



MANSFIELD SHIRE COUNCIL

Special Meeting of Council

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

TUESDAY, 30 MAY 2017
MANSFIELD SHIRE OFFICE
33 Highett Street, Mansfield
2.00PM

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UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

TUESDAY, 30 MAY 2017
MANSFIELD SHIRE OFFICE
33 Highett Street, Mansfield
2.00PM

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

The Mayor, Cr Paul Volkering, opened the meeting at 2.10pm.

Councillors:

Marg Attley	<i>Tolmie Ward</i>
Peter Olver	<i>Mansfield Ward</i>
Paul Sladdin	<i>Bonnie Doon Ward</i>
Paul Volkering	<i>Mansfield Ward</i>

Chief Executive Officer:

Alex Green

Engineering & Works Manager:

Neil Ogilvie

Community Services Manager:

Melanie Hotton

Finance Manager:

Mandy Kynnersley

Governance Co-ordinator:

Dawn Bray

2. STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

The Councillors affirmed the following Statement of Commitment:

“We the Councillors of Mansfield Shire / declare that we will undertake on every occasion / to carry out our duties in the best interests of the community / and that our conduct shall maintain the standards of the Code of Good Governance / so that we may faithfully represent / and uphold the trust placed in this Council by the people of Mansfield Shire.”

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Councillors affirmed the “Acknowledgement of Country” for the Mansfield Shire Council:

“Mansfield Shire Council recognises that indigenous people have been custodians of this area for generations. We acknowledge the living culture and unique role of Taungurung people in our region.”

4. APOLOGIES

Cr Harry Westendorp – Jamieson Ward



5. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

Any conflicts of interest were declared immediately prior to the speaker to which the conflict related.

6. DEPUTATIONS

A list of submitters who requested a verbal submission for the proposed 2017-18 Budget and/or draft 2017-21 Mansfield Shire Council Plan is provided below. Each speaker was provided with 5 minutes for their deputation. Questions were then posed by the Council at the conclusion of each speaker’s submission.

Number	Time	Resident or Representative & Group
1	2.15pm	Beryl Howie
2	2.20pm	Joan Simms
3	2.22pm	Mansfield Family History Group (Tony Riley)
4	2.25pm	Daris Olsauskas for Bob and Isabel Appleby
5	2.35pm	Fiona Greenway
6	-	APOLOGY - Adele McCormack
7	2.52pm	Stuart Fox for the Bonnie Doon Recreation Reserve Inc
8	3.00pm	Mick Ellis
9	3.15pm	Jenny Brown
10	3.25pm	Donna McRae
11	3.30pm	Victorian Farmers’ Federation - Mark Holcombe and James Tehan

3.55pm SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Councillors Attley/Olver:

That Council suspend standing orders until 4.00pm to facilitate a short break in proceedings.

Carried

4.05pm RESUMPTION OF STANDING ORDERS

Councillors Attley/Sladdin:

That Council resume standing orders.

Carried



6. DEPUTATIONS CONT.

Number	Time	Resident or Representative & Group
12	4.05pm	Rebecca Douglas for the Mansfield District Business Association Inc
13	4.15pm	Sarah Stegley
14	-	APOLOGY - Graham Corless
15	-	APOLOGY - Brian Johnstone / David Butler
16	4.22pm	Judy Wells
17	4.28pm	Sir Andrew Grimwade
18	4.30pm	Tim Ross
19	4.37pm	Rod Poulson
20	4.45pm	Andrew Setchell for the Fords Creek Landcare Group
21	4.51pm	Joan Tehan

5.05pm SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Councillors Attley/Olver:

That Council suspend standing orders facilitate a short break in proceedings.

Carried

5.22pm RESUMPTION OF STANDING ORDERS

Councillors Sladdin/Attley:

That Council resume standing orders.

Carried

6. DEPUTATIONS CONT.

Number	Time	Resident or Representative & Group
22	5.25pm	Dr Will Twycross
23	5.40pm	Leanne Robson and Will Twycross for the Mansfield Cultural Heritage and Arts Centre
24	5.45pm	Peter Wooley from Mansfield Bins and Skips
25	5.50pm	Katie Moore
26	5.55pm	Keep Mansfield Healthy



6.05pm SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Councillors Olver/Attley:

That Council suspend standing orders to facilitate a short break in proceedings.

Carried

6.23pm RESUMPTION OF STANDING ORDERS

Councillors Attley/Olver:

That Council resume standing orders.

Carried

6. DEPUTATIONS CONT.

Number	Time	Resident or Representative & Group
27	6. 25pm	Kirstie Lee and John Gilson for the Up2Us Landcare Alliance
28	6.35pm	John Gilson for the Rifle Butts Road Safety Committee
29	6.45pm	Michael Watson for the Mansfield District Basketball Association

6.51pm SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Councillors Olver/Attley:

That Council suspend standing orders to facilitate a short break in proceedings.

Carried

6.53pm RESUMPTION OF STANDING ORDERS

Councillors Attley/Olver:

That Council resume standing orders.

Carried

Mayor, Cr Paul Volkering declared an indirect conflict of interest by close association in relation to the deputation by Mr Tom Thorburne. As a result, the Council was required to appoint a temporary Chair for the meeting.

6.54pm Mayor, Cr Volkering departed the Council Chamber.

Councillors Attley/Sladdin

That as a result of Mayor Cr Volkering declaring an indirect Conflict of Interest, Deputy Mayor, Cr Peter Olver, assume the Chair of the meeting until such time the deputation by Mr Tom Thorburne has concluded.

Carried

6.54pm Deputy Mayor, Cr Peter Olver, assumed the Chair.



6. DEPUTATIONS CONT.

Number	Time	Resident or Representative & Group
30	6.55pm – 7.05pm	Tom Thoburne for the State Emergency Service

Councillors Attley/Sladdin

That Mayor Cr Paul Volkering be requested to return to the meeting and to assume the Chair.

Carried

7.06pm Mayor, Cr Volkering returned to the Council Chamber after the submission from Mr Tom Thoburne had concluded. He resumed his role of Chair.

6. DEPUTATIONS CONT.

Number	Time	Resident or Representative & Group
31	7.07pm	David Matthews
32	7.15pm	Ellen Hogan



7. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

7.1 Consideration of Written Submissions and the Hearing of Supporting Verbal Submissions in Relation to the Draft Mansfield Shire Council Plan 2017-21 and Proposed 2017-18 Budget

7.1.1 Consideration of Public Submissions – Draft Council Plan and Strategic Resource Plan 2017-21

File Number: E4653
Responsible Officer: Governance Co-ordinator, Dawn Bray

Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

The author of this report has declared no conflict of interest in relation to this matter.

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to receive and consider the written, and supporting verbal, submissions received during the public exhibition of the draft Council Plan 2017-21 between 19 April to 19 May 2017.

A total of 12 submissions were received, some of which also made comment regarding the proposed 2017-18 Budget (which will be dealt with in the separate budget report).

This report summarises the submissions, along with Officer comment to assist Council in its consideration of the issues raised prior to the adoption of the final document in June.

It is recommended that Council note and consider all written and supporting verbal submissions received during the public exhibition period.

Background

The Council Plan, which incorporates the Strategic Resource Plan (SRP), is the key strategic document that will guide the allocation of resources and work undertaken by the Administration over the next four years.

Following a Special meeting of Council on 18 April 2017, the draft Council Plan 2017-21 was placed on public exhibition between 19 April and 19 May 2017.

The exhibition of the document was publicised through the following means to maximize community engagement:

- Emails to all respondents to the Council Plan and Budget online community survey who indicated they wished to be kept informed of the progress of these two documents;
- Five notices in the Mansfield Matters section over the duration of the exhibition period;
- Notices on Council's website and Facebook page;

7.1.1 Consideration of Public Submissions – Draft Council Plan and Strategic Resource Plan 2017-21 cont.

- Hard copies of the Plan available at Council's municipal office, the Mansfield Library and at the two public meetings held during the exhibition period; and,
- A resident and ratepayers meeting held in Mansfield and at Nunawading, the latter for non resident ratepayers.

Section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (Act) provides for submitters to request an opportunity to support their written submission with a verbal presentation to Council. A resolution of the 18 April 2017 Special Council meeting set the meeting date for the hearing of submissions for 30 May 2017, commencing at 2.00pm.

All written submissions have been acknowledged, noting the details of the meeting to hear verbal submissions if requested, and providing those who did not request to make a verbal submission with another opportunity to elect to do so.

Statutory Requirements

Section 125 of the Act requires Council to ensure that during the mandatory minimum 28 day community consultation period:

- A person has a right to make a written submission under section 223 of the Act; and,
- The draft Plan is available for inspection at Council's office and on its website.

Section 223 of the Act requires Council to:

- Publish a notice specifying that people are able to submit written comment on the Council Plan and SRP;
- Enable a person who has made a written submission indicate in their submission that they wish to make a verbal representation to Council, or appoint someone to make the verbal submission on their behalf;
- Nominate the date and place where the Council will meet, which allows a reasonable time for the submitter to prepare for the meeting (a notice of the meeting must be given to each submitter); and,
- Having considered all written and verbal submissions, notify each submitter of the decision of the Council and the reason for the decisions in writing.

Council Plan

The draft Council Plan builds upon the initiatives and goals of the current Council Plan and reflects some of the existing key strategic objectives such as community resilience, good governance, responsible financial management, responsible growth and development and economic prosperity.

7.1.1 Consideration of Public Submissions – Draft Council Plan and Strategic Resource Plan 2017-21 cont.

Financial

The consideration of submissions may require Council to make amendments to the allocation of financial and human resources outlined in the SRP. This, in turn, may require changes to the draft 2017-18 Budget.

Any amendments to the SRP and draft budget will be considered once all submissions have been heard and prior to the proposed Special Council meeting for the adoption of the Council Plan and 2017-18 budget on 27 June 2017.

Social

There is a strong social and community focus in the new draft Plan through the Strategic Directions of ‘Participation and Partnerships’ and ‘Community Resilience and Connectivity’, under which there are several objectives and strategies to achieve them over the next four years.

Environmental

The draft Council Plan reflects the value our community, gauged through the responses to our Community Survey, place on our natural environment.

The Strategic Direction of ‘Enhanced Liveability’ outlines a number of environment focussed strategies aimed at protecting and enhancing our natural environment, which is highly valued by locals and visitors alike.

Economic

The draft Council Plan recognises that the Shire is fortunate to be one of the fastest growing municipalities in the North East and that this momentum needs to continue.

It also recognises that Council plays a marginal role in driving the local economy but that through advocacy, provision of infrastructure, training and workshops for business people, appropriate town planning policy and support for events it can play a part in supporting the private sector’s vibrancy across the municipality.

There is a strong focus on economic development and tourism related Strategic Objectives and Strategies throughout the Council Plan, which goes above and beyond that of the current Council Plan.

Risk Management

‘Responsible Leadership’ is another of the draft Plan’s five Strategic Directions and recognises that Council must achieve the highest levels of good governance to successfully mitigate risk whether it be financial, operational or possible harm to people and property.

7.1.1 Consideration of Public Submissions – Draft Council Plan and Strategic Resource Plan 2017-21 cont.

There are several risk management related actions within the draft Plan to ensure that a comprehensive framework is in place to successfully identify and mitigate potential risks.

Community Engagement

It is pleasing to see that there has been a greater level of community engagement in, and feedback on, the draft Council Plan and Strategic Resource Plan in comparison to previous years.

A series of ‘Community Conversation’ meetings held during March and an online community survey was conducted during March to seek public participation in the development of these documents and 2017-18 budget.

Two further community meetings were held during the exhibition period; one in Mansfield attended by 24 people and another in Nunawading, targeting non-resident ratepayers, attended by around 50 people.

A total of 12 written submissions were received during the public exhibition period, with 9 of these requesting an opportunity to make a supporting verbal submission to this meeting of Council.

Officer’s Comments

Officer comment in response to the particular issues raised in each submissions is provided in Attachment 1, however there are some common themes that warrant noting.

Role of the Council Plan

Section 125 of the Act states that the purpose of the Council Plan is to outline Council’s strategic objectives, the strategies to be employed to achieve them and the strategic indicators (performance measures) used to track the progress of the Plan’s implementation.

Several submissions consider that the Council Plan should reflect community values. While this is true to the extent that Council is elected to represent its community and make decisions for the greatest community benefit on their behalf, the Council Plan is not the place where community values, per se, are expressed.

Rather, a community vision document, such as that planned to be created under Strategic Objective 1.2, is the vehicle through which the community is able to identify its values, objectives and priorities.

Absence of Strategic Directions for the Environment and Economic Development

The titles of the Strategic Directions have been developed to indicate the overall direction of Council in succinct statements. This is consistent with common practice across councils.



7.1.1 Consideration of Public Submissions – Draft Council Plan and Strategic Resource Plan 2017-21 cont.

The absence of a Strategic Direction title does not mean that a particular theme or issue is not important to Council.

The Strategic Objectives are designed to provide detail around what is important to Council in the delivery of its duties under the Act; the various strategies underneath each of these objectives identify what Council intends to do to achieve them.

The draft Plan, therefore, needs to be read as a whole rather than just relying on the titles of various sections of the Plan.

A strategic approach

The draft Council Plan differs from the current plan in terms of the detail it provides within each Strategy, as listed under each Strategic Objective.

In response to the lack of a comprehensive set of strategies in past years, the current Council Plan was written in a more detailed manner.

In contrast, the draft Council Plan is written at the level which the Act intends it to be – that is a high, strategic level rather than detailed actions. This is because it is the role of each strategy, such as the Environment Strategy, to detail what specific actions will be undertaken by the Council and when.

This is why the draft Plan identifies the need to develop a series of strategy documents, including the community vision, long term financial plan, information strategy, youth strategy, economic development strategy, environment and waste strategies and so on.

Performance measures

The performance measures in the draft Plan are largely obtained from independent sources, such as the annual customer satisfaction survey, Know Your Council data (which is checked, audited and verified by Local Government Victoria) and other Federal and State government data such as from the Australian Bureau of Statistics and Community Indicators Victoria.

There have been significant developments in guidance provided by the State government to councils in relation to performance measures in recent years. The key learnings from this guidance is that indicators need to be targeted (ie clearly defined), independently sourced, measurable, and publically available.

The introduction of the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework in 2015 means that there are another set of universal indicators for Victorian Councils. Their use in the draft Plan means that comparisons can be made by the community between our performance and that of other councils, thereby maximising transparency and accountability.



7.1.1 Consideration of Public Submissions – Draft Council Plan and Strategic Resource Plan 2017-21 cont.

Conclusion

There are several suggestions for amendments to the draft Council Plan in response to the issues raised by submitters outlined in Attachment 1 for Council's consideration.

Overall, it is considered that many of the issues raised by submitters have been addressed in the Plan. It is hoped that the explanation provided in the attached demonstrates that the issues raised by submitters and the objectives of this Council are closely aligned.

Councillors Sladdin/Olver:

That Council:

- 1. Receive and note the written and supporting verbal submissions received from the community during the public exhibition period for the draft Mansfield Shire Council Plan 2017-21.**
- 2. Consider the issues raised by each submission prior to the adoption of the Mansfield Shire Council Plan 2017-21.**

Carried



ATTACHMENT 7.1.1.1

DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN AND STRATEGIC RESOURCE
PLAN 2017-21 SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS

(12 PAGES)

ATTACHMENT 7.1.1.1 – SUMMARY OF WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS AND OFFICER RESPONSE

Submitter Number and Name	Request for verbal presentation to Council? Y / N	Summary of submission in relation to the Council Plan <i>(Note: comments relating to the draft 2017-18 Budget will be dealt with in a separate report)</i>	Officer response and suggestions for amendments to the draft Council Plan/SRP to address submitter comments
<p>1. Up2Us Landcare Alliance – the body which supports six independent Landcare groups across the municipality and supports four associated groups and local schools around biodiversity and environmental education.</p>	<p align="center">Yes</p>	<p>Acknowledges the community consultation by Council for the draft CP and budget.</p> <p>Recognises synergies between some Strategic Objectives and strategies in the draft CP with their own work around maintaining and improving the natural environment.</p> <p>Highlights the importance of partnerships with Council and other local environmental groups and educational institutions.</p> <p>Supports the network of long term strategies outlined in the Plan as they believe a sustainable environment requires more than a four year plan.</p> <p>Recognises the various draft strategies, driven by the Development Services department, aimed at protecting and enhancing the natural environment.</p> <p>Supports statements around the need to protect and enhance the natural environment under the ‘Enhanced Liveability’ Strategic Direction, but questions the use of the term “Liveability” as this may indicate the natural environment is useful only in serving human demands for high levels of amenity.</p>	<p>The draft Plan recognises the importance of the natural environment to the municipality in several places, including ‘Our Shire and its people’ and priorities outlined in the Community Plans of townships under ‘Our towns’.</p> <p>There are a number of strategies throughout the draft Plan that relate to supporting environmental initiatives and local environment groups under Strategic Objective 1.2, 1.4. 2.6, 2.7, 3.2, 4.1 and 4.4.</p> <p>While some of these strategies do not expressly use terms such as the ‘environment’, their implementation will have a positive influence on the natural environment and are considered to address the concerns of the Up2Us Alliance in relation to the provision of Council support for the efforts of local community groups.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this, it is suggested that Council consider making the following amendments to the draft Plan to in response to this submission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amend Strategic objective 4.4 to insert the words ‘and natural environment’ so that it reads “<i>We have strong policy and decision making frameworks in place to protect and enhance the unique character and natural environment of or Shire for future generations</i>” • Amend the strategy under this Strategic Objective relating to the Environment Strategy to read “<i>Review and implement the Mansfield Environment Strategy, drawing upon the expertise and input of local environmental groups, to ensure its ongoing relevance.</i>”

Submitter Number and Name	Request for verbal presentation to Council? Y / N	Summary of submission in relation to the Council Plan <i>(Note: comments relating to the draft 2017-18 Budget will be dealt with in a separate report)</i>	Officer response and suggestions for amendments to the draft Council Plan/SRP to address submitter comments
1. Up2Us Landcare Alliance cont.	Y	<p>Believes that Strategic Objectives 4.2 and 4.3 should be amended to reference the environment and include a strategies around Council supporting the work of local environmental groups, reducing greenhouse emissions, increasing biodiversity and the promotion of environmental sustainability.</p> <p>Requests amendments to the SRP to provide financial resources for environmental initiatives as part of Council's commitment to the triple bottom line of social, environmental and financial responsibilities.</p>	<p>The suggested changes to the wording of Strategic Objectives 4.2 and 4.3 are not supported as these relate to strategies around arts, culture and heritage and human health/wellbeing.</p> <p>Actions around support for local environmental groups, reduced greenhouse emissions and weed management are more appropriately dealt with in the Environment Strategy and Waste Management. The Council Plan is not aimed at this level of detail, rather it is the role of these individual strategy documents to identify detailed actions.</p> <p>The Council Plan includes a strategy for the development of a Community Vision. It is this Vision document that will provide the mechanism for the community to express its values and goals. The Council Plan's role is to provide a medium term outline of Council's values and what it will do for the community in discharging its responsibilities under the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i>.</p>
2. Fords Creek Landcare Group	Yes	<p>Highlights that having a Council Plan which supports environmental actions and outcomes is important to the Group's success in pursuing external funding.</p> <p>Supports statements in the draft Plan around the importance of the environment and the strategies under Strategic Direction Four "Enhanced Liveability" that relate to the protection and enhancement of the natural environment.</p>	<p>It is considered that the amendments to the draft Plan outlined under Submission 1 respond to the key concerns of this submitter.</p> <p>The comments under Submission 1 respond to concerns from the Landcare Group relating to support for local environmental groups.</p> <p>Strategies under Strategic Objective 4.4 specifically relate to the review and implementation of the Environment Strategy and Waste Management Strategy.</p> <p>Requests for a specific Strategy around sustainable agriculture, biodiversity, weed management and native vegetation are again best addressed in the Environment Strategy itself, not the higher level Council Plan.</p>

Submitter Number and Name	Request for verbal presentation to Council? Y / N	Summary of submission in relation to the Council Plan <i>(Note: comments relating to the draft 2017-18 Budget will be dealt with in a separate report)</i>	Officer response and suggestions for amendments to the draft Council Plan/SRP to address submitter comments
2. Fords Creek Landcare Group cont.		<p>Considers that there needs to be a Strategic Objective to underline the importance of the natural environment and that strategies be inserted under this new section which reflect those in the current Council Plan 2013 -17 around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the review and/or implementation of the Environment Strategy and Waste Management Strategy • support for local environmental groups • prioritising sustainable agriculture, native vegetation, biodiversity and weed management. <p>Requests additional Performance Measures linked to environment related actions to gauge their progress over time.</p> <p>An addendum to this submission was received regarding potential performance measures, suggestions for which included the number of trees planted, number of volunteer hours would be appropriate, along with broader indicators around the number of energy efficient houses and uptake of renewable energy.</p>	<p>In response to requests for additional, environment related performance measures, discussions have been had with Council's Environment Officer around possible additions to the Performance Measures under Strategic Direction Four – Enhanced Liveability.</p> <p>It is suggested that Council consider the following two inclusions, which are based on data that is already available to Council, regularly updated and independently sourced, thereby being compatible with the other measures included in the draft Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of kilowatt hours consumed by Council Operations per annum • Kilometres of roadside weeds treated per annum. <p>The performance measure suggestions from the Landcare group are appreciated, however these indicators are not easily sourced, are loosely defined and data may not be easily sourced, therefore cause problems with transparency and accountability.</p>

Submitter Number and Name	Request for verbal presentation to Council? Y / N	Summary of submission in relation to the Council Plan <i>(Note: comments relating to the draft 2017-18 Budget will be dealt with in a separate report)</i>	Officer response and suggestions for amendments to the draft Council Plan/SRP to address submitter comments
3. Keep Mansfield Healthy	Yes	<p>Outlines the work undertaken by this group, in partnership with Council, to strengthen the Mansfield Planning Scheme's provisions regarding prevention of large, ultra processed food franchises.</p> <p>Request that Action 4.2.4 in the current 2013-17 Council Plan, which reads <i>"Acknowledging the community view expressed in a petition received in summer (2013/14), Council will investigate the planning options available to mitigate against the proven health/obesity rate impacts of ultra-processed food outlets"</i> be included in the draft Council Plan.</p>	<p>It is considered that the concerns of the Keep Mansfield Healthy group have already been addressed in the recently amended Municipal Strategic Statement, which is acknowledged in the submission.</p> <p>Additional opportunities to address their concerns around promoting a healthy lifestyle and informed diet choices are best addressed through the implementation of a strategy under Strategic Objective 4.3 that relates to <i>"Prepare and implement a new Public Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan in partnership with key players across the Shire and informed by collaborative community consultation"</i>.</p> <p>Furthermore, the strategy relating to building on the Active Mansfield initiative under 4.3 is also relevant to the issues raised by this submission.</p> <p>There are also other strategies that will facilitate community discussion around this issue, including the development of a Community Vision as per Strategic Objective 1.2.</p>
4. Melanie Green and John Lovick	No	<p>Raise concerns about the proposed disposal of the Saleyards and the inability for the community to contribute to the discussion around its sale.</p> <p>Believe the Saleyards present an opportunity to collocate emergency services (the CFA, SES, Ambulance Victoria and VicPol) on one site.</p> <p>Suggest that not all of the Saleyards site should be disposed of and that conversations should be had with the community and stakeholders prior to a decision being made.</p>	<p>The Strategy <i>'Develop and implement a coordinated review of Council assets in consultation with the community focusing on whether or not the disposal of key assets would realis greater community benefit'</i> is included under Strategic objective 2.4.</p> <p>This strategy is in keeping the strategic approach and consultation suggested by the submitter and no change to the draft Plan is considered necessary in response to this submission, aside from any amendments to the proposed 2017-18 budget that may impact on the SRP.</p>

Submitter Number and Name	Request for verbal presentation to Council? Y / N	Summary of submission in relation to the Council Plan <i>(Note: comments relating to the draft 2017-18 Budget will be dealt with in a separate report)</i>	Officer response and suggestions for amendments to the draft Council Plan/SRP to address submitter comments
5. Pamela Dalgliesh	No	<p>Acknowledges the community consultation by Council around the draft CP and budget.</p> <p>Mentions the need to achieve the right balance between social, economic and financial sustainability to achieve a good quality of life for all.</p> <p>Questions why the priorities for the Mansfield township are not included in the 'Our Towns' section of the Council Plan, when Mansfield is growing at a different rate to outlying towns.</p> <p>Asks what the universal social determinants used to manage 'quality of life' are as there are no benchmarks or measures in the Plan.</p> <p>States the indices for education and occupation are below the State average and queries what Council's strategies are to support economic growth to increase employment.</p> <p>Believes the Council Plan needs to prioritise the Economic Development Plan.</p> <p>Considers that the Plan does not outline how Council is complying with the Act's requirements of being efficient and effective as there has been no organisational review to reduce staff or costs.</p> <p>Believes the performance measures are meaningless, lack transparency</p>	<p>The Mansfield township is not included in the 'Our Towns' section as there is no Community Plan for this township. Instead, the Mansfield Structure Plan, which forms part of the Mansfield Planning Scheme, outlines the strategic direction for the township. The 'Our Towns' section was to ensure balance between the Mansfield Township and outlying communities within the document.</p> <p>The Strategic Objectives under 'Participation and Partnerships', 'Community Resilience and Connectivity' and 'Enhanced Liveability' outline the factors that Council sees as being integral to 'quality of life'.</p> <p>A series of Performance Measures provide supporting empirical data to try to track the achievement of these Objectives. Much of this data is sourced from State and Federal government information and is, therefore, consistent with the independently sourced measures used across all levels of government.</p> <p>Although Council is a marginal player when it comes to influencing education levels and the occupations of residents, there are a number of initiatives throughout the draft Plan which support economic development and growth, a number of which are under 'Financial Sustainability' (Strategic Objectives 2.6 and 2.7).</p> <p>There is a stronger emphasis on strategies relating to growth and economic development in the draft Plan when compared to the existing 2013-17 Council Plan; there are eight Strategies listed directly under an economic strategic objective compared to the three actions under the 'A Growing Economy' theme of the current Council Plan.</p> <p>Several other economic development related initiatives are contained within the other Strategic Directions, such as lobbying for new infrastructure, working with partners around tourism services and supporting local businesses through</p>

Submitter Number and Name	Request for verbal presentation to Council? Y / N	Summary of submission in relation to the Council Plan <i>(Note: comments relating to the draft 2017-18 Budget will be dealt with in a separate report)</i>	Officer response and suggestions for amendments to the draft Council Plan/SRP to address submitter comments
		<p>and lack of accountability and states that the Plan does not outline how program delivery is to be evaluated. Believes that grant application writing training should be included in Strategic Objective 3.2 should be included in Strategic Objective 3.2 <i>'We support our communities in meeting their own needs'</i>.</p> <p>The submission raises issues relating to the budget, which will be dealt with in a separate report.</p>	<p>training.</p> <p>The review of the Economic Development Strategy is listed for Years 2 – 4 of the Council Plan and is, therefore, a priority during the life of this Plan.</p> <p>The Financial Sustainability Strategic Direction sets out how Council aims to meet its obligations in relation to meeting the Act's requirements around efficiency and effectiveness. The action under 2.1 relating to the completion of service reviews across all departments is the efficiency review that is requested by this submitter – the only difference is in the terminology used.</p> <p>A concerted effort has been put into using Performance Measures that are publically available and from independent empirical data sources to maximise transparency and accountability. Linkages to the data source website is included where possible to reinforce our commitment to these principles.</p> <p>Progress of the Council Plan's implementation is measured and publically reported via Council each quarter.</p> <p>Grant application training has recently been provided by Council and would fall under the Strategies outlined under Strategic Objective 3.2. In response to the submitter's comments, the wording of one of these actions could be amended to read <i>'Assist communities to implement and review priorities listed in their Community Plans, while supporting and building capacity with the Community Groups to achieve their objectives independent of Council, including training around how to identify and apply for grants.'</i></p>

Submitter Number and Name	Request for verbal presentation to Council? Y / N	Summary of submission in relation to the Council Plan <i>(Note: comments relating to the draft 2017-18 Budget will be dealt with in a separate report)</i>	Officer response and suggestions for amendments to the draft Council Plan/SRP to address submitter comments
6. Joan Tehan	Yes	<p>Supports Council being advocates for the community but believes it can only be successful in doing so if the Council Plan reflects community values.</p> <p>The Plan does not recognise or celebrate the key role played by the diversity in educational opportunities in driving population and employment growth in the Shire.</p> <p>Considers that the Enhanced Liveability section of the Plan does not underline innovations in the health and wellbeing space being driven by the community, such as the Keeping Mansfield Healthy initiative. Partnerships with bodies responsible for managing Lake Eildon and Nillahcootie should be added to the Strategy under Strategic Objective 1.3 relating to Mt Buller and Mt Sterling Alpine Resort in recognition of the role they play in our tourism sector.</p> <p>Council should rely on internal expertise with local knowledge rather than consultants to address the challenges faced by Council.</p>	<p>The role of the Council Plan is to outline the objectives and initiatives of the Council for the next four years, that is, it is not a community plan.</p> <p>There is currently a vacuum in that there is no Community Vision for the Shire, as noted in the diagram on page 21. It is this Vision document which would express community values and objectives and how we all will work together to achieve them. Strategic Objective 1.2 provides for the development of such a Community Vision during Year 1 of the Plan.</p> <p>The draft Plan could be amended to insert data around the main employment sectors to recognise the main economic drivers across the municipality. This data could be provided on page 14, <i>An overview of the shire</i> should Councillors see this as being beneficial. Further, the Plan could be amended to recognise the role of educational institutions supporting population growth either under 'Our shire and its people' or the introduction to 'Our towns'.</p> <p>The importance of partnerships with Goulburn Murray Water and other bodies responsible for the management of Lake Eildon and Nillahcootie are highlighted in Strategic Objectives 2.7 and 4.1.</p> <p>While the submitter's final comments relate to resource allocation rather than the Council Plan, internal resources and knowledge are utilised to their maximum capacity, however there are specialised areas of expertise that no Council can adequately cover and so there will be need to engage external consultants.</p>

Submitter Number and Name	Request for verbal presentation to Council? Y / N	Summary of submission in relation to the Council Plan <i>(Note: comments relating to the draft 2017-18 Budget will be dealt with in a separate report)</i>	Officer response and suggestions for amendments to the draft Council Plan/SRP to address submitter comments
7. Sarah Brennan on behalf of the Mansfield District Business Association Inc. Committee	Yes	<p>Raises concerns that the Economic Development Strategy is not due for review until 2018-19. The MDBA believes it is imperative that this be developed by the end of 2017.</p> <p>The current Council Plan has “A <i>growing economy</i>” as one of its five key themes, but in the draft Plan economic development initiatives are a sub section of Financial Sustainability. The MDBA requests that Economic Development be a priority and a separate Strategic Direction.</p> <p>Economic growth is a key driver of population growth and will also result in financial benefits to Council through increased rate revenue. It is important that a strategy is in place to diversify the local economy and not just rely on tourism as the key economic driver.</p> <p>An Economic Strategy also assists in mitigating risk from events such as a poor snow season, bushfire and drought.</p> <p>Council should consider appointing either an experienced consultant, a Steering Committee or appoint a senior manager to lead the development of the Plan.</p>	<p>The Council Plan identifies that other strategies relating to economic development be the focus for Council resources in 2017-18, including the development of a new model for the provision of visitor information services, which is a pressing issue.</p> <p>The review and implementation of the Economic Development Strategy is earmarked for Years 2, 3 and 4 of the Plan, underlining its importance to Council.</p> <p>As outlined previously in this Report, there are more economic development related strategies in this draft Council Plan than in the current financial plan.</p> <p>A number of these strategies are around supporting small and medium enterprises to improve their viability through workshops, event management and training, which is aligned with some of the comments in the MDBA’s submission.</p>

Submitter Number and Name	Request for verbal presentation to Council? Y / N	Summary of submission in relation to the Council Plan <i>(Note: comments relating to the draft 2017-18 Budget will be dealt with in a separate report)</i>	Officer response and suggestions for amendments to the draft Council Plan/SRP to address submitter comments
8. Michael Watson, President Mansfield Basketball Association	Yes	<p>The Mansfield District Basketball Association is a not for profit organisation that has grown from 17 members in 1985 to over 450 members. It is the largest sporting club in the shire in terms of numbers of participants and competitions run year 'round.</p> <p>Basketball is ranked in the top 10 most popular sports for children aged 6 to 13.</p> <p>The club has access to two courts in Mansfield township – one at the Mansfield Sporting Complex and one at St Mary's Primary School. The netball courts at the Mansfield Sporting precinct are used for practice but are currently unavailable for use.</p> <p>The lack of facilities is resulting in new player enquiries being rejected. Council should consider forming a working group to explore options for the development of a basketball stadium precinct providing at least 3 courts.</p> <p>The development of a new sporting ground at the Mansfield Secondary College would also enable the town to host representative basketball competitions, with associated financial benefits for the town.</p>	<p>Strategic Objective 4.1 provides for a strategy around the development and implementation of a new Sports Facility Strategy in years 1 – 4 of the draft Plan.</p> <p>The development of this Strategy will provide for the community input and strategic approach to facility planning requested by the submitter.</p>

Submitter Number and Name	Request for verbal presentation to Council? Y / N	Summary of submission in relation to the Council Plan <i>(Note: comments relating to the draft 2017-18 Budget will be dealt with in a separate report)</i>	Officer response and suggestions for amendments to the draft Council Plan/SRP to address submitter comments
9. Leanne Robson, Honorary Secretary, MCHAC Committee	Yes	<p>States that the current Council Plan 2013-17 contains three strategies relating to arts, culture and heritage, including the provision of in principle support for the efforts of the Mansfield Cultural Heritage and Arts Centre in progressing the Keeping Place project.</p> <p>The Centre states that this action is not reflected in the draft Council Plan, which does not seek any funds from Council.</p> <p>Believes that Council must make a decision on the future of the Visitor Information Centre and that this should be reflected in the draft Plan as it is important to the future planning of the Precinct.</p> <p>Requests that the action in the current Council Plan, and an additional action around re-establishing the Visitor Information Centre and Station Precinct as a vibrant hub, be included in the 2017-21 Plan.</p>	<p>The draft Plan contains actions around arts, culture and heritage under Strategic Objective 4.2.</p> <p>Strategic Objectives 1.3 and 2.7 relate to making informed decisions, in consultation with key partners, around the provision of visitor information services.</p>

Submitter Number and Name	Request for verbal presentation to Council? Y / N	Summary of submission in relation to the Council Plan <i>(Note: comments relating to the draft 2017-18 Budget will be dealt with in a separate report)</i>	Officer response and suggestions for amendments to the draft Council Plan/SRP to address submitter comments
10. Anonymous – the submission used the 'Comments for Council' on the back page of the draft Council Plan	No	<p>The submitter is a new resident of the shire who stated the main reasons for obtaining a copy of the draft Plan was to be informed about Council activities.</p> <p>Considers the Plan is well produced. Notes that they have established a Scrabble Club at the Library that is gradually expanding and contributing to the community.</p>	<p>The initiative of the submitter in establishing a new club underlines the strong sense of community spirit within the Shire, which is something the draft Plan seeks to promote and support.</p>
11. Katie Moore, Central General Practice	Yes	<p>Believes an independent review of the organisation should be a strategy listed under 'Responsible Leadership' to identify where there are service gaps or excess.</p> <p>States the environment should be a stand-alone strategic direction or included under Enhanced Liveability. Requests that the economic development role be reinstated as it is crucial to the ongoing direction of the Shire.</p> <p>Believes that innovation should be a strategic objective under 'Responsible Leadership' to ensure the shire is operating at optimum level.</p> <p>Includes general comments about innovative practices adopted by Alpine Shire in terms of increasing capital works and shire office facilities to promote teamwork and accountability around project delivery.</p>	<p>Strategic Objective 2.1 includes a strategy around the completion of service reviews across all departments, which responds to the submitter's calls for an organisation-wide review.</p> <p>As outlined previously in this report, there are many actions relating to environmental issues. Suggested amendments to the wording of Strategic Objective 4.4, as outlined under Submission 1 would address the submitter's concerns in relation to the lack of an environment related strategic objective.</p> <p>As stated previously, this draft Plan includes more economic development related strategies when compared to the current Council Plan.</p> <p>Strategic Objective 2.2 is '<i>We embrace innovation to maximise service efficiency and reduce costs</i>' and therefore responds to the submitters calls for the shire to drive innovative practices across the organisation and addresses this aspect of the submission.</p>

Submitter Number and Name	Request for verbal presentation to Council? Y / N	Summary of submission in relation to the Council Plan <i>(Note: comments relating to the draft 2017-18 Budget will be dealt with in a separate report)</i>	Officer response and suggestions for amendments to the draft Council Plan/SRP to address submitter comments
12. Will Twycross	Yes	<p>Is concerned about the lack of clarity around Council's commitment to the Visitor Information Centre and the broader precinct.</p> <p>Notes the draft Plan does not reiterate Council's commitment to ultra-processed food outlets.</p> <p>Considers that recent cuts to tourism and economic development staffing means that event delivery and strategic thinking around achieving lasting economic growth and benefits will suffer and requests Council's longer term intentions around this team to be expressed in the draft Plan.</p>	<p>Similar to the comments made in response to Submission 9, the focus of the draft Council Plan is on working with partners to identify and implement a modern visitor information service model.</p> <p>Officer comment under Submission 3 relates to ultra-processed food outlets, noting that the issue has been addressed in the Municipal Strategic Statement within the Planning Scheme and that there are opportunities to respond to these concerns via the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and Active Mansfield initiatives under Strategic Objective 4.3.</p> <p>Extensive comment around Council's commitment to economic development related initiatives and have been made in response to several submissions in this attachment. Comments around resource allocation will be dealt with through the report on the draft 2017-18 budget.</p>



ATTACHMENT 7.1.1.2

DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN AND STRATEGIC RESOURCE
PLAN 2017-21 SUBMISSIONS

(32 PAGES)



Caring for Mansfield's Environment
Shop 3, 12-22 Highett Street
Mansfield VIC 3722
landcare@up2us.org.au
(03) 5775 2770

10th May 2017

Mr Alex Green
Chief Executive officer
Mansfield Shire Council
Private Bag 1000
MANSFIELD VIC 3724

Dear Mr Alex Green

Re: Up2Us submission in response to the Council Plan and Budget 2017-2021

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Mansfield Shire Council plan and budget. We appreciate that there has been consultation in helping our community understand the issues, especially relating to the financial restrictions of the Shire Council for the 2017-2018 financial year.

Up2Us Landcare Alliance (Up2Us) is the Landcare network assisting landholders within the Mansfield Shire to value, support and extend environmental attributes of the region. Our organisation supports six independent Landcare groups within the Shire boundaries totalling approximately 200 properties (individual membership being almost double). In addition our network supports four associated groups and all of the schools in biodiversity and environmental education.

Our statement of purpose as seen in our strategic plan 2017-2021 is that; "Up2Us is a community organisation within Mansfield Shire which aims to lead in the preservation, protection and enhancement of our land and water ecosystems by empowering community and individuals to act".

