



Agenda

Ordinary Meeting of Council
Tuesday, 22 March 2016

To be held in the
Anglesea Senior Citizens Centre, 1 McMillan
Street, Anglesea

Commencing at 6.00pm

Council:

Cr Rose Hodge (Mayor)
Cr David Bell
Cr Libby Coker
Cr Eve Fisher
Cr Clive Goldsworthy
Cr Carol McGregor
Cr Brian McKiterick
Cr Margot Smith
Cr Heather Wellington

AGENDA FOR THE ORDINARY MEETING OF SURF COAST SHIRE COUNCIL
TO BE HELD IN THE ANGLESEA SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE, 1 MCMILLAN STREET, ANGLESEA
ON TUESDAY 22 MARCH 2016 COMMENCING AT 6.00PM

PRESENT:

OPENING:

Council acknowledge the traditional owners of the land where we meet today and pay respect to their elders past and present and Council acknowledges the citizens of the Surf Coast Shire.

PLEDGE:

As Councillors we carry out our responsibilities with diligence and integrity and make fair decisions of lasting value for the wellbeing of our community and environment.

APOLOGIES:

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

Recommendation

That Council note the minutes of the Ordinary and In Camera Meeting of Council held on 23 February 2016 as correct record of the meetings.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS:

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:

Note to Councillors and Officers

Declaration of Interest

Councillors and Officers please note that in accordance with Section 77A of the Local Government Act 1989, there is an obligation to declare a conflict of interest in a matter that could come before Council.

A conflict of interest can be a direct or indirect interest in a matter.

A person has a direct interest if:

There is a reasonable likelihood that the benefits, obligations, opportunities or circumstances of the person would be directly altered if the matter is decided in a particular way.

A person has an indirect interest if the person has:

- 1. A close association whereby a "family member" of the person has a direct or indirect interest or a "relative" or member of a person's household has a direct interest in a matter;*
- 2. An indirect financial interest in the matter;*
- 3. A conflicting duty;*
- 4. Received an "applicable" gift;*
- 5. Become an interested party in the matter by initiating civil proceedings or becoming a party to civil proceedings in relation to the matter; or*
- 6. A residential amenity affect.*

Disclosure of Interest

A Councillor or Officer must make full disclosure of a conflict of interest by advising the class and nature of the interest immediately before the matter is considered at the meeting. While the matter is being considered or any vote taken, the Councillor or Officer with the conflict of interest must leave the room and notify the Chairperson that he or she is doing so.

PRESENTATIONS:

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

BUSINESS:

1.	OFFICE OF THE CEO	4
1.1	<i>Monthly Finance Report - Project Variations</i>	4
1.2	<i>Council Rates Assistance Policy SCS-003</i>	6
2.	GOVERNANCE & INFRASTRUCTURE	8
2.1	<i>Proposed Road Discontinuance - McMillan Street Precinct, Anglesea</i>	8
2.2	<i>Adoption of Council Election Period Policy SCS-023</i>	12
2.3	<i>Anglesea Ward Update</i>	15
3.	ENVIRONMENT & DEVELOPMENT	20
3.1	<i>Amendment C108 - Combined Rezoning and Subdivision Application for 69B Harvey Street, Anglesea (Barwon Water Basin)</i>	20
3.2	<i>Amendment C110 - Aireys Inlet to Eastern View Structure Plan Implementation</i>	28
3.3	<i>Anglesea Futures and Alcoa Update</i>	31
3.4	<i>Summer Peak Period Debrief 2015 - 16</i>	36
3.5	<i>National Stronger Regions Fund - Round 3 Application</i>	47
3.6	<i>Council Submission - Senate Select Committee on Unconventional Gas Mining</i>	51
4.	CULTURE & COMMUNITY	54
4.1	<i>Review of Community Engagement Policy SCS-017</i>	54
4.2	<i>Stribling Reserve Masterplan</i>	57
4.3	<i>MAV State Council Motions 13 May 2016</i>	62
4.4	<i>Council's Contribution to the Torquay ANZAC Day Dawn Service</i>	65
5.	MINUTES	68
5.1	<i>Section 86 Committee Minutes</i>	68
5.2	<i>Advisory Committee Minutes</i>	69
6.	ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCILLORS	70
6.1	<i>Assemblies of Councillors</i>	70
7.	URGENT BUSINESS/PETITIONS/NOTICES OF MOTION	71
7.1	<i>Notice of Motion NOM-131</i>	71
8.	IN-CAMERA	72
8.1	<i>Assemblies of Councillors Confidential</i>	72
8.2	<i>Service Review - Visitor Information Centres</i>	72
8.3	<i>Request for Council Contribution to the Widening of Horseshoe Bend Road, Torquay</i>	72
8.4	<i>Planning Scheme Amendment Request 85 Geelong Road, Corner Grossmans Road, Torquay</i>	72

1. OFFICE OF THE CEO

1.1 Monthly Finance Report - Project Variations

Author's Title: Coordinator Management Accounting **CEO:** Keith Baillie

Department: Finance **File No:** F15/973

Division: Office of the CEO **Trim No:** IC16/299

Appendix:

1. Finance Report February 2016 - Project Variations (D16/22382)

Officer Direct or Indirect Conflict of Interest:

In accordance with Local Government Act 1989 –
Section 80C:

Yes

No

Reason: Nil

Status:

Information classified confidential under Section 77
of the Local Government Act:

Yes

No

Reason: Nil

Purpose

To receive and approve the project variations for February 2016.

Summary

The project variations for February 2016 are included.

Recommendation

That Council approve the project variations for February 2016 transferring a net of \$21,246 from the accumulated unallocated reserve as listed in the February Finance Report.

1.1 Monthly Finance Report - Project Variations

Report

Background

Council receives a monthly project variations report to authorise transfer of project budgets.

Discussion

The proposed project variations are outlined in the attachment.

Financial Implications

The proposed project variations are outlined in the attachment.

Council Plan

Theme 2 Governance
Objective 2.4 Transparency in decision making and access to information
Strategy 2.4.2 Provide relevant and easy to understand financial information to the community.

Policy/Legal Implications

Not applicable.

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has any conflicts of interest.

Risk Assessment

Not applicable.

Social Considerations

Not applicable.

Community Engagement

Not applicable.

Environmental Implications

Not applicable.

Communication

Not applicable.

Conclusion

It is recommended that Council approve the project variations for February 2016 transferring a net of \$21,246 from the accumulated unallocated reserve as listed in the February Finance Report.

1.2 Council Rates Assistance Policy SCS-003

Author's Title: Coordinator Revenue
Department: Finance
Division: Office of the CEO

CEO: Keith Baillie
File No: F15/1140
Trim No: IC16/198

Appendix:

1. SCS-003 Rates Assistance Policy - February 2016 (D16/20143)

Officer Direct or Indirect Conflict of Interest:

In accordance with Local Government Act 1989 –
Section 80C:

Yes

No

Reason: Nil

Status:

Information classified confidential under Section 77
of the Local Government Act:

Yes

No

Reason: Nil

Purpose

To endorse the Rates Assistance Policy SCS-003.

Summary

The purpose of this policy is to establish a framework to offer relief to ratepayers who endure significant hardship in meeting rate and charges including special rate payments.

Recommendation

That Council endorse the Rates Assistance Policy SCS-003.

1.2 Council Rates Assistance Policy SCS-003

Report

Background

It is acknowledged at the outset that various ratepayers may experience financial hardship for a whole range of issues and that meeting rates, charges and levy obligations constitutes just one element of a number of difficulties that may be faced.

The purpose of this policy is to provide options for ratepayers facing such issues to deal with the situation positively and reduce the strain imposed by financial hardship.

Discussion

The Rates Assistance Policy presented to Council has been considered by the Policy Review Sub-Committee and have been recommended for Council approval. Please note the following minor amendments suggested by the sub-committee;

- Amendment to **4. Definitions** to include definitions to policy for "Deferral" and "Waiver"
- Amendment to **5. Policy** to change the Council contacts to direct ratepayers to the appropriate Manager and Coordinator to discuss hardship applications.
- Amendment to **5.2 Deferral of Rates and Charges** to state that rate deferrals are not transferrable upon a change of ownership.
- **Attachments** – inclusion of up to date Rate Arrangement Application and Rates Deferment Application, stating up to date criteria and interest rates.

Financial Implications

Not applicable.

Council Plan

Theme 2 Governance

Objective 2.2 High performing accountable organisation

Strategy 2.2.4 Undertake a scheduled program of service reviews aimed at improving efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery in accordance with agreed principles.

Policy/Legal Implications

This Policy will ensure compliance with the Local Government Act 1989

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest

No officer associated with this report has any conflicts of interest.

Risk Assessment

Council is required to ensure that all policies are current and meeting all legislative and organisational requirements.

Social Considerations

An effective Rates Assistance policy will offer vulnerable ratepayers experiencing financial hardship the opportunity to successfully manage their debt within set guidelines in accordance with the local Government Act 1989 legislation.

Community Engagement

Not applicable.

Environmental Implications

Not applicable

Communication

Not applicable.

Conclusion

The Council Rates Assistance policy establishes principles, guideline and criteria for the affective control and management for ratepayers experiencing hardship/financial difficulties to access alternative payment arrangements and methods in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989.

2. GOVERNANCE & INFRASTRUCTURE

2.1 Proposed Road Discontinuance - McMillan Street Precinct, Anglesea

Author's Title: Property & Legal Services Officer

General Manager: Anne Howard

Department: Governance & Risk

File No: F14/552

Division: Governance & Infrastructure

Trim No: IC16/233

Appendix:

Nil

Officer Direct or Indirect Conflict of Interest:

Status:

In accordance with Local Government Act 1989 –
Section 80C:

Information classified confidential under Section 77
of the Local Government Act:

Yes

No

Yes

No

Reason: Nil

Reason: Nil

Purpose

To consider the discontinuation of the unused road behind the McMillan Street Precinct in Anglesea.

Summary

The current status of the land is Local Road and is owned and managed by Surf Coast Shire Council. The road is not on Council's Road Register, and therefore not maintained as a road. The road has not been used by vehicles since approximately 1997.

Council recently completed a Section 223 process, with submissions closing on Thursday 31 December 2015. Five written submissions were received including two late submissions. Four submitters were heard in support of their submissions on Tuesday 1 March 2016. Council also wrote to 41 property owners in the area regarding the proposal requesting feedback.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Discontinue the unused Local Road that runs between Mawson Avenue and Melaleuca Lane, Anglesea.
2. Publish a discontinuation notice in the Victorian Government Gazette.
3. Write to submitters and affected property owners advising of the decision to discontinue the road.
4. Ensure pedestrian access (minimum 1.5 metre wide) is maintained between Mawson Avenue and Melaleuca Lane.

2.1 Proposed Road Discontinuance - McMillan Street Precinct, Anglesea

Report

Background

The current status of the land is Local Road and is owned and managed by Surf Coast Shire Council. The road is not on Council's Road Register, and therefore not maintained as a road. The road has not been used by vehicles since approximately 1993. In 1999 there was a VCAT ruling (1999/76802) relating to the access to the Anglesea Community House which ordered that Mawson Avenue be closed to traffic at the north side of No. 2 Mawson Avenue and so this adds to the consideration that there is no need for this proposed road discontinuance.

The Anglesea Kindergarten playground structures (shade sails and cubby house) have encroached onto the unused road reserve since 2002. As part of the redevelopment of the kindergarten, the playgroup building has been demolished. The Anglesea Memorial Hall has also encroached into the road reserve after Council built an extension in 1997.

Council at its meeting on 24 November 2015, declared its intention to permanently discontinue the unused road behind the McMillan Street Precinct in Anglesea (refer plan below to the area marked in red) and to advertise its intention to permanently discontinue the local road behind the McMillan Street Precinct at the rear of 1, 1A and 1B McMillan Street in Anglesea and invite submissions in accordance with Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989.



Discussion

Council completed a Section 223 process, with submissions closing on Thursday 31 December 2015. Five written submissions were received including two late submissions. Four submitters were heard in support of their submissions on Tuesday 1 March 2016. Council also wrote to 41 property owners in the area regarding the proposal requesting feedback.

2.1 Proposed Road Discontinuance - McMillan Street Precinct, Anglesea

The submissions raised the following concerns and officers comments are provided in consideration of these:

1. Discontinuation of the road reserve will adversely affect property value from future subdivision. *From an officer viewpoint the road closure would not affect the value of the only property directly impacted by the proposed closure, which is 6 Holmwood Avenue, as any future subdivision still has good access from Melaleuca Lane*
2. The road is used by pedestrians. *Officers note the road is used by pedestrians and as such a footpath, minimum 1.5 metres wide, is all that is required on this section of road in terms of access requirements. This path currently exists and can be maintained on the Council managed land, if the road is discontinued.*
3. The Anglesea Memorial Hall extension encroaches over the road. *Officers note this fact and the closure will assist to address this matter, but the key consideration of the proposed discontinuation is that the road is no longer required for vehicle access.*
4. The Anglesea Kindergarten / Playgroup extension encroaches over the road. *As above Officers note this fact and the closure will assist to address this matter, but the key consideration of the proposed discontinuation is that the road is no longer required for vehicle access.*
5. Failure of Council to undertake a proper community engagement process. *Council officers have undertaken a full community consultation by inviting submissions in accordance with Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989, advertising this in the local paper and notifying 41 property owners in the area regarding the proposal and requesting feedback.*
6. Submitters would have objected to the Planning Permit for the extension of the Anglesea Kindergarten / Playgroup if they knew the plan was to include the road reserve land. The master plans that were advertised did not include this land. *Officers can confirm that there is no requirement for a planning permit for the extension as it is exempted under Clause 62 of the Planning Scheme it only required a permit for the demolition of the playgroup building.*

Following consideration of these submission it would appear that there is no need for vehicle access on this section of road and the road can be discontinued. The road is used by pedestrians and as such a footpath, minimum 1.5 metres wide, is required on this section of road in terms of access requirements. This path currently exists and can be maintained on the Council managed land, if the road is discontinued. The road contains a Barwon Water sewer main at the eastern end of the road. Barwon Water has been contacted and they have confirmed in writing, that they have no objection to the proposed discontinuance except they would require a 2 metre wide easement over the sewer main for access purpose which can be provided.

If discontinued, the land occupied by the road would revert to freehold land in the name of Surf Coast Shire Council.

Financial Implications

The minor costs associated with the discontinuation can be covered from the operating budget.

Council Plan

Theme 2 Governance
Objective 2.4 Transparency in decision making and access to information
Strategy 2.4.3 Ensure decision-making is as transparent as possible.

Theme 3 Communities
Objective 3.2 Quality Assessment Ratings for Aged & Family Services
Strategy 3.2.4 Ensure high quality community services are provided

Policy/Legal Implications

This proposal is in accordance with Schedule 10(3) and Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989.

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has any conflicts of interest.

Risk Assessment

The McMillan Street Community Precinct is a well utilised and valued asset with many stakeholders involved in the site. As such, Council's decision about future use of this precinct has the potential to carry a high level of public interest.

2.1 Proposed Road Discontinuance - McMillan Street Precinct, Anglesea

Social Considerations

Council actively considered all community feedback as part of the Hearing of Submission process in accordance with Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989.

Community Engagement

Submitters and affected property owners will receive written notification advising the outcome.

Emergency Services will also be contacted regarding the proposal.

If the discontinuance is supported, Council is required to publish a notice in the Victorian Government Gazette.

Environmental Implications

Not applicable.

Communication

As listed under the heading of Community Engagement.

Conclusion

It is recommended that Council discontinue the unused Local Road that runs between Mawson Avenue and Melaleuca Lane, Anglesea as it is no longer required for the purpose of a road.

2.2 Adoption of Council Election Period Policy SCS-023

Author's Title: Manager Governance & Risk

General Manager: Anne Howard

Department: Governance & Risk

File No: F15/1456

Division: Governance & Infrastructure

Trim No: IC16/31

Appendix:

1. SCS 023 Council Election Period (Caretaker) Policy - January 2016 (D16/23457)

Officer Direct or Indirect Conflict of Interest:

Status:

In accordance with Local Government Act 1989 –
Section 80C:

Information classified confidential under Section 77
of the Local Government Act:

Yes

No

Yes

No

Reason: Nil

Reason: Nil

Purpose

To endorse the updated Election (Caretaker) Period Council Policy SCS-023.

Summary

The Local Government Amendment (Improved Governance) Act 2015 has specified that Councils must adopt an Election Period (Caretaker) Policy by 31 March 2016 and then subsequently not later than 12 months before each election period.

Council had an Election Policy in place for the 2012 election and this policy has now been refined and adapted to comply with the new legislation. Staff guidelines have also been updated to reflect the new requirements.

The policy was reviewed by the Policy Review Sub-Committee on 9 February 2016.

Recommendation

That Council endorse the Election (Caretaker) Period Council Policy SCS-023.

2.2 Adoption of Council Election Period Policy SCS-023

Report

Background

The Local Government Amendment (Improved Governance) Act 2015 has specified that Councils must adopt an Election Period (Caretaker) Policy by 31 March 2016 and then subsequently not later than 12 months before each election period commences.

This year's election period commences on 20 September and runs until the General Elections on 22 October 2016.

Council had an Election Policy in place for the 2012 Election and this policy has now been refined and adapted to comply with the new legislation. Staff guidelines have also been updated to reflect the new requirements.

