expected income received; and
 - b) overall underspend in operational expenditure, driven by effective financial management across the organisation.

Conclusion

18. Council's interim financial position at the end of June 2019 reflects an improved result compared to the original Budget and the Mid-Year Financial Review.
19. This has been achieved through a combination of increased income received and effective management of expenditure.

12. Officers' reports**OCM.103/19 Council's Submission to the Local Government Bill 2019**

Distribution: Public**Manager: Blaga Naumoski, Executive Manager Governance and Legal Services****Author: Katia Croce, Governance Lead****Summary**

The Minister for Local Government issued a media release on 17 June 2019, advising of the proposal to incorporate six new reforms in addition to the Local Government Bill 2018. The addition of these proposed reforms is intended to form part of the Local Government Bill 2019, which the State Government aims to introduce into Parliament later this year.

This report presents to Council the formal Nillumbik Shire Council submission to the Local Government Bill 2019. Council's submission notes that given the limited amount of time Council has had to consider the proposed reforms, Council's view is broad and general.

Recommendation**That Council:**

1. Endorses its submission to the Local Government Bill 2019 (**Attachment 1**).
2. Notes:
 - a) Its submission is broad and general, given the lack of depth of information provided on the proposed reforms, and with minimal consultation and time given to consider the proposals.
 - b) That officers have forwarded the submission to the Municipal Association of Victoria.
 - c) With concern the significant changes proposed as part of the reforms were communicated without warning or consultation with the local government sector, and with limited time to provide feedback.
 - d) That the Mayor has written to the Minister for Local Government (**Attachment 4**), expressing Council's concerns with the lack of time given to consider the proposed reforms; advocating for an extension of time; and proposing to have introduced into Parliament the Local Government Bill 2018, with the 2019 reforms to be introduced as an amendment.
 - e) That in response to several requests from councils to extend the time for feedback to coincide with council meeting schedules, the Minister for Local Government has extended the deadline for submissions until 31 July 2019.
3. Authorises officers to forward Council's submission to Local Government Victoria by 31 July 2019.

Attachments

1. Nillumbik Shire Council Submission to the Local Government Bill 2019
2. Local Government Bill - A Reform Proposal
3. MAV Local Government Bill 2019 Members Brief

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OCM.103/19 Council's Submission to the Local Government Bill 2019

4. Letter to Minister Somyurek - Local Government Bill 2019 Reform Proposals

Background

1. The State Government undertook a high-level review of the Local Government Bill 2018 (2018 Bill), which was the result of a three-year consultation with councils, communities and sector bodies. The review provided the opportunity to include additional reforms designed to further improve and strengthen the 2018 Bill.
2. The Minister for Local Government issued a media release on 17 June 2019, advising of the proposal to incorporate six new reforms in addition to the 2018 Bill.
3. The six additional reforms are proposed to form part of the Local Government Bill 2019 (Bill), which the State Government aims to introduce into Parliament later this year.
4. The new Bill retains the reforms under the 2018 Bill that were designed to empower councils to improve service delivery, by focusing on deliberative engagement and long-term financial management.

Policy context

5. This report directly supports the achievement of Council Plan 2017-2021 strategy:
 - Advocate effectively for Nillumbik's interests at a state and national level.

Budget implications

6. Budget implications are unknown at this stage. There are some significant new requirements in the draft Bill that will require planning and budget.

Consultation/communication

7. It is understood the sector was not consulted on the proposed reforms, other than Mayors from the Ministerial Mayors Panel.
8. The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) wrote to all Chief Executive Officers and Mayors stating they are disappointed about this and the lack of time to respond, and sought feedback from councils.

Issues/options

9. The proposed Bill intends to deliver a more modern and robust Act that will:
 - Allow councils to improve the services they deliver for communities, focusing on better financial management and engaging the community in decision-making;
 - Improve Councillor conduct with clearer standards of behaviour and stronger mechanisms to address poor conduct;
 - Provide stronger local democracy with direct accountability to the community;
 - Give the community confidence by making reforms to election processes and candidate requirements; and
 - Provide a new relationship between State and Local Government and the community, removing any unnecessary Ministerial approvals and arbitrary powers.