We endeavour to achieve our purpose by:

- maintaining and improving the natural resource base through advocating for environmentally sustainable management
- being a community organisation which promotes Climate Smart initiatives
- providing informed educational programs that enhance community awareness of our natural assets
- maintaining a robust governance structure to ensure the longevity of the network and activity of the groups

Importance of the Council Plan for Up2Us

In reviewing the Council Plan, we identify certain synergies that we have listed below (the following page references relate to the Council Plan).

As a community organisation, Up2Us works collaboratively with all levels of government, private companies and individuals "for the long term future and prosperity of this Shire" (p. 6) especially in relation to achieving environmental outcomes. It is with this in mind that we deliver by developing and maintaining "strong and productive partnerships with our community" (p.6), both of which are recognised by the Shire in 'The Council Plan'.



*"working with local groups, organisations and all levels of government
to build an environmentally sustainable community for future generations"*



The strong partnership that Up2Us currently holds with the Mansfield Shire's Development Services staff reflects these long-term strategic objectives that we share with Council, as identified by Strategic Objective 1.3 "Partnerships are strong between key service providers and authorities across the municipality" (p.27). Grant applications form the basis of all funding streams for Up2Us. These grants allow us to deliver environmental outcomes within the Shire boundaries. To apply for grants effectively, Up2Us utilises our partners' strategic plans to feed into applications, hence giving strength to the submission. After reading and reflecting on the draft Council plan, Up2Us sees some clauses to celebrate but also some omissions that could easily be rectified to produce a more relevant document that would allow both Up2Us and the Shire to achieve our shared objectives over the next four years.

Celebrations

The opening paragraph in "Our Shire and its people" highlights the value of where we live and the impact that our unique environment (rivers, lakes, mountains, agriculture) has on the work and leisure that occurs in this region (p.7). This is further highlighted in point 4 "Enhanced liveability" under Strategic Directions in the statement "We also understand that the protection and enhancement of the beautiful natural environment in which we live is key to our quality of life" (p.24). However, we question the use of the term "liveability" as it can have other connotations such as implying that the natural environment has no intrinsic value and its only purpose is for the amenity of humans.

The focus on long-term planning for community visions within the diagram of how the Council Plan coexists with other Strategic legislation (p.21) is applauded by our committee. A long-term sustainable environment is paramount to a future that enhances the lives of our residents and visitors.

Strategic Objective 4.4 has a strong emphasis on policy and decision making frameworks which are addressed in the review of policies and strategies within the Development Services.

Omissions

The following inclusions would address the omissions identified.

Whilst the Council Plan has tried to include the need for a long-term sustainable environment, the Strategic Objectives do little to address this. Small alterations on some of the strategic objectives to address the omissions identified by our committee could be easily inserted to provide a better balance sought by volunteers and paid employees in our sector.

In Strategic Direction Four:

Objective 4.2 should be altered to include the environment, such as "We are a community that is passionate about arts, culture, heritage and the environment". An additional comment could be added under this objective, coloured blue indicating the control category and supported by the Key Driver of Development Services - "Promote and support the works of key environmental groups and organisations, including Landcare."

Objective 4.3 could be altered to include the environment, reading, "Our community proactively manages its health, wellbeing and environment". With this small alteration, the Enhanced Liveability direction on p.41 is more satisfactorily addressed. An additional comment could be added under this objective, coloured pink indicating the influence category and supported by the Key Driver of Development Services - "Support environmental groups and organisations to reduce greenhouse emissions within the Shire, increase biodiversity outcomes and strategically plan for promotion of environmental sustainability and improvement."

Objective 4.4 indicates that the reviewing of documents and identifying actions for implementation will be within the control of the Development Services. However, the budget scenarios do not indicate that there will be any financial allocation to implement works in the environmental sector. Future budgets within the four-year period of this Plan must demonstrate Council's commitment to the triple bottom line of social, environmental (or ecological) and financial responsibilities. This will ensure that the environmental outcomes identified in the Council Plan have a chance of being achieved.

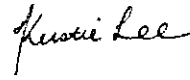
Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Council Plan. Up2Us Landcare Alliance would be pleased to present our submission to the Councillors at the meeting on May 30th.

Should you need any further information to be able to incorporate our suggestions, we would be happy to meet with you at a mutually convenient time.

Kind regards



John Gilson
President, Up2Us Landcare Alliance



Kerstie Lee
Up2Us Landcare Alliance Facilitator

On behalf of the members of the network:

Andrew Crockett – representative of Victorian Farmers Federation
Amanda Swaney – representative of Upper Broken River Landcare Group
Nicky Goudberg – representative of Delatite Landcare Group
Ian Lynch – representative of Howqua Valley Landcare Group
Julie Aldous – representative of Upper Broken River Landcare Group
Jill Breadon – secretary and member of Upper Broken River Landcare Group
John Rogers – representative of Ancona Valley Landcare Group
Andrew Setchell – representative of Fords Creek Landcare Group

Cc: Mayor Paul Volkering

FORDS CREEK LANDCARE GROUP

PO Box 1
Mansfield 3724
www.up2us.org.au



10th May, 2017

Mr Alex Green
Chief Executive Officer
Mansfield Shire Council
By email

Dear Alex,

Thanks for the opportunity to review and contribute to the development of the 2017-2021 Council Plan. This submission is lodged on behalf of Fords Creek Landcare Group. The group was one of the earliest Landcare groups in the region, having been formed in approx. 1991. It operated successfully for many years before going into recess in about 2005. The group reformed in 2016. It is currently building on work undertaken along Fords Creek within the Mansfield township by a small group of dedicated volunteers over the past six years.

Having a Council Plan that clearly supports environmental action and outcomes is highly important to our group, particularly when we are pursuing external funding opportunities. Funding organizations are often keen to understand whether landcare organizations have community support for their work, and a sympathetic Council Plan can be a powerful expression of such .

We are heartened by some clear statements within the Council plan about the importance of the environment. In particular we note the comment "we also understand that the protection and enhancement of the beautiful natural environment in which we live is key to our quality of life", and other comments about the importance of the natural environment (and it's vital link to amenity), in the preface to Strategic Direction Four "Enhanced Liveability". There are also some important actions under strategic direction four that, as they are implemented, will help to protect and enhance the natural environment.

Unfortunately, there does not appear to be a Strategic Objective that provides a clear and unambiguous statement that our Community values the natural environment. There are also some clear omissions in terms of actions. Of particular concern is the failure to recognize the importance of Council working with community landcare organizations such as ours. There is also a lack of detail in the sorts of actions needed, with no reference to key issues such as weed control, biodiversity initiatives, sustainable agriculture, and native vegetation.

In this respect we draw your attention to the previous Council Plan 2013 to 2017, which in its Goal 4.1 and following actions contained a great deal of detail, whose inclusion, we believe, would improve the current draft Council Plan.

We respectfully request that Council make some changes to the draft Council Plan, specifically.....

- Include an additional Strategic Objective 4.5 making a clear and unambiguous statement of Council and community support for the protection and enhancement of our natural environment.
- Include under this additional objective relevant already planned actions such as i) review/ implement the Environment Strategy, and ii) review/implement the Waste Management Strategy.
- Include specific reference to partnering and supporting community Landcare (and others) organizations working in this space.
- Specifically identify priorities, such as sustainable agriculture, native vegetation, biodiversity and weeds.

Linking local communities and the Fords Creek environment

FORDS CREEK LANDCARE GROUP

PO Box 1
Mansfield 3724
www.up2us.org.au



We also submit that it is important that there be Performance Measures linked to environment-related actions in the Council Plan; in many cases these will fit under the 'influence' heading (to use Council terminology), but we feel it is important to get some measure of performance to be able to gauge progress over time.

A final comment, and a question.

- We'd like to briefly note that despite the stated importance of the environment to our community, that Council allocates quite limited resources to this cause. From the draft Council Budget, I note that a gross of just \$107k is allocated to the 'Environment' (less in net terms, after factoring in associated revenues). I understand that much of this expenditure relates to enforcement actions, leaving a quite limited capacity for planning, strategy and partnership development.
- We would be interested to know whether any costs relating to reviewing the Environment Strategy have been built into the budget.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Council Plan. Our group would be happy to work with Council staff to incorporate some of our suggestions, should you so desire.

Please contact me should you wish to discuss further.

Regards,



Andrew Setchell

Chairman, Fords Creek Landcare Group



Acknowledgement of receipt of Council Plan and budget submission

Tim Ross to: Dawn.Bray

19/05/2017 09:44 AM

Cc: landcare, andrew_setchell, Imogen Smith

From: Tim Ross <tim.ross@proactivetax.com.au>
To: Dawn.Bray@mansfield.vic.gov.au,
Cc: landcare@up2us.org.au, andrew_setchell@hotmail.com, Imogen Smith <imogensmithhm@gmail.com>

History: This message has been replied to.

Please consider the environment before printing this email

Hi Dawn,

Have discussed your request for environment-related performance measures. We did not have specific measures in mind, but feel that the development and inclusion of performance measures would add rigour to Council Plan goals. We have put forward a number of things that we feel should be specifically referenced in the Council Plan, clearly the actual performance measures chosen will reflect the actions that end up being included. For example, an action re supporting native vegetation retention/ replanting along creeklines could be supported by a performance measure of the number of trees planted by landholders/ community groups/ council.

As previously mentioned, I feel that Council Officers working in the Environment area are best placed to propose performance measures, perhaps in conjunction with local/ regional environment groups such as Up2Us, GBCMA, etc.

Some quick thoughts for measurable targets include.....

Relating to Landcare

- Number of trees planted
- Number of planting days held
- Number of private landholders engaged in landcare activity
- Number of volunteer hours
- Number of km of waterways being actively rehabilitated

Data are available from Up2Us Landcare in relation to many of these measures.

Relating to broader environmental issues

- Energy Efficient Housing
- Uptake of alternative energy (solar/ wind/ etc)

Presume that this sort of info is available from Council.

Over time it would be hoped that some broader measures of environmental health in a range of areas (energy, biodiversity, sustainable farming, etc) could be identified and referenced in the Council plan.

Regards,

"Keep Mansfield Healthy" (KMH) was formed in the summer of 2013/14 in response to Mansfield's largest ever petition, which opposed the building of a large drive-through fast food franchise in Mansfield. The petition was circulated after McDonalds Corporation franchisees showed interest in two sites within the Mansfield township during 2013. It gained unprecedented support (almost 4000 signatures) opposing such a development.

The other motivation for the petition came from a 2013 VCAT case brought, and won by McDonalds against the Yarra Ranges Shire. The VCAT ruling at Tecoma allowed 24/7 operation, 90 seats, 26 car parks, a large all night drive through, tree removal, high fences, two stories and a total of 32 external signs (11 illuminated), all in close proximity to a primary and secondary school, despite an on-line petition against it with 100,000 signatures which was delivered to McDonalds' headquarters in Chicago.

To prevent a possible similar outcome in Mansfield, over the last three years, KMH has worked with shire planners and Council so that the new Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) / Amendment C37, now reflects the community's view as supported by the petition.

The Shire Plan (2013 -17) commits the shire to further strengthen the Planning Scheme to prevent the development of the sort of large ultra-processed food development which all the evidence shows are harmful to the health and economies of rural communities.

Ultra-processed products are energy dense, are low in dietary fibre and nutrients, and are high in fat, sugar and salt. They have intense palatability (achieved by cosmetic and other additives), and their sophisticated and aggressive marketing strategies to children such as reduced price super-size servings and free gifts, promote energy overconsumption and thus obesity. Consumption of ultra-processed foods and drinks are directly associated with increased rates of childhood obesity, long-term weight gain, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. As well as making people sick, such developments harm small rural economies, as the profits leave town.

We are disappointed to see that without any consultation with us, and after three years' work, 4.2.4 has been dropped out of the Council Plan. We would like to see it re-instated.

Jo Herbert
Andy Kappes,
Louise Kilgour
Graham Slaney
Will Twycross
for: Keep Mansfield Healthy

Melanie Green and John Lovick
1 Davies Rd
Merrijig, 3723.

0417 147938

16th May 2017.

Mr Alex Green
CEO
Mansfield Shire Council
Private Bag 1000
Mansfield, 3722.
council@mansfield.vic.gov.au

Dear Sir.

We write in regard to the Council's Proposed 2017-18 Budget and Draft Council Plan 2017-21.

We read with concern in this week's Courier that the former saleyards site is to be sold – apparently a late minute decision that has not given the Community enough time to be aware of this sudden change of plan nor to be able to contribute to the discussion about the future possible use of the land.

We feel that it is a hasty decision with all the hallmarks of a cash grab decided in a panic. The limited and recent community conversations around using the area – or at least part of it - to co-locate our Emergency Services is a very good idea. Due consideration should be given to a variety of options to make this work. Once the land is sold, it is too late.

To justify dropping such a proposal on the grounds that none of the Emergency Services wants to purchase this land is shallow and short-sighted we believe. Of course they cannot, given their limited funding and the fact that many such SES and CFA stations rely heavily on members fundraising just to get by.

The proposal for a "state of the art" Emergency Services Precinct is a win-win for the Shire:

1.Co-location of CFA, SES, AV and Vicpol will greatly enhance management of any emergency situation in our Shire and is in accord with Emergency Management Victoria's doctrine of " all hazards, all agencies" and "all communities, all emergencies." (Especially as SES is already located there.)

The development in many Shires of Early Childhood hubs incorporating Long Daycare, Maternal Child Health, Kinders, Speech Pathology, etc. is a model developed for similar reasons and benefits – co-location of associated services that must work together cohesively are advantaged by being close together and easily accessible.

2. Despatch of agency vehicles and crews will be removed from the centre of town.

3. A “state of the art” precinct will be a key component of our town entrance that the Community and the Shire can be proud of in the future.

4. Current and future issues already facing the buildings, locations and facilities of the Emergency Services will be solved.

The whole parcel of land does not have to be ‘sacrificed’ but surely some can be kept aside so the Community and the Emergency Services can have the time to have conversations about how best to go about this.

And this also gives everyone time to explore various ways to achieve these outcomes such as Grant Applications, asset swaps, nominal rental agreements, etc.

So we would ask the Shire Council to think big picture and long term and save a portion of this land for such a future project.

Yours Sincerely,
Melanie “Max” Green and John Lovick.

10 May 2017

Dear Mr Green and Councillors of the Mansfield Shire.

**Re Response to Proposed Budget and the Council plan
2017-21.**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Mansfield Shire Council budget 2017-18 and Council Plan 2017-2021. I do recognise that there has been a lot of work undertaken and much information to consider when looking at the future of the Mansfield Shire. There is a need for careful consideration to get the correct balance of social, economic and financial sustainability and viability and to ensure a good "quality of life" for all the people of the Mansfield Shire.

It has been refreshing to see the community consultation through personal approaches by the CEO and the Council and I commend you for this.

This feedback is not a full analysis of the proposed budget and council plan but an overview of what I see as inconsistencies and identifying gaps and opportunities for the Council and CEO. The comments are expressed in a way to stimulate more consideration.

From reading the Budget and Council plan there are two key points that I believe are priorities that need immediate attention.

1. ORGANISATIONAL REVIEW

I can only assume on reading the budget, information data graphs etc, the Council has not undergone a review of the structure, operational costs and best practice activities for the services provided. This is a significant loss of opportunity and I would recommend that a review be undertaken to help reduce costs, introduce innovation, and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery.

The current financial pressure on the Mansfield Shire provides an opportunity for it to make changes to delivering services to be more cost effective. When there are pressures to change, there are huge opportunities for productivity gains, for innovative work practices.

For examples. Public Health services have undergone significant productivity gains due to financial pressures. Internationally it is known that more money does not mean better health outcomes.

So why is the Mansfield Shire not undertaking a review of the structure and cost of services so they can improve their performance? The information provided shows:

- There is “no change” in the FTE budget for 2017-18 and for the next few years, in particular in corporate services. Why?
- There is no Economic Development Plan or leadership in the current structure. Why? It is mandated by the Local Govt Act that economic viability and sustainability is a key objective.
- www.knowourcommunity.com shows that Mansfield is achieving some excellent results compared other councils however there are many opportunities for improvement in the delivery of services. The data shows that the costs for personal care service is higher than other rural Councils and compliance standards lower than other Councils. There is poorer attendance of Councillors at Council meetings. It is alarming that Mansfield council takes 74 days to decide planning applications compared to 45.63 days for similar councils. It is noted that your target is to reduce this to less than 60 days. Why not target the similar Councils benchmark of 45 days? How is the Council addressing these issues to improve their performance?

2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The current “Economic Development Plan” ends at the end of 2017, and a new plan is not going to be addressed until 2018. Added to this, there is no organisational leadership in this area. There is a misalignment of Economic Development into Community Services which adds confusion and lack of transparency and action within the Council plan.

There is missed opportunity by not focusing on the ‘Business of the Community” and taking advantage of a partnership with Regional Development Victoria which would provide funding for jobs and infrastructure.

Economic growth supports future employment, builds community capability and provides opportunity for youth in the community. Why is the Council NOT tackling Economic Development as a key priority, when it ticks a majority of boxes for what is trying to achieve?

General Comments on the Council Plan 2017-21

- Council plan does NOT include “Mansfield” in the “Our Towns” section? What are the specific priorities for Mansfield?
- The projected population growth for Mansfield is different for the overall growth of the Shire and there seems to lack acknowledgement of this data.
- Strategic goals:

- a) What are the universal social determinants used to measure the overall "quality of life". I am unable to determine what the Council uses as their measure and benchmark.
- b) SEIFA index shows that the indices for education and occupation are below the state average meaning that there is higher unemployment and fewer people with qualifications in the Mansfield Shire. Where are the partnerships to address these matters? Where is the support for economic growth to assist in reducing unemployment?
- c) The Local Govt Act indicates that the objectives of the council is to be effective and efficient. I cannot see that the Council is committed to this objective. A review of the structure and operations will assist in identifying ways to reduce operational costs.
- d) There is an action item of "promotion of volunteering" via the website which means that you are wanting to grow the volunteer program. However the budget indicates that you have reduced the volunteering coordination by more than 50%. This seems very short sighted and goes against the strategic goals 1, 3 and 5.
- e) The performance measures do not mean anything in the format in which they are presented and show lack of transparency and lack of preparedness to be held accountable. The community wants to know what improvements have been made in the past year against benchmarks.
- f) There is no mention of evaluating the programs that are delivered.
- g) In Objective 3.2 the inclusion of training in "Grant application writing" would assist community members and help identify sources of funding.

General comments on the Proposed Budget 2017-18

The Council has requested community feedback regarding the reduction of services to reduce expenditure by \$700,000. It was valuable having a meeting of some members of the Regional Partnership Group with Alex Green and receiving some budget background. This gave some good insight into the business of the Mansfield shire and to understand the challenges that are being faced.

When I reflect on the proposed budget, I am concerned by the lack of information provided to the Community as to why the Council is in such a poor financial state. I believe the budget does not show the Council or the Executive have taken ownership of the problem and have limited their focus to "low lying fruit" and not addressing all the issues and opportunity of cost savings that are available to them.

An independent review of the organisational structure and operations will look at cost savings and procedural inefficiencies. This is a basic process for any "for profit" or "not for profit" business that is looking at cost savings.

Other points noted in the budget analysis

- Why are community grants been reduced and not other grants like Targa? What cost/ benefit analysis has been undertaken?
- There is to be an upgrade of the swimming pool, however the comparative data indicates that the Mansfield pool is underutilised? Why is it underutilized and will the upgrade address this issue?
- Why is the Council considering "Limited" new Capital projects at all for the next 12 months until urgent matters are addressed?
- The non-recruitment of Tourism/ Economic Development Manager, I believe is a false cost saving arrangements.
- There is an increase in corporate services and Council budget? What is the gain from this?
- The election of Councillors is not a model that supports "skill base selection of Councillors". The implementation of a skills based advisory committee would assist Council.
- Why is there consideration of a new Sports Facility and Master plan this year when there is not even an Economic Development Plan
- There is a reduction in budget for volunteer coordination. Why? What is being removed? Why are you planning to promote volunteerism on the Website if you have cut budget to the area.

I believe that additional cost savings can be identified by reviewing the organisation structure, operational costs and cost shifting and pushing for productivity gains through changes in work practices and innovation. The Council plan needs to be challenged with its lack of priority of Economic Development Plan.

Once again thanks for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Draft Council Plan and the proposed budget for 2017-18. I do hope you read this as being constructive and to assist in forwarding the future of the Mansfield Shire.

This submission has been available for the Regional Partnership Group to review.

Kindest Regards
Dr Pamela Dalglish

Mansfield Shire Council Plan 2017-2021

Submission from:

Joan Tehan
5092 Midland Highway
MANSFIELD, 3722
PH: 57764247
EMAIL: jatha@mansfield.net.au

TO;
Mr Alex Green
Chief Executive Officer
Mansfield Shire

16 May 2017

Below, are my comments in relationship to specified parts of the Council plan.

CORE VALUES

I support the Council as being advocates on behalf of the community but I believe this can only be done by Council adopting a leadership role and drawing on the expertise of its staff rather than delegating to the community to come up with solutions to the challenging issues facing all local government in this time. I believe the community should be consulted and their views given proper consideration.

This advocacy will only succeed if the council is open and listens and responds to community aspirations and submissions. Going through consultation processes is worthless if community values are not reflected in the council plan.

OUR TOWNS

This Document neglects to mention the significance of Mansfield becoming an attractive destination and place to live because of the remarkable diversity and choice of education campuses in the district. This is a feature of Mansfield's demographic that I have mentioned in most planning submissions I have made but continues to be ignored as a significant driver and employer in our community.

Anecdotal evidence continues to affirm that many families come to live and work in Mansfield because of education options. Tertiary campuses such as Timbertop and Lauriston and the preschool campus of The Farmhouse enhance visitation, underpin the economy and provide significant and regular employment. Long term associations are also formed. No description of Mansfield is complete without this acknowledgment as

I believe it is unique in a rural shire and sets Mansfield apart. It is positive and enhancing without detrimental environmental impact. It is something the Shire should celebrate as a defining aspect of our culture.

OUR STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Page 24

Enhanced liveability

The Mansfield district is growing significantly into a community that values health and wellbeing with a rapidly expanding sector of medical and allied health practitioners who are busy in a competitive environment.

This section in the Draft Council Plan is bland and heavy on platitudes rather than referring to innovations in health and wellbeing aspirations coming from the local community.

Mansfield has developed a wider reputation for valuing and promoting health and wellbeing. This is exemplified by leadership from health professionals, parents and community taking a preventive stand on fast food outlets coming to the town. The Keep Mansfield Healthy initiative which has worked with Council to work towards appropriate planning measures is an excellent example of cooperation based on well-founded research.

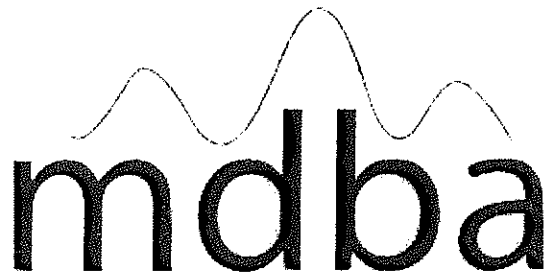
Again, this sets Mansfield apart from many other shires which are now suffering from the proliferation of fast food outlets and the inevitable consequences of obesity and costly health issues.

PARTICIPATION AND PARTNERSHIPS Page 27

The last paragraph referring to Tourism North East, Mt Buller and Mt Stirling is far too narrow when we consider the long and continuing history of tourism based around lake Eildon, Lake Nillahcootie and our park and river systems. Maybe it should also include bodies representative of these areas.

ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES

Wherever possible I believe that council should limit the use of costly external consultants and draw on the expertise of in-house staff who are less likely to reinvent the wheel and have insights and knowledge that will benefit Mansfield.



Mansfield District Business Association inc.

*President: Sarah Brennan 0439551330
Treasurer: Tim Ross 03 5775 2713*

*1 Chenery Street, Mansfield, VIC 3722
(PO Box 443, Mansfield, VIC 3724)*

Email: mansfielddba@gmail.com

Date: May 17, 2017

Ms Dawn Bray
Governance Co-ordinator
Mansfield Shire Council, 33 Highett
Street Mansfield 3272

Dear Dawn,

Re: Council Budget and Council Plan

On behalf of the Mansfield District Business Association I would like to submit our recommendations for consideration by Councillors in respect of:

1: The Economic Development Strategic Plan.

Ensuring Mansfield Shire is a great place to WORK, LIVE & PLAY.

Currently, the development of the Economic and Development plan is not scheduled until 2018/19. MDBA believes that it is an imperative that this plan be developed this calendar year - for the good of the Shire - to build our economic sustainability and viability.

The previous Council Plan had a whole section (one of five) headed "a growing economy", while the current draft Council Plan puts most business-related items into a sub-section of the "financial sustainability" objective. In the past 20 years exceptional strategic initiatives have been implemented and Mansfield will benefit from this kind of focus again. Whilst we acknowledge that many of the planned actions are welcomed **MDBA recommends the Strategic Plan is developed by December 2017, as a priority not a subsection.**



The current draft council plan covers many key tactics however, the Shire has an opportunity to support and guide the burgeoning Mansfield businesses community into a community with an enviable reputation as being entrepreneurial, innovative, bold and creative.

With a growing population of 8,067 (10,011 by 2031) and our stated economic drivers being tourism, agriculture, lifestyle living and retail PLUS the additional benefit of 1.2 million visitors per year Mansfield is well placed to build a viable and sustainable economy. A healthy and growing commercial profile will contribute to Council's earning through building commercial rates, enticing new businesses and attracting new residents.

Mansfield currently enjoys an employment base of 3,743 and an industry output of \$823m, 500+ (small businesses) however, the impact of tourism as an economic driver is estimated as 20% of total industry output and 25% of total employment. With changing environmental conditions it is important the Mansfield business community does not rely on a single focus to build the economy but it builds a balanced, varied and vibrant business profile. The outcome will be our ability to attract new businesses to the Shire and to empower and encourage our developing entrepreneurs and new SME's.

MDBA is also concerned about the risk profile for the Shire with the potential for significant environmental 'events' impacting local businesses (past experience shows the community will be impacted by three significant events ie: low snow levels, bushfire and drought – within a ten year period). We have an obligation to build our resilience and mitigate risk – **a clear, visionary and inspirational economic and development strategy will help to mitigate this risk.**

2: In relation to the budget, the key issue is the timing of the Economic Development Strategy revision, and the loss of the Manager Economic Development role. The big picture thinking, strategic and proven nous is critical for the development of a plan that positions Mansfield Shire as an appealing place to work, live and play.

In response to this MDBA recommends:

Council commits to delivering a robust, innovative and impactful Economic and Development strategic plan for the next 4-6 years by the end of 2017.



Specifically Council considers either:

a) appointing an experienced, proven consultant to develop the Economic and Development strategic plan

Or

b) the formation of a Steering Committee, sourced from the cohort of local, experience, skilled ratepayers – who can bring real value to build a robust Economic and Development strategic plan.

Or

c) Council appoints a senior manager to lead, develop and deliver the Economic and Development strategic plan. This role is critical in providing skilled, insightful and experienced vision and leadership to the Shire and our business community.

For any of these options the brief should include community consultation - critical to a good result. Whilst the budget allocations for a Steering Committee may be kept tight (under \$15k) the budget allocations for an external and skilled consultancy team may reach \$80 - \$100k and the budget for a Senior Manager FTE would be up to \$150k.

MDBA is well placed to be a reference group to work with any one of these options and would welcome the opportunity.

This Submission will be presented in person to Council, by members of the MDBA Committee on Tuesday May 30 from 2.00 pm.

Yours sincerely,

MDBA Committee



Mansfield Basketball Association
P.O.Box 481
Mansfield Vic 3724

19th May 2017

Dear Ms Dawn Bray - Governance Co-ordinator, Mansfield Shire Council,

Mansfield District Basketball Association (the club) is a local not-for-profit sporting organisation established in 1985 with 17 members, with the aim to promote health, inclusion and community spirit through the sport of basketball.

Now in its 32nd year, the club's member numbers has grown to over 450; an increase of 2547% in members. In addition to the members that play each season, the club is administered and supported by a dedicated network of parents, coaches, team managers, siblings, referees and spectators who all enjoy the inclusion and engagement the club offers local children, adults and families.

Furthermore, basketball is ranked in the top 10 most popular sports in Australia for children aged 6 to 13 as recorded by Roy Morgan research (2014). Michele Levine, CEO, Roy Morgan Research, says:

"10 of the top 20 most popular sports and activities among Aussie kids aged six to 13 are team sports. Soccer is the clear favourite, with 1.2 million young players across the country, followed by around 750,000 basketballers, 630,000 cricketers and 500,000 netballers."

The Mansfield and District Basketball Association is proudly the largest sporting club in Mansfield in terms of number of participants (currently 458 registered players). Competitions are run all year round with mens, ladies, mixed, juniors and aussie hoops divisions. It also represents Mansfield in competitions in the junior levels throughout the state attending tournaments in Benalla, Wangaratta, Shepparton, Wodonga and Bendigo.

The domestic competitions are held week nights and it is valued as a fitness and skills based complement to many other sporting pursuits that are enjoyed on weekends. Additionally it mentors the youth in the town through its refereeing, junior coaching and aussie hoops development program that teaches them responsibility, respect and also provides the reward of remuneration through our refereeing program.

The club has access to 2 courts in the Mansfield township. One being the Mansfield Sporting Complex and the other being located at St Mary's Primary School. Further there is a practice court available at the Mansfield Sporting precinct netball courts (note that it is currently unavailable) for the youth to practice outside their team commitments. We are now in a situation where we are turning away players due to lack of facilities. The club needs to urgently address the need for further facilities. We are aware that the Mansfield Sporting Complex and the surrounding venue is also at capacity with the demand of other sporting interests.



Mansfield Basketball Association
P.O.Box 481
Mansfield Vic 3724

We are requesting the Mansfield Shire to consider forming a working group to explore possibilities to develop a basketball stadium precinct with at least 3 courts in the Mansfield township as part of its 2017 – 2021 Budget Planning. Further with the development of a new sporting ground at the Mansfield Secondary College, we see such a facility could be located alongside there, as it would have both the space for the same and be an excellent infrastructure for the college itself. With extra courts available this would also present the opportunity to host representative basketball tournaments that have shown in other shires to provide an excellent financial boost to the town.

Yours sincerely

Michael Watson

President

Mansfield Cultural Heritage & Arts Centre

Community Keeping Place – All Things Art & History

MANSFIELD SHIRE COUNCIL			
19 MAY 2017			
FILE NO.	2	10	P
E4397			✓

10th May 2017

Mr Alex Green (CEO) and Councillors – Mayor Paul Volkering, Cr Marg Attley, Cr Peter Olver, Cr Paul Sladdin and Cr Harry Westendorp
Mansfield Shire Council
33 Highett Street
Mansfield, 3722

Dear Alex and Councillors

Re:

- **MCHAC Submission on aspects of the draft Council Plan 2017 – 2021**
- **Request to present at the scheduled Council Meeting on Tuesday 30 May 2017**

The 2013 - 2017 Council Plan contained the following:

Goal 3.4 Mansfield is a vital setting for Arts, Culture & Heritage.

3.4.1	Review the Arts, Culture & Heritage Plan in partnership with key community groups and funding agencies.
3.4.2	Prepare a thematic history of Mansfield in accordance with Guidelines of Funding received from State Government.
3.4.3	Provide In Principle support to the efforts of the Mansfield Cultural Heritage and Arts Centre in progressing development of the Community Keeping Place project

At a Special Council meeting on 24th June 2013 Council incorporated 3.4.3 into the Plan following several years of volunteer effort and financial and in-kind contributions by five significant community groups that comprise MCHAC.

Council and MCHAC had worked collaboratively over this time to create several documents relating to the development of the Station Precinct and specifically our proposed Cultural Heritage & Arts Centre.

Representatives of MCHAC were notified in the recent meeting with Council that this goal has been removed from the draft 2017 – 2021 Council Plan and that MCHAC had been sent a letter to that effect. We wish to inform Council that we have not received the letter, so the announcement came as a complete and unwelcome surprise.

MCHAC did not believe there was a need to continue lobbying Council about the long-term project when 3.4.3

President | Graeme Stoney | P 0428 576 090 | E graeme@stoney.com.au
Secretary | Leanne Robson | P 0499 555 583 | E leannerobson97@gmail.com
18 Early Street, Mansfield 3722

Mansfield Cultural Heritage & Arts Centre

only identifies agreement in principle and does not commit Council to any funds. As events had moved on regarding the changing situation at the Visitors Information Centre (VIC) we were also waiting on Council decisions (to perhaps create a working party) after our expression of interest was presented concerning the use of VIC.

Regarding the proposed Station master plan, MCHAC were informed at the recent meeting that the stated intention of Council is to move towards engaging external consultants to advise on the future of the Station precinct. It is obvious this may take some time, especially if funds are not forthcoming from Government. MCHAC is concerned at aspects of this suggestion and is writing to Council in a separate letter regarding this.

In the meantime, there is a pressing decision required by Council about the future of the VIC, as the result of the recent withdrawal of MMBRTA, which can surely be made by Council. Given that Council is faced with reviewing the future operation and management of the VIC building in the next 12 months, coupled with the move towards engaging consultants to produce a master plan for the Station precinct, it seems logical that a specific reference to these decisions should be identified in the forthcoming Council Plan.

Unless we are mistaken there is no specific reference detailed to either issue in the Draft Council Plan.

Therefore, MCHAC respectfully offers two proposals:

1. That the former Goal 3.4.3, which is purely aspirational, be retained.

MCHAC believes that its omission is disrespectful of the five community groups who have worked since 2009 and raised more than \$50,000 to develop a concept.

2. We believe that the 2017 – 2021 Council Plan should outline a specific reference to the future planning of the wider Station precinct. We therefore propose that the following wording also be inserted into the Plan: **Re-establish the Visitors Information Centre and the surrounding Station Precinct as a vibrant hub for both visitors and the community.**

Given the earlier breakdown in communication we would like a response from Council to these proposals to the 2017 – 2021 Council Plan and request we be given an opportunity to present to Council on this matter.

Yours sincerely



Leanne Robson
Honorary Secretary
MCHAC Committee

Comments for Council

MANSFIELD SHIRE COUNCIL	
19 MAY 2017	
FILE NO E4591	2 10 P

Please provide us with any feedback you may have on our 2017-2021 Council Plan. Your thoughts and ideas regarding the future of Mansfield Shire are valued by Council in moving forward together as a community.

1. Please indicate the main reason you obtained a copy of this Council Plan.

- To be informed of Council activities
- As a reference source
- To support a grant application
- Other (please specify):

2. Did you find this Council Plan useful? (Please circle one)

Not at all
 2
 3
 4
 5
 Absolutely

3. What suggestions would you make to improve this Plan? *I think it is well produced as it is. As a very new resident in Mansfield, may I advise you that I have set up a Scrabble club, with the help of the librarians, in the library. It meets every week & it is gradually expanding so it is contributing to the community.*

4. Do you live in Mansfield Shire?

Yes No

5. My main interest in this Council Plan is as a:

- Student Resident Community organisation
- Business organisation Government organisation Other (please specify)

Please return this form to Mansfield Shire Council
 Council@mansfield.vic.gov.au or Private Bag 1000, Mansfield Vic 3722

How you can contribute to your community

The Strategic Plan 2017-21 expresses Council's commitment to the community. Council however cannot achieve these aspirations alone – it needs your help! Listed below are just some of the ways each resident within the region can contribute to achieving these aspirations.

We look forward to everyone's participation and contributions as we strive to make Mansfield Shire the best place to live.

Join a club. Our municipality has many sporting, recreation special interest and social clubs. This is a great way to connect with other people in the region who share your interests. Clubs are also a great avenue for advocating to Council on shared views.

Volunteer at a Council-run facility or special event

Ride your bike to work or car pool with others in your local area

Walk your children to school

Purchase products and services locally

'Go Green' – there are many ways to reduce your carbon footprint, reduce waste and save our precious resources

Get active – take advantage of one of our open space areas or playgrounds

Attend a community festival or major event

Encourage a healthy lifestyle

Take care on our roads

Embrace our diverse community

Visit your local library

Employ locals

Be ambassadors for the district – be welcoming to tourists and visitors

Get to know your neighbours

Value and respect our heritage

Get involved in a local community project

Be water wise



Comments on Council Plan
kmoore to: council

19/05/2017 01:03 PM

From: "kmoore" <kmoore@cgpmansfield.com.au>,
To: "council" <council@mansfield.vic.gov.au>,,

Please consider the environment before printing this email

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Please see my comments below.

Â

Council Plan comments

An independent organisation structure review needs to be undertaken " to look at what are we doing and are we effective with how we do it? Environmental strategy " at the end of the plan it mentions ways to contribute to your community. "Go green" was noted but there is no plan for the council to back this up. Environment should really be a stand-alone strategic direction, or included at the least as a strategic objective under Enhanced liveability. Economic Development role is crucial for the ongoing future direction of the Shire and must be replaced. As part of Responsible Leadership, an independent organisational structure review needs to be undertaken to show where the gaps are and where there is excess. Innovation needs to be included as a strategic objective under Responsible Leadership to review processes and ensure the Shire is operating at the optimum level.

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General comments:

If it is not happening already, it would certainly be worth looking to other Shires that are doing well, to review procedures and share good practice models.

As one example, Bright are investing heavily in capital works and I asked how they do it. In addition to having one of the highest rates in the region, they recently underwent an organisational restructure -with excess funds directed to capital works. Through the restructure they have implemented several innovative work practices. We did a tour of their new open plan office building and it was fantastic " stand up "hot desk"™ arrangements, couches for team work/ meetings, large screens so they can work on documents together and a digital display board with all their current projects so they can keep track of project deadlines, encouraging transparency and accountability. The project screen

looked very much like an arrival/departure screen at airport. It was impressive and is working well.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the council plan.

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Kind regards

Â

Katie Moore

Central General Practice Mansfield

38 Highett Street, Mansfield VIC 3722

Work days: Monday, Thursday, Friday

Phone: 03 5775 2591

Fax: 03 5775 1901

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Submission to Council Plan: Mansfield Shire, 19/5/17

From: Dr W Twycross

Dear Councillors and CEO,

I have three areas of interest re the Draft Council Plan which I would like Council to consider. Two are part of broader community based group submissions.

1. Lack of clarity with regard to Council's commitment to the Visitors Centre and its precinct (previously discussed with Council, but repeated in submission, "for the record").
2. Dropping of commitment to strategic planning around ultra-processed food outlets (ie this seems to have been dropped out of the Plan without any community engagement).
3. Tourism and Economic Development: Tourism is the shire's economic driver and the reason for its growth (eg building, real estate, rate revenue), the vibrancy of its small business sector, and the ability to employ our young people here. On my reckoning, successive budgets have cut more severely into this sector than any other. I would like to see the Plan articulate how two part time workers will be able to deliver the sort of strategic tourism planning and capability that has been delivered for the last ten years. I am not talking about delivering events, which will obviously suffer, I am talking about the strategic thinking and expertise that delivers lasting economic benefits. If it is Council's intention to rebuild that capacity once the budget looks more balanced (which I believe it should be), I think the aim /timing for this should be articulated in the plan.

Many thanks for considering these points.

Yours Sincerely,

DR Will Twycross

7.1 Consideration of Written Submissions and the Hearing of Supporting Verbal Submissions in Relation to the Draft Mansfield Shire Council Plan 2017-21 and Proposed 2017-18 Budget cont.

