

**NOTES FROM CORPORATE WORKSHOP  
HELD AT BENDIGO ON 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY, 2017 COMMENCING AT 8:30AM.**

---

**Present:**

Matthew Hannan (Mayor) Crs: John Bruce, Cr. Bernard Curtin, Denis Glanville, Colin Jones, Daryll Morris, John Taylor, Ross Bodey, Director of Corporate Services (Matthew Hansen), Director Technical Services (Fred Exton), Development Manager (Laurie Stevens), Economic and Industry Liaison Officer (Merran Socha), Executive Engineer (Matthew Clarke), Environmental Engineer (Myles Humphries), Enterprise Risk Manager (Michelle Koopman), Strategic & Social Planning Coordinator (Joanne Ruffin), Finance Manager (Carla von Brockhusen), Operations Manager (David Basil) and General Manager (Rowan Perkins)

Day 1 - 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017

Introduction by Mayor

Introduction by Rowan Perkins

**Review Long Term Financial Plan – Carla von Brockhusen**

Made presentation to set the scene for deliberations over the next two days.

Purpose of the Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) is determine financial sustainability over the next ten years.

The Council's LTFP demonstrates small surplus each year over the next ten years.

Needs to be recognized that 80% - 85% of funds are committed to recurrent costs.

This high level of recurrent commitment is compounded by rate capping that is not meeting increases in recurrent costs.

The allowable rate increase is now assessed by a cost index that returns industry savings to ratepayers, through reduced allowable increases and does not consider new services or service levels.

The Council may be able to apply for a Special Rate Variation however these are usually on granted to fund special projects or a new service recurrent cost or to address a demonstrated position of being unable to fund maintenance of existing assets.

The Council has to manage its sustainability to ensure an average surplus position over 10 years and has to achieve this through managing operational costs.

Sustainability has been assisted by long rates growth through residential development.

**Agreed Outcome**

For information only.

## Review of Fit for the Future Improvement Plan – Jo Ruffin

The Council was required to develop an improvement program as a part of the Fit for the Future program.

The Council's Improvement Plan was based on improvements already identified and planned for introduction.

These items now need to be specifically included in the Council's Delivery Program.

### Agreed Outcome

That those items included in the Council's Fit for the Future Improvement Program be included in the Council's Delivery Program.

## Tocumwal Foreshore Development Funding Options – Matt Hansen

If the Council wishes to implement the Tocumwal Foreshore Master Plan as soon as possible.

Dry side work are a priority and have an estimated cost of \$3.25m.

There is no live option to pursue any Special Rate Variation to either directly fund the Plan or to repay a loan.

The Council proposes to apply for funding for the Plan under the Federal Government's Building Better Regions Program however this will only fund 50% of the estimated cost.

Proposed funding model is:

Source	Amount
Grant	\$1,626,938
Community Contributions	\$300,000
Working Capital	\$826,938
Loan	\$500,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,253,875</b>

Preferred source of borrowings is an internal loan.

Tocumwal Foreshore Committee of Management has committed \$200k to the project and will further committee to loan repayment of \$300k for five years based on a ten year loan term.

Need to meet with the Committee and Tocumwal Community Development Committee to formalize contributions to the project.

## Agreed Outcomes

That the Council fund the dry side works of the Tocumwal Master Plan as follows:

Source	Amount
Grant	\$1,626,938
Community Contributions	\$300,000
Working Capital	\$826,938
Loan	\$500,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,253,875</b>

That the Council meet with Tocumwal Foreshore Committee of Management to confirm an additional commitment to meet loan repayments for borrowings of \$300,000 for five years based on a ten year loan term noting that it has already committed to a cash contribution of \$200,000.

That the Council meet with Tocumwal Community Development Committee to confirm a \$100,000 cash contribution to the project.

## Induction and Ongoing Professional Development for Mayors and Councillors – Rowan Perkins

The Council now has a legal responsibility to develop a training program for induction and ongoing professional development for the Mayor, the Council and individual Councillors.

### Induction

The existing program of inductions was considered well balanced and delivered in a timely manner. It was understood that information overload for new Councillors can be an issue and this did not appear to arise during the current induction program.

With the Code of Conduct training this could be assisted by the use of role plays or scenarios.

It was suggested that some basic education regarding land use zonings and planning processes would be useful.

