



MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

Friday, 23 June 2017

Held at the Swan Hill Town Hall,
Council Chambers
53-57 McCallum Street
Commenced at 8:30 AM

COUNCIL:

Cr LT McPhee – Mayor

Cr JN Katis

Cr GW Norton

Cr C Jeffery

Cr L Johnson

Cr B Moar

Cr A Young

Confirmed 27 June 2017

Chairperson.....

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SECTION A – PROCEDURAL MATTERS

- **Open**

Mayor, Cr Les McPhee assumed the chair and declared the meeting open at 8.34am.

- **Acknowledgement of Country**

Mayor, Cr Les McPhee read the Acknowledgement of Country.

- **Prayer**

Cr Bill Moar read the prayer.

- **Apologies**

Cr John Katis

28/17 Motion

MOVED Cr Norton

That the apologies be accepted.

SECONDED Cr Moar

The Motion was put and CARRIED

SECTION B – REPORTS**B.17.48 RECEIVE, HEAR AND CONSIDER SUBMISSIONS TO THE DRAFT 2017/18 ANNUAL BUDGET**

Responsible Officer:	Director Corporate Services
File Number:	S15-06-08
Attachments:	1 Submission 1 - David Mark
	2 Submission 2 - Trish Taverna
	3 Submission 3 - Pat Grant
	4 Submission 4 - Cameron Smits
	5 Submission 5 - Christine Plant

Declarations of Interest:

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

Summary

The purpose of this report is to enable Council to receive, hear and consider submissions for the Draft 2017/18 Annual Budget.

At the close of the submission period five submissions were received. The submitters did not request to speak to their submissions.

Discussion

Council advertised for submissions to its Draft 2017/18 Annual Budget in the Swan Hill Guardian on 19 May 2017 and the Robinvale Sentinel on 25 May 2017.

The Statutory period for making submissions has now passed. As required under the Local Government Act 1989. Council must now formally receive, hear and consider all submissions.

At the close of the submission period five submissions were received. None of the submitters has requested to speak to their submission.

Summary of Submission 1 (David Mark), Submission 2 (Trish Taverna) and Submission 4 (Cameron Smits)

The issues raised in the three submissions relate to the level of funding for projects at Lake Boga and in particular in relation to the Lake Boga Community Plan. The submitters advocate for more funding for works around and near the lake at Lake Boga. They highlight the considerable positive community spirit at Lake Boga and argue increased funding from Council is important to maintaining this spirit and increasing tourism in the local area.

Summary of Submission 3 (Pat Grant)

Mr Grant requests that the unsealed section of Dead Horse Lane on the edge of Swan Hill be upgraded to a sealed road. He suggests that the road diverts a large amount of traffic from the center of Swan Hill and that the traffic volume justifies a sealed road. In his opinion the road is poorly maintained.

Summary of Submission 5 (Christine Plant)

The submission is in the form of a question in relation to the funding for the Manangatang Community Plan. The question is whether the funding in the Draft 2017/18 Annual Budget is carried forward or is new funds.

Officer Response to Submission 1, 2 and 4

Council has invested in a number of significant projects at Lake Boga over the last five or six years. Most recently Council agreed to contribute an additional \$35,000 to the upgrade of the Catalina Museum. The 2017/18 budget includes \$20,000 for works at the Lake Boga Caravan Park and \$40,000 for a playground upgrade which was identified as a priority in the Lake Boga Community Plan. Council continue to invest in ongoing watering, mowing, cleaning and maintenance to the lake frontage and the associated buildings.

Due to the extended lead-time required to conceptualize, scope, apply for external funds when required, design, tender and then complete community Planning projects a significant amount of Council funds have been carried forward each year. In preparing the 2017/18 Budget, Council was mindful of the carried forward funds and therefore reduced the new budget allocation for Community Planning to give time for the backlog of projects to be completed. Also a number of the Town Community Planning groups are in the process of developing new Community Plans which due to the lead-time to develop projects, are unlikely to require significant Council funding in 2017/18.

In the event the Lake Boga Community Plan required funding in excess of the funds allocated in the 2017/18 Budget there is likely to be capacity from unspent funds notionally allocated for Community Planning in other areas to be "borrowed" for use at Lake Boga. In addition Council has a Community Grants Scheme that enables Community Group to apply for up to \$3,00 in Council funding for worthwhile projects.

Officer Response to Submission 3

Dead Horse Lane is classified as a Local Road within Council's Road Management Plan and has few direct points of access onto the unsealed section of the road. Like many other unsealed roads within the Municipality and across the State the road classification and construction is consistent with its existing use which is primarily associated with agriculture.

The road was resheeted approximately five years ago and is maintained in accordance with the Road Management Plan. As with any road, users can lodge service requests if they believe the road is below standard. This will lead to an inspection and rectification if required. Officers will conduct an investigation into the type of use and traffic volumes on the road to determine if the road classification should be changed from Local to Collector. An upgraded classification does not automatically mean the road would be sealed but would increase the maintenance standard for the road.

The road is closely associated with the South West Development Precinct (SWDP). A further assessment of the road classification and construction standard will be undertaken in conjunction with any development activity with the SWDP. Should the development within the SWDP require direct access onto Dead Horse Lane then it is likely a higher construction standard, probably involving sealing the road, will be required.

Dead Horse Lane is also notionally identified as a potential, long term bypass route for Swan Hill however, the preferred location for any possible bypass route is under review and there are no plans to create such a bypass.