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OCM.103/19 Council's Submission to the Local Government Bill 2019

10. The new reforms include:

- Simplifying enrolments to vote in council elections to more closely align council electoral rolls with state electoral rolls;
- Simplifying electoral structures to provide greater consistency of representative structures – introducing a preference for single member wards to make councils more accountable;
- Introducing mandatory training for council election candidates and Councillors to improve competency, skills and transparency;
- Extending recent changes to electoral campaign donations arrangements to local government elections to ensure the integrity and transparency of the donations process;
- Setting clear standards of conduct to guide Councillor behaviour and establishing a centralised internal resolution process to support councils in dealing with low-level misconduct more efficiently; and
- Introducing two new pathways that can lead to the disqualification of a Councillor.

11. To assist the community in understanding the Council's position on the proposed reforms, officers have captured each of the reforms, background information and provided commentary, taking into consideration MAV's proposed position (as outlined in **Attachment 3**). The summary table is shown below:

Reform	Item	Impact
1	<p>Simplified Franchise (Electoral Voting)</p> <p>Property owners not on the state roll for that council to register to vote rather being automatically on the roll.</p>	<p>Minimal impact – provision exists to enrol to vote.</p>
2	<p>Electoral Structures</p> <p>Proposed to move to a single electoral structure model consisting of single member wards for all councils.</p>	<p>No impact for Nillumbik, given Council is already operating under the proposed electoral structure.</p> <p>Council recognises, however, that this structure may not be appropriate for all councils across the state, given their diverse nature.</p>

12. Officers' reports

OCM.103/19 Council's Submission to the Local Government Bill 2019

Reform	Item	Impact
<p>3</p>	<p>Training</p> <p>Election Candidates</p> <p>All candidates for council elections will be required to undertake mandatory training as a condition of their candidature.</p> <p>Councillor Induction</p> <p>Councillor induction training will be arranged by the Chief Executive Officer for Councillors within six months of being elected. It will contain information relating to the role of a Councillor, the Councillor Code of Conduct, conflicts of interest and any other prescribed matters, and will be subsequently prescribed in Regulations. If a Councillor fails to take the Councillor induction training within the specified time, their allowance will be withheld until such time the Councillor has taken the training, at which point the allowance will be refunded.</p>	<p>The nature of the mandatory election candidate training will be the subject of further consultation with the local government sector and then prescribed in Regulations. It is unknown at this stage who pays for mandatory training for candidates.</p> <p>Councillors will need to ensure timely attendance of Councillor induction training to avoid having their allowance withheld.</p> <p>Minimal impact on Council administration as Councillor induction training is run after each election.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Donation Reform</p> <p>Electoral campaign donations to individual candidates and candidate groups from a single donor will be capped at an aggregated amount of \$1000 for Victorian local government elections, in respect of each 'donation period'.</p> <p>The 'gift disclosure threshold' which applies to campaign donations and other gifts received by Councillors, subject to requirements of the Bill, will change from the \$500 proposed in the 2018 Bill, to \$250 for all councils (except the City of Melbourne).</p> <p>All councils will be required to have a gift register and a publicly transparent gift policy covering the acceptance and disposal of gifts by Councillors and staff.</p>	<p>Impact on election candidates.</p> <p>Foreign donations will be banned. Donors will need to be an Australian citizen or resident, or a business with an Australian Business Number.</p> <p>Currently, Council does not have a single Gift Policy. Rather, staff gift procedure is referred to in the Employee Code of Conduct, and Councillor gift procedure is referred to in the Good Governance Policy and the Councillor Code of Conduct.</p> <p>The need may arise for a central Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy.</p> <p>Council is currently in the process of adopting an Election Period Policy for 2020. This policy will require revision if the proposed reforms become law.</p>