Discussion

To comply with the legislation the Council Policy needs to be adopted by 31 March 2016 and must include:

- procedures intended to prevent the Council from making inappropriate decisions or using resources inappropriately during the election period.
- limits on public consultations and the scheduling of Council events, and;
- procedures to ensure that access to information held by Council is made equally available and accessible to all candidates during the elections.

Surf Coast Shire Council's policy therefore addresses the following areas:

- major policy and inappropriate decisions
- use of Council resources
- provision of information
- Council communications and publicity
- functions, public consultation and events
- travel and accommodation
- Councillors' expenditure
- advice to candidates
- monitoring of the policy.

Financial Implications

Not applicable.

Council Plan

Theme 2 Governance
Objective 2.2 High performing accountable organisation
Strategy Nil

Policy/Legal Implications

Development and adoption of this policy align with the requirement in the Local Government Amendment (Improved Governance) Act 2015.

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest

No officer associated with this report has any conflicts of interest.

Risk Assessment

Not applicable.

Social Considerations

Not applicable.

Community Engagement

Not applicable.

2.2 Adoption of Council Election Period Policy SCS-023

Environmental Implications

Not applicable.

Communication

A copy of the Election Period Policy must;

- be given to each Councillor as soon as practicable after it is adopted;
- be available for inspection by the public at the Council offices; and
- be published on Council's Internet website.

Conclusion

Adoption of the Council policy by the end of March will ensure Council is compliant with the Local Government Amendment (Improved Governance) Act 2015.

2.3 Anglesea Ward Update

Author's Title: Executive Assistant

General Manager: Anne Howard

Department: Governance & Infrastructure

File No: F16/273

Division: Governance & Infrastructure

Trim No: IC16/196

Appendix:

Nil

Officer Direct or Indirect Conflict of Interest:

Status:

In accordance with Local Government Act 1989 –
Section 80C:

Information classified confidential under Section 77
of the Local Government Act:

Yes

No

Yes

No

Reason: Nil

Reason: Nil

Purpose

To receive and note the Anglesea Ward update.

Summary

Information is provided on a selection of recent and upcoming infrastructure works and community events in the Anglesea Ward.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Anglesea Ward update.

2.3 Anglesea Ward Update

Report

Background

A report on local topical issues is provided to coincide with the Council meeting in the Ward. This report summarises the key current and recent infrastructure works and community events in the Anglesea Ward.

Discussion

Infrastructure

- **Project name: Anglesea Kindergarten Extension and Refurbishment**

Description: The Anglesea Kindergarten Project included the extension and refurbishment the existing building to provide a modern and functional child services hub for the community. The works included:

- Demolition of the existing playgroup building to allow for the extension.
- Refurbishment of the existing building including flooring, ceiling, painting, storage, toilets, wet area, kitchen and external painting.
- Extending the existing building to provide new entry and waiting room, kinder room, maternal child health room, staff office, toilets, kitchen and storeroom.
- Landscape works including new play areas, open grassed area, fencing and entry paving.

The construction works commenced in June 2015, in order to refurbish the existing building the kinder was required to relocate for Term 3. The existing building was handed back to the kinder to operate classes for Term 4 while the extension was being completed. The extension was completed in January 2016 and the kinder is now running classes out of the new facility.

Council is finalising the maternal child health room so that these services will be operating out of facility in the near future.

Budget: \$738,000

Completion date: 30 January 2016

- **Project name: Coogoorah Park – Fire Access Road Bridge Renewal**

Description: The rectification of existing structure and installation of an ironbark deck overlayed on the existing structure. This will facilitate heavy vehicles for fire access as well as being pedestrian friendly crossing for the pathways in the area.

Budget: \$15,000

Completion date: May 2016

- **Project name: Old Coach Rd – Bridge Renewal Rock Beaching**

Description: The works include batter protection in the form of rock beaching to protect against erosion and bridge abutment scour.

Budget: \$25,000

Completion date: May 2016

- **Project name: Anglesea Bowling Club Extension (Design)**

Description: Council Officers have worked with representatives of the Anglesea Bowling Club to establish the key elements required in a reduced scope building extension project. This is on the basis that the only funding partners would be Council and the club itself and that funding from other levels of government is now unlikely. Council is awaiting confirmation from the club after its April AGM that it supports proceeding with the concept design stage (funded in the 2015/16 Budget) on this basis. Upon confirmation, an architect will be appointed to develop the concept design and cost plan.

Budget: \$25,000 (*design only*)

Completion date: September 2016 (*design only*)

- **Project name: Town Parks Upgrade**

Description: Replacement of an existing BBQ shelter at Lions Park, Anglesea. Shelter to be constructed at a higher level to improve use during wetter months. Style to be similar to a performance shelter.

Budget: \$50,000

Completion date: Shelter complete. Landscaping to be completed in March 2016

2.3 Anglesea Ward Update

- **Project name: Anglesea Tennis Courts Synthetic Surface**
Description: Upgrade of four existing asphalt tennis courts to fully synthetic surface.
Budget: \$160,000
Completion date: April 2016 (*currently assessing tender submissions*).
- **Project name: Anglesea Landfill liner extension and rehabilitation Stage 3**
Description: A contract for both the extension of the cell liner (to allow continued disposal of waste) and rehabilitation of the existing filled site including methane gas collection, has been awarded for a contract amount of \$2,415,523 with the main works to be delivered over September to November .
Budget: \$2,759,000
Completion date: December 2016.
- **Project name: Cameron Road long vehicle parking**
Description: Provision of approximately 3 long vehicle bays has been provided in Cameron Road opposite the bowling club and shops. This is for long vehicles including buses and caravans to park and access the shops opposite
Budget: \$174,000
Completion date: April 2016.
- **Project name: Anglesea transfer station upgrade**
Description: Sealing and kerbing of the main access roads and drainage to and around the transfer station to improve the amenity and access to this facility. Most works have been completed with the exception of the resale shed area which will be completed after Easter
Budget: \$614,000
Completion date: April 2016.
- **Project name: New concrete path access to the Anglesea Riverbank toilet block.**
Description: Provision of a new concrete pathway to access the toilet block on the Anglesea River nearest the bridge will be provided by Easter.
Budget: \$15,000
Completion date: April 2016.

Events

The Anglesea Ward hosted a number of events over the recent months. These events deliver significant economic boosts to the Anglesea Ward area, sustaining businesses through the quieter visitation periods of the year. A snapshot of some of the events are as follows:

- **Christmas Soiree**
Inaugural Community Christmas dinner and decorations held at Anglesea Shopping centre precinct. Hosted by Anglesea Community House and supported by BATA raising funds for Foodlink. Each course of the meal prepared by a different café or restaurant
Thursday 3 December 2015
Attendance: 160
- **Inaugural Adventurethon**
An adventure race consisting of mountain biking, ocean paddle and trail run. Promoting Surf Coast Walk and overnight stays
Saturday 5 December 2015
Attendance: 385
- **Roo Run**
Held by Anglesea Motor Yacht Club as a fundraiser. Using Surf Coast Walk and Pt Roadknight beach – share resources with SLSC swim following day.
Sunday 27 December 2015
Attendance: 550
- **Rock to Ramp Swim**
Run by Anglesea SLSC. Introduced a longer swim as is the trend with ocean water events
Monday 28 December 2015
Attendance: 900

2.3 Anglesea Ward Update

Tim Gates Fun Run

Fairhaven Surf Life Saving Club. This beach run held late evening is well supported by the many holiday makers around Fairhaven at this time

Sunday 10 January 2016

Attendance: 600

SLSC Events in Anglesea and Fairhaven in January

January 2016

Attendance: 1000+

Anglesea Music Festival

Now in its fifth year but held at a new time location (Anglesea Football/Netball Grounds) One day event showcasing local music.

Saturday 23 January 2016

Attendance: 350

Aireys Inlet Open Mic Festival

Now in its ninth year. This is a free community music event held in various cafes and venues across Aireys Inlet.

Friday 18 to Sunday 20 March 2016

Attendance: expect 5000

KAOS: Kids Adventure Outdoors

An active outdoors festival specifically for children and families coordinated by Anglesea camps and outdoor providers. Only in its second year this event shows great potential in attracting support, participation and further commitment by the outdoor industry in Anglesea.

Saturday 2 to Sunday 3 April 2016

Attendance: TBC

Financial Implications

Any financial implications have been outlined within the body of the report.

Council Plan

Theme 4 Infrastructure

Objective 4.2 Accessible and well maintained Council facilities

Policy/Legal Implications

Not applicable as this is just an information update

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest

No officer involvement in the preparation of this report has any conflicts of interest.

Risk Assessment

All projects and events listed above have included risk assessment.

Social Considerations

Council provides and maintains community infrastructure to specified standards in adopted Asset Management Plans. Safe, attractive and appropriate facilities, and properly coordinated events contribute significantly to health and well-being outcomes in the community.

Community Engagement

Community engagement is undertaken as required.

Environmental Implications

Environmental implications of each project are considered during the planning phase of each project.

Communication

This report is provided to inform the Anglesea Ward community.

2.3 Anglesea Ward Update

Conclusion

A range of infrastructure works and community events have been undertaken, or are scheduled to occur in the near future in the Anglesea Ward. A summary of these activities is provided within the report for information.

3. ENVIRONMENT & DEVELOPMENT

3.1 Amendment C108 - Combined Rezoning and Subdivision Application for 69B Harvey Street, Anglesea (Barwon Water Basin)

Author's Title: Senior Strategic Planner
Department: Planning & Development
Division: Environment & Development

General Manager: Kate Sullivan
File No: F15/1368
Trim No: IC16/149

Appendix:

1. Revised Concept Subdivision Layout dated 29/2/2016 (D16/20581)
2. Conceptual Streetscape in 3d (D16/10798)
3. Existing and Proposed Zoning (D15/77292)
4. Explanatory Report (D16/21832)
5. Clause 56 (Residential Subdivision) Assessment (D16/21831)
6. Draft Planning Permit (D15/116103)
7. Draft DDO19 (D16/17064)
8. Draft NCO3 (D16/17065)

Officer Direct or Indirect Conflict of Interest:

In accordance with Local Government Act 1989 – Section 80C:

Yes

No

Reason: Nil

Status:

Information classified confidential under Section 77 of the Local Government Act:

Yes

No

Reason: Nil

Purpose

To seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and publicly exhibit a combined rezoning and subdivision application at 69B Harvey Street, Anglesea.

Summary

Barwon Water has submitted a Planning Scheme amendment to enable residential development to occur at a disused public utility site in Anglesea.

The amendment seeks to rezone the land from Public Use Zone 1 (PUZ1) to General Residential Zone (GRZ1). The proposal also includes the closure of Sparrow Avenue (where it abuts the site) and its rehabilitation into a small local park. This newly created park will eventually be rezoned to Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ) following a separate road closure process to be run by Council. The amendment also seeks a planning permit to re-subdivide the existing 7 lots into 10 lots.

All land rezoned as residential will be subject to the Design and Development Overlay Schedule 19 (DDO19) and the Neighbourhood Character Overlay Schedule 3 (NCO3), consistent with residential land in Anglesea. The DDO19 and NCO3 require minor changes to acknowledge the proposed smaller lot sizes and setback requirements.

The proposal is considered to have merit and is generally consistent with Council policy. It is recommended that Council request authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare the amendment and planning permit and Council exhibit the amendment and draft planning permit for a period of one month.

Recommendation

That Council, as the Planning Authority:

1. Seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare the Section 96A application, pursuant to the Planning and Environment Act 1987, to;
 - 1.1 Rezone part of the land at 69B Harvey Street, Anglesea from Public Use Zone 1 to General Residential Zone 1,
 - 1.2 Apply a Design and Development Overlay Schedule 19 and a Neighbourhood Character Overlay Schedule 3 to the land rezoned to GR1 Zone,
 - 1.3 Re subdivide the land into 10 lots.
2. Exhibit the Planning Scheme Amendment and draft planning permit for one month upon receipt of Ministerial Authorisation.

3.1 Amendment C108 - Combined Rezoning and Subdivision Application for 69B Harvey Street, Anglesea (Barwon Water Basin)

Report

Background

The water supply basin located at 69B Harvey Street ceased to be operational in the mid 1990's and since that time has fallen into disrepair. The basin consists of a 5m deep concrete slab surrounded by a clay wall with cyclone wire fencing sited above street level. The site is infested with environmental weeds but contains several patches of indigenous vegetation.



Photo 1: Disused water basin

Discussion

Existing Zone and Overlay controls

The subject land is zoned Public Use Zone – Service and Utility (PUZ1) [Refer Appendix 3]. The current zoning recognises the historic use of the land as a water basin.

The land to be rezoned does not include Barwon waters pumping station which will be contained within a small lot at the western end of the site and will continue to be zoned Public Use Zone. The significant native vegetation located close to the Parker Street / Harvey Street intersection is within the street reservation and is not part of the amendment.

A Significant Landscape Overlay Schedule 3 (SLO3) applies to the site and seeks to protect native vegetation.

It should be noted that the surrounding residential land is also subject to the SLO3 but in addition is subject to both a Design and Development Overlay Schedule 19 (DDO19) and a Neighbourhood Character Overlay Schedule 3 (NCO3). The DDO19 and NCO3 do not apply to the subject site at present.

The current zoning of the land does not provide an opportunity for residential development to occur.

Planning Scheme Amendment

It is proposed to rezone the subject land to General Residential Zone Schedule 1 (GRZ1) [Refer Appendix 3] to enable residential development to occur.

The proposed rezoning is consistent with the following strategies in the Surf Coast Planning Scheme:

- Clause 21.02-3 (Settlement patterns) -
 - the containment of residential development within designated settlement boundaries,
 - the efficient use of suitable land for redevelopment,
 - the maximising of existing infrastructure and
 - minimising any adverse environmental and neighbourhood character impacts.
- Clause 21.11-2 (Anglesea Strategy) – encourages infill development within the disused water basin.

The site is located within the settlement boundary of Anglesea with direct access to the sealed roads of Parker and Harvey Street. The 'infrastructure servicing assessment report' submitted with the application has demonstrated the ability of the site to connect future residential lots to required services.

3.1 Amendment C108 - Combined Rezoning and Subdivision Application for 69B Harvey Street, Anglesea (Barwon Water Basin)

The amendment seeks to rehabilitate the disused water basin and provide infill development consistent with the strategic vision for the site.

A modified version of the Design and Development Overlay Schedule 19 (DDO19) and Neighbourhood Character Overlay Schedule 3 (NCO3) are to be applied to the subject land [refer Appendices 7 & 8]. The purpose of these overlay schedules are to protect and enhance the low density, low profile, vegetated, non-suburban coastal township character of Anglesea. The application of these schedules will ensure any future development on the site conforms to the neighbourhood character objectives.

The draft Explanatory Report [Refer Appendix 4] provides a thorough strategic assessment of the amendment as required by Ministerial Direction No 11.

Planning Permit Application

Affects land at:

- 69B Harvey Street, Anglesea.

Proposes to:

- Re-subdivide the existing 7 lots into 10 lots [Refer Appendix 1]
- Provide 267sqm of land (equivalent to 4% of the site) for the 3 additional lots as public open space contribution in accordance with council policy. Under the Schedule to Clause 52.01 of the planning scheme, the public open space contribution is 1% per additional lot.
- The amendment also proposes the closure and rehabilitation of Sparrow Avenue (where it abuts the site). The combination of these two areas will create a more useable local park. The traffic report submitted with the application raised no concerns in relation to the closure of Sparrow Avenue in this location. Councils Infrastructure Department are supportive of the closure, being an unsealed road that is not critical for vehicular connectivity. It is considered that a small local park in this area would be a community asset and consistent with the vision for the site (as outlined in the Anglesea Strategy and Structure plan). The closure of Sparrow Avenue would be subject to a separate road closure process run by Council under the Local Government Act, if C108 is supported. The land would then be eventually rezoned to Public Park and Recreation Zone.
- Provide a local footpath on Harvey Street that would connect to the proposed path within the new park located at Sparrow Avenue,
- Provide street trees on both Harvey and Parker Street.
- The proposal seeks to retain all native vegetation located within the street reservation including an Otway Grey Gum (listed as vulnerable on the state advisory listing) located in Harvey Street.

A draft subdivision planning permit indicating conditions for the proposed development has been prepared as part of the application [Refer Appendix 6]. Any subsequent dwelling to be developed on the individual lots would be subject to a future planning permit application.

A preliminary assessment of the concept subdivision [Refer Appendix 1] indicates that the plan is consistent with the following relevant Strategies and policies in the Surf Coast Planning Scheme:

- Clause 21.11 Anglesea Strategy – identifies the site within the framework plan as having the potential to provide future residential land with an opportunity for a park. The strategy does not suggest a preferred lot size for any future subdivision of the site and the DDO19 (which controls subdivision lot sizes in Anglesea) doesn't apply. The surrounding residential land has a 800sqm minimum lot size and the subdivision of the site must fit within the context of the broader area (discussed in more detail below),
- Clause 22.02 Streetscape and Landscape Policy - details the importance of visual quality and appearance of streetscapes in all developments. The amendment proposes the enhancement of the streetscape through the planting of street trees.
- Clause 56 (Residential subdivision) – requires that subdivisions meet numerous standards and objectives under a variety of headings including, liveable and sustainable communities, lot design, access and mobility, integrated water management site management and utilities. It is considered that the proposed subdivision layout complies with the provisions of Clause 56 [Refer Appendix 5];

The concept subdivision Plan [Refer Appendix 1] is supported by the following technical reports;

3.1 Amendment C108 - Combined Rezoning and Subdivision Application for 69B Harvey Street, Anglesea (Barwon Water Basin)

- Subdivision report
- Feature plan and survey
- Landscape concept plan,
- Storm Water Management Strategy,
- Traffic Impact Assessment,
- Soil report
- Cultural heritage management plan.
- Vegetation assessment
- Infrastructure servicing assessment report

These reports provide a comprehensive site analysis from which the proposal for the site has been developed.