7.1.2 Consideration of Public Submissions – Proposed 2017-18 Budget

File Number: E4653
Responsible Officer: Finance Manager, Mandy Kynnersley

Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

The author of this report has declared no conflict of interest in relation to this matter.

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to receive and consider the submissions received in response to the public exhibition of the proposed budget 2017-18.

Background

Following a Special meeting of Council on 18 April 2017, the proposed budget 2017-18 was placed on public exhibition between 19 April and 19 May 2017.

The exhibition of the document was publicised through the following means to maximise community engagement:

- Emails to all respondents to the Council Plan and Budget online community survey who indicated they wished to be kept informed of the progress of these two documents;
- Five notices in the Mansfield Matters section over the duration of the exhibition period;
- Notices on Council's website and Facebook page;
- Hard copies of the budget available at Council's municipal office, the Mansfield Library and at the two public meetings held during the exhibition period; and,
- A resident and ratepayers meeting held in Mansfield and a non-resident ratepayers meeting in Melbourne (Nunawading).

Section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (Act) provides for submitters to request an opportunity to support their written submission with a verbal presentation to Council. A resolution of the 18 April 2017 Special Council meeting set the meeting date for the hearing of submissions for 30 May 2017, commencing at 2pm.

All written submissions have been acknowledged, and all requests to make verbal presentations have been accommodated.

Statutory Requirements

Section 125 of the Act requires Council to ensure that during the mandatory minimum 28 day community consultation period:

7.1.2 Consideration of Public Submissions – Proposed 2017-18 Budget cont.

- A person has a right to make a written submission under section 223 of the Act; and,
- The proposed budget 2017-18 is available for inspection at Council's office and on its website.

Section 223 of the Act requires Council to:

- Publish a notice specifying that people are able to submit written comment on the proposed budget 2017-18;
- Enable a person who has made a written submission indicating in their submission that they wish to make a verbal representation to Council, or appoint someone to make the verbal submission on their behalf;
- Nominate the date and place where the Council will meet, which allows a reasonable time for the submitter to prepare for the meeting (a notice of the meeting must be given to each submitter); and,
- Having considered all written and verbal submissions, notify each submitter of the decision of the Council and the reason for the decisions in writing.

Council Plan

The proposed budget 2017-18 is the vehicle by which Council allocate financial resources to deliver the objectives of the Council Plan.

Financial

The consideration of submissions to the proposed budget 2017-18 will have varying financial impacts. Where known to officers, these are documented in the accompanying summary table.

Any amendments to the draft budget (and subsequently the strategic resource plan) will be determined by Council at the proposed Special Council meeting for the adoption of the Council Plan and 2017-18 budget on 27 June 2017.

Social

There are various social impacts in relation to the submissions received. Key themes are identified in the attached summary table

Environmental

There are various environmental impacts in relation to the submissions received. Key themes are identified in the attached summary table

Economic

There are various economic impacts in relation to the submissions received. Key themes are identified in the attached summary table



7.1.2 Consideration of Public Submissions – Proposed 2017-18 Budget cont.

Risk Management

There are various risks associated with the submissions received. Key themes are identified in the attached summary table

Community Engagement

A total of 76 written submissions were received during the exhibition period, with 24 of these requesting an opportunity to make a supporting verbal submission to this meeting of Council.

Officer's Comments

A summary table is attached outlining the key themes identified among the submissions received, and their financial impacts (where known by officers).

Councillors Attley/Olver:

That Council receive this report and consider the submissions to the proposed Mansfield Shire Budget 2017-18.

Carried



ATTACHMENT 7.1.2.1

PROPOSED 2017-18 BUDGET
SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS

(8 PAGES)

ATTACHMENT 7.1.2.1 – SUMMARY OF KEY THEMES FROM WRITTEN BUDGET SUBMISSIONS AND OFFICER COMMENTS

Submission Theme	Request for verbal presentation to Council? Y / N	Summary of submission/s	Officer comments
Financial counseling service	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase service back to the current levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost saving identified is \$19,162
School crossing supervisors	Y	<p>There are varying views across the 14 submissions, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vicroads should fund the service 100% Council should fund any shortfall Vicroads do not provide School crossings could be manned by volunteers / school children Council should reduce the service to cover only the higher risk roadways Sponsorship could be sought and displayed via signage at the crossings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council have received written confirmation from Vicroads to fund \$19k. Vicroads believe this is a 50% contribution – but in fact this is only 22%.
Sale of the Saleyards site	Y	<p>The general direction of the submissions is that the site should not be sold:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At all, or Without consideration of the emergency services (particularly SES, but also consideration of an emergency services precinct), or Without community consultation, or Without a known project to direct the sales proceeds towards <p>Some submissions are in favour for the site to be divested</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend the medium strip to expand the Commercial areas to include the Saleyards site 	

Submission Theme	Request for verbal presentation to Council? Y / N	Summary of submission/s	Officer comments
Reduce staff / organisational review	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CEO should be instructed to reduce expenditure by \$1.8m, including reducing staff • Outsourcing of various functions should be investigated • Alpine Shire should be considered a benchmark for staffing levels • Critically analyse staffing and the work they do with a view to reducing staff numbers • An independent review of the organisational structure will provide cost savings and procedural inefficiencies • Upper and Middle management staff costs should be reduced by 10% because more significant impact on the budget 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alpine Shire do not currently deliver HACCC services, and therefore cannot be compared to staff levels.
Beolite rate differential		Request for Council to provide Beolite with a 10% rate differential across all assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reduction in rates would be approximately \$3,000

Submission Theme	Request for verbal presentation to Council? Y / N	Summary of submission/s	Officer comments
Rural Land Study update	Y	<p>The submission requests Council undertake a review of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Rural Land Study (1994), and • the Rural Living Strategic Study (2003). <p>to support rezoning land at Kubeils Rd, Merton to allow initiation of a rural living development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Panel Report (August 2016) from the C37 amendment process recommended that a Rural Land Use Study be undertaken as a “matter of priority.” • The Mansfield Shire Environment Strategy includes a high priority action to “undertake a Rural Land Use Study.” • A consultant would be appointed to prepare the study. The estimated cost is \$100,000 (consultancy fees), and would likely be spread over two financial years. • The project will require an amendment process including public exhibition, and the costs of a Panel may be incurred (est \$2,000 to \$20,000)
Visitor Information Services / Station precinct	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mansfield Family History Group offer volunteer visitor information service providers to allow extended opening hours, in return for free occupation of space at the VIC • Council could combine the Visitor Information Service with the Library, at the Station Precinct 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both suggestions should be considered only in light of a broader Station Precinct Master Plan • Extending the current VIC hours (even with volunteer staff) will cost Council in additional occupation/utilities costs (electricity, cleaning etc).
Bonnie Doon Community Centre		Request for Council contribution of \$35k to the renovation of the Bonnie Doon Community Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council have committed \$10k in the 2017-18 proposed budget.
Sealing of the Sideling, Jamieson		Request for sealing of “The Sideling” outside Jamieson PS to reduce dust.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If Council decide to seal the road, it would be preferable (and efficient) to also seal the carpark at the same time. • Cost estimates are \$55k for the road and \$15k for the carpark

Submission Theme	Request for verbal presentation to Council? Y / N	Summary of submission/s	Officer comments
Swimming pool opening hours (including petition)	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petition was presented to Council at its Ordinary Council meeting on 21 March 2017 • Requests early opening hours 5 days a week (current model is 3 days per week) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimated cost for additional hours (per YMCA) is \$6k per annum
Bonnie Doon Recreation Reserve maintenance	Y	Request to renew the Bonnie Doon Rec Reserve Maintenance Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Maintenance Agreement was a 12 month agreement that expired 30 June 2016 • The agreement provided for mowing and weed spraying performed by Council (this work is still being undertaken and is included in the budgeted work program for 2017-18) • The agreement provided for a cash contribution of \$2,000 to the Bonnie Doon Rec Reserve Committee for maintenance and improvement works (this payment has ceased)
Economic development	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The non-recruitment of the Tourism and Economic Development manager is a false cost saving arrangement • Why is there a Sports Facility Master Plan when there is no Economic Development Plan? • Economic Development Plan should be developed by Dec 2017 	
Targa festival	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the cost benefit analysis of Council's contribution to Targa • Targa should only be funded by the businesses that derive benefit from the event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council currently contribute \$37,500 to the Targa event
Day on High events		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request for additional funding to grow the Day on High event 	

Submission Theme	Request for verbal presentation to Council? Y / N	Summary of submission/s	Officer comments
Environmental initiatives	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budgets should include triple bottom line considerations Include funds for reviewing the Environment Strategy 	
Fees and charges – Resource Recovery Centre	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charge a fee for cardboard disposal Domestic comingled recycling should be \$10 for over 1 cubic metre 	<p>Council could alter the cardboard fee structure to the proposed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cardboard under 1m3 free of charge Cardboard over 1m3 \$14/m3* <p>*The \$14/m3 cardboard fee will assist with ensuring the quantities of commercial cardboard disposed of at the Resource Recovery Centre does not reach unmanageable levels as the facility is under resourced to deal with increased quantities.</p> <p>Commingled recyclables taken to the RRC containing no evidence of contamination should be offered for disposal free of charge. Recyclables with clear evidence of contamination should be charged under domestic waste rate. Based on this, the fee schedule should reflect one domestic recyclable line item only less the stipulation around quantities - see below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic Recyclables - Free of Charge
Road safety improvements		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drainage on View Street Speed hump for Loch Street (intersecting Malcolm Street 	
HACC		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Push back to State Government to fund HACC services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current cost to council is \$274k

Submission Theme	Request for verbal presentation to Council? Y / N	Summary of submission/s	Officer comments
Finance and Administration Committee		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council should create a Finance and Administration Committee with the role of establishing priorities and long term vision for the growth of the Shire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These functions are Council's responsibilities under the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i> and cannot be delegated.
Accuracy of Capital Works Budget	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 4 year projections of Capital spend in the Strategic Resource Plan are inflated and not consistent with Council's commitment to "no new assets" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The "outer years" of the SRP include the Capital "wishlist" of Council. Without this data included, the position of Council would certainly be improved, but would reflect no aspiration for growth and development in the public documents. It is important to include Council's aspirations to show the Community the true position of Council's finances against its ability to grow in the medium term.
General budgetary comments	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why are community grants been reduced and not other grants like Targa? What cost/ benefit analysis has been undertaken? There is to be an upgrade of the swimming pool, however the comparative data indicates that the Mansfield pool is underutilised? Why is it underutilized and will the upgrade address this issue? Why is the Council considering "Limited" new Capital projects at all for the next 12 months until urgent matters are addressed? The non-recruitment of Tourism/ Economic Development Manager, I believe is a false cost saving arrangements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The pool upgrade is solar heating (expected to increase utilisation) and control panel replacement Most of the "new" capital projects in 17-18 budget are carried forward from 16-17 (ie already commenced and/or committed). \$173k is IT upgrades so we can operate efficiently

Submission Theme	Request for verbal presentation to Council? Y / N	Summary of submission/s	Officer comments
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an increase in corporate services and Council budget? What is the gain from this? • The election of Councillors is not a model that supports “skill base selection of Councillors”. The implementation of a skills based advisory committee would assist Council. • Why is there consideration of a new Sports Facility and Master plan this year when there is not even an Economic Development Plan • There is a reduction in budget for volunteer coordination. Why? What is being removed? Why are you planning to promote volunteerism on the Website if you have cut budget to the area. • Council should investigate parking meters with resident exemption stickers • Buildings empty for more than 12 months should pay a premium on their rates • Install a safety “barrier” (visible rope / chain) to remind children not to run onto the road/carpark around the skate park • Ventilation system installed at the Mansfield Sporting Complex • Reduce the speed limit on Rifle Butts Rd to 50km/h • Upgrade Rifle Butts Rd to improve safety • Charge visitors a voluntary “Pay For a Pothole” levy to raise income (local drivers exempt) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The increase in corporate services is the Governance Officer position increasing to full time • The reduction in the volunteer budget is a reclassification of hours to planned activity groups to reflect actual work performed. There is no change in service.

Submission Theme	Request for verbal presentation to Council? Y / N	Summary of submission/s	Officer comments
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a bed tax on accommodation providers to increase income • Rezone farming land as residential so it can be subdivided and sold 	



ATTACHMENT 7.1.2.2

CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS –
PROPOSED 2017-18 BUDGET

(200 PAGES)



Financial Counselling

duncanpv to: council

24/04/2017 12:17 PM

From: "duncanpv" <duncanpv@gmail.com>
To: "council" <council@mansfield.vic.gov.au>,,

Please consider the environment before printing this email

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Mr Alex Green

Chief Executive Officer

Mansfield Shire Council

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Dear Mr Green

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We are aware of the reduction in Council funding of the financial counselling service for the Mansfield Shire from 1 July 2017. Â We wish to express our support for the retention of this service at the current level to the community and request that Mansfield Shire Council re-consider its budget position on this matter.

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Mansfield Shire has been delivering these services to the local community for many years.Â The officers delivering the service have built a highly respected and necessary service which addresses the needs of those members of the community that are most at risk and vulnerable.Â

Â

A face to face service of only 1.5 days per fortnight will simply see people "fall through the cracks" as the number of people that will have to travel to Benalla to seek services will increase.Â This could be up to a 2 hour trip one-way trip for someone who either cannot afford it or does not have access to transport.Â Alternatively, people will have to wait for an unacceptable period of weeks before they can access face to face assistance in Mansfield.Â Often the issues people face are time sensitive "waiting for a long period of time will increase stress and negatively impact on their mental health. It may also have wider ramifications on housing, family, and employment.

Â

Access to Financial Counselling via telephone support will simply not

address
the needs of those community members requiring the service.Â People need
to
have the face to face contact which provides the opportunity to build a
relationship of trust and confidence; especially when someone (who may not
have
a high degree of literacy) is talking about matters that are highly
personal,
often embarrassing and carry with them a sense of guilt for being in a
position
of having to seek help.Â

Â

We therefore request that Mansfield Shire Council urgently reassess its
decision to reduce the funding for Financial Counselling, and continue to
provide Mansfieldcommunity with the existing level of Financial Counselling
services, or preferably, see your way clear to perhaps increasing the
service
delivery to at least a minimum 5 days per fortnight.

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To assist in the funding of a proposed increased in this service, Council
could, perhaps, consider re-evaluating what services are, in fact, more
essential than others. For example reducing the Targa and Spring Arts
funding
and re-allocating these funds into Financial Counselling.

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Yours faithfully

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Paul V. Duncan JP

Dr Elizabeth M. Duncan

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108 Bromfield Drive

Tolmie 3723

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(03) 5776 2177

0419 170 790

Â

Virus-free. www.avast.com

I am writing to express my concern and dismay that Mansfield Shire intends to cut the provision of financial counselling.

I realise that the Shire budget is very tight for reasons beyond the Shire's control. However, this move is at best short-sighted and at worst counterproductive.

With many families only two paychecks from disaster, almost anyone can be hit by money troubles. With advice from a skilled financial counsellor, many people can get back on their feet rather than spiralling further into debt and despair.

A centralised telephone service is no substitute for face-to-face contact. The counsellor needs to see the client in person to identify communication difficulties, gauge signs of distress, build trust and provide encouragement.

In addition, this region has limited access to major agencies for housing, mental health, domestic violence, and drug and alcohol services. Mobile phone coverage is notoriously patchy and public transport almost non-existent. In this situation, a financial counsellor can be the key person to link a vulnerable client with much-needed regional and state-wide services.


We need a locally based service that offers value for money and meets the needs of the community.

The impact of financial counselling extends beyond the individual. Research has shown that the benefits include better health and wellbeing, reduced incidence of mental illness, improved family and housing stability, reduced crime, more sustainable communities, and lower expenditure on community services.

Both the council and individual councillors proclaim their devotion to social justice, human rights, participation, equity, inclusivity, fairness, community resilience etc., but this cut in services to vulnerable people exposes these claims as hypocritical.

Financial counselling is like a fence at the top of a cliff. If council is intent on destroying the fence, it had better make sure there is an ambulance at the bottom.

If an individual or family find themselves in financial difficulty they can have access to a free, independent and confidential financial counsellor. This is often the difference between financial difficulty and financial recovery. A financial counsellor can provide information, advocate and negotiate with creditors on behalf of clients, develop budgets and plans and provide options for debt re-organisation and provide referral to other services.

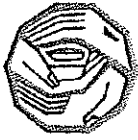


A financially disadvantaged and vulnerable person in the Mansfield Shire has no access or limited access to services that address vulnerabilities. The locally based financial counselling acts as an advocate and links people to much needed regional and state-wide services. A reduction in service delivery would severely compromise people's opportunities to resolve financial disadvantage and link to other services.

There are gaps in the delivery of social and human services within the Shire. These services are often specifically targeted at the clients who will require the financial counselling services at some point in time. For example, there is a reliance on outreach services from the larger regional centres such as Benalla and Wangaratta for delivery of housing, mental health, domestic violence and drug and alcohol services. There is not a Centrelink office in Mansfield (only an agency). There is very limited or no access to public transport in the Shire.

The reduction in funding and pushing to a centralised service is just the "thin edge of the wedge" in reducing services to rural and remote regions.

If an individual or family find themselves in financial difficulty they can have access to a free, independent and confidential financial counsellor. This is often the difference between financial difficulty and financial recovery. A financial counsellor can provide information, advocate and negotiate with creditors on behalf of clients, develop budgets and plans and provide options for debt re-organisation and provide referral to other services.



Mr Alex Green
Chief Executive Officer
Mansfield Shire Council

Mansfield Conference
PO Box 79
Mansfield 3722

1 May 2017

Re. SUBMISSION - Proposed 2017-18 Budget, Fees and Charges

Dear Mr Green,

The Mansfield Conference of St Vincent de Paul have met to discuss the proposed reduction of financial counselling services. The meeting was greatly concerned about the impact of such a policy change on some of the vulnerable people that we have met and been able to assist over time.

There are many issues at the moment impacting on the lives of low income people. I'm sure you are aware of many of these but I could point out some of the more worrying trends that face our community.

Unemployment, under-employment and low wage growth continue to be a scourge and need structural long term solutions. Until this happens, front line agencies like ourselves and council need to 'step in and step up' to the social challenge that this presents. The cost of living continues to rise, particularly energy and rent, but income growth remains flat or is even being eroded. The poorer members of our community are expected to bear an inequitable burden of the current economic stringencies. This is short sighted to say the least as the long term effects of social degradation are much harder to mend once intergenerational poverty takes hold. We need to act in the present with foresight and compassion for the future.

Other factors are impinging on our community. The current drug epidemic seems to be unprecedented. The high levels of anxiety, depression and suicide in rural areas is of the greatest concern. We are facing first principle issues here: what values do we espouse in such a social crisis? Never before have advertisers been so equipped with the most sophisticated psychological tools to lure vulnerable consumers into more and more debt, preying on our basic human emotions. The more vulnerable are now even more likely to be lured into debt which traps them in a poverty cycle. This has a crushing emotional effect; if there's one thing that we all need in life, it is hope for our own future. Crippling debt cancels out a sense of future.

We could go on to enumerate further complexities that arise from these basic problems but you no doubt appreciate these already. The real question is political will on the part of our elected officials.

Over many years we have found the Mansfield Financial Counselling Service to be an essential part of our community's response to these problems. We urge the Shire to maintain current levels of funding,

Stephen Cherubin

President

Mansfield St Vincent de Paul

3rd May
2017 4.

Alex Green

CEO

Mansfield Shire Council

I am aware of the reduction in Council funding of the financial counselling service for the Mansfield Shire from 1 July 2017. I wish to express my support for the retention of this service at the current level to the community and request that Mansfield shire Council reconsider its budget position on this matter.

Ironic that, upon finding a Council budget black hole of \$700,000 one of the services to be reduced is one that assists people when they find black holes in their budgets.

It was interesting to note that all of the Mansfield Shire Councillor's expressed their commitment to Human rights in Page 4 of the draft budget and draft Council plan. Full paragraph can be read on Page 4 of Plan.

Page 14 of plan 3 of the counsellors stated "having strong commitment to and passion for social justice and inclusive communities"

A recent quote from the Mansfield Courier: 05/04/2017

'Mayor encourages community to speak out'

Cr Volkering attended a Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) forum in Melbourne focused on developing resilient communities, digital transformation and financial sustainability. He quoted the financial manager of the City of Melbourne who said many families are only "two bills from disaster" - quoted in the context of understanding the financial stress that many families find themselves in; and that many councils need to be acutely aware of that scenario in their planning also.

It would appear that this advice may not have been heeded.

Mansfield Shire has been delivering these services to the local community for many years. The officers delivering these services have built a highly respected and necessary service which addresses the needs of those members of the community that are most at risk and vulnerable.

People need to have the face to face contact which provides the opportunity to build a relationship of trust and confidence; especially when someone (who may not have a high degree of literacy) is talking about matters that are highly personal, often

embarrassing and carry with them a sense of guilt for being in a position of having to seek help.

My husband and I have both been in this situation due to drought and the market trend at the time and if not for services like this our situation could have had catastrophic effects. Emotional toll has some very bad effects if the situation is not addressed.

Financial counselling is a vital part of the service delivery system. Government agencies, banks and utilities refer clients to financial counselling and information about financial counselling on their websites and documents.

Mansfield Shire has been successfully delivering holistic, integrated and professional counselling services for over 17 years. This service has broad, cross-sectional community and stakeholder support.

I request that Mansfield Shire Council urgently reassess its decision to reduce the funding for Financial Counselling, and continue to provide Mansfield Community with the existing level of Financial Counselling Services.

Regards



Maroondah Highway
MERTON 3715





re STOP the cuts to the Mansfield Shire Financial Counselling Services.
amvague123 to: council

07/05/2017 04:56 PM

From: "amvague123" <amvague123@gmail.com>,
To: "council" <council@mansfield.vic.gov.au>,,

Please consider the environment before printing this email

Â

To Alex Green, Chief Executive Officer, Mansfield Shire Council,

Please do not cut this vital service.
The Financial Counselling Services of Mansfield.

1/5/2017

To Mansfield Council, Councillors and Shire Chief Executive Officer - Alex Green,

The members and clients of the Mansfield St Vincent de Paul Society / Hames House are deeply concerned by the Council's consideration to reduce funding (and therefore the service level) of the Financial Counselling Service in the proposed 2017-18 Mansfield Shire Council Budget. We wish to express our disappointment in the council even considering such a reduction of service to those within our community who are in most need of our communities support in their most troublesome of times.

We wish to express our support for the retention of this most valuable service at its current level to the community and request that Mansfield Shire Council re- consider it budget position on this matter. We rely heavily on the support of the Mansfield Financial Counselling Service to assist us with providing essential services and advice in keeping desperate clients with a roof over their head, food on the table, clothing and essential basis needs to live and remain within their home region of Mansfield.

Mansfield Shire has been delivering these services to the local community for many years. the officers delivering this service have built a highly respected and necessary service which addresses the needs of those members of our community that are most AT RISK and VULNERABLE. They have always be accessible, approachable and providing face to face time to all range of members of the Mansfield Shire community with immediate, life saving financial advise and support.

We feel that a reduction in this service time would further stretch the Mansfield Shire and Community services to our most vulnerable and in need members of our community to greater problems around homelessness, mental and physical deterioration in their health and great problems around addiction and anti social behaviour.

Maintaining and providing supportive and preventative services/action,
deliver
the best outcomes in reducing homelessness, family crisis/ violence, drug
and
alcohol addiction, and a healthier community. Thus, the Mansfield Shire
cannot
afford to reduce services!

We request that the Mansfield Shire Council urgently reassess its decision
to
reduce the funding for Financial Counselling, and continue to provide to
the
Mansfield community this existing and most valuable level of Financial
Counselling Services.

Regards,

Ann-Maree Vague

on behalf of

Mansfield St Vincent de Paul Society / Hames House.

6.

Mr Paul Volkering, Mayor.

5th May 2017

Mansfield Shire Council

MANSFIELD SHIRE COUNCIL		
10 MAY 2017		
FILE NO.	2	WP
E4653		

Dear Paul,

I have written a submission re the reduction in funding of Financial Counsellor services. I would like you to consider the implications of this reduction to the service.

Most clients using this service have more than one complex issue and usually require extended casework services to deal with financial issues and become empowered. Clients are often in an extremely vulnerable and distressed state, especially when first contact is made with the financial counselling service. Face to face contact allows a counsellor to assess the situation to work with the client and deliver the information accordingly.

A face to face service of only 1.5 days per fortnight will simply see people "fall through the cracks" as people will have to wait for the service or miss out altogether with implications of family issues, mental health issues, crime issues, homelessness or family breakdown and much more.

This counselling service or any welfare support is not quantifiable in dollar terms as the benefit cannot be assessed, as in other services. The time given to the client is the most important aspect of a service such as this which is the reason I appeal to you to reconsider the reduction in the Financial counselling service of the Mansfield Shire.

I was on the Community Services Centre committee many years ago, which advocated initially to have government services to be available in Mansfield and subsequently this committee was able to be granted funding from FACS for financial counselling services. This has been available in Mansfield for many years before the Shire gained the funding to continue this service. I will be very unhappy to have this service reduced to the members in our community who are most vulnerable.

It is ironic that, upon finding a Council budget blackhole of \$700,000 one of the services to be reduced is one that assists people when they find blackholes in their budgets!

I appeal to your sense of social justice to support the rights of people who are vulnerable and at risk to be able to access support services such as Financial Counselling.

I request that you advocate that the Mansfield Shire Council urgently reassess its decision to reduce the funding for Financial Counselling and continue to provide Mansfield community with the existing level of Financial Counselling Services.

Yours sincerely

Beryl Howie
Beryl Howie

2995 Maroondah Highway

Mansfield 3722

7.

Mr Alex Green,
Chief Executive Officer,
Mansfield Shire Council,
Private Bag 1000, Mansfield Vic 3724

May 5th 2017

Dear Sir

I am aware of the proposed reduction in Council funding of the financial counselling service for the Mansfield Shire from 1 July 2017. I wish to express my disappointment that this service has been targeted to try to balance the shire budget.

Mansfield Shire Council has been delivering this service to our community for over 17 years and previous to this I was involved in the Community Services Centre that initially gained this service from funding from FACS to be available to the most vulnerable members of our community. Most clients using this service have more than one complex issue and usually require extended casework services to efficiently deal with financial issues and become empowered to control their life again. . Often the issues people face are time sensitive – waiting for a long period of time will increase stress and negatively impact on their mental health. It may also have wider ramifications on housing, potential family violence, increased crime rate, and loss of employment which in turn affects Council's revenue and call on other services. What if there is a downturn in the economy due to drought, and/or economic hardship in the area and jobs are lost and families are affected, which can happen very quickly as we remember in the 90's? There was a huge call on Financial Counsellors in that time.

The locally based financial counselling service acts as an advocate and links people to much needed local, regional and state-wide services. A face to face meeting can address the issues quickly and efficiently by providing information, to advocate, and to negotiate with creditors on behalf of clients, develop budgets and plans and provide options for debt re-organisation and provide referral to other services. The level of Emergency relief funding which comes into the Shire, is an indicator of the need for the disadvantaged in our community to have access to support immediately, when needed. The first port of call for these people is the Financial Counsellor who can assess this need and refer to this service. A reduction in funding and local service delivery would severely compromise people's opportunities to resolve financial disadvantage and links to other services.

The clients that utilise the financial counselling services tend to be heavily reliant on public transport and prepaid mobile telephone services. If this service is cut and clients have to access other services, there is very limited or no access to public transport in the Shire. A 2hr return trip to Benalla is costly if they do have a car, and mobile telephone coverage in the outlying areas is patchy with some areas having black spots with no service. Without access to these it further increases the level of disadvantage and vulnerability.

I would ask therefore that you reconsider that the current level of funding from the Mansfield Shire be retained and request that Mansfield Shire Council re-consider its budget position on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Beryl Howie

2995 Maroondah Highway, Mansfield 3722

14 AnchorageWay
Goughs Bay Vic 3723
10 May 2017

Mr Alex Green,
Chief Executive Officer,
Mansfield Shire Council,
Private Bag 1000, Mansfield Vic 3724

Dear Alex

I am aware of the reduction in Council funding of the financial counselling service for the Mansfield Shire from 1 July 2017. I wish to express my support for the retention of this service at the current level to the community and request that Mansfield Shire Council re-consider its budget position on this matter.

I have been supported by the council, in particular, by Michele Padbury the Financial Counsellor. She is well known and a group of local residents advised me to speak to her.

Over the period from 2015 to 20, I required a lot of financial counselling assistance as I was going through a number of personal issues all at once! An ongoing divorce proceeding, coupled with losing a contract job and some health issues meant that I needed assistance in doing simple things such as travelling, attending divorce court and obtaining basic support.

I have been a Councillor myself at Bayside City Council and understand the need for services and the revenue to support them. As a recipient of Mansfield Shire services I have been able to go from being dependent upon services to being more independent. Thanks to Michele and the Council, I am now in full time employment again and I am recovering from a large debt imposed on me by divorce legal fees and a settlement which basically only left me with a property in Goughs Bay and nothing else.

I can vouch for the fact that the Mansfield Shire has been delivering useful services to the local community for many years. The officers, such as Michele have been delivering the services which address the needs of those members of the community that are most at risk and vulnerable. I never thought I would ever need Council services back in the day when I was a Councillor. While a Councillor I did also promote such community services and I understand at a personal level how necessary they are.

Michele used here time and efforts wisely for me, and without her I might not have been able to appear in Divorcee court, and communicate with the community in order to eventually become independent. If this type of service is reduce to those people in need, a face to face service of only 1.5 days per fortnight will simply see

people "fall through the cracks" as the number of people that will have to travel to places like Goughs Bay and Benalla to seek services will increase. The trip from Mansfield to Goughs Bay by cars is 20 minutes. There is NO bus service. I have walked from Mansfield to Goughs Bay in my time of desperate need and it takes 5 hours each way. I challenge any Councillor or officer to do this trip in May or June, at night or even during the day. It is a long way. I was very grateful for the petrol vouchers I received in order that I could make this trip to see community service people in Mansfield. For many months I was without a car. Michele ensured I could go to court and fight to get my car back from my ex-wife. It was my car not hers, but she took it by an interim court order which was later quashed. Imagine if I had not got the bus fare to go from Mansfield to the Moorabbin Court in Melbourne to fight the injustice. The trip to Melbourne from Mansfield cannot be done by walking or hitchhiking! Once I had the car I was able to attend legal meetings and job interviews in Melbourne. Michele and her counselling service gave me a life line. I am proud to be a member of the Mansfield community and I am daily working to keep that privilege. I cannot see how I could have coped if I had to wait for an unacceptable period of weeks before getting face to face assistance in Mansfield. The issues I faced are time sensitive – waiting for a long period of time can increase stress and negatively impact on mental health. I was relieved to find a friend in Mansfield who understood me and could provide simple but effective measures for me to regain my life. The period of time I needed help had many wider ramifications on my housing, my family, friends, health and employment.

I really needed Financial Counselling face to face. When Michel met me she saw and understood my problems and with a level of humanity that required face to face contact. It is necessary to have the face to face contact which provides the opportunity to build a relationship of trust and confidence; especially when someone is talking about matters that are highly personal, often embarrassing and carry with them a sense of guilt for being in a position of having to seek help. I was in such a position and I know that my case is still sensitive and confidential. I trust Michele.

I request that Mansfield Shire Council urgently reassess its decision to reduce the funding for Financial Counselling, and continue to provide Mansfield community with the existing level of Financial Counselling Services.

Nikki Eden

4/5/17

Mr A. Green,
C.E.O Mansfield Shire Council,
Private Bag 1000
Mansfield. 3724

9.

MANSFIELD SHIRE COUNCIL		
4 MAY 2017		
FILE NO. 64431	2	10/P

Dear Mr Green,

I am aware of the proposed reduction in Council funding of the Financial Counselling Service for the Mansfield Shire from July 2017. I wish to express my support for the retention of the service at the current level and request that the Council reconsider its budget position on this matter.

Mansfield Shire has been delivering this service to the local community for many years. The officers delivering the service have built a highly respected and necessary service that addresses the needs of those members of the community that are most at risk.

Vulnerable people will 'fall through the cracks' if there are only 1.5 days per fortnight of face to face service. 1.5 days does not give the Financial Counsellor much time to hear people's circumstances, contact appropriate agencies, assist the client to fill in paperwork and develop a trusting, supporting advocacy role. Of course the role also requires things like the writing of reports, attendance at meetings, training and preparation of funding applications.

Mansfield is a supportive community. We support members who do well, for example sports and award winners, so we should also support and assist those who are going through tough times. We all have the potential of perhaps needing financial assistance in the future, particularly with the current housing and rental markets, energy costs, etc. Sudden illness, disability, unemployment or death can change people's circumstances - we are all vulnerable.

I don't understand why Council has chosen Financial Counselling when we have an excellent service. Surely there are other services, fully funded by Council, that do not attract Government funding and could be reduced.

Reduced face to face contact will mean clients will be forced to use a telephone; there's an obvious expectation they will have one. This does not offer good support. If you have ever had to ring Centrelink you will know how time consuming and frustrating that is. Telephone services handle basic enquiries and refer complex cases to face-to-face counselling. How is the Financial Counsellor expected to cope with demand with 1.5 hours per fortnight? It would be very sad for our town if someone resorted to suicide due to lack of assistance.

I request that Mansfield Shire Council urgently reassess its decision to reduce the funding for financial counselling and continue to provide the Mansfield community with the present level of service.

Yours Sincerely,



Elva Condon
64 Stoneleigh Road
Mansfield. 3722

10.

MANSFIELD SHIRE COUNCIL		
16 MAY 2017		
FILE NO.	2	10 P
E4563		

Mansfield CWA
 PO Box 364
 Mansfield 3724
 08.05.2017

Mr Alex Green,
 Chief Executive Office
 Mansfield Shire Council
 Private Bag 1000
 Mansfield
 3724

re: Proposed 2017-18 Budget , Fees and Charges.

Dear Sir,

The members of the Mansfield Country Women's Association Victoria would like to voice their concerns at the plan to reduce the funding for the Financial Counselling services in the upcoming budget.

As a small regional town we do not have direct access to many of the major support services available in the larger centers. In addition, the emotional upheaval associated with requiring financial counselling can often cloud the judgment of the person seeking the assistance. In some cases, the financial problems may be masking deeper issues that cannot be clarified with a phone call, or will be exacerbated by having to wait for a suitable appointment time. In the past, the financial counsellor has had the opportunity to speak personally with the client, usually within a short time frame of the problem arising and can then not only assist the client, but direct them to a service suitable for their additional needs, within our OWN community. Yes, this service costs money, but the cost to the community of family and personal breakdown will be far greater both financially and for the well being of our region, should these services be drastically reduced.

The aim of the Country Women's Association has always been to support women throughout the country (and cities). The most basic of human needs, as described by Abraham Maslow in 1943, are the needs to provide clothing, shelter, personal safety, financial security, health and well being and a sense of belonging to a supportive community group. Without these needs being met it is difficult for the individual to become a contributing member of society.

By continuing on with the financial counselling program, Mansfield Shire will have shown its commitment to the health and wellbeing of its' community. Financial disasters can happen to any one of us at any time for a whole host of reasons, and it would be a good public relations exercise to show Victoria that Mansfield cares about its citizens.

Yours sincerely,



Ruth Rowlands
 President
 Mansfield CWA

11

Mansfield & District Welfare Group Inc

10 Club Court Mansfield Vic 3722
E: mdwginc@gmail.com M 0400305946

Mr Alex Green,
Chief Executive Officer,
Mansfield Shire Council

May 7 2017

BY EMAIL council@mansfield.vic.gov.au

Dear Mr Green

**SUBMISSION - Mansfield Shire Council - draft budget 2017/18
- reduction in funding for Financial Counselling program**

I am writing to you on behalf of the Mansfield & District Welfare Group Inc. (MDWG) who are concerned by the decision of council and Councillors to limit the delivery of financial counselling services to the vulnerable and disadvantaged members of our community.

I have been a volunteer on the M&DWG executive for over 10 years and our partnership with local financial counselling, through the council, is longstanding. It was established when the service was introduced, and is of great benefit to the shire, our allocation of government funds and our community.

The financial assistance MWDG provide is available across an eclectic range of need and clients. The counsellor often approaches us, at short notice, to assist individuals in need of urgent assistance. We have a unique understanding of the importance of the role on a day to day basis, and the MDWG are very concerned that this position is under threat of reduced hours and by the compromising of people's opportunities to resolve financial disadvantage and link to other services.

There is a diversity of claims and needs within the Mansfield region, and an increasing number of vulnerable and financially disadvantaged is evidenced by local and official data. The role of the Financial Counsellor is a valuable one and any reduction from the existing four days a fortnight, could be detrimental.

While there is some validity to the service a State government funded telephone counsellor can offer it cannot, and will never, match a locally based face to face service or meet the governance commitment in Council's annual statement that "*Mansfield Shire Council recognises and respects that everyone has the same human rights entitlement to allow them to participate in and contribute to society and our community. We recognise that all persons have equal rights in the provision of, and access to, Council services and facilities.*" (MSC 15/16 Annual Report).

As a committee, we agree that access to Financial Counselling via telephone support will simply not address the needs of those community members requiring the service.

...2


People need to have continuity and the opportunity to build a relationship of trust and confidence; especially when someone (who may not have a high degree of literacy) is talking about matters that are highly personal, often embarrassing and carry with them a sense of guilt for being in a position of having to seek help.

MDWG are also concerned by the loss of an advocate from within council linking people to much needed regional and state-wide services, and that the future of provision of service is to be placed solely in the hands of unguaranteed ongoing funding allocation from outside sources.

Community engagement and confidence in this service is high, and is regularly in our minutes as exceeding targets and receives high community satisfaction in Mansfield Shire Council's ratepayer surveys.

On behalf of the Mansfield & District Welfare Group I express our support for the retention of this service at the current level to the community and request that Mansfield Shire Council re-consider its budget position on this matter.

Yours sincerely



Emma McPherson
Secretary/Treasurer
Mansfield & District Welfare Group Inc.



2017-18 Budget, Fees and Charges - Financial Counselling Services

darryl_Martyn to: council

18/05/2017 12:50 PM

From: "darryl_Martyn" <darryl_Martyn@bigpond.com>
 To: "council" <council@mansfield.vic.gov.au>,,

Please consider the environment before printing this email

Â

Dear Councillors,

I refer to a proposed reduction in funding that will reduce the capacity of the Financial Counselling Service to offer guidance to people experience financial stress. As I understand it, Financial Counsellors are available to debtors as a free of charge service with the goal of reducing bad debts by assisting the debtor to develop better financial management skills.Â

It seems that important points may not have been considered when making the decision to cut the service from 4 to 1.5 days per fortnight, a massive 62% reduction in services. Please re-consider the following when making the final decision to limit the Financial Counselling Service.

Most people would find it extremely stressful to experience a financial crisis.

How to react to a solicitor's letters of demand, how can I find enough money for rent, how can I adequately feed the kids are all questions demanding answers. More often than not all this pressure and responsibility is applied to one person. Imagine the relief when a financial councillor can find solutions to these and other problems.