Officer Response to Submission 5

The funding for the Manangatang Community plan is the estimated carried forward funding from 2016/17.

As with all Community Planning projects the allocation is notional and in the event the Manangatang Community Plan has projects that require funding in 2017/18 that exceed the estimated carried forward amount then it is likely additional funds could be made available from the overall Community Planning Allocation.

Consultation

The submission process is part of the consultation process for the budget.

Financial Implications

Nil.

Social Implications

Nil.

Economic Implications

Nil.

Environmental Implications

Nil.

Risk Management Implications

Nil.

Council Plan Strategy Addressed

Governance and Leadership - Positive community engagement and inclusiveness.

Options

After considering the submissions Council can choose to adopt or amend the 2017/18 Annual Budget.

Recommendations

That Council:

- 1. Receive the submissions to the Draft 2017/18 Annual Budget.**
- 2. Consider the issues raised in the submissions and the officer's response.**
- 3. Having considered the submission, not make any changes to the Draft 2017/18 Annual Budget.**
- 4. Write to each submitter thanking them for their submission and outlining Councils**

response.

29/17 Motion

MOVED Cr Norton

That Council:

- 1. Receive the submissions to the Draft 2017/18 Annual Budget.**
- 2. Consider the issues raised in the submissions and the officer's response.**
- 3. Having considered the submission, not make any changes to the Draft 2017/18 Annual Budget.**
- 4. Write to each submitter thanking them for their submission and outlining Councils response.**
- 5. Ask the CEO to review our current Community Planning Program and bring a report to Council which explores options to ensure that the effectiveness of our Community Plans is maximised and that the equity of the distribution is transparent.**

SECONDED Cr Young

The Motion was put and CARRIED

Your Say - Proposed Budget

FROM: David Mark

FEEDBACK:

As a member of both Lake Boga Lions club and Lake Boga Inc, I find it disappointing the the allocation to Lake Boga Community plan has been reduced to \$8,000. Lake Boga Inc has a proven record of being active and generating enthusiasm for projects in the community, and it seems that the allocation of future monies has very little consideration for the ambitions and objectives of the Lake Boga Community Plan. It seems that local Government is encouraging a "welfare State" mentality when other communities receive generous amounts without even trying to generate some money from within their communities.

Your Say - Proposed Budget

FROM: Trish Taverna

FEEDBACK:

Since moving to Lake Boga five years ago I have been so very impressed with the community spirit and commitment of that community to provide an improved environment for the future and for tourists. Often by donations and volunteer work. Very hard not to feel disappointed by the recent budget proposal. It is penalising the community and not encouraging them that all the hard work is being recognized and supported to continue. Swan Hill has an AMAZING asset in Lake Boga. PLEASE make it the tourist must see that it deserves to be.

Your Say - Proposed Budget

FROM: Pat Grant.

FEEDBACK:

I am absolutely appalled that council will not take responsibility for sealing 2km on dead horse lane. Please consider it is in the CITY BOUNDARY!

I have rang council numerous times in the past 10 years and have been mostly ignored. Our community has heavy investment in agriculture and the potholed road is causing extensive damage to equipment.

When it is graded it soon returns to a bad state. Does this quick deterioration not show its popularity for a gateway detour to the south.

Does the city really want unwanted congestion of trucks and heavy machinery but mostly the road is too rough to use.

Take the time and effort please to go and have a look for yourselves and I'm sure you will see where I'm coming from.

Thanks Pat.

15 June 2016

Cr Les McPhee
Swan Hill Rural City Council
PO Box 488
SWAN HILL Vic 3585



Dear Les

LAKE BOGA INC FEEDBACK
TO SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL Budget

It is with shock and disappointment to see in the proposed budget that Lake Boga Inc has had their community grant funds cut by 60%. Over the past years, Lake Boga Inc has used these funds with respect and consideration of the community plan, endorsed by Council, to make Lake Boga a better place to live and visit. These cuts have been proposed without any consultation with the community and it is disappointing to learn about them from the budget papers without prior discussion.

Lake Boga Inc has over the years delivered quality projects and the Council's contribution has been more than matched by the many volunteers hours invested in making this community vibrant and a desirable place to live and visit.

We do understand that Council needs to set priorities and that every community whim cannot always be catered for, however we believe that the return from the contributions Council makes to Lake Boga Inc has demonstrated a significant rise in visitation as well as an increase in investment and real estate.

Our aim as a community organisation is to provide an enviable and desirable place to live and visit. A small investment by Council, backed by volunteer efforts will enable us to further develop this concept and we urge Council to reconsider this allocation to fully allow the economic prosperity of this area to flourish, with the full backing of the community.

As a leader in community thoughts, we have many projects we would like to come to fruition with the assistance of Council and would welcome the opportunity to work together on this.

We would be delighted to present our vision to elected members at a time of your convenience, so we can continue to work in partnership to ensure the Lake Boga region continues to grow and prosper in the foreseeable future.

Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Cameron Smits", written over a light blue wavy line.

Cameron Smits
President

Your Say - Proposed Budget

FROM: Christine Plant

FEEDBACK:

Good morning

I have one question about the budget I hope you can answer.

\$26,000 has been allocated to Manangatang for their Community Plan. Is this money allocated from the 17/18 budget for new initiatives or is it unspent money from previous years rolled over?

Kind regards

Christine Plant

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.42am.