



AGENDA

Council Meeting

6.00pm Tuesday 4 June 2024

VENUE:
Golden Plains Civic Centre
Council Chambers
2 Pope Street, Bannockburn

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING
6.00pm Tuesday 25 June 2024

Copies of Golden Plains Shire Council's Agendas & Minutes
Can be obtained online at www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au

Membership

Councillors

Cr Brett Cunningham, Mayor (Chair)
Cr Gavin Gamble
Cr Ian Getsom
Cr Helena Kirby
Cr Les Rowe
Cr Owen Sharkey
Cr Clayton Whitfield

Officers

Michael Tudball, Interim CEO
Phil Josipovic, Director Infrastructure and Environment
Lynnere Gray, Director Corporate Services
Coordinator Governance & Risk
Governance & Risk Specialist

Code of Conduct Principles

WORKING TOGETHER

We Councillors will:

- acknowledge and respect that a diversity of opinion exists among us;
- recognise that each of us has different life experience, knowledge and values, and that all of these contribute collectively to our discussions;
- behave with courtesy towards each other, Council officers and our citizens;
- conform to the policy and precedents that guide the conduct of meetings;
- attend punctually and participate in all relevant meetings, workshops and briefings;
- share reasonably in the representation, ceremonial and hosting tasks of the full Council; and
- honour the majority decisions made by the Council, irrespective of our own position, and explain these decisions frankly to the community, once made.

BEHAVING WITH INTEGRITY

We Councillors will:

- identify our financial and personal interest, or potential interest, in any matter that comes before the Council;
- be honest and truthful;
- comply with laws and the regulations deriving there from;
- respect Council property and be frugal in its use, where allowed;
- avoid using our position for personal gain or to achieve advantage over others or to obtain preferential treatment;
- be sympathetic to the legitimate concerns of our citizens;
- act impartially when making decisions and have due regard to the needs of the community as a whole, rather than that of narrow vested interest; and
- acknowledge the role of Council officers in providing advice to us and in implementing Council decisions.

MAKING COMPETENT DECISIONS

We Councillors will:

- without diminishing the short term focus, approach decisions with due regard to the long term needs of the municipality;
- form policies with regard to the needs of the entire Shire;
- direct our attentions to the strategic and statutory needs of the municipality rather than short term, transient, operational issues;
- seek to fully inform ourselves on the issues before Council before making a decision;
- take all reasonable steps to improve our knowledge of matters relevant to our municipal duties; and
- use and respect the professional knowledge of Council officers and other advisers to Council.

Members of the Gallery

Welcome to a Golden Plains Shire Council meeting and thank you for joining us.

MEETING PROCEDURES

The procedures for this Council meeting are provided in Council's Governance Rules. A copy of the Governance Rules can be found on Council's [website](#).

MEETING FACILITIES

Council meetings are generally held at:

- Golden Plains Shire Council Civic Centre (2 Pope Street, Bannockburn)
- Linton Shire Hall (68 Sussex Street, Linton)
- The Well, Smythesdale (19 Heales Street, Smythesdale)

EXPECTATIONS OF THE GALLERY

Council meetings are decision-making forums and it is important that they are open to the community to attend and view proceedings. Community members may participate in Council meetings in accordance with Chapter 2, Division 7 of the Governance Rules.

At each meeting, there is an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions of the Council. Questions must be submitted to Council no later than 10:00am on the day of the meeting in order to be asked at the meeting.

Members of the public present at Council meetings must remain silent during the proceedings except when specifically invited to address the meeting. Mobile devices are permitted for silent use but must not be used for recording, talking or any usage that generates noise, unless permission is granted by the Chairperson of the meeting.

The Chairperson of the meeting may remove a person from the meeting if the person continues to interject or gesticulate offensively after being asked to desist. The Chairperson may cause the removal of any object or material that is deemed by them to be objectionable or disrespectful.

The Chairperson may call a break in a meeting for either a short time or to resume another day if the behaviour at the Council table or in the gallery is significantly disrupting the meeting.

RECORDING OF MEETINGS

Council meetings are recorded and streamed live on the internet. Recordings are archived and available on Council's [Youtube page](#).

All care is taken to maintain your privacy however as a visitor in the public gallery, your presence may be recorded.

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1 OPENING DECLARATION

We the Councillors of Golden Plains Shire declare that we will undertake, on every occasion, to carry out our duties in the best interest of the community and that our conduct shall maintain the standards of the code of good governance so that we may faithfully represent and uphold the trust placed in this Council by the people of Golden Plains Shire

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Golden Plains Shire spans the Traditional lands of the Wadawurrung and Eastern Maar Peoples.

Council acknowledges them as the Traditional Owners and Custodians and pays its respects to both Wadawurrung and Eastern Maar Elders past, present and emerging.

Council extends that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People who are part of Golden Plains Shire.

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**4 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

5 BUSINESS REPORTS FOR DECISION

5.1 2024-25 DRAFT ANNUAL BUDGET - NOTING OF BUDGET SUBMISSIONS

File Number:

Author: Kathryn Fulton, Acting Manager Finance

Authoriser: Lynnere Gray, Director Corporate Services

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the thirty (30) public submissions relating to the 2024-25 Draft Annual Budget.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council resolved at the Council Meeting on 23 April 2024 to place on public exhibition the 2024-25 Draft Annual Budget in accordance with Section 96 of *the Local Government Act, 2020* (the Act).

