

AGENDA

UNSCHEDULED MEETING OF COUNCIL

Tuesday, 7 June 2022

To be held Swan Hill Town Hall
53-57 McCallum Street
Commencing at 1pm

COUNCIL:

Cr J Benham – Mayor

Cr B Moar
Cr A Young
Cr LT McPhee
Cr C Jeffery
Cr S King
Cr N McKay

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SECTION A – PROCEDURAL MATTERS

- **Open**
- **Acknowledgement of Country**
- **Prayer**
- **Apologies**
- **Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

SECTION B – REPORTS

B.22.46 CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS TO PROPOSED 2022/2023 BUDGET

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate Services
File Number: S15-06-15
Attachments: 1 Budget submissions

Declarations of Interest:

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

Summary

The purpose of this report is to consider submissions for the Proposed 2022/23 Annual Budget.

Discussion

Council formally received eleven submissions to the proposed 2022/23 Annual Budget at a Special Council Meeting held on Tuesday 31 May 2022.

The officers responses to the issues raised in the submission are detailed below.

Response to Submission 1 – Public toilet in vacant area at Swan Hill North Shops

Swan Hill Rural City Council developed and approved the Public Convenience Strategy 2020-2030 to address aging infrastructure which is non-compliant with current standards. The Strategy clearly outlines Council's priorities based on available funding, community need and existing condition. The Strategy provides the following guidelines re the distribution of Public Toilets.

In urban areas (population more than 1000) we will provide public toilets as follows:

- in CBD areas so that people are always within 500m of a publicly available toilet (including private public toilets)
- in all playgrounds classed as 'regional' and any newly constructed 'district' playgrounds classification as per the relevant Asset Management Plan
- within 2.5km (15-20 minutes' walk) of a shared pathway, where practical

The Swan Hill North shops are not considered to be part of the Central Business District, however, they are within 500m George Lay Park which has a newly constructed facility as per the 10 year Major Projects plan.

Response to Submission 2 – Caravan cassette dump points

Council is currently developing a Plan for the installation of modern, user friendly facilities in Swan Hill and Lake Boga. Investigations are underway for suitable

locations that are RV accessible, connected to sewerage and permanently available. Budget has been allocated to this project under the Buildings and Property Budget through the Public Conveniences Program. Estimated Budget \$10,000.

Response to Submission 3 – Three part submission highlighting funding for Butterworth street, Berrybank and Derham drive, bike paths and the Pioneer Settlement.

Part 1 of submission

Funding has now been identified to an amount that Council believes the proposed works will cost however this will depend heavily on the tender prices that Council receives. The works will go out to tender around the 9 June and includes:

1. Drainage
2. Road surface
3. kerb and Channel
4. Footpath
5. Crossovers (possibly)

The exact amount of work to be undertaken will not be known until Council receives all tender submissions.

Part 2 of submission

Council supports the creation of more paths and has commenced constructing a shared path along McCallum Street.

Part 3 of submission

The Pioneer Settlement has a range of additional activities during school holidays that are reflective of the era it represents such as butter making, rope making, running the boiler and Black Bess.

The horse and cart and vintage car which run daily all year round are always a popular option with children.

Response to Submission 4 – Cost of local rates in comparison to other areas

Our rate increase for the 2022/23 year is at the rate cap prescribed by the Minister of 1.75%. This is the first time in the last 3 years that we have applied the full rate increase. While we endeavor to implement cost saving initiatives each year, recent cost pressures have seen the requirement for Council to raise rates by the full cap so that we can maintain our current levels of service.

Response to Submission 5 - Spending for climate related action, including Council fleet, EV infrastructure and renewable energy projects

Through our ongoing membership with the Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance (CVGA), Council pursues climate change mitigation and adaptation activities, where we have a successful track record of delivering a number projects that address climate change.

Regarding the examples raised:

EVs for the Council fleet

The CVGA recently requested interest amongst member Councils to participate in the expression of interest/grant application for Round 2 of the Future Fuels Fund in order to build EV infrastructure on Council premises; EOI phase ongoing.

EV charging infrastructure

Council worked in partnership with the CVGA to deliver the installation of two fast (50kW) EV charging stations in Swan Hill and Robinvale. The charging stations were installed in September 2021 are part of a larger network of more than 20 electric vehicle chargers across 17 sites in Central and Western Victoria, supporting the State Government 'Charging the Regions' project.