12. Officers' reports

OCM.103/19 Council's Submission to the Local Government Bill 2019

Reform	Item	Impact
5	<p>Improved Conduct</p> <p>Mandatory standards of conduct will define specific acts and omissions of behaviour that apply to all Councillors in all councils. Councils will retain discretion to include additional material in their codes (but not to the standards of conduct). The standards of conduct will be developed in consultation with the local government sector and the community.</p>	<p>Minimal impact – standards of conduct for the whole sector is clear.</p>
6	<p>Community Accountability</p> <p>The new provisions will allow a Councillor to be removed from office for repeated serious misconduct or in response to genuine public concerns about their improper conduct.</p> <p>Councillor Conduct Panel or Commission of Inquiry – requires at least 25 per cent of voters in a municipality sign a petition.</p>	<p>The removal of a Councillor is a serious matter, and the requirement to have 25 per cent of Council's residents sign a petition is a high threshold in order to substantiate any claims of misconduct.</p> <p>However, the way in which the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) would accept a complaint of misconduct is concerning.</p> <p>A complaint based on a 200 word submission, and allowing a 200 word response is not sound grounds to pursue a serious matter.</p> <p>A further concern is that the VEC may be deemed as supporting the complainant, and this could unfairly bias the community against the Councillor. The community sees the VEC as a respected body and are therefore likely to assume guilt on behalf of the Councillor without the supporting evidence on the matter.</p>

12. The draft Bill itself has not been presented, however a reform proposal paper (**Attachment 2**) was made available on 17 June 2019 and provides some detail on the proposed reforms.
13. Both MAV and Local Government Victoria (LGV) sought feedback on the six new proposed reforms. The due date for submissions to MAV was 9 July 2019, and the due date for submissions to LGV was 17 July 2019.
14. Council's submission to the proposed reforms (**Attachment 1**) was unanimously endorsed by Councillors at the 9 July 2019 Councillor Briefing, and was submitted to MAV by the due date.

12. Officers' reports

OCM.103/19 Council's Submission to the Local Government Bill 2019

15. The Mayor has written to the Minister for Local Government (**Attachment 4**), expressing Council's concerns with the lack of time given to consider the proposed reforms, and advocating for an extension of time.
16. As part of the Mayor's correspondence to the Minister, Council made the following requests:
 - Extending the deadline for consultation on the Local Government Bill 2019; or
 - Introducing the Local Government Bill 2018 into Parliament, and having the 2019 reforms introduced as an amendment.
17. As a result of several requests from councils to extend the time for feedback to coincide with council meeting schedules, the Minister for Local Government has extended the deadline for submissions until 31 July 2019.

Conclusion

18. Council is disappointed with the short timeframe provided for consultation, and with the limited detail behind some of the proposed reforms introduced in addition to the Local Government Bill 2018 by the Minister for Local Government on 17 June 2019.
19. Due to the lack of time given to consider the proposed reforms, Council's ability to properly consider the reforms in full has been hampered.
20. Council's submission to the Local Government Bill 2019 (**Attachment 1**) is presented to Council for formal endorsement, after which point it will be submitted to Local Government Victoria by the extended deadline of 31 July 2019.

12. Officers' reports

OCM.104/19 Election Period Policy Review

Distribution: Public

Manager: Blaga Naumoski, Executive Manager Governance and Legal Services

Author: Katia Croce, Governance Lead
Alena Spry, Governance Officer

Summary

The *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act) stipulates that councils must prepare, adopt and maintain an Election Period Policy (Policy) in relation to procedures to be applied by Council during the election period for a general election. The next local government elections will be held on Saturday 24 October 2020.

The Act requires councils to have a Policy to explain to their communities how they will conduct their business immediately prior to an election. This is to ensure council elections are not compromised by inappropriate electioneering by existing Councillors, and to safeguard the authority of the incoming Council.