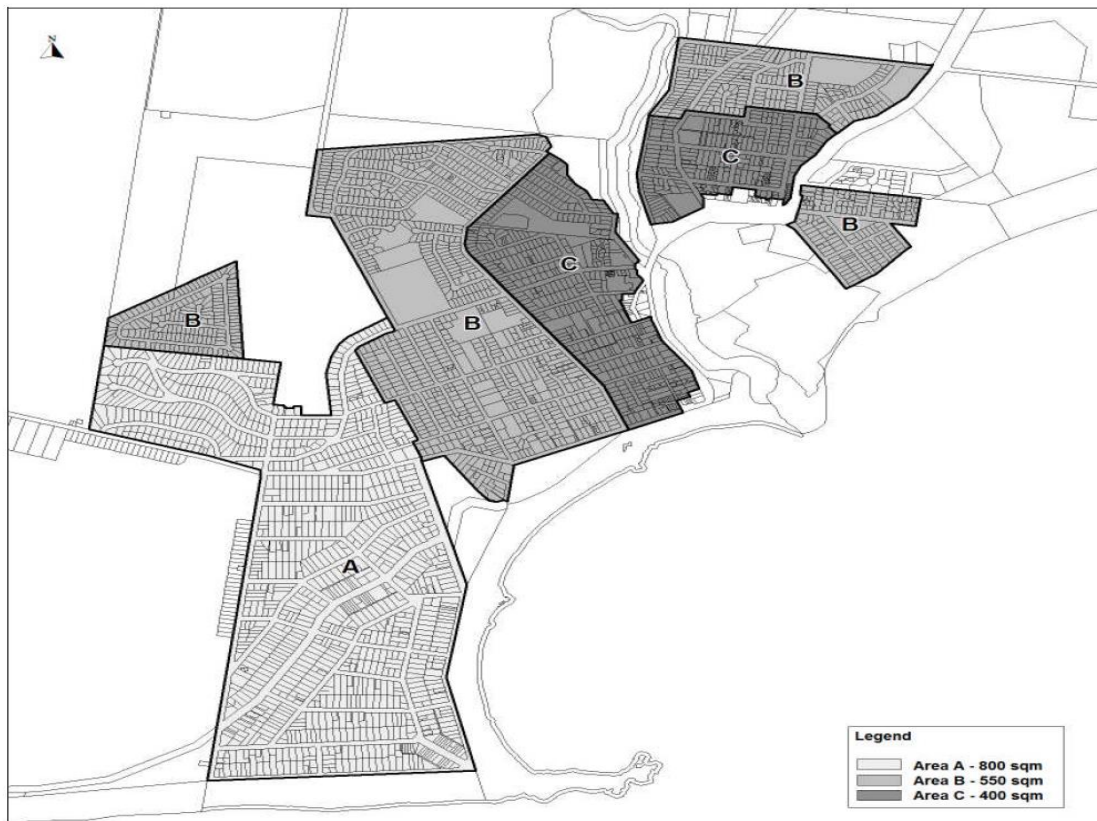
The proposal was referred internally to relevant Council departments for comment as part of the assessment of the amendment and subdivision plan. No issues were raised but further detailed design will be required via conditions on the draft planning permit [Refer Appendix 6] still to be refined prior to exhibition.

It is considered that both the proposed rezoning and planning permit application has sufficient strategic merit and supporting information enabling further consideration of the proposal. This should be undertaken via a request to the Minister seeking authorisation and public exhibition with formal community input.

Subdivision layout and lot size

The township of Anglesea is divided into three subdivision precincts, A, B and C, shown in Figure 1 below. Precinct A has a minimum lot size of 800sqm and applies to the western part of the township. Precinct C is located close to the shops and allows the smallest lot sizes (400sqm) and the remainder of the town is within Precinct B (550sqm).

These precincts are applied through the Design and Development Overlay Schedule 19 (DDO19) which does not apply to the subject site. The site geographically sits within Precinct A.



3.1 Amendment C108 - Combined Rezoning and Subdivision Application for 69B Harvey Street, Anglesea (Barwon Water Basin)

Figure 1: Subdivision lot sizes in Anglesea (DDO19)

The subject site currently consists of 7 lots (refer Figure 2), ranging in size from 907sqm to 1012sqm. Lot sizes in the immediate residential area are mixed with lots in Parker Street being smaller (approximately 800sqm) and lots in Harvey Street being larger (approximately 1500sqm).



Figure 2: subdivision layout in the general area (surrounding residential land is pink and the subject site is yellow)

The established subdivision pattern provides all lots with a single street frontage and a rear boundary that directly abuts the rear boundary of a mirror lot. This provides for a safe and active street environment. The subject site is different in its configuration and contains two frontages and no clearly definable rear boundary.

The proposal seeks to re-subdivide the existing 7 lots [refer figure 2] into 10 lots with an average lot size of 614sqm [refer figure 3].



3.1 Amendment C108 - Combined Rezoning and Subdivision Application for 69B Harvey Street, Anglesea (Barwon Water Basin)

Figure 3: Concept re-subdivision with building envelopes

This proposal follows the surrounding (and traditional) subdivision pattern, creating internalised rear boundaries with a single street frontage. Proposed lots 1 – 2, located close to the Parker / Harvey Street intersection retain a double frontage due to the narrow nature of the land at this point.

The re-subdivision layout provides an improved urban design outcome for the remainder of the lots by removing the negative impacts associated with lots backing onto a street [illustrated in photo 2].



Photo 2: Parker Street currently treated as the 'back'

The proposed lots have a wide street frontage but are shallow compared to other lots in the area. This configuration will result in subsequent development orientating the house towards the street. The applicant has provided a streetscape concept as seen from Harvey Street [refer figure 4].



Figure 4: Conceptual streetscape fronting Harvey Street

Building envelopes and neighbourhood character

3.1 Amendment C108 - Combined Rezoning and Subdivision Application for 69B Harvey Street, Anglesea (Barwon Water Basin)

The proposed subdivision [Refer Figure 3] includes a designated building envelope for each lot. The envelopes have been designed to ensure that any future dwelling on the site will comply with the standards as set out in the NCO3. The NCO3 manages site coverage, hard surface and setbacks from front and side boundaries to protect neighbourhood character.

The *Anglesea Neighbourhood Character Study* (2003) found that the character of the town can be maintained and enhanced provided there is sufficient space around buildings for landscaping. The proposal provides this space.

Landscaping in the form of canopy trees and native shrubs help to soften the visual appearance of buildings within the streetscape and remove the need for privacy fencing. The lack of fences is intrinsic to the open, non-suburban coastal character and the application of the DDO19 through the amendment will introduce fencing controls to the site.

The proposed subdivision layout and building envelopes have been inserted into a modified version of the DDO19 [Refer Appendix 7] to ensure the attributes of the proposal are adopted.

Financial Implications

The privately driven amendment requires the proponent to cover all statutory costs relating to the processing of the amendment and planning permit application, including any independent Panel Hearing costs. The proponent will be required to enter into an agreement with Council confirming the above if the amendment proceeds.

Council Plan

Theme 5 Development and Growth

Objective 5.4 Transparent and responsive land use and strategic planning

Policy/Legal Implications

The proposed amendment complies with Ministerial Direction Number 11 and meets the objectives of the State and Local Planning Policy Framework. These matters have been documented in the Explanatory Report.

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has any conflicts of interest.

Risk Assessment

There are no perceived risks associated with the preparation and exhibition of the amendment.

Social Considerations

The amendment will have a mixed social impact. A number of the immediate neighbours are concerned with the deviation from the preferred 800sqm lot size, although others support more affordable lots. There is strong support for the rehabilitation of the disused water basin and the rezoning of the site from a public use zone to residential.

It is considered that the proposal will result in a net community benefit. This will be achieved through the closure and rehabilitation of the basin, the planting of street trees, creation of a pedestrian focused local park and enhanced streetscape.

Community Engagement

Barwon Water have undertaken two community information sessions prior to public exhibition being undertaken, as follows;

1. An information stall at the Anglesea Riverbank Market, Sunday, January 10th 2016.
2. Community information session (formal letter invite to surrounding landowners), Saturday, February 6th 2016.

At both of these sessions Barwon Water provided written information about the proposal, FAQ's and a concept design plan. 200 people visited the stall at the market and 60 - 70 people attended the community info session. Feelings were mixed in relation to the proposed subdivision layout with a number not supporting the smaller lot sizes. Two immediate neighbours had no concern over lots less than 800sqm and some welcomed the idea of more affordable blocks in this part of town.

3.1 Amendment C108 - Combined Rezoning and Subdivision Application for 69B Harvey Street, Anglesea (Barwon Water Basin)

The strongest objection to the proposal was the reduction in lot size. In response to community feedback, Barwon Water has revisited their initial proposal of a re subdivision resulting in 11 lots. The modified version creates 10 lots with all lots being 600sqm or greater.

The rezoning of the property from a utility to residential was strongly supported, including the rehabilitation of the site, which is currently seen as an eye sore and a safety hazard.

The creation of a small park and the closure of Sparrow Avenue also received a mixed response. Those in support of the closure welcomed the removal of speeding vehicles, dust issues from the unsealed road and welcomed a "pedestrian only" park. Those against (located in Harvey Street) saw Sparrow Avenue as an important and direct connector to Parker Street in an emergency.

Environmental Implications

A vegetation assessment was prepared by Mark Trengove Ecological Services for the site, which found that the basin itself is devoid of vegetation but small patches of remnant vegetation (predominantly ground covers) are still present along the periphery of the site and within the street reservation. There is an Otway Grey gum, listed as vulnerable on the state advisory listing, within the street reservation in Harvey Street. As all significant vegetation within the site is located along the parameter the inclusion of building envelopes will enable the majority of indigenous vegetation remaining on site to be retained

Communication

Public notice of the Section 96A Planning Scheme Amendment and Planning Permit request will be given in accordance with the legislative requirements of the Planning and Environment Act 1987. Notice will be given in the following form:

- Letters will be sent to all owners/occupiers within close proximity of the site
- Notice will be sent to local community associations
- Public notice will be published in the local newspaper (Surf Coast times) and the Government Gazette
- The amendment will be available for viewing on Council's website and the website of the Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning

Conclusion

The proposal will result in the rehabilitation of a disused water basin and its redevelopment as residential land with a small park (subject to a successful road closure process). This outcome is consistent with Council policy. Due to site constraints, all lots having a double frontage, lot sizes smaller than the surrounding area are proposed. Building envelopes and strict setback controls are to be applied to the site to ensure neighbourhood character objectives can still be met. The removal of the basin and the planting of street trees, installation of a path and small park will greatly improve the aesthetics of the site and provide an overall community benefit.

If Council does not support an amendment for the proposed rezoning and subdivision into 10 lots, it could establish an alternative position so as to assist Barwon Water in its disposal of the redundant infrastructure. The General Residential Zone is the underlying zone for this area. The site is already subdivided into 7 lots. Council could resolve to support the rezoning of the site utilising a section 173 agreement to manage the orientation of dwellings on the lots. However, it is understood that Barwon Water has a strong preference for a more intensive development of the site which offers a better planning outcome for the area.

3.2 Amendment C110 - Aireys Inlet to Eastern View Structure Plan Implementation

Author's Title: Senior Strategic Planner
Department: Planning & Development
Division: Environment & Development

General Manager: Kate Sullivan
File No: F16/390
Trim No: IC16/173

Appendix:

1. C110 Explanatory Report (D16/21472)
2. Amended Clause 21.12 (D16/21461)
3. Amended Design and Development Overlay Schedule 10 (D16/21465)
4. Amended Design and Development Overlay Schedule 11 (D16/21467)
5. Amended Neighbourhood Character Overlay Schedule 1 (D16/21468)
6. Zoning Maps (D16/12982)

Officer Direct or Indirect Conflict of Interest:

In accordance with Local Government Act 1989 –
Section 80C:

Yes

No

Reason: Nil

Status:

Information classified confidential under Section 77
of the Local Government Act:

Yes

No

Reason: Nil

Purpose

To request the Minister for Planning to authorise the preparation and exhibition of Planning Scheme Amendment C110.

Summary

Planning Scheme Amendment C110 seeks to implement the Aireys Inlet to Eastern View Structure Plan, which was adopted by Council on 24 November 2015. The amendment implements the strategic land use directions of the Structure Plan by updating the Municipal Strategic Statement and making zone and overlay changes.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Seek Ministerial authorisation to prepare Planning Scheme Amendment C110 to implement the Aireys Inlet to Eastern View Structure Plan (2015).
2. Put Amendment C110 on public exhibition for one month following authorisation.

3.2 Amendment C110 - Aireys Inlet to Eastern View Structure Plan Implementation

Report

Background

The *Aireys Inlet to Eastern View Structure Plan* was adopted by Council on 24 November 2015. Amendment C110 has been prepared to implement the strategic land use directions of the Structure Plan in order to facilitate orderly planning and guide future development in the Aireys Inlet to Eastern View district. The Structure Plan was developed to ensure the ongoing protection and enhancement of the area's environmental assets, natural beauty and informal coastal village character.

Discussion

Amendment C110 seeks to amend the Surf Coast Planning Scheme as follows:

- Update Clause 21.12 Aireys Inlet to Eastern View Strategy to reflect the strategic directions of the *Aireys Inlet to Eastern View Structure Plan (2015)* and to include the Structure Plan as a reference document.
- Drafting changes to Schedule 1 to the Neighbourhood Character Overlay (NCO1) and Schedules 10 and 11 to the Design and Development Overlay (DDO10 and DDO11) to ensure the continuous protection and enhancement of the valued character of the townships.
- Rezoning of various Crown land parcels and municipal reserves to Public Conservation and Resource Zone or Public Park and Recreation Zone to ensure the zoning reflects the public purpose of the land.

The changes to the strategy and overlay schedules are predominantly in the form of slight wording alterations, fine-tuning of existing content, and introduction of additional decision guidelines to assist in deciding on planning permit applications. The changes do not introduce any new or altered permit triggers.

An overview of the proposed amendment is outlined in the Explanatory Report at Appendix 1. The amended strategy, overlay schedules and zoning maps are appended as Appendix 2 – 6.

Financial Implications

Funds for the preparation and processing of the amendment have been allocated in the 2015/16 budget. The amendment will not increase the resource and administrative costs of Council.

Council Plan

Theme 5 Development and Growth
Objective 5.4 Transparent and responsive land use and strategic planning
Strategy 5.4.2 Utilise structure plans and planning processes to encourage a diversity of housing stock across the Shire.

Policy/Legal Implications

The amendment must be prepared, exhibited and considered in accordance with the requirements of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has any conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment

There are no perceived risks associated with seeking authorisation to prepare the amendment.

Social Considerations

The amendment is expected to have positive social effects and will result in net community benefit by reinforcing strategic direction regarding the protection and enhancement of the coastal village character and vegetated bush environment of the Aireys Inlet to Eastern View District, facilitation of opportunities for economic and tourism development, and the provision of community and physical infrastructure that meets current and future needs.

Community Engagement

The Aireys Inlet to Eastern View Structure Plan was adopted following an extensive community engagement process. The amendment will be placed on public exhibition for a period of one month in accordance with the legislative requirements of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

3.2 Amendment C110 - Aireys Inlet to Eastern View Structure Plan Implementation

Environmental Implications

The amendment underpins policy direction to protect and enhance the significant environmental assets and scenic landscape values in Aireys Inlet to Eastern View.

Communication

Public notice of the amendment will be given in the following manner:

- Notices will be sent to all owners/occupiers in Aireys Inlet to Eastern View district (3231 postcode)
- Notices will be sent to Aireys Inlet and District Association (AIDA), Tourism and Traders Association and other relevant interest/community groups
- Notices will be placed in the Surf Coast Times and Government Gazette
- The amendment will be available for viewing at the Council office, on Council's website and on the website of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Conclusion

Amendment C110 has been prepared to implement the adopted Aireys Inlet to Eastern View Structure Plan. Ministerial authorisation is required before Council can formally prepare and publicly exhibit the amendment. It is therefore requested that Council seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning and upon authorisation place the amendment on public exhibition for a period of one month.

3.3 Anglesea Futures and Alcoa Update

Author's Title: General Manager Environment & Development

General Manager: Kate Sullivan

Department: Environment & Development

File No: F15/859

Division: Environment & Development

Trim No: IC16/285

Appendix:

Nil

Officer Direct or Indirect Conflict of Interest:

Status:

In accordance with Local Government Act 1989 – Section 80C:

Information classified confidential under Section 77 of the Local Government Act:

Yes

No

Yes

No

Reason: Nil

Reason: Nil

Purpose

To provide an update on the Anglesea Futures community consultation program and activities being undertaken as a result of the closure of the Alcoa coal mine and power station.