Renewable energy

Households and businesses in the Swan Hill Rural City municipality are able to access cost-effective solar thanks to a partnership between Council and the More Australian Solar Homes (MASH) initiative, which is managed by the CVGA. The Mallee Sun Solar Bulk Buy program aims to make it easier for households and businesses to go solar, and save on their energy bills.

Battery storage projects

We are currently part of the CVGA Community Sparks project. This project is examining the technical, commercial and social feasibility of neighborhood batteries across 11 sites in central and north West Victoria. The project will provide resources and business cases to enable councils and communities across the region to implement neighborhood battery trials

Council is continually being active in the solar farm sector - with number of solar farms developed in the region over the past 5 years accumulating to over 300MW electricity back into the network.

As these and other projects come to our attention, Council works with the CVGA to evaluate potential projects and, if they align with Council's Plan, we look to come on as a project partner. In the situations where additional budget is required, the project proposal is tabled through Executive and Council meetings, where funds are made available as required.

Response to Submission 6 – Concern that outlying areas, specifically Nyah, and development on the corner of River Street and Church Road

Council, with the assistance of a consultant, is currently undertaking a masterplan for the Nyah Riverfront Precinct including A & N Lewis Park. The submitters comments will be forwarded to the consultant for consideration regarding these plans. To support this masterplan, the consultants will also be undertaking a further site visit over the next month - which the community will be invited to attend.

Response to Submission 7 – Submission includes seven separate comments and questions regarding Robinvale

1. It is requested that advocacy for 'a true population' as listed in 'Invest in possibility' be included in the budget document introduction. Previous commitments by Council regarding Robinvale's population are yet to be met.

It is agreed that a positive statement can be made with respect to the population of the Municipality. More importantly, however, affirmative action is required to gather information on an accurate population number rather than relying on ABS Statistics which do not take into account the transitory nature of seasonal workers, for example, but impacts greatly on services.

An accurate figure is needed when applying for grants and the Economic Development Unit will undertake the work required to obtain information from a variety of sources to nominate a more realistic Municipal population figure.

2. Please define 'Visitor Services' as listed at dot point two of Infrastructure.

Visitor services referred to in dot point two of Infrastructure refers to the Swan Hill Visitor information Centre.

3. Please provide a copy of the roads program for the municipality.

Council has notional plans, which are internal working documents, and may be subject to change. An indicative list is provided below:

Unsealed road resheets			
Road Name	From	To	Length of work (km)
Yarraby Rd	00 (Property No. 1708)	1840 (Curran Rd)	1.84
Matson Ln	Nyah West Rd	Property No. 51	0.51
Skyles Ln	Matson Ln	Property No. 18	0.19
Boulton Rd	Murray Valley Highway	Start of Seal	0.18
Takasuka Rd	Murray Valley Highway	Ch. 1131	1.13
Wilkins Rd	Coonimur Rd	Possum Flat Rd	1.23
Boundary Bend - Kooloonong Rd	O'Bree Rd	Anderson Rd	2.98
Piangil West Rd	Coonimur-Piangil Rd	5730m	5.73
Creek Rd	Culgoa - Ultima Rd	Property No. 306	3.1
Meatian North Rd	Meatian East Rd	Property No. 428	4.28
Shadbolt Rd	McLean Ln	Property No.	0.2
Wood Wood Back Rd	Thomas Rd	Hayward Rd	1.7
Hancock Rd	Merritt Rd	Date Rd	3

Sealed road reconstruction and shoulder resheeting program				
Road Name	From	To	Length of work (km)	Width (m)
Bish Rd	Karine St	Milky Rd	1.06	6.2
Bogajim Rd	Malaya Rd	Sanananda Rd	0.4	6.2
Tresco West Rd	Cumnock Rd	Bael Bael Rd	2.216	6.2
Murraydale Rd (Shol)	Runciman Rd	Buttler Rd	1.582	2
Fish Point Rd	Narrow Seal	Winlato Rd	1.400	6.2
Pental Island Rd	No. 924	2700m west	2.700	6.2
Creamery Rd	McKenzie Rd	1064m west	1.064	6.2
Chillingollah Rd (Shol)	From narrow seal	3500m west	3.500	2
King Rd (Shol)	Waitchie Rd	Railway Line	4.200	2

4. Please provide a copy of the tree planting program for the municipality.

This is an ongoing rolling program on 'as needed' basis.