The Policy provides guidance at an operational level to ensure compliance with legislative requirements; demonstrates Council's commitment to probity in its elections; and ensures transparency and accountability of Councillors and Council officers during the election period.

The Policy is presented to Council for formal consideration and adoption.

Recommendation

That Council adopts the Election Period Policy (**Attachment 1**).

Attachments

1. Election Period Policy

Background

1. Section 93B of the Act stipulates that councils must prepare, adopt and maintain an Election Period Policy in relation to procedures to be applied by Council during the election period for a general election.
2. Under the Act, the Policy is required to be maintained by reviewing and, if required, amending the Policy not later than 12 months before the commencement of each general election period.

Policy context

3. This report directly supports the achievement of Council Plan 2017-2021 strategy:
 - Ensure that Council meets its legal responsibilities and manages its risks.

Budget implications

4. There are no budget implications associated with the review of the Election Period Policy, outside of normal operating expenditure.

12. Officers' reports

OCM.104/19 Election Period Policy Review

Consultation/communication

5. Council's Executive Management Team were briefed on the draft Policy on 22 May 2019.
6. Councillors were briefed on the draft Policy on 18 June 2019.

Issues/options

7. The Policy has been developed in accordance with the Act, in order to ensure that the general election for Nillumbik Shire Council on Saturday 24 October 2020 and subsequent elections are conducted in a manner that is ethical, fair and equitable, and are publicly perceived as such.
8. Importantly, the Policy will also facilitate the continuation of the ordinary business of Council throughout the election period in a responsible and transparent manner, in accordance with statutory requirements and established 'caretaker' conventions.
9. Council will function in accordance with the Policy during the election period which, for the purposes of the 2020 general election, commences at midnight on Tuesday 22 September 2020 and concludes at 6:00pm on Saturday 24 October 2020 (election day).
10. This Policy overrides any prior Council policy or document that refers to a 'caretaker' or election period.

Conclusion

11. The Election Period Policy is presented to Council for formal consideration with the officer recommendation being that Council adopts the Policy.

12. Officers' reports**OCM.105/19 MAV Achievements 2018-2019 and Membership Renewal 2019-2020**

Distribution: Public**Manager: Blaga Naumoski, Executive Manager Governance and Legal Services****Author: Katia Croce, Governance Lead****Summary**

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) is the peak statutory body for Victorian local government. The MAV was established in 1879 with the view of protecting the interests and rights of local government.

Council has subscribed to the MAV membership on an annual basis. This report outlines the achievements of the MAV in the 2018-2019 financial year, and seeks endorsement for membership renewal for the 2019-2020 financial year.

Recommendation**That Council:**

1. Notes the achievements of the MAV in the 2018-2019 financial year (**Attachment 1**).
2. Endorses the MAV membership renewal for the 2019-2020 financial year.

Attachments

1. MAV Achievements 2018-2019

Background

1. The MAV describes their role as being the recognised voice for local government and therefore to:
 - Represent and advocate for local government interests;
 - Build the capacity of Victorian councils;
 - Facilitate effective networks;
 - Initiate policy development and advice; and
 - Support councillors.
2. The MAV's Strategy Work Plan 2017-2019 identified four key objectives to drive the MAV's priority work actions to deliver outcomes of significant benefit to members.
3. The four key objectives are:
 - a) Help councils achieve financial sustainability;
 - b) Improve the reputation of local government;
 - c) Increase sector productivity and efficiency; and
 - d) Increase innovation and collaboration.
4. The MAV's achievements for the 2018-2019 financial year are outlined in **Attachment 1**.

12. Officers' reports

OCM.105/19 MAV Achievements 2018-2019 and Membership Renewal 2019-2020

Policy context

5. This report directly supports the achievement of Council Plan 2017-2021 strategy:
- Advocate effectively for Nillumbik's interests at a state and national level.