Summary

This report provides an update on the work program and activities underway for the remediation and clean-up of the Alcoa site in Anglesea.

A community forum, called Anglesea Futures - Community Conversations Series (CCS), is being coordinated by DELWP and Surf Coast Shire Council, to engage with interested local residents, businesses, workers, visitors, and property owners. The series is focused on discussing the opportunities, issues and complexities that exist in determining the future of the area and consider the future of the whole Anglesea area including the Alcoa site.

Alcoa continue to inform interested residents about their activities regarding the rehabilitation of the site through their Community Consultation Network (CCN).

Alcoa, State and Local government have been working together to ensure the communication at these engagement sessions are consistent and aligned.

Recommendation

That Council note the status report on the Anglesea Futures community consultation program and activities being undertaken as a result of the closure of the Alcoa coal mine and power station.

3.3 Anglesea Futures and Alcoa Update

Report

Background

Since 1961, a large area of Crown land in Anglesea, has been leased to Alcoa to operate a coal mine and power station. In August 2015, the mine and power station ceased operation. This is the first time in more than 50 years that a coal mine has closed in Victoria, and a major, long-term remediation and revegetation program will be required of the mine site and power station.

The transition and rehabilitation of the Anglesea site is Alcoa's responsibility and Government, through a range of agencies and departments including DELWP, DEDJTR, EPA, and Council; are working closely with Alcoa to ensure regulatory standards are met.

Discussion

The Crown land at the former mine site, and that which surrounds the mine, has many values that are important to Anglesea residents and businesses, and the wider community.

The Victorian Government has committed to incorporating the Anglesea Heath into the adjacent Great Otway National Park. The Anglesea Heath is recognised as having significant environmental value. This land will not require any significant rehabilitation, but legislation will be required to incorporate it into the park.

A community forum, called Anglesea Futures - Community Conversations Series (CCS), is being coordinated by DELWP and Surf Coast Shire Council, to engage with interested local residents, businesses, workers, visitors, and property owners. The series is focused on discussing the opportunities, issues and complexities that exist in determining the future of the area and consider the future of the whole Anglesea area including the Alcoa site.

Alcoa continue to inform interested residents about their activities regarding the rehabilitation of the site through their Community Consultation Network (CCN).

Alcoa, State and Local government have been working together to ensure the communication at these engagement sessions are consistent and aligned.

Community Conversation Series

DELWP and Surf Coast Shire Council have held four conversation forums to date as part of the Anglesea Futures Community Conversations series, with the aim to facilitate community discussion and input on issues of importance, including future land use, water, planning and the long term vision for the site occupied by Alcoa for 50 years.

The forums are intended to:

- canvass the community's views, visions and hopes for the former Alcoa lease area
- enable Government to hear the questions, concerns and aspirations of the community
- provide the community with key updates on the Anglesea Futures project.

The events have been independently facilitated, with representatives of Government in attendance to listen and where appropriate, answer questions.

During the first two conversations the main themes included:

- Participants value highly the natural environment in and around Anglesea.
- The majority of participants don't want Anglesea to become over developed valuing it as a place "where the bush meets the sea".
- The Anglesea River has historical values and is used for a variety of recreational purposes including swimming, fishing and boating.
- Participants are particularly concerned about the health and future management of the Anglesea River.
- The community wants to be informed and have a voice in the final decision on the future use of the area.
- The final outcome needs to ensure that the Anglesea heath and surrounding bushland is also protected.

3.3 Anglesea Futures and Alcoa Update

The last two forums (November and January) have focussed on providing the community with information on the Anglesea River. The following is a summary of the items covered.

Anglesea River Update

Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CMA), together with DELWP, has completed an assessment of the effects of changes in river flows on the Anglesea River estuary following the Alcoa mine and power station closure. The assessment report by GHD outlined the changes in estuary water level that will occur and consequences for the estuary's amenity and its environmental, social and economic values.

Work to date shows that while water levels will slowly draw down, it is expected winter rains will raise the level of the river over the coming winter and spring period. This provides the necessary time for community and DELWP to work through options that can be put in place for the decades to come.

In summary:

- The Anglesea River estuary is highly valued by communities and supports a range of environmental, social and economic values
- Like other estuaries in Victoria, it has experienced many natural and human induced changes over the past decades
- Estuaries are resilient and ever changing systems that can adapt and evolve
- Historically, water would not have flowed all year round in the Anglesea River
- Operation of the Alcoa coalmine and power station since 1963 has put additional water into the Anglesea River estuary and made water flows more permanent year round
- Alcoa agreed to continue discharging treated process water from the power plant and mine pit until 31 March 2016, to enable planning and assessments to be done for the Anglesea River estuary

Options to reduce potential impacts were identified and five were shortlisted for further consideration to help determine the best option, or combination of options, to reduce the oxidation of acid sulphate soils.

Options that control the risk from the acid sulphate soils in the lower catchment were given priority as this is the most significant threat to the environmental and social values of the river and has been a long standing issue the Anglesea residents. As a result further detail is now being gathered by DELWP on:

- the acid generation potential of the soils at Coogoorah Park
- the feasibility of the short listed management options.

Potential impacts – physical

The modelling indicates the stopping the mine and power station discharge is likely to cause the following physical changes to the Anglesea River estuary:

- Reduce water level by approx. 1 m in peak summer periods
- Expose Coogoorah Park and the mudflats and channel in the lower estuary during summer periods
- Exposure of coastal acid sulphate soils may lead to acid generation and impacts to environmental, social and economic values (rate unknown)
- Increased stratification (i.e. separate water layers) of the estuary
- Increased concentration of aluminium entering the estuary
- A continuous discharge of 0.75 – 1.0 ML/day could maintain water levels with only a relatively small decrease (as opposed to current discharge of 4.5 ML/day)

Potential impacts – environmental

- Vegetation will respond and adapt to changed condition in response to lower water levels and increases in salinity
- Reduced water levels may impact frog breeding events and habitat availability
- Changes to vegetation may reduce cover, habitat and feeding areas for several types of birds
- Major changes to aquatic plants and animals if discharge stopped include:
 - Reduction in the extent of seagrass in the lower estuary
 - Increased risk of algal blooms
 - Potential benefits to marine and estuarine fish from increased salinity
 - Potential impacts from increased acidic flows and metals

3.3 Anglesea Futures and Alcoa Update

Potential impacts – social and economic

- Potential impacts would be greatest during the summer period when river flow is low. During winter, higher flows would naturally maintain water levels in the estuary. Lower water levels will be most noticeable in the lower estuary and Coogoorah Park
- Physical changes impacting social and economic values include reduction in water level inhibiting access to the river, exposure of mudflats in the estuary and activation of acid sulphate soils
- Reduced water levels over summer are likely to impact on water activities, swimming, fishing, amenity, bird watching, beside water activities, boat hire business, markets, estuary education activities and infrastructure (such as the Great Ocean Road Bridge)

Possible Options investigated

A range of options were developed and after an options assessment these were weighted towards options that could reduce potential oxidation of acid sulphate soils in the Anglesea River estuary and demonstrate an ability to meet a minimum water input of 0.75 ML/day threshold. Five options have been recommended to be further investigated:

- Discharge from the mine and power station site at a reduced rate from that currently being discharged
- Discharge treated mine pit water only
- Introduce alternative freshwater inflows to the river
- Pump seawater in the estuary
- Buffer mine pit water with other water sources

The shortlisted options require further assessment to determine a preferred option, or combination of options, to maintain adequate water levels to reduce the risk of oxidation of acid sulphate soils. DELWP has commissioned further work to:

1. Determine the reaction rate and acid generation potential of the soils at Coogoorah Park. The current intent is to complete this investigation by early April 2016. Its findings will help inform future management strategies (and their urgency) for the Anglesea River; and
2. Assess in detail the feasibility of the management options recommended for further assessment. This will include an expert panel workshop and a community workshop as part of the study. Those options deemed viable will then be taken to the concept stage and fully costed.

The community is actively engaged in this topic and further Community Conversation Series will be held with the community, along with regular meetings with the existing Anglesea River Working Group, to consider future management options in more detail.

Financial Implications

Council has committed \$25,000 in the 2014/15 budget for engagement with the community on the closure of the Alcoa site. This money has been used to co-fund the Community Conversation Series with DELWP.

Council Plan

Theme 3 Communities
Objective 2.5 Enhanced community engagement
Strategy 2.5.2 Provide opportunities for all members of the community to engage with Council on issues that matter to them.

Policy/Legal Implications

There are currently no policy/ legal implications relating to this report.

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest

No Officer involved in this work has a direct or indirect conflict of interest

Risk Assessment

The risk implications of the remediation and clean-up of the Alcoa site are managed by legislative requirements which are monitored by DEDJTR and EPA.

3.3 Anglesea Futures and Alcoa Update

Social Considerations

The Community is actively engaged and interested in the future of the Anglesea post the closure of the Alcoa site. This includes the impacts on the Anglesea River after Alcoa cease to discharge any water into the river. Further investigations are underway to identify options to enable the River to be maintained at a reasonable level.

Community Engagement

Community engagement is being undertaken through two avenues including the Community Conversation Series which looks more broadly at the future of Anglesea including the River, the heathland and future land uses. The Community Consultation Network run by Alcoa also provides an opportunity for the community to be updated on the activities being undertaken by Alcoa in regard to the rehabilitation and closure of the Mine and Power Station site.

Environmental Implications

There are a number of environmental implications relating to the closure and rehabilitation of the Alcoa Mine and Power Station site. These are managed through the regulatory and legislative requirements overseen by the Department of Jobs, Transport and Resources for the Mine and the Clean up Notice issued by the Environment Protection Authority for the decommissioning of the Power Station.

Communication

A website titled Anglesea Futures has been established to provide ongoing communication of engagement activities and outputs for the Community Conversation Series. Alcoa also has a web site that provides information on Alcoa activities and engagement. These web sites are updated regularly.

Conclusion

This report provides a summary of current work and engagement activities being undertaken on the Anglesea Futures project and closure and rehabilitation of the Alcoa site in Anglesea. The program of work will continue to occur over the next few years and there is an active engagement plan through the CCS community forums and the Alcoa run CCN sessions. All parties are actively working together to ensure this consultation and engagement is aligned.

3.4 Summer Peak Period Debrief 2015 - 16

Author's Title: Manager Economic Development & Tourism

General Manager: Kate Sullivan

Department: Planning & Environment

File No: F15/187

Division: Environment & Development

Trim No: IC16/208

Appendix:

1. Major Event Calendar and Attendance Surf Coast Shire Summer 2015-2016 (D16/15292)

Officer Direct or Indirect Conflict of Interest:

Status:

In accordance with Local Government Act 1989 – Section 80C:

Information classified confidential under Section 77 of the Local Government Act:

Yes

No

Yes

No

Reason: Nil

Reason: Nil

Purpose

To provide Council with a snapshot of the various Council activities across departments over the 2015-16 summer peak period in the Surf Coast Shire.

Summary

The summer period is a very busy time for Surf Coast Shire with thousands of visitors coming to Surf Coast townships for the Christmas period. The Wye River Jamieson Track Fire made a significant impact on the trade in many of the Surf Coast towns, delivery of some events and Council services.

This report is a snapshot providing facts and statistics for information purposes and builds a picture of the summer period along the Surf Coast, making comparisons with previous years' data.

Recommendation

That Council note the Summer peak debrief 2015-16 for the various activities over the summer period from 1 December 2015 – 31 January 2016.

3.4 Summer Peak Period Debrief 2015 - 16

Report

Background

At years end June 2015, nearly 1.8 million visitors came to Surf Coast Shire, an 11% decrease in figures from the prior year. Of those visitors, 49% stayed overnight.

Summer periods dominate visitation patterns with the March Quarter accounting for just 43% of annual visitation to year end June 2015. The December (23%), June (19%) and September Quarters (15%) held distinctly lower visitation periods reflecting the strong influence of the beach and better weather.

During peak visitation periods, the population of Surf Coast Shire is estimated to increase from its usual population of 28,282 to over 85,000. This does not include day trippers to the area or those people attending festivals or other activities which can significantly increase these numbers.

The Falls Festival alone attracts up to 16,500 people between Christmas and New Year. This year, due to the fire activity around Wye River, the festival was relocated from Lorne to Mt Duneed providing additional benefit to Torquay but impacted on trade for Anglesea, Aireys Inlet and Lorne.

The influx of people returning to their beach houses, visitors, events and business activities requires increased resources and focus.

This report provides a snapshot of statistics and information over the summer period within Surf Coast Shire from 1 December 2015 to 31 January 2016.

Discussion

Events

Between the 1 December – 31 January period a total of 43 events took place in Surf Coast Shire that attracted an attendance of approximately 99,600. The number of events per township for these events is indicated below. The type of events typically involves markets, lifesaving, swimming, running, exhibitions and music. There were an additional 8 events held in the Surf Coast this summer compared to previous.

Number of Events per Town

Township	No. Events in 2014/15	No. Events 2015/16
Torquay	19	18
Anglesea	7	12
Aireys Inlet	0	5
Fairhaven	1	2
Lorne	6	4
Deans Marsh	0	1
Winchelsea	2	1
Total	35	43

As outlined in the table overleaf, several major events took place with an approximate total of 86,386 people attending. This is around 7,000 people down on last year's results and can be explained by the cancellation of the Haviana Australia Day Thong Challenge (5,000 attended) and the relocation of the Falls Festival (16,500) to Mt Duneed Estate. The emergence of the Dressmaker exhibition in Winchelsea provided a major boost to numbers.

Old events replaced quickly by new events

Out

Lorne Adventure Festival, Torquay Festival (Formerly High Tide), Haviana Thong Challenge

In

Community Christmas Soiree: Moonlight and Mistletoe in Anglesea, Adventurethon Anglesea, Waves to Woods, Anglesea Music Festival

A full list of events held between 1 December and 31 January and their event population figures is contained in Appendix 1.

3.4 Summer Peak Period Debrief 2015 - 16

'Major' Event Summary and Attendance

Event	Township	People Attending
Cadel Evans Road Race	Torquay and surrounds	7,000
Mountain to Surf Run	Lorne	2,000
Pier to Pub	Lorne	4,286 swim plus 5,000 spectators
Night Jar Festivals (* 4 events)	Torquay	38,000
Anglesea River Markets (*3 markets)	Anglesea	7,500
Bells Bash Cliff Run	Torquay	600
Danger 1000	Torquay	1,000
Cowrie markets	Torquay	11,000
Dressmaker Exhibition	Winchelsea	10,000+
Total		86,386
Falls Festival	Mt Duneed Estate*	16,500

*relocated from Lorne due to the fire threat and evacuation.

The Falls Festival was moved due to the fire threat and recent evacuation on Christmas Day. This was a decision that was made quickly but meant that a major Surf Coast event could still be delivered to a high standard. While technically held just outside the Surf Coast Shire boundaries, anecdotal feedback from local businesses in Torquay indicate additional sales to Falls Festival patrons staying at Mt Duneed Estate. In contrast, several accommodation, retail, food and drink businesses in Lorne were severely impacted by the relocation.

World class cycling returned to the Surf Coast on the last weekend of January with the second edition of the Cadel Evans Great Ocean Road Race. Now retired Tour de France champion Cadel Evans joined over 3,500 people on the Momentum Energy people's ride while elite women and men raced a testing course which included an intermediate sprint at Torquay and the rolling hills through Bells Beach and the hinterland.

Local businesses got into the spirit of things with yellow themed displays and promotions. Surf Coast Shire Council worked closely with businesses to create themed displays and a "bell" concept to attract spectators. The vast majority of businesses reported increased takings as well as a desire to be more involved in 2017.

Local and state tourism bodies worked with event broadcasters to ensure local attractions were featured in the syndicated worldwide television broadcast to 140 countries.

Cycling is a major international sport, the Cadel Road Race has already established itself as a signature event and is acknowledged as an exciting and important event on Victoria's major events calendar. This event will continue to grow each year.

New Year's Eve

The pattern of weather and an existing fire close to Wye River resulted in the CFA taking the decision to cancel fireworks in the towns of Torquay and Lorne. A decision supported by Surf Coast Shire.

The cancellation of the fireworks on New Year Eve resulted in fewer people attending the beaches and foreshore areas in the evening. Discussions with traders reveals trade was markedly reduced as a result of people either not coming down for the Christmas – New Year's Eve period or deciding to not go down to the shops due to no activity taking place.

In terms of the objective of harm minimisation, NYE produced very good results with just a single medical treatment provided in Lorne and no treatments in Torquay. Victoria Police reported a very quiet night on the Surf Coast and were very happy with the approach taken.

3.4 Summer Peak Period Debrief 2015 - 16

Beaches and Surf Lifesaving

Surf Lifesaving Victoria Report a total of 60 rescues conducted by either paid lifeguards or volunteers during the peak summer period. There were 11,043 preventative actions taken on the beach and a total of 261 first aid presentations for treatment.

The combined attendance figures from Lifeguards and volunteers show a total attendance of 304,455 people to Surf Coast patrolled beaches with Torquay receiving the highest combined visitation (115,087) followed by Lorne (57,762), Anglesea (42,364), Jan Juc (27,478), Surf Coast (21,996), Fairhaven (20,761) and Point Roadknight (19,007).