5. I recently visited the Swan Hill Information Centre and information relating to, and a map of, Robinvale was not available. Can Council advise when a brochure dedicated to Robinvale and which includes a map will be developed.

Both visitor information centers in Robinvale and Swan Hill have information available on Robinvale but there is only a limited stock available of a previous brochure dedicated to Robinvale. There is promotion of Robinvale in material made available by Swan Hill Inc. and investigations are being made with respect to new Robinvale brochures.

There is online material available to assist visitors who are visiting Robinvale and Council Officers will discuss the re print of a dedicated brochure with REBA.

6. Initiative 128 and 132. Wouldn't Council also work with REBA and RIG to promote the municipality. Please include Robinvale and progress groups from other towns in this initiative.

Council works with all town groups in the positive promotion of not only individual towns but the entire Municipality through economic development, tourism and community planning initiatives. Initiatives should be amended to reflect the need to work with all of our communities.

7. Page 25. What are the reasons for the drop from a forecast actual of \$19.158 M for 21/22 for Infrastructure to a budget of \$7.918 M for 22/23? Is it due to an underspend for the current FY and a consequent carry forward of \$11.809 M? Is about \$20M the capacity of the Council to deliver for Infrastructure?

In 2021/22 Council received significant grant funding for a number of projects: -

Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCIP) provided grant funding for:

- Catalina Car Park \$568K

- Robinvale Leisure Centre and Rec Res Carparks \$376K
- Riverside park irrigation \$487K
- Lake Boga Entrance irrigation project \$668K

Building Better Regions Funding (BBRF) provided grant funding for:

- Monash Drive car parking and upgrades \$990K

It also included works carried forward from prior years that are forecast to be completed such as:

- Swan Hill Aerodrome Reconstruction \$2.99M
- Butterworth St Reconstruction \$1.04M

These projects are to be completed in 21/22 and this funding is not forecast to be received again in future years.

\$20M is the average annual capital spend for Council over the next 10 years.

Response to Submission 8 – rate increases/decreases between categories listed in the budget.

Council's Revenue & Rating Plan 2021, determines the most appropriate and affordable revenue and rating approach for Swan Hill Rural City Council which in conjunction with other income sources will adequately finance the objectives in the Council Plan. Council applies rating differentials based on the purpose for which the property is used. That is, whether the property is used for residential, commercial/industrial, or farming purposes. This distinction is based on the concept that different property categories should pay a fair and equitable contribution, taking into account the benefits those properties derive from the local community - to help reflect easier access to additional services, to encourage construction on the land, to help reflect higher level of services and infrastructure and the increased difficulty for some in accessing the full range of Council services.

For dryland farming, when considering the differential Council also considers the disproportionate increase in property values over the last number of years and the risk of seasonal income variations compared to those confronted by other property types.

Over the last 3 years the rate differentials have been set as follows:-

General Rate - No differential

Urban with Drainage - General Rate plus 4%

Vacant Residential Land - General Rate plus 208% in 19/20 & 20/21 and 320% in 21/22

Commercial - General Rate plus 30% in 19/20, 12.5% in 20/21 and 30% in 21/22

Dryland Farms - General Rate less 20% in 19/20, 27.5% in 20/21 and 20% in 21/22

The reference to the rate percentage increases referred to in the submission are a result of the increased property valuations not the rate in the dollar.

Changes to the Valuations are set by the Valuer General Victoria, in accordance with the Valuation of Land Act (1960) along with the Valuation Best Practice Specification Guidelines.

To make a valuation the valuer collects and analyse various data, for example property transactions (including sales and rental transactions), historical government property data records, property title and occupancy details etc. Swan Hill Rural City Council applies Capital Improved Value (CIV) to all properties within the municipality to take into account the fully developed value of the property. Differential rating allows (under the CIV method) Council to shift part of the rate burden from some groups of ratepayers to others, through different "rates in the dollar" for each class of property.

Overall there has been an increase in property sales for dryland farming over several years which has increased property valuations and therefore increased rates.

Response to Submission 9 – Concerns surrounding the proposed budget in relation to the running, management and fees of the Swan Hill Regional Livestock exchange including various points requiring response.

First point of call that has raised concern for the Association and for many local producers is of the fees that have been put forward for the 22/23 year. These fees are extremely high and do not represent the quality of service that the Council facility of the SHRLE should be providing to the local community.

