



MELTON CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that the Ordinary Meeting of the Melton City Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, 232 High Street, Melton on 26 May 2015 at 7pm.

THIS AGENDA CONTAINS REPORTS TO BE DEALT WITH AT A CLOSED MEETING OF COUNCIL

Kelvin Tori
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Visitors to the Gallery please note:

Proceedings at Council meetings are controlled by the Chairperson. The Chairperson is empowered to enforce the provision of Council's Local Law, which includes the following aspects;

- **Silence** must be maintained by members of the public in the gallery at all times. A visitor to the gallery must not interject or take part in the debate that occurs in the Chamber.
- Members of the public in the gallery must not operate **recording equipment** at a Council or Special Committee Meeting without the prior written consent of Council.
- **Question time** is available at every Ordinary Meeting to enable members of the public to address questions to Council. All questions must be received by the Chief Executive Officer or other person nominated for this purpose no later than:
 - i) 5 pm on the day of the Ordinary Meeting if questions are submitted into the receptacle designated for public questions outside the Council Chamber;
 - ii) 5pm on the day of the Ordinary Meeting if questions are submitted by electronic medium as per Council website directions.

A person must not submit more than two (2) individual questions at a meeting, inclusive of all parts and variants as interpreted by the Chairperson or other person authorised for this purpose by the Chairperson. The person directing the question must be present in the gallery at the time the question is to be dealt with for it to be valid.

- It is an offence for any person, not being a Councillor, who is guilty of any improper or disorderly conduct to not leave the meeting when requested by the Chairperson to do so.
Penalty: 20 Penalty Units
- It is an offence for any person to fail to obey a direction of the Chairperson relating to the conduct of the meeting and the maintenance of order.
Penalty: 20 Penalty Units

A penalty unit for a Local Law made under Part 5 of the *Local Government Act* 1989 is \$100 in accordance with s110(2) of the *Sentencing Act* 1991.

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1. OPENING PRAYER, AND RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

The Chairperson will read the opening prayer and reconciliation statement.

Prayer

“Almighty God we humbly beseech Thee to vouchsafe Thy blessing upon this Council, direct and prosper its deliberations to the advancement of Thy glory and the welfare of the people whom we serve – Amen.”

Reconciliation Statement

Melton City Council acknowledges that the land it now occupies has a history that began with the Indigenous occupants, the Kulin Nation. Council pays its respects to the Kulin Nation people and their Elders and descendants past and present.

2. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The Chairperson will call for any apologies received from any Councillors who are unable to attend this meeting.

3. CHANGES TO THE ORDER OF BUSINESS**4. DEPUTATIONS****5. DECLARATION OF ANY PECUNIARY INTEREST, OTHER INTEREST OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST OF ANY COUNCILLOR**

Pursuant to Section 77A, 77B, 78 and 79 of the Local Government Act 1989, any Councillor must declare any direct or indirect interest, and any conflict of interest, in any items contained within the Notice Paper.

6. ADOPTION AND CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 21 April 2015 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

7. CORRESPONDENCE INWARD

7.1 PARLIAMENTARIAN AND DEPARTMENTAL LETTERS RECEIVED BY THE MAYOR

- The Hon Natalie Hutchins MP – Minister for Local Government – *New Interface Communities Infrastructure Fund to support your fast-growing community.*

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Parliamentarian and Departmental letters received by the Mayor be received and noted.

LIST OF APPENDICES

1. Correspondence - Minister for Local Government

8. PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

The Chief Executive will table any petitions and/or joint letters received prior to this meeting.

9. RESUMPTION OF DEBATE OR OTHER BUSINESS CARRIED OVER FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING

Nil.

10. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

11. PRESENTATION OF STAFF REPORTS

11.1 AUTHORISATION OF AFFIXING THE COMMON SEAL OF COUNCIL

Author: Christie Shields- Governance Officer
Presenter: Peter Bean- General Manager Corporate Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

For Council to adopt the schedule of documents (**Appendix 1**) requiring the Common Seal of Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Council Seal be affixed to the documentation as detailed in the Schedule for Authorising of Affixing of the Common Seal of Melton City Council dated 3 February 2015 and appended to this report (**Appendix 1**).

REPORT

1. Executive Summary

Documents requiring the Common Seal of Council to be affixed are detailed in **Appendix 1**.

2. Background/Issues

Use of the Council Seal is required where Council as a body corporate is required to acquit a document or agreement for the purpose of performing its functions and exercising its powers.

The *Local Government Act 1989* prescribes that a Council must have a common seal, and that the common seal must –

- (a) Bear the name of the Council (which name may refer to the inhabitants of the municipal district) and any other word, letter, sign or device the Council determines should be included; and
- (b) Be kept at the Council office; and
- (c) Be used in accordance with the local laws of the Council.

Council's Meeting Procedure Local Law (2013) prescribes the use of Council's Common Seal and the authorized officers who have the authority to sign every document to which the common seal is affixed.

3. Council Plan Reference and Policy Reference

The Melton City Council 2013-2017 Council Plan references:

2. *A Well Governed and Leading Organisation: Operating with innovation, transparency, accountability and sustainability*

2.6 *Ensure timely compliance with statutory and regulatory obligations.*

4. Financial Considerations

There are no financial considerations relating to the use of the Council Seal.

5. Consultation/Public Submissions

Not applicable.

6. Risk Analysis

Ensuring that the Council Seal is only affixed in accordance with a resolution of Council controls the potential risk of the Seal being incorrectly affixed to a document.

7. Options

Not applicable.

LIST OF APPENDICES

1. Schedule for Authorising of Affixing the Common Seal

11.2 MINUTES OF THE CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING - 8 APRIL 2015

Author: Adamu Tefera- Intercultural Development Officer
Presenter: Maurie Heaney- General Manager Community Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To present the minutes of the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Advisory Committee (CALDAC) special meeting held on 8 April 2015.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council note the unconfirmed minutes of the CALDAC special meeting held on 8 April 2015, as attached at **Appendix 1**.

REPORT

1. Executive Summary

The Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Advisory Committee (CALDAC) was established approximately five (5) years ago to work with communities in the City of Melton to be inclusive of all people, and at the same time acknowledge the role of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities within the municipality.

Membership of the Committee comprises of stakeholders and representatives of the City of Melton's CALD communities. The Committee members have a passionate interest in developing strong partnerships and provide responses to local CALD priorities.

The CALDAC minutes of the 8 April 2015 special meeting are attached to this report (**Appendix 1**).

2. Background/Issues

The CALDAC meets quarterly to consider matters relating to CALD communities, cultural and settlement issues within the municipality. This special meeting was an additional CALDAC meeting convened to discuss the Terms of Reference and how to strengthen CALDAC.

The purpose of the Committee is to advise Council on issues and barriers that affect people with diverse backgrounds living, working and/or learning in the City of Melton. The Committee raises advocacy issues for Council to consider on behalf of the community and assists to promote the benefits of cultural diversity within the City of Melton.

The CALDAC's meeting of 8 April 2015 addressed the following:

- CALDAC Terms of Reference review; and
- CALDAC membership: Positions vacant

3. Council Plan Reference and Policy Reference

The Melton City Council 2013-2017 Council Plan references:

3. Diverse, Confident and Inclusive Communities: A culturally rich, active, safe and connected City.

3.5 Build an inclusive community that embraces and values cultural diversity and celebrates our collective heritage.

4. Financial Considerations

Operational expenses related to the CALDAC are accommodated within recurrent budget programs, within Community Services.

5. Consultation/Public Submissions

The CALDAC is an Advisory Committee of Council, and where public consultation and/or submissions are identified as being appropriate, the Committee will recommend an appropriate consultation process to Council for endorsement.

6. Risk Analysis

The CALDAC ensures continued meaningful engagement and consultation with CALD communities and ensures relationships and resources are adequately aligned to address CALD community concerns and assist Council in mitigating possible risks.

7. Options

The CALDAC is an Advisory Committee of Council, therefore Council has the discretion to accept, reject or amend the Committee's recommendations as deemed appropriate.

LIST OF APPENDICES

1. Minutes of the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Advisory Committee Meeting - 8 April 2015

11.3 MINUTES OF ARTS & CULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING -13 APRIL 2015

Author: Ruby Wingrove- Arts & Culture Officer
Presenter: Peter Bean- General Manager Corporate Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To present the minutes of the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee meeting held on Monday 13 April 2015.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receive and note the unconfirmed minutes of the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee held on 13 April 2015 (Appendix 1).

REPORT

1. Executive Summary

The Arts and Culture Advisory Committee met on Monday 13 April 2015 at the CS Gallery Caroline Springs Library to be informed about a range of agenda items pertaining to the work being achieved for the last phase of Imagine Melton Arts and Culture Strategy 2011-2015. These include working with Council's Economic Development Unit through opportunities to be a part of the Women in Business Luncheon held on Thursday 5 March 2015 showcasing local artists' work and the inclusion of a Creative Industries Award in this year's City of Melton Business Excellence Awards Awards being held on Friday 1 May 2015. The completion of the Public Art Trail, Public Art Mentorship, Artist in Residence and Mayoral Biennial Sculpture Awards this year along with other key programs will feature in the work delivered for Council over the next five (5) months. Other agenda items referred to the good work being achieved in marketing and promoting the Imagine Melton brand resulting in the increased visibility of the CS Gallery for residents, visitors and artists alike, locally and across Melbourne.

2. Background/Issues

The Arts and Culture Advisory Committee is comprised of community members, Councillors and assisting Officers.

The role of the Committee is to provide advice and recommendations to Council on a range of matters underpinned by the Council Plan 2013 – 2017 and Council Arts and Culture Strategy Imagine Melton 2011 – 2015. The Committee provides further assistance in the development and delivery of Council's arts and culture initiatives, programs and policies, as cited in the Terms of Reference document.

3. Council Plan Reference and Policy Reference

The Melton City Council Plan refers to the need to:

3.3 Develop an environment that supports imagination, creative expression and engagement in cultural experiences

3.7 Ensure our established and new communities are well connected and supported.

4. Financial Considerations

There are no financial considerations in the endorsement of these minutes.

5. Consultation/Public Submissions

Nil.

6. Risk Analysis

Nil.

7. Options

That Council note the Report.

LIST OF APPENDICES

1. Minutes Arts And Culture Advisory Committee Meeting 13 April 2015

11.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 13 APRIL 2015

Author: Sarah Edwards- Community Well-being Officer
Presenter: Maurie Heaney- General Manager Community Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To present the minutes of the Community Safety Committee meeting held on 13 April 2015.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council note the unconfirmed minutes of the Community Safety Committee meeting held on 13 April 2015, as attached at **Appendix 1**.