By the time debtors reach out for help they are already facing a financial crises and need immediate help. It is most important that the creditor be advised that the debtor is under the guidance of a financial councillor so that formal recovery procedures are put on hold.Â

The Financial Counseling Service has a proven track record of helping people to settle their debts and better manage their finances. This benefits not only the debtor, but also the creditor and the community in general.Â

Timing is the essence; if the person in financial difficulty can't get help almost immediately then they will most probably face bankruptcy proceedings. Then as well as a debt collection problem we will have a welfare problem .

Since the creditors benefit from the Financial Counseling Service they could reasonably be expected to pay a levy on funds collected on their behalf.Â

Yours faithfully,

Darryl Martyn



Mobile: 0418 531 491

26/4/2017

Mr Alex Green
Chief Executive Officer
Mansfield Shire Council
Private Bag 1000,
Mansfield, 3724

Dear Mr Green,

Submission in relation to the proposed Mansfield Shire Council Budget 2017-2018

This submission is in response to the proposed reduction in Council funding of the **Financial Counselling Service** for the Mansfield Shire from 1 July 2017. I wish to express my strong support for the retention of this community service at the current level, and request that Mansfield Shire Council re-consider its proposed budget position on this matter.

Mansfield Shire has been delivering these services to our local community for many years. As a former manager of community services including this program, in three LGAs, I have unique insight into the value of this program. The officers delivering financial counselling in Mansfield have built a highly respected and necessary service, which addresses the needs of vulnerable members of our community, who are most at risk of social and financial hardship. Should the current face-to-face service be reduced to only 1.5 days per fortnight, people at risk will be unlikely to receive alternative appropriate services, and therefore be further marginalised and deprived of basic support. This does not accord with Council's stated Strategic Direction No 3 (p22) *Mansfield Shire Council: 2017-2021 Council Plan*:

Community resilience & connectivity

Council's role is to assist the community in achieving its goals. It is a partnership. Neither Council nor the community can address the challenges and issues we face alone. Through collaboration with our local communities, other agencies and governments, we will assist people to work on their own solutions to the issues that are important to them.

One impact of Council's budget proposal is a probable increase in the number of people forced to travel to Benalla to seek financial counselling services. This could be up to a three hour minimum return trip including service, for people who either cannot afford the travel, or do not have access to transport. Alternately, people would have to wait for an unacceptable period (probably weeks) before they could access face-to-face assistance in Mansfield. Often the issues people face are time sensitive – waiting for a long period of time will increase stress and negatively impact on mental health, thus compounding issues. A reduction in this service may also have wider ramifications on housing, family, and employment. These factors do not assist people to work on their own solutions to issues that are vitally important to them.

Further, access to Financial Counselling via telephone support will simply not address the needs of community members requiring the service. People respond better with face-to-face contact, which provides the opportunity to build a relationship of trust and confidence. This is especially relevant where someone (who may not have a high degree of literacy) is talking about matters that are highly personal, often embarrassing, and carry with them a sense of guilt for being in a position of having to seek help.

Financial difficulty can affect any one of us. We might lose a job, become ill or have a relationship breakdown. Others may face financial problems as a result of a scam or exploitation or small business failure. Some people are simply less fortunate and find it hard to make ends meet. None of us are immune from these problems that life often presents us with, and we may need help at some stage.

In a recent Council survey, responses to *Question 1: What Council service, facility or program do you use or value the most*, the Financial Counselling Service was ranked equally with other key community and wellbeing services such as M&CH, kindergarten and netball. Council's Strategic Direction (p4) *Mansfield Shire Council: 2017-2021 Council Plan* appears to support services like Financial Counselling which provide for wellbeing and dignity:

Our commitment to human rights

We are committed to considering and respecting human rights when making decisions that impact on people and our community. We are required to act in a way that is compatible with the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 and to give consideration to the Charter when formulating a local law or policy, or in planning service delivery. Our approach to human rights is to encourage participation, access, development and opportunity not just across our community Our successful, independent, confidential and non-judgmental service should be maintained to indicate Council's commitment to human rights.

I appeal to Councillors who publicly support (p14 *Mansfield Shire Council: 2017-2021 Council Plan*) **social justice** (Peter Oiver / Marg Attley), **equity and fairness** to all (Paul Volkering), and have a strong commitment to **inclusion** (Marg Attley), to be proactive in ensuring that our community continues to have the current level of face-to-face access to Financial Counselling services in Mansfield. (Note also Appendix: Mansfield Courier quote from the Mayor Paul Volkering).

It is untenable for external agencies such as Centrelink, mental health, domestic violence housing and drug and alcohol services to provide enough support, which adequately addresses human rights and disadvantage in our community.

I request that Mansfield Shire Council urgently reassess its decision to reduce funding for Financial Counselling, and continue to provide our Mansfield community with the current level of Financial Counselling Services.

Regards,



Elin Ree BSW, AASW accredited
PO Box 464
Mansfield, 3724

cc Peter Oiver
Marg Attley
Paul Volkering

Appendix:

Mansfield Courier quote 05/04/17 pg 12: **Mayor encourages community to speak out**

...Cr Volkering attended a Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) forum in Melbourne focused on developing resilient communities, digital transformation and financial sustainability. He quoted the finance manager of the City of Melbourne who said many families are only 'two bills from disaster' – quoted in the context of understanding the financial stress that many families find themselves in; and that many councils need to be acutely aware of that scenario in their planning also.

It would appear that this advice may not have been heeded with the proposal to defund the Financial Counselling Service in the 2017/18 budget.

If an individual or family in Mansfield Shire find themselves in financial difficulty they currently have access to a free, independent and confidential financial counsellor. This often makes the difference between financial difficulty and financial recovery. A financial counsellor can provide information, advocate and negotiate with creditors on behalf of clients, develop budgets and plans, and provide options for debt re-organisation and provide referral to other services.



Mansfield Uniting Church

PO Box 48 Mansfield 3724

Phone 0417 103813

Mansfield
St Andrew's
64 Highett St

16 May 2017

Bonnie Doon
Queen Victoria
Memorial
Church St

Mr Paul Volkering
Mayor & Councillors
Mansfield Shire Council
33 Highett St.,
Mansfield Vic. 3722

MANSFIELD SHIRE COUNCIL		
18 MAY 2017		
FILE NO. EH653	2	10 ✓

Tolmie
Mahaikah Rd

Dear Mayor & Councillors,

Chop
The Mall
8/14 High St
Mansfield

I write on behalf of the Church Council and congregation of the Mansfield Uniting Church. At our recent Church Council meeting concern was expressed at the proposed reduction in Financial Counselling, and especially for the proposal to remove funding for School Crossing Supervisors.

While understanding the difficult decisions Council must make when preparing the budget, it is of great concern that the two services we mention may be reduced or removed. Both Financial Counselling and the School Crossing Supervisors provide a very necessary service to some of the most vulnerable in our community. Mansfield is a caring community and the Shire has been at the forefront in the provision of services to those most in need.

We urge the Council to seek alternative reductions in expenditure wherever possible, to ensure that these two essential services can be maintained.

Yours sincerely,

Norma Pearce
Secretary - Church Council



North Eastern Victoria
50-52 Clarke Street
Benalla Victoria
PO Box 135 Benalla Victoria 3671

General enquiries 13 11 71
Road hazards 13 11 70

www.vic.gov.au

Mr Alex Green
Chief Executive Officer
Mansfield Shire
Private Bag 1000
MANSFIELD VIC 3722

Contact: Mark Gigliotti
Telephone: (03) 5761 1850
Our Ref: 10462600

File Number: 5159405

19 May 2017

Dear Mr Green

RE: 2017-2018 CHILDREN'S CROSSING SUPERVISOR SUBSIDY SCHEME

The Children's Crossing Supervisory Subsidy for 2017-2018 has been released. I am pleased to advise that the Minister for Roads and Road Safety Luke Donnellan has provided certainty for the program with 50/50 funding between the State Government and local councils from 1 July 2017 - 30 June 2018.

The funding allocated to your municipality is \$19,002.00 (exclusive of GST) for 3 sites. This is an increase of \$6,465.00 from 2016 - 2017.

A Purchase Order will be provided with the details of your Council's subsidy for the 2017-2018 year. The Council can claim the subsidy in one lump instalment. Please issue a tax invoice (exclusive of GST) to VicRoads at this office for payment in July 2017.

Payment will be made in July 2017.

A broader strategic review into the movement and safety of school students, including potential safety improvements, the effectiveness of the built environment and alternative travel options will be undertaken by Transport for Victoria in 2017 with the review findings to be announced in early 2018.

Should you require further information please contact Mark Gigliotti Telephone: (03) 5761 1850 or email ner.enquiries@roads.vic.gov.au

Yours sincerely

NICKI KYRIAKOU
REGIONAL DIRECTOR NORTH EASTERN



BUDGET SUBMISSION

Mansfield Shire Executives are empowered by the community to make tough financially responsible decisions in order to run the shire in an efficient manner.

I applaud the manner in which the council has sought consultation with the community in their draft budget submission.

The business of running council and its financial management is no different from any other business.

Focus needs to be balanced and fair across the board.

Has the council looked at the number of FTE, PTE and Casual staff and their skills and possible duplication of roles?

Any streamlining of staff should not come at the expense of community services. Where there are cost savings or realignment of services, these synergies should come first rather than decisions to remove services such as their proposal to remove School Crossing Supervisors.

I understand there is a Government strategy group looking into the areas which include people in these roles etc., and is due to report early in the New Year (2018). It would seem Council are determined to make a decision in a prejudicial, impulsive manner by removing them from their roles as at 1/7/2017. It would appear that Child Safety is taking a back seat to financial management which only endangers the many children at multiple primary schools within the township.

The council appears to have placed all their focus in trying to cut a deal with VicRoads, which is totally different from the circumstances of the Grampians Shire funding who received 100%. Council appears to have no plan B. When asked on multiple occasions, they have been complicit in releasing any details.

Surely funding the School Crossing Supervisors for another six months, would make sense until the findings and recommendations of this strategy group are known. The funding can be sourced through other efficiencies from the budget as perhaps proposed above. This would enable a fair and balanced decision based on all the facts.

Future projects require a robust, transparent Project Management model. Clearly projects such as the Playing Fields, Netball Courts and Howqua Inlet boat ramp and Road Improvements have lacked this type of model. If the model is indeed in place, the individuals involved in the overseeing of these projects which included the initial tendering are not qualified and further investigations are required. The result was a waste of public money to the community's detriment. There is no evidence of any financial penalty or redress to fix these facilities and so funds could perhaps be reassigned to fund the 50% required to keep School Crossing Supervisors.

Jon Inch

Resident Macs Cove

17.

MANSFIELD SHIRE COUNCIL			
9 MAY 2017			
FILE NO.	2	10	P
E4653			

3/19 Louisa Street,

CROYDON, Vic. 3136

5 May, 2017

Mr. Alex Green,
 Chief Executive Officer,
 Mansfield Shire Council,
 Private Bag 1000,
 MANSFIELD, Vic. 3724

Dear Sir,


re SCHOOL CROSSING SUPERVISION

This letter is written to you in support of the retention of all of your School Crossing Supervisors whom, I understand, will no longer be employed by you should the Council Budget be approved shortly.

I have two grandchildren who attend school in Mansfield and who use the crossings daily during the term. The idea that you have decided to balance your budget by the sacking of the "Lollypop Ladies" fills me with horror. Surely the safety of young children is of paramount importance, particularly as there are so many inattentive, thoughtless or uncaring drivers on our roads these days, and I feel that cost cutting in this area is a denigration of your responsibilities. What an outcry there would be in Melbourne if our Councils followed your example! There must be costs in other areas which can be adjusted to allow for continuation of the very valuable work that these supervisors carry out rain or shine (or even during snowy weather!) in your town.

I look forward to hearing that your Council will readjust the Budget to include these vital employees and thus ensure safety of Mansfield children before and after school.

Yours truly,



(Mrs.) G. M. Allshorn



School crossing closure I PROTEST

janecurran2015 to: council

05/05/2017 08:34 PM

From: "janecurran2015" <janecurran2015@gmail.com>
To: "council" <council@mansfield.vic.gov.au>,,

Please consider the environment before printing this email
I PROTEST I PROTEST
I am writing to you at this time to complain the Council decision to close
all
your school crossings in new financial year.
Surely the children attending your local schools are worth protecting.
Theses
youngsters are the future of your community.
I understand that money for wages for supervisors is the concern. Surely
you
can cut other things than supervisor wages. It's 15 hrs per fortnight x 5
crossings. \$54,000 per year. This employs 5 people.
Surely you can see that's barely 1 full time employee working for the
council.
Can Council afford to risk children being injured or killed by closing
these
crossings?.
Please look at your figures again I beg you.
Elizabeth Jane Curran
Sent from my iPhone

**School crossings**

gerty123 to: council

05/05/2017 05:54 PM

From: "gerty123" <gerty123@bigpond.com>,
To: "council" <council@mansfield.vic.gov.au>,,

Please consider the environment before printing this email

Hi there

I wish it express my concern about the safety of all children at primary schools and kinder. I can't believe that the shire would put kids lives at risk

not once but on a daily basis, even twice a day.

You say it's the money, well why has ogilvies road been re done, not to mention

the disaster over Easter to the road work on Malcolm street outside St Mary's primary school.


Anyway I don't wish to get into it about wasted money but I think it's a disgrace putting off the lollipop ladies

Thanks
Glenda Barling

Sent from my iPhone

Include -

MANSFIELD SHIRE COUNCIL		
12 MAY 2017		
FILE NO.	2	10/P
E4653		



Ms Diane McLeod
PO Box 536
MANSFIELD VIC 3724

As a grandmother, with children attending the Primary & Secondary schools. I am appalled at Vic Roads & their decision to withhold funding for school crossings. Traffic has increased dramatically the last few years - leaving children vulnerable on the roads. Surely, Vic Roads need to reconsider their position & make a formal

102

offer to fund this
service.

Sincerely
D McLeod.

MANSFIELD SHIRE COUNCIL			
12 MAY 2017			
FILE NO.	2	10	P

Mr Alex Green,
Chief Executive Officer,
Mansfield Shire Council,
Private Bag 1000,
Mansfield Vic

2017/2018 Budget Submission from Concerned Citizens of Mansfield & Kerryn Friday

Attention: Alex Green

Dear Alex

Please find attached a petition that has been on display at six local businesses' (Guardian Pharmacy, Mansfield Newsagent, Marks IGA Supermarket, Mansfield Bakery, Shop 27 Varieties & Good to Go Takeaway) for the past 6 weeks. The petition is entitled: Mansfield Shire Council – School Crossing Supervisors. *We the undersigned concerned citizens urge our Council to act now to keep our School Crossing Supervisors employed to keep school crossings safe.*

We are aware that the budget is currently being considered for the next financial year and this request to retain the School Crossing Supervisors will have a budgetary implication. I look forward to discussing this with you further.

On a personal note I would like you to consider:

- Dropping the Targa funding and maybe looking at a model that sees businesses that benefit financially funding the Targa event.
- I do not agree with the proposed sale of the old 'Saleyard' site. This is a key asset of the ratepayers and selling this indicates to me that Council has no vision for the future of Mansfield Shire.

Kind Regards



Kerryn Friday
54 Highett Street, Mansfield 3722
Ph. 0438301075

Mansfield Shire Council – School Crossing Supervisors Petition

Petition summary and background	Mansfield Shire Council school crossing supervisors will be terminated by June 30 2017. Voice your opinion and keep School Crossing Supervisors.
Action petitioned for	We the undersigned concerned citizens urge our Council to act now to keep our crossing supervisors employed to keep school crossings safe.

Print Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Mrs Jean M'Millan	J McMillan	15 Chenevy St		2-5-2017
Mike Fischer	[Signature]	10 Mitchell Court Mansfield		8/5/17
DOROTHY DIX	D. E. Dix	1 Kent Court Mansfield	ridiculous	2/5/17
BILL FRASNELL	[Signature]	86 HIGHWAY LANE, MANSFIELD	" "	3/5/17
GRENDA REVEN	G. Reven	1/24 CAMBRIDGE VUE MANSFIELD		3-5-17
NANETTE NHEADON	[Signature]	52 James St Bonnie Doon		3-5-17
Robyn Wells	[Signature]	59 MONKEY CULLY ROAD	Really - Kids!	3-5-17
Jean Ferguson	[Signature]	763 Flower St Rd	" "	3-5-17
Clancy Stephens	C. Stephens	Higlett St		
NADA PLECKO	[Signature]	4 STERIA ST	" "	4-5-17
MOLLY WALCER	M Walcer	115 MITCHELL CRT		4-5-17
Anne Hoolass	[Signature]	8 WICKLET ST	Not safe for kids	4-5-17
Janet White	[Signature]	67 HIGLETT STREET		4-5-17
Colin Rochford	[Signature]	3/13 Louisa Ave	Not safe for kids with the 5/5	
NANCY MARSH	[Signature]	1 LINCOLN RD Mansfield	SAFETY OF CHILDREN	5-5-20
PETER PERSA	[Signature]	HEWYVA LANE	SAFETY FIRST	5-5-20
CAROL HOOP	[Signature]	elbowadulid	NEEDED	5-5-20
FRANK ZAYLEN	[Signature]	MANSFIELD	NEEDED	5-5-20
IRENE FRANCIS	[Signature]	B DOON	NEEDED	5-5-17
Gay Adams	[Signature]	Mansfield	much needed	5-5-17
K Marsden	[Signature]	Mansfield	" "	5-5-17
H. JAMISON	[Signature]	Bonnie Doon	Much Needed	6/5/17
P. Parker	[Signature]	Mansfield	Much needed	6/5/17
SHARON DINKERLEY	[Signature]	150 MIDLAND LINK HWY MANSFIELD	A MUST!	6-5-17
G. STEVENS	[Signature]	109 CUNNING RD	A MUST	6/5/17
M. MORRIS	[Signature]	3 MINERA ST	A MUST	7/5/17
C. MAHONEY	[Signature]	71 HIGLETT ST	A MUST	7-5-17
Bob Bee	[Signature]	101 WICKLET ST	A MUST	7-5-17
Ashley Mackenzie	[Signature]	64 Loyola Drive	"	8/5/17
Jenni Mackenzie	[Signature]	LOYOLA DRIVE	"	8/5/17
ROSS PARSONS	[Signature]	45 CURTIST MSD	"	8-5-17
Sarah Kirley	[Signature]	30 ELVINS ST	childsafety a must!	8-5-17
Jodie Harper	[Signature]	165 Tabor - Tolmie Rd Tabor	Kids need supervision	8-5-17
Nina Walsh	[Signature]	132 MALCOLM ST Mansfield	for child's safety	8-5-17
JOY DIFLOIC	[Signature]	25 Sadies rd	ITS BULLSHIT	" " "
S. SIMPKINS	[Signature]	15 ELVINS RD		
HORRAINE BRUER	[Signature]	35 MALCOLM ST	ESSENTIAL SERVICE	9-5-17
Linda Stewart	[Signature]	Mansfield	KIDS MUST BE SAFE	9-5-17
Cassey Hardy	[Signature]	Mansfield	SAFE	10-5-17

Mansfield Shire Council - School Crossing Supervisors Petition

Petition summary and background	Mansfield Shire Council school crossing supervisors will be terminated by June 30 2017. Voice your opinion and keep School Crossing Supervisors.
Action petitioned for	We the undersigned concerned citizens urge our Council to act now to keep our crossing supervisors employed to keep school crossings safe.

Print Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Kasey Hempenstall		67 Croskys Lane		28/4/17
Cassie Laykin		Rodgum Drive		28/4/17
Eve Foster		12 High Vista Ct,		28/4/17
Haroon Hoskin		3221 MAIN TONGOON RD		2/5/17
MARK VAIST		Flat 2/115 Hogkett Street		2/5/17
JULIE MARONEY		12 Highcroft, Mansfield	Cut out some corners	2-5-17
Mark Walsh		20 Lympic St Mansfield		2-5-17
Anna Manning		807 Mansfield-woodpoint		3/5/17
Orielle Murphy		370 Howes Cr Rd Mansfield		4/5/17
Christene Seib		83 Walters Rd Bridge Creek		4-5-17
WAYNE BRITTON		20 VICTORIA ST MANSFIELD		5.5.17
Katherine Cowan		Bb Blue Range Rd Bridge Creek		5.5.17
SANDRA McLENNAN		Howqua	protect our children	5.5.17
EMMA CRACKNELL		7 COLSTAN CRT, MELIZA	IT'S 40 MINS TWICE DAILY	7.5.17
Robyn Cracknell		145 Wimbledon Ave	All councils are the same - useless	7.5.17
LINDA STEWART		Mansfield VIC		
PETEL SMOYD		Mansfield VIC	DITTO! Children's safety should be first	7-5-17
Kay Anstee		MACS COVE		8-5-17
Alicia Follett		Sawmill Settlement	Safety first	9-5-17
Michelle Bodman		36 HIGHTON LN	DITTO!	10.5.17
DAVID NATEM		50 O'HANLON RD		10.5.17
M BORDAN		154 Woodshed Rd Bllen	think at the hoo	10.5.17
Helen MORRIS		176 Malcolm ST	shed some ^{stuff} safety	10.5.17
GUS MUSCARA		1651 SPRING Ck Rd	Safety is 2???	2015.10.5.17
(LUSSE) JONES		770 ALDOUS RD	MUST HAVE IT	
MAUREEN JAVIES		31 Cherry St Mansfield	Children's safety comes first	10.5.
MARK STELLING		6081 Midland Hwy Mansfield	Substitute one	10.5.17
SARAH GILLBEE		46 Silvercreek cct. Warrigay VIC	3795	10.5-17
Rev. James		Bridge Creek	3722	
TESS MASON		TOLME		12.5.17
KURT		Mansfield		" "
MUSHY		Mansfield		" "
HARLEE		Mansfield		" "
CHRIS NEARON		MANSFIELD		112 " " 12/5/17

Mansfield Shire Council – School Crossing Supervisors Petition

Petition summary and background	Mansfield Shire Council school crossing supervisors will be terminated by June 30 2017. Voice your opinion and keep School Crossing Supervisors.
Action petitioned for	We the undersigned concerned citizens urge our Council to act now to keep our crossing supervisors employed to keep school crossings safe.

Print Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
LINOA MOON		97 MONKEYS CULLING	Silly	20/4/17
NICKI SPYGLASS		49 CAMBRIDGE DR	Silly	20/4/17
J. Bond		114 Babby Rd		20/4/17
Tania Beanland		149 McLeod Lane	What is wrong with these people!!	20/4/17
CARA STORER		24 Spots Lane	Get a life	20/4/17
R BROAD		ES DEAN HERR LN	NECESSARY	
P. GARRETT		3 BULLER ST	Crucial Service!	21/4/17
H Jennion		322 DRY CREEK RD	B/DOOR NECESSARY	21/4/17
S. KROEMER		HOWES CREEK RD	MANSFIELD	21/4/17
R. McFARLANE		MAINSTAIN BAY	A JOKE!!	21/4/17
um. macey		126 High St. Mansfield 3722	Is that the worst of our children?	21.4.17
R. Klavins		105 Highton Lane	Ridiculous	21.4.17
R McCallum		7 Oldmill	Stupid	21.4.17
Rachel McCallum		37 Number St	Dumb	21-4-17
Pete Hallam		9 NEW ST.	inconceivable nonsense	21-4-17
Sharon Hallam		11 ulhuis st	What are our children worth?	21.4.17
Merrin Swan		281 Ripe Burn Rd	Very important to keep	21-4-
BABE HODGES		1 MITCHELL COURT	WELL NEEDED	21.4.17
LINDA STUART		Emblin Ave Mansfield	REDICULOUS	21-4-17
M. V. Hoff		16 down A Mansfield	"dangerous"	22-4-17
S. Bettonin		5 Baldry Street	help flow of traffic	22.4.17
J. Peachey		49 Midland Hwy	Why? Much needed	22.4.17
M. Morris		215 N. Buller Rd	do Vet and	23.4.17
Michelle Revell		112 Malcolm St. Mansfield	Dangerous not to have	24.4.17
Stephanie Ward		11-13 Logan St Mansfield	dangerous,	24.4.17
Rose Barker		49 7th Oldmill Rd	dangerous	24-4-17
CARMEL WILSON		86 Malcolm St	Bullshit	24-4-17
JON DIPLOCK		888 soldiers	CRAZY	"
Rhonda Needy		29 Reardonhe Mawr	A. MUST.	25-4-17
Mary O'Leary		9 Adams St Mansfield	A Must Have	25.4.2017
M. Clennon		14 Mitchell Ct Mansfield	Essential	26.4.2017
B.A. PLACE		490 Howes Gk Rd	"	26.4.2017
H. S. MULLINNS		1 Minerva St Mansfield	Very important	26.4.2017
JEAN BELL		83 CROSSLAND, MANSFIELD	STOP COST SHIFTING!	26.4.2017
Clare White		135 Banerum Rd	look at other	26/4/2017
Patricia		1 BUNDICHTRISE	needed	26/4/17
JOLI EBER		74 Hym St Mansfield	NOT	26/4/17
FRAN MURTON		59 JENKINS RD MANSFIELD	OVER STAFFED	27.4.17

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Print Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Fleur Nolan	[Signature]	Higlett St M'field		19.4.17
S. Burr	[Signature]	Bobby St M'field	STUPID	19.4.17
J TURNER	[Signature]	PO Box 61 Bonnie Dr	Silly	19.4.17
G CHRISTOPHER	[Signature]	Malcolm St Mansfield		
K Williams	[Signature]	141 Monkeybully Rd	Ridiculous	19.4.17
T. Sandy	[Signature]	Higlett St		19.4.17
Christie Rose	[Signature]	Rosella St Mansfield	STUPID	19.4.17
Allan's Store	[Signature]	291 Mt Buller Rd	STUPID	19.4.17
T Donovon	[Signature]	Houses Creek Rd	STUPID	19.4.17
L. Koetsveld	[Signature]	160 Oglives Rd	there is a lot more school workers that need to go before our crossing supervisors	19.4.17
Paula Inghen	[Signature]	79 High St Mansfield		19.4.17
Jodie Kong	[Signature]	765 Hodess Cr Rd Mansfield	Ridiculous!!	19.4.17
HANNAH TUGEN	[Signature]	12 HUNTER ST	* THEY ARE IMPORTANT!	19/4/17
Kim Oliver	[Signature]	28 Stewart St Mansfield	Need to stay safety of kids	19/4/17
Pam HUDSWELL	[Signature]	3/33 CAMBRIDGE DRIVE	more important than lots of other things	19.4.17
Anne Becking	[Signature]	22 Paxtons Lane Mansfield	Disgraceful	20.4.17
Karisse Hunter	[Signature]	1 The Parade Mansfield	Put the safety of kids first	20/4/17
J. Campbell	[Signature]	3 Young St, Bonnie Doo	what the?	20/4/17
J. Merkel	[Signature]	Box 102 Hawsfield		20/4/17
Kristene Lally	[Signature]	27 Ailsa St	So needed.	20/4/17
Wendy McKernan	[Signature]	19 Rankin St Mandampt	Ridiculous	20/4/17
deary dagan	[Signature]	DAWN CREEK BONNIE DOO	e CRAZY.	20.4.17
MARTIN REEMOND	[Signature]	480 WILMORE RD	NEED	20/4/17
JUDY HUNTER	[Signature]	5 GALWAY CRT	"	20/4/17
BARBARA DALE	[Signature]	44 AILSA ST	ALL OF THE ABOVE	20/4/17
SAVEY FELDMAN	[Signature]	WATERLOO RD MANDAMPT		20/4/17
George Wilton	[Signature]	86 Malcolm St	Silly	20-4-17
Kellie	[Signature]	86 Malcolm St	Very wrong	20-4-17
Ron Wickham	[Signature]	2/34 Cambridge Drv		20-4-17
MARGIE BRIS	[Signature]	Tolmie	Ridiculous	20/4/17
GAIL FLETCHER	[Signature]	4 View St, Mansfield	Kids are IMPORTANT.	20/4/17
Ross Thomas	[Signature]	15 Finisgood St	Silly	19.4.17
Ron Wherry	[Signature]	40 Chanery St	Silly	20.4.17
Derek Smith	[Signature]	1 View St, Mansfield	Safety Issue	20.4.17
SCOTT CAMONT	[Signature]	19 ROWE ST MANSFIELD	DUMB DUMB DUMB	20.4.17
Amy Hall	[Signature]	94 Higlett St Mansfield	wrong	20.4.17
Margaret White	[Signature]	16A Minerod, Mansfield	Need to keep	20/04/2017
Ray Martyn	[Signature]	65 Carries Rd Mansfield		20.4.2017
John Brumby	[Signature]	Bundjaloo Mansfield		20.4.2017

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Print Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Shirley Nolan	S. Nolan	Mansfield		27-4-17
MAR. Y CONNELL	[Signature]	Mansfield		27-4-17
Rosemary Buckle	[Signature]	Jamieson		27-4-17
Barb Miller	[Signature]	C. P. O. Woodspoint		27-4-17
MARGARET W PRAE	[Signature]	MANSFIELD WOODSP. DR. MANSF.		27-4-17
Ken Wrasan	[Signature]	MANSFIELD WOODSP. DR. MANSF.		27-4-17
Joy TREWARR	[Signature]	61 MALCOLM ST. MANSFIELD		27-4-17
O'DONNELL	[Signature]	24 FINLASON ST		17-4-17
Sally Donnelly	[Signature]	24 FINLASON ST MANSFIELD		27-4-17
JILL STEVENSON	[Signature]	3/38 AILSA ST, MANSF.		27-4-17
ROBERT JONES	[Signature]	18 F. NELSON ST MANSFIELD		27-4-17
JOHN LITTLE	[Signature]	MANSFIELD		28-4-17
JACK CHRISTOPHER	[Signature]	37 ELVINS ST.		28-4-17
PAM COLLINS	[Signature]	Mansfield		28-4-17
WENDI HUNT	[Signature]	MANSFIELD		28/4/17
Dave Westphalen	[Signature]	330 Blue Bay Rd, Orlyds.	Reduce Admin staff	28/4/17
Andrea Bourke	[Signature]	83 Cambridge Ave Mansfield.	AS ABOVE	28/4/17
[Signature]	[Signature]	13 Greenfield Way Mansfield		28/4/17
RICKO JOHN THOMAS	[Signature]	238 DRY CREEK RD BONNIE DOON		28-4-17
Bill W. [Signature]	[Signature]	1601 Burnt Hill	Administration for a...	28-4-17
Jerry [Signature]	[Signature]	2 - main st mansfield		28/4/17
[Signature]	[Signature]	347 Spans Lake Bononia		28/4/17
Susan [Signature]	[Signature]	22 Cambridge Dr.		28/4/17
Shaun O'Harty	[Signature]	81 Finlason St		28/4/17
SHAUN O'HARTY	[Signature]	65 Midland Hwy		
Mandy Swamy	[Signature]	31 Howes Cr Rd MANS.		
Kellie Lovick	[Signature]	20 POWERS Rd Merrigree		
Donna LaRose	[Signature]	Mansfield		3/5/17
Anne Stewart	[Signature]	PO Box 10 Bonnie Doon		2/5/17
Felicity ENNIS	[Signature]	11 Lavender Rd Tolmie		1/5/17
Margaret Valcich	[Signature]	352 Tabor Rd Tolmie		1-5-17
Louise Davis	[Signature]	183 Howes Cr Rd Mansfield		1/5/17
Margaret Wilson	[Signature]	5 Goughs Rd Rdie Mt Bay		1/5/17
ANGIE TRABARTON	[Signature]	HONGWA HILL		2/5/17
DANIELS TRABARTON	[Signature]	HONGWA HILL		2/5/17
Dianne Dickson	[Signature]	Merton		2/5/17
JENNY BREWSTER	[Signature]	Boorolite		2/5/17
Angela Bilo	[Signature]	Merrigree		2/5/17
KEV DICASON	[Signature]	Merton		2/5-17

Mansfield Shire Council - School Crossing Supervisors Petition

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Print Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Lisa Judge	[Signature]	Midlet St Mansfield	keep the crossings	19/4/17
Moya Livingstone	[Signature]	Newsagency	save the children	19/4/17
Sharon Huron	[Signature]	Old Blue job		
Carrie	[Signature]	MANSFIELD	Look	19.4.17
Alli Wilson	[Signature]	1 prest crt		20/4.14
Faye Fraser	[Signature]	Highton lane	kids	20/4/17
Christine Munn	[Signature]	Cuppa St.	Keep the lullies	20/4/17
MARGARET BUCHANAN	[Signature]	Wooliel Rd Barrow	Keep the supervisors	20/4/17
SANDRA MCLENNAN	[Signature]	Houqua River RD	Protect our kids	20/4/17
Hue Longstaff	[Signature]	Howes Creek	Protect our kids	20/4/17
KATE DRAPER	[Signature]	4 safety street MANSFIELD	Safety of this is paramount	21/4/17
Kathryn Hewitt	[Signature]	Howes Creek Rd	Essential to safety	21/4/17
LISA BOARD	[Signature]	Mairdample	Need them	21/4/17
Meredith Warren	[Signature]	18 Hutton Ct Mansfield	Reservist Service!!	21/4/17
Rakel Soames	[Signature]	Loki's rd Mansfield		21.4.17
KATE TROTTER	[Signature]	Bellview, Mansfield	Think about the kids	21/4/17
Paul Gillard	[Signature]	MANSFIELD	NECESSITY	21/4/17
Anne Fleming	[Signature]	Mansfield	Save money elsewhere	21/4/17
Judy Campbell	[Signature]	Goughs Bay	TOO IMPORTANT	21/4/17
B. Ginesley	[Signature]	Mansfield		21/4/17
Marc Lindbo	[Signature]	2135 Somers Cr.	Have child chooses here!	21/4/17
Starr Demarco	[Signature]	13 Greenfields WAY	KEEP our kids safe	22/4/17
Janice Goss	[Signature]	Howes Creek Rd Mansfield	Shame!	22.4.17
Janice Goss	[Signature]	Howes Creek Rd Mansfield	NECESSITY	
Alexis Day	[Signature]	67 Highton lane Mansfield	Need the service	22/4/17
Di Walker	[Signature]	55 Curvist Mansfield	Safety of kids	22/4/17
Janine Lawler	[Signature]	13 Highton lane Mansfield	Paramount to	22/4/17
Jacyn Reid	[Signature]	2 Cricket street Mansfield	Kids safety	22/4/17
Jeanie	[Signature]	4557 Midland Hwy	Cut down on top head	23/4/17
L.J CHRISTOPHERS	[Signature]	130 Malcom St Mansfield	KIDS FIRST	23/4/17
H. MERCELA	[Signature]	Mansfield	RIDICULOUS	23/4/17
P. SAMPSON	[Signature]	Mansfield	STUPID SILLY	23/4/17
J. NUTTIN	[Signature]	MANSFIELD	keep kids safe	24/4/17
Amanda Olive	[Signature]	Mansfield	Necessity	24.4.17
VAL DAVIS	[Signature]	MANSFIELD	IF NO SUPERVISORS	24.4.17
W. ENTREN	[Signature]	Mansfield Barrow Rd	Ridiculous - Safety First	24/4/17
Kylie Forsyth	[Signature]	Mansfield	keep	24.4.17
Clare M. Kelly	[Signature]	46 Alder St Mansfield	keep the jobs	25/4/17

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Print Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
A Stephens	[Signature]	Mansfield		19/4/17
Helen Russell	[Signature]	Mansfield		19/4/17
Cate Garlich	[Signature]	Yarra Glen		19/4/17
Amber Turbush	[Signature]	Mansfield		19/4/17
Wendy Lay	[Signature]	Mansfield		19/4/17
Sarah Golin	[Signature]	Mansfield		19/4/17
JO McWhinney	[Signature]	Mansfield		19/4/17
Ellie Kay	[Signature]	Mansfield		19/4/17
Sue Medcalf	[Signature]	Mansfield		19/4/17
Lily Marks	[Signature]	Mansfield		19/4/17
Leragh Wydera	[Signature]	Bentley		20/4/17
Shelley Payne	[Signature]	Mansfield		20/4/17
Christina Blunt	[Signature]	Mansfield		20/4/17
Nim Marks	[Signature]	Mansfield		20/4/17
Shelley Turner	[Signature]	Mansfield		20/4/17
Lynese South	[Signature]	Talme		20/4/17
Stacy Mahoney	[Signature]			20/4/17
DAVID VICKERY	[Signature]	Greens rd Mandanville		20/4/17
Nicole Bennett	[Signature]	Mansfield		20/4/17
Melissa Phelan	[Signature]	Mansfield		20/4/17
Lisa Williams	[Signature]	Mansfield		20/4/17
CRISME RUBIN	[Signature]	MANSFIELD		20-4-17
Kerryn Friday	[Signature]	Mansfield		20.4.17
Hannah Gillard	[Signature]	Mansfield	Cut the CEO's Wage	20-4-17
MATT HAYES	[Signature]	CUB BENTLEY		20/4/17
K TEARON-BROWN	[Signature]	BARNWICK	1 WU LOWYPOPE	20.4.17
D. TEARON-BROWN	[Signature]	BARNWICK		20.4.17
AARON GRAY	[Signature]	BARNWICK		20.4.17
JOE PURDAY	[Signature]	MANSFIELD	KIDS NEED THEM	20/4/17
Emshia Howlett	[Signature]	MANSFIELD		20/4/17
TAMMY DUHAMEL	[Signature]	Mansfield		20/4/17
Chantal Duhamel	[Signature]	Mansfield	Kids need them	20/4/17
MAX DUHAMEL	[Signature]	Mansfield		20.4.17
Maxie Pezzinetti	[Signature]	Mansfield	for safety	20.4.17
MICHELLE KOTLER	[Signature]	MANSFIELD		
Kerry Rust	[Signature]	Mansfield	SAFETY	21/4/17
A. ARBUTHNOT	[Signature]	Mansfield	ITS A NO BRAINER	21/4
D SMITH WICK	[Signature]	Mansfield		21/4/17
Eric Christopher	[Signature]	MANSFIELD	SAFETY	21/4/17

Mansfield Shire Council – School Crossing Supervisors Petition

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our new mayor who has been a school principal should be able to appreciate this!