Of major concern are the fees relating to "no sale/passed in " for both cattle and sheep, "yard/sighted" for cattle and sheep & "NLIS tag" for sheep and cattle. As the association we seek explanations on reasons for such high prices that our vendors are been expected to pay.

The fees as outlined in the submission reflect costs incurred. It is noted however that those costs could potentially be avoided, namely:

Non Sale/Passed In: This fee is recovered as the stock have gone through all the same processes as sale stock but have not reached producer price expectation or simply had no interested parties on the day. As there is no "sale price per head" The yard fee ensures stock are not left at the yard to await the next sale or to ensure that price expectation remains realistic.

Sighted Fees: This is a fee recovered as staff must protect lifetime traceability of the animal as well as remaining compliant under the Livestock Disease Management Act 1994. This means that the animal must be scanned and maintained on sight until advised to by Agent or Transporter. SHRLE is a Saleyard and all stock that arrive at the yard should be for a scheduled sale. Costs are recovered for staff time and stock management. This fee is avoidable if stock are not delivered to the yards without the intention of putting them through the sale.

NLIS Tags: It's a requirement that all stock delivered to SHRLE will be tagged in compliance with National and State NLIS requirements. Stock should be inspected on farm to ensure compliance.

Rubber matting that has been used to block a non working scanner In front of the weigh bridge. This temporary fix has now been in place since the opening of the new cattle complex.

This scanner was blocked off as it had dropped to a 75% scan rate that was holding up end of sale tag transfers. The reduction from three to two way lane scanning has not slowed the speed of selling within the selling ring or impacted on stock prices. In the discussion regarding profitability of the saleyards more information on planned capital expenditures is provided.

Out dated NLIS scanning infrastructure that has reached end of life and production, repairs or spare parts are not able to be accessed.

Capital expenditure to renew some infrastructure is needed and its availability is discussed in the later section. Not all can be renewed at the same time.

Maintenance records that show load chains are worn and end of life review is needed for hoists on cattle ramp. This was advised as far back as 27/7/2020 by an independent audit as per the maintenance records.

As evident from the proposed budget, \$8,470 has been put in to the 2022/2023 budget to replace this hoist.

Major erosion and damage present in sheep complex that has been present for a number of years and causes continuing OH&S issues to staff, producers, buyers, agents and the welfare on livestock entering the complex.

The area has been assessed and it is determined that remediation works will be required, when funding is available.

Extremely poor drainage that is present in all lane ways running parallel NS to drafts after minimal rainfall. Continually effecting the safe delivery, processing and selling of livestock.

The budget includes \$22K to improve drainage along the outside. Council is looking at ways to address the significant water build up occurring in lanes that must be swept out by hand, as drainage is insufficient (historical issue on a flat land).

1. An objection to the proposed budget for 22/23 and Council's forecasts for revenue into the 22/23 FY.

Council has a forecast of \$1,235 loss for this commercial venue, Comparing 2014/15 to 2021/22:

Cattle:

14/15 = 40,139 head
Total Turnover = \$23,551,281
Average \$/hd = \$586.74

21/22 = 8992 head so far
Total Turnover = \$17,460,827
Average \$/hd = \$1941.82

This trend is also evident in sheep sales.

The average \$/head has doubled from \$95 in 14/15 F/Y to \$187/head so far in 21/22. This is how we all share benefit in good years and pain in poor years. It is noted that the Agents also charge a % fee in commission to the producer. For those reasons an annual fee or flat per head fee would not work. Council may consider a flat per head fee which should recover similar revenue to the % fee.

2. An objection to the proposed fees and charges schedule for SHRLE 22/23 FY.

As above and in the attached proposed fees.

3. A Detailed Explanation into how Livestock Producers can be expected to accept a price rise in fees when the service and infrastructure is presented in its current form.

The producers and agents are required to have compliant husbandry performed on farm prior to transport. The stock should be fit for transport before leaving the farm. Fees can be avoided if that work is completed and stock arrives suitable for sale. We note that there is currently no charge for disposal of animals due to accidental injuries incurred whilst within the saleyards.

Council has invested significantly in the recent redevelopment of the cattle yards and is not recovering the depreciation costs in full with the current level of fees and charges income (or with the proposed).

Increased stock through the yards above budgeted numbers will assist in allocating capital for further improvements to the yards.