Budget implications

6. Membership subscription fees have been allocated in the 2019-2020 operating budget.

Conclusion

7. The MAV offers diverse business services to Council members including specialist policy and advocacy, governance and legislative advice, and sector development.
8. Continued membership of the MAV in the 2019-2020 financial year is likely to deliver continued overall net benefit to Council.

12. Officers' reports

OCM.106/19 Arts Advisory Committee Recommendations - Arts and Culture Grant Stream of the 2019-2020 Nillumbik Community Fund

Distribution: Public

Manager: Kylie Lethbridge, Executive Manager Economic Development and Tourism

Author: Sarah Hammond, Acting Coordinator Arts and Culture

Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the Arts Advisory Committee recommendations for the Arts and Culture Grant Stream of the 2019-2020 Nillumbik Community Fund, and seek Council's endorsement of same.

Recommendation

That Council endorses the Arts Advisory Committee recommendations for the 2019-2020 Arts and Culture Grants (**Attachment 3**).

Attachments

1. Nillumbik Community Fund Arts and Culture Grant Guidelines
2. Arts Advisory Committee Terms of Reference
3. 2019-2020 Arts and Culture Grant Recommendations

Background

1. Each year Council supports projects that enhance and strengthen the community through the Nillumbik Community Fund.
2. The Nillumbik Community Fund comprises several grant streams, including an Arts and Culture stream. The guidelines for the Arts and Culture Grants are outlined in **Attachment 1**.
3. The Arts and Culture stream of the Nillumbik Community Fund recently sought applications for activities that strengthen our cultural heritage and align with the objectives of the Council Plan and Arts and Cultural Plan 2018-2022.
4. The Arts Advisory Committee acts as the assessment panel, and has provided recommendations for awarding grant funds (**Attachment 3**).

Policy context

5. This report directly supports the achievement of Council Plan 2017-2021:
 - Create and activate places and spaces that have good connectivity, provide needed infrastructure and promote social interaction.

Budget implications

6. The 2019-2020 Arts and Culture Grant stream consists of a total pool of \$40,000.
7. Applications are considered for projects up to \$5,000.

12. Officers' reports

OCM.106/19 Arts Advisory Committee Recommendations - Arts and Culture Grant Stream of the 2019-2020 Nillumbik Community Fund

Consultation/communication

8. The Arts and Culture Grants were promoted widely, and advertised as follows:
 - In Nillumbik News;
 - On Council's website;
 - Through social media channels;
 - In Arts and Cultural Development and Business eNews;
 - Through networks and community groups, i.e. Arts and Cultural Development Unit, community development contacts, community groups, Living and Learning Nillumbik, Yarra Plenty Regional Library, Nillumbik Artist Open Studios, Economic Development and Tourism associations, and relevant industry publications.
9. A Grant Writing Workshop was delivered on 14 May 2019 and arts officers provided one-on-one support to answer questions and to discuss proposals in person, via phone or email.
10. Twenty-four grant applications were received, which is an increase of 400 per cent compared to 2018-2019.

Issues/options

11. All grant applications were assessed against the following criteria (further detailed in **Attachment 1**):
 - a) Well-developed concepts which align with the strategic objectives of the Council Plan and support the delivery of the Arts and Cultural Plan 2018-2022;
 - b) Demonstration of community collaboration and partnerships;
 - c) Evidence of community support and/or need;
 - d) Likelihood of a lasting impact beyond life of the project;
 - e) Contribution to a diverse suite of arts and culture projects in Nillumbik; and
 - f) Achievable timelines and budget, including evidence of the applicant organisation's cash and in-kind commitment.
12. Key reasons for not supporting projects include:
 - Limited alignment with grant guidelines;
 - Not providing documents required to support the application as requested, including letters of support, quotes, or incorporation documents; and
 - An incomplete budget.
13. The recommendations include three community arts projects, three literary arts projects and four performing arts projects; each of which are diverse and unique.
14. The recommendations and funding breakdown can be found in **Attachment 3**.