Print Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Indiana McLenan	[Signature]	Mansfield		24/04/17
Chantelle Whittaker	[Signature]	Bonnie Doon		24/04/17
Codie Cummins	[Signature]	Mansfield		24/04/2017
RONALD BEEBEL	[Signature]	Mansfield		25/4/17
ROGER MARCHETTI	[Signature]	MANSFIELD		
SIMONE GEORGE	[Signature]	MANSFIELD		26/4/17
CAVIN GEORGE	[Signature]	MANSFIELD		26/4/17
Steff Tone	[Signature]	Mansfield		
KEO FERRARICH	[Signature]	MANSFIELD	TRIM WAGES OF CEO	
Kimberly Hurwood	[Signature]	Mansfield		27/4/17
J AND DIXON	[Signature]	Mansfield	Trim wages of SA	27/4/17
Glenda Barling	[Signature]	Mansfield		27/4/17
Kerin Michelin	[Signature]	Beechworth	KEEP THE LOWYROP	27/4/17
RAY MICHELIN	[Signature]	" "	NO WAY	27.4.17
TAMMY PUEGAN	[Signature]	Bonnie Doon	SILLY DECISION	27.4.17
CASS SHIELDS	[Signature]	Mansfield	NO WAY	27/4/17
KAY BROWN	[Signature]	Josephs Bay	CUT BACK ON THE SA WAGES - KEEP HOURLY	27/4/17
Lisa Maroney	[Signature]	Mansfield	Silly decision	27.4.17
Jayde Campbell	[Signature]	Menzies	want idea we had	27.4.17
Janiell Purvis	[Signature]	Boorolite	Your kidding me	27.4.17
Maile Rogo	[Signature]	Mansfield		27.4.17
PMACKAY	[Signature]	Mansfield	GET REAL!	27.4.17
MATT WETHERS	[Signature]	MANSFIELD	STUPID DECISION	28.4.17
CLEMM BEE	[Signature]	MANSFIELD	MADNESS	28/4/17
HELEN MORRIS	[Signature]	176 MALCOLM ST	MAD IDEA	28/4/17
MARTIN McQUILL	[Signature]	MANSFIELD	YEAH, REAL SMART	28/4/17
Keta Watson	[Signature]	Mansfield		28/4/17
Donna Tremmel	[Signature]	Menzies	Keep kids safe	28/4/17
MAUL TREMMEL	[Signature]	" "	" "	28/4/17
Suzie Wellbourn	[Signature]	Mansfield	keeping kids safe to active	28/4/17
Belinda Tate	[Signature]	" "		28/4/17
Marnie Gray	[Signature]	Mansfield	Keep kids safe	29/4/17
DARLI KILEY	[Signature]	CHILTERN	Look after kids	29/4/17
Chloe Cameron	[Signature]	Chiltern	Keep kids safe	29/4/17
PAUL HANSEN	[Signature]	Mansfield		
Rachel Foots	[Signature]	Macs Cove	Keep kids safe	29.4.17
Sason Pollock	[Signature]	Macs Cove	Keep kids safe	29.4.17
Penny Neale	[Signature]	Mansfield		30.4.17
LINDA STEWART	[Signature]	MANSFIELD	Putting kids in	30-4-17

Rediculous DANGER 30-4-17

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MAT. L		17 Mansfield St		20/4/2017
BERNIE ANSTEE		13 VICTORIA ST		21/4/17
Kay Anstee		84 Willowlake Dr		21/4/17
ANNA HUBBARD		5 Views St		21/4/17
D COOPER		16 Hunter St		21/4/17
Emily Jackson				21/4/17
Melissa Nedy		Redgum dr, Mansfield		21/4/17
Leesa Cowan		Riverend R/R Macs Cove		21/4/17
Mel Hillbrick		Griffin Ave Mt		21/4/17
Sally Kirby		Oakbank crt	Keep our c/s	21/4/17
Zoe Allen		Buller rd	no!!	21/4/17
Brittney Allen		Buller rd		21/4/17
Cathy Lewis		43 Ailsa St		21/4/17
R Bolger		1/55 Cambridge		22/4/17
P Bolger		1/55 Cambridge		22/4/17
BRIAN HANLEY		307 TABLETOP RD, BRIDGE CREEK		22-4-17
Ron Wickham		2/54 CAMBRIDGE DR		22-9-17
Lube car date		20 Reynolds St, Mans		22-9-17
NAOMI JEMPSON		8 Reynolds St, Mansfield		22-9-17
Wendy Lindsay		10 Minerva St	Rediculous	22-4-17
PAT WEBB		10 MINERVA ST	MUST KEEP THEM	22-4-17
TIM RIELLY		32 HUNTER ST		22-4-17
Brydell Minnray		23 Finlason St		22-4-17
Trevor Arnold		23 Finlason St		22-4-17
Louven Kiefer				22-4-17
Rebecca Adams		CLOSBY LANE MANSFIELD		22-04-17
Emma McLernan		1053 Bonella-Varna Rd Gurrum Gurt		22/4/17
Drew Hollingdale		131 Alighton Lane		22/4/17
Kelly Flight		45 Lennox Dr Macs Cove	KEEP THEM	22/4/17
Parish Neal		Mansfield	Important	23/4/17
Flaine Mahoney		21 Somerset Cres Mansfield	Very Important	23/4/17
HEAD HEAD		2/16 Bourne St, Mansfield	Protect Our Children	23/4/17
WAYNE BRITTON		20 VICTORIA ST, MANSFIELD		23/4/17
BRIAN GREEN		93 Fontaine Tee, 3006	Stupid council	23/4/17
SEN FROST		12 SOLAMANDER TCE 3630	Stupid	23/4/17
MATT LAWE		16 Hunter St	Stupid	23/4/17
Luke Peters		80 WANGAWATI RD SHEPP	Stupid	23/4/17
MASON Rimato		155 Excelsior Ave AROMONA		23/4/17
Debbie Haggan		280 GARDINI LANE		23/4/17
Deb. Hoskin		Bonnie Down	childrens	23/4/17

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MOORU MARTIN		1 Apollo St Mansfield	Keep the kids safe	19/04/17
Susan M ^c Cormick		42 Highett St Mansfield	Keep kids safe	19/04/17
ERIK MORRISON		75 COLLOPY ST	"SAFETY"	19/4/17
BRIDLE SMITH		53 ELVING ST	Keep the crossing	19/4/17
K. Buchanan		926 Monkey Gully.	Safety!	19/4/17
N. Hall		8 Kitchan Street Mansfield	safety	19/4/17
P. Brand		12 Finlason st Mansfield	Needal for Safety	19/4/17
Julie Anderson		24 Hampton Ln.	" "	19/4/17
NIKKI LOCKHART		34 Links RD MANSE	" "	19/4/17
Bec Watson		47 Curica St Mansfield	" "	19/4/17
SUZY RIDEOUT		APOLLO ST MANSFIELD	WAKE UP! KIOS SAFETY	19/4/17
JAMES BERTALLI		HIGH ST, MANSFIELD	REALLY	19/4/17
Hugh Bertalli		high street Mansfield	Safety	19/4/17
belinda Atherton		31 Atharna Rye, Mansfield	Safety	19/4/17
Simon Edey		34 Links road, Mansfield	cut costs like when	19/4/17
M. Cooksey		5 Lovick Ave - Mack	Safety of kids	19/4/17
Lisa Groves		Gardens lane. Lina.	Safety First	20/4/17
Mick Hearn		52 HICKETT ST	SAFETY.	20.4.17.
Michelle Waller		1095 Old Tormie Rd,	" "	20/4/17
Sean Donnelly		322 Mulhonnala Hwy	Safety	20/4/17
Emily Cronin		Balwin rd, Bawnta	safety	20.4.17
Hilary		Bramfield rd	safety	21/4/17
Nicole Bertalli		High St Mansfield	needed for safety	20/4/17
KYRILE WHITAKER		HICKETT ST MANSFIELD	SAFETY	21/4/17
KATE TROTTER		Balview Ct, Mansfield	Think of the kids	21/4/17
Susie Shaw		Mansfield Whitfield Rd	" "	21/4/17
MARK WALSH		HICKETT ST MANSFIELD	SAFETY	21/4/17
CHELE HANSEN		WILLOW LAKE DR, MASCOE	" "	21/4/17
Lobella Chivers		63 Harbourline Drive Gough Bay	safety	21/4/17
Aaron O'Keefe		115 DEAC HOGGS LANE	" "	21/4/17
LYN MILLMAN		30 MAIN ST MININGMPL	SAFETY	21/04/17
Glenn Gordon		77 Cambridge dr	Safety	22/04/17
Kate Ho		MIMAMILUKE CRT MANSFIELD	SAFETY FIRST	22/4/17
Ali Kirkwood		Hills Rd Gough Bay.	Priorities!	22/4/17
Holly Ode		Walker St Mansfield	" "	22/4/17
Lily Walker		1095 old tormie rd Tormie	Safety	23/4/17
A. FRANKS		Mackay	Common Sense	22/4/17
Stewart		694 Howes Creek Rd	SAFETY	23/4/17
S FORTS		21 cricket street	" "	23/4/2017

17-6-'17

MANSFIELD SHIRE COUNCIL		
17 MAY 2017		
FILE NO E4653	2	10 P

Joan Simms
6 Links Rd
Mansfield, Vic. 3722
PHONE 57751102.

10
Councillors

re: "Lollypop" Ladies

Maybe I suggest some of these ladies monitor main double road crossings only such as Malcoln & Clergy Streets which are far more dangerous than the two-way roads

Sincerely
Joan Simms.

COPY.

MANSFIELD SHIRE COUNCIL			
11 MAY 2017			
FILE NO	2	10	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
E4653			

2nd May 2017

VicRoads Head Office.

Administration,

60 Denmark Street.

KEW Vic 3101

To whom it may concern,

Re School Crossing Supervisors, Mansfield

I write to respectfully request that VicRoads increase its financial involvement in the funding of School Crossing Supervisors in Mansfield.

At present this important involvement of the Supervisors seems to be in jeopardy due to lack of funds by Mansfield Shire.

Without the School Crossing Supervisors the situation would be a disaster waiting to happen to our most important residents, our children.

We have an incredible amount of trucks with trailers carting logs and gravel to and fro through the town plus all the other through traffic which increases in the snow season.

Thank you,

Judy Wells

20 Goughs Bay Road Piries 3723

03 5777 3959

9th May
2017

Mayor & Councillors

I enclose for
your information
copy of my letter
to Vic Roads re.
School Crossing
Supervisors

Judy Wells





council plan
butcherflats to: council

19/05/2017 02:58 PM

From: "butcherflats" <butcherflats@gmail.com>,
To: "council" <council@mansfield.vic.gov.au>,,

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Â
Attention Alex Green, 2017 Budget Submission,

We are taking this opportunity to comment on some aspects of the Mansfield Council Budget proposals. We realise that past excesses and civic projects that have had to be redone, have put a stress on the council budget. Despite financial problems we feel that caution needs to be undertaken with future development. Transparency of Council spending to the rate payers is essential. In a number of Shires/City Councils the Council expenditure and projected costs are included with the rate notices. It has been well reported that the Shire council needs to cut costs. With this understandably comes cuts to services. But also surely there needs to be staffing rationalisation and/or curtailing of staff expenses. We are concerned about the safety of the district's children, if the Lollypop "Ladies" are no longer patrolling the crossings. Apart from one Vic Roads crossing these are the council's responsibility. In regards to saleyards, whyÂ sell such an asset when local residents and visitors could benefit from this space. The SES is an integral part of our community and has served the locals for over 30 years. To sell the land from under them is heartless. The land could also be used for the expansion of the Ambulance station or other community services when needed. Part of the Â area could be used as a much needed place for caravans to park. Their tourist dollar benefits our town. Forward thinking and long term planning is certainlyÂ needed, but this should be done carefully and not a knee jerk reaction

Regards
Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Marg and Frank McCormackÂ



ATTN: Alex Green and Paul Valente
donnalynn to: council

17/05/2017 11:00 AM

From: "donnalynn" <donnalynn@optusnet.com.au>,
To: "council" <council@mansfield.vic.gov.au>,,

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Â

Dear Messrs Green and Valente,

I send you this letter for your consideration/inclusion as you proceed with discussions and decisions over the next weeks. Â I have also sent it to the newspaper.

Thank you,Â
Donna McRae
23 Stewart Street
Mansfield, 3722

STOP! LOOK! And LISTEN!

Â

Our schools, children and car drivers will be the recipients of unwanted consequences if the decisions about road safety, school crossings and skate park safety are not actioned.

Â

These issues are bound together because they involve the safety of our children in public places where parental guidance may not be available to prevent accidents.

Â

I agree whole heartedly with Jenny Cullenâ€™s Letter to the Editor (Mansfield Courier May 10), that a barrier, even just a visible reminder at the Skate Park that would serve to alert children not to run out onto the road is an oversight on Councilâ€™s part.Â It is a lack of responsibility on ours if we do not ask for and help to get something done.Â A fence is not required, but something as simple as wooden bollards and a link chain, similar to that in the Botanic Park, would provide the visual cue needed to help remind everyone to STOP, LOOK AND LISTEN!

Â

And to remove the safety currently provided by our Crosswalk Supervisors needs urgent re-thinking.Â We all know that school crosswalks are busy places at busy times of the day.Â I would like to put forward a suggestion to help solve the problem of School Crossing Safety.

Â

52.

I went to primary school in California and it was the Year 5 and 6 students who took on this job for their schools. The "Traffic Patrols" participants were selected by the Teachers and consisted of a Sargent and two Privates for each Traffic Patrol. There were as many Patrols as there were crosswalks around the school. And just as our current Crossing Attendants, they would be at their "posts" while their classmates arrived and departed. Posted on each side of the street in our "uniforms" (red jackets and yellow caps), one whistle blow from our Sargent who assessed the traffic flow and we stepped out onto the road with our stop signs. Two whistles and we returned to our position at the side of the road.

^

As fifth and sixth graders, we wanted to be chosen for Traffic Patrol. We learned the traffic rules, and were models of good behaviour. We knew we were important and in addition to helping the safety of our classmates, we had a sense of pride and responsibility that being in the Traffic Patrol engendered. To be promoted to Sargent by the vote of your fellows was a much sought after honour. It taught us not only the rules of the road, but a sense of community and responsibility "for our friends and for ourselves. We had to be on time, take our job seriously and know that SAFETY COMES FIRST.

^

For the investment of some bollards, chain, high vis jackets and raincoats, we could reap the many safety, educational and personal benefits of Mansfield's School Traffic Patrols.

^

D. McRae

Stewart Street

Virus-free. www.avg.com



RE: Submission relating to proposed 2017/2018 budget

jason.learmonth to: council

19/05/2017 03:27 PM

From: "jason.learmonth" <jason.learmonth@internode.net.au>
To: "council" <council@mansfield.vic.gov.au>,,

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Â

To: Alex Green, CEO Mansfield Shire Council, 33 Highett St, Mansfield VIC 3722Â

by email

Â

RE: Submission relating to proposed 2017/2018 budget

Â

Dear Alex,

Â

I am writing to you to make a submission, to express my concern with a particular aspect of the proposed 2017/2018 budget. Firstly, I wish to commend you for allowing interested and concerned members of the community into the council chambers on 02MAY17 for the budget information session; I got to verbalise my initial concerns there and also gain new insights from the perspective of the Shire. Notwithstanding the knowledge that the Shire faces funding challenges, I remain highly concerned at the proposed rescindment of funding for school crossing supervisors. Whilst my understanding is that this decision is in the context of securing funding from another entity, the timing of the decision does not guarantee success. I am therefore concerned that appropriate funding will not be sourced, and with funding no longer allocated by Mansfield Shire, the service will abruptly cease next financial year.

Â

As identified by yourself, whilst I concede the Shire may not have a legal obligation to facilitate the placement of school crossing supervisors (under the Road Rules, the mere deployment of flags makes road users obliged to stop when anyone approaches a crossing), I believe there is a strong moral obligation together with evidence-based support, for their continued retainment. VicRoads, the authority and subject matter expert on road management, have a webpage dedicated to information on school crossing supervisors (<https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/safety-and-road-rules/road-safety-programs/chil-drens-crossing-supervisors>). Here are excerpts from that page which I believe are pertinent to support the continued use of school crossing supervisors:

Â

VicRoads and the Victorian Government are committed to ensuring the safety of all our road users especially children. School crossing supervisors play an important role to the community by providing reassurance of safety around schools. In addition to assisting children and adults to cross the road, supervisors also provide guidance and care by ensuring everyone follows the road rules. Supervisors are valued for their role in road safety, but they are also respected as community safety monitors and as trusted people in society. The supervisors' bright uniforms are a symbol of authority and a visual resource to make drivers more aware of road safety around schools. For the past 40 years, VicRoads has been working with local government authorities to provide a safe journey to and from school with the School Crossing Supervisor program. The program was established to provide councils with financial assistance to help them deliver these important safety services to the community. Figures show that from 2003 to 2012, there has been a 30 per cent reduction in the number of casualty crashes around schools during school travel times. Each year, councils are invited to apply for crossing supervisor funding, with all crossings that meet the eligibility criteria receiving a subsidy. There are currently 2,795 supervisors funded by the State Government under the School Crossing Supervisor Program across Victoria.

Â

To reiterate what I verbalised at the information meeting, the consideration to no longer fund the school crossing supervisors disappoints and disgusts me. We ought to all have an intrinsic responsibility to do everything reasonable to protect the youth of society. It is my strong belief that school crossing supervisors form part of this protection. They perform an unofficial traffic management role, balancing safe travel and traffic flow at times. Their presence also helps to instil a positive influence on driver behaviour. I can still personally recall the positive influence from my almost daily interaction with a regular crossing supervisor (despite concluding my primary education 25 years ago). Of course their presence cannot protect against all possible adverse eventualities however I believe they remain a valuable asset helping to ensure the area at and surrounding the crossings remains as safe as it possibly can. I also think some aspects of their positive influence may be more indirect, even subliminal, and albeit less quantifiable. One of these is that I believe their presence at a number of school crossings helps in the decision making process (in the affirmative) whether parents allow their children to make their own way to school.

Â

Furthermore, at this stage I do not believe it is my job to negotiate with all

potential stakeholders of this issue. I am not concerned what entity funds the current supervisors, it just needs to occur and be negotiated amongst yourselves. Into the future, from the next financial year onwards, I implore Mansfield Shire Council to ensure the continued funding of school crossing supervisors, no matter which entity ultimately funds them.

Â

Due to competing commitments, I am unable to attend in person at the special meeting planned on 30MAY17 to consider submissions received. Nor do I plan to engage someone else to attend on my behalf either, but trust this written submission will be appropriately considered in my absence.

Â

Thank you sincerely for considering this submission and you, or any Shire staff, would be welcome to contact me on 0411153919 if you seek any further clarification.

Â

Regards,

Â

Jason Learmonth

4 Links Road

MANSFIELD VIC 3722

16th May 2017

Submission to Mansfield shire for 2017/2018 Budget

An open letter to

Mr Alex Green, Mansfield Councillors, others as addressed,

There appears to be a large amount of conjecture and rumour as regards the current financial state of the Mansfield Shire. Unfortunately I was unable to attend the Mansfield meeting due to work commitments, however I did think it strange that with finances so tight we could only have the one meeting in Mansfield, but could afford to run a separate one in Melbourne. I would have liked to raise some points at that meeting.

Why are we in such a financial bind??? There was no drama with the last financial report, or were we merely not told the full story. Would love to see the Auditors report. Where did the money go??? Staff ??? Sporting facilities ??? Over-budget or incomplete projects.

No-one appears to be able to say.

The Crossing supervisor Fiasco.

As a rate payer I will state now "that the Shire of Mansfield has by Accepted Practise" a moral obligation to provide a safe manned crossing environment for our children." Should the Council choose to ignore that obligation, I am sure that the matter will quickly become a major political item and the tenure of "the Mansfield Shire might not last very long. Yes, I agree that there is a cost reputedly \$84,000, yet this same Shire is quite happy to part with \$37,500 to have Targa race around our streets. There's a saving. Even if VICROADS is unwilling to subsidise the crossings, a position I believe is being reviewed, why, could not members of the Outdoor Staff perform this function. I'm sure the grass won't grow that much in the 1.5hrs each school day. I would prefer to see the Ladies back at the crossings, they seem to have a real bond with the children they protect, but if this is the option we need to take to secure the safety of the community's children let's be prepared to compromise.

Finally the land sale options.

The old saleyard area. PRIME, I repeat Prime, REAL ESTATE ---- possibly big money, but once it's sold it's gone. What plan to re-house the local SES Unit?? Oh that's right that's not your problem.... Think again. Mansfield Shire and the Local SES have shared a very pleasant partnership for many years, a relationship I trust will continue into the future. However as an "Emergency Service" the SES, like the CFA has constraints upon it by State government even for its Volunteer Members. One of those constraints is that SES Units cannot own land, this usually results in most SES Units being built on Council land. Another constraint on SES Units is the time taken to respond to calls. Without an easily accessed site with good egress they may not meet those times and hence possibly lose their Rescue Status meaning response must come from Benalla or Alexandra.

Are you prepared to wait an extra 50mins if trapped in a car accident??? Or if the roof has been torn from your house???

This land would be ideal for a multi Emergency Service set up. A shift in location will result in the need to build a new SES LHQ, storage and training facilities more fundraising for volunteers who only wish to assist their community in time of need. The Council will not be able to assist if it so strapped for cash. There has gone one of the best locations to be utilised by the Emergency Services in the township.

What about the aborted sports ground at the top of Chenery St? Could that be sold? I believe it may never be able to be used as a sporting ground, so of what use is it to the rate payers and that is a prime location. There must be other options available without resorting to the sale of such a valuable piece of property.

I thank you for your attention and look forward to your reply,



Rod Poulson

784 Howes Ck Rd

Mansfield 3722

e.. rod.poulson@bigpond.com

ph 0418594073

Mary Reilly
 35 Wattle Ct,
 Tolmie, 3723

14th May 2017

2017-2018 Budget submission to Mansfield Shire Council

Dear Mr Mayor and Councillors,

I respectfully submit the following for your consideration in this year's budget deliberations. The opinions expressed below are my own and not those of any other person, body or group.

- School crossing supervisor funding.
 - In the light of the fact that the funding of this service is not a legislated/mandated role of Local Government, I would support a decision not to fund this service in the future.
 - I would support the push by Council to seek full funding from external sources (e.g. Vic Roads, State Education Dept, Minister for Local Govt.).
 - Should attempts to find external funding be unsuccessful, I would urge the Council to assist the school communities to seek volunteer crossing supervisors. This effort would be in agreement with Council's Strategic Objective no. 3 'Community resilience and connectivity' in which Council's role is to "...assist people to work on their own solutions to the issues that are important to them".¹
- Proposed sale of 141 Lakins Rd
 - My preference would be to reserve the property for some future needs e.g. expansion of sporting facilities. However, I am prepared to support the sale of this property, provided there is a demonstrated and planned new capital work to which the proceeds could be put in the short term (1 to 2 year commencement).
- Proposed sale of Saleyards
 - My preference would be to reserve the property for some future needs e.g. expansion of sporting facilities, emergency services precinct. I am not prepared to support the sale of this property at this time as I don't believe the case for sale has been sufficiently made.
- Events funding

¹ Mansfield Shire Proposed Budget 2017-2018, p13.

- High Country Targa: While the benefit to business and the wider community in terms of employment has been well argued, I remain concerned at the size of the Council's proposed level of support of \$37.5k. I would argue that this amount be reviewed and reduced, if possible under the contract with the Targa Australia P/L. As this event has been running since 2010, and it is unlikely Targa Australia would want to see it diminished by Council's tight budget situation and would make up any shortfall in funding through other means (other sponsors, increased entry fees etc).
- Lake Eildon Festival: As the 2016 event website lists only four partners/sponsors, I would argue the organisers should be able to find further partners, allowing Council to reduce its support slightly.
- Other festival amounts seem minor in comparison to the Targa support, and deserve support as true grass roots community events.
- HACC
 - HACC is a service area that is the funding responsibility of Federal & State levels of government, whilst local governments often make a voluntary funding contribution. Not all councils are involved in the funding or provision of HACC (e.g. Strathbogie and Towong Shires). Perhaps, a freeze on Mansfield's contribution or a 5-10% reduction, and a push back against State & Federal Governments to increase their funding level should be considered.

Thank you for your consideration of my suggestions and all the best in your budget deliberations.

Best regards

Mary Reilly



Budget submission

Julia.Fitz-Gerald to: council

11/05/2017 12:47 PM

From: "Julia.Fitz-Gerald" <Julia.Fitz-Gerald@bendigoadelaide.com.au>
To: "council" <council@mansfield.vic.gov.au>.,

Please consider the environment before printing this email

^

Please see below my suggestions for 2017/2018^ budget:

^

^.^ ^.^ ^.^ ^.^ ^.^ School Crossing Supervision needs to remain, whether it is funded entirely or partially by Vic Roads.^ My understanding is that currently Vic Roads will be contributing 50% of funding required, and that council is advocating for this contribution to be 100%.^ Therefore, if Vic Roads only fund half of the amount, the rest needs to be taken from elsewhere in the budget.^

See below for my suggestions on budget savings: .

^

-.^ ^.^ ^.^ ^.^ ^.^ ^.^ Targa ^€" saving \$37.5K ^€" this should not be funded by council.^ It is an unnecessary use of rate payers funds within the community, and is not well received by all residents.^ If the Targa Rally is to be held in Mansfield, it should be fully funded by participants, sponsors, etc.

-.^ ^.^ ^.^ ^.^ ^.^ ^.^ Lake Eildon Festival ^€" reduce to \$10K, saving \$10K ^€" less funding should be contributed by council and local businesses around the lake (who benefit most from this festival) should contribute also.^ What exactly does the \$20K cover?^

-.^ ^.^ ^.^ ^.^ ^.^ ^.^ Additional playing field ^€" saving \$329K ^€"this is a complete waste of ratepayer^€"s funds.^ Certainly not necessary in the short term with the \$700K deficit impact.

-.^ ^.^ ^.^ ^.^ ^.^ ^.^ Tennis Hit up wall ^€" saving \$23K -^ this should be fully funded by the club and associated fundraisers, grants, etc.^ Council should not need to contribute to this.^ With a total cost of \$161K ^€" surely the planning of the wall can be adjusted to fit within a smaller budget, without requiring any funds from council.

^

Â

Â

Julia Fitz-Gerald

PH: 0459 939 607

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Submissions for issues in the Mansfield Shire and surrounding areas for the upcoming budget that require addressing.

delkate to: council

10/05/2017 01:31 AM

From: "delkate" <delkate@bigpond.com>,
To: "council" <council@mansfield.vic.gov.au>,,

Good evening to the Mansfield Shire Council members and Associates.

Please consider the environment before printing this email

Â

My name is Derek Smith and I reside at #1 View Street, Mansfield. My contact mobile phone number is #0407 953337.

1. I am writing you as a result of a meeting I attended at the Nobian building held at the Mansfield Primary School last week in which the main topic of discussion was the payment/funding issues of the school crossing supervisors within the Mansfield electorate. There were discussions in relation to the payment of the school crossing supervisors who in my belief, provide a very important role in the safety of our children attending and leaving the immediate areas surrounding the schools within the Mansfield township areas.

As you may be aware, I was a Victorian Police officer for a period of 21+years and I was stationed at the Mansfield Police Station for 15 of them. I have a very sound knowledge of the safety issues brought to the attention of the council in the recent weeks previous to this meeting when it was suggested that there will be no further funding for the school crossing supervisors and they are to be laid off due to the lack of funds at the end of the month. A suggestion was brought to the attention of people attending that there would be a report submitted in early 2018. If Vic Roads/Roads Corp' are to fund you the 50% promised, I suggest that the crossing supervisor's be kept on until the safety report has been completed as the 50% will cover their wages until then.

I have been led to believe that Vic Roads/Roads Corporation have finally come to the table with a an offer at this stage of 50% of the funds required to have the supervisor's employed and that, at this stage, the council will have to fund the outstanding amount. I have found that the suggestion of having to lay off the crossing supervisors to be absolutely ridiculous and a definite safety issue to, not only the children coming and going from school but also to other users such as the elderly and the disabled. These crossing provide a safe and logical way of attending the schools in and around the township in a safe and timely manner.

I believe that both Vic Roads and the Shire have a moral and legal obligation to provide safety to it's citizens and alike.Â Â

2. I would also like to bring up several other issues within the township which

I believe need urgent attention in regards to the safety to the people/children, senior citizens and motor vehicle driver's who reside here.

The second one I would like to bring to your attention is the state and condition of the one of the busier streets which amasses a large number of both vehicle and pedestrian traffic, that being View Street. View Street is the main route to the Mansfield Secondary College and is in dire need of urgent repair.

The drainage, curb and channeling is virtually non existent and is definitely a major safety issue for buses, motor vehicles and the pedestrians that utilise this street, Mainly for the dropping off and picking up of the school kids.

The issue is that the drainage leading from the eastern end of View Street heading west down to the intersection of Highett Street is all over the place.

This road has been requiring urgent repairs since I have movedÂ here approximately 8 years ago. One of the main issues of course is that the drains during the wet winter months or when we receive a decent dump of rain is that the drains running north south from the intersection of View Street into Highett Street immediately block up and flood the intersection and roadway with mud and water causing everybody a big fat headache and causes immediate confusion. This then leads to the View Street drains, which are non existent at times and all of the driveway drains are of different sizes on the south side and not properly installed or lined up, causing it to back flow and choke up what is left. The water then sits all over the road with a lot of silt, rocks and mud all over a large area of the road.

Further to this, the street itself is not wide enough for two large buses/cars to pass each other without a considerable risk of damage or injury. If they were to move over too far and end up in the little culverts dug out by council each year. I don't know what the maintenance cost is for the council to come in and repair these issues time and time again when the rain pours down . And when you exit View Street onto Highett Street, the road is a murky coloured, brown silt and water combination which becomes quite deep and treacherous for the people utilising this area. Sooner or later someone is going to have a serious accident due to this by either colliding into another vehicle or a pedestrian/push bike rider being struck. At times you cannot see the road markings and also where the actual culvert drains are.

Then there is the problem of because of all of the water spewing onto the road, it causes the tar that had been laid down to dissolve, sink and break away causing very large and long pot holes which have to also be continually

repaired at the councils cost. How about doing the job once and in the correct way which should save the council thousands and thousands of dollars. Â

3. My lucky last submission is again in relation to safety of pedestrians heading west down past the Mansfield Hospital which is a down hill dip. At the bottom of this little hill is Loch Street which is a well used carriageway for children and many vehicles leaving the Mansfield Primary School travelling south along Loch Street to the intersection of Malcolm Street. I see it in two perspectives, one being that if a child is travelling west along Malcolm Street on a bike or scooter or similar, who are leaving mainly from the Mansfield Secondary College and St.Mary;s students. As they approach the intersection, they have no clear view of what, if any vehicles are travelling along Loch Street and are in serious danger of being struck by a motor vehicle. From the other perspective, cars travelling south along Loch Street cannot see as they approach the intersection, any vehicles and again a collision is imminent. I would like to propose that maybe a speed hump or similar be placed just before the intersection slowing vehicles down as they approach the footpath and the stop sign which is located past the footpath area. And/or a sign be placed on the northern footpath to ward the pedestrians of the upcoming danger of vehicles coming out of Loch Street onto Malcolm Street.

Thankyou for your considerations in these matters.

Forwarded for your attention and reply.

Regards,

Derek Smith

Â

Sharron Jones
36 Bushland Close
Tolmie
6th May 2017

Dear Mr Green,

Last year, at a meeting chaired by the then Mayor, Paul Sladdin, and accompanied by Cr Marg Attley, leaders of the four Emergency Services in Mansfield put a case for reserving the Sale Yards site for a combined Emergency Services Precinct. After listening to the outline of the concept, both councillors stated that there was no plan to sell the land and they gave an undertaking that if the situation changed, those at the meeting would be notified so their proposal could be voiced in the appropriate setting.

To the dismay of the members of all four Emergency Services and in direct contravention of the undertaking by the Councillors, the first indication that this land was slated for sale was in the "Proposed Budget 2017 – 18" document released by the Council recently. Should the proposed Budget be passed in its present form, this invaluable asset will be lost for all time along with the opportunity to create a state of the art asset for the town.

The Emergency Services Precinct, however, is just one use to which the community could put this land. Once it has gone, no one will have the opportunity to propose a project that will benefit the whole Mansfield community and set the entrance to the town off to advantage.

In the Budget document, it is stated that the proceeds from the sale will be "parked" for some future project and that the return from that process will be used to reduce the cost of borrowings. The appreciation of the value of the Sale Yards land would far and away outstrip the current interest rates which are below the rate of inflation. Not a sound financial decision, by appearances.

However, my overriding objection to the sale of this land is the wilful disposal of an asset belonging, through the auspices of the Shire, to the Mansfield community. The process to this point has been secretive, disrespectful of the input, ideas and wishes of the community and futile. \$2 million is not going to save the Shire from Administration and possible amalgamation but it will deprive it of the opportunity to build for future generations, as the Botanic Gardens have now become following the vision of Mansfield people at an earlier time.

Yours sincerely,

Sharron Jones



Attn.Alex Green 2017 Budget Submission

rowmow to: council

16/05/2017 01:45 PM

From: "rowmow" <rowmow@netc.net.au>
 To: "council" <council@mansfield.vic.gov.au>,,

Please consider the environment before printing this email

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Re. The proposed sale of the Council owned Sale Yard site Maroondah Highway Mansfield.

I note from the Draft Budget document that council has earmarked the above Sale yard site to be sold ,and the proceeds parked for future council needs.

This site is an extremely valuable one,and I am of the opinion that the decision that Council has made to sell this Public asset has been too hasty, and has not been circulated to the Rate payers for consideration before the Draft Budget was released.

At a meeting held at the Mansfield Fire Station some twelve months ago, representatives from Police, Ambulance, SES, and the Fire Brigade, heard from Councillor Attley that at that stage there was no plans to sell the Saleyards site, and further more, if that position changed we would be notified. This certainly did not happen, the Draft Budget document was the first time that we heard about it. Â Disappointing to say the least! Â Â Â Â Â

Currently on the site is the State Emergency Unit building, which has served Mansfield for over thirty years. Unfortunately the building is situated in the middle of the site, and as such needs to be moved perhaps to one side of the current land.Volunteer Emergency Service responders need to deploy within eight minutes , so this site is ideally placed for that to occur.

The Mansfield Ambulance Service has more than outgrown the current site and needs to be re housed. Could Council at least set aside some portion of the site for the future expansion of our Emergency Services ?

Council officers have stated that they have contacted representatives from the Emergency Â Â Services ,and have been told that they do not have the funds available to do anything at this stage. This does not mean that they are not interested in the site for expansion in the future. Let us wait for the election year and see how this position may rapidly change.

How good would it be to have an Emergency Service Precinct on that site?

To sell the Shire bricks and mortar assets that are as important as the Saleyard site, is a decision that needs more consideration and consultation in the future. Please Councillors do not sell us out on this important issue.
 Â



Â

Regards,

Â

Rowan Neely.

Â

Melanie Green and John Lovick
1 Davies Rd
Merrijig, 3723.

0417 147938

16th May 2017.

Mr Alex Green
CEO
Mansfield Shire Council
Private Bag 1000
Mansfield, 3722.
council@mansfield.vic.gov.au

Dear Sir,

We write in regard to the Council's Proposed 2017-18 Budget and Draft Council Plan 2017-21.

We read with concern in this week's Courier that the former saleyards site is to be sold – apparently a late minute decision that has not given the Community enough time to be aware of this sudden change of plan nor to be able to contribute to the discussion about the future possible use of the land.

We feel that it is a hasty decision with all the hallmarks of a cash grab decided in a panic. The limited and recent community conversations around using the area – or at least part of it - to co-locate our Emergency Services is a very good idea. Due consideration should be given to a variety of options to make this work. Once the land is sold, it is too late.

To justify dropping such a proposal on the grounds that none of the Emergency Services wants to purchase this land is shallow and short-sighted we believe. Of course they cannot, given their limited funding and the fact that many such SES and CFA stations rely heavily on members fundraising just to get by.

The proposal for a “state of the art” Emergency Services Precinct is a win-win for the Shire:

1.Co-location of CFA, SES, AV and Vicpol will greatly enhance management of any emergency situation in our Shire and is in accord with Emergency Management Victoria's doctrine of “ all hazards, all agencies” and “all communities, all emergencies.” (Especially as SES is already located there.)



The development in many Shires of Early Childhood hubs incorporating Long Daycare, Maternal Child Health, Kinders, Speech Pathology, etc. is a model developed for similar reasons and benefits – co-location of associated services that must work together cohesively are advantaged by being close together and easily accessible.

2. Despatch of agency vehicles and crews will be removed from the centre of town.

3. A “state of the art” precinct will be a key component of our town entrance that the Community and the Shire can be proud of in the future.

4. Current and future issues already facing the buildings, locations and facilities of the Emergency Services will be solved.

The whole parcel of land does not have to be ‘sacrificed’ but surely some can be kept aside so the Community and the Emergency Services can have the time to have conversations about how best to go about this.

And this also gives everyone time to explore various ways to achieve these outcomes such as Grant Applications, asset swaps, nominal rental agreements, etc.

So we would ask the Shire Council to think big picture and long term and save a portion of this land for such a future project.

Yours Sincerely,
Melanie “Max” Green and John Lovick.



Budget considerations
tomthoburne to: council

17/05/2017 04:31 PM

From: "tomthoburne" <tomthoburne@bigpond.com>,
To: "council" <council@mansfield.vic.gov.au>,,

Please consider the environment before printing this email

Â

To Alex Green

CEO

Mansfield Shire Council.Â Â Â

Â

Â

Re: proposed 2017-2018 budget considerations.

Â

In relation to above considerations particularly the sale of the area commonly referred to as "The Sale Yards".

Â

Â

As the current Unit controller of Mansfield area SES I wish to highlight the importance of the SES and the role the unit plays in ensuring safety and support to the public and assistance to other agencies such as Police, Ambulance Victoria, CFA and DELWP. At the moment we occupy a freehold owned by Shire within the Sale Yards precinct

and believe this to be the optimum site.

Â

As an agency we require space for emergency vehicles, equipment , area for outdoor training, parking for 42 current members and safe access for entry, which this present site allows.

This site also has a suitable buffer zone for noise with the golf course immediately behind, also allowing for weekly night training under floodlight and generator situations.

Prompt and immediate response is vital to good outcomes in any rescue or retrieval operation ,and this current site maximising safe highway access I believe is an excellent springboard for our operations.

Â

135
I have had a meeting with councillor Volkering and shown him our working site and believe he has an understanding of our role in the community and how valuable this site is to our successful operations.

I request that in Budget considerations the Mansfield SES be considered and allocated use of this present site ongoing.

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^

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^

^

Tom Thoburne
Unit Controller | Mansfield SES

^

Mansfield Unit State Emergency Service

PO Box 472, Mansfield, VIC 3724

mob: 0417 536 378

tom.thoburne@members.ses.vic.gov.au | www.ses.vic.gov.au

FLOOD STORM TSUNAMI EARTHQUAKE EMERGENCY 132 500

^

^

MC & AR McCormack
Po Box 135
Mansfield 3724

18.05.2017

Mr Alex Green
CEO Mansfield Shire
33 Highett St
Mansfield 3722

Dear Sir

We have great concern about the Mansfield Shire budget and current financial situation.

We are opposed to the selling of the saleyards land. This is a short term budget fix and land can only be sold once. Expenditure obviously need reining in.

It is prime land, which, as previously cited by others, would be an ideal emergency services precinct that will be needed in the future.

We implore the Council not to sell this real estate.

Yours sincerely

Mick and Ann McCormack

Thursday 17th May 2017

To whom it may concern,

RE: Budget considerations,


I write today as a community member and an officer of the Mansfield State Emergency Service to express my thoughts in regard to the current budget considerations. In particular the consideration of the land known as the Saleyard site and how valued this land is to the SES unit and the service we provide to the community.

I feel that this current site is the prime location for such a service to be based.

It provides enough space for parking of our 40+ members and to conduct training exercises without being restricted to a small confines. Our unit on occasion plays host to integrated training events with other agencies and SES units from surrounding areas. Having enough space to conduct these events is critical. We will often have multiple vehicles on site to conduct road crash rescue training as well as real life scenarios both of which require space to do so.

As you may be aware we conduct training on a weekly basis of a Wednesday evening. During this time we often have generators and motors operating and we have light towers and flashing lights going well into the evening. The Saleyard sites provided the perfect location with enough of a 'buffer' to prevent this noise and light pollution from disturbing near by residential areas.