Ongoing maintenance costs form part of the cost recovery.

A Detailed Explanation into why the infrastructure of the SHRLE has not been maintained.

Maintenance schedules are conducted as well as internal and external audits to ensure industry standard compliance. Natural deterioration of infrastructure is to be expected. Natural erosion is unavoidable given drainage issues within the sheep yards. Budget restrictions have delayed the replacement of some of SHRLE infrastructure upgrades. A ramp upgrade was carried out last year. This year, extra rubber matting, concrete repairs in the sheep lane and drainage works, new software for the cattle yards and the replacement of the hoist at the cattle yards are included in the proposed budget.

A Detailed Explanation into what measures are in place and what Council commits to safeguard livestock producers businesses and agents representing those producers in regards to the likelihood of infrastructure that has been poorly maintained failing, and therefore majorly effecting the outcome of a sale price and the ability to be able to conduct a sale with in the SHRLE.

The SHRLE has met all compliance requirements and passed all audits of the yards. As in previous response, Council has budgeted for further improvements.

Capital works and improvements to the SHRLE:

The revenue from the SHRLE is used to cover a portion of those works, but is insufficient to ensure all works are carried out.

Capital works and improvements to the SHRLE:

- Rubber mats for the high traffic areas approximately \$60K
- Concrete works in the sheep laneway \$23K
- Drainage at the front of the sheep yards \$22K
- Hoist replacement and new software.

Council will invested over \$100,000 capital investment above the maintenance costs for the 2022/23FY. Council will continue to upgrade facilities as funding becomes available.

SHRLE is committed to working with stakeholders and to that end has established a stakeholder advisory committee.

Analysis of the fees since 1997 is attached to help understand the operations of the yards.

The difference in fees collected in 2020/21 and 2021/22 for sheep is \$0.07/animal vs price increase of \$8.22/animal; and for cattle by \$3.65/animal with a price increase of cattle sold of \$382.68/animal.

Response to Submission 10 – inclusion of Woorinen South and Woorinen district in the ‘Small Town Strategy’

Council considers the Woorinen District as one community when developing its Community Plan with the residents. Through the process Council seeks to engage and be inclusive of all opinions and views being expressed within the Woorinen District in developing a plan that is reflective of the community needs and which will address the issues highlighted within the submission.

Council will continue to work closely with the Woorinen Community to identify opportunities and will advocate strongly on their behalf.

Response to Submission 11 – Highlighted changes that need to be made to the Planning and Building departments

The State Government statutory unit fees for building and planning have recently been increase from \$15.03 to \$15.29, this will affect future applications.

Consultation

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

Financial Implications

The consideration of submissions has no direct financial impact. If changes are made to the Proposed Budget due to any of the submissions then the financial implications will vary depending on the nature of the change.

Social Implications

The consideration of submissions has no direct social impact. If changes are made to the Proposed Budget due to any of the submissions then the financial implications will vary depending on the nature of the change.

Economic Implications

The consideration of submissions has no direct economic impact. If changes are made to the Proposed Budget due to any of the submissions then the financial implications will vary depending on the nature of the change.

Environmental Implications

The consideration of submissions has no direct environmental impact. If changes are made to the Proposed Budget due to any of the submissions then the financial implications will vary depending on the nature of the change.

Risk Management Implications

The consideration of submissions has no direct risk management impact. If changes are made to the Proposed Budget due to any of the submissions then the financial implications will vary depending on the nature of the change.

Council Plan Strategy Addressed

Leadership - Transparent communication and engagement.

Options

After considering the submissions, Council can choose to adopt or amend the 2022/23 Annual Budget.

Recommendations

That Council:

- 1. Consider the issues raised in the submissions and the officer's response.**
- 2. Having considered the submissions, not make any changes to the Proposed 2022/23 Annual Budget.**
- 3. Write to each submitter thanking them for their submission and outlining Council's response.**

