



ADDENDUM ITEM AGENDA

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

Tuesday, 17 March 2015

To be held
Swan Hill Town Hall Council Chambers
McCallum Street, Swan Hill
Commencing at 2:00 PM

COUNCIL:

Cr CM Adamson – Mayor

Cr JN Katis

Cr GW Norton

Cr GI Cruickshank

Cr JA Kiley

Cr LT McPhee

Cr JB Crowe

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B.15.19 LODDON MALLEE REGIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN 2015-18

Responsible Officer: Director Development and Planning
File Number: 26-28-00
Attachments: 1 Loddon Mallee Regional Strategic Plan 2015-18

Declarations of Interest:

Brett Luxford - as the responsible officer, I declare that I have no disclosable interests in this matter.

Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement for the Loddon Mallee Regional Strategic Plan 2015-18 (attached). The plan incorporates the previous Loddon Mallee North and Loddon Mallee South Regional Plans which were produced in 2010 and is designed to complement other regional and local plans.

Discussion

The Loddon Mallee Regional Strategic Plan 2015-18 (RSP) has been developed by the Loddon Mallee Regional Development Australia (RDA) Committee through a consultation process that engaged over 200 leaders across the region. The RSP covers 10 Local Government Areas from Mildura Rural City in the North to Macedon Ranges in the South.

The RSP brings together and renews the regional strategic plans produced in 2010. The new plan is designed to take into account other regional and local plans, including the Regional Growth Plans, Council Plans, and plans belonging to other regional stakeholders. The RSP also complements the strategies such as Railing Ahead, Ports of the Murray River and Transformative Towns.

Regional Development Australia highlight that over the last five years, the Loddon Mallee Region has successfully used the previous regional strategic plans to influence investment from State and Federal governments and the private sector in a range of projects. These projects in many instances have helped shape the region and have included projects from the Rural City of Swan Hill.

The Loddon Mallee Regional Strategic Plan 2015-18 identifies the opportunities and needs of the Loddon Mallee Region and provides a single message about the broad actions required to positively transform the Loddon Mallee Region. The plan identifies four Strategic Directions, which are:

- Foster our comparative advantages in agriculture, food processing and other regionally significant industries
- Build the connecting infrastructure for our diverse economy

- Enhance the well-being and economic participation of our people
- Protect and enhance the liveability and appeal of our region

These strategic directions are then further segmented into 31 different priority areas. Implementation of the Regional Strategic Plan will be through Action Plans aligned with each of the four Strategic Directions within the plan.

It is anticipated that these Actions Plans will be prepared with partner organisations of RDA which would include Local Governments.

Representatives of the Loddon Mallee Regional Development Australia Committee presented the draft Regional Strategic Plan 2015-2018 to Swan Hill Rural City Council on Tuesday the 10th of February in Swan Hill. Feedback was provided by Council and has resulted in some changes to the Regional Strategic Plan. Following the meeting with Swan Hill Rural City Council the RDA representatives visited all the Local Governments in the region. Feedback from all Councils has been incorporated into the final document.

RDA have highlighted that the Loddon Mallee Regional Strategic Plan 2015–2018 needs the clear support of all ten Local Government Councils if it is to carry weight with stakeholders and prospective investors.

Consultation

In the course of developing the RSP, RDA engaged with over 200 leaders from the ten local government areas in the Loddon Mallee. Consultation included an initial forum in Bendigo followed by regional workshops in Bendigo, Mildura, Swan Hill, Wycheproof, Kyneton and Echuca.

The stakeholders engaged included Councillors and Council executive, leaders from State Government, local business, community, not-for-profit organisations and the service sector. These stakeholders gave detailed feedback which has influenced the aspirations and strategic directions of the plan.

Financial Implications

The Loddon Mallee Regional Strategic Plan 2015-18 sets the framework by which projects and initiatives will be considered. The RSP will help support applications for funding for initiatives that are consistent with the strategic objectives and priorities.

Social Implications

The Loddon Mallee Regional Strategic Plan 2015–18 has a strong emphasis on liveability and strengthening infrastructure and education to improve social outcomes for people living in the region.

Economic Implications

The four strategic directions identified in the Loddon Mallee Regional Strategic Plan 2015-18 encourage the growth and development of the economic base across the

region. If successfully implemented the plan will help strengthen and diversify the economic base and encourage more people to live in the region.

Environmental Implications

The RSP identifies the need to support initiatives that strengthen biodiversity in the region and efficiently use resources. The plan also extends to protecting our cultural heritage. This will support initiatives by stakeholders that work towards implementing the RSP.

Risk Management Implications

Nil

Council Plan Strategy Addressed

The Loddon Mallee Regional Strategic Plan 2015-18 complements the Council Plan 2013-17 across a range of areas and seeks to achieve many of the outcomes that Council has identified within our plan.

Creating population growth - We will actively seek to grow the Regional population (cross border).

Options

The Regional Development Australia Committee have indicated that they are on very tight timelines to seek the adoption of the Loddon Mallee Regional Strategic Plan 2015-18 by the 10 Local Governments within the region. It is anticipated that the plan will be launched in April in a bid to influence any future funding opportunities as they may arise.

Council can support the recommendation as outlined below, delay endorsing the plan or notify RDA that it does not support the plan. By delaying the endorsement of the plan this will affect the timelines as outlined to Council for the final launch of the plan. It is highly unlikely that any further changes will be made to the plan as the consultation period has ceased and all comments provided by the respective stakeholders have, where possible, been incorporated.

If Council chooses not to endorse the plan then the ability for Council to use the plan to support requests for funding will be diminished.

Recommendations

That Council:

- 1. Endorses the Loddon Mallee Regional Strategic Plan 2015-2018 as representing the strategic directions and priority areas required to positively transform the region.**
- 2. Acknowledges the need for Swan Hill Rural City Council's ongoing participation in the implementation and application of the plan.**

Attachment

- Loddon Mallee Regional Strategic Plan 2015-18