REPORT

1. Executive Summary

The Community Safety Committee has been established to provide a strategic, responsive and accountable model to promote community safety and address crime prevention efforts in the City.

Membership of the Committee is drawn from key stakeholders and subject matter experts. Committee members have an interest in developing partnership responses to local community safety priorities.

The Committee meets bi-monthly, with the minutes of the 13 April 2015 meeting provided at **Appendix 1**.

2. Background/Issues

The Community Safety Committee meets to consider matters relating to crime prevention, health and wellbeing and community safety.

The purpose of the Committee is to coordinate a multi-agency partnership response to prioritise community safety and crime prevention issues within the City.

At the meeting on 13 April 2015, the Committee addressed the following:

- Presentation of promising practice in the local government sector regarding safety committees and collaborations to address community safety and health and wellbeing.
- The need to review the Terms of Reference (dated 9 April 2013) at the next meeting.
- Overview of the Victim's Assistance Program coordinated by CoHealth.
- Update on Council's preventing violence against women work including a submission to the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence.
- Updates from member agencies.

3. Council Plan Reference and Policy Reference

The Melton City Council 2013-2017 Council Plan references:

3. Diverse, Confident and Inclusive Communities: A culturally rich, active, safe and connected City.

3.6 Create a safer community through building a sense of belonging and community pride.

4. Financial Considerations

Operational expense and initiatives extending from the Community Safety Committee are accommodated within Council's current budgets.

5. Consultation/Public Submissions

The Community Safety Committee is an Advisory Committee of Council and where public consultation and/or submissions are identified as being appropriate, the Committee will recommend an appropriate consultation process to Council for endorsement.

6. Risk Analysis

The Community Safety Committee exists to provide Council with an avenue to collaborate with the community to address key community safety concerns. Failure to support the function of the committee may result in a decrease in attention to the issue of community safety. To improve community health and wellbeing, Council must ensure that ongoing attention is brought to matters of concern and that residents continue to have strong perceptions of safety within their local neighbourhoods.

7. Options

The Community Safety Committee is an Advisory Committee to Council, therefore has the discretion to accept, reject or amend the Committee's recommendations as Council deems appropriate.

LIST OF APPENDICES

1. Community Safety Committee Meeting Minutes - 13 April 2015

11.5 EARLY YEARS PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 23 APRIL 2015.

Author: Leigh Cruickshank- Coordinator Early Years Partnerships
Presenter: Maurie Heaney- General Manager Community Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To present to Council the minutes of the Early Years Partnership Committee meeting held on 23 April 2015.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council note the unconfirmed minutes of the Early Years Partnership Committee Meeting held on 23 April 2015 as attached at **Appendix 1**.

REPORT

1. Executive Summary

The Early Years Partnership Committee (EYPC) was established in 2011. Key roles of the Committee are to work collaboratively to monitor and evaluate the Municipal Early Years Plan 2014-2017. The Committee is also responsible for implementing, monitoring and evaluating the current Best Start Action Plan for the term of 2014-2015 and developing the Action Plan for 2015/2016.

Committee membership is drawn from Community Representatives and external partners who provide services to families and children within the City. The Committee meets bimonthly, and attached to this report are the minutes of 23 April 2015 meeting.

2. Background/Issues

The EYPC is responsible for providing direction, involvement and advice to Council concerning the support, development and improvement of the health and wellbeing of children aged 0-12 years.

The EYPC meeting on the 23 April addressed the following;

- Healthy Children Growing Together children's consultation project update
- Barriers to physical activity children's peer research project presentation
- Best Start Action Plan 15/16 and working group reports
- Overview of Early Childhood Intervention service Scope
- Child Friendly Cities and Communities Charter update

3. Council Plan Reference and Policy Reference

The Melton City Council 2013-2017 Council Plan references:

3. Diverse, Confident and Inclusive Communities: A culturally rich, active, safe and connected City

3.1 Provide an accessible range of services for all including children, young people, families and older adults.

4. Financial Considerations

Nil.

5. Consultation/Public Submissions

The Committee is comprised of 21 members representing a range of sectors including but not limited to State Government, education, disability, health, family support and representatives from the community.

The Committee receive, respond and monitor identified community, industry and/or Council initiatives and opportunities in an inclusive and consultative approach.

6. Risk Analysis

Regularly providing information on Early Years Partnership activities assists Council in identifying any possible identified risk exposure to Council or providers.

7. Options

The Early Years Partnership Committee is an Advisory Committee of Council, with Council discretion to accept or reject Committee recommendations as presented.

LIST OF APPENDICES

1. Minutes of Early Years Partnership Committee meeting - 23 April 2015

11.6 MINUTES OF MUNICIPAL AUDIT COMMITTEE - 29 APRIL 2015

Author: Cheryl Santoro- Senior Administration Officer
Presenter: Peter Bean- General Manager Corporate Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

For Council to consider the minutes of the Municipal Audit Committee meeting held on 29 April 2015.

RECOMMENDATION:

That

1. the unconfirmed minutes of the Municipal Audit Committee of 29 April 2015 be noted; and
2. Council endorse the recommended actions detailed in the minutes of the Municipal Audit Committee meeting held on 29 April 2015 (**Appendix 1**).

REPORT

1. Executive Summary

The unconfirmed minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held on 29 April 2015 are appended to this report as **Appendix 1**. The Committee considered various issues in relation to risk, financial management and governance and the minutes contain recommendations for the consideration of Council.

2. Background/Issues

It is a requirement within the Terms of Reference of the Municipal Audit Committee to meet and report its decisions and recommendations to the Council for consideration.

Issues discussed and recommendations made by the Committee are noted in the minutes for action by both individuals and Council.

3. Council Plan Reference and Policy Reference

The Melton City Council 2013-2017 Council Plan references:

2. A Well Governed and Leading Organisation: Operating with innovation, transparency, accountability and sustainability
 - 2.6 *Ensure timely compliance with statutory and regulatory obligations*

4. Financial Considerations

A provision has been provided in this year's budget for the remuneration on a fee per meeting basis for independent member of the Committee, with an optional additional amount paid to the Chairperson.

5. Consultation/Public Submissions

The Municipal Audit Committee consists of Councillors Ramsey and Majdlik and three independent external audit members Mr Alan Hall as Chairperson, Mr Adam Roberts and Mr Stan Naylor.

6. Risk Analysis

Not Applicable

7. Options

The Audit Committee is an advisory committee of Council, and Council therefore has the discretion to accept, reject or amend its recommendations.

LIST OF APPENDICES

1. Audit Committee Minutes

11.7 MINUTES OF THE POLICY REVIEW PANEL - 4 MAY 2015

Author: Tracy Spiteri- Acting Corporate Policy and Planning Coordinator

Presenter: Peter Bean- General Manager Corporate Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report presents to Council *Minutes of the Policy Review Panel* meeting for adoption of the panel's recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION:

That :

1. The unconfirmed minutes of the Policy Review Panel Meeting of 4 May 2015 be noted **(Appendix 1)**.
2. Council adopt the recommendations of the Committee as detailed in the Minutes appended to this report.

REPORT

1. Executive Summary

Presented for Councils consideration are the Policy Review Panel Meeting Minutes of 4 May 2015.

At the meeting held on 4 May 2015 the panel considered the following items:

- Privacy Policy
- Electronic Recording of Meetings
- Edible Community Gardens Policy
- Learning Board Terms of Reference
- Gift and Merchandise Policy & Procedure
- Photography and Images Policy
- Online Engagement Policy
- Councillor Committee Nominations Advisory Committee Terms of Reference
- Complaints Management Policy
- Presentation of Councillor CAR Process – Barbara McKenzie

2. Background/Issues

Council established a "Policy Review Panel" to review existing Council policy and formulate new policies in new areas identified by Council as requiring appropriate policy consideration.

The panel is an Advisory Committee which meets bimonthly and presents its recommendations to the Council for adoption. A copy of the Minutes is attached as **Appendix 1** to this report.

The policies and terms of reference largely reflect what was the pre-existing practice in relation to these matters and therefore are not viewed as containing any major issues for Council.

3. Council Plan Reference and Policy Reference

The Melton City Council 2013-2017 Council Plan references:

2. A Well Governed and Leading Organisation: Operating with innovation, transparency, accountability and sustainability

2.6 Ensure timely compliance with statutory and regulatory obligations

4. Financial Considerations

There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations of the Committee as contained in the Minutes.

All policies considered are incorporated within Council's existing budgets.

5. Consultation/Public Submissions

The Policy Review Panel is an Advisory Committee of Council and where public consultation and or submissions are identified as being appropriate the Committee would recommend an appropriate consultation process to Council for endorsement.

6. Risk Analysis

Maintaining up to date policies within an organisational framework assists Council in controlling risk.

7. Options

The Policy Review Panel is an Advisory Committee of Council and Council therefore has the discretion to accept/reject or amend its recommendations as Council deems appropriate.

LIST OF APPENDICES

1. Minutes - Policy Review Panel 4 May 2015
2. Privacy Policy
3. Electronic Recording of Meetings
4. Edible Community Gardens Policy
5. Terms of Reference - City of Melton Community Learning Board
6. Gift and Merchandise Policy
7. Gift and Merchandise Procedure
8. Photography and Images Policy
9. Online Engagement Policy
10. Complaint Management Policy

11.8 COMMUNITY LEARNING BOARD MINUTES

Author: Peter Blunden- Life Long Learning Officer
Presenter: Peter Bean- General Manager Corporate Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To present to Council Minutes of the Community Learning Board meeting held on 30 April 2015

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council note the unconfirmed Minutes of the Community Learning Board Meeting held on 30 April 2015 and the recommendation contained therein be adopted by Council.

REPORT

1. Executive Summary

The Learning Board met on 30 April 2015 and addressed the following items:

- The Melton careers expo to be held in June 2015.
- The introduction of the Early Uni Pathways Project (EUP) targeting year 11 students. It is anticipated that student participants will go on to complete a university subject as a part of their year 12 VCE and encourage them to see higher education as a viable option
- The Social Inclusion and Lifelong Learning Working Party of the Learning Board are hosting with YouthNow a careers Forum for service providers; *Strengthening Careers Advice: Supporting Clients with Various Abilities*, to be held on 19 May from 9.00am – 12.30pm at WestWaters Hotel.
- Progress reports from the Board's working parties
- Invitation from Gyung-gi Institute for Lifelong Learning and the City of Si-heung South Korea for the Lifelong Learning coordinator to present at their International Forum *Learning the Treasure Within* in June.