Then there is our ability to service the community in an emergency situation. In a road crash situation we have 8 minutes to have a rescue vehicle rolling. This means members



need to have efficient access to the unit in the first place and then the rescue vehicle needs safe and fast egress to attend that crash in a timely manner. In these situation a few extra minutes for a member to get out to the unit then for the rescue vehicle to navigate through town to get to the crash in some cases can be the difference between life and death. The current location I believe provides this exactly compared to other locations.

If the sale and development of the Saleyards site is to go ahead, I request that allowing the SES to remain somehow be at least considered.

I appreciate you taking the time to hear my views and hope that you take them into consideration.

Regards

Jake Tudor
Mansfield State Emergency Service.
Health & Safety Officer.



Mansfield Sale Yards submission

sarah to: council

18/05/2017 11:31 AM

From: "sarah" <sarah@theinspiredtraveller.com.au>
 To: "council" <council@mansfield.vic.gov.au>,,

Please consider the environment before printing this email

Attention: Mr Alex Green,

Dear Sir,

Please accept this email as my submission on the matter of the proposed shire council sale of the Stock Sale Yards in Mansfield.

I am away from my computer and this mode of communication will have to suffice.

Further to a verbal submission that I made to council about 18 months ago, where I outlined the "community " view that this land has an important, historical place in the public memory and future of Mansfield, like others in the community, I have been shocked and dismayed to see the sale as an income stream in the current budget. So much for public discussion.

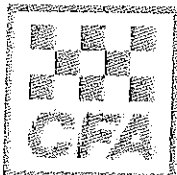
The Shire does not have the moral grounds to sell this public space. The ongoing development of a complex community like Mansfield, will be sorely limited in the near to medium range future, if this well positioned public asset is cashed up by a Shire Council not listening to the concerned community.

I point out, it is that concerned community that envisioned , planned and found funding for the public precinct on the north side of the road, that has afforded Mansfield one of the best entrances to a town anywhere in the State.

I strongly advise Council to take the same approach with the Sale Yard Land. Work with a committee made up of public and council members to come up with a plan for the site. This was done with the railway land, the wetlands, the visitor information center and the Botanical Gardens, to name a few.

Regards
 Sarah Stegley

Sent from Sarah Stegley



Mansfield Fire Brigades Group

Group Officer: Fred Forrest
 Secretary: Sharron Jones
 36 Bushland Close
 Tolmie, VIC 3723

5775 2656 0427 572 656
 5776 2104 0488 699 238
 cimxsj@cimx.com.au

Mr A Green
 CEO
 Mansfield Shire

19th May 2017

Dear Mr Green,

I am forwarding to you a letter I received from Mr D Scott, Captain of Barjarg Brigade, after the discussion at the Group meeting last night. It will give you some indication of the tone of the discussion and the feeling of the members about the sale of the Sale Yard land as proposed in the current Budget papers.

One of the core responsibilities of the Mansfield Shire is to provide support, encouragement and acknowledgement to its volunteer organisations and all those who serve in them. It beggars belief that the Council would even contemplate the possibility of selling the land used by the SES much less announce it is to be sold. This is the same sort of behaviour that has led to our banks becoming pariahs in the eyes of the community. You, like them, appear to only be interested in how we can be gouged from those who have the least power.

This is not the first time that the interest of the Mansfield Community has been ignored by bureaucrats who are supposed to look after the interests of all. When the railway station closed there was a proposal to establish an Apex Park on the land. This proposal was emasculated when a decision was taken to sell part of the land to commercial interests. It must not be allowed to happen again.

It is impossible to come up with an argument to justify Council's proposed action. The Mansfield Brigades Group is implacably opposed to this proposal and will do all in its power to mobilise opposition to the Council should it continue with this course of action.

We totally support the SES's right to continue to provide its essential service from what was thought to be a secure base.

Yours sincerely,
 Sharron Jones
 Secretary
 Mansfield Fire Brigades Group

David Scott

scottde@bigpond.com

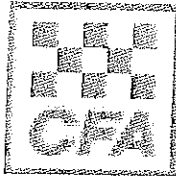
39.

One of the core responsibilities of the Mansfield Shire is to provide support, encouragement and acknowledgement to its volunteer organisations and all those who serve in them. It beggars belief that the Council would even contemplate the possibility of selling the land used by the SES much less announce it is to be sold. This is the same sort of behaviour that has led to our banks to becoming pariahs in the eyes of the community. You, like them, appear to only be interested in how much can be gouged from those who have the least power.

This is not the first time that the interest of the Mansfield Community has been ignored by bureaucrats who are supposed to look after the interests of all. When the railway station closed there was a proposal to establish an Apex Park on the land. This proposal was emasculated when a decision was taken to sell part of the land to commercial interests. It must not be allowed to happen again.

It is impossible to come up with an argument to justify Councils proposed action. The Council has stated the funds will be used to develop infra structure. Surely a viable functioning SES is a critical piece of community infra structure that cannot be sacrificed for some yet to be decided piece of infra structure. It is there because it is needed. The Mansfield Brigades Group is implacably opposed to this proposal and will do all in its power to mobilise opposition to the Council should it continue with this course of action.

We totally support the SES's right to continue to provide its essential service from what was thought to be a secure base.



Mansfield Fire Brigades Group

Group Officer: Fred Forrest
Secretary: Sharron Jones
36 Bushland Close
Tolmie, VIC 3723

5775 2656 0427 572 656
5776 2104 0488 699 238

cimxsj@cimx.com.au

Mr A Green
CEO Mansfield Shire
Highett St
Mansfield

19th May 2017

Dear Mr Green,

At the monthly meeting of the Mansfield Fire Brigades Group last evening, a motion was passed which I have been instructed to forward to you. This was that "the member Brigades of the Mansfield Fire Brigades Group deplore the plans to sell the land on which their sister Emergency Service, the SES, is currently located and to which Ambulance Victoria could relocate".

Discussion was focused around the loss of an ideal location for these services within the time limits for turn out, the potential loss to the community, not only the asset of the land itself but, if the SES was unable to meet its time constraints, the unit could be disbanded forcing the local community to depend on Benalla, the next closest unit over an hour away.

We, the Mansfield Fire Brigades Group, encourage the Shire to reconsider the proposed sale of the land in the interests of the entire Mansfield community.

Yours sincerely,
Sharron Jones
Secretary
Mansfield Fire Brigades Group.



Proposed 2017-18 Budget

carolan.miller to: council

18/05/2017 06:14 PM

From: "carolan.miller" <carolan.miller@bigpond.com>,
To: "council" <council@mansfield.vic.gov.au>,,

Please consider the environment before printing this email
Attn: Mr Alex Green
Chief Executive Officer
33 Highett Street
Mansfield Vic 3722

I would like to express my objection to the potential Selling of the
Saleyards.

This decision has been made with no community consultation at all.

What happened to the plan for an emergency services precinct?

Where will this leave the SES headquarters currently on the site?

Regards,

Carolan Miller
PO Box 24
Mansfield Vic 3724

Sent from my iPhone

42.

Budget submission - From Glenn Martin
 Alex Green
 to:
 Mandy Kynnersley
 19/05/2017 05:51 PM
 Hide Details
 From: Alex Green/Mansfield/au
 To: Mandy Kynnersley/Mansfield/au@mansfield,
 Another one.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Glenn Martin" <glenn@clarkco.com.au>
Date: 19 May 2017 at 4:27:31 pm AEST
To: alex.green@mansfield.vic.gov.au
Subject: Budget submission

Please consider the environment before printing this email

To the Mansfield Shire Re; budget submission

I wish to put forward a response for the current budget which also this has a direct connection to the Mansfield approach scheme.

As the town has increased in size over the years the outer boundaries of the township has expanded for example Dead horse lane on the Benalla Road can be considered to be Northern boundary, Withers lane on the Western boundary, Crosby's Lane on the Eastern boundary and the top of Highton Lane the Southern Boundary

So in all practicality the approaches to the township can now be considered to terminate at those points. Inside the township boundaries there are 4 commercial thoroughfares

On those main roads there is a variety of residential, commercial businesses and service industries.

The shire has 3 commercial allotments sandwiched in a commercial zoned strip between the ski hire and the golf club both being commercial ventures. The size and position of these allotments really preclude the use of these properties from a number of uses

Some of the options for these allotments can be summarized as follows

They could be turned into more public spaces, which would be a further burden on the shire purse and the use position would be questionable?

The shire could gift them to the state government to develop some of there services which would be a financial negative and possibly lose any say in their development

They could realize the value in these properties representing approximately about 1.8M and have planning input into a low impact design of any development

As the township grows and it will? The commercial areas will expand as they have done in all towns along the main roads
 it is our opinion that the shire should dispose of excess land, especially commercially zoned and with the removal of the old cattle yard eyesore it gives the opportunity for an income boost. Every one loves Mansfield's Main street edged by commercial properties because of the centre medium strip if in future that was extended westward it would just be an extension of what we have?



6/18 High Street, Mansfield 3722

Glenn Martin

CLARK & CO

Real Estate Mansfield
 6/18 High Street, Mansfield 3722
 ph: 03 5779 1700
 m: 0427752619
 e: glenn@clarkco.com.au
www.clarkco.com.au

43.

MANSFIELD SHIRE COUNCIL			
22 MAY 2017			
FILE NO. E4653	2	10	P

17/5/17

MR IAN PARTRIDGE
115 MONKEY GULLY RD
MANSFIELD VIC 3722

To Mr Alex Green

Dear Sir:

I am writing to you on behalf of the relocation of the Mansfield SES building in the hope that another written submission may help in the cause that the building being allowed to remain in its present position. This position has served Mansfield Community well in these past 200 odd years, being centrally located and having enough clearance for our noisy training to proceed.

Thankyou for your time reading this letter and hopefully there is some way for the building can remain

Yours faithfully
IAN PARTRIDGE

SES MEMBER 51749



5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Councillors Attley/Westendorp:

That the Minutes of the Mansfield Shire Council meeting, held on 21 February 2017, be confirmed as an accurate record.

Carried

Councillors Sladdin/Olver:

That the Minutes of the Special meeting of Mansfield Shire Council, held on 21 February 2017 be confirmed as an accurate record.

Carried

6. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

7. REPRESENTATIONS

7.1 Petition regarding extended early opening hours at the Mansfield Swimming Pool

* 44.
[Handwritten mark]

Council has received a petition from Ms Fiona Greenway, Ms Jackie Smithwick and Ms Ellen Hogen on behalf of 128 petitioners. A full copy of the petition is not provided due to privacy reasons, however a copy of the covering letter and petition subject is attached.

The following table provides the breakdown of the petition.

Petitioner Location	Number
Within Mansfield Shire	121
Outside Mansfield Shire	4
Invalid due to unable to determine petitioner name/address	3

Councillors Sladdin/Attley:

That Council:

1. receive the petition by Ms Fiona Greenway, Ms Jackie Smithwick and Ms Ellen Hogan on behalf of 128 petitioners in relation to extended early opening hours at the Mansfield Swimming Pool.
2. refer the petition to Council's Finance Manager for inclusion in the budget submission process.

Carried



ATTACHMENT 7.1

**PETITION REGARDING EXTENDED EARLY OPENING
HOURS AT THE MANSFIELD SWIMMING POOL**

(5 PAGES)



Fiona Greenway – 0458 316 465
fgreenwa@bigpond.net.au

Jackie Smithwick – 0439 909 754
j.smithwick6@yahoo.com

Ellen Hogan – 0400 418 422
ellen.hogan@bigpond.com

7 March 2017

Mansfield Shire
Private Bag 1000
Mansfield 3722

Attention: Moira Wells

Dear Moira

Please find attached a petition that has been on display at the Mansfield swimming pool and at both Mansfield Chemists for the past month.

The petition is entitled:

Please consider signing the petition at the pool if interested in extended early opening hours in the future for the keen, regular and interested lap swimmers.

The petition is from interested people who would like to support the pool opening earlier than the 10am on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

At the moment the pool is open at 7am on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

The group is aware that the budget is currently being considered for the next financial year and this suggestion may have a budgetary implication.

A delegation would like to present the submission to Council to explain the positives of the extra early swim times and the benefits to the health of the community.

Yours faithfully

Fiona Greenway
Jackie Smithwick
Ellen Hogan

***Signatures for a petition requesting
extra early opening hours for interested
lap swimmers at the Mansfield pool 5
mornings a week, Mon-Fri from 7am***

NAME ADDRESS SIGNATURE

MANSFIELD SWIMMING POOL

Information in support of petition for early pool opening hours

Tuesdays and Thursdays

- 123 people signed the petition – all from Mansfield and district
- Health and Fitness (supports Councils Health and Wellbeing plan)
- Physical benefits – low impact exercise – (1. Victorian State Government)
- Mental Health benefits – alleviates stress – (1. Victorian State Government)
- Great for Rehabilitation after injury or illness
- Swimming early reduces sun exposure – (2. Cancer Council Australia and Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology)
- Many more seniors swimming - lap work
- Workers now opting for early swimming hours
- Swim Club trains Monday and Wednesday mornings commencing at 7am
- Opening early on Tuesday and Thursday will assist to reduce the congestion when swim club is training
- Excellent summer exercise facility
- New contract to be entered into for next season and could include revised hours for Tuesday and Wednesday mornings.
- Other municipalities include early morning swimming hours and have adjusted their opening hours according to usage throughout the day (3. Murrindindi Shire and Benalla Shire Pool opening hours)
- The pool needs to raise its profile and to encourage more patrons
- The pool needs timeframes to support its patrons

See supporting information attached

Appendix 1.



<https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/swimming-health-benefits>

Health benefits of swimming

Swimming is a great workout because you need to move your whole body against the resistance of the water.

Swimming is a good all-round activity because it:

- keeps your heart rate up but takes some of the impact stress off your body
- builds endurance, muscle strength and cardiovascular fitness
- helps maintain a healthy weight, healthy heart and lungs
- tones muscles and builds strength
- provides an all-over body workout, as nearly all of your muscles are used during swimming.

Other benefits of swimming

Swimming has many other benefits including:

- being a relaxing and peaceful form of exercise
- alleviating stress
- improving coordination, balance and posture
- improving flexibility
- providing good low-impact therapy for some injuries and conditions
- providing a pleasant way to cool down on a hot day
- being available in many places – you can swim in swimming pools, beaches, lakes, dams and rivers. Make sure that the environment you choose to swim in is safe.

Appendix 2.



<http://www.cancer.org.au/>

Causes of skin cancer

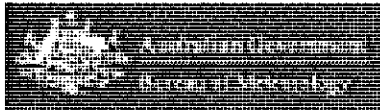
Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world. Anyone can be at risk of developing skin cancer, though the risk increases as you get older.

The majority of skin cancers in Australia are caused by exposure to UV radiation in sunlight.

Sunburn

Sunburn causes 95% of melanomas, the most deadly form of skin cancer.

In Australia, 1 in 8 adults and 1 in 5 teenagers are sunburnt on an average summer weekend. Many people get sunburnt when they are taking part in water sports and activities at the beach or a pool, as well gardening or having a barbeque.



<http://www.bom.gov.au/uv/?ref=fr>

The Bureau, Cancer Council and Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA), have adopted Sun Protection Times based on the World Health Organisation's Global Solar UV Index.

The UV information is just under the temperatures.

Temperatures								
At	1:00 AM	4:00 AM	7:00 AM	10:00 AM	1:00 PM	4:00 PM	7:00 PM	10:00 PM
Air temperature (°C)	-	-	-	18	21	19	14	12
Feels like (°C)	-	-	-	15	17	15	11	9
Dew point temperature (°C)	-	-	-	11	11	12	12	11

UV								
At	1:00 AM	4:00 AM	7:00 AM	10:00 AM	1:00 PM	4:00 PM	7:00 PM	10:00 PM
UV Index	-	-	-	2	3	1	0	0

Significant Weather								
From	1:00 AM	4:00 AM	7:00 AM	10:00 AM	1:00 PM	4:00 PM	7:00 PM	10:00 PM
Thunderstorms	-	-	-	○	○	○	○	○
Snow	-	-	-	○	○	○	○	○

Appendix 3.

Morning Swimming – Murrindindi Shire

Alexandra	Monday, Wednesday, Friday	6am - 8.30am
Eildon	Monday, Wednesday, Friday	6.30am - 8.30am
Marysville	Monday, Wednesday, Friday	8am - 9.30am
Yea	Monday, Wednesday, Friday	7.00am - 9.00am

Evening lap swimming is also available at the Eildon pool on Thursday's from 6pm - 7pm.

Benalla Aquatic Centre

Hours:

Thursday	6am–7pm
Friday	6am–7pm
Saturday	9am–6pm
Sunday	9am–6pm
Monday	6am–8pm
(Labour Day)	Hours might differ
Tuesday	6am–8pm
Wednesday	6am–8pm



8. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil.

9. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor, Councillor Paul Volkering, will present the monthly Mayor's report to the Council, as follows:

The last month has been dominated by a variety of consults over Planning amendments, ongoing training and meetings both locally and more generally throughout the Shire and beyond, involving members of our community and partnerships that the Mansfield Shire is involved in.

My sincere thanks to Councillors for their positivity and capacity to meet with members of respective communities and interest groups within the Shire.

Our recent meeting as a group of Councillors highlights the need to support one another and to be aware of the sensitivities around the work we are involved in; so, let's remind each other regularly of the need for respectful and professional dialogue always. It also reminds us that our work is not easy, at times complex, challenging and emotional and therefore we need to understand that each of us individually and collectively is crucial to our overall success as a Council.

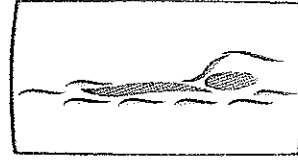
Congratulations to Cr Attley on her successful bid to become President of the Victorian Local Governance Association. Cr Attley has a passion for communities, particularly her own in Tolmie, and now she can spread her experience and knowledge across a whole sector of local government. It's a real feather in her cap to have been elected President.

I attended a Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) forum in Melbourne entitled "Critical success factors" which was a three- part presentation focused on developing resilient communities, digital transformation and financial sustainability. Ironic in some sense as those matters are also high on our agenda as we develop our own Council Plan and Budget.

One quote coming out of one of the presentations by the Finance Manager at the City of Melbourne was that many families are only "two bills from disaster". The quote was in the context of understanding the financial stress that many families find themselves in and that councils need to be acutely aware of that scenario in their planning.

Other key points from the seminars are best summarised by the following words including:

- *Partnerships*
- *Innovation*
- *Integration*
- *Efficiency*
- *Inclusivity*
- *Resourcefulness*
- *Robust*
- *Reflective*



Fiona Greenway – 0458 316 465
fgreenwa@bigpond.net.au

Jackie Smithwick – 0439 909 754
j_smithwick6@yahoo.com

Ellen Hogan – 0400 418 422
ellen.hogan@bigpond.com

7 March 2017

Mansfield Shire
Private Bag 1000
Mansfield 3722

Attention: Moira Wells

Dear Moira

Please find attached a petition that has been on display at the Mansfield swimming pool and at both Mansfield Chemists for the past month.

The petition is entitled:

Please consider signing the petition at the pool if interested in extended early opening hours in the future for the keen, regular and interested lap swimmers.

The petition is from interested people who would like to support the pool opening earlier than the 10am on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

At the moment the pool is open at 7am on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

The group is aware that the budget is currently being considered for the next financial year and this suggestion may have a budgetary implication.

A delegation would like to present the submission to Council to explain the positives of the extra early swim times and the benefits to the health of the community.

Yours faithfully

Fiona Greenway
Jackie Smithwick
Ellen Hogan

Signatures for a petition requesting
 extra early opening hours for interested
 lap swimmers at the Mansfield pool 5
 mornings a week, Mon-Fri from 7am

NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
DAVID SMITHWICK	3 GUP Hill Rd Mansfield	[Signature]
Lynn TURNBULL	P.O. Box 101, B. Devon	[Signature]
STEVELEY	BEOLITE	[Signature]
J. Riley	4 GOSFORD AVE Mansfield	[Signature]
C. REYNOLDS	117 MALCOLM ST MANSFIELD	[Signature]
V. Arthur	1012 GOSFORD AVE	[Signature]
ROY PILEY	7 KENT GOSFORD MANSFIELD	[Signature]
S. JAMES	5 OLYMPIC ST MANSFIELD	[Signature]
K. LAITY	ALLEN ST	[Signature]
M. LITTLE	105 WATERLOO RD SHEFFIELD	[Signature]
B. HAUSMAN	3/104 HIGHETT ST MANSFIELD	[Signature]
Jane Fuller	54 Loyola Drive Mansfield	[Signature]
Marie Thomas	25. Hill St Mansfield	[Signature]
Kylie KENNEDY	23 Broomfield Ln Mans	[Signature]
Bob Cooper	1045 HUNES WOOD RD MANE	[Signature]
Helen Hunt	2 Leakes Rd Mans	[Signature]
HELEN JEFFERSON	332 DRY CREEK RD B. DEVON	[Signature]
[Signature]	22 Apollo St	[Signature]
[Signature]	BRITWICK	[Signature]
[Signature]	TOLMIE	[Signature]
Brian White	2 MUNDING DRIVE BEOLITE	[Signature]
Dave Crook	2 R. Prim. St. B. Devon	[Signature]
Sus Reynolds	33 2 Reynolds Rd B. Devon	[Signature]
JOHN DIPLOCK	525 Soldiers rd. B. Devon	[Signature]
LEON STONES	64 JAMES ST B. DEVON	[Signature]
B. BRONN	17 DUND 85 DUND HOUSE LEE	[Signature]
J. DALE	264 NEWB HURSE LANE, MANS.	[Signature]
L. WATKINS	281 RISEBULLING Mansfield	[Signature]
T. OWES	55 BRONITE Rd B. Devon	[Signature]
R. JONES	11 GOSFORD LANE, Mansfield	[Signature]
Jane D. Pugh	1/128 Malcolm St Mansfield	[Signature]
Christine meach	6 CURIA ST Mansfield	[Signature]
Kelly Bygones	20 CUMMINGS RD MANSFIELD	[Signature]
[Signature]	18 MAIN ST MANSFIELD	[Signature]
Ann Heine	41 OCLUND RD, MANSFIELD	[Signature]
[Signature]	237 Rye Hill Mansfield	[Signature]

Signatures for a petition requesting
 extra early opening hours for interested
 lap swimmers at the Mansfield pool 5
 mornings a week, Mon-Fri from 7am ~~11am~~

NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
Christine Okeefe	105 Doylans Rd Mans	[Signature]
GAIL WESTHEAD	MANSHFIELD	[Signature]
MILK ELLI	Leake Lane Mansfield	[Signature]
Louise Jenkins	52 Creechys Lane Mansfield	[Signature]
Pam Collins	287 Doodhys Lane Mans	[Signature]
Tim Horrocks	MENTON	[Signature]
Gail Bennett	M ^r Bullers	[Signature]
Barbara Wilson	CLINTONS Rd. Mansfield	[Signature]
DAL DALLA	Old Tonger Rd Mansfield	[Signature]
KYCEE CRELLIN	MANSHFIELD	[Signature]
J Smithwick	30th Mill Rd Mans	[Signature]
J TUDOR	HOLDS CREEK Rd	[Signature]
R HODD	38 LIVING STREET	[Signature]
G. HODD	CLINTONS Rd Mansfield	[Signature]
H. HODD	7 Mansfield St	[Signature]
Maureen Murray	Mansfield St	[Signature]
NICHOLE GUNN	MANSHFIELD	[Signature]
Andrew Jeffs	76 MALCOLM ST	[Signature]
Justin Perry	34 Somerset Crescent	[Signature]
Wyla Duffly	37 Somerset Crescent	[Signature]
Jole Ellett	1005 Old Talmie Rd	[Signature]
Allison Walker	40A College Lane	[Signature]
Will Walker	40A College Lane Mans	[Signature]
Amanda Walker	40A College Lane	[Signature]
Cecilia Walker	40A College Lane Mans	[Signature]
6-AM please	1300 Howard Blvd. Mansfield	[Signature]
Jerry D. ...	1100 Howard Blvd. Mansfield	[Signature]
MAUR ...	1100 Howard Blvd. Mansfield	[Signature]
Jessie McQueen	104th Mansfield	[Signature]
James Appleton	104th Mansfield	[Signature]
Daniel Carter	13 Victoria St	[Signature]
...	22 Malcom Street	[Signature]
...	605 Glenice Rd	[Signature]
one Gannon	21 Henry Bee Ln Goughs Bay	[Signature]
Bill BREADON	2218 Long Lane Baswick	[Signature]
Kerry Logan	76 Malcolm St	[Signature]
Anne Blackford	16 Power Rd Mansfield	[Signature]

Gunn house

6-AM please

6

Signatures for a petition requesting
 extra early opening hours for interested
 lap swimmers at the Mansfield pool 5
 mornings a week, Mon-Fri from 7am

NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
ALEX NOBLE	10 HIGH ST MANSFIELD	
PETER SALISBURY	33 PARKWAY BL Mansfield	
Wendy Robinson	354 Hubs Gully Rd. Leakey	
PICCOLI GREENWOOD	11 CAMBRIDGE DR. MANSFIELD	
John Greenwood	11 Cambridge Dr Mansfield	
RACHEL GREENWOOD	11 Cambridge Drive Mansfield	
Paul Greenwood	11 Cambridge Dr Mansfield	
Susan Shinn	13 Moleard Lane Mansfield	
Shirley Deben	21 Moleard Lane Mansfield	
Clare Blake	5 Sarah Ct Mansfield	
MICHAEL WARD	21 WILLIAMS Rd Lina St	
Roselle Kinnis	105 Lighton Lane Mansfield	
Maureen Kelleher	12 Queen St Leakey	
Ellen Kinnis	Mansfield	
Christa Walters	7 Park Ct Mansfield	
Jeanne Pilkington	89 Cambridge Dr Mansfield	
Wendy McHorney	12 HIGH ST MANSFIELD	
Clare J. B.	38 High St	

6am
6:00/5:30

Jim Reed	2	Cricket St Mansfield	
Wickie Thatchers	16	St Pauls St Mansfield	
Den Thatchers	15	Cheneys St Mansfield	
Carl Thatchers	47	Thilthorpe St Mansfield	
Mr. [unclear]	115	Malcolm St Mansfield	
Mr. [unclear]	24	[unclear] Mansfield	
Mr. [unclear]	91	[unclear] Mansfield	
Mr. [unclear]	150	Paradise Mansfield	
Julia Appleton	50	Heunter St Mansfield	
Mah [unclear]	547	[unclear] Mansfield	
Neil [unclear]	64	[unclear] Mansfield	
Music Farms	42	Chancel Mansfield	
Wendy [unclear]	2	Mane [unclear] Mansfield	
Kenneth [unclear]	269	[unclear] Mansfield	
Mr. [unclear]	322	[unclear] Mansfield	
Joe Solder	84	[unclear] Mansfield	

MANSFIELD SHIRE COUNCIL		
18 MAY 2017		
FILE NO.	2	10/P
E4653		✓

BEOLITE VILLAGE LIMITED

ABN 76 114 480 625

"Secure Independent Living in Victoria's High Country Region"

1 Macpherson Smith Drive
Mansfield, 3722
TEL: (03) 5775 1925

P O Box 245
Mansfield
Victoria 3724

16 May 2017

BY HAND

45.

Mr Alex Green,
Chief Executive Officer
Mansfield Shire 3722

Submission re Mansfield Shire's Draft Budget 2017-18 & Plan 2017-21

We commend Council and the CEO upon the approach to the Budget 2017-18 and express our support for the difficult decisions to limit expenditure while minimising increases in rates.

Beolite Village has previously submitted, on 10 March 2017, that a Differential Rate should be applied to rates on property owned by, used for, and maintained as a charitable not-for-profit retirement village endorsed by the ATO.

Beolite is the only such ratepayer in the Shire. A differential can be approved by Council following precedents set by other Councils in Victoria. As you know, Beolite's Community Centre is increasingly much used by the general community. More importantly with around 60% of residents on a pension, Beolite saves the Shire considerable costs by maintaining and paying for its own roads, footpaths and street lighting for over 50 residents.

Beolite acknowledges and is grateful to Council for the previous rebate of 9.9% for the use of its Community Centre by the general community. However, we submit that, at only \$367.91, it is out of proportion in the context of Beolite's total rates of \$41,000.

Beolite recognises that Council has made tough decisions for the coming year. In these circumstances, we wish to pull our weight by proposing that within the Shire Plan 2017-21 a 10% differential on Beolite's rates be phased in progressively through 2% p.a. increments over five years.

With the construction of five more homes nearly finished, our next rates are expected to rise to over \$50,000 in the near future. This means that the Shire's income will increase by \$9,000, much more than a 2% differential costing \$1,000!

We reaffirm our strong commitment to keep serving the Mansfield Shire by meeting the growing demand for affordable homes to help the elderly in their retirement years.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Grimwade, Chairman
Beolite Village Limited

BEOLITE VILLAGE LIMITED

ABN 76 114 480 625

"Secure Independent Living Homes in Victoria's North-East"

TEL: +61 3 5775 1925 / 0419 092 010

EMAIL: beolitevillage@gmail.comWEBSITE: www.beolitevillage.orgP O Box 245
Mansfield
Victoria 3724

10 March 2017

Ms Mandy Kynnersley
Finance Manager
Mansfield Shire 3722**Differential Rate for Charitable Land & Not-For-Profit Retirement Village**

Beolite makes the following submission to the Mansfield Shire that a Differential Rate be applied to a special category of rates on land owned and used as not-for-profit, charitable retirement village endorsed by the ATO. Beolite requests a separate opportunity to address Council.

In the case of Beolite Village, the grounds are:

- 1 It designs, constructs, provides and maintains its own roads, paths and street lighting, thus saving the Shire considerable costs.
- 2 Beolite assists in "the proper development of the municipal district".
- 3 Beolite supports "the provision of affordable housing in the Shire".
- 4 Beolite contributes over \$2 million p.a. to the Shire's economy, and provides beneficial landscaping at the Highway entrance to Mansfield.
- 5 There is an inequity in the valuation system because retirement units are smaller and more dense, carrying proportionately higher rates.

Precedents exist for a differential rate on charitable retirement villages, including:

- 6 Knox City Council has granted a 25% differential as a recognition of expenditure made by the village on behalf of the sector.
- 7 City of Kingston Council has granted a 10% differential in recognition of the special nature of this class of land which has valuation constraints which lead to inequitable distribution of the rate burden.
- 8 Brimbank Council has granted a special rate because the village provided and maintained its own roads, paths and street lighting.

Beolite acknowledges and is grateful to Council that, for the 2015-2016 year, the Shire approved a 9.9% rebate of \$367.91 on rates of \$3,717.61 for the use of its Community Centre by the general community, under the Local Government Act 1989 Section 169 1(a). But there was no other concession on rates.

Beolite's rates currently total \$41,070 p.a. Accordingly, Beolite respectfully submits that Council approves an overall 15% differential rate for charitable land owned and used as a not-for-profit independent living retirement village, one which supports affordable housing and assists development of the Shire.



Andrew Grimwade, Chairman
Beolite Village Limited

46.

Our Reference: 1131301
31 March 2017

Mr Alex Green
CEO
Mansfield Shire Council
Private Bag 1000 Vic 3724

Dear Alex

46 Kubeils Road – Merton - Cancheater Pty Ltd

We act on behalf of our clients who are the owners of various land located at 46 Kubeils Road, Merton.

Our clients are ready to initiate a rural living development of their land and are seeking Council's support for rezoning of that land.

We have prepared a brief submission on their behalf requesting that Council undertake a review of the *Mansfield Rural Living Strategic Study 2003* and *Mansfield Rural Land Study 1994* and this work be included in the 2017-2018 Council budget.

This review would facilitate rezoning and development of our clients' land at Merton, in preference to existing zoned land at Merton that has remained undeveloped for many years.

As outlined in our submission the strategic value of our clients' land to enhance rural living opportunities at Merton and within the Mansfield Shire is without question.

We look forward to Council taking positive action on this request.

Yours sincerely



Daris Olsauskas
Manager North East





Submission to Mansfield Shire Council

**Review of *Mansfield Rural Living Strategic Study 2003* and *Mansfield Rural Land Study 1994* to rezone land at 46 Kubeils Road,
Merton**

Prepared on behalf of Canchester Pty Ltd

March 2017

Ref: 1131301

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REF: 1131301

Document History and Status

Rev.	Status	Date	Project Manager	Project Reviewer
A	DRAFT	29 March 2017	Daris Olsauskas	Client review
B	FINAL	31 March 2017	Daris Olsauskas	Andrea Tomkinson

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1 INTRODUCTION

This submission is made on behalf of Canchester Pty Ltd (Bob and Isabel Appleby) in support of a request to bring forward a review of the *Mansfield Rural Living Strategic Study 2003* and *Mansfield Rural Land Study (1994)* by Mansfield Shire Council.

This review is requested to support a proposal for the rezoning of 46 Kubeils Road Merton for Rural Living purposes.

2 BACKGROUND TO THE REQUEST

The Department of Environment Land Water and Planning release Planning Practice Note 37 in June 2015 for Rural Residential development.

This Practice Note focuses specifically on the key question - *Does rural residential development fit into the overall strategic directions and planning of the municipality?*

This requires Council and the Minister to assess a proposal for rural residential development against the state, regional and local strategic planning policies and objectives for the area.

These include:

- the State Planning Policy Framework (SPPF)
- Regional plans such as Plan Melbourne and the Regional Growth Plans
- other regional planning and land management strategies including regional catchment management strategies and regional waterway strategies, and
- the objectives and strategies in the Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS), and any adopted land use strategy such as a rural land use strategy.

For our clients to present a rural residential rezoning proposal to Council, such a proposal must be supported with evidence that the proposed use and development supports and implements the housing needs of the municipality as identified in the MSS.

This includes understanding the demographic and housing needs of the area and likely future trends.

Due to the current state of Council rural land planning strategies and the Mansfield Planning Scheme, our clients face a substantial barrier to negotiate and present any development opportunity to Council for their land located in Merton.

Our clients need Council's affirmative action to review, adopt and implement new planning strategies for rural lands and amend the Mansfield Planning Scheme to encourage closer rural settlement to existing towns and villages such as our client's land in Merton as a matter of priority.

3 COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR RURAL AREAS

Council currently has two strategic documents for planning in rural areas of Mansfield Shire – both have not been reviewed for more than a decade.

The *Mansfield Rural Living Strategic Study 2003* (MRLSS) was accepted by Council on the 11 March 2003.

The MRLSS was prepared in response to the lack of a strategic framework for rural living in the Shire. Such a framework was and is still considered essential in order for Council to make responsible planning decisions relating to rural living.

The MRLSS highlighted in 2003 that the demand for rural living lots in various locations within the Mansfield area had been evident for a number of decades.

The MRLSS represented a strategic response to this issue and as highlighted at that time the Minister for Planning indicated to Council that no further amendments relating to rural living would be considered by the Department until such time as a strategy is adopted and implemented. This required that Council undertake a strategic overview of how it was to manage rural living development into the future.

There are a number of concerns with the MRLSS presented in 2003 that would need to be addressed in a review.

The MRLSS does not provide Council with a recommendation to monitor the findings and changes proposed in the MRLSS. For example, as far as we are aware no land subdivision monitor was established by Council as a result of the MRLSS.

Secondly the MRLSS does not mandate the need for periodic review to ensure that the findings of the MRLSS remain consistent with trends and changes in the local and wider community. For example, the MRLSS used 2001 ABS data and there have been at least two census periods since that time. Also there have been changes in the state planning policy framework, Regional Growth Plans have been integrated within Planning Schemes across the state, and there have been external changes impacting on the local community

The *Mansfield Rural Land Study 1994* while now more than 20 years old, noted that local planning strategies sought to discourage small lot subdivision of rural land, other than around existing townships and in other select areas, and were incorporated into the former Mansfield Planning Scheme in the form of new zones (RLZ1 and RLZ2 at that time). Most of the balance of the rural land in the former Shire of Mansfield had been included in the Rural (General Farming) Zone to prevent further broad scale subdivision of allotments less than 40 hectares.

As identified under the *Mansfield Planning Scheme Review Report March 2015* which supported Amendment C37 to the Mansfield Planning Scheme:

The Mansfield Rural Land Study 1994 is an old and dated document and not relevant for contemporary planning needs. There is a need for a new rural land strategy that utilises recently completed work to form new policy for rural areas.

We endorse this recommendation to Council for the need for a new rural land strategy for Mansfield Shire.

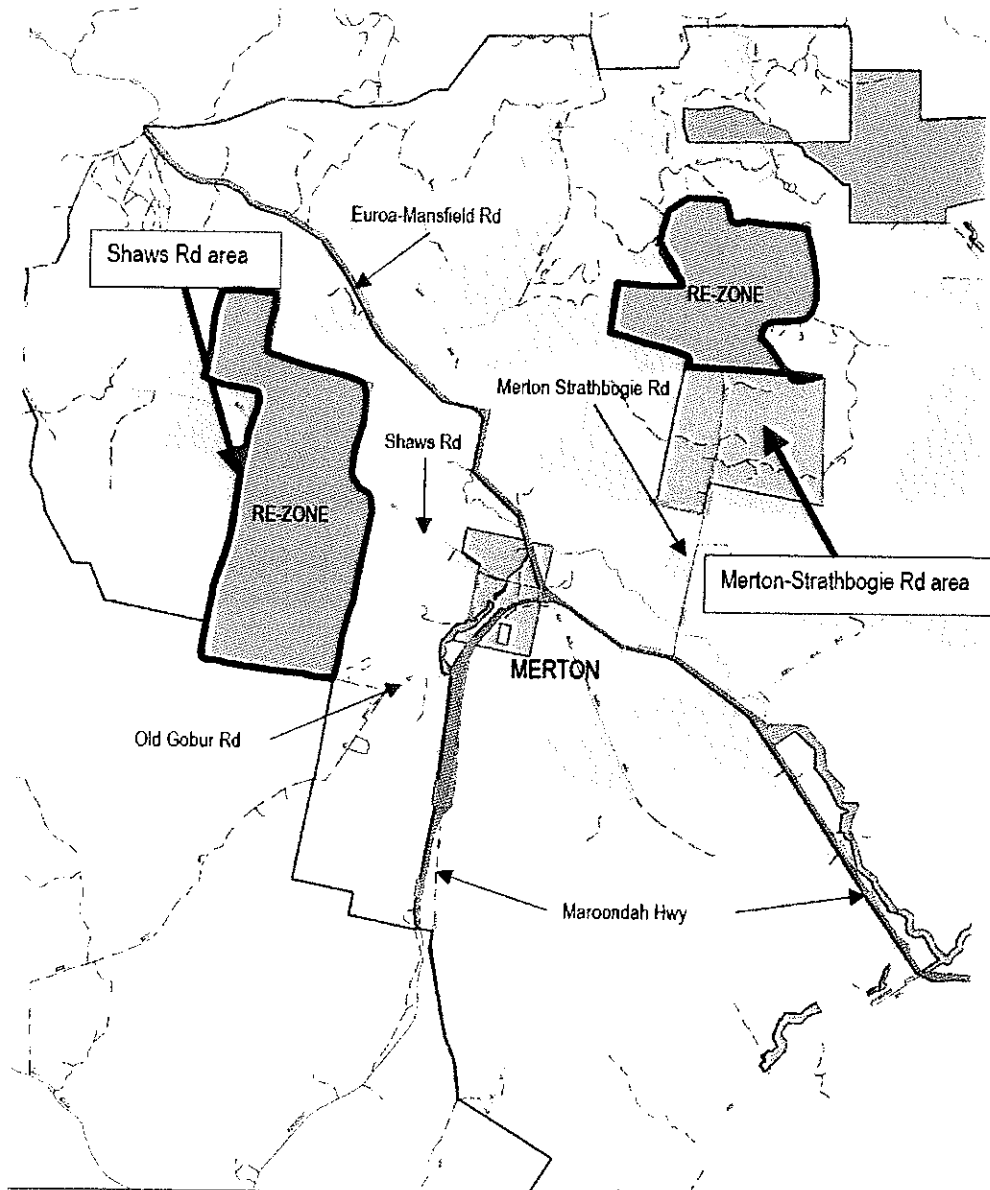
4 MERTON RURAL LIVING OPTIONS

Section 7.5 of the MRLSS examined rural living options around Merton.