Surf Lifesaving Actions and Beach attendance figures

	Preventative Actions	First Aid		Rescues	Attendance
		Minor	Major		
Anglesea Lifeguards	969	18	1	1	30594
Anglesea Volunteers	589	25	0	6	11770
Fairhaven Lifeguards	851	10	1	0	10471
Fairhaven Volunteers	1112	19	0	2	10290
Jan Juc Lifeguards	616	11	0	4	12888
Jan Juc Volunteers	319	7	2	12	14590
Lorne Lifeguards	1418	58	1	5	38778
Lorne Volunteers	693	17	1	5	18984
Point Roadknight Lifeguards	878	8	1	4	19007
Surf Coast Lifeguards	549	0	0	9	21996
Torquay Front Beach Lifeguards	776	12	1	2	40091
Torquay Lifeguards	1589	34	5	5	48042
Torquay Volunteers	684	29	0	5	26954
Total	11,043	248	13	60	304,455

Visitor Centre Statistics

The Torquay and Lorne Visitor Information Centres (VIC) recorded a decrease in visitation for the December and January period with Lorne 15% down and Torquay 26%. This is largely due to the impact of the Wye River/Jamieson Track fires and the relocation of the Falls Festival for Lorne VIC.

Although visitation numbers were down overall the VIC's were extremely busy with enquires relating to the bush fire. The VICs received more phone enquiries than usual during the bush fire period. Between Christmas and early 2016 Lorne VIC alone experienced days where over 5 hours of time was spent taking over 200 phone enquiries. A majority of phone enquiries from concerned residents and visitors, potential visitors to the area, visitors concerned with pre booked accommodation, also an influx of callers with offerings of donations of goods and services. The role of VIC staff and volunteers during this time is to be commended.

The Visitor Centres were a crucial link between emergency services and Parks Victoria to provide accurate information to visitors and residents. From the 26th December to 30th December, CFA members were based at the Torquay, Anglesea and Lorne Visitor Centres assisting the VIC staff with enquiries. The tables below summarise visitation to each of the Visitor Information Centres.

Lorne Visitor Information Centre

Lorne Visitor Centre numbers were impacted greatly by the Wye River / Jamieson Track fires and the relocation of the Falls Festival to Mount Duneed Estate. Lorne VIC closed 19th and 20th December due to extreme fire danger ratings and on the 26th December due to the evacuation of the Lorne Township, this also greatly impacted the visitation numbers.

3.4 Summer Peak Period Debrief 2015 - 16

Lorne VIC received a 14% increase in phone enquiries from 27th December to 13th January (1913 phone enquiries) with the majority of these calls relating to the fire situation. In terms of accommodation, Lorne VIC received many calls from operators reporting high levels of cancellations.

Over the Christmas and New Year period there was an extensive list of accommodation vacancies on the VIC daily accommodation list resulting in no visitors needed to be referred inland for accommodation. Accommodation enquiries are taking place however it is noticeable that vacancies have been able to be found along the coastal towns between Torquay - Lorne. This has not happened at the Lorne VIC in any previous years of recording accommodation availability during this usually busy period.

Lorne VIC Enquiry Numbers

Lorne VIC	Dec-14	Jan-15	Totals:	Dec-15	Jan-16	Totals:
Walk ins	17522	20984	38,506	14042	18098	32,140
Phone	1964	1839	3,803	2076	1780	3,856
A/H	631	635	1,266	342	526	868
Totals	20117	23458	43,575	16460	20404	36,864

Great Ocean Road Heritage Centre

On average the Great Ocean Road Heritage Centre at the Lorne Visitor Centre has been attracting 30% to 50% of visitors through the VIC. This has been consistent for the last 6 months. A new lounge area with reading material relating to the history of the Great Ocean Road has proved very popular with visitors enjoying the area overlooking the river and reading further history on The Great Ocean Road.

Torquay Visitor Information Centre

The Torquay Visitor Centre walk-in visitor numbers are difficult to compare this year due to the relocation of the door counter (part of the recent refurbishment). Prior to the VIC refurbishment, the counter was located on a shared entrance with the Sport and Recreation Centre. The VIC now has a separate entrance and therefore the counter has been repositioned giving an accurate indication of visitor numbers.

Accommodation levels were reported down for December/January as a possible result of the bush fires and Great Ocean Road closures. During December new 'i' signage was installed externally, along with the Australian National Surfing Museum signage. This signage along with the newly created separate entrance has resulted in visitors finding the VIC with more ease.

Torquay VIC	Dec-14	Jan-15	Totals:	Dec-15	Jan-16	Totals:
Walk ins	14,041	16,962	28,544	9,216	10,830	20,046
Phone	464	921	1,385	514	1,027	1,541
A/H	92	104	196	133	252	385
Totals	14,597	17,324	29,642	9,863	12,109	21,972

Winchelsea & Anglesea Visitor Centres

The smaller, volunteer-run Visitor Centres of Winchelsea and Anglesea recorded the following visitation.

The Winchelsea Visitor Centre has seen a large growth in visitation over the summer period. This is likely due to the completion of the road works and giving visitors easier access to the VIC. This may also be due to the Dressmaker exhibition currently on at Barwon Park Mansion. This exhibition is receiving extremely high visitation with many people then coming into Winchelsea.

The Anglesea Visitor Centre has received 6.8% increase in visitation this is likely due to the increased enquiries due to the bush fires.

3.4 Summer Peak Period Debrief 2015 - 16

Period	Winchelsea	Anglesea
Dec 14 – Jan 15	74	4,341
Dec 15 – Jan 16	226	4,658

Australian National Surfing Museum

Visitation to the Australian National Surfing Museum (ANSM) has remained similar to previous summer peak period. The roll out of ANSM branded signage was completed in the lead up to Christmas. All signage internal and external has been updated from Surf World Museum to Australian National Surfing Museum.

The signage, featuring a spectacular image of a surfer from below the water, is receiving positive response from visitors. Child friendly museum activities installed pre-Christmas have received positive feedback from customers as has the newly installed focused lighting. The annual International Surf Film Festival numbers were down on last year, but an increase in museum visitors saw totals remain similar.

Museum	Dec-14	Jan-15	Totals:	Dec-15	Jan-16	Totals:
Visits	1,097	1,876	2,973	1,139	1,812	2951

Business Activity & the impact of the Wye River Jamieson Track Fire

As part of gathering business intelligence on the impacts of the Wye River Jamison Creek Fire a selected number of businesses in Torquay, Anglesea, Aireys Inlet and Lorne were contacted. The information provides a brief township based narrative and is intended to be used in conjunction with a broader business survey being conducted by Great Ocean Road Tourism.

Torquay

The Fire does not appear to have had a significant impact on retail trade in Torquay with envisaged trade estimates being met by those businesses contacted. The broader survey by GORRT may indicate a different result. New businesses to Torquay also reported sales targets had been achieved. Businesses spoken to (in homeware retail, food retail, hospitality and accommodation sectors) reported strong levels of sales and visitation. The relocation of Falls Festival to nearby Mt Duneed and the regular bus service to and from the event site had a noticeable positive impact on Surf City retailers as well as hospitality businesses along The Esplanade.

Some businesses reported a different type of clientele (less focussed on family with young children) coming in to their businesses than previously experienced.

The cancellation of the Torquay fireworks did not appear to cost traders any profit, however accommodation providers have not been captured in this research.

A power outage in parts of Torquay on New Year's Eve caused substantial losses for locally impacted retail outlets. The large retailers at Surf City were significantly impacted by this outage.

Other types of businesses in servicing (automotive) and bulky goods do not appear to have been impacted reporting consistent trade.

Anglesea

Discussions held with Anglesea businesses indicate negative fire impacts largely being felt between Christmas and New Year. Businesses in Anglesea were impacted at different levels and experienced both a decrease and increase in sales. Traders (key food and hospitality retail (not cafes) were impacted hardest at the start of the fire when the Great Ocean Road near Bellbrae was closed. The 26th and 27th of December were the slowest trade days reported by businesses with trade impacts ranging from 25% to 70% reductions. A gradual increase in sales was reported occurring after this initial period and returning to normal in early January.

3.4 Summer Peak Period Debrief 2015 - 16

Businesses in Anglesea experienced different ramifications due to the bushfires. One café experienced a slight increase in sales and was barely impacted while another major business saw a 20-30% decrease in profit. The relocation of the Falls Festival and the reduction in Falls traffic again impacted hospitality traders at different levels with some traders experiencing significant losses and others observing no change in business, the main difference being experienced by those who sold alcohol and grocery products.

The change in clientele saw the usual summer holiday makers replaced with continued consumption by local residents who were not put off by holiday traffic. Some Anglesea traders suggested that they were not impacted by the media labelling the fires as being in the Lorne and Surf Coast areas.

While accommodation providers spoken to reported they had full bookings (having received payment in October) people either arrived 2 days later or left early around the Christmas period. This created a flow on loss of discretionary expenditure in food, recreation and other types of businesses.

Aireys Inlet

Aireys Inlet businesses contacted experienced a quieter summer than previous years feeling the biggest impact on the 26th and 27th of December when the Great Ocean Road was closed at Bellbrae and significant media coverage was being generated. Aireys Inlet traders felt the cost of the relocation of the Falls Festival and the media portrayal of the fires as being in the Lorne and the Surf Coast areas were primary reasons for the reduction. While business has not returned to normal summer trading patterns, by mid-January it did pick up substantially compared to the peak fire danger period. The client base, which in the past had been predominantly temporary 'holiday makers' was altered to a mixture of day trippers and local residents as the holiday makers were diverted elsewhere during the peak fire period.

Lorne

Lorne traders experienced a significant decline in trade, from the commencement of the fires through to the current time period. The township evacuation on the 26th of December and the extreme fire threat to Lorne impacted negatively on the majority of Lorne traders who saw a 10-30% decrease in trading across a variety of sectors including retail, accommodation, and supply chain services (health related, post office etc.). Accommodation providers reported significantly reducing their prices to entice customers to Lorne, forgoing the usual minimum 3 night stay and allowing single night stays. In addition, some major accommodation providers indicated that while full, they had been required to reduce their room prices to winter levels or lower.

The relocation of the Falls Festival had a major impact on a number of businesses as their potential clientele were diverted elsewhere. Some traders reported reductions of 30% - 60% on this alone while accommodation indicated five figure losses due to support staff from the Falls festival not staying there. The Pier to Pub and Mountain to Surf events held the weekend of January 8th & 9th provided a welcome boost to traders; however business is still slightly down in mid-January.

All Lorne businesses spoken to were impacted by the media portrayal of the fires as being the 'Lorne' and 'Surf Coast' fires as potential holiday makers and customers vacationed elsewhere. This is also reflected by the number of cancellation requests experienced by the Lorne VIC.

During the peak time of 5th December to 4th January a daily economic loss of up to \$2million across the township could have been experienced.

VicRoads provided data from traffic counts conducted between 23rd December 2014 – 6th January 2016 inclusive around various locations in Lorne. Based on this, the total number of vehicles per day in Lorne was 12,036 with 6% of those being commercial vehicles (delivery trucks or tour operators). Fridays from lunchtime to the mid-afternoon was the busiest peak day for Lorne. The peak day for traffic in Lorne was on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th January 2016 with 13,941 and 14,505 vehicles entering & exiting Lorne respectively.

The table below summarises the traffic count data for various locations. The patterns were markedly altered from the usual peaks caused by Falls Festival and the Christmas period.

Location	Vehicles per Day	Commercial Vehicles per day	Peak Day
Benwerrin-Mt Sabine Road (west of	104	23	Sunday

3.4 Summer Peak Period Debrief 2015 - 16

Deans Marsh-Lorne Road)			7am – 8am
Erskine Falls Road (east of Access Road, Lorne)	532	21	Tuesday 1.30pm – 2.30pm
Great Ocean Road (150m from Deans Marsh-Lorne Road)*	6,227	321	Friday 11:45am – 2:45pm
7 Deans Marsh-Lorne Road, Lorne*	4,544	264	Friday 4:15pm – 5:15pm

* continued to collect data till 20 January

Winchelsea

The Princes Highway and road works were completed between Waurm Ponds and Winchelsea just prior to Christmas. Anecdotal reports from local Winchelsea businesses report a significantly better summer peak trading period with increased takings of 50% and ‘the best summer in years.’ It should also be noted that the success of the ‘Dressmaker’ exhibition at Barwon Park has also significantly contributed to the visitation in Winchelsea attracting up to 1,000 people per day.

Weather Patterns

Large areas of southern Australia, especially along the east and west coasts extending inland have faced above normal fire potential this fire season. Extreme heat affected much of the south east in December with the temperatures peaking around the 19th. December daily maximum temperature records were broken in Victoria.

More than 381 fires burnt in Victoria in December, including fires the Christmas day Wye River Jamieson’s Track fires which affected Wye River and Separation Creek. The fire destroyed 98 homes and holiday houses at Wye River and a further 18 at Separation Creek. The fire continued to burn for a number of weeks, and has burnt more than 2500 ha of steep, difficult and heavily treed terrain by the end of the month.

The CFA declared the Fire Danger Period in the Surf Coast Shire from 9 November 2015 until 1 May 2016. The season so far has seen (up until February 12):

Rating	2015-16	2014-15	2013-14
Extreme	2	1	1
Severe	7	1	5

Emergency Management

Emergency Relief Centres (ERC)

- Torquay Grant Pavilion was activated as an ERC at 5pm on Christmas day and closed at 1pm Boxing Day.
- The ERC remained open overnight, with up to 30 people staying overnight.
- 65 people registered with Red Cross at the ERC with further 30-40 attending. We estimate around 100 people attended the ERC on Christmas Day.
- Relief agencies providing services at the ERC included DHHS, Red Cross, Salvation Army, VCC Emergencies Ministry, Ambulance Victoria and Victoria Police.
- ERC staff have been placed on alert five times so far this season.

Municipal Emergency Coordination Centre (MECC)

- The MECC was officially activated at 2pm on Christmas Day, operated until midnight and reopened at 8am Boxing Day. The MECC was deactivated at 5pm on Boxing Day.
- Council provided assistance with signage to assist traffic management on Christmas Day and provided use of a Council community buss to assist CFA transporting fire fighters to and from their shifts.
- The MECC deployed three staff to assist Colac Otway Shire with their response.
- Council resources (grader and water cart) have been placed on active standby on two occasions
- MECC staff have been placed on alert five times so far this season

Incidents

- ANCO Turf fire 3 October 2015, mulch piles ignited and was attended by CFA

3.4 Summer Peak Period Debrief 2015 - 16

- Wensleydale fire 5 October 2015, one house lost, 11 hectares burned
- House fire – Tubular Ave Torquay
- Motor vehicle accident 8 December 2015 – Princes Highway Mount Moriac, one fatality
- Lorne evacuation 25 December 2016 (Wye River Jamieson's Track and Delaney Track fires)

Waste

Managing waste over this period is elevated through the visitation of part time residents and tourists.

There were significant volumes of waste deposited at the part time residents drop off points causing overflowing issues due to illegally dumped hard waste.

The Surf Coast Times ran two print media articles during this period encouraging the responsible disposal of waste at the part time residents drop off points and the availability of gravity lock bins to offset animals (cockatoos) accessing waste causing amenity issues.

The award of a new street litter bin contract (Commenced October 2015) and the provision of morning and afternoon bin servicing during peak periods greatly reduced issues of overflowing bins in towns.

In addition the installation of two Big Belly compactor trial bins (Garbage & Recycle) in Lorne proved successful in accommodating what would normally be 5 x 240ltr bins in one area.

There was also a significant reduction in the service frequency of these bins due to the contractor being notified via cloud technology when bins reached a certain capacity. Additional general and recycle bins were rolled out in townships from Torquay to Lorne to cater for the peak period.

Extra kerbside recycling services were provided to all householders in the first couple of weeks in January to capture both permanent and non-permanent residents which were well used.

Transfer stations were busy as per normal during this period. The addition of free green waste disposal (1st January to 31st January inclusive) and extended operating hours at Lorne was well received by the community.

Local Laws Infringements

Local Laws Officers patrolled the Shire more heavily over December - January to ensure safety and compliance was maintained. A focus on having a visual presence and providing advice, support and education to people within the Shire was a high priority. In addition, education on enforcement was increased as well as safety and security patrols for the Hooded Plover.

During this time, officers issued many verbal and written warnings and, issued infringement notices for parking and traffic related matters, animal management, litter and illegal camping. Numerous "Notices to Comply" to slash grass (fire prevention) and remove unsafe hazards (for the safe keeping of vacant land) were issued.

In total the Local Laws Unit responded to 266 Customer Requests for assistance.

- 106 Infringements were issued for Illegal camping, litter.
- 12 animal related infringements issued.
- 1,699 parking infringements issued.

In terms of infringement notices and quantum of fines issues the comparisons to the previous summer period are below.

Year	No. Infringements Issued	Value of Fines (\$)
2014 – 2015	1,877	\$205,064
2013 - 2014	1,886	\$192,930
2015 - 2016	1,817	\$212,000

3.4 Summer Peak Period Debrief 2015 - 16

Customer Service Enquiries

This summer period Customer Service experience increases in both calls and counter assists on a very diverse range of requests.