2. Background/Issues

The Community Learning Board meets bimonthly and considers matters relating to employment, education and lifelong learning within the City. The Learning Board promotes Melton as a Learning City.

Council established the Community Learning Board in 1998 to promote the importance of lifelong learning to the social and economic development of Melton. The Board is an Advisory Committee which presents its recommendations to Council. The Community Learning Board connects those involved within the City in these endeavours in a forum to improve lifelong learning opportunities for the community. Membership is drawn from all learning sectors, industry and community organisations and also comprises a number of ex officio members from Council and other formal education service providers.

The Board has two working parties that concentrate on various elements of lifelong learning and implement the Community Learning Plan 2011-2014 through its Annual Action Plan. They are the Economic Development and Lifelong Learning Working Party and the Social Inclusion and Lifelong Learning Working Party. There is also a Kindergarten Working Party

that is a joint activity of the City's Early Years Partnership and the Community Learning Board and the Schools Provisioning Working Party. Activities of these working parties are reported in Community Learning Board minutes which are attached as Appendix 1.

3. Council Plan Reference and Policy Reference

The Melton City Council 2013-2017 Council Plan references:

3. Diverse, Confident and Inclusive Communities: A culturally rich, active, safe and connected City

3.4 Provide lifelong learning opportunities to build social connections and self development

4. Financial Considerations

There are no financial implications for Council with the recommendations of the Committee as contained in the Minutes.

5. Consultation/Public Submissions

The Community Learning Board is an Advisory Committee of Council and where public consultation and or submissions are identified as being appropriate the Board would recommend an appropriate consultation process to Council for endorsement

6. Risk Analysis

Being regularly informed on Community Learning Board activities assists Council in controlling any possible risk exposure

7. Options

The Community Learning Board is an Advisory Committee to Council and Council therefore has the discretion to accept/reject or amend its recommendations as Council deems appropriate.

LIST OF APPENDICES

1. Community Learning Board Minutes 30 April 2015

11.9 ESSENTIAL SERVICES COMMISSION RATE CAPPING

Author: Catherine Nichols- Rates Coordinator
Presenter: Peter Bean- General Manager Corporate Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is in response to Council's submission to the Essential Services Commission consultation paper on local government rate capping & variation framework released in April 2015.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes the attached submission at **Appendix 1** submitted to the Essential Services Commission on Rate Capping in Local Government.

REPORT

1. Executive Summary

In January 2015, the Andrews Labor Government announced its intention to act on its state election commitment to cap council rates at CPI inflation levels. The rate capping policy will be implemented for the 2016-17 financial year.

2. Background/Issues

In January 2015, the Minister for Local Government advised a rate cap at CPI inflation levels would be introduced before the start of 2016-17 financial year.

In January 2015, the Essential Services Commission received terms of reference to consider and report on the development of a state-wide capping and variation framework for council rates. The Essential Services Commission is required to complete its final report by 31 October 2015.

The Essential Services Commission has been asked to design a framework that meets the Government's commitment to cap annual council rate increases as well as to develop a workable process to assess any proposals by councils for above cap increases ("variation process"). Its stated intention is that the proposed framework will lead to future rates that are efficient, stable and reflective of community needs and demands, without compromising councils' autonomy or financial sustainability.

Council has made a submission in response to the consultation paper at **Appendix 1**.

3. Council Plan Reference and Policy Reference

The Melton City Council 2013-2017 Council Plan references:

2. A Well Governed and Leading Organisation: Operating with innovation, transparency, accountability and sustainability

2.5 Advocate in the best interests of our community and region

4. Financial Considerations

Preparation of the attached submission incurred no direct cost other than officer time.

5. Consultation/Public Submissions

N/A

6. Risk Analysis

The risk to Council is not clear at this stage as full impact of the rate capping policy have not been obtained.

7. Options

Council has no option at this stage but to comply with legislation requirements imposed

LIST OF APPENDICES

1. Melton City Council submission to the Essential Services Commission - LG Rates Capping

11.10 SUBMISSION TO THE VICTORIAN ROYAL COMMISSION INTO FAMILY VIOLENCE

Author: Sarah Edwards- Community Well-being Officer
Presenter: Maurie Heaney- General Manager Community Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek Council's endorsement of the Melton City Council Submission to the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Endorse the Melton City Council Submission to the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence as presented at **Appendix 1**; and
2. Note the Municipal Association of Victoria, Preventing Violence Together and Interface Council's submissions to the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence, which Council has contributed to as a signatory and/or member agency.

REPORT

1. Executive Summary

Council has a strong commitment to the health and wellbeing of residents, as outlined in the *Council Plan 2013-2017* and *Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-2017*; in particular, a shared vision for creating a community that is safe, healthy and free from violence. Further to this commitment, Council has endorsed the *Preventing Violence against Women and their Children Strategy and Action Plan 2013-2016* and a *Family Violence Policy*.

The Victorian State Government is currently undertaking a Royal Commission into Family Violence, demonstrating a keen level of commitment on their behalf to understand the prevalence, seriousness and preventable nature of family violence within Victoria. Submissions close on 29 May 2015.

Council officers have prepared a submission (as presented at **Appendix 1**), for Council's consideration and endorsement. Council has also contributed to three additional submissions, prepared by (1) the Municipal Association of Victoria, (2) the Western Region via the Preventing Violence Together Partnership (led by Women's Health West) and (3) the Interface Council's. Each submission is consistent with Council's vision and key strategic documents addressing family violence and the prevention of violence against women.

2. Background/Issues

Local Government's role to Prevent Violence against Women

Local government is well placed to deliver community based responses to family violence. Given the close nature by which Council officers work with individuals, families and community organisations to deliver frontline whole-of-life services, they are ideally suited to promote community efforts to address the causes of violence against women.

To this end, in November 2013 Council adopted the *Preventing Violence against Women and their Children Strategy and Action Plan 2013-2016*. The Strategy guides an organisational response to prevent violence against women and contribute to a community where women live free from violence and the fear of violence. A key preventative action within the Strategy is to 'prepare submissions in response to State and Federal Government policy reforms relating to women and children's wellbeing and the prevention of family violence'.

Profile of Violence against Women

In Australia, one in three women will experience physical violence and one in five women will experience sexual violence. Research demonstrates that one in four young people have witnessed violence against their mother or step mother and up to one in five children are subject to violence in the their home.

For Victorian women aged 15-44 years, violence against women is the leading cause of illness, death and disability and is a greater contributor to the burden of death than physical inactivity, unhealthy body weight, drug and alcohol related harm and tobacco use.

In the North-West Metropolitan Region, during 2011-2012, there were over 15,000 reported family violence incidents. This accounts for thirty (30) per cent of the reported family violence incidents for Victoria during this time. During 2007-2012, reports in the region consistently increased (likely shaped by improvements to reporting systems and awareness raising about help-seeking).

During the period 2011-2012, the highest rates of family violence for the western region were reported in the City of Melton (1,166.1 per 100,000), followed by Brimbank (972.3 per 100,000) and Wyndham (925.1 per 100,000). Notably, these municipalities also reported rates of reported family violence that were higher than the rate for Victoria overall, at 910.3 per 100,000.

Within the City of Melton, 1,112 reports of family violence were reported in 2011. This was an increase of 40% on the reports made in 2010. To date, the City of Melton has the 7th highest family violence rates in Victoria. The Melton Police Family Violence unit receives an average of four call outs per day, equating to 120 family violence reports per month.

Determinants of Violence against Women

The causes of violence against women are complex. There are often individual, community or societal explanations as to why such violence occurs. The key determinants to the perpetration of violence against women are:

- The unequal distribution of power and resources between men and women;
- Adherence to rigidly defined gender roles; and
- Broader cultures of violence.

There are also a number of contributing factors such as:

- Witnessing or experiencing family violence as a child;
- Income, education and occupation;
- Weak social connections;
- Neighbourhood characteristics, such as service infrastructure, high unemployment rates, poverty;
- The unequal distribution of material resources.

Council's Submission to the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence

Council's submission (as presented at **Appendix 1**) is underpinned by local government's unique role in the prevention of violence against women, with a strong focus on the determinants. It highlights the prevalence and outlines localised contributing factors such as:

- Mortgage stress
- Other financial stress
- New births
- Difficulties accessing services
- Drug and alcohol use
- Isolation

It includes and emphasises good practice examples of Council's work to prevent violence against women including:

- Take a Stand organisation wide training to prevent violence against women (2013)
- Workplace Family Violence Policy (2013)
- Preventing Violence Against Women and Children Policy (2013)
- White Ribbon Action Team (established 2014)
- Preventing Violence Against Women and their Children Plan 2013-2016

The key recommendations in the proposed Melton City Council submission acknowledge the key role of Local Government, the need for investment across the sector, and the need to address underlying key determinants of violence against women. The recommendations include:

- Ensure gender is embedded within all Victorian state government policies, especially those related to the provision of education, employment, housing, health services, transport, infrastructure and income.
- Role model gender equity practices including gender balances within parliamentary and departmental functions.
- Fund the primary prevention sector, using local government as a key setting to expand work to prevent violence against women.
- Establish of a State-wide peak body to coordinate and expand primary prevention efforts to redress the causes of violence against women across the sector.
- Invest in local government, Municipal Association of Victoria and Victorian Local Government Association to enable consistency in sector development and capacity building for greater awareness and understanding and evidence based impacts and innovation in local government.
- Invest in economic development strategies with a greater focus on Melbourne's West.
- Invest in public and social housing options for Melbourne's West.
- Review housing affordably policies and make provision for more affordable housing options, with a greater focus on Melbourne's west, including assistance with property settlement.
- Invest in better integration of the service system network in Melbourne's West, especially improving access to Legal Aid services.
- Monitor and regulate rental and fuel prices to minimise financial stress.

- Invest in public health campaigns to raise awareness of violence against women, support services and influence community attitudes to not excuse or accept violence.
- Continue to invest and further fund frontline community services. In particular, Community Legal Centres who are well placed within the community and have strong partnerships with Victoria Police, service providers and the private sector.