<p>Date: 21.04.2022 Time: 7.58pm Feedback tool: Online</p> <p>Submission 1</p> <p>Would it be possible to have a public toilet in the vacant area at Swan Hill North shops? One is really needed there.</p>	
<p>Date: 22.04.2022 Time: 12.19pm Feedback tool: Online</p> <p>Submission 2</p> <p>I'm a visitor to your council area and have been living in my caravan off and on over three years due to my family circumstances, I have contacted the council regarding the state of the caravan cassette dump point at the oval , and been told there is no money to fix up its state . Have been told by your council that they are considering two other sites which I agree would help the caravaners who visit this great town . I have had lots of other caravaners have trouble using the oval site and it would an easy fix to make it more useable and only a few dollars.</p>	
<p>Date: 28.04.2022 Time: 8.54pm Feedback tool: Online</p> <p>Submission 3</p> <p>Where is the funding to fix up Butterworth St? The worst street in the municipality, especially between Berrybank and Derham Drive. Extend the road should before a pedestrian gets injured. Also the footpaths along Butterworth St are atrocious.</p> <p>You also need to to look at installing bike paths and walking tracks like Gannawarra. Look at Cohuna and Koondrook for inspo. Utilise the ugly piece of land where the old channel is between Gray St and McCallum St.</p> <p>And please do me at the Pioneer Settlement to attract children/families. Face painting, petting zoo, rock climbing, mini golf</p>	
<p>Date: 29.04.2022 Time: 9.37pm Feedback tool: Online</p> <p>Submission 4</p> <p>We already pay more than suburbs such as Sorrento. Rates are to high, no more rises</p>	

Date: 30.04.2022

Time: 5.37pm

Feedback tool: Online



Submission 5

Where is the spending for climate related action? Its 2022 and this should be at a forefront for all levels of government and council should be leading the way by example for the local community. For example, purchasing of EVs for the council fleet, EV charging infrastructure, renewable energy and battery storage projects.

Date: 02.05.2022

Time: 3.26pm

Feedback tool: Online



Submission 6

Hello,

While all the items listed in the budget are important I am concerned that many outlying areas have not been mentioned, specifically Nyah.

As a resident I would really like to see some development on the corner of River St and Church Rd. This is a busy area with the school bus stopping twice a day, trucks, caravans and locals using a very tight, small corner of bitumen.

There is plenty of room to provide a safe bus stop away from traffic & closer to the pump shed. Also toilets & bbq or even murals in this area would benefit park users, locals and tourists. Nyah is a terrific town and our local parks and garden guys do an amazing job.

It would be great to see some amount of progress on our riverfront.

Date: 11.05.2022

Time: 1.50pm

Feedback tool: Online



Submission 7

1. It is requested that advocacy for 'a true population' as listed in 'Invest in possibility' be included in the budget document introduction. Previous commitments by Council regarding Robinvale's population are yet to be met.
2. Please define 'Visitor Services' as listed at dot point two of Infrastructure.
3. Please provide a copy of the roads program for the municipality.
4. Please provide a copy of the tree planting program for the municipality.
5. I recently visited the Swan Hill Information Centre and information relating to, and a map of, Robinvale was not available. Can Council advise when a brochure dedicated to Robinvale and which includes a map will be developed.
6. Initiative 128 and 132. Wouldn't Council also work with REBA and RIG to promote the municipality. Please include Robinvale and progress groups from other towns in this initiative.
7. Page 25. What are the reasons for the drop from a forecast actual of \$19.158 M for 21/22 for Infrastructure to a budget of \$7.918 M for 22/23? Is it due to an underspend for the current FY and a consequent carry forward of \$11.809 M? Is about \$20M the capacity of the Council to deliver for Infrastructure?

Date: 18.05.2022

Time: 5.11pm

Feedback tool: Online



Submission 8

Hello

Can you please explain the rationale behind the rate increases/decreases for the different categories. I am trying to understand the correlation between changes to valuations of the different categories & then the corresponding changes to rates.

For example, why have rates for the Dryland Farming category increased by 8.6%, valuations increased by 23.7%, yet Swan Hill Residential category has only increased by 1.6% after valuations increased by 15.7%?

Over the last 3 years, Dryland Farming category rates have increased by 23%, valuations increased by 45.6%, Swan Hill Residential rates increased by 6.9%, valuations increased by 28.2%

Apart from the rate cap, what factors are considered when determining category increases/decreases? Does the increase in the number of properties of each category get factored in when assessing percentage paid per category?

Date: 16.05.2022

Time: 9.41am

Feedback tool: Emailed to Council@swanhill.vic.gov.au

Submission 9

Good Morning.