### Council Training

It was agreed that collective Council training would be useful in the following areas:

- Specific BSC financial training would be beneficial which in turn could be complemented by traffic light type reporting
- Handling difficult people training
- Social media skills training
- Media training
- Technology training

## Mayoral training

It was considered useful for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to receive the following training:

- Public speaking and speech writing
- Presentation skills
- Meeting procedures training

## Agreed Outcomes

That the induction training be adjusted to include:

- Role plays and scenarios specifically for Code of Conduct training.

The Councillor training be provided in the following areas:

- Specific BSC financial training would be beneficial which in turn could be complemented by traffic light type reporting
- Handling difficult people training
- Social media skills training
- Media training
- Technology training

That the Mayor and Deputy Mayor receive training in the following areas:

- Public speaking and speech writing
- Presentation skills
- Meeting

## Status of levee banks – Fred Exton

Foreshore section of the levee requires concrete core and tree removal to improve strength and then ensure structural integrity.

Core works to be completed soon.

Tree works presently unbudgeted and requires up to \$20,000 and needs to be completed asap.

Costs of levee improvement works have been reviewed and will require an additional \$850,000 over future years.

Some levee bank tops require gravelling to ensure vehicle access.

The levee batters at Tocumwal Pony Club and Recreation Reserve need widening.

There is new levee required at Collie Street Barooga.

Seppelt's levee requires raising and extending.

Complete levee 5a???

Levee at LLS Reserve at Tocumwal has foundation issues with sand seams identified under the levee.

### **Agreed outcomes**

Tree clearing at Tocumwal foreshore levee needs to be determined and funded.

Additional costs of \$850,000 needs to be managed and reviewed through the budget process.

Levee tops to be graveled as required.

The levee batters at Tocumwal Pony Club and Recreation Reserve be widened.

A new levee at Collie Street, Barooga be progressed.

The Seppelt's levee raising and extending be progressed.

### **Draft Waste Management Strategic Plan review – Myles Humphries**

Overall objective to keep annual garbage disposal under 5,000 tonnes pa to reduce operational license conditions.

The plan proposes future transfer stations and Tocumwal and Barooga.

The draft Plan presently proposed a weigh bridge at Berrigan at a cost of \$150,000.

### **Agreed Outcomes**

For information only at this stage.

### **Attraction of Refugees – Cr Curtin**

Cr Curtin promoted the attraction of already settled refugees as a means of both growing the Shire population and as an economic growth initiative.

### **Agreed Outcomes**

Cr Curtin to continue to investigate the attraction of already settled refugees to the Shire area.

### **Draft Economic Development Strategy – Merran Socha**

Merran Socha provided an overview of draft Economic Development Strategy and the steps that had that had been taken to get it to its present stage.

Councillors and staff were also given the opportunity to prioritize broad strategic directions proposed in the draft Strategy.

## Agreed Outcomes

For Information only.

*Conclusion of Day 1*

*Day 2 – 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2017*

### Review of Delivery Program – Jo Ruffin

After discussion it was agreed that the following be included in the next Delivery Program:

Issues	Comments
<b>Outcome 1: Sustainable natural and built landscapes</b>	
Land Use and Development	Legislative Reform – IPR related reforms re: participation and community consultation. Option for the Council to use current engagement framework and adapt as required by the legislation Will increase length of time re Development Application processing with Mandatory Exhibition requirements (Still to be Newspaper) Expected to be cost neutral
Water and Sewer Asset Plans to be reviewed	Year 1 of Delivery Program
Integrated Water Management Plan to be developed	To be developed internally latter part of 2017 Costs to be factored into Asset Plan Reviews and subsequent review of LTFP
Review road / Transport Asset Plan	Likely to be year 3 of Delivery Program – active transport (cycle ways – trails to pick up on CSP projects may be a consideration)
Streetscape and Heritage	Continue to reflect rolling program of Heritage Grants and Street Scape/Town entry program

<b>Objective 1.2</b>	
Include new activities	Tree assessment / Revegetation Projects / Tree Planting Pest Control – Management e.g.: Corellas, BioSecurity (County Council – likely to be associate of JO)

### **Disability Action Plan – Jo Ruffin**

The Council is required to develop and implement a Disability Inclusion Action Plan.

To date this has not progressed as it was uncertain whether the Council would continue to be a disability service provider through its Early Intervention Service.

Now that this is clear the Council can progress, on an initial basis, to either develop a standalone plan or to include appropriate amendments within its Liveability Strategy.

Support was indicated that the best way forward initially was to amend the Council's Liveability Strategy with a view to developing a standalone plan later.

### **Agreed Outcomes**

That the Council, initially fulfill its obligation to implement a Disability Inclusion Action Plan by making appropriate inclusions and amendments to its Liveability Plan with this to be followed by the development of a Disability Inclusion Action Plan.