3. Council Plan Reference and Policy Reference

The Melton City Council 2013-2017 Council Plan references:

4. Community Health and Wellbeing: A City of people leading healthy and happy lives
 - 4.2 Address health inequalities in our community*

4. Financial Considerations

Nil

5. Consultation/Public Submissions

Melton City Council is committed to working in partnership to prevent family violence and reduce its impact on our community. Key existing partnerships have been strengthened during the process of developing the submission.

6. Risk Analysis

Failure to address family violence through a strategic whole of government approach poses the risk of increased and ongoing impacts on the health and wellbeing of the community, and in particular women and children. Council is mitigating this risk through:

- Continuing to build strong partnerships with Victoria Police, Women's Health West, Djerriwarrh Health Services and local health and community service providers; and
- Ongoing consultation with community organisations and the broader community about the needs of families in the City of Melton.

7. Options

Nil

LIST OF APPENDICES

1. Melton City Council Submission to the Royal Commission into Family Violence 2015

11.11 MELTON CITY COUNCIL PLAN (2013-2017)

Author: Tracy Spiteri- Acting Corporate Policy and Planning Coordinator
Presenter: Maurie Heaney- General Manager Community Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To advise Council that the annual review of the 2013-2017 Council Plan has been completed.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Note that the Annual Review of the Council Plan 2013-17 has been undertaken, and determine that no alterations to the strategic objectives, strategies and strategic indicators are required, and as such, there is no requirement for the plan to be exhibited pursuant to Section 223 of the Local Government Act, and;
2. Endorse the Strategic Resource Plan 2015/16 – 2018/19 as presented at **Appendix 1**.

REPORT

1. Executive Summary

The Council Plan 2013-2017 details the strategic objectives and the strategies for achieving these, the strategic indicators for monitoring achievement of the objectives and a Strategic Resource Plan.

Council annually receives an update on the review of the Council Plan and the Strategic Resource Plan.

Consequently this report provides advice on the outcome of the internal review process of the Council Plan and the Strategic Resource Plan.

2. Background/Issues

Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1989 requires Council to develop a Council Plan within 6 months of a general election, and to at least once in each financial year consider whether the current Council Plan requires any adjustment in respect of the remaining period of the Council Plan.

The Council Plan 2013-2017 is Council's primary vision and strategic planning document. It establishes the direction Council has committed to for its term of office (4 years). The Council Plan outlines the objectives, strategies and performance indicators to achieve this vision.

Officers have reviewed the Council Plan and are of the view that it remains appropriate to guide the work of Council for the period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016.

The updated Strategic Resource Plan 2015/16 to 2018/19 at **Appendix 1** provides detail of the required resources to achieve the 2013-2017 Council Plan's strategic objectives.

3. Council Plan Reference and Policy Reference

The Melton City Council 2013-2017 Council Plan references:

2. A Well Governed and Leading Organisation: Operating with innovation, transparency, accountability and sustainability

2.6 Ensure timely compliance with statutory and regulatory obligations

4. Financial Considerations

There are no financial implications for Council in the review process of the Council Plan.

5. Consultation/Public Submissions

Not applicable.

6. Risk Analysis

Nil.

7. Options

Council maintains the option to adjust the Council Plan. If Council adjusts the strategic objectives, strategies or strategic indicators it must subject the revised plan to the public submission process over a 28 day period.

LIST OF APPENDICES

1. Strategic Resource Plan 2015/16 to 2018/19

11.12 KINDERGARTEN UNIVERSAL ACCESS FUNDING

Author: Vicky Matthews- Children Services Manager
Presenter: Maurie Heaney- General Manager Community Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update Council on the Federal Government's recent decision to extend the Universal Access funding for a further two (2) year term.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Note the Australian Federal Government's initiative to fund the Universal Kindergarten Access program for a further two (2) year term effective from 2016-2017, and
2. Write to the Federal Government expressing Council's appreciation for this extension of funding and calling on the Federal Government to provide certainty to the industry by adopting the Universal Kindergarten Access Program as an ongoing program.

REPORT

1. Executive Summary

Council officers over the past four (4) years have been working together with the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV), Victorian State Government on implementing the Universal Access program. The Kindergarten Universal Access program provides four (4) year old children to have 15 hours of kindergarten provision, one (1) year before commencing school.

Council has been implementing strategic work commencing some years ago to accomplish the Universal Access program for our four (4) year old children that reside in the municipality.

A previous report presented to Council in April 2014 indicated that Council was providing 100% of the Universal Access programs to four (4) year old children that are enrolled in Council's run kindergartens within the municipality.

This report is to provide an overview of the Universal Access program occupancy to date for four (4) year old children and the recent decision of the Federal Government to extend the Universal Access funding program for a further two (2) years, commencing 2016 and ending December 2017.

2. Background/Issues

The Universal Access program provides an opportunity for every four (4) year old child to access 15 hours of kindergarten provision in Council facilities one (1) year prior to commencing school. Research strongly supports the developmental benefits for children accessing 15 hours of kindergarten.

A National Partnership agreement on Early Childhood Education committed funding to Universal Access program for children in the year before full time schooling for a five (5) year term from 2009-2013. The funding was then extended for a further year, until December 2014.

A strong advocacy campaign was initiated by the MAV and individual Councils to advocate for the continuation of the Universal Access program and the funding that was required to continue this program.

On 4 May 2015 the Federal Government announced to continue the funding for the Universal Access program for a further two (2) years for the calendar year of 2016 up to the end of 2017.

However, it is noted that uncertainty remains about the long term commitment to the provision of the 15 hours of kindergarten beyond 2017.

Kindergarten Central Enrolments 2014 (current)

The current number of children attending Council's four (4) year old kindergarten in 2015 is 1704. This number will increase as the year progresses.

Council has recently advertised for the central enrolment process for four (4) year old kindergarten for the 2016 year and to date, Council has already enrolled 1096 children.

The completion of two (2) additional children's and community facilities at Botanica Springs and Atherstone that opened first term in 2015 is assisting and most importantly ensuring the future demand of kindergarten is met in a growth Council.

Council is currently in progress of constructing an additional kindergarten early years facility in the Burnside area in the Eastern sector of the corridor. This facility is due to open first term of 2016 which will allow for future growth in the Eastern corridor.

3. Council Plan Reference and Policy Reference

The Melton City Council 2013-2017 Council Plan references:

2. A Well Governed and Leading Organisation: Operating with innovation, transparency, accountability and sustainability

2.2 Provide levels of service that balance community need with organisational capacity

4. Financial Considerations

Nil.

5. Consultation/Public Submissions

Consultation occurs continuously with Council's kindergarten cluster Managers and school Councils to ensure that the Universal Access program is achieved with a priority of four (4) year old kindergarten. Furthermore, Council is aiming to present the opportunity for three (3) year old kindergarten provision within these facilities where the opportunity exists.

6. Risk Analysis

Nil.

7. Options

To endorse the officer's recommendation as presented in the report.

LIST OF APPENDICES

Nil

11.13 PROPOSED COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - ACCESS AND INCLUSION LEADER/S OF THE YEAR AWARD

Author: Matthew Wilson- Manager Community Planning
Presenter: Maurie Heaney- General Manager Community Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide a response to Notice of Motion 401 raised at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 10 March 2015.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

- 1 Create a new award within the annual Community Achievement Awards program titled 'Access and Inclusion Leader of the Year Award';
- 2 Make the award open to all residents in the City of Melton; and
- 3 Add an additional selection criteria to the award category as stated, "Commitment to improving the life of people with a disability in the City of Melton".

REPORT

1. Executive Summary

A Notice of Motion (NOM) was raised by Cr Kathy Majdlik at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 10 March 2015 stating:

"That Officers implement a new Community Achievement Award specifically under the category of 'Melton Disability Award' for all future Australia Day Celebrations. That Officers present to Councillors some options as to what / who may be included in this category to celebrate and recognise the important contributions made by people and / or organisations who are affected by disabilities."

Officers investigated the request in the NOM through consultation with Council's Disability Advisory Committee and benchmarking practices with six (6) other local government authorities.

It was found that there is a place for the recommended award category within the existing Community Achievement Awards program that occurs annually at the Australia Day celebrations.

2. Background/Issues

A Notice of Motion (NOM) was raised by Cr Kathy Majdlik at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 10 March 2015 stating:

"That Officers implement a new Community Achievement Award specifically under the category of 'Melton Disability Award' for all future Australia Day Celebrations. That Officers present to Councillors some options as to what / who may be included in this category to

celebrate and recognise the important contributions made by people and / or organisations who are affected by disabilities.”

Initial Officer comments made to the NOM were as follows:

“Officers believe that the implementation of a new Community Achievement Award, specifically under the category of ‘Melton Disability Award’ for all future Australia Day celebrations could be accommodated. Furthermore, the Melton Disability Action Plan 2013-2017 could also potentially assist with the evaluation of this Award as it supports residents with a disability to engage in civic life. Guidance on what may constitute appropriate criteria for the award will need to be sought from the Disability Advisory Committee (DAC). Additionally, information from other Councils that offer similar awards may advise this process.”

The matter was subsequently tabled at the meeting of the Disability Advisory Committee (DAC) on 2 April 2015 under Business Arising. Officers received feedback from members of the committee that the proposed award could focus on an individual or group who has been inspiring and who has demonstrated leadership within the community or improved the quality of life of a person with a disability. Feedback also noted a desire for less focus on the word disability in the proposed title for the award.

Specifically, the minutes of the meeting recorded the following discussion.

The DAC discussed the proposed Australia Day Disability Award and agreed that an additional award within the existing Council Community Achievement Award program could be achievable. The award may be titled, Access and Inclusion Leader/s of the Year Award, and be open to all residents and not for profit organisations. The selection criteria for this award could be, ‘Commitment to improving the life of people with a disability in the City of Melton.’

Although the DAC discussed the option of making the award open to organisations, it is proposed by Officers to align it with the existing awards and make it open to individuals only.

Additional to the consultation with the DAC, Officers consulted with Councils across Victoria via the Local Government Association (LGA) Metro Access and Disability Planners Network. Six LGA members responded that they provide a community award with a disability focus. Therefore there is precedent for establishing the proposed new award category within the local government sector.

Officers considered how to best recommend establishing the proposed award and selection criteria, and identified that consistency with the existing Council Community Achievement Awards is desirable.

The current Award categories are:

1. Citizen of the Year - *Open to all residents of the City of Melton.*
2. Young Citizen of the Year - *Open to residents of the City of Melton under 25 years old.*
3. Community Project of the Year - *Open to all community projects within the City of Melton.*
4. Woman of the Year - *Open to all women within the City of Melton.*

It is proposed that the new Access and Inclusion Leader of the Year Award would be created to be similar to the existing awards and open to all residents in the City of Melton.