12. Officers' reports

OCM.106/19 Arts Advisory Committee Recommendations - Arts and Culture Grant Stream of the 2019-2020 Nillumbik Community Fund

Conclusion

15. The recommended projects will provide a diverse suite of arts and cultural activities, invest in community arts, literary arts, and performing arts, and enable strong outcomes for the Arts and Cultural Plan 2018-2022 and the Council Plan 2017-2021.

12. Officers' reports

OCM.107/19 Assembly of Councillors

Distribution: Public

Manager: Blaga Naumoski, Executive Manager Governance and Legal Services

Author: Alena Spry, Governance Officer

Summary

In accordance with section 80A(2) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, Council is required to report as soon as practicable to an Ordinary Council Meeting a record of any assemblies of Councillors held.

This report lists assemblies of Councillors forms that have been submitted since the matter was last reported to Council on 25 June 2019.

An Assembly of Councillors record was kept for:

- Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee – 23 May 2019;
- Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee – 23 May 2019;
- Arts Advisory Committee – 17 June 2019;
- Councillor Briefing – 18 June 2019;
- Pre-meeting to Ordinary Council Meeting – 25 June 2019;
- Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee – 26 June 2019;
- Living and Learning Nillumbik Advisory Committee – 26 June 2019;
- Positive Ageing Advisory Committee – 5 July 2019; and
- Councillor Briefing – 9 July 2019.

Recommendation

That Council, in accordance with section 80A(2) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, receives the records of the Assemblies of Councillors held on 23 May 2019, 23 May 2019, 17 June 2019, 18 June 2019, 25 June 2019, 26 June 2019, 26 June 2019, 5 July 2019 and 9 July 2019 (**Attachment 1**).

Attachments

1. Assembly of Councillors reported 30 July 2019

Background

1. The *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act) requires records of assemblies of Councillors be reported to an Ordinary Council Meeting and recorded in the minutes of that meeting.

Policy context

2. This report directly supports the achievement of Council Plan 2017-2021 strategy:
 - Ensure that Council meets its legal responsibilities and manages its risks.

12. Officers' reports

OCM.107/19 Assembly of Councillors

Budget implications

3. This is a routine reporting item, the resources for which are contained in Council's current operating budget.

Consultation/communication

4. None required.

Issues/options

5. An assembly of Councillors is defined in section 76AA of the Act. It is a meeting at which matters are considered that are intended or likely to be the subject of a Council decision or the exercise of delegated authority and which is either of the following:
 - A planned or scheduled meeting that includes at least half the Councillors and at least one Council officer. These assemblies do not include meetings of Councillors and Council staff that are not planned or scheduled.
 - A meeting of an advisory committee where at least one Councillor is present. An advisory committee is any committee established by the Council, other than a special committee, that provides advice to the Council or to a special committee or to a member of Council staff who has been delegated a power or duty or function of the Council.
6. A record must be kept of an assembly of Councillors and include the names of all Councillors and Council staff attending, the matters considered, disclosures of conflict of interest and whether a Councillor left the meeting after making a disclosure.
7. In accordance with section 80A(2) of the Act, Council is required to report as soon as practicable to an Ordinary Council Meeting a record of any assemblies of Councillors held.
8. The recommendation contains the list of assemblies of Councillor forms that have been submitted since the matter was last reported to Council on 25 June 2019.

Conclusion

9. It is recommended that Council receives the records of recent assemblies of Councillors as contained in this report, fulfilling section 80A(2) of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

12. Officers' reports**OCM.108/19 Laughing Waters Artist Residency**

Distribution: Public**Manager: Carl Cowie, Chief Executive Officer****Author: Kylie Lethbridge, Executive Manager Economic Development and Tourism****Summary**

This report is an overview of a separate report confidential report recommending that Council requests the Minister prepare an amendment to the Nillumbik Planning Scheme via section 20(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, which will allow the site at 130 and 195 Laughing Waters Road, Eltham South be used as an Artists in Residence Program.