Figure 6 of the MRLSS (as extracted below) identifies the recommendations of the MRLSS at that time:

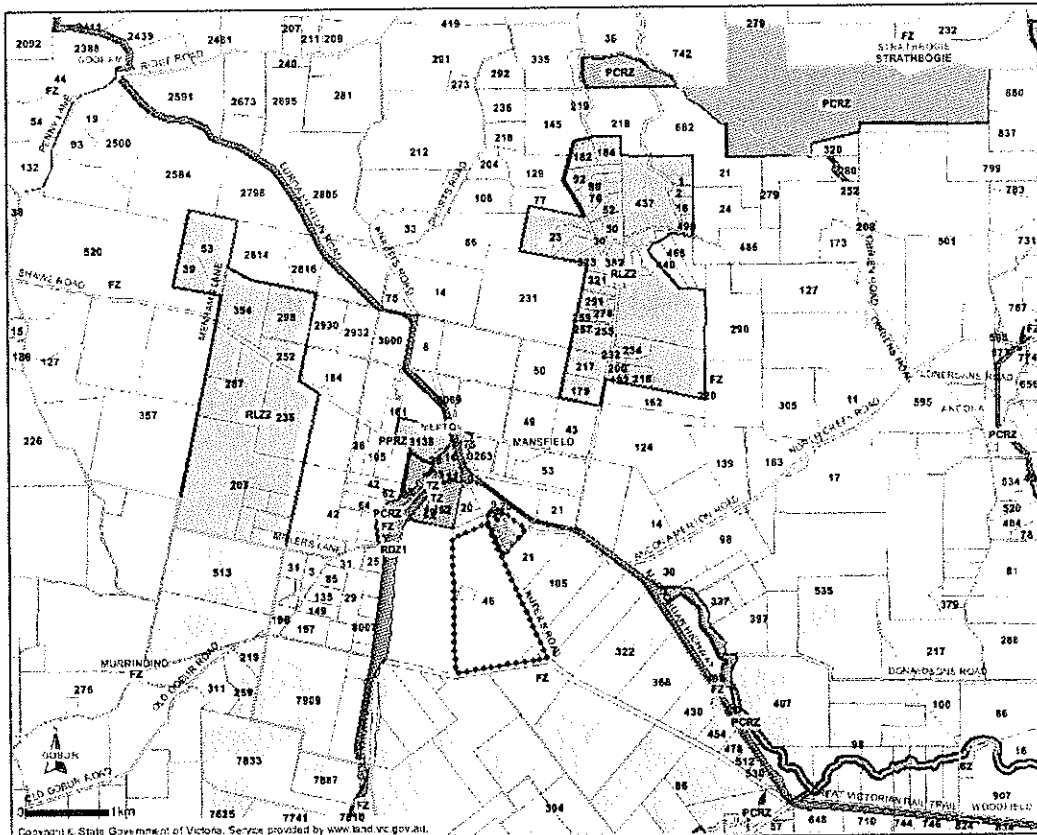
- to rezone land at Shaws Road back to Rural Zone (now referred to as the Farming Zone)
- to rezone the northern part of the land on the Merton-Strathbogie Road back to Rural Zone (now referred to as the Farming Zone) and
- to retain the southern part of that land on the Merton-Strathbogie Road as Rural Living this has access to the sealed section of that road.

Figure 6: MERTON RURAL LIVING AREA



Source: Mansfield Rural Living Strategic Study 2003

The recommendations of the MRLSS **have not been** implemented and Council has retained the existing Rural Living Zone (rezoned to RLZ2) across both areas at Merton as evidenced in the following extract of the Mansfield Planning Scheme.



Source: Planning Maps Online, DELWP, 2017 - Planning Zones. (Subject site highlighted in red outline).

The effect of this failure to endorse the recommendations of the MRLSS and amend the Mansfield Planning Scheme has been reinforced through *Clause 21.03-3* of the Mansfield Planning Scheme which states:

*Other rural living areas are more remote and unable to be economically serviced with infrastructure so the minimum subdivision lot size for these areas is larger (Rural Living Zone Schedule 2). **This was a compromise position to avoid 'back zoning' land from Rural Living to Farming, particularly in the Merton area.***

This compromise position has effectively stopped any development at Merton and more than likely across the Mansfield Shire.

Also the objectives and strategies in *Clause 21.03-3* specifically recommend to avoid further rezoning firstly **the rural living land bank must be reduced** and then **only consider future rezonings** where the land is close to infrastructure and town facilities, of a higher visual amenity and capable of sustaining a higher lot yield and managing wastewater on site

In our client's case the MRLSS specifically aimed to reduce the rural living land bank at Merton. The areas to be back zoned in Merton were recommended due to issues of existing intensive agricultural land use, bushfire, road access and other development impacts. The MRLSS considered retaining these lands in a rural living zone to be an unacceptable situation.

Secondly our client's land meets the other criteria of being close to infrastructure and town facilities, being of higher visual amenity, capable to support development and capable to manage on-site waste water.

The decision by Council not to implement the MRLSS has brought forward the issues predicted in **Section 6.1** and **Section 6.2** of the MRLSS in relation to demand and supply for rural living land.

Those being:

- Council was in 2003 by default catering for demand for rural living land outside specifically zoned rural living areas located within close proximity to villages and towns. The MRLSS describes the impact of that decision on available zoned areas around Mansfield for example.

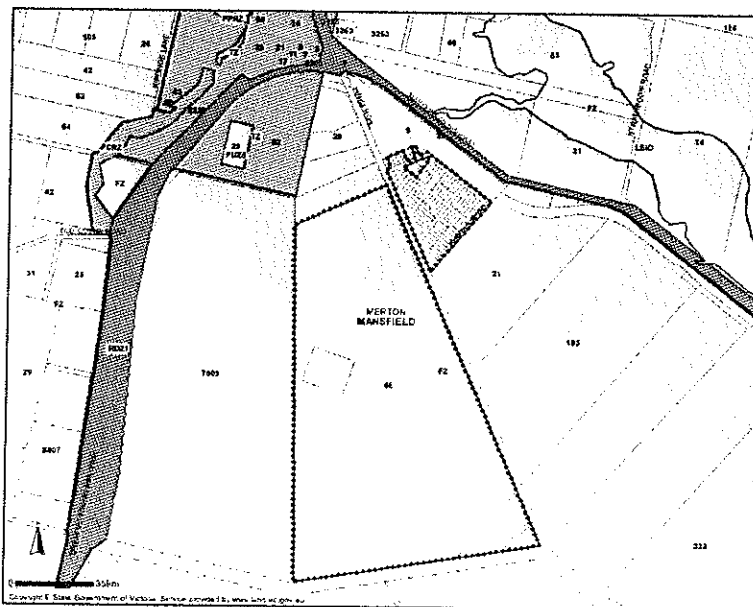
This evidence, even in 2003, supports our request to Council to undertake a comprehensive review of rural lands within Mansfield to re-investigate this issue and make changes to support the MSS objectives to achieve closer rural living settlement around towns and villages. This includes our client's land.

- The anecdotal evidence in the MRLSS indicated that the key impact on land supply was land not being available for development – i.e. not for sale or being “land banked”. The failure to support the recommendations of the MRLSS has effectively land locked any rural lifestyle options around Merton.

This supports our request to review the zonings around Merton, include our client's land as a rural living option and remove those rural living zoned areas that for the past 14 years have stopped any further rural living development options being presented to Council.

5 46 KUBEILS ROAD MERTON

Our client's land is located at 46 Kubeils Road, Merton. The following maps identify the position of our client's land in relation to Merton, with current zoning and aerial imagery.



Source: Planning Maps Online, DELWP, 2017 - Planning Zones and Overlays. (Subject site highlighted in red dot outline).

The land comprises the following titles:

Crown Allotment 41
 Crown Allotment 41C
 Crown Allotment 41B
 Part of Crown Portion 38
 Lots 1 to 9 Block A PS 3554

At this stage no formal development concept is presented to Council for 46 Kubeils Road Merton with this submission.

However our clients have engaged with Council on a number of occasions, exploring a range of rural lifestyle options for the site. This includes eco-villages, other rural land sharing arrangements and rural residential development. For any of these options to proceed they rely on the strategic decision by Council to support changes to the current zoning.

At this stage the following key characteristics of this site for rural living purposes supports the review and changes recommended in this submission:

- The land is located within close proximity to the boundaries of the Merton Township Zone (within 500m)
- The land is not subject to any restrictive overlays, and does not include areas of Cultural Heritage Sensitivity
- The land has good road access, and is has better passive and active accessibility than other land currently zoned RLZ
- There is potential for a public pedestrian/bike linkage to Merton
- The land comprises approximately 148 hectares of land all under single ownership
- The land is available for rural lifestyle development with potential yields of up to 30 additional rural living lots
- The land has a substantial on-site water supply

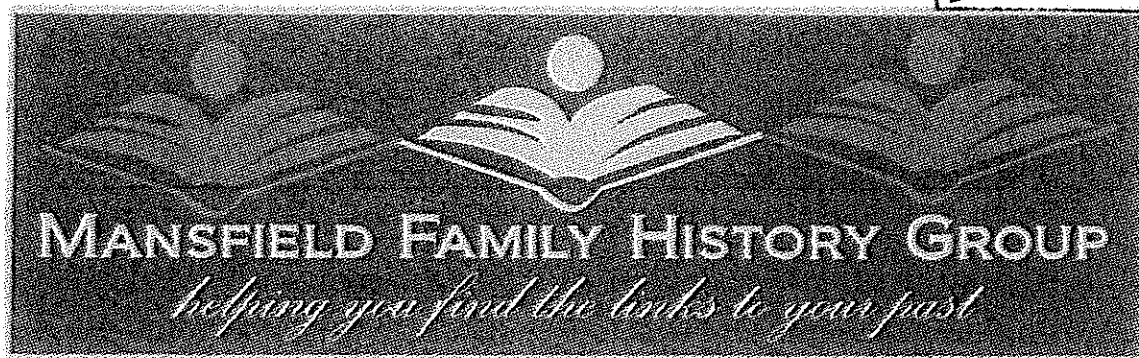
With Council's strategic support, our client would participate in the rural living review and prepare a detailed land site and context assessment to support the inclusion of this land within an appropriate Rural Living zone.

6 CONCLUSION

There is an urgent need to review Council's outdated planning strategies relating to rural living opportunities at Merton. Currently the lack of any serious review has meant that Council will continue to miss opportunities to provide planned rural lifestyle opportunities across the Shire. We look forward to presenting to Council on this submission at the appropriate time to initiate the rezoning of our client's land.

MANSFIELD SHIRE COUNCIL		
30 MAR 2017		
FILE NO	P	W/P
E4653		

47.



March 30, 2017

Alex Green
Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Mansfield
MANSFIELD VIC 3722

Dear Mr Green,

Last week I had what I think is a fantastic proposal put to me to help ease some of the Council's financial woes.

The Mansfield Family History group has been looking for a home since its inception in 2012, and have been requesting Council for use of one of its premises for nearly the same period.

The Mansfield Information Centre is being staffed to a minimum and is only open to the public from 10-3pm daily, a situation which should not happen in a town which relies heavily on tourism for its survival.

The proposal is this: Mansfield Family History Group needs a home and Council need to save money. Allow the Mansfield Family History Group to move into part of the Information Centre, our members will volunteer to staff the Centre for one day per week. We would either assist paid staff – or the paid staff could be spread over six days enabling the Centre's opening hours to return to 9-5. We trust we would not be liable to pay rent as we are volunteering our services.

At present we have 24 members, many of which live in Mansfield and all are agreeable to this proposal. We would initiate a roster system to spread the load and to widen our experience. We would be very willing to undertake in-service training so that our members could deal with this task.

We would have a home where people could come and do their research, and visitors could come and ask us about family history of this region and elsewhere. Our group has many valuable resources; books; computer resources, magazines, equipment including computers and microfiche readers and personal knowledge.

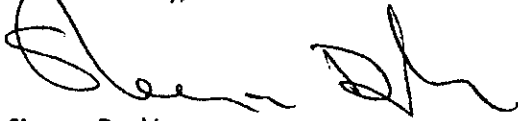
If we couldn't answer the question, we could refer them to the Mansfield Historical Society which operates on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Another plus would be that we would have two history groups in the one Station precinct; I've seen this in operation at Colac and the reciprocal skills and knowledge is beneficial to both groups.

Our group would still utilize the Mansfield Library for our meetings – the digital projector now in situ there, is a must for many of our presentations, and the facilities and staff support are first class.

We think that this proposal is a win/win/win one. Firstly it would be a win for us to have a home and secondly, a win to the Shire of Mansfield in saving money. Finally a win to visitors and public in having family history facilities available and access to information on Mansfield by having increased opening hours at the Mansfield Information Centre.

Yours sincerely,



Sheena Daykin
President
Mansfield Family History Group Inc.

C/o 20 Elvins Street
Mansfield VIC 3722
Phone: 03 57751659 or
0419571410

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

Research your family, get assistance with researching, use our ever growing collection of books and magazines, learn how to access online information and enjoy the friendly social contact on offer by the members.

Members have access to a variety of resource materials including:

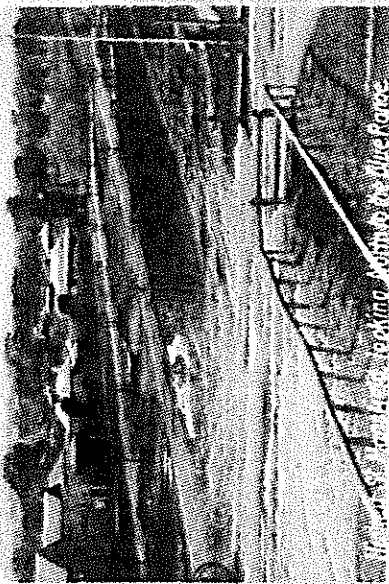
- microfiche (births, deaths & marriages).
- local newspapers,
- member's experiences,
- CD ROMS,
- magazines,
- books and a host of other materials
- use of the library's facilities.

MEMBER RESEARCH INTERESTS

Mansfield Family History Group members have been researching families, their own and others, and names being researched are generally known to members.

The member who is researching names that you are also researching, may be willing to receive a call or email from you.

This information is available to members only. Take advantage of this valuable resource.



HOW WE CAME ABOUT

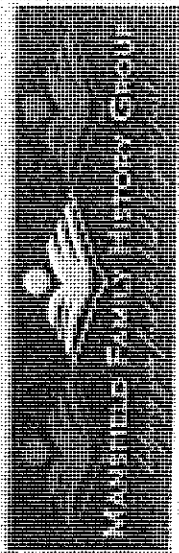
The Group was formed in July 2012 to encourage and advance the study of family history in the area.

We realize that with the great growth in our region, that not all people who reside in Mansfield have been here forever.

We cater for those who are descendants of the pioneers and those who were born elsewhere.

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Mansfield Family History Group Inc. welcomes visitors, researchers and new members.



MEETING TIMES

Monthly - 4th Thursday of the month
Time - 3:30 pm - 5pm

Ad hoc dates for workshops and road trips.

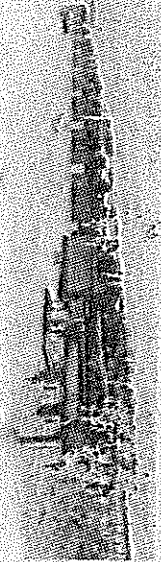
MEETING VENUE

High Country Library Corporation
Mansfield Branch,
Collopy Street
Mansfield Victoria.

The venue is wheelchair accessible.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Joining fee per person: \$10
Annual fees: Single \$25 Couple \$40



BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

Research your family, get assistance with researching, use our ever growing collection of books and magazines, learn how to access online information and enjoy the friendly social contact on offer by the members.

Members have access to a variety of resource materials including:

- microfiche (births, deaths & marriages),
- local newspapers,
- member's experiences,
- CD ROMS,
- magazines,
- books and a host of other materials
- use of the library's facilities.

MEMBER RESEARCH INTERESTS

Mansfield Family History Group members have been researching families, their own and others, and names being researched are generally known to members.

The member who is researching names that you are also researching, may be willing to receive a call or email from you.

This information is available to members only. Take advantage of this valuable resource.



HOW WE CAME ABOUT

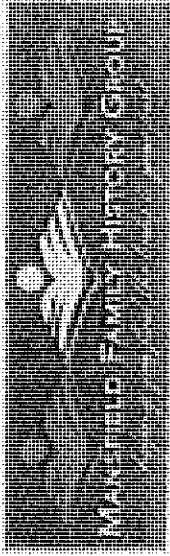
The Group was formed in July 2012 to encourage and advance the study of family history in the area.

We realize that with the great growth in our region, that not all people who reside in Mansfield have been here forever.

We cater for those who are descendants of the pioneers and those who were born elsewhere.

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Mansfield Family History Group Inc. welcomes visitors, researchers and new members.



MEETING TIMES

Monthly - 4th Thursday of the month
Time - 3:30 pm - 3pm

Ad hoc dates for workshops and road trips

MEETING VENUE

High Country Library Corporation
Mansfield Branch,
Collopy Street
Mansfield Victoria.

The venue is wheelchair accessible.

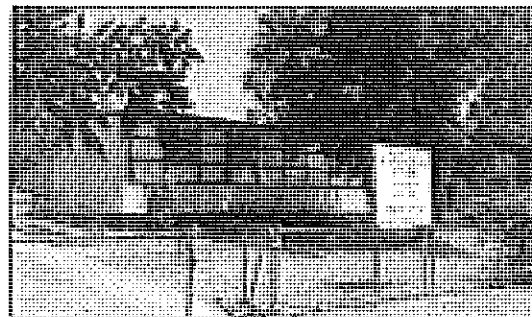
MEMBERSHIP FEES

Joining fee per person: \$10
Annual fees: Single \$25 Couple \$40



*Bonnie Doon Community Group Incorporating**Bonnie Doon Community Centre*

ABN : 76 165 429 404
 Arnot Street
 Bonnie Doon, Vic. 3720
 Tel.: (03) 5778 7722
 Fax: (03) 5778 7699
 Email: bdccentre@bigpond.com
 Web: www.bonniecoon.net



Cr. Paul Sladdin
 Mansfield Shire Council
 Locked Bag 1000
 Mansfield, Vic. 3724
 March 30th 2017

cc. CEO and Councilors

Dear Paul,

In 1999 Bonnie Doon Primary School closed and The Bonnie Doon Community Group campaigned tirelessly for three years to save the school building and establish it as a Community Centre, which opened in June 2004 and now provides many opportunities for local employment, education, health services and social networks.

Visitation to the Community Centre has been consistently growing and we are now getting approximately 120 people per month. We are a Neighborhood House and now funded for 20 hours per week although our coordinator and volunteers regularly do many more hours. Activities at the Centre include everything from computer classes, line dancing, yoga, book club, seniors' lunches, a youth group and professional services such as a visiting doctor and podiatrist.

We have outgrown not just the present kitchen but also office space and storage which would all be accommodated in the project. This project proposes an extension to the Community Centre that includes a new kitchen that is of commercial standard and can be registered which in-turn will expand the scope of activities and events the Bonnie Doon Community Centre can support.

The project will also update and rejuvenate the existing Community Centre that currently looks very much the same as it did when it was a school. In addition the Community Centre has been identified as a potential Emergency Relief Centre location and this project will include electrical modifications to allow for items such as generators, in the likely event that there is no power during an emergency.

We have been working with local draftsmen and tradesmen to develop plans for the project and a builder estimate for the total project cost is in the order of \$300,000. We have consulted with Kim Chadband from Regional Development Victoria in regards to funding for this project and we hope to apply to the Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund. This fund has a \$1:\$3 ratio. We intend submitting a funding application within the next few months.

34

Given that Council is currently running workshops on the 17/18 budget we would like to initiate a conversation to request that the Mansfield Shire Council, as the owner of the building, make a contribution to the project in their 17/18 budget.

With our current cost estimations our financial input will be \$35,000 and we hope that the Shire will match this amount so that the total cash contribution to the project is \$70,000. The community will also contribute up-to \$30,000 in-kind. This means that the total co-contribution for the project will be in the order of \$100,000, augmented by \$200,000 State Government funding totaling the available funds for the project to \$300,000.

We are looking forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Nola Evans

Nola Evans

49.

Kylie Russell
School Council President
Jamieson Primary School
The Sideling
Jamieson, 3723
0429 486 168

MANSFIELD SHIRE COUNCIL		
2 MAR 2017		
FILE NO. E4653	2	10/P

27th February, 2017

Dear Cr Westendorp

I am writing on behalf of Jamieson Primary School Council in regards to the escalation in traffic along The Sideling in Jamieson. Due to the growth in fulltime residents and holiday makers, as well as the increase in the number of children at the school, the dust issue caused by traffic has increased dramatically.

The dust lingers and settles over the school creating issues with electrical, computer equipment and kitchen facilities. As a school community however, our greatest concern is the effect it poses to health related issues for particular students. Asthma is a real risk at Jamieson Primary School, and whilst we have our own management plans in place, and we make a concerted effort to reduce triggers, we feel that the increased dust is problematic.

Sealing the road out the front of the school for the first 200 metres would be an effective measure to reduce the potential triggers. We try to maintain a healthy and safe environment for the children and ask that Council please help us in this regard.

Your feedback would be valued and we appreciate all that the Mansfield Shire Council do for our wonderful community out here at Jamieson.

Yours sincerely

Kylie Russell

M. G. Bolwell
School Principal

Rebecca Bolwell - school council member
→ parent



Idea for balancing budget

adelemac15 to: Lisa.Fricke

20/04/2017 04:45 AM

From: "adelemac15" <adelemac15@bigpond.com>,
To: "Lisa.Fricke" <Lisa.Fricke@mansfield.vic.gov.au>,,

Please consider the environment before printing this email

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Hi Lisa,

Â

Iâ€™ve been working on an idea since reading about some of the suggestions for balancing the shire budget and I think that as parking is a problem when there are multitudes of visitors to town we should be able to tap into their visiting by having them help support the shire and although there would be an initial outlay parking metres would help in the long run.

Â

The only issue would be that locals should not be hit again and again when the visitors may help the economy for the shop keepers it means locals are still providing these visitors with the infrastructure they are enjoying for free.

Â

When I visit my youngest daughter in an inner city Melbourne suburb â€” I have to park my car in her driveway as there is no parking without a permit in her street. Each property has two permits to park in the street, so both she and her husband park in the street when I go to stay or visit.Â I was thinking that a similar system could be instigated for locals in Mansfield shire with a parking permit (for the prescribed limit per spot) to be stuck to the windscreen such as they do for a season pass to Mt Buller. Easy to see and not transferable.

Â

If you have ever driven through what was the main shopping strip in Shepparton you will notice that many of the shops are empty now, hardly anyone parks at the parking metres, even the parking areas behind the shops are barely used. The locals have taken to shopping where there is free parking. Even the red cross blood bank moved to a new position where there is free parking. So free parking for locals is important to keep the local economy vibrant.

Â

02

This way the tourists are paying for the privilege of taking up all the parking spots in the main street. There can be pay points to avoid having to have separate parking metres for each parking spot.

Â

There was another suggestion of a bed fee mentioned in something I read on the subject. This is a great idea. It doesn't have to be a big fee even \$5 a head which is about the same as a cuppa down the street and it would make a big difference to the shire budget to have this regular income particularly during the winter. The visitors won't even notice it.

Â

One other area where you could perhaps recoup some funds is from when there are home games at the footy oval. The people who live close to the venue often have vehicles parked so close to their driveways and along the roadway that it's difficult to get in and out of their own properties. If the footy club put their prices up slightly and passed that on to council then more inconvenience to locals would be actually benefitting the shire and not just the visitors.

Â

Â

Please pass this on to Alex and anyone else working on finding a solution. They may be able to develop something to make it work from these thoughts so I thought I would pass them on.

Â

Bye for now

Â

Adele

Â

Adele McCormack

45 McCormacks Rd

Merrijig 3723

Â

0357775637

0409600655

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Bonnie Doon Recreation Reserve Inc.

51

Zimmerman Ave, Bonnie Doon
PO Box 208, Bonnie Doon 3720
ABN: 28310391588
Ph: 0408565760

Mr Alex Green
Mansfield Shire Council
Locked Bag 1000
Mansfield VIC 3724

31 March 2017

Dear Mr Green

On behalf of the Bonnie Doon Recreation Reserve I am writing to you regarding the maintenance agreement of the recreation reserve and the Mansfield Shire.

This agreement has expired and we would like for this to be renewed.

With the ever increasing expectations of the public for better facilities we feel we are unable to provide enough resources for the upkeep of the facilities.

We acknowledge and are appreciative of the help that we have received from the Shire in the past but with the facility a neighborhood safe place and the placement of the community bore we need the agreement we have in place to continue.

Yours Faithfully

Stuart Fox
Committee Member
Bonnie Doon Recreation Reserve

CURTIS/19915-

MANSFIELD SHIRE COUNCIL

19 NOV 2015

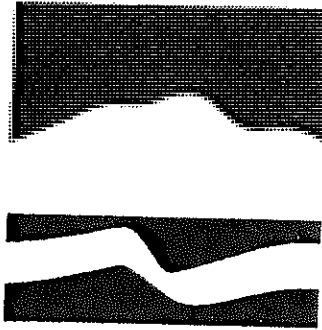
FILE NO.

AG1047

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MANSFIELD SHIRE

Bonnie Doon Recreation Reserve Maintenance Agreement

Endorsed by Council on 20 October 2015



**This agreement is between Mansfield Shire Council (Council) and the
Bonnie Doon Recreation Reserve Committee of Management (Committee)**

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this agreement is to formalise each organisation's roles and responsibilities, commitments and approach to the maintenance of the Bonnie Doon Recreation Reserve.

BACKGROUND

The Bonnie Doon Recreation Reserve Committee of Management and Mansfield Shire Council (Council) have entered into an agreement regarding the maintenance and joint use of the Bonnie Doon Recreation Reserve. This encompasses a long-standing informal arrangement of Council mowing the Reserve.

THE AGREEMENT

- Council will mow the Recreation Reserve playing surface fortnightly or on an as needs basis.
- Council will herbicide spray the fence line of the playing surface during high growth periods.
- Council will grant the committee a payment of \$2000 at the beginning of the financial year for maintenance and improvement works agreed to by both parties to Recreation Reserve assets.
- The committee will allow Council and Emergency Services exclusive use to establish an Emergency Recovery Centre during a time of emergency and until the time of recovery concludes.
- Council will be liable for full restitution of any damage to the Reserve associated with the establishment of a Emergency Recovery Centre.
- The Committee will provide a 24 hour contact to be included in the Municipal Emergency Management Plan to be kept confidential to Emergency management staff only.

Council's cash contribution is capped at an annual amount of \$2,000. Council accepts no responsibility for payment of any cost escalations or blow-outs associated with the agreement. The committee will be required to provide a reconciliation to Council at the end of the financial year to support the expense of the \$2,000.



MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

The Council will meet with the Bonnie Doon Recreation Committee of Management annually to review the agreement and provide advice and support to the group. A timeline for maintenance works will be agreed between Council and the Committee at the commencement of any works. Any alterations to timelines will be mutually agreed to.

VOLUNTEERS

The Bonnie Doon Recreation Committee of Management is responsible for the management of volunteers and to ensure work being conducted by volunteers is carried out in a safe manner.

PROCUREMENT AND TENDERING OF WORKS

From time to time, Council may be responsible for the procurement of materials and tendering of any works in relation to this agreement. Council will provide the Committee with information about products, materials and contractors. The Committee may be responsible for obtaining quotations. The Committee will indicate their preferred products, materials or contractors. Council will be responsible for the tendering processes and final selection of suppliers and contractors. Procurement will be in accordance with Council's **Procurement Policy** (copy will be provided on request).

Any items of expenditure to be charged to Council shall be approved by Council prior to ordering.

OUR COMMITMENTS

Each organisation is committed to working in partnership to implement the agreement and fulfill the objectives.

All future work on the Project will be conducted within the **Community Development Charter** (Appendix 1) framework and will strive to uphold and realise the principles and goals contained within it, including the following principles:

- **Inclusiveness & participation** – all people in the community having an equal opportunity to be involved.
- **Respect** – being respectful of different views, backgrounds and ideas.
- **Empowerment** – working to build communities with the voice, knowledge, skills and support to decide and do things for themselves.
- **Collective action** – working together to achieve our shared visions and goals.
- **Communication** – striving to communicate regularly, honestly and openly with one another
- **Sustainability** – finding ways to meet our communities' present needs, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs.
- **Learning** – learning through doing, and sharing experiences to build knowledge into the future.



CONDUCT

Parties agree that they will:

- Act in good faith
- Act with integrity
- Declare any conflict or potential conflict of interest.
- Impartially exercise their responsibilities in the interests of the objectives of the project
- Treat all persons with respect and have due regard for the opinions, beliefs, rights and responsibilities of other persons
- Commit to active participation and contributions to the intent of the agreement
- Not make improper use of information acquired because of their position that may contravene privacy and/or confidentiality of any party to this Agreement.

ACCESS AND INCLUSION

The Committee agrees to support the principles of Mansfield Shire Access and Inclusion Charter (Appendix 2).

DURATION OF AGREEMENT

This agreement will commence on the 1 July 2015 and end on the 30 June 2016.



BONNIE DOON RECREATION RESERVE MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT

SIGNED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF:

Mansfield Shire Council

Signed..... *A. Green*

Name..... *Alex Green*

Date..... *20 OCT 15.*

Bonnie Doon Recreation Reserve Committee of Management

Signed..... *[Signature]*

Name..... *David Ingpen*

Date..... *18/oct/2015*

Bonnie Doon Recreation Reserve Committee of Management

Signed..... *Stuart Fox*

Name..... *Stuart Fox*

Date..... *18/11/2015*

Feedback to Mansfield Shire proposed 17/18 budget: Mick Ellis

Dear Councillors

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback to the proposed budget and also for the opportunity to meet with both the CEO and Mayor and deputy Mayor throughout the development and consultation process.

I should also note that I have on request been provided with information which is a refreshing response from the Shire and its officers.

It is also worth noting that despite any shortcomings that may have arisen from the recent community forums this is a tremendous approach to engage with our community and I would like to encourage you to consider such an approach to become a standing methodology in future budget deliberations.

I would be interested to see a summary report of the outcomes of these forums and if a report was provided to Council which outlined the issues and suggestions raised. I am unaware of such a reports existence.

I note that despite the doom and gloom projections of a \$700,000 reduction target that the current budget forecasts savings of only \$465,708 which to my mind suggests that there may be insufficient rigour applied throughout this budget development and requires a further round of saving initiatives to be identified in future budgets.

At the outset of my response I would like to indicate that I do not intend to go through the budget line by line against the macro financial information I have been provided but intend to provide more general comments and suggestions for your consideration.

As a general statement I believe that the savings identified are somewhat opportunistic and piecemeal and fail to demonstrate that Council has taken the opportunity to closely examine its entire operations and staffing structures against clearly defined future strategic directions. In other words a strategic analysis of the entire functions of council does not appear to have occurred rather cherry picking has happened. This approach does not in my experience result in sustainable coherent structural or cultural change.

I note for example that in the statement of Human Resources at 3.6 which includes projections to FY end 2021 that staffing levels are to remain constant and indeed if you back out externally fully funded positions there is a slight increase year on year between last year and this of council funded positions. This is despite some minimal EFT reductions accruing from the non-replacement of the Economic Development Manager position and the School Crossing Supervisors.

I note also that staffing levels are to remain constant across the forward projection period.

It also appears from the information received that there is only minimal change to operating costs again apart from a very small number of program areas.



I also note that there appears to be minimal cuts to corporate services yet a significant reduction to volunteer support with the latter being a centrepiece of council future directions.

This paints a picture of a reluctance to review the entire operations of council and is one of making decisions in a fragmented and piecemeal manner. It also plays into the hands of critics that argue that the staffing levels in the Shire are way too high and quite frankly it does not appear that council is able to debate this view. Perhaps even more damning is the view that whilst happy to cut services to the ratepayers there is quite a reluctance to look internally at your own operations and share the pain of budget reductions.

Recommendation 1:

That council direct an independent review occur of all internal operations that also considers benchmarking staffing levels against 4- 5 councils of similar size and complexity with such review to be completed no later than Dec 2017 so that it's outcomes can drive next year's budget. The terms of reference of this review should also include the intention to reduce operating expenditure and staffing levels by say 10%.

All savings identified through this process should then be applied to enhancing direct service levels.

I note there is passing reference to seeking opportunities for shared service delivery with other local service providers. This should be seen as a major driver of potential operational efficiencies and budget savings and should not be confined to shared services but should also consider the potential for contracting out of (particularly back of house) services and supports.

Such opportunities are being pursued by a large number of agencies throughout Australia and indeed the world and should include areas such as Human resources, IT, payroll, purchasing, etc etc. and should run alongside and influence the operational review proposed above.

Recommendation 2:

That council direct the CEO to provide a report and recommendations as to the potential for contracting out of services by Oct 2017 that can be considered in the development of next year's budget.

Should both of the above recommendations be actioned I believe they will garner more than enough efficiencies to not only reduce the \$700,000 shortfall but also fund more services and infrastructure within the Shire.

I believe it essential for the Council to own and direct such action to ensure you are adequately informed of possible saving initiatives prior to receiving recommendations on next year's budget. Indeed these actions should form part of the CEO's performance plan which I assume is established with him and the Council each year and monitored on at least a quarterly basis. I would be interested to be informed as to whether such a process is occurring.

In regard to particular matters in the budget papers I provide the following comments:

- Whilst I agree with the reduction in community grants I wonder why other grants have not also been examined. In particular I am interested to note that whilst happy to cut small

grants to local community based agencies Council is happy to maintain a significant grant of some \$37,500 to support the running of Targa which is a privately based and I assume profit based organisation external to our local community.

- The intent to strengthen the community advisory capacity to Council is fully supported and indeed long overdue.
- The sale of land and facilities surplus to requirements and ensuring proceeds are quarantined for new capital projects is fully supported and perhaps should be broadened to include an analysis of all such land and facilities beyond those already mentioned. This analysis should also include any leases.
- I note the intent to stop funding the school crossing supervisors on the premise of avoiding cost shifting from other agencies and also note that there has been successful negotiation to increase the contribution from Vicroads to 50%. Whilst fully supportive of stopping cost shifting in this instance I believe that if there is a funding requirement to maintain current levels after the 50% from Vicroads the Council should maintain the funding at the current level for at least 12 months to allow further negotiations and lobbying to occur. This will impact on budget projections but I believe Council has an obligation to ensure safety for perhaps our most vulnerable demographic cohort and should heaven help us an incident occur on a crossing will be a lot cheaper than legal and insurance costs after the event. I must say I am surprised and have found somewhat distasteful that Council has used the safety of our children as a political bargaining chip.

The most concerning matter for me after the broad matters raised above relate to the significant diminution and disregard for the Economic Development function within the councils operations.

Not only has the manager's position not been replaced the operational budget appears to have suffered and reporting arrangements now have the rump of this unit reporting as part of the Community Service portfolio.

To go to the matter of reporting arrangements first I can see no plausible logic or coherence in this decision other than some sense that it needs to be managed by someone.

Simply by definition there is no relationship between these areas as one (community services) is a service provider and end user of grants and council funds whilst the other (economic development) is perhaps the only unit within the Shire that can drive our economic development and increase revenues.

It is a huge ask for anyone to effectively manage and drive both these functions and I believe there is a strong argument that economic development should be reporting directly to the CEO.

Whilst this function has been underutilised by previous administrations and perhaps captured by various interest groups there is now a fantastic opportunity to reframe our expectations of what economic development is all about and drive the development of business opportunities and growth and thus revenue within the shire.

This function should be driving development of business opportunities across a diverse range of portfolios including but not limited to the sectors of agriculture, manufacturing, alternative energy,

tourism, property development and community facilities and be intrinsically linked to the councils strategic plan and other units within council.

I would implore the council to review what expectations it has of economic development within the shire and grasp the opportunities the right unit with the right people could provide.

It is this unit that will drive future economic growth within the Shire.

Recommendation 3:

That council commission a review of the economic development function taking account of exemplar units within other shires within Victoria and interstate with the intent of clearly defining this function and in particular the growth and revenue drivers and that such review be completed by no later than Jan 2018 so that the reviews outcomes can be considered in developing the 2018/2019 budget.

I acknowledge that budget development is difficult at the best of times and more so when a council has inherited embedded financial difficulties but firmly believe the current proposals lack the strategic grunt to not only fully address our current difficulty but also develop a more strategic intent into the future.

I thank you for the opportunity to provide comment which I have attempted to do in a constructive and proactive manner.

I am happy to discuss these matters further and will be delighted to attend a council meeting if you wish.

Regards
Mick Ellis
779 Long Lane Mansfield
0419876715



Submission for budget

adelemac15 to: council

10/05/2017 10:02 AM

From: "adelemac15" <adelemac15@bigpond.com>,
To: "council" <council@mansfield.vic.gov.au>,,

Please consider the environment before printing this email

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Good morning Alex,

Â

Iâ€™ve just perused the budget savings proposal online and although I donâ€™t pretend to understand it all it certainly looks like you have all been putting in a lot of work to see where savings can be made.

Â

I speak to people about this every now and then, particularly when there is criticism on social media which is usually self-interest driven â€” pretending to be concerned about the greater good.

Â

When speaking to my daughter, she said she wanted to suggest that the council rezone some areas of farming land for residential development which is close to towns, main intersections or settlements. Iâ€™ve been thinking about this suggestion and remember meeting an elderly couple from South Australia when I was travelling around Australia with the caravan. They too were touring with a motorhome and said this was not the retirement plan â€” the old man said he had planned to keep working the farm as long as he was able then hand it over to his son.

Â

What went wrong with that plan I asked, and he said that the council had rezoned his farm as residential and the rates went up accordingly â€” so much so that he could not afford to keep it as a farm. This did allow him to buy more land to give to his son to farm and he and his wife the freedom to roam around Australia at their leisure.

Â

So perhaps her suggestion is not a bad idea. I donâ€™t know if she had made a submission or not â€” I did suggest she do so. I thought I would mention this precedent in case your council want to consider doing something similar. It

may
bring more people to the district if farmers are forced out by higher
rates,
but more people brings more money.

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Iâ€™m sorry but I donâ€™t know how to write formal submissions â€” I hope
you can
understand though what I am saying clearly enough.

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Sincerely yours

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Adele

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Adele McCormack

45 McCormacks Rd

Merrijig 3723

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0357775637

0409600655

Â

54.