The current Community Achievement Award Categories share a common selection criteria, with the Woman of the Year Award having an additional criteria. The current selection criteria are as follows:

- 'Commitment to improving community access, participation and involvement in the City of Melton'.
- 'Commitment to fostering community partnerships in the City of Melton'.
- 'Commitment to demonstrating community leadership in the City of Melton'.

An additional criteria for the Woman of the Year Award is:

- 'Commitment to advancing the status of women in the City of Melton'

It is proposed that an additional criteria be added for the Access and Inclusion Leader of the Year Award, and that criteria to be as follows:

'Commitment to improving the life of people with a disability in the City of Melton'.

Officers also identified an opportunity to have potential recipients of the Access and Inclusion Leader of the Year Award be nominated for the Victorian Disability Sector Awards as a representative of the City of Melton.

In response to the NOM, and under the advice of the Disability Advisory Committee, it is the recommendation of Officers that Council consider establishing the Access and Inclusion Leader of the Year Award.

3. Council Plan Reference and Policy Reference

The Melton City Council 2013-2017 Council Plan references:

3. Diverse, Confident and Inclusive Communities: A culturally rich, active, safe and connected City

3.6 Create a safer community through building a sense of belonging and community pride

4. Financial Considerations

There are minor financial considerations that relate to potential costs associated with administering and presenting the award on an annual basis. However, it is the advice of Officers that these costs may be accommodated within the existing operational budget for the Community Achievement Awards.

5. Consultation/Public Submissions

Consultation occurred with the Melton City Council Disability Advisory Committee at the meeting on 2 April 2015, with discussion and recommendations of the committee noted above.

6. Risk Analysis

Nil

7. Options

Council has the following options:

1. To endorse the recommendations as put by the Officer, or
2. To endorse the recommendations and include the option of it being open to organisations as well as individuals.

LIST OF APPENDICES

Nil

11.14 COUNCIL ANNUAL ACTION PLAN 2014/15 THIRD QUARTER PROGRESS REPORT

Author: Tracy Spiteri- Acting Corporate Policy and Planning Coordinator
Presenter: Maurie Heaney- General Manager Community Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide Council with the third quarter update on the progressive achievement of the Council Annual Action Plan 2014/15.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receive and note the Annual Action Plan 2014/15 Third Quarter Progress Report (1 January to 31 March 2015) as presented at **Appendix 1**.

REPORT

1. Executive Summary

The Council Plan 2013-2017 was prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act* 1989. The Plan is reviewed on an annual basis to adapt to the evolving needs of our growing community.

Each year an Annual Action Plan is produced, identifying the activities and initiatives that Council will work towards achieving in response to the strategic outcomes and strategies identified in the Council Plan.

The progressive achievement of the Annual Action Plan is reported at the conclusion of each quarter of the financial year, with a final summary provided at the conclusion of each financial year. A summary of these outcomes is also provided in the Annual Report.

Appendix 1 to this report provides details on activities during the third quarter period, 1 January to 31 March 2015, in the progressive achievement of the Annual Action Plan 2014/15.

2. Background/Issues

The Council Plan 2013-2017 is Council's primary vision and strategic planning document. It establishes the direction Council has committed to for its term of office (four years). The Council Plan outlines the objectives, strategies and performance indicators to achieve this vision.

Each year Council provides a range of services, activities and initiatives for our community. These key strategic activities and new initiatives are included in the development of an Annual Action Plan.

The Annual Action Plan 2014/15 contains 106 actions that Council has committed to deliver. Council provides the community with quarterly progress reports that support Council's

commitment in providing transparency, through public access to relevant information, decision making and strategic documents.

Appendix 1 provides a detailed summary on the status of each action in the Annual Action Plan 2014/15, inclusive of the report period from 1 January to 31 March 2015.

The following table provides a status overview of the actions:

Status	Description	Number of Actions
Achieved	The Action is completed.	40
On Track	The Action is progressing on target to be achieved within the timeline.	54
Behind Schedule	The Action has been delayed impacting on the current timeline. An explanation and the remedial action where appropriate, is provided in the 'progress comments' column with a revised due date.	5
Postponed	The Action has been deferred for the financial year. An explanation is provided in the 'progress comments' column.	7
Total		106

Key achievements extending from the third quarter progress report include:

Finalisation of key documents:

- The Asset Management Plan, inclusive of the Road (RAMP), Open Space (OSAMP), Drainage (DAMP) and Building (BAMP) Asset Management Plans.
- Community Facility Provision Policy
- Community Learning Plan 2015-2018
- Safer City Plan 2015-2017

Implementation of programs and services:

- Delivery of the Environmental Education program at the Melton Library and Learning Hub (MLLH) and incorporation of the program into all primary school orientations.
- Conduct of the annual 'sale of tobacco to minors' testing program with no sales recorded.

Community consultation and partnerships:

- Completion of the Household Customer Satisfaction Survey, with more than 800 households surveyed delivering an overall positive satisfaction rating with Council.
- Successfully partnered with 13 volunteer and 7 professional project groups in the delivery of the Harmony Day Celebration in Caroline Springs.

Upon adoption of this Council report, the Third Quarter Progress Report will be published on Council's website.

Local Government Performance Reporting Framework

Complementing our commitments in the Annual Action Plan 2014/15, Council is also required to measure performance through a series of new mandated indicators. The Victorian Government has established the Local Government Performance Reporting

Framework (LGPRF). The LGPRF is underpinned by the *Local Government Act 1989* and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014.

The primary objective of the LGPRF is to ensure that all Councils are measuring and reporting on their performance in a consistent way and providing comprehensive performance information for Council, communities, regulators and State and Federal Governments.

The LGPRF consists of 95 mandatory performance indicators which are based on three thematic areas; service performance, financial performance and sustainability.

Council has participated in a second quarter trial and are currently awaiting the CEO Feedback report from Local Government Victoria. Executive continue to be updated on the progress of the collection of data and capability to report against the LGPRF measures in readiness for the 2014/15 reporting period that will commence 1 July 2015.

3. Council Plan Reference and Policy Reference

The Melton City Council 2013-2017 Council Plan references:

2. A Well Governed and Leading Organisation: Operating with innovation, transparency, accountability and sustainability

2.1 Build community trust through socially responsible governance for long term sustainability

4. Financial Considerations

Initiatives and activities delivered in the Annual Action Plan 2014/15 are contained within Councils existing budget.

5. Consultation/Public Submissions

The 2013-2017 Council planning process involved extensive consultation of stakeholders including the community, Council staff, government agencies, community organisations and private industry. This process resulted in the development of the Council Plan 2013-2017 and informs the subsequent annual action plans.

6. Risk Analysis

Nil.

7. Options

Nil.

LIST OF APPENDICES

1. Annual Action Plan - Third Quarter 2014-15

11.15 PLANNING APPLICATION PA CDZ2009/050 - AMENDED PLANS ASSOCIATED WITH A MIXED USE COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT 9-25 COMMERCIAL ROAD, CAROLINE SPRINGS

Author: Steve Finlay- Coordinator Statutory Planning
Presenter: Bob Baggio- Manager Planning and Environment

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider an application for an amendment to plans associated with a mixed use commercial and residential development at Lots S4–S6 on PS629715A, numbers 9-25 Commercial Road, Caroline Springs.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approves an amendment to Precinct Plan CDZ2009/050 to allow for a mixed use commercial and residential development, and that detailed plans in accordance with the Schedule to the Comprehensive Development Zone in the Melton Planning Scheme be endorsed, subject to the following conditions:

1. Garbage collection and delivery hours – a notation must be placed on the plans to specify that a private contractor will collect rubbish from the site between the hours of 9am-5pm daily for commercial tenancies and twice weekly for apartments. There must be no bin storage areas left exposed either along street frontages or within the development. In addition, delivery hours to the site are limited to between 9am-5pm daily;
2. Acoustic fence – a 2-metre high acoustic fence on the development side of the existing colourbond fence abutting the retirement village to the north of the site must be provided, in addition to the existing colourbond fence, which is to be retained;
3. Security lighting is to be provided along both sides of the car-parking areas and must be suitably baffled to ensure no light spill or disturbance to adjoining land;
4. Screening must be provided on the upper floor levels to ensure that there is no overlooking to adjoining properties, which must be either a 1.7m high screen, 1.7m high window sill heights or obscure glazing. Screening should be designed to be integrated with the presentation of the building form and treated with high quality finishes through forms of artwork, quality materials and finishes and/or landscape climber effects;
5. A second boom gate at the eastern access point to the development must be provided so as to prevent after hours access other than by a security pass;
6. Acknowledgement on the plans that the developer will be responsible for providing a treatment known as Stopnoise to all retirement village units directly abutting the site so as to minimise noise from the development.
7. Detailed landscaping plans and plans of the stair well walls abutting the retirement village, and walls abutting the upper level car park are to be provided to show additional articulation measures, including use of different angles and/or materials in construction.
8. Further lowering of the car park at the western extent of the site for a depth of at least 450mm from natural ground level to assist in reducing the visual bulk of the development.

REPORT**1. Background****Executive Summary**

Application No.:	CDZ2009/050
Applicant:	Varcon Constructions P/L

- At the 7 October 2010 Special Council Meeting, Council resolved to approve an amendment to CDZ2009/050 to allow for a mixed use commercial and residential development, and to endorse detailed plans in accordance with the requirements of the Comprehensive Development Zone of the Melton Planning Scheme, subject to a number of amendments being made to the plans prior to endorsement.
- Amended plans in accordance with Council's resolution were received and subsequently endorsed on 26 October 2010, and a number of minor amendments to those plans have also been endorsed since that date.
- The development is known as the 'Aqua Apartments', and the proposal has developed in stages, with Stage One, on the north-western corner of Commercial Road and Lake Street, Caroline Springs having already been constructed.
- The developer has now sought a further, more substantial amendment to the remaining stages of the development, which has the effect of increasing the height of the development in the eastern portion of the site, decreasing the height in the western portion of the site, improving pedestrian engagement throughout the development by introducing a plaza, and replacing a basement car park with a semi-basement and multi level car park.
- The remaining stages of the development sought by this amendment involve the construction of 15 ground level commercial tenancies, two first floor commercial tenancies, 68 apartments built over four levels above the ground floor commercial tenancies, a residents gymnasium and storage lockers, and 171 car parking spaces being built on the subject land.
- The site is within the Comprehensive Development Zone and is not affected by any overlay controls.
- Two objections, including a petition containing 49 signatures have been received to the application. Although under the Comprehensive Development Zone, there is no formal requirement to give public notice, and there are no third party appeal rights, Officers felt it necessary to informally advertise the application to surrounding landowners offering the opportunity to lodge a submission for Councils' consideration prior to making a formal decision on the application. The decision to informally advertise the application was based on the substantive changes that are sought to the previously approved plans associated with the development
- A traffic report accompanied the application justifying the amount of car parking on the site, and Council's Engineering Services Department is generally satisfied with the number of car parking spaces for the development.
- Council's Urban Design team have provided advice in relation to the built form outcomes sought by the developer, and whilst there were concerns expressed by the proposal from a built form and interface perspective initially, Council Officers have worked closely with the developer to produce an outcome that warrants support.
- The proposal is considered to meet the relevant requirements of the Council's Planning Scheme.