Laughing Waters has been an important community asset and a site of some historical significance for the area since the late 1990's having been made famous by the creation in the 1970's, of River Bend house at 130 Laughing Waters Road, by renowned architect Alistair Knox. Birrarung house at 195 Laughing Waters Road was also made famous because of its creation by landscaper Gordon Ford and builder, Graham Rose.

The use of Laughing Waters for the purposes of an artist residency is currently prohibited under the Public Conservation and Resource Zone. Previously, Council was able to run a residency program there as it had existing use rights. However, since the program was discontinued in 2015, the existing use rights provision has expired and therefore a Planning Scheme Amendment is now required for Laughing Waters to be utilised as an artists residence.

The Planning Scheme Amendment would apply a Specific Controls Overlay to the land, with a specific control contained in an Incorporated Document to allow for the use. The Incorporated Document and supporting amendment documentation must still address the relevant planning policies and controls, including bushfire risk.

This Amendment, if approved would be the final step of planning and negotiations undertaken over many years to ensure a future for the locally significant sites Councils' artist residency program.

Recommendation

That Council notes this report.

Attachments

Nil

12. Officers' reports

OCM.109/19 Edendale Community Environment Farm Service Review - next steps

Distribution: Public

Manager: Carl Cowie, Chief Executive Officer

Author: Kylie Lethbridge, Executive Manager Economic Development and Tourism

Summary

This report is an overview of a separate confidential report recommending that Officers:

1. Commence an Expressions of Interest (EOI) process to seek a partner to provide the service of Edendale Community Environment Farm.
2. Report the results of the Expression of Interest process to Council for the purpose of broad community consultation.

The report directly relates to the Council Plan Action: Review Council's role in direct service provision and identify opportunities for improvement including: Edendale Community Environment Farm (Edendale).

In order to respond to this requirement, a comprehensive service review has been undertaken and a number of options identified.

Council has been committed to Edendale since 2000 both in the form of capital improvements and through operational expenditure.

The commitment to retain ownership and to continue to provide the service is mandatory. However, as with any of Council's ongoing subsidies in facilities and services it is incumbent on Council to ensure that the community is getting the best possible value for money. The options being investigated through the EOI process will help ensure that this is the case.

This report recommends that Council undertake an open and transparent process to seek a partner that shares the same ethos and values as Council and the community to manage the facility to its best potential to minimise Council's annual subsidy (currently averaging \$600,000 over the last three years) and to take Edendale in to a bright innovative future where the community can further enjoy this much loved facility. It will also ensure that the next evolution of Edendale is innovative and delivers on Council's objectives for the environment.

Recommendation

That Council notes this report.

Attachments

Nil

12. Officers' reports

OCM.110/19 RFT 1819-71 Graphic Design Services Panel

Distribution: Public

Manager: Mitch Grayson, Executive Manager Communications and Engagement

Author: Lance Clark, Senior Procurement Specialist
Kelly Reaburn, Head of Communications and Marketing

Summary

This report is an overview of a separate confidential report recommending the awarding of the contract 1819-71 to appoint three suppliers to the Graphic Design Services Panel.

The contract term is for an initial period of three (3) years, with two (2) x one (1) year options to extend the contract.

The total duration of the contract, including the exercise of any options, shall not exceed five (5) years.

The Tender Evaluation Panel has assessed all submissions.

Pursuant to the Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer, the value of this contract exceeds the specified financial limits, and a Council resolution is therefore required to award the contract.

Recommendation

That Council notes this report.

Attachments

Nil

12. Officers' reports

OCM.111/19 RFT 1819-72 Print Services Panel

Distribution: Public

Manager: Mitch Grayson, Executive Manager Communications and Engagement

Author: Lance Clark, Senior Procurement Specialist

Summary

This report is an overview of a separate confidential report recommending the awarding of the contract 1819-72 to appoint three suppliers to the Print Services Panel.

