

1 CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET AND COUNCIL PLAN SUBMISSIONS

FILE REFERENCE INT1730728

RESPONSIBLE GENERAL MANAGER

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RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. Council receive and note the submissions received in response to the public advertisement of the Proposed Budget 2017-18 and Council Plan; and
2. The submissions be considered by the Council at its meeting to be held on Monday 29 May, following which all submitters be advised in writing of the outcome of their submission and the reasons the decision has been taken.

Attachments

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| 1 Summary table of submissions circulated to councillors only | 2 Pages |
| 2 Copies of written submissions received and circulated to councillors only | 45 Pages |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the closing date for the lodgement of submissions on the Proposed Budget 2017-18 and Council Plan, 18 submissions had been received. In addition, approximately 158 anonymous submissions have been received, these being postcards produced by the Property Council of Australia titled 'Stop Penalising Retirement Village Residents'.

Details of submissions received are included in the table attached.

BACKGROUND

At the Special Council Meeting held on Monday 3 April 2017, Council resolved to release the Proposed Budget 2017-18 and Council Plan for public comment in accordance with legislative requirements of the Act. Public notice was given advising of the required statutory details regarding the Budget and Council Plan submissions to be received by 5.00 pm on Wednesday 3 May 2017.

The Proposed Budget 2017-18 and Council Plan have been on public display at the Council offices, libraries, and on the Council website.

Council will consider the adoption of the Proposed Budget 2017-18 and Council Plan, with or without amendments, at a Special Council Meeting to be held on Monday 29 May 2017, to be held at the Council Chambers, Siding Avenue, Officer.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Council is required under Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 to hear those persons who have lodged submissions and have requested to be heard in support of their submission.

RELEVANCE TO COUNCIL PLAN

Long term financial sustainability (Section 5.3).

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

The Proposed Budget 2017-18 and Council Plan have been made available at the Pakenham, Emerald, and mobile libraries, Council offices, and on the Council website as part of the statutory consultation process.

Community information sessions were held at the Officer Civic Centre, Gembrook Community Centre and Koo Wee Rup Community Centre during April 2017. Although not overly attended, these sessions provided the opportunity for the community to engage with Senior Management of Council. A number of issues were discussed at these forums. The main items are listed below.

1. Council infrastructure, in particular roads, was highlighted as an area that needs to be adequately resourced. At the Gembrook meeting, a number of the attendees voiced their concern over the condition of the unsealed road network and the maintenance program required to improve this.
2. Sporting infrastructure - the issue around a second oval needed for Koo Wee Rup was discussed.
3. At the Gembrook meeting, the importance of the town keeping its character and dealing effectively with any additional traffic etc. that may be caused with the expanded operations of the Puffing Billy railway in the town.
4. Council's financial sustainability was discussed and residents expressed a desire for Council to be as prudent as possible with public funds and ensure that value for money was been received for works completed.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Any changes to income or expenditure would require corrections to be made to the Proposed Budget 2017-18 document.

CONCLUSION

Council is required to hear those persons who have wished to speak in support of their submission lodged in regard to the Proposed Budget 2017-18 and Council Plan.