- Approval is recommended.

The Land and Surrounding Area

The subject site has an area of 5,556m² and is located at Lots S4-S6 on PS629715A, on the northern side of Commercial Road, Caroline Springs.

Other features of the site are as follows:

- The site is approximately 0.56 hectares in area and is rectangular in shape. The site is wedged between Commercial Road to the south, and the Caesia Gardens Retirement Village to the north. The site has a frontage of approximately 135 metres to Commercial Road and a depth of approximately 40 metres.
- The site is at the northern extent of the Caroline Springs Town Centre, as defined by the Comprehensive Development Zone affecting the land. Land to the north is currently occupied by the Caesia Gardens Retirement Village, and to the west of the site on the northern side of Commercial Road is an Anglican Church. On the southern side of Commercial Road is the Caroline Springs Square Shopping Centre, whilst land to the east of the site has been developed with Stage One of the Aqua Apartments development, comprising a six-storey mixed use residential and commercial development. To the south-west of the site along Caroline Springs Boulevard are also some quite significant vertical elements, including the seven-storey Quest Apartment complex, a four storey office building and a six storey office and commercial development.
- Given that the land is within a designated major activity centre, the surrounding area is characterised by a mix of commercial and residential land uses, with some higher built form elements clearly evident within the Caroline Springs Town Centre.

Refer to **Appendix 1** for a locality plan

The Application

The application proposes an amendment to the approved plans associated with the construction of a mixed use residential and commercial development, which will form the next stages of the Aqua Apartments development.

In summary, the amended plans propose some major changes to the development layout that was previously approved by Council back in 2010, with the proposed changes outlined as follows:

- Deletion of a basement level car park, and replacement with a semi-basement and first floor, multi-level car park comprising 171 car parking spaces. The semi-basement car parking area is proposed to be dug down to a depth varying from 0-2.15 metres from natural ground level, with a second level of car parking above. The semi-basement car parking area is proposed to be offset from the northern boundary by a distance of 1.3 metres, whilst the first floor level of car parking will be setback by a distance of 3.1 metres from the northern boundary. The previous approved plans for this portion of the development had basement and ground level car parking spaces for 158 car parking spaces.
- The development will consist of 17 commercial tenancies and 68 apartments, with a gymnasium and storage lockers for the residents of the complex. The development will be built up to five levels, transitioning down from the existing Aqua Apartments Stage One, six-storey development on the north-western corner of Commercial Road and

Lake Street. The previous approved plans for this portion of the development had 17 commercial tenancies and 60 apartments, with no residents' gymnasium.

- The proposed development proposes a maximum height of five-storeys in the eastern portion of the site, transitioning down to four and two-storeys in the western portion of the site. A pedestrian plaza is also proposed between the two and four storey elements of the development. The previous approved development plans for this site had a maximum height of four stories, with the development transitioning down to three-storeys at its western end, and no pedestrian plaza.
- Additional landscaping has been proposed to soften the impact of the development, with two levels of landscaping proposed along the northern boundary to provide for a softer interface with the retirement village to the north. An additional level of landscaping has been proposed as a result of the first floor level car parking, which will sit above the fence line of the retirement village, and the extra level of apartments proposed in the eastern half of the site.

Refer to **Appendix 2** for plans of the proposal

Planning Controls

The land is within the Comprehensive Development Zone under the Melton Planning Scheme. The Comprehensive Development Zone is a unique zone that has its own set of unique planning controls, such that there are not many land uses, or buildings and works that actually require planning permits.

Under the Zone provisions, a permit is not required for any of the uses sought by this approval or any of the buildings and works provided that the site has been identified for the use in a Precinct Plan approved by the Responsible Authority. In this regard, a precinct plan has previously been approved, which identifies the land as being suitable for commercial and multi lot use and development, and plans have been assessed and endorsed for the both the existing Aqua Apartments development, and the subsequent next stages of the development. Council now has to consider whether to support the proposed amendments to the approved plans.

Council does however, have to approve detailed plans of each use and development, which shows the proposed development layout, elevations, car-parking, access and landscaping, which is to be shown to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. In addition, the approved plan may include requirements to ensure that the use does not adversely affect the amenity of the area.

The purposes of the Comprehensive Development Zone include the need to:

- Provide a dynamic range and mix of commercial, retail, entertainment, residential, recreational, educational and community uses in the Caroline Springs Town Centre;
- Achieve a high standard of urban design, public amenity and safety;
- Provide opportunities for medium and higher density residential development; and
- Implement the Melton East Strategy Plan.

It is considered that the proposal is consistent with the objectives of the Comprehensive Development Zone.

Clause 11 of the State Planning Policy Framework (SPPF) encourages higher land use densities around designated Activity Centres. In this regard, there is an emphasis on providing for different forms of housing, including forms of higher density housing, as well as providing for a range of commercial, leisure and community uses. The Caroline Springs Town Centre is a designated Major Activity Centre by the State Government. Amongst the principles for the development of Major Activity Centres is the need to have a mix of activities that generate high number of trips, including business, retail, services and entertainment,

and to have the potential to grow and support intensive housing developments without conflicting with surrounding land uses. The proposal is consistent with these principles.

In addition, Clause 16 of the State Planning Policy Framework (SPPF) also encourages diversity in housing types, and the need to locate new and higher density housing close to designated activity centres. The proposal is consistent with these objectives.

The Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) locates the subject land within the Melton East Growth Area (Eastern Corridor). The MSS objective for the Eastern Corridor is to ensure that the area develops its' own identity and to provide for a variety of uses and opportunities for its residents, and to encourage the provision of a diverse range of housing options that meets the needs of current and future residents.

Specifically, at Clause 21.04 of the Melton Planning Scheme, which was resultant of the work done through Councils' adopted *Housing Diversity Strategy May 2014*, this aspect of the MSS seeks to encourage higher density residential development in activity centres, and encourages innovative housing design and development;

The Local Planning Policy for Retailing (Clause 22.06) has as objectives to:

- Encourage and support the establishment of an economically and socially thriving diverse retail sector, which provides the community with a range of quality retail facilities and options.

It is Council policy that there is encouragement for the development and expansion of retail facilities in accordance with the adopted commercial centre hierarchy, and that higher density housing opportunities be provided around existing and proposed shopping centres. The proposal is consistent with this policy.

2. Council Plan Reference and Policy Reference

The Melton City Council 2013-2017 Council Plan references:

Theme 1 Managing our growth;

Objective 1.1 Strategically plan for a well designed and well built city.

The proposal is consistent with the Council Plan.

3. Financial Considerations

No Council related financial considerations are involved with the application.

4. Consultation/Public Submissions

Public notification of the application

Within the Comprehensive Development Zone, there is no requirement to give public notice of the application, and there are no third party appeal rights. However, Officers determined to invite submissions from adjoining landowners and occupiers before a decision was made on the application, given that it is a significant development. Arising from this informal public notice process, two objections have been received, including a petition containing 49 signatures predominantly from residents of the Caesia Gardens Retirement Village to the north. The grounds of objection can be summarised as follows:

- The development will diminish the lifestyles of all the village residents which will abut the development;
- The car park is 2 metres above the fence line and will diminish natural light from entering retirement village residents properties;

- Built form is excessive. Car park and colourbond awning/canopy of the upper level car park will be constantly in retirement village residents' line of site for those residents abutting the development;
- Noise from cars entering and exiting the site;
- Objectors suggest ground level car parking only.

Referral of the application

Internal

Engineering Department	Engineering Services have assessed the traffic report submitted with the application and are generally satisfied with the car-parking provision for the development.
Urban Design	<p>Council's Urban Design team were initially not supportive of the proposed development, given the potential issues around bulk and scale and negative impact of the development on the residents of the Caesia Gardens retirement village, particularly from the upper level car park and method to screen the car park when viewed from the retirement village.</p> <p>Subsequent discussions have occurred between Council Officers, the developer and Architect since the proposal was advertised and objections received, which has resulted in a number of design changes being made to the development. These changes may alleviate some residents and Council Officer concerns. With the advent of these design changes, Council Officers are now generally supportive of the proposal, subject to conditions.</p>

5. Issues

Planning Assessment

The amendments to the plans are a significant departure from the development that Council previously approved, however, the general principles sought by this latest round of plans would not be out of character in this location given that the site is within a designated Major Activity Centre, where high densities are encouraged, and is an addendum to the existing Stage One of the Aqua Apartments development.

The developer has advised that this latest round of amendments have been sought for a number of reasons, including the need to make the project financially viable, and to improve the level of amenity for existing residents in the locality, as well as proposed residents of the development.

During the construction phase of Stage One of Aqua Apartments, a significant amount of sub-surface rock was encountered which resulted in the need to conduct blasting of the rock, both at a financial cost to the developer and to the detriment of retirement village residents owing to noise from blasting etc. With the loss of the basement car park to a semi-basement, it is hoped that a lesser amount of sub-surface rock will be encountered, which will make the project more financially viable, as well as lessening detriment to existing residents during the construction phase of the development.

In terms of the higher built form elements, most notably the five-storey component of the development at the eastern end of the site, there are numerous examples of higher built form elements in the Caroline Springs Town Centre, and this proposal would not be out of kilter with those developments. Indeed, the proposed changes to the plans will result in a scale of development that transitions from the existing six-storey Stage One Aqua Apartments development to the proposed five-storey, four-storey and ultimately two-storey development at its western extent that these amended plans now propose. Council Officers are generally supportive of the revised proposal, subject to some minor changes to the plans.