	2014 – 2015 Summer Peak Period	2015 - 2016 Summer Peak Period	Increase/Decrease
Calls	15,290	12,009	Decrease of 21%
Counter Assists	2,490	2,418	Increase of 3%

Winchelsea Swimming Pool & General Recreation Participation

The Winchelsea Pool received 4,607 people through the gate since pool opened on 5th December 2014 a solid increase from the 4,328 people for the previous summer, which was unusually cool.

The Winchelsea Health Club membership has remained constant at 147 members from the same as the previous summer.

Across all of our sporting competitions (Basketball, Netball, Soccer, Touch Football) 122 team entries were received (compared with 115 for 2013 – 2014). Of particular note is the Mixed Under 10 Basketball competition which has doubled in size to 8 teams since 2014.

Media and Internet

Total number of users to visit the www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au was 37,117 and the total number of web sessions was 56,834.

There were 130,930 unique page views with an average of 2.3 pages visited per web visit. The average time spent on the website per session was 1 minute 45 seconds.

Of the total web visits made during December and January, more than half were made from a mobile device with 44.1% from a desktop computer, 43.2% from a mobile phone and 12.7% from a tablet.

Of the web visits made from a mobile device just over 75% were made from an Apple device. The most common provider was Telstra at 50.5% of all services.

The most popular web pages were:

Surf Coast Web Page title	Page Views	Unique Page Views
Home	12,397	8,946
Markets	9,496	8,500
Employment	6,285	5,106
Waste Disposal Sites	4,129	3,522
Contact Us	4,125	3,830
Events Calendar	4,025	2,093
Applications on Public Exhibition	3,848	1,687
Waste Collection	3,613	2,937
Building Planning	3,416	2,481
Dogs on Leash Controls	2,961	2,614

Media Inquiries

The bushfire at Wye River Jamieson Creek was the main topic of inquiry between December and January. Other noteworthy topics raised were the Anglesea River, the Winchelsea Go Kart Track, Cadel Evans Great Ocean Road Race and the Lorne service station.

Estimated number of media inquiries in this period exceeds 30. The total was not fully recorded because of the significant number received during the bush fire period from Christmas Day onwards. Inquiries were received from ABC TV and radio, Ch9, Ch7, SBS and 3AW, The Age and local news outlets

Financial Implications

All activities over this period form part of Council's normal operating budget.

3.4 Summer Peak Period Debrief 2015 - 16

Council Plan

Theme 5 Development and Growth

Objective 5.3 Develop and grow sustainable year round tourism

Strategy 5.3.4 Maximise the benefits of all events for community and business.

Theme 5 Development and Growth

Objective 5.3 Develop and grow sustainable year round tourism

Strategy 5.3.6 Continue to operate the Visitor Information Centres and create integrated destinations to increase length of stay and expenditure in Surf Coast Shire.

Theme 3 Communities

Objective 3.1 Communities that plan for, and recover from, disasters

Strategy 3.1.1 Dedicate resources to provide effective and efficient planning for management of, and recovery from, disasters.

Policy/Legal Implications

The Council plan vision is “working towards an engaged, innovative and sustainable community”. The range of services provided by Council during this period reflects the intent of this Vision statement.

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has any conflicts of interest.

Risk Assessment

Particular activities and service provision over this period have been subjected to individual risk assessments.

Social Considerations

The summer period presents many social opportunities for the community. The way in which Council is able to facilitate positive outcomes and respond to issues will greatly influence the social aspects of people’s summer experience.

Community Engagement

This report is for Councillor information only.

Environmental Implications

Direct environmental implications during this period include waste management and the attempt to minimise any environmental degradation and /or vandalism.

Communication

The local media sources such as the Surf Coast Times promote the range of services provided by Council throughout this period.

Conclusion

The Wye River Jamieson Track fire played a great part in influencing trade, attendance to the beaches and event participation even though the fire itself was not located within the Surf Coast Shire Council boundaries.

Notwithstanding this, the 2015 – 2016 summer peak period between 1 December and 31 January resulted in another very busy period for Council services and local businesses.

The Cadell Evans Great Ocean Road Race was received much better by local with the ‘cheer site’ concept proving a great success. In general business was down in Anglesea, Aireys Inlet and Lorne due to the fire threat but up for Torquay and Winchelsea.

The role Council played in Emergency Management went smoothly considering the circumstances and trials in addressing waste issues showed to be very positive. There was a significant number of actions taken by Surf Lifesaving Lifeguards and Volunteers on our very busy beaches.

3.5 National Stronger Regions Fund - Round 3 Application

Author's Title: Manager Economic Development & Tourism

General Manager: Kate Sullivan

Department: Planning & Environment

File No: F15/1068

Division: Environment & Development

Trim No: IC16/274

Appendix:

Nil

Officer Direct or Indirect Conflict of Interest:

In accordance with Local Government Act 1989 – Section 80C:

Yes

No

Reason: Nil

Status:

Information classified confidential under Section 77 of the Local Government Act:

Yes

No

Reason: Nil

Purpose

To note the applications submitted under Round 3 of the National Stronger Regions Fund seeking \$155,000 matched funding for the Winchelsea Town Centre Beautification project.

Summary

An application has been submitted to Round 3 of the National Stronger Region Fund for Winchelsea Town Centre Beautification.

The Winchelsea application focusses on the following Key items:

- Streetscape beautification works to the Winchelsea township centre,
- Completion of the memorial sculptures as a centrepiece to the street beautification.
- Distinct township entry sculptures.

The project aligns with the recently completed Growing Winchelsea project. Further, township beautification works had been identified as a method in which to attract greater visitor stops for those travelling along the inland route to the Great Ocean Road.

The total budget for the project is \$310,000 which is comprised of the following contributions:

- Surf Coast Shire - \$105,000 (over multiple years between 2015/16 to 2017/18)
- VicRoads - \$ 50,000 (entry signage component)
- NSRF - \$155,000

To comply with the guidelines the projects need to be completed by 31st December 2019.

Recommendation

That Council note the application submitted under Round 3 of the National Stronger Regions Fund, containing a \$105,000 contribution from Council and seeking \$155,000 matched funding for the Winchelsea Town Centre Beautification project.

3.5 National Stronger Regions Fund - Round 3 Application

Report

Background

2016. The programme has a key objective to promote economic development in Australia's regions.

Applications will be appraised against each of the following assessment criteria:

- Assessment Criterion 1: The extent to which the project contributes to economic growth in the region;
- Assessment Criterion 2: The extent to which the project supports or addresses disadvantage in the region;
- Assessment Criterion 3: The extent to which the project increases investment and builds partnerships in the region; and
- Assessment Criterion 4: The extent to which the project and proponent are viable and sustainable.

Within Round 3 is a funding category designated for projects under \$1 million in value. This category requires less detail in supporting documents and compliance.

Projects must be completed by 31st December 2019.

Discussion

Growing Winchelsea Implementation Project

The funding programme presents an opportunity to capitalise on budgeted work to be undertaken in Winchelsea over the next two or three financial years and to deliver key infrastructure to the town post the endorsement of the Growing Winchelsea strategic document.. A key focus of the program is ongoing job creation as a result of projects being undertaken. Infrastructure works such as street beautification has attracted funding in previous funding rounds.

Specific to Winchelsea there is a package of proposed budgeted infrastructure items in the 2015/ 16, 2016/17 and 2017/18 financial years which total \$155,000. These funds could be leveraged to secure matched funding under the NSRF program.

Funding is \$1 to \$1 and should the application be successful a total project of \$310,000 could be achieved.

The rationale for undertaking this project is directly linked to the Growing Winchelsea Strategy and in relation to Winchelsea's strategic location as a stopping point for the inland route to reach the Great Ocean Road from Melbourne. The newly formed Growing Winchelsea Implementation Group also see merit in the application. The additional funding would make a significant difference in the level of streetscape works able to be achieved which would incorporate the memorial sculptures. The project would also fit with the direction of the recently completed Growing Winchelsea project and the economic work completed by Geografia on how to progress the Winchelsea economy.

The recent Geografia report undertaken for Growing Winchelsea recommended a mixed economy approach highlighting the job creation that could be achieved via tourism. The Growing Winchelsea Strategy clearly outlines that enhancing the town centre of Winchelsea is viewed as a key component to encouraging tourists to stop in Winchelsea and is therefore linked. The job creation as a result of increased disadvantage will form part of the application.

Financial Implications

The table below outlines the proposed budgeted contributions by Council and VicRoads over the next two financial years.

A total contribution of \$105,000 would be required by Council. VicRoads has confirmed \$50,000 for the purpose of township entry artwork. The remaining \$155,000 is to be sought from the National Stronger Regions fund.

3.5 National Stronger Regions Fund - Round 3 Application

Financial Year	Allocated Funds	Description
2015-16	\$30,000	Main street improvements to Winchelsea.
2015-16	\$25,000	Shopping Centre Refurbishment Program. Each year \$25,000 is allocated to a streetscape project as part of the differential rate levy. 2016/17 could be allocated to Winchelsea for Streetscape beautification works.
2016 -16	\$50,000	Council contribution to entry sculptures.
2015-16	\$50,000	VicRoads Contribution to entry sculptures.
	\$155,000	
	\$155,000	Possible NSRF funding sought under Round 3
Grand Total	\$310,000	

Council Plan

Theme 5 Development and Growth
 Objective 5.3 Develop and grow sustainable year round tourism
 Strategy 5.3.2 Facilitate product development to enhance the visitor experience and in particular develop off beach products both infrastructure and business.

Policy/Legal Implications

The Growing Winchelsea Project falls within Strategy: 5.3.2 Facilitate product development to enhance visitor experience and in particular off beach products, both infrastructure and business.

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has any conflicts of interest.

Risk Assessment

Application Failure: To mitigate this risk discussions have been held with local RDV staff who have been positive towards the application. Letters of support will be obtained from the Growing Winchelsea Trader Group and individual traders as well as local MP's.

Community Priority: Significant community consultation undertaken during the Growing Winchelsea project revealed support to undertake streetscape beautification works and memorial plaques.

Social Considerations

The works will improve the overall amenity of Winchelsea's town centre making it a more attractive and vibrant location. This will encourage local residents to visit more regularly and visitors to stop more frequently.

Given the significant level of road works over the past 2 years in Winchelsea it will be important to minimise any disruption caused by this project. However, Growing Winchelsea and key community groups are keen to see the project come to fruition and as such will provide letters of support.

Community Engagement

Significant community consultation was undertaken during the Growing Winchelsea project which identified streetscape beautification as a project to pursue. This included the memorial project.

Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications in this report.

Communication

If successful Council will work with the funding body to announce the project and the host community to implement it.

3.5 National Stronger Regions Fund - Round 3 Application

Conclusion

Round 3 of the NSRF provides an opportunity to leverage proposed budget expenditure in Winchelsea to generate a more significant outcomes for the projects proposed.

Council's contribution to the project will be \$105,000 with VicRoads also providing \$50,000. The matched funding sought under the NSRF Round 3 will be \$155,000 forming a project with a total value of \$310,000.

The application was submitted by 15th March 2016 and required by the guidelines and this report notes the project and its financial requirements to Council.

The Growing Winchelsea Implementation Project will assist in delivering the project.

3.6 Council Submission - Senate Select Committee on Unconventional Gas Mining

Author's Title: Coordinator Environment
Department: Environment & Community Safety
Division: Environment & Development

General Manager: Kate Sullivan
File No: F13/1658
Trim No: IC16/294

Appendix:

1. Council submission to Senate Select Committee on Unconventional Gas Mining (D16/22822)

Officer Direct or Indirect Conflict of Interest:

In accordance with Local Government Act 1989 –
Section 80C:

Yes

No

Reason: Nil

Status:

Information classified confidential under Section 77
of the Local Government Act:

Yes

No

Reason: Nil

Purpose

To note Council's submission to the Senate Select Committee on Unconventional Gas Mining.

Summary

On 12 November 2015, the Senate resolved to establish the Select Committee on Unconventional Gas Mining. The Committee is to inquire on the adequacy of Australia's legislative, regulatory and policy framework for unconventional gas mining, including coal seam gas and shale gas mining, and provide a final report to the Senate on or before 30 June 2016.

The Municipal Association of Victoria and numerous Lock the Gate groups, including Frack Free Moriac, are making submissions to the Select Committee based on their submissions to the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into Unconventional Gas Mining. As the closing date for submissions was 14 March 2016, Council's resolution of 23 June 2015 opposing the exploration and mining of unconventional gas within the Shire and Council's submission to the Victorian Parliamentary have been forwarded to the Senate Select Committee with minor administrative changes.

Recommendation

That Council note the submission to the Senate Select Committee on Unconventional Gas Mining.

3.6 Council Submission - Senate Select Committee on Unconventional Gas Mining

Report

Background

At its 23 June 2015 meeting Council resolved to oppose the exploration and mining of unconventional gas within the Shire and seek support from the Victorian and federal governments from the development of renewable energy projects in the Shire.

Council provided a written submission to the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into Unconventional Gas on 9 July 2015. Council also hosted the Torquay Public Hearings for the Inquiry on 12 and 13 August and Council's Mayor, Councillor Margot Smith and Chief Executive Officer presented to the Torquay Hearing on 12 August.

Letters were also sent to the Premier and Minister for Energy and Resources on 31 August outlining Council's resolution of 23 June 2015.

Discussion

Current Status – Senate Select Committee

The Senate resolved on 12 November 2015 to establish the Select Committee on Unconventional Gas Mining. The Committee is to inquire on the adequacy of Australia's legislative, regulatory and policy framework for unconventional gas mining including coal seam gas and shale gas mining

Committee hearings have already commenced, with public hearings held in Queensland on 17 February and further hearings already scheduled for New South Wales on 29 March and Darwin on 12 April. The Committee Secretariat has advised that no decision has yet been made regarding public hearings in Victoria. Information about future hearings will be posted on the Committee's website. The Mayor's cover letter to the submission encourages the Select Committee to visit and talk with councils and local communities that may be affected by unconventional gas, including in Victoria.

Financial Implications

Preparation of Council's submission to the Inquiry can be covered by existing resources. In terms of broader implications, unconventional gas and exploration and mining could have significant adverse economic implications for tourism and agriculture in the Shire. Property values can also be impacted.

Council Plan

Theme	1 Environment
Objective	1.1 Preserve and enhance the natural environment
Strategy	1.1.4 Council to continue to advocate to all relevant political parties (unconventional gas exploration) unless and until there is a clear community mandate to proceed.

Policy/Legal Implications

The state government, not local government, is responsible for the regulation of unconventional gas exploration and mining in the Shire. The implications of Council's resolution opposing unconventional gas exploration and mining in the Shire are primarily political rather than legal.

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has any conflicts of interest.

Risk Assessment

Although Council does not have legal jurisdiction over unconventional gas exploration and mining, Council's resolution and advocacy against unconventional gas exploration and mining may reduce the likelihood of unconventional gas being approved in the Shire and/or encourage the most robust regime possible to control any negative impacts of these activities.

Social Considerations

The CSIRO has identified various social issues arising from unconventional gas mining, particularly where coal seam gas fields are on agricultural land. Social impacts arise from the access and use of land and water resources, competing demands placed on social and natural resources and challenges to existing rural community identities and ways of life.

3.6 Council Submission - Senate Select Committee on Unconventional Gas Mining

Community Engagement

Community engagement on this issue to date has been coordinated primarily by community action groups, in particular Lock the Gate/Quit Coal/Protect the West and by larger conservation groups, particularly Friends of the Earth. The Torquay Public Hearings of the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry provided a broader public platform for local community groups, Council and key stakeholders to present their views on unconventional gas. It is possible that the Senate Select Committee will hold public hearings in Victoria as well.

Environmental Implications

CSIRO has indicated that the potential impacts of coal seam gas on the environment will depend on the volume and quantity of produced water, its treatment and the extent of build infrastructure associated with the operations. The Gas Market Taskforce Supplementary Report (October 2013) noted that the issue most commonly raised with the Taskforce concerning unconventional gas development is the potential local and cumulative impacts of gas extraction on water quality and quantity.

Communication

Council shared its written submission to the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry on Unconventional Gas with the Municipal Association of Victoria, local Lock the Gate contacts and neighbouring councils. They have been notified that Council will be making a submission to the Senate Select Committee, based on the submission provided to the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry.

Conclusion

The Senate Select Committee on Unconventional Gas Mining provides another opportunity for Council to express its opposition to unconventional gas exploration and mining in the Shire. A submission has been made to the Select Committee, based on the Council's previous submission to the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry. It is recommended that Council note that this submission has been made.

4. CULTURE & COMMUNITY

4.1 Review of Community Engagement Policy SCS-017

Author's Title: Manager Community Relations

General Manager: Chris Pike

Department: Community

File No: F16/78

Division: Culture & Community

Trim No: IC16/192

Appendix:

1. SCS 017 Community Engagement Policy - October 2015 Review (D15/87580)

Officer Direct or Indirect Conflict of Interest:

Status:

In accordance with Local Government Act 1989 –
Section 80C:

Information classified confidential under Section 77
of the Local Government Act:

Yes

No

Yes

No

Reason: Nil

Reason: Nil

Purpose

To adopt Council's Community Engagement Policy SCS – 017.

Summary

Council's Community Engagement Policy is due for review. The review is informed by Council's Communication and Community Engagement Strategy 2015 – 2018 which was adopted in 2015. The noteworthy changes to the reviewed policy include aligning the policy with the principles of the Communication and Engagement Strategy, clearer reference to the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation and updating community engagement techniques that may have been considered at the leading edge when the last policy was adopted in 2010.