The contract term is for an initial period of three (3) years, with two (2) x one (1) year options to extend the contract.

The total duration of the contract, including the exercise of any options, shall not exceed five (5) years.

The Tender Evaluation Panel has assessed all submissions.

Pursuant to the Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer, the value of this contract exceeds the specified financial limits, and a Council resolution is therefore required to award the contract.

Recommendation

That Council notes this report.

Attachments

Nil

13. Notices of Motion

NOM.004/19 – Voluntary Municipal Merger

Cr Peter Clarke advised of his intention to move the following:

That Council:

1. Writes to Banyule City Council to seek its support to jointly fund an assessment of the financial, organisational, policy and political opportunities of a voluntary merger of the two municipalities.
2. Following the completion of this assessment, if it is apparent that significant advantages are identified for the Councils, a consultation commence with the communities of the Councils to determine their views.
3. Following this consultation, request the VEC co-ordinate a vote of residents to determine if a merger should proceed.
4. Advises the Victorian Local Government Minister of this proposal.

Accompanying Statement:

It is now 25 years since the current Municipal structure in Victoria was created and it is timely to review opportunities that mergers of communities of interest would create.

Banyule in its previous life as the City of Heidelberg incorporated the Shire of Diamond Valley as its North Ward. The boundaries between Banyule and Nillumbik are arbitrary and have communities of interest in common.

Banyule has population growth over the medium term, Nillumbik has very little population growth and is constrained by the Urban Growth Boundary.

Both Councils have strong historic, arts and environmental credentials linked by the Yarra and Plenty rivers.

The listed population of City of Banyule is 130,237 and Shire of Nillumbik is 64,941

Nillumbik has access to unique funding sources in the Growing Suburbs fund and Building Better Regions fund.

Both municipalities have significant traffic congestion issues and share Members of Parliament across State (currently Ivanhoe, Bundoora (part), Eltham, Eildon (part) and Yan Yean (part)) and Federal (Jagajaga and Menzies (part), McEwen (part) electoral borders.

Banyule has net debt of \$35.74 million and Nillumbik \$7.9 million (as at 30 June 18).

The income of Councils is Banyule \$156.1 million and Nillumbik \$96.86 million (30 June 2018).

There are potential cost savings in Management, IT and cost of doing business and supplying services as municipalities which would need to be measured while delivering the same or improved services. Both councils currently share library and animal welfare services.

The financial outcomes would need to ensure that all ratepayers are advantaged with no one paying more and a target of rate reductions for all with improved services and access to community facilities.

The political system currently has 14 single member wards. Currently 7 Banyule and 7 Nillumbik which may provide for some rationalisation and savings at merger. The prior City of Heidelberg did have 15 Councillors.

TOTAL EFT as at 30 June 2018.

Banyule EFT – 623.38

Nillumbik EFT – 322.87

- 14. Delegates' reports
- 15. Supplementary and urgent business
- 16. Confidential reports

The Chief Executive Officer, pursuant to section 77(2)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act), has designated the following items to be confidential:

OCM.112/19 Laughing Waters Artist Residency

This item is designated confidential because it is a contractual matter pursuant to section 89(2)(d) of the Act.

OCM.113/19 Edendale Community Environment Farm Service Review - next steps

This item is designated confidential because it is an industrial matter pursuant to section 89(2)(c) of the Act, and a contractual matter pursuant to section 89(2)(d) of the Act.

OCM.114/19 RFT 1819-71 Graphic Design Services Panel

This item is designated confidential because it is a contractual matter pursuant to section 89(2)(d) of the Act.

OCM.115/19 RFT 1819-72 Print Services Panel

This item is designated confidential because it is a contractual matter pursuant to section 89(2)(d) of the Act.

The Meeting may be closed to members of the public to consider confidential matters.

Recommendation

That in accordance with section 89(2) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, Council resolves to close the meeting to members of the public to consider the items designated confidential by the Chief Executive Officer.