We are Writing this submission in objection to the Proposed Budget that has been put forward by the Swan Hill Rural Council for the 2022/2023 Financial year. I do wish to speak to this feedback at the special council meeting to be held on Tuesday 31st may 2022

As elected President of the "Swan Hill Associated Agents" group that operates with in the SHRLE representing local & outside Council area Livestock Producers, we as an association voice Great concern Surrounding the proposed budget in relation to the Running, Management and fees of our local Swan Hill Regional Livestock Exchange.

First point of call that has raised concern for the Association and for many local producers is of the fees that have been put forward for the 22/23 year. These fees are extremely high and do not represent the quality of service that the Council facility of the SHRLE should be providing to the local community. Of major concern are the fees relating to "no sale/passed in " for both cattle and sheep, "yard/sighted" for cattle and sheep & "NLIS tag" for sheep and cattle. As the association we seek explanations on reasons for such high prices that our vendors are been expected to pay.

In extension to the ongoing rising fees I would also like to point out further to why as an association we object to the above. It has become noticeably more evident that the condition of both the cattle complex and sheep yards has, and is becoming worse in what appears to be a band aid approach to deuterating infrastructure

Below are reinforcing points that highlight the need for explanation from Council to the Association and local livestock Producers.

* Rubber matting that has been used to block a non working scanner Infront of the weigh bridge. This temporary Fix has now been in place since the opening of the new cattle complex.

* Out dated NLIS Scanning infrastructure that has reached end of life and production, repairs or spare parts are not able to be accessed.

* Maintenance records that show load chains are worn and end of life review is needed for hoists on cattle ramp. This was advised as far back as 27/7/2020 by an independent audit as per the maintenance records.

* Major erosion and damage present in sheep complex that has been present for a number of years and causes continuing OH&S issues to staff, producers, buyers, agents and the welfare on

livestock entering the complex.

* Extremely poor drainage that is present in all lane ways running parallel NS to drafts after minimal rainfall . Continually effecting the safe delivery, processing and selling of livestock.

In conclusion we have great concern with the future of the SHRLE and that if producers choose to sell there livestock at other centres this will lead to a loss of revenue for SHRLE and can also take local producers away from spending money in our town.

On behalf of all livestock producers who make the choice to sell at the Swan Hill Regional Livestock Exchange the Swan Hill Associated Agents requests the following.

1. An objection to the proposed budget for 22/23 an councils forecasts for revenue into the 22/23 FY.
2. An objection to the proposed fees and charges schedule for SHRLE 22/23 FY.
3. A Detailed Explanation into how Livestock Producers can be expected to accept a price rise in fees when the service and infrastructure is presented in its current form.
4. A Detailed Explanation into Why the infrastructure of the SHRLE has not been maintained
5. A Detailed Explanation into what measures are in place and what council Commits to safe guard livestock producers businesses & Agents Representing those producers in regards to the likely hood of infrastructure that has been poorly maintained failing, and therefore majorly effecting the outcome of a sale Price and the ability to be able to conduct a sale with in the SHRLE.

Date: 19.05.2022

Time: 9.48pm

Feedback tool: emailed to council@swanhill.vic.gov.au

Submission 10

I wish to comment on the Swan Hill Rural City Council Draft Budget 2022/23 on behalf of the Woorinen District Progress Association (WDPA). The Association welcomes the inclusion of the early years education opportunities in Woorinen South in the draft budget. Matters that are important to our community have been identified in the Action Plan 2021-22 from the 'Woorinen Community Plan 2021-2025' and include:

- Advocating for a wastewater system for Woorinen South;
- Promote and support residential development in Woorinen South;
- Advocating for improved mobile phone and internet connectivity in Woorinen District and Woorinen South;
- Woorinen South Community Hall maintenance and repairs;
- Community public art projects;
- Walking trails.

We would welcome the inclusion of Woorinen South / Woorinen District in the 'Small Town Strategy'. Woorinen South is within a major fruit growing employment hub of Victoria and is the closest commuter town to Swan Hill in the municipality, being just 10 minutes' drive. We consider our town and district can contribute further to the growth and prosperity of the municipality with the provision of public infrastructure and investment.

Internal submission

Date: 19.05.2022

Time: 4.43pm

Feedback tool: Emailed to council@swanhill.vic.gov.au

Submission 11

A range of changes need to be made to the Fees and Charges for the Planning and Building Departments. The majority of changes need to be made to State Government prescribed statutory fees. These are fees that are applied uniformly State wide.

There have been some changes made to charges to reflect the fee schedules in comparable and/or neighbouring Councils.