The addition of a resident's gymnasium and pedestrian plaza through the development creating a separation between the western and eastern sections of the development are seen as positive changes to the plans. The resident's gym will provide for another level of liveability for residents of the development, whilst the addition of the plaza in the development will not only create positive visual breaks through the development, it will also add to streetscape activation for the development and lessen the overall visual bulk of the development. Recent discussions with the applicant have resulted in the gym being relocated from the eastern portion of the development to adjacent to the plaza to provide for greater activation of the plaza area and more positive visual interfaces.

Objectors Concerns

In response to the concerns of both Council Officers and the objectors, there have been ongoing negotiations between Council Officers, the developer and Architect for the project, with the developer verbally agreeing to a number of measures, which will form part of this approval, and are discussed, further below. In response to the grounds of objection, the following is offered:

- ***The development will diminish the lifestyles of all the village residents which will about the development.***

As part of the application process, Council's Urban Design team have been involved in discussions with the developer to seek to address objectors concerns. Council Officers initially had concerns about the proposed changes to the plans from a visual bulk and scale, and amenity perspective, however via working with the developer, a number of agreed changes have been made to the plans, including providing for additional landscaping throughout the development, greater setbacks of the second level of car parking from the retirement village and creating a deeper semi-basement car park. The developer has also now removed two fifth floor apartments from the development, thus reducing a component of the development to four storeys as a result of a request by Council Officers to lessen the visual bulk of the development and provide a more appropriate transitioning of the development across the site. All of these measures will assist in lessening the impact of the proposed development on the residents of the retirement village.

- ***The car park is 2-metres above the fence line and will diminish natural light from entering retirement village residents properties.***

The retirement village is on the northern side of the development, and given that solar access comes from the north, the proposed development will not present any overshadowing issues for retirement village residents.

- ***Built form is excessive. Car park and colourbond awning/canopy of the upper level car park will be constantly in retirement village residents' line of site for those residents abutting the development.***

Initial plans that were advertised to the retirement village residents had the upper level car park setback at only 1.3 metres from the northern boundary, with a colourbond canopy and wall shielding the carpark to a height of 4.87 metres above ground level. Within the 1.3 metre setback, landscaping was proposed.

In response to these bulk and scale concerns that were raised by Council Officers and the objectors, discussions have taken place with the developer, who has verbally agreed to the following measures, and which can form part of any approval for the proposal:

- 1) Semi-basement car park has been shown deeper than previously advertised, meaning that the colourbond wall in some sections will only be 4.08 metres above ground level;
- 2) The upper level car park has been setback from 1.3 metres to 3.1 metres from the northern boundary;
- 3) Instead of having only 1 x 1.3 metre wide landscape setback between the proposed development and the retirement village, and additional 1.8 metre wide landscape strip has been provided at first floor level to assist in screening the colourbond wall. Thus, instead of only one level of landscaping, there are now two levels of landscaping proposed.
- 4) Additional landscaped areas have been provided on the upper level car park to create key break-out points to break-up the bulk and scale of the development. These key landscape areas have a width of 5.1 metres.
- 5) The colourbond wall abutting the upper level car park has now been angled to reduce visual bulk, and will have greater articulation measures.

- **Noise from cars entering and exiting the site.**

The measures outlined above will assist in providing for sufficient acoustic measures for the development. In addition, the previous approval had a requirement for a 2-metre high acoustic fence on the development side of the existing colourbond fence abutting the retirement village to the north of the site. The previous requirement for the acoustic fence will remain.

- **Objectors suggest ground level car parking only.**

The ideal scenario would be for the basement and ground level car parking to be provided as was originally approved by Council. However, given the developers' advice about the extent of rock encountered during the construction of Stage One of Aqua Apartments, and the question that brings about the financial viability of the project if such a scenario were to remain, the proposed changes coupled with the additional measures that have been suggested and agreed upon by the developer have created a reasonable outcome.

6. Options

Council can either support the application by approving the amendment to the previously approved plans, or not support the amendment to the plans.

7. Conclusion

The application has been assessed against the State Planning Policy Framework, Local Planning Policy Framework (including the Municipal Strategic Statement and Local Planning Policies, and relevant zone provisions of the Melton Planning Scheme.

It is considered that the proposal generally complies with the relevant requirements of the Planning Scheme.

Importantly, following the receipt of objections and advice about initial Council Officer's concerns with the proposal, the developer has worked with Council Officers to the extent that since the advertising process, the plans have been further modified to produce an outcome that seeks to address those concerns raised. Whilst many of the agreed changes have been shown on the plans appended to this report, further refinements to the plans will be required and amended plans submitted for endorsement before the development begins so that the

agreements that have arisen out of negotiations between Council Officers, the developer and project Architect can be formalised.

Therefore, it is recommended that the application be approved.

LIST OF APPENDICES

1. Locality Plan
2. Site layout and elevation plans

11.16 PETITION TO BEATTYS ROAD (LEAKES ROAD TO MT COTTRELL ROAD) AND MT COTTRELL ROAD (BEATTYS ROAD TO MELTON HIGHWAY)

Author: Les Stokes- Engineering Services Manager
Presenter: Luke Shannon- General Manager Planning & Development

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To respond to the petition presented at the 10 March, 2015 Ordinary Meeting of Council requesting the sealing of Beattys Road from Leakes Road to Mt Cottrell Road and Mt Cottrell Road from Beattys Road to Melton Highway.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Council maintain the current standard of Beattys Road from Leakes Road to Mt Cottrell Road and Mt Cottrell Road from Beattys Road to Melton Highway.
2. That the lead signatory on the petition be advised of Council's decision.

REPORT

1. Executive Summary

This report responds to a petition from 25 signatories that reside in the vicinity of Beattys Road and Mt Cottrell Road and also from areas outside this vicinity, requesting the sealing of Beattys Road from Leakes Road to Mt Cottrell Road and Mt Cottrell Road from Beattys Road to Melton Highway. See Appendix 1 for Locality Map.

These roads are located within the Urban Growth Boundary and currently do not carry significant volumes of traffic. It is recommended that Council continue to maintain these roads as gravel roads.

2. Background/Issues

Council has previously considered a petition to seal Mt Cottrell Road from Melton Highway to Beattys Road at the 17 September 2007 Ordinary Meeting of Council. At the Meeting Council resolved the following:

1. That the petition containing 204 signatories from residents principally in Mt Cottrell Road and other users of the road be received and noted.
2. That Council acknowledge that the sealing of Mt Cottrell Road is included in Council's future Capital Works Program, and that any assessment for funding the sealing of this road in future budgets be undertaken in regards to the priorities shown within the Capital Works Program.
3. That Council write to the resident who submitted the petition advising of Council's decision.

Since this time the Urban Growth Boundary has been amended to incorporate this area within the future Melton East Precinct Structure Plan (PSP) area. This PSP is yet to be

developed and there is currently no information as to when the Metropolitan Planning Authority will commence this process. However at the time of development these roads will be upgraded to an urban standard arterial road at the cost of surrounding development.

The current daily traffic volumes (7 day average) on these roads are as follows.

- Mt Cottrell Road (North of Western Freeway) = 226 veh/day
- Mt Cottrell Road (South of Melton Highway) = 326 veh/day
- Beattys Road (East of Mt Cottrell Road) = 251 veh/day
- Beattys Road (West of Leakes Road) = 300veh/day

These volumes are not significantly high for a gravel road and can be accommodated for within Council's ongoing gravel road maintenance programs. Recent works carried out by VicRoads significantly improved safety by closing the median breaks to prevent all right-turn movements in to and out of Beattys Road and Mt Cottrell Road. These residents can now either choose to enter the freeway and use the Leakes Road interchange to travel in a westerly direction or access Melton Highway via Mt Cottrell Road and Leakes Road via Beattys Road. There is no doubt these works changed the travel patterns of residents in the vicinity, however historic traffic counts on Mt Cottrell Road suggest that there is been no notable increase in traffic. The last traffic count on Mt Cottrell Road north of Western Freeway was conducted in 2007 with a volume of 204 veh/day.

Council currently has several gravel roads with higher traffic volumes including Minns Road = 806 veh/day, Troups Road South = 431 veh/day and Holden Road = 409 veh/day.

The sealing of rural roads is generally achieved by either fully constructing the road, by constructing a compacted crushed rock pavement prior to the application of a bitumen based spray seal, alternatively in some instances sealing can be achieved by the preparation of the existing gravel pavement followed by the application of a bitumen based spray seal. The later treatment can only be applied to low volume roads and where the existing road pavement is suitable in strength and is elevated sufficiently above the roadside drainage. Unfortunately much of the length of both Mt Cottrell Road and Beattys Road would not be suitable to for this type of treatment and would be at risk of failure soon after sealing.

Given that the traffic volumes of an acceptable level it is recommended that they remain as gravel road and continue to be appropriately maintained.

3. Council Plan Reference and Policy Reference

The Melton City Council 2013-2017 Council Plan references:

1. Managing our Growth: A clear vision to connect and develop a sustainable City
 - 1.5 *Support a transport system that connects and moves our community*

4. Financial Considerations

The total length of road in question is 5.4km, based on recent construction prices the cost to fully construct a sealed rural road for this length is estimated at \$4.86M.

5. Consultation/Public Submissions

Other than the previous petition discussed in the background section of this report no further requests have been considered by Council.

6. Risk Analysis

Provided the roads are inspected and maintained in accordance with Council's Road Management Plan there are not additional risks to Council with either option being considered.

7. Options

1. Council maintain both Mt Cottrell Road and Beattys Road as gravel roads.
2. Council agree to and fund the construction of Mt Cottrell Road and Beattys Road.

LIST OF APPENDICES

1. Appendix 1 - Locality Map

11.17 STATE AND FEDERAL BUDGETS - IMPACTS FOR CITY OF MELTON**Presenter: Kel Tori- Chief Executive Officer****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To advise Council of matters contained within the Victorian State Budget and the Commonwealth Budget which have impact upon the City of Melton and services available to the community of Melton.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council note the report.

REPORT**1. Executive Summary**

The State and Federal Governments have recently released their 2015-16 budgets and Officers have analysed the contents of the budgets in relation to what impacts are contained within for the City of Melton and service delivery to the Melton community.

With respect to the State Budget, the highlight was certainly the announcement of the creation of the Interface Community Infrastructure Fund, which in the first year, will make available \$50M amongst the ten Interface Councils including the City of Melton, to assist in the provision of community infrastructure such as, community centres, sporting facilities etc.