### **Street Trading – Michelle Koopman**

The lack of street vitality in town shopping areas was highlighted with some options for improvement or reinvigoration provided.

It was stressed that if the Council could increase its risk appetite slightly then the Council processes required for traders to use footpaths could be significantly reduced.

The Council indicated that it had an open mind in relation to the reinvigoration options and suggested that this be discussed with Chambers to gain further input and with a view to further consideration by the Council.

### **Agreed Outcomes**

That Councillors and staff present street invigoration options to town chambers to generate input of ideas before the Council further considers it position.

## **Strategic Options – all**

Cr Hannan raised the issue of the Council's participation in the operation of the Visitor Information Service.

The service is losing volunteers and the operator of the service needs a 20 hour per week part time staff member to operate the service on week days.

The Tocumwal Chamber of Commerce and Tourism is not supporting or assisting the service.

The issue of whether another street walk should be conducted by Councillors was raised with the aim of generating more stakeholder interest.

The Council's Tourism Strategy which was developed with stakeholders and the wider community adopts the position that the Council is responsible for tourism infrastructure and amenity while stakeholders and the wider community are responsible for the Visitor Information Service.

## **Agreed Outcomes**

That the Council maintains the current position adopted in its Tourism Strategy that it is responsible for tourism infrastructure and amenity while stakeholders and the wider community are responsible for the Visitor Information Service.

## **General Business**

### **Cr Bodey**

Should the Council develop a solar farm? The General Manager indicated that RAMROC was considering community solar schemes at its meeting next week and that this would be reported back.

Has held discussion with a developer who indicated the cost impost of developer charges by the Council upon developers. It was indicated that individual developers could not be given concessions without that being provided to all developers.

The need for shade sails in the Barooga Street car park at Tocumwal. It was advised that this is included in the Tocumwal Town entry Plan adopted by the Council.

Could the Council attract a private school to Tocumwal. It was advised that while this may be desirable it was a matter for a private developer.

Bendigo Council has recently installed a new splash park at Long Gully that is worth a look.



### **Cr Taylor**

The Council should focus on helping existing businesses grow as a principle. It was advised that this is a key principle in the Council's Economic Development Strategy.

### **Cr Bruce**

Raised the current construction methods of footpaths citing Cobram Street Berrigan as an example. It was indicated that retrofitting footpaths is not always simple and in the cited case the construction was designed to facilitate pedestrians and vehicle access.

### **Cr Hannan**

Outlined the recent election for the community representation to the Finley War Memorial Hall and School of Arts Committee of Management.

Railway Park toilets are the Council's current highest infrastructure priority. Will be reviewed as a part of the development of the 2017/2018 budget.

There is a need for toilets at cemeteries. Staff to develop costings and bring these back to the Council for consideration.

Requested that town entry tree plantings continue for areas outside established priority areas. It was advised that this could occur.

Shade sails are now being installed at three new park locations.

Requested that an audit of toilet standards be conducted and brought back to the Council.

That the safety concerns regarding the pedestrian crossing at Murray Street Finley be reported to the Traffic Committee – this was agreed.

### **Cr Glanville**

Can the dead trees be replaced in the Tocumwal main street. It was advised that this will occur over winter.

### **Cr Curtin**

Does the Council have any surplus land to sell. It was advised that the only land that the Council that could be sold was that acquired through "sale of land for rates" processes most of which is unsuitable for sale due to lack of infrastructure etc.

Can the Council publicize the low cost of residents watering nature strips. This will be included in a future Bulletin Board.

The mess left by birds at Chanter Street is an issue and can this be cleaned up. It was advised that this would occur.

**Cr Morris**

Thanks to staff for presentations.

**Cr Jones**

Nil

**Fred Exton**

Murray Border Flying Club are requesting an extension to the flying hours for aerobatic events. It was agreed that one hour earlier start would be permitted.

The recycling centre at Finley continues to receive contaminated waste and this issue needs to be included in the draft Waste Management Strategy.

**Agreed outcomes**

That construction of the proposed Railway Park toilets be considered as a part of the development of the 2017/2018 budget.

That staff to develop costings for toilets at cemeteries and bring these back to the Council for consideration.

That additional tree plantings at non priority town entries be introduced.

That an audit of toilet standards be conducted and brought back to the Council for consideration.

That the safety concerns regarding the pedestrian crossing at Murray Street Finley be reported to the Traffic Committee.