Public submissions received were recorded in a register that was previously presented to Councillors which outlined details of the submissions. Thirty (30) public submissions have been received of which three have requested to be heard.

The 2024-25 Draft Annual Budget will be presented to the 25 June 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting for final adoption.

BACKGROUND

Council prepares a budget annually in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* which is required to be adopted by 30 June 2024 following a public consultation process in accordance with Council's community engagement policy.

Submissions from the public were invited via email, hardcopy mail or through Council's Have Your Say webpage, with a closing date of 20 May 2024. In addition, Council included an article in the Golden Plains Shire Gazette on the 2024-25 Draft Annual Budget, with distribution to residents across the Shire. Social media was also used as a medium to promote and communicate the key points from the draft 2024-25 budget.

The budget recognises the current economic climate with inflationary pressures and significant increases in costs, noting inflation is trending towards 5%, utility costs have increased by up to 7% and civil constructions costs and commercial building rate increases up to 5% higher.

A primary focus of the budget is to continue to deliver more than 70 services within the 2.75% maximum rate cap, with investment in roads, infrastructure and local community projects outlined.

Council will consider public submissions received and the 2024-25 Draft Annual Budget will be presented to the 25 June 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting for final adoption.

DISCUSSION

Thirty (30) public submissions have been received, of which three have requested to be heard. The three submissions that have requested to be heard are in relation to the reduced funding to the Geelong Regional Library Corporation.

The table below outlines the two themes/issues that the submissions cover:

Summary of Submissions

Township or Organisation	No. received	Summary of Submissions
Batesford	2	Implement a more balanced approach to budgeting that ensures Batesford receives a fair of investment related to its contribution to the Shire's revenue. Dock Rocks Estate footpath needs, infrastructure and maintenance of Riverstone and weeds and rubbish removal for Batesford Hill.
Geelong Regional Library Corporation	28	The reduction of \$20k to Geelong Regional Library Corporation will impact service and program delivery in the Shire. This is an important service in a growing community and is utilised by many residents of the Shire. The library provides children's programs, community engagement and cultural enrichment. Libraries often serve as a lifeline for disadvantaged populations and are used for VRQA homeschooling. The growth of the Shire is not reflected by making reductions to this service.

REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS

Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)

Implications	Applicable to this Report
Governance Principles (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
Policy/Relevant Law (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes
Environmental/Sustainability Implications (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	No
Community Engagement (Consideration of Community Engagement Principles under s.56 LGA 2020)	Yes
Public Transparency (Consideration of Public Transparency Principles under s.58 of LGA 2020)	Yes
Strategies and Plans (Consideration of Strategic Planning Principles under s.89 of LGA 2020)	Yes
Financial Management (Consideration of Financial Management Principles under s.101 of LGA 2020)	Yes
Service Performance (Consideration of Service Performance Principles under s.106 of LGA 2020)	Yes
Risk Assessment	Yes
Communication	Yes
Human Rights Charter	Yes
Gender Equality (Gender Impact Assessment required by S.9 of Gender Equality Act 2020)	No

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

The 2024-25 Draft Budget has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

POLICY/RELEVANT LAW

Local Government Act 2020

Local Government Amendment (Fair Go Rates) Act 2015

Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020

Financial Plan

Annual Budget

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The 2024-25 Draft Annual Budget has been placed on public exhibition for a consultation period during May. The draft budget was made available for inspection and comment up to the 20 May 2024. Any person was able to submit a written comment on any proposal contained in the budget. Feedback will be heard at a council meeting on 4 June 2024.

PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

The public consultation process facilitates transparency of the budget submitted for adoption and all Council reports are available for the public to access.

STRATEGIES/PLANS

The 2024-25 Draft Budget has been prepared ensuring alignment with the 2021-2025 Council Plan.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The 2024-25 Draft Budget has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*, Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements. Financial sustainability is monitored by considering the financial result for the period and key financial indicators within Council's long term financial plan.

SERVICE PERFORMANCE

Service performance levels are considered when developing the annual budget to ensure sufficient funds are available to meet required levels of performance.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The 2024-25 Draft Budget has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* incorporating long term financial plan requirements to ensure financial sustainability over the short and long term.

COMMUNICATION

The 2024-25 Draft Budget has been reported to Council as it has been formulated with a series of workshops held with Council to facilitate the development of the draft budget. The 2024-25 Draft Budget was placed on public exhibition during May, with public submissions considered at the 4 June 2024 Council meeting, and adoption of the budget at the 25 June 2024 Council meeting. All submitters will receive a written response after the adoption of the final 2024-25 Budget.

HUMAN RIGHTS CHARTER

It is considered that this report does not impact negatively on any rights identified in the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (VIC).

OPTIONSOption 1 – Council notes the thirty (30) budget submissions received

This option is recommended by officers as the budget submissions will be considered at this Council meeting held on 4 June 2024.

Option 2 – Council does not note the thirty (3) budget submissions received

This option is not recommended by officers as the budget submissions have been received through the consultation process and will be considered at this Council meeting held on 4 June 2024.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officer involved in preparing this report has any conflicts of interest in regards to this matter.

CONCLUSION

Public submissions to the 2024-25 Draft Budget will be considered at the 4 June 2024 Council meeting.