Recommendation

That Council adopt the recently reviewed Community Engagement Policy SCS – 017.

4.1 Review of Community Engagement Policy SCS-017

Report

Background

Council adopted the existing Community Engagement Policy in April 2010. Many changes have occurred since this time both to the way Council engages with the community and the standards that are applied to the community engagement profession. Council has recently undertaken significant work to support high performance in community engagement including the formation of a Community Relations Department in 2014 and the adoption of the Communication and Community Engagement Strategy in 2015

Discussion

The policy has been reviewed by the Community Relations team and Council's policy subcommittee had input to the draft policy. Suggestions from the policy subcommittee are included in the final draft version included here for Council's adoption. A reviewed Community Engagement Policy that aligns with Council's strategy strengthens the importance of community engagement and confirms the practices that will be undertaken.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with adopting this policy

Council Plan

Theme 2 Governance
Objective 2.2 High performing accountable organisation
Strategy 2.2.3 Increase capability in analysing and managing contentious issues.

Theme 2 Governance
Objective 2.4 Transparency in decision making and access to information
Strategy Nil

Policy/Legal Implications

Section 3D of the *Local Government Act 1989* includes the role of a Council includes acting as a representative government by taking into account the diverse needs of the local community in decision making; ...(and) fostering community cohesion and encouraging active participation in civic life.

Adoption of this policy helps fulfil Council's compliance with the Act.

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment

Good quality community engagement practices manage many of Council's reputational risks. The risk of not having such a policy is that Council would be more exposed to reputational damage through a less coordinated community engagement approach.

Social Considerations

Providing clear and timely information to the community is a fundamental tenet of good governance. Just as important is the need to provide genuine opportunities for members of the community to participate in decision making. Open access to information and engagement builds trust and results in policies that are sustainable because they accurately reflect the needs and aspirations of the community.

Community surveys consistently show that people rank community engagement as amongst the most important of all Council activities.

Community Engagement

The Communication and Community Engagement Strategy and therefore this policy, is informed by the results of consultation activities already undertaken, by the Council and other agencies, including the Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure. Consultation results from the Council Plan, Health and Well Being Plan and Customer Service Charter directly informed the strategy and this policy. This reduced the need to open a new, specific consultation effort with the community.

4.1 Review of Community Engagement Policy SCS-017

Environmental Implications

The policy refers to community engagement increasingly being available through digital channels. This may result in less reliance on printed based publications and the use of paper over time.

Communication

The updated policy will be communicated throughout the organisation in addition to being available at Council offices and on the website.

Conclusion

Community engagement consistently rates as high priority for the community in formal surveys and through anecdotal comment. Adoption of this policy will ensure the Council's community engagement activity is timely, considered, takes a long term view and meets the needs of the community.

4.2 Stribling Reserve Masterplan

Author's Title: Open Space Officer
Department: Leisure and Wellbeing
Division: Culture & Community

General Manager: Chris Pike
File No: F15/1218
Trim No: IC15/685

Appendix:

1. Analysis of Options for delivery of Stribling Reserve Masterplan (D16/7581)

Officer Direct or Indirect Conflict of Interest:

In accordance with Local Government Act 1989 –
Section 80C:

Yes

No

Reason: Nil

Status:

Information classified confidential under Section 77
of the Local Government Act:

Yes

No

Reason: Nil

Purpose

To endorse the project governance model to develop the Stribling Reserve Masterplan.

Summary

The existing Stribling Reserve Masterplan was endorsed by Council in 2001, more than fourteen years ago. Since then several emerging issues have been identified at the reserve which are not addressed in that plan. Council allocated \$50,000 in 2015/16 to undertake a review and renewal of the existing master plan to better address these emerging issues.

On 9 February 2016, Council received a briefing regarding three potential governance model options for the delivery of the Stribling Reserve Masterplan including '1. Council controlled joint project', '2. Community led partnership project' and '3. Committee controlled project (in line with Councils project management framework)'. Officers then met with members of the Stribling Reserve Section 86 Committee of Management and some Lorne community members on 18 February to discuss the options and confirm their preferred model.

Consequently option 2 'Community led partnership project' is recommended as the preferred model to deliver the Stribling Reserve Masterplan. This model would see community leaders strategically guide the development of the Masterplan, in particular community engagement. Council officers will be responsible for sponsoring the project and for project management which includes budget management and procurement in accordance with Council's policies. Council officers would also provide subject matter expertise to the project.

Option 2 is achievable if the objectives, values, roles and project processes and controls are agreed between Council and community representatives to commencement of the Stribling Reserve Masterplan.

Recommendation

That Council endorse Option 2 'Community led partnership project' as the project governance model to develop the Stribling Reserve Masterplan.

4.2 Stribling Reserve Masterplan

Report

Background

Stribling Reserve is home to the Lorne football, cricket and netball sporting teams involved in local competitions and is used by Lorne P-12 school during school hours. The reserve is Crown land temporarily reserved for cricket and public recreation and the State Government has delegated management responsibilities to Surf Coast Shire as the Committee of Management. Council has subsequently delegated some of these management responsibilities to a Stribling Reserve Section 86 Committee of Management.

A Stribling Reserve Masterplan was endorsed by Council in 2001, however several emerging issues have been identified at the reserve which are not addressed in that plan. Council allocated \$50K in the 2015–2016 Budget for a review and renewal of the existing masterplan.

Council Officers presented three potential governance models to Council on 9 February 2016. Officers discussed the governance model options with the Stribling Reserve Section 86 Committee and other community representatives to establish the best model to develop the Masterplan.

Discussion

The Stribling Reserve Section 86 Committee of Management has expressed an interest having a more active role in developing the new Stribling Reserve Masterplan. The rationale presented includes:

1. The Committee have the ability to better access and leverage more resources within the Lorne community to undertake the masterplan process.
2. The Committee better understands the local community needs and are better placed than Council to engage with local sectors of the community.
3. There is a level of dissatisfaction with the outcomes of a number of local community projects delivered in the Lorne Community

Dissatisfaction with the delivery of past projects and a desire to develop an outcome that is established and owned by the Lorne community for the Lorne community are two of the key drivers behind the consideration of a new method of delivering a masterplan. Three potential models, developed through discussions with Council and Lorne community representatives, have been considered:

1. Council controlled joint project - Council undertakes the Masterplan
2. Community led partnership project - The Section 86 Committee direct the Masterplan and Council provides project management support
3. Committee controlled project - The Section 86 Committee undertake the Masterplan

An analysis of these models is included in Appendix 1. In summary, models 2 and 3 provide greater synergy to Council's *Communications and Community Engagement Strategy 2015-2018*, which seeks to help facilitate greater community capacity to be involved in and influence Council decision making and to support greater local determination on key issues by developing and working from a shared strategic vision. Model 3 carries a number of risks for Council and the community and is considered an inferior option to Model 2.

Council Officers met with members of the Section 86 Committee and other community members on 18 February 2016 and model option 2 'Community led partnership project' was confirmed as the preferred delivery method. Under this model, the Lorne community would provide the final recommendation and Council would make the final decision. This model was attractive to community representatives as the engagement would be led by the Lorne community and regarded as community owned. The Section 86 Committee specifically requested that the Committee for Lorne have a key role in the delivery of the masterplan as the body best representing the interests of the Lorne community. Model 2 also utilises Council's project management resources and means that financial and procurement policies are followed.

Under model option 2, it is proposed that Council's Project Delivery Framework roles would be:

Structure	Position	Sector
Project Control Group	Project Sponsor	GM Community & Culture
	Project Owner	Chair, Committee for Lorne
	Project Manager	Council PMO
	Land Manager	Manager Leisure & Wellbeing
	Open Space Planning	Open Space Officer
	Chair, Section 86 CoM	Community

4.2 Stribling Reserve Masterplan

	Lorne P-12 School Land Owner	Minister for Environment	Community Government
Subject Matter Experts	Section 86 Committee Lorne Cricket Club Lorne Football Club Lorne Netball Club Lorne Men's Shed Engineering Services Engineering Operations Community Relations Planning & Development Governance & Risk		Community Community Community Community Community Council Council Council Council Council
Project Reference Group	Project Manager Land Manager Open Space Planning Chair, Section 86 Committee Lorne P-12 School Subject Matter Experts Lorne Community Representative (s) Adjacent neighbours		Council Council Council Community Community Community and Council Community
Project Working Group	Project Manager Land Manager Open Space Planning Chair, Section 86 Committee Subject Matter Experts Lorne P-12 School Lorne Community Representative (s) Adjacent Neighbours		Council Council Council Community Community and Council Community Community Community

Financial Implications

Council has allocated \$50,000 in the 2015/16 budget to deliver the Stribling Reserve Masterplan which will need in part to be rolled over to the 2016/17 financial year to complete the project. This does not include project management costs.

Council's project management expenses will not be charged to the project budget of \$50,000 as this was not an inclusion at the time of allocating the funds. Instead it is proposed that the project will draw on funds within the Program Management Office budget held for the provision of project management services to community-led projects. From 2016/17 all Council-led projects will factor project management costs into the project budgets.

The masterplan, once completed, will identify future works. The funding sources for these works will need to be a careful consideration, particularly given Council's more constrained financial position into the future.

Council Plan

Theme 1 Environment
Objective 1.4 Protect public open space and green belts
Strategy 1.4.1 Review Surf Coast Shire Open Space Strategy.

Theme 2 Governance
Objective 2.5 Enhanced community engagement
Strategy 2.5.2 Provide opportunities for all members of the community to engage with Council on issues that matter to them.

Theme 3 Communities
Objective 3.4 Building leadership and skills within the community
Strategy 3.4.1 Support people to build their community leadership and develop their skills.

4.2 Stribling Reserve Masterplan

Policy/Legal Implications

There are strict legislative requirements relating to the governance of activities managed by Council's (Local Government Act) and to delegated Committees of Management for Crown Land (Crown Land Reserves Act). The most relevant to this project are those that relate to conflict of interest and procurement practices in line with best value principles; and appropriate uses of Crown Land in accordance with its reservation. Options 1 and 2 require no changes to current Council operations.

No buildings or structures can be created and no works can be undertaken without the written approval of the Minister for Environment. Accordingly, it is recommended that DELWP, the Minister's delegate, be invited to be a member of the Project Control Group (PCG) and Project Reference Group (PRG) to ensure that the direction and content of the Masterplan is in accordance with the Minister's wishes and with the original gazetted reservation of the land.

Under the *Local Government Act*, Council can form Section 86 Committees to undertake certain activities. In effect, the Section 86 Committee, and its members, are employees of Council. The Instrument of Delegation (IoD) outlines both Council and the Section 86 Committee roles and responsibilities. Council and the Section 86 Committee are bound by the same requirements for conflict of interest and procurement.

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has any conflicts of interest.

Risk Assessment

There are numerous key strategic risks associated with this project. These risks will be captured on a project risk register.

Key strategic risks include not obtaining approval from the Minister (via their delegate DELWP) for the project scope and deliverables before the project commences and not obtaining final DELWP approval for the Stribling Reserve Masterplan. This means that masterplan priority actions cannot be implemented. Accordingly, it is recommended that DELWP be invited to participate in the Project Control Group (PCG) and Project Reference Group (PRG).

The introduction of rate capping in the 2016/17 financial year presents challenges for future levels of capital expenditure. This will need to be a consideration in the development of the masterplan.

Project management arrangements for each of the three proposed options were discussed with the Section 86 Committee on 18 February 2016. The Section 86 Committee support Council providing the project management services in accordance with Council's Project Delivery Framework which significantly mitigates the risk of poor project management.

The impact of the recent bushfires does not appear to have had an impact on the availability and capacity of Lorne community members to be involved in the project which was a previous concern.

Stribling Reserve hosts various permanent, seasonal and temporary tenants. These include the Lorne P-12 School who has exclusive use of the reserve during school hours, sporting clubs who use the reserve seasonally and the Falls Festival who use the reserve during the annual Falls Festival in December and January. The masterplanning process will need to ensure equitable and transparent deliberation of current and future needs and capacity that reflects the forecast population demographics and participation growth.

Social Considerations

iD Consulting projects that the Lorne community will continue to age and that there will be a small increase of 276 people between 2011 and 2036. Therefore the future viability of Stribling Reserve may be constrained and any future developments need to be in line with these projections.

A recent Council report responding to a 2013 petition for an Aireys Inlet oval identified that the Aireys Inlet community provides up to 90% of all junior members for the Lorne Football and Cricket Clubs. As the *Aireys Inlet to Eastern View Structure Plan November 2015* resolved to not build a recreation oval in Aireys Inlet for the next 20 years, engagement will need to be undertaken with the Aireys Inlet community regarding their future needs of Stribling Reserve.

4.2 Stribling Reserve Masterplan

The governance arrangements for the Stribling Reserve Masterplan project will need to consider gender equity and all abilities representation.

Community Engagement

Agreement between the Section 86 Committee and Council Officers for a model where the Section 86 Committee provides direction and Council Officers provide support enables sections of the Lorne community to lead the community engagement process. This approach builds on the high level of community interest in high profile Council projects such as the Surf Coast Aquatic and Health Centre, the Lorne Men's Shed and the Stribling Reserve oval surface works. A collaborative approach between the Section 86 Committee and Council will reduce potential community dissatisfaction with the Stribling Reserve Masterplan and foster local ownership of the engagement process and resultant outcomes.

In discussions on the preferred governance model, the Section 86 Committee has requested that the Committee for Lorne play a significant leadership role in engaging the Lorne community in this project. Accordingly, it is proposed that the Chair of the Committee for Lorne be appointed as the project owner, as defined in Council's Program Delivery Framework.

It is proposed that all sectors of the community will be provided with the opportunity to be involved in the development of the Masterplan. It is likely that this will be a mix of involvement on the Project Reference Group, door knocks of immediate neighbours, community workshops, online engagement and a public exhibition period. The details of community engagement will be agreed following Council's endorsement of the preferred governance model.

Environmental Implications

Stribling Reserve is in a Bushfire Management Overlay. A review of State Government GIS mapping shows that there is no Aboriginal heritage, rare and threatened flora and fauna or noxious pest plants and animals. The major environmental concerns relate to poor site drainage and stormwater management and to the visual amenity impacts of any future activities that are undertaken on Stribling Reserve.

Communication

It is proposed that a range of communication methods will be utilised in developing the masterplan including key stakeholder workshops, door knocking for residents adjacent to Stribling Reserve, the Project Reference Group, local notice boards, Council website, social media channels and local newspapers. A formal engagement plan will be drafted once Council endorses the governance model.

Conclusion

Stribling Reserve is highly valued by sectors of the Lorne community. The Section 86 Committee have expressed an interest in having a very active role in the delivery of the Stribling Reserve Masterplan. Council has recently expressed an interest in enhancing local community leadership in the delivery of community based projects.

The Section 86 Committee have a preference for model option 2, a partnership between Council and the Lorne community, through the Committee for Lorne and the Stribling Reserve Section 86 Committee. This approach allows Council to deliver on key objectives within Council's Communications and Community Engagement Strategy 2015-2018, to help facilitate greater community capacity to be involved in and influence Council decision making and to support greater local determination on key issues by developing and working from a shared strategic vision.

4.3 MAV State Council Motions 13 May 2016

Author's Title: Manager Community Relations

General Manager: Chris Pike

Department: Community

File No: F15/1007

Division: Culture & Community

Trim No: IC16/246

Appendix:

1. MAV State Council motion template, May 2016 (D16/19821)

Officer Direct or Indirect Conflict of Interest:

Status:

In accordance with Local Government Act 1989 –
Section 80C:

Information classified confidential under Section 77
of the Local Government Act:

Yes

No

Yes

No

Reason: Nil

Reason: Nil

Purpose

To adopt Council's motions for the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council Meeting on 13 May 2016.

Summary

Council is again presented with the opportunity to put forward motions to the MAV State Council. The MAV State Council is MAV members' opportunity to raise motions of business for consideration by the MAV to progress them as advocacy actions and to inform the MAV's strategic work plan.

Recommendation

That Council put the following motion to the MAV State Council Meeting on 13 May 2016:

1. That the MAV continue to advocate to the State Government to appropriately fund services that are state government responsibility that are delivered by local government.
2. That the MAV seek a commitment from the State Government to work in partnership with the sector on a reform program in response to the challenges and opportunities presented by the Fair Go Rates system including initiatives in digital transformation and shared services.

4.3 MAV State Council Motions 13 May 2016

Report

Background

The MAV State Council provides member Councils the opportunity twice annually to put forward motions to guide MAV's advocacy priorities and inform the MAV strategic work plan.

All MAV member Councils have the opportunity to put forward motions at the State Council meeting. An electronic voting system determines the motions with the highest support to prioritise the work of the MAV.

At the State Council meeting on 23 October 2015, Surf Coast Shire Council put forward the following motions:

1. That the MAV and the Local Government Sector formalise support for the State Government's renewable energy target.
2. That the MAV call on the Minister for Local Government and the Essential Services Commission to recognise the differing needs of rural, regional and urban councils and make allowance for these needs when finalising the rate capping framework.

These motions were considered at the October State Council Meeting with the motions by other Victorian municipalities, and both motions were carried.