From a Federal Budget perspective, the most significant items were confirmation of the previously announced continuation of the Roads 2 Recovery Program and the extension by 2 years of the Commonwealth commitment to Universal Access to Pre School.

2. Background/Issues

Melton City Council, has for some time, in its own right and as a member of the Interface Group of Councils, lobbied Government and Opposition MP's in respect of the infrastructure gap that exists in the Interface areas. Significant report in this regard titled 'One Melbourne or Two' has been heavily promoted within Government circles by all Interface Councils and the Interface group with the outcome being, prior to the election, a commitment from both sides of politics to address this issue in some form, were they to form Government. The Andrews Labor Government in the 2015-16 Budget, has announced an initial contribution of \$50M to establish the Interface Community Infrastructure Fund. This fund is to be allocated across the ten Interface Councils on a basis yet to be determined to assist in bringing forward the early provision of key community infrastructure in those Interface areas.

Council has a number of shovel ready projects within its Ten Year Capital Works Program that are potentially eligible for funding under this program and Council will be working with the Minister and Local Government Victoria and all Interface Councils in a process to identify the funding criteria to apply to the Interface fund and the application and approval process. This fund represents a significant opportunity for Council to provide major infrastructure items in the early stages of development within the growth areas of the municipality.

In other positive news from the State Government for the City of Melton, it is noted that Local Learning and Employment Networks have been funded for a four year period. Funding for

LLEN's was scheduled to terminate effective 30 June 2015, however this extension of funding will ensure their ongoing operation and their significant contribution to the Melton community over the next four years. Also pleasing to note in relation to Council's strategy as a Learning City, that additional funds have been provided to the TAFE sector which is important in supporting particularly the youth of our community to obtain meaningful qualifications to assist them in achieving productive employment.

Other aspects of the State Budget that will have some impact for providers of a variety of services within the municipality include;

- Programs and services targeting vulnerable families, children and young people, will receive a State Government investment of \$283M over the next four years.
- An additional \$117.8M for mental health.
- \$83.1M to fund the continuation of the Royal Commission into Family Violence.
- \$100M into a Community Sports Infrastructure Fund to help sporting clubs upgrade tired grounds and build the facilities they require.
- Funding boost to support Victoria's most vulnerable, people with a disability, their families and carers, as well as those who are either homeless or facing homelessness to benefit from \$212.8M budget allocation.

The Federal Government Budget for 2015-16 contained only a limited number of initiatives of specific benefit within the City of Melton. The announcement of a two year extension of the National Partnership Agreement on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education is of significance to Council and will ensure that all children will be provided access to Pre School Program for up to 15 hours per week, delivered by a degree qualified Early Childhood teacher in their final year before commencing school. The announced extension extends the agreement through to 2017.

The Federal Budget also confirmed previously announced commitment from the Federal Government to continue with and expand the Roads 2 Recovery Program, under which Council currently receives approximately \$600K per annum, however in the 2015-16 year, will receive a one off doubling of that amount to \$1.5M. As stated, this had previously been announced.

3. Council Plan Reference and Policy Reference

The Melton City Council 2013-2017 Council Plan references:

1. Managing our Growth: A clear vision to connect and develop a sustainable City

4. Financial Considerations

The announcement of the Interface Community Infrastructure Fund provides a significant opportunity for Council to bring forward significant capital expenditure items from its Ten Year Capital Works Program, subject to the development of program guidelines and application processes.

5. Consultation/Public Submissions

Council has conducted community consultation in respect of capital items contained within the Ten Year Capital Works Plan and in respect of capital projects emanating from Precinct Structure Plans adopted.

6. Risk Analysis

The most significant risk associated with this program is the ability of the collective group of Interface Councils to deliver on the Government's expectations of having appropriate projects shovel ready to be completed within the defined timeframe to be contained within the yet to be developed guidelines for this funding stream.

7. Options

Council will consider all options for submitting funding applications to this fund once full details of the program guidelines and application procedures have been determined.

LIST OF APPENDICES

Nil

12. REPORTS FROM DELEGATES APPOINTED TO OTHER BODIES

Nil.

**13. COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIONS AND
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS****13.1 RECORD OF ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION
80A(1) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1989**

- 28 April 2015
- 5 May 2015
- 12 May 2015
- 19 May 2015

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Record of Assembly of Councillors attached to this Agenda dated 28 April, 5 May, 12 May and 19 May 2015 be received and noted.

LIST OF APPENDICES

1. 28 April 2015 Record of Assembly of Councillors
2. 5 May 2015 Record of Assembly of Councillors
3. 12 May 2015 Record of Assembly of Councillors
4. 19 May Record of Assembly of Councillors

13.2 PUBLIC ADDRESS BY EACH COUNCILLOR

14. NOTICES OF MOTION

14.1 NOTICE OF MOTION 403 (CR CUGLIARI) SPEED LIMITS ON ALL UNSEALED ROAD

**Author: Les Stokes- Engineering Services Manager
Councillor: Renata Cugliari**

Notice was given at the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 21 April 2014 of my intention to move the following motion at the Ordinary meeting of Council to be held on 26 May 2015.

MOTION:

That Council write to Mr Luke Donnellan, Minister for Roads and Road Safety, Mr Wade Noonan, Minister for Police, all local members of the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council and the CEO of VicRoads calling on them to take the necessary action to have speed limits on all unsealed roads in the City of Melton reduced to 50km per hour on the grounds that road safety is compromised by the existing 100km limit as:

- **There is restricted visibility caused by dust on unsealed roads;**
- **Unsealed roads have a lower level of surface friction;**
- **There is often inadequate signage and/or inadequate driver attention to existing signage;**
- **No line marking exists to delineate traffic lanes, and**
- **Drivers inexperienced in driving on loose road surfaces often lack control of their vehicle when speeds are up to 100km/hr.**

1. Officer's Comments

Most gravel roads in the municipality have a default speed limit of 100km/h as is the case across the state of Victoria. Drivers are expected to drive appropriately to the conditions of the road and weather at the time. All gravel roads within the City of Melton have signage installed that warns drivers that gravel road surface conditions change often and to drive carefully.

Speed limits on Local Roads can be installed by Council but require the consent of VicRoads. The primary purpose of speed management is to enhance the safety of roads and the roadside environment for all users. Greater safety can be achieved by lowering vehicle speeds, but lower speeds may mean longer travel times. Speed management seeks to balance society's desire for mobility with safety. It is important that speed limits are set in a consistent manner across the state, i.e. combinations of similar environments and factors should generally have the same speed limit and the speed limits should be consistent with the expectations of road users. A speed limit of 50km/h on gravel roads across the City of Melton would be inconsistent with surrounding Municipalities and most likely inconstant with all Council's across the state. A speed limit of 50km/h in a rural environment on straight, wide gravel roads that are generally in good condition would be unlikely to be observed by most motorists and therefore viewed as an inappropriate speed limit for such roads.

Council, through its membership on Road Safety Committees, has previously advocated for a lowering of the default speed limit on gravel roads across the state to 80km/h. It would be appropriate from Council to renew this call and commence advocacy for a lowering of the default limit as opposed to a “Melton only” response.

14.2 NOTICE OF MOTION 404 (CR TURNER) DUPLICATION OF THE BALLARAT RAIL LINE BETWEEN MELTON AND DEER PARK

**Author: Michael Tudball- Manager Economic Development and Advocacy
Councillor: Bob Turner**

I hereby give notice of my intention to move the following motion at the Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 26 May 2015.

MOTION:

That Council;

- a) **write to Jacinta Allan, MP, Minister for Public Transport, requesting to be advised of the Government's timeline for the duplication of the rail line from Deer Park to Melton, and**
- b) **write to Don Nardella MP, Marlene Kairouz MP and all Legislative Council members for Western Metropolitan and Western Victoria regions, calling on them to advocate to the State Government for the urgent duplication of this inadequate single track rail line.**

1. Officer's Comments

Council's Advocacy Framework and Key Priority Themes and Actions adopted formally in 2014 are very clear about the key enabling infrastructure required to facilitate consistent and regular train services to and from the City of Melton.

A key action is to advocate for the duplication and ultimate electrification of the Ballarat Rail Line between Melton and Deer Park and as such the Notice of Motion is consistent with both the Council Plan and Advocacy Framework.

Further, Council will soon be consulting the community on our Integrated Transport Strategy Key Directions which demonstrates the need for the City of Melton to have access to a 20-minute diesel VLine train service to and from Southern Cross Station in Melbourne, followed by longer term electrification offering a 10-minute City train service. This also needs to be planned with road, footpath and cycle networks and integrated bus services.

Finally, and consistent with Council's research, planning and advocacy the need for an increased number of train stations and passenger stops including Caroline Springs, Toolern and Rockbank to name the next three priorities and to address the grade separation of level crossings along the Ballarat Line from Melton to Deer Park.

- 15. COUNCILLOR'S QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**
- 16. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**
- 17. URGENT BUSINESS**

18. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Procedural Motion

That pursuant to Section 89(2) of the Local Government Act (1989) the meeting be closed to the public to consider the following reports, that are considered confidential for the reasons indicated

18.1 Minutes of the Municipal Audit Committee - Confidential Items

This report is confidential in accordance with s89(2)(h) as it relates to any other matter which the Council or special committee considers would prejudice the Council or any person.

18.2 Minutes of the Property Development Advisory Committee

This report is confidential in accordance with s89(2)(d) (e) as it relates to contractual matters; AND proposed developments.

18.3 2014-15 Community Grants Program

This report is confidential in accordance with s89(2)(h) as it relates to any other matter which the Council or special committee considers would prejudice the Council or any person.

18.4 Municipal Loan 176

This report is confidential in accordance with s89(2)(d) as it relates to contractual matters.

18.5 Provision of Banking and Revenue Collection Services (Contract 15/032)

This report is confidential in accordance with s89(2)(d) as it relates to contractual matters.

18.6 Contract No. 15/028 - Provision of Internal Audit Services

This report is confidential in accordance with s89(2)(d) as it relates to contractual matters.

18.7 Appointment of two new members to the Heritage Advisory Committee and Minutes of Heritage Advisory Committee Meeting - 10 April 2015

This report is confidential in accordance with s89(2)(h) as it relates to any other matter which the Council or special committee considers would prejudice the Council or any person.:

Procedural Motion

That the meeting be opened to the public.

19. CLOSE OF BUSINESS