Discussion

MAV State Council provides an important advocacy avenue for Council. State Council Motions may not have an immediate impact to the operation of Councils who put them forward. However, the MAV is an influential organisation and Council should seek to leverage MAV's ability to advocate on our behalf for issues of regional and state significance.

The State Government introduced the Fair Go Rates system which included a rate cap increase at 2.5% late in 2015. Like councils around the state, Surf Coast Shire Council is preparing to meet the financial future the rate cap imposes.

In the lead up to introduction of the Fair Go Rates System, an increasing range of services that are State Government responsibilities have been provided by councils under shared funding agreements with the State. Research indicates that the State's contribution has reduced, stopped completely or not kept pace with costs. Examples of these services include school crossing supervisors, library services and the State Emergency Service.

More clarity is needed about which services are State Government responsibility and to what level they are being funded. It is timely that the local government sector engages with the State Government and gain a stronger commitment to appropriately share these costs.

It is also timely for local government to closely analyse how it delivers services under the Fair Go Rates system. MAV can play a pivotal role in gaining a commitment from the State Government to partner with the sector in developing a reform program to meet challenges and realise opportunities the Fair Go Rates system brings. There is no doubt local government needs to harness the digital future to deliver more efficient services that better meet the needs of customers. Shared services between councils, other levels of government and other organisations can also be considered a way of improving the way governments at all levels delivers services.

Financial Implications

It is not financially sustainable for Local Government to deliver services that are a State Government responsibility without adequate State Government funding. Better use of digital technology and shared services should deliver long term savings to Council.

Council Plan

Theme 2 Governance
Objective 2.6 Advocate on behalf of our community
Strategy 2.6.3 Influence decision makers to secure positive outcomes for the community

4.3 MAV State Council Motions 13 May 2016

Theme 2 Governance
Objective 2.2 High performing accountable organisation
Strategy 2.2.5 Make better use of MAV / VLGA and other peak bodies to progress issues of interest to the Surf Coast community.

Policy/Legal Implications

Advocating via the MAV is an effective way to influence Government policy.

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has any conflicts of interest.

Risk Assessment

No significant risks are likely by determining the MAV State Council motions. A broad advocacy risk is the more issues Council advocates for, the more diluted the advocacy effort becomes. The risk of not determining MAV State Council Motions is that an opportunity could be missed to advocate on behalf of the Surf Coast community.

Social Considerations

Adequate funding enables Council to deliver services that benefit our community. A key aim of advocating for these issues is to ensure that services are provided and residents' wellbeing is maintained and enhanced.

Community Engagement

The proposed MAV State Council motions are informed by the community engagement work undertaken since the previous State Council Meeting in October 2015.

Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications by determining the MAV State Council motions.

Communication

The motion will be communicated to the MAV via email. Council will communicate the MAV State Council motion to the community via communication channels which may include the website and media articles.

Conclusion

The recommended motions are significant issues that affect Surf Coast Shire. Putting forward these motions to the MAV State Council is an effective way for Council to leverage MAV's ability to advocate on our behalf.

4.4 Council's Contribution to the Torquay ANZAC Day Dawn Service

Author's Title: Manager Community Relations

General Manager: Chris Pike

Department: Community

File No: F15/1630

Division: Culture & Community

Trim No: IC16/295

Appendix:

Nil

Officer Direct or Indirect Conflict of Interest:

Status:

In accordance with Local Government Act 1989 –
Section 80C:

Information classified confidential under Section 77
of the Local Government Act:

Yes

No

Yes

No

Reason: Nil

Reason: Nil

Purpose

To consider a request to increase Council's contribution to the Torquay RSL to support the delivery of the Torquay ANZAC Day dawn service.

Summary

The Torquay dawn service is an important event and a popular way the community commemorates ANZAC Day. The event is managed by the Torquay RSL sub branch.

This ANZAC Day event has been supported over the years in a number of ways by Council. In recent years, Council has provided funding and officer time to ensure the delivery of the event is successful.

The scale of the event warrants professional planning and management. In the 2015/16 budget, Council allocated \$5,000 cash contribution to this event. Additional to this direct cash contribution, Council manages and pays the costs associated with the traffic management plan. The cash cost of traffic management and officer time dedicated to develop the plan has cost Council more than \$5,000 in recent years. Other support from Council includes promoting the event, providing a meeting space at the Civic Offices and advice on specific event management items when requested.

The years between 2015 and 2019 are particularly significant for this event as it commemorates the Centenary since the World War 1.

The Torquay RSL recently requested Council contribute \$20,000 to the event to meet rising event production costs and uncertainty of attracting income for the event. In putting forward this request, the Torquay RSL provided an event budget that identified an additional \$6,000 for the 2016 event. The recommendation in the report is influenced by the cost increase identified.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Approves an additional \$5,000 contribution to the Torquay RSL for the 2016 ANZAC Day event taking Council's cash contribution to \$10,000.
2. Notes this additional contribution will result in an unfavourable budget variation in Council's 2015/16 operating budget.
3. Require the Torquay RSL to provide a funding acquittal for Council's total cash contribution by the end of June 2016.
4. Affirms that the release of funding for the 2017 ANZAC Day event is subject to the Torquay RSL entering into a multi-year funding agreement with Council prior to that event.

4.4 Council's Contribution to the Torquay ANZAC Day Dawn Service

Report

Background

The ANZAC Day Dawn Service in Torquay has been running for over 25 years and growing year on year. Attendance was estimated at 15,000 for the 2015 event which commemorates the Centenary of the landing at Gallipoli in World War 1. The event attendance and community expectation has increased significantly in recent years and safety at the event is critical. This event is the second largest dawn service in the state.

Council officers have worked with the Torquay RSL organising committee to build skills in managing the event over recent years. The committee has also benefited from contracting the skills of a professional event management company. The event is held on land managed by Great Ocean Road Coastal Committee (GORCC) who is responsible for issuing permits for the event. Council officers have previously managed the traffic management plan and this is happening again for the 2016 event.

It is worth noting that there are four ANZAC Day events held in Surf Coast Shire; Torquay, Anglesea, Lorne, and Winchelsea. ANZAC Day events in locations other than Torquay are managed by local RSL sub branches and if support is provided by Council for these events, it is in the form of officer in-kind support.

The Torquay RSL recently requested Council contribute \$20,000 to the event to meet rising event production costs and uncertainty of attracting income for the event. In putting forward this request, the Torquay RSL provided an event budget that identified an additional \$6,000 for the 2016 event. The recommendation in the report is influenced by this cost increase amount.

Discussion

The Torquay ANZAC Day dawn service requires substantial cash and non-cash resources to deliver a safe and enjoyable event. The site of the event, Point Danger, is limited in its capacity. This site is managed by the Great Ocean Road Coastal Committee (GORCC). The Torquay RSL complies with permitting requirements through GORCC.

Council officers have worked with the Torquay RSL to build event management and administrative skills which has led to an increased capacity of the Torquay RSL to complete event tasks. Council staff can now make a more valuable contribution by providing more subject matter expertise than administrative support and skill building.

Costs for the event have risen in recent years as the scale of the event has increased with a rise in patronage. The 2016 event is expected to cost approximately \$6,000 more than 2015 due mainly to additional costs in fencing, portable toilets, security and first aid. Income for the 2016 event has yet to be secured to the same level as 2015, placing further financial pressure on the event.

Local governments around the state support ANZAC Day events in different ways. The level of support varies from the City of Melbourne which includes ANZAC Day as one of its 15 triennial major sponsorship events through to smaller municipalities which offer low level, in-kind support to modest ANZAC Day events.

The Torquay ANZAC Day dawn service will benefit from dedicated cash and non-cash support from Council to maintain the quality and safety of the event. By committing to ongoing support, Council assist the Torquay RSL to deliver an event that meets community expectation for future years. Council support in previous years has often been provided without a formal agreement in place to clearly describe the roles and expectations of both parties. There is a clear opportunity to improve this process.

There is an opportunity to draw on support of other agencies such as the State Government or the Victorian RSL. This may form part of Council's advocacy strategy in the future.

Financial Implications

Council had previously committed to allocate \$5,000 to this event in 2016, 2017 and 2018. Increasing the budget allocation to \$10,000 each year for three year adds \$15,000 worth of expenditure over this period.

Council's traffic management expenditure for the 2015 ANZAC Day dawn service was \$8,600 which included one off costs due to the size of the event on the centenary of the landing at Gallipoli in World War 1. The traffic management expenditure for the 2016 traffic management plan is expected to be \$6,000.

4.4 Council's Contribution to the Torquay ANZAC Day Dawn Service

Approximately 60 staff hours are required to develop and implement the traffic management plan and support the committee to manage the event. The estimated cost for this staff support is \$3,000.

Traffic management is likely to cost Council more in future years as costs are expected to rise year on year. Staff hours are expected to remain at similar levels in the future to support the event.

Council Plan

Theme 3 Communities
Objective 3.3 Preservation of peaceful, safe and healthy environments
Strategy 3.3.4 Support a wide-range of community groups to improve community wellbeing

Policy/Legal Implications

Council is required to meet the legal requirements of the traffic management plan.

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has any conflicts of interest

Risk Assessment

There is reputational risk if Council provides less support than is needed to manage a successful event. Council assumes some level of risk for the event by managing the traffic management plan so it is in Council's interest for the event to be safe and enjoyed by those attending.

By contributing additional funds and resources there is a risk that Council is providing ratepayer funds for an event that is not the core responsibility of Surf Coast Shire.

Social Considerations

The Torquay ANZAC Day dawn service is a significant community event and needs to be well-managed to accommodate the large number of community members attending. The community hold the event in high regard and there has been positive feedback about the higher standard of the event in recent years which is largely due to infrastructure and traffic management improvements.

Community Engagement

Council has engaged closely with the Torquay RSL and the event company it engages to stage successful events over the years. The Torquay RSL has made a formal request for more financial support to Council as the event approaches due to the increased costs and uncertainty of income for the event. The Torquay RSL is a significant and influential community group and the community interest in the event is very high. Previously, Surf Coast Shire engaged closely with many community groups regarding wreath laying before and on the day and understands the significance the event has for the community.

Environmental Implications

There is increased pressure on the Point Danger site as attendance grows. There is an increased chance of environmental damage if crowd numbers continue to grow. Further engagement with GORCC is needed to understand environmental implications.

Communication

Council's decision will be communicated with the Torquay RSL sub branch directly. Written communication in the form of acquittals and funding agreements will be established. Council's decision will be communicated via the website and possibly through the local media.

Conclusion

The Torquay ANZAC Day dawn service is an important community event. It is important that Council and the Torquay RSL are clear on roles in managing this event. Ongoing Council support (financial and in-kind) will ensure the event remains a safe and enjoyable event for those who attend. When budgeting for future events, it is wise for Council to establish a multi-year funding agreement and acquittal process with funding and support dependent on the Torquay RSL meeting the requirements of this process each year.

5. MINUTES

5.1 Section 86 Committee Minutes

Author's Title: Administration Officer - Governance & Risk **General Manager:** Anne Howard

Department: Governance & Risk

File No: F16/284

Division: Governance & Infrastructure

Trim No: IC16/238

Appendix:

1. Hearing of Submissions Committee Meeting Minutes - 1 March 2016 (IC16/284)
2. Planning Committee Minutes - 22 February 2016 (D16/15224)

Officer Direct or Indirect Conflict of Interest:

Status:

In accordance with Local Government Act 1989 –
Section 80C:

Information classified confidential under Section 77
of the Local Government Act:

Yes

No

Yes

No

Reason: Nil

Reason: Nil

Purpose

To receive and note the minutes of the Section 86 Committee meetings as appended.

Summary

The minutes provided in this report are draft unless otherwise identified. Committees do not re-issue minutes if any corrections are made at the time of adoption, rather note these corrections in the agenda item confirming adoption of the minutes at the following committee meeting.

Any corrections to draft minutes of material significance made by the committees will be provided to Council for noting in a subsequent report.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the following minutes of the Section 86 Committee meetings:

- Hearing of Submissions Committee – 1 March 2016
- Planning Committee – 22 February 2016

5.2 Advisory Committee Minutes

Author's Title: Administration Officer - Governance & Risk **General Manager:** Anne Howard

Department: Governance & Risk

File No: F16/285

Division: Governance & Infrastructure

Trim No: IC16/293

Appendix:

1. Municipal Emergency Management Planning (MEMP) Committee Minutes - 16 February 2016 (D16/14803)

Officer Direct or Indirect Conflict of Interest:

In accordance with Local Government Act 1989 – Section 80C:

Yes

No

Reason: Nil

Status:

Information classified confidential under Section 77 of the Local Government Act:

Yes

No

Reason: Nil

Purpose

To receive and note the minutes of the Advisory Committee meetings as appended.

Summary

The minutes provided in this report are draft unless otherwise identified. Committees do not re-issue minutes if any corrections are made at the time of adoption, rather note these corrections in the agenda item confirming adoption of the minutes at the following committee meeting.

Any corrections to draft minutes of material significance made by the committees will be provided to Council for noting in a subsequent report.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the minutes of the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee held on the 16 February 2016.

6. ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCILLORS

6.1 Assemblies of Councillors

Author's Title: Administration Officer - Governance & Risk **General Manager:** Anne Howard

Department: Governance & Risk

File No: F16/289

Division: Governance & Infrastructure

Trim No: IC16/236

Appendix:

1. Assembly of Councillors - Strategic Briefing - 23 February 2016 (D16/20111)
2. Assembly of Councillors - Agenda Review - 23 February 2016 (D16/20134)
3. Assembly of Councillors - Council Briefing - 1 March 2016 (D16/16600)
4. Assembly of Councillors - Council Briefing - 8 March 2016 (D16/22366)

Officer Direct or Indirect Conflict of Interest:

Status:

In accordance with Local Government Act 1989 –
Section 80C:

Information classified confidential under Section 77
of the Local Government Act:

Yes

No

Yes

No

Reason: Nil

Reason: Nil

Purpose

To receive and note the Assembly of Councillors records received since the previous Council Meeting.

Summary

The Local Government Act 1989 section 80A(2) states that the Chief Executive Officer must ensure that the written record of an assembly of Councillors is as soon as practicable reported at an Ordinary Meeting of Council and incorporated in the minutes of that Council Meeting.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Assembly of Councillors records for the following meetings:

- Strategic Briefing – 23 February 2016
- Agenda Review – 23 February 2016
- Council Briefing – 1 March 2016
- Council Briefing – 8 March 2016

7. URGENT BUSINESS/PETITIONS/NOTICES OF MOTION

7.1 Notice of Motion NOM-131

Appendix:

Nil

I, Councillor Margot Smith give notice that at the next Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 22 March 2016, I intend to move the following motion:

Recommendation

That Surf Coast Shire Council:

- notes the proposed works to expand the Anglesea Roundabout at Camp Road.
- notes that Community Consultation for the various options commenced in 2015 prior to the construction of the Forest Road Roundabout;
- notes that the modelling for the proposed options was based on traffic data from summer 2013/14;
- note that the proposal does not reduce the risk in an emergency event; and
- Submits a request to VicRoads that works are deferred to enable further modelling that will take into account the Forest Road Roundabout, the opening of the Chocolaterie on the Great Ocean Road and the potential congestion that may result in the Shopping Centre car park.

Rationale

The Anglesea Community was first presented with four options to relieve the peak congestion on the Great Ocean Road at the Camp Road Roundabout in March 2015. VicRoads have now refined the preferred option from that consultation as a proposal for expansion of the Anglesea Roundabout at Camp Road with pedestrian lights to the east on the Great Ocean Road.

There is considerable congestion at this intersection on certain days of the year, with motorists traveling to and from the coast for long weekends and summer holidays, combining with day trippers and locals accessing the shopping centre. At various times the local access does take priority and causes a bank up of traffic either east or west along the Great Ocean Road. As the area becomes more popular this traffic is only expected to increase, however it is predictable and confined to key dates.

The proposal from VicRoads, while having merit, does not consider the impact on the local traffic and is a solution for a very short period of the year. At no stage has any short term traffic management been considered. The proposal is also based on modelling of traffic prior to the installation of the roundabout at Forest Road, and also fails to consider whether the opening of the Chocolaterie further east on the Great Ocean Road.

I believe it would be appropriate to defer works to allow further traffic monitoring over summer 2016/17 and introduce short term traffic management solutions during this time.

I commend this Notice of Motion to Council.

Cr Margot Smith
Councillor

Date: 16 March 2016

8. IN-CAMERA

Recommendation

That Council pursuant to section 89(2)(h) other matters, section 89(2)(a) personnel matters, section 89(2)(d) contractual matters and section 89(2)(e) proposed developments of the Local Government Act 1989, close the meeting to members of the public to resolve on matters pertaining to the following items:

8.1 Assemblies of Councillors Confidential

8.2 Service Review - Visitor Information Centres

8.3 Request for Council Contribution to the Widening of Horseshoe Bend Road, Torquay

8.4 Planning Scheme Amendment Request 85 Geelong Road, Corner Grossmans Road, Torquay

Recommendation

That:

1. The resolution and report pertaining to In-Camera items 8.1, 8.2 and 8.4 remain In Camera.
2. The report pertaining to In-Camera item 8.3 remain In Camera and the resolution be made public.
3. Council open the meeting to the public at pm.

Close: There being no further items of business the meeting closed at pm.