Re: Submissions for issues in the Mansfield Shire and surrounding areas for the upcoming budget that require addressing.

delkate to: delkate, council

19/05/2017 02:11 PM

From: "delkate" <delkate@bigpond.com>,
To: "delkate" <delkate@bigpond.com>,, "council" <council@mansfield.vic.gov.au>,,

Hi again, I would also like to discuss the measures being put in place to have the sports facilities/recreational area at the bottom end of the Mansfield Secondary College completed. And what action plan do you have to help facilitate the numerous people that would benefit from these playing grounds from having further works being done?

Please consider the environment before printing this email

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Regards,

Derek Smith

----- Original Message -----

From: "KATE KELLY" <delkate@bigpond.com>
To: council@mansfield.vic.gov.au
Sent: Wednesday, 10 May, 2017 At 1:31 AM
Subject: Submissions for issues in the Mansfield Shire and surrounding areas for the upcoming budget that require addressing.

Good evening to the Mansfield Shire Council members and Associates.

My name is Derek Smith and I reside at #1 View Street, Mansfield. My contact mobile phone number is #0407 953337.

1. I am writing you as a result of a meeting I attended at the Nobian building held at the Mansfield Primary School last week in which the main topic of discussion was the payment/funding issues of the school crossing supervisors within the Mansfield electorate. There were discussions in relation to the payment of the school crossing supervisors who in my belief, provide a very important role in the safety of our children attending and leaving the immediate areas surrounding the schools within the Mansfield township areas.

As you may be aware, I was a Victorian Police officer for a period of 21+ years and I was stationed at the Mansfield Police Station for 15 of the them. I have a very sound knowledge of the safety issues brought to the attention of the council in the recent weeks previous to this meeting when it was suggested that there will be no further funding for the school crossing supervisors and they are to be laid off due to the lack of funds at the end of the month. A suggestion was bought to the attention of people attending that there would be a report submitted in early 2018. If Vic Roads/Roads Corp' are to fund you the 50% promised, I suggest that the crossing supervisor's be

kept
on until the safety report has been completed as the 50% will cover their
wages
until then.

I have been led to believe that Vic Roads/Roads Corporation have finally
come
to the table with a an offer at this stage of 50% of the funds required
to
have the supervisor's employed and that, at this stage, the council will
have
to fund the outstanding amount. I have found that the suggestion of having
to
lay off the crossing supervisors to be absolutely ridiculous and a definite
safety issue to, not only the children coming and going from school but
also to
other users such as the elderly and the disabled. These crossing provide a
safe
and logical way of attending the schools in and around the township in a
safe
and timely manner.

I believe that both Vic Roads and the Shire have a moral and legal
obligation
to provide safety to it's citizens and alike. ^ ^

2. I would also like to bring up several other issues within the township
which
I believe need urgent attention in regards to the safety to the
people/children, senior citizens and motor vehicle driver's who reside
here.
The second one I would like to bring to your attention is the state and
condition of the one of the busier streets which amasses a large number of
both
vehicle and pedestrian traffic, that being View Street. View Street is the
main
route to the Mansfield Secondary College and is in dire need of urgent
repair.
The drainage, curb and channeling is virtually non existent and is
definitely a
major safety issue for buses, motor vehicles and the pedestrians that
utilise
this street, Mainly for the dropping off and picking up of the school kids.

The issue is that the drainage leading from the eastern end of View Street
heading west down to the intersection of Highett Street is all over the
place.
This road has been requiring urgent repairs since I have moved here
approximately 8 years ago. One of the main issues of course is that the
drains
during the wet winter months or when we receive a decent dump of rain is
that
the drains running north south from the intersection of View Street into
Highett Street immediately block up and flood the intersection and roadway
with
mud and water causing everybody a big fat headache and causes immediate
confusion. This then leads to the View Street drains, which are non existent
at
times and all of the driveway drains are of different sizes on the south
side
and not properly installed or lined up, causing it to back flow and choke
up
what is left. The water then sits all over the road with a lot of silt,
rocks
and mud all over a large area of the road.

Further to this, the street itself is not wide enough for two large buses/cars to pass each other without a considerable risk of damage or injury. If they were to move over too far and end up in the little culverts dug out by council each year. I don't know what the maintenance cost is for the council to come in and repair these issues time and time again when the rain pours down. And when you exit View Street onto Highett Street, the road is a murky coloured, brown silt and water combination which becomes quite deep and treacherous for the people utilising this area. Sooner or later someone is going to have a serious accident due to this by either colliding into another vehicle or a pedestrian/push bike rider being struck. At times you cannot see the road markings and also where the actual culvert drains are.

Then there is the problem of because of all of the water spewing onto the road, it causes the tar that had been laid down to dissolve, sink and break away causing very large and long pot holes which have to also be continually repaired at the councils cost. How about doing the job once and in the correct way which should save the council thousands and thousands of dollars. Â

3. My lucky last submission is again in relation to safety of pedestrians heading west down past the Mansfield Hospital which is a down hill dip. At the bottom of this little hill is Loch Street which is a well used carriageway for children and many vehicles leaving the Mansfield Primary School travelling south along Loch Street to the intersection of Malcolm Street. I see it in two perspectives, one being that if a child is travelling west along Malcolm Street on a bike or scooter or similar, who are leaving mainly from the Mansfield Secondary College and St.Mary;s students. As they approach the intersection, they have no clear view of what, if any vehicles are travelling along Loch Street and are in serious danger of being struck by a motor vehicle. From the other perspective, cars travelling south along Loch Street cannot see as they approach the intersection, any vehicles and again a collision is imminent. I would like to propose that maybe a speed hump or similar be placed just before the intersection slowing vehicles down as they approach the footpath and the stop sign which is located past the footpath area. And/or a sign be placed on the northern footpath to ward the pedestrians of the upcoming danger of vehicles coming out of Loch Street onto Malcolm Street.

Thankyou for your considerations in these matters.

Forwarded for your attention and reply.

Regards,

Derek Smith

Â

36 Bushland Close

Tolmie

17th May, 2017

Mr A Green
CEO, Mansfield Shire
Highbury St
Mansfield.

Dear Mr Green,

In your document "Mansfield Shire Proposed Budget 2017-18" the Mayor is requesting comment and public submissions on the Council's resources, their allocation across the services provided by the Shire and the sourcing of these resources. Far too much detail is missing from the document to permit verification of statements and any but superficial commentary which, with the lack of concrete data soon degenerates into generalizations and guesswork – helpful feedback can hardly be generated from such a document with the waste of potential useful, thoughtful and constructive input towards the solution of the problem an opportunity squandered.

Information missing from the document includes details about the statutory obligations of the Shire, the financial backing of these and the cause of discrepancies between funding and expenditure. Details of assets of the Shire that need to be maintained and the provisions for the support of this when the costing was being done is not available. Which of the "services" the Shire provides that fall into the visionary category that it could be suggested is funded by those who benefit rather than forcing the curtailment of "essential" services to the community are not specified. No useful, coherent analysis of the tables can be made without this detail.

It is acknowledged that the economy of the Mansfield area is based on tourism, agriculture and some business. However, Strategic Objective 1: Participation and Partnerships is one such area where there is a paucity of detail permitting analysis. It is known that there is a formula applied to applications for funding under this Objective. However, neither the formula (formulae?) nor the data substituted into it are available. Besides this, questions such as how often are the data reviewed, how are cost/ benefit analyses carried out and how frequently, exactly who in the Shire reaps these benefits, what are these community members asked to contribute to the costs rather than all who may not benefit at all but even to the contrary, be hampered by the activities ...the list is incomplete!

A personal insight into this through involvement in both the Targa and the Early Model Holden Club of Australia – both events occurring within the past 12 months illustrates the difficulty. The Holdens received no monetary input from the Shire beyond the outstanding support given by Pam Hume to facilitate their plans. (Cost: Pam's salary for the time she spent working on this activity.) The Club made all the usual contributions to accommodation, fuel, groceries, etc that are expected from any visitor to the town over a prolonged visit. They made presentations of over \$7500 each to the CFA and the Hospital – the profit from their championships while in the town.

Contrast this to Targa which is subsidised by the Shire annually to the amount of \$37500 based on the "formula". The numbers of entries to the event have been fluctuating downwards over the past



five years, only a very selected group of providers of accommodation, catering etc receive their patronage and most members of the community are inconvenienced by road closures while they conduct their racing. The CFA Brigades who must provide back up in case of accidents that cause fire in their communities do not even get a thank you letter.

Based on this anecdotal analysis, it is suggested that funding for Strategic Objective 1 would be an appropriate starting point for reviewing expenditure by the application basic cost / benefit analyses. Where else this process would be of benefit, it is difficult to determine due the poor quality of the data made available.

Yours sincerely,

Sharron Jones

Tim Ross + Andy Satchell.
56.

FORDS CREEK LANDCARE GROUP

PO Box 1
Mansfield 3724
www.up2us.org.au



10th May, 2017

Mr Alex Green
Chief Executive Officer
Mansfield Shire Council
By email

Dear Alex,

Thanks for the opportunity to review and contribute to the development of the 2017-2021 Council Plan. This submission is lodged on behalf of Fords Creek Landcare Group. The group was one of the earliest Landcare groups in the region, having been formed in approx. 1991. It operated successfully for many years before going into recess in about 2005. The group reformed in 2016. It is currently building on work undertaken along Fords Creek within the Mansfield township by a small group of dedicated volunteers over the past six years.

Having a Council Plan that clearly supports environmental action and outcomes is highly important to our group, particularly when we are pursuing external funding opportunities. Funding organizations are often keen to understand whether landcare organizations have community support for their work, and a sympathetic Council Plan can be a powerful expression of such .

We are heartened by some clear statements within the Council plan about the importance of the environment. In particular we note the comment "we also understand that the protection and enhancement of the beautiful natural environment in which we live is key to our quality of life", and other comments about the importance of the natural environment (and it's vital link to amenity), in the preface to Strategic Direction Four "Enhanced Liveability". There are also some important actions under strategic direction four that, as they are implemented, will help to protect and enhance the natural environment.

Unfortunately, there does not appear to be a Strategic Objective that provides a clear and unambiguous statement that our Community values the natural environment. There are also some clear omissions in terms of actions. Of particular concern is the failure to recognize the importance of Council working with community landcare organizations such as ours. There is also a lack of detail in the sorts of actions needed, with no reference to key issues such as weed control, biodiversity initiatives, sustainable agriculture, and native vegetation.

In this respect we draw your attention to the previous Council Plan 2013 to 2017, which in its Goal 4.1 and following actions contained a great deal of detail, whose inclusion, we believe, would improve the current draft Council Plan.

We respectfully request that Council make some changes to the draft Council Plan, specifically.....

- Include an additional Strategic Objective 4.5 making a clear and unambiguous statement of Council and community support for the protection and enhancement of our natural environment.
- Include under this additional objective relevant already planned actions such as i) review/ implement the Environment Strategy, and ii) review/implement the Waste Management Strategy.
- Include specific reference to partnering and supporting community Landcare (and others) organizations working in this space.
- Specifically identify priorities, such as sustainable agriculture, native vegetation, biodiversity and weeds.

Linking local communities and the Fords Creek environment



FORDS CREEK LANDCARE GROUP

PO Box 1

Mansfield 3724

www.up2us.org.au



We also submit that it is important that there be Performance Measures linked to environment-related actions in the Council Plan; in many cases these will fit under the 'influence' heading (to use Council terminology), but we feel it is important to get some measure of performance to be able to gauge progress over time.

A final comment, and a question.

- We'd like to briefly note that despite the stated importance of the environment to our community, that Council allocates quite limited resources to this cause. From the draft Council Budget, I note that a gross of just \$107k is allocated to the 'Environment' (less in net terms, after factoring in associated revenues). I understand that much of this expenditure relates to enforcement actions, leaving a quite limited capacity for planning, strategy and partnership development.
- We would be interested to know whether any costs relating to reviewing the Environment Strategy have been built into the budget.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Council Plan. Our group would be happy to work with Council staff to incorporate some of our suggestions, should you so desire.

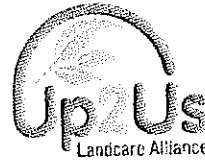
Please contact me should you wish to discuss further.

Regards,

Andrew Setchell

Chairman, Fords Creek Landcare Group

Linking local communities and the Fords Creek environment



Caring for Mansfield's Environment
 Shop 3, 12-22 Highett Street
 Mansfield VIC 3722
 landcare@up2us.org.au
 (03) 5775 2770

10th May 2017

Mr Alex Green
 Chief Executive officer
 Mansfield Shire Council
 Private Bag 1000
 MANSFIELD VIC 3724

Dear Mr Alex Green

Re: Up2Us submission in response to the Council Plan and Budget 2017-2021

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Mansfield Shire Council plan and budget. We appreciate that there has been consultation in helping our community understand the issues, especially relating to the financial restrictions of the Shire Council for the 2017-2018 financial year.

Up2Us Landcare Alliance (Up2Us) is the Landcare network assisting landholders within the Mansfield Shire to value, support and extend environmental attributes of the region. Our organisation supports six independent Landcare groups within the Shire boundaries totalling approximately 200 properties (individual membership being almost double). In addition our network supports four associated groups and all of the schools in biodiversity and environmental education.

Our statement of purpose as seen in our strategic plan 2017-2021 is that; "Up2Us is a community organisation within Mansfield Shire which aims to lead in the preservation, protection and enhancement of our land and water ecosystems by empowering community and individuals to act".

We endeavour to achieve our purpose by:

- maintaining and improving the natural resource base through advocating for environmentally sustainable management
- being a community organisation which promotes Climate Smart initiatives
- providing informed educational programs that enhance community awareness of our natural assets
- maintaining a robust governance structure to ensure the longevity of the network and activity of the groups

Importance of the Council Plan for Up2Us

In reviewing the Council Plan, we identify certain synergies that we have listed below (the following page references relate to the Council Plan).

As a community organisation, Up2Us works collaboratively with all levels of government, private companies and individuals "for the long term future and prosperity of this Shire" (p. 6) especially in relation to achieving environmental outcomes. It is with this in mind that we deliver by developing and maintaining "strong and productive partnerships with our community" (p.6), both of which are recognised by the Shire in 'The Council Plan'.



*"working with local groups, organisations and all levels of government
 to build an environmentally sustainable community for future generations"*



The strong partnership that Up2Us currently holds with the Mansfield Shire's Development Services staff reflects these long-term strategic objectives that we share with Council, as identified by Strategic Objective 1.3 "Partnerships are strong between key service providers and authorities across the municipality" (p.27). Grant applications form the basis of all funding streams for Up2Us. These grants allow us to deliver environmental outcomes within the Shire boundaries. To apply for grants effectively, Up2Us utilises our partners' strategic plans to feed into applications, hence giving strength to the submission. After reading and reflecting on the draft Council plan, Up2Us sees some clauses to celebrate but also some omissions that could easily be rectified to produce a more relevant document that would allow both Up2Us and the Shire to achieve our shared objectives over the next four years.

Celebrations

The opening paragraph in "Our Shire and its people" highlights the value of where we live and the impact that our unique environment (rivers, lakes, mountains, agriculture) has on the work and leisure that occurs in this region (p.7). This is further highlighted in point 4 "Enhanced liveability" under Strategic Directions in the statement "We also understand that the protection and enhancement of the beautiful natural environment in which we live is key to our quality of life" (p.24). However, we question the use of the term "liveability" as it can have other connotations such as implying that the natural environment has no intrinsic value and its only purpose is for the amenity of humans.

The focus on long-term planning for community visions within the diagram of how the Council Plan coexists with other Strategic legislation (p.21) is applauded by our committee. A long-term sustainable environment is paramount to a future that enhances the lives of our residents and visitors.

Strategic Objective 4.4 has a strong emphasis on policy and decision making frameworks which are addressed in the review of policies and strategies within the Development Services.

Omissions

The following inclusions would address the omissions identified.

Whilst the Council Plan has tried to include the need for a long-term sustainable environment, the Strategic Objectives do little to address this. Small alterations on some of the strategic objectives to address the omissions identified by our committee could be easily inserted to provide a better balance sought by volunteers and paid employees in our sector.

In Strategic Direction Four:

Objective 4.2 should be altered to include the environment, such as "We are a community that is passionate about arts, culture, heritage and the environment". An additional comment could be added under this objective, coloured blue indicating the control category and supported by the Key Driver of Development Services - "Promote and support the works of key environmental groups and organisations, including Landcare."

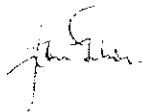
Objective 4.3 could be altered to include the environment, reading, "Our community proactively manages its health, wellbeing and environment". With this small alteration, the Enhanced Liveability direction on p.41 is more satisfactorily addressed. An additional comment could be added under this objective, coloured pink indicating the influence category and supported by the Key Driver of Development Services - "Support environmental groups and organisations to reduce greenhouse emissions within the Shire, increase biodiversity outcomes and strategically plan for promotion of environmental sustainability and improvement."

Objective 4.4 indicates that the reviewing of documents and identifying actions for implementation will be within the control of the Development Services. However, the budget scenarios do not indicate that there will be any financial allocation to implement works in the environmental sector. Future budgets within the four-year period of this Plan must demonstrate Council's commitment to the triple bottom line of social, environmental (or ecological) and financial responsibilities. This will ensure that the environmental outcomes identified in the Council Plan have a chance of being achieved.

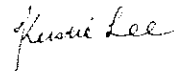
Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Council Plan. Up2Us Landcare Alliance would be pleased to present our submission to the Councillors at the meeting on May 30th.

Should you need any further information to be able to incorporate our suggestions, we would be happy to meet with you at a mutually convenient time.

Kind regards



John Gilson
President, Up2Us Landcare Alliance



Kerstie Lee
Up2Us Landcare Alliance Facilitator

On behalf of the members of the network:

Andrew Crockett – representative of Victorian Farmers Federation
Amanda Swaney – representative of Upper Broken River Landcare Group
Nicky Goudberg – representative of Delatite Landcare Group
Ian Lynch – representative of Howqua Valley Landcare Group
Julie Aldous – representative of Upper Broken River Landcare Group
Jill Breadon – secretary and member of Upper Broken River Landcare Group
John Rogers – representative of Ancona Valley Landcare Group
Andrew Setchell – representative of Fords Creek Landcare Group

Cc: Mayor Paul Volkering



*"working with local groups, organisations and all levels of government
to build an environmentally sustainable community for future generations"*



Re: Mansfield Winemakers - Annual Day on High Event

Alex Green

to:

Susan Kinloch

12/05/2017 09:01 AM

Cc:

Paul Volkering, Marg Attley, Peter Olver, "John Adams", Mandy Kynnersley

Hide Details

From: Alex Green/Mansfield/au Sort List...

To: "Susan Kinloch" <susankinloch7@bigpond.com>,

Cc: Paul Volkering/Mansfield/au@mansfield, Marg Attley/Mansfield/au@mansfield, Peter

Olver/Mansfield/au@mansfield, "John Adams" <jada5028@bigpond.net.au>, Mandy

Kynnersley/Mansfield/au@mansfield

Thanks for sending through Susan. I will make sure it is registered as a formal budget submission. Regards

Alex.

Sent from my iPhone

On 12 May 2017, at 8:59 am, Susan Kinloch <susankinloch7@bigpond.com> wrote:

Please consider the environment before printing this email

Dear Margaret, Paul, Peter and Alex

On behalf of the Mansfield Winemakers I am writing to request that consideration be given to improving the funding allocation in relation to next year's and future Day on High events

This event has become an highlight of Mansfield's calendar of events and over the years we have increased the patronage. The local community have embraced this event and they look forward to enjoying a day out with their fellow friends and colleagues in the community. The local traders also benefit and more importantly it is a great showcase of what Mansfield has to offer (ie local wines, artisan produce, talent, car clubs, etc).

We can foresee an improvement of the current format by introducing the agribusiness producers as well, in keeping with Mansfield's current strategy to grow their "produce to platter" concept.

Many more visitors can also be encouraged to visit Mansfield on the Anzac weekend when this event is planned.

However to do all this we do require an increased injection of funding dollars and would appreciate it very much if Council can see the value in supporting and promoting this Annual Event.

We would ask that this matter be placed on your agenda on budget considerations.

We will also be happy to meet with you to discuss this matter.

Kind regards

Susan Kinloch

Secretary

Mansfield District Racing Club

Tel: 5777 3141

0418 595 878

E: secretary@mansfielddraces.com.au

Visit our website at www.mansfieldcountryraces.com.au

Like us on Face Book: mansfield district race club



Fwd: Addition to my budget submission
 adelemac15 to: council

15/05/2017 09:38 AM

From: "adelemac15" <adelemac15@bigpond.com>,
 To: "council" <council@mansfield.vic.gov.au>,,

Please consider the environment before printing this email

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> Good morning Mandy
 > I've had some more thoughts on the fee on accommodation beds and believe
 expecting the business people to honestly part with the fee could be
 problematic. So as an alternative the council could add to the rates .50c
 per
 accommodation bed per day per annum. Eg a 10 bed accom place pays \$5 per
 day X
 365 days.
 >
 > I did do the maths but forget now. But also worked out they can recoup
 this
 annual fee in a few weeks if they choose to increase their prices by \$5.
 >
 > This has the potential to bring in a good boost if income for the shire.
 Th
 n tourists will be helping all residents not only a section of the shire
 population engaged in tourism or retail.
 >
 > Thanking you
 > Adele McCormack
 >
 > Sent from my iPhone

VFF BUDGET SUBMISSION 2017/18

The Mansfield Branch of the VFF takes an active role in the finances of the Mansfield Shire Council as the finances have a direct impact on the rates that farmers pay. Farmers in the Mansfield Shire operate in a Shire with some of the highest rural land values in the State.

TOUGH TIMES REQUIRE TOUGH MEASURES

BACKGROUND

- 1) Council commissioned a report which concluded that there was a \$700k shortfall in the upcoming Budget.
- 2) On the strength of this report Mansfield Council, through March editions of the Courier, detailed to the Community that the Shire had significant “financial woes” and that substantial cuts had to be made to the budget if Mansfield “wants to move forward alone without the threat of bankruptcy or re-amalgamation” (Courier March 22)
- 3) At the Council /Ratepayer Budget Meeting on May 2, 2017 the CEO, in response to a Ratepayer question informed the meeting that the Report indicated that if Council did not address its Financial position an Administrator would be appointed in 4 years time.
- 4) The current financial situation of Mansfield Shire Council is due to:
 - a) irresponsible spending on capital projects- particularly in the last 4 years and
 - b) a continued blowout in the cost structure of the business.There has been no attempt to reduce costs of any significance in the last 15 years. This has resulted in a cost structure which we now cannot afford and is not warranted for a small Council. This problem has been highlighted and forecasted for some years by the VFF, the Finance Committee, the former Finance Manager and others.
- 5) The Council commissioned a survey of Ratepayers with the overwhelming response that Ratepayers identified “cutting staff and wages” as the way to address the budget shortfall. This response was most popular by nearly double the next response of “don’t know/not sure.”
- 6) The idea that Ratepayers need to determine which services are to be cut is a clear abdication of responsibility as Ratepayers do not, and can not, know what is the full list of Council services and subsequent costs. Similarly, Ratepayers do not know what services are Essential or legislated as opposed to non-essential (or “nice to do”) services.

THE 2017/18 DRAFT BUDGET

The VFF believe that Mansfield Shire is in a dire financial position and unless drastic measures are taken in this Budget the Shire will be faced with the appointment of an Administrator or Amalgamation within the next 3-5 years. Either of these options should be as unpalatable to Councillors as they are to Ratepayers particularly when both can be avoided.

The key issues with the Draft Budget are:

1) INCOME

Income has DECREASED by 5% (or \$1,029,000) versus current year. This figure is actually worse because a profit of approx. \$240k has been booked against the sale of the Saleyards and Lakins rd sites. Without booking this profit the Income decline is approx 6.1%.

The issues with the Saleyard site are:

- a) The Saleyard site is a key asset of Mansfield Shire.
- b) It was highly contentious when a sale was discussed approx. 12 mths ago.
- c) There has been no further consultation with Ratepayers about its future options.
- d) The Saleyard sale is not mentioned in the Mayors Introduction nor in the Executive Summary of the Draft Budget. In fact there is no explanatory commentary re the sale rationale at all in the Budget commentary. The numbers are hidden in the Income statement, the Balance Sheet and the Cash Flow statement.
- e) It is almost impossible that the sale process for Lakins rd and the Saleyards could be properly completed and money exchanged within the 12 months Budget period.
- f) The Council should not be selling a prime asset such as the Saleyards until
 - 1) it has its own costs under control and
 - 2) a well thought out plan about how it will sell the property and what it will do with the proceeds has been constructed.
- g) At the moment it appears as though the selling of the Saleyards has been placed into the budget in an attempt to not only mask the true financial status of the Shire but also to conceal the actual sale from Ratepayers.

2) EXPENDITURE

Expenditure has INCREASED by 2% (\$365,000) versus prior year. This has occurred because:

- a) Employee costs have risen by 5% or \$414,000.
- b) The average salary /EFT has risen by 6% from \$83,900 to \$89,200
- c) Employee expenses as a percentage of Income has risen from 39.3% to 43.5%

The current Expenditure budget is misleading to Ratepayers for the following reasons:

- a) Ratepayers have been told that we are in a dire financial position.(Courier)
- b) Ratepayers have been told of the need to reduce expenditure by \$700,000 (Courier)
- c) Ratepayers have been told that tough decisions have been made and that \$450,000 has been cut from the budget. (Courier)
- d) Ratepayers have been told that the Budget was developed through a "rigorous process of consultation and review".
- e) Nowhere in the commentary are ratepayers informed that rather than a decrease in costs of \$450, 000 there has actually been an increase of \$365,000.
- f) This draft Budget neither addresses the underlying financial problems of the Shire nor does it indicate to Ratepayers that we have a major problem. In fact this Budget continues the spending that has caused our current problems.

THE TRUE PICTURE OF EXPENDITURE IS THAT THERE HAS BEEN A POTENTIAL SAVING OF APPROX \$450,000 ACROSS 5 AREAS BUT THIS HAS BEEN COMPLETELY OFFSET BY COST INCREASES OF APPROX \$815,000 ACROSS OTHER AREAS OF THE BUSINESS RESULTING IN TOTAL EXPENDITURE INCREASING BY 2% OR \$365,000.

THE 2017/18 DRAFT BUDGET IS FINANCIALLY UNSUSTAINABLE.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) Councillors need to recognize and understand that the financial position of the Shire is dire and unsustainable.
- 2) Councillors should pass a resolution to instruct the CEO to reduce the current years expenditure by 10% (\$1.8 million) for the 2017/18 Budget.
- 3) The CEO is then responsible for implementing the appropriate strategy to reduce staff and services after categorising:
 - a) Essential /Legislated services
 - b) "Nice to do" services
 - c) Non essential services
- 4) The appropriate strategy should review all options including:
 - a) outsourcing of all back office functions for example payroll, rate notices, community courses
 - b) adopting a user pay/user benefits approach.
For example events such as Targa should be paid for and organized by Businesses that benefit from such an event.
 - c) All agreements/leases that have a financial effect on the Shire should be reviewed eg MACE lease, Targa agreement
- 5) Adopt the cost reconstruction model that has been successfully implemented by Alpine Shire and use this model as the benchmark. If Mansfield Shire operates on similar expenditure ratios as Alpine then this will result in an Expenditure saving of approx. \$1.8mill and staffing levels of 76-81 EFT's.

SUMMARY

Unless Mansfield Councillors and the CEO undertake drastic action to reduce budgeted expenditure then Mansfield Shire will be Bankrupted and/or amalgamated in the next 4 years after which ratepayers will have no control over the future direction of the Shire that they fought so hard to de-amalgamate over 15 years ago.



FW:
donald.lawson to: council

17/05/2017 11:11 AM

From: "donald.lawson" <donald.lawson@bigpond.com>,
To: "council" <council@mansfield.vic.gov.au>,,

Please consider the environment before printing this email

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BUDGET SUBMISSION

Â

Â

Â TO THE CEO

Â

Â MANSFIELD SHIRE COUNCIL

Â

Don Lawson OAM

53 Hunter Street Mansfield

Victoria, 3722

Â

Phone: 0418972141

From: Don Lawson [mailto:donald.lawson@bigpond.com]
Sent: Wednesday, 17 May 2017 10:51 AM
To: 'Paul.Sladdin@mansfield.vic.gov.au';
'marg.attley@mansfield.vic.gov.au';
'HARRY.WESTENDORP@MANSFIELD.VIC.GOV.AU';
'paul.volkering@mansfield.vic.gov.au';
'peter.olver@mansfield.vic.gov.au'
Subject: FW:

Â

Councillors for your consideration

Â

Don Lawson OAM

53 Hunter Street Mansfield

Victoria, 3722

Â

Phone: 0418972141

From: Don Lawson [mailto:donald.lawson@bigpond.com]
Sent: Wednesday, 17 May 2017 10:19 AM

Subject:

Â

THE COUNCILLORS AND CEO MANSFIELD SHIRE COUNCIL

Â

Â DEAR COUNCILLORS

Â

Â I WRITE TO SUGGEST THAT THE COUNCIL NEEDS TO CORRECT A STRUCTURAL PROBLEM

Â

Â IN THAT Â I BELIEVE THE COUNCIL NEEDS A FORMAL FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
COMMITTEE

Â

Â CHAIRED BY ONE COUNCILLOR

Â

Â COMMITTEE TO Â COMPRISE THE CEO , THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER , A
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE VFF AND A MANSFIELD BASED Â PERSON FROMÂ THE
Â ACCOUNTING
OR BUSINESS SECTOR

Â

Â THE COUNCIL IS GOING TO NEED TO LIVE WITHIN ITS MEANS AND THAT SHOULD BE
THE
ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE TO ESTABLISH PRIORITIES AND LONG TERM VISION FOR THE
GROWTH OF THE SHIRE

Â

Â AS A FORMER CHAIR OF SUCH A COMMITTEE WE WERE ABLE TO FOCUS ON WASTE ,
COST
OVER RUNSÂ AND DUPLICATION OF SERVICES

Â

Â THIS RESULTED IN THE PERCENTAGE OF RATES BEING SPENT ON DEBT SERVICING
FRON
28% TO 12%

Â

THE KEY TO GOOD MANAGEMENT IS GETTING THE STRUCTURE RIGHT

Â

Don Lawson OAM

53 Hunter Street Mansfield

Victoria, 3722

Â

SUBMISSION

Mr Alex Green
Chief Executive Officer
Mansfield Shire Council
Private Bag 1000
MANSFIELD VIC 3724

Submissions may be emailed to council@mansfield.vic.gov.au

Dear Mayor, Councillors and CEO,

Unfortunately I have been forced to make a submission to the Draft 2017-18 Budget.

Living in the Mansfield Shire for nearly 60 years I have seen many changes from simple times, through forced amalgamations and de-amalgamations, profits and losses, surpluses and deficits and through all this time the Shire has progressed and prospered. Now I am being told that unless drastic measures are taken the Shire will go broke. Well I believe this situation can only be placed firmly at the feet of the recent past, and now current crop of Councillors and Shire Bureaucrats. What sort of indictment is that?

I have followed the budget process closely for two years now and, concerned, I have attended community consultations and budget meetings which I now firmly believe will be all to no avail.

At each of these the only solution proposed has been to increase revenue. Very little has been said about reducing expenditure. Even your own rate payer survey suggested, as the highest priority, to reduce council staff and yet there appears to be no action in this area other than to sack the school crossing supervisors. The same old fiddle with the tea lady!

It concerns me that as each of your work backgrounds have been privileged, in that you have been fortunate enough to work as government employees, you have never been in positions where the thought of where your pay comes from has ever been of your concern, but now that you find yourself in the position to actually have to manage expenditure you are incapable of doing so.

The fact is that the Mansfield Shire is incapable of employing 96 FTE's and something must give. Each of you must look very closely at the services provided by each individual staff member and ask yourself the question, are we getting value for money.

An example could be the Sport and Recreation Strategy. You have a grant to pay a consultant \$30K and you are contributing \$20K to the process. The last Sport and Recreation Strategy was conducted fully by consultants who did all the investigations, consultations and wrote the report and dropped it on your desk. So I ask the question what are you spending \$20K on? Considering also that there is little chance any action will be taken on the strategy anyway I wonder at the need for it at all.

So I suggest the ball is firmly in your court to actually do something of benefit to the rate payers of the shire and rein in spending by critically analysing the shire staffing and the work they do before administrators are appointed to take drastic action.

Thanks for the opportunity and I wait with baited breath to be surprised.

Garry Breadon

Tolmie Ward.

10 May 2017

Dear Mr Green and Councillors of the Mansfield Shire.

**Re Response to Proposed Budget and the Council plan
2017-21.**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Mansfield Shire Council budget 2017-18 and Council Plan 2017-2021. I do recognise that there has been a lot of work undertaken and much information to consider when looking at the future of the Mansfield Shire. There is a need for careful consideration to get the correct balance of social, economic and financial sustainability and viability and to ensure a good "quality of life" for all the people of the Mansfield Shire.

It has been refreshing to see the community consultation through personal approaches by the CEO and the Council and I commend you for this.

This feedback is not a full analysis of the proposed budget and council plan but an overview of what I see as inconsistencies and identifying gaps and opportunities for the Council and CEO. The comments are expressed in a way to stimulate more consideration.

From reading the Budget and Council plan there are two key points that I believe are priorities that need immediate attention.

1. ORGANISATIONAL REVIEW

I can only assume on reading the budget, information data graphs etc, the Council has not undergone a review of the structure, operational costs and best practice activities for the services provided. This is a significant loss of opportunity and I would recommend that a review be undertaken to help reduce costs, introduce innovation, and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery.

The current financial pressure on the Mansfield Shire provides an opportunity for it to make changes to delivering services to be more cost effective. When there are pressures to change, there are huge opportunities for productivity gains, for innovative work practices.

For examples. Public Health services have undergone significant productivity gains due to financial pressures. Internationally it is known that more money does not mean better health outcomes.

So why is the Mansfield Shire not undertaking a review of the structure and cost of services so they can improve their performance? The information provided shows:



- There is “no change” in the FTE budget for 2017-18 and for the next few years, in particular in corporate services. Why? *Governance after full time*
- There is no Economic Development Plan or leadership in the current structure. Why? It is mandated by the Local Govt Act that economic viability and sustainability is a key objective.
- www.knowourcommunity.com shows that Mansfield is achieving some excellent results compared other councils however there are many opportunities for improvement in the delivery of services. The data shows that the costs for personal care service is higher than other rural Councils and compliance standards lower than other Councils. There is poorer attendance of Councillors at Council meetings. It is alarming that Mansfield council takes 74 days to decide planning applications compared to 45.63 days for similar councils. It is noted that your target is to reduce this to less than 60 days. Why not target the similar Councils benchmark of 45 days? How is the Council addressing these issues to improve their performance?

↳ don't budget
 unannounced staff reductions
 because of reductions
 requirements (cutters) stay

2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The current “Economic Development Plan” ends at the end of 2017, and a new plan is not going to be addressed until 2018. Added to this, there is no organisational leadership in this area. There is a misalignment of Economic Development into Community Services which adds confusion and lack of transparency and action within the Council plan.

There is missed opportunity by not focusing on the ‘Business of the Community’ and taking advantage of a partnership with Regional Development Victoria which would provide funding for jobs and infrastructure.

Economic growth supports future employment, builds community capability and provides opportunity for youth in the community.

Why is the Council NOT tackling Economic Development as a key priority, when it ticks a majority of boxes for what is trying to achieve?

General Comments on the Council Plan 2017-21

- Council plan does NOT include “Mansfield” in the “Our Towns” section? What are the specific priorities for Mansfield?
- The projected population growth for Mansfield is different for the overall growth of the Shire and there seems to lack acknowledgement of this data.
- Strategic goals:

- a) What are the universal social determinants used to measure the overall "quality of life". I am unable to determine what the Council uses as their measure and benchmark.
- b) SEIFA index shows that the indices for education and occupation are below the state average meaning that there is higher unemployment and fewer people with qualifications in the Mansfield Shire. Where are the partnerships to address these matters? Where is the support for economic growth to assist in reducing unemployment?
- c) The Local Govt Act indicates that the objectives of the council is to be effective and efficient. I cannot see that the Council is committed to this objective. A review of the structure and operations will assist in identifying ways to reduce operational costs.
- d) There is an action item of "promotion of volunteering" via the website which means that you are wanting to grow the volunteer program. However the budget indicates that you have reduced the volunteering coordination by more than 50%. This seems very short sighted and goes against the strategic goals 1, 3 and 5.
- e) The performance measures do not mean anything in the format in which they are presented and show lack of transparency and lack of preparedness to be held accountable. The community wants to know what improvements have been made in the past year against benchmarks.
- f) There is no mention of evaluating the programs that are delivered.
- g) In Objective 3.2 the inclusion of training in "Grant application writing" would assist community members and help identify sources of funding.

General comments on the Proposed Budget 2017-18

The Council has requested community feedback regarding the reduction of services to reduce expenditure by \$700,000. It was valuable having a meeting of some members of the Regional Partnership Group with Alex Green and receiving some budget background. This gave some good insight into the business of the Mansfield shire and to understand the challenges that are being faced.

When I reflect on the proposed budget, I am concerned by the lack of information provided to the Community as to why the Council is in such a poor financial state. I believe the budget does not show the Council or the Executive have taken ownership of the problem and have limited their focus to "low lying fruit" and not addressing all the issues and opportunity of cost savings that are available to them.

An independent review of the organisational structure and operations will look at cost savings and procedural inefficiencies. This is a basic process for any "for profit" or "not for profit" business that is looking at cost savings.

Other points noted in the budget analysis

dear heating (increase
risation) - control panel
(placement) -

cost (9542K) is (fixed) ←
already committed + (increased)
if it upgrades so
it can operate efficiently

overcome officer ←
full time.

- Why are community grants been reduced and not other grants like Targa? What cost/ benefit analysis has been undertaken?
- There is to be an upgrade of the swimming pool, however the comparative data indicates that the Mansfield pool is underutilised? Why is it underutilized and will the upgrade address this issue?
- Why is the Council considering "Limited" new Capital projects at all for the next 12 months until urgent matters are addressed?
- The non-recruitment of Tourism/ Economic Development Manager, I believe is a false cost saving arrangements.
- There is an increase in corporate services and Council budget? What is the gain from this?
- The election of Councillors is not a model that supports "skill base selection of Councillors". The implementation of a skills based advisory committee would assist Council.
- Why is there consideration of a new Sports Facility and Master plan this year when there is not even an Economic Development Plan
- There is a reduction in budget for volunteer coordination. Why? What is being removed? Why are you planning to promote volunteerism on the Website if you have cut budget to the area.

hours reclassified ←
to PACT to reflect actual
work allocation.
No change in service.

I believe that additional cost savings can be identified by reviewing the organisation structure, operational costs and cost shifting and pushing for productivity gains through changes in work practices and innovation. The Council plan needs to be challenged with its lack of priority of Economic Development Plan.

Once again thanks for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Draft Council Plan an the proposed budget for 2017-18. I do hope you read this as being constructive and to assist in forwarding the future of the Mansfield Shire.

This submission has been available for the Regional Partnership Group to review.

Kindest Regards
Dr Pamela Dalglish

SIR ANDREW GRIMWADE, C.B.E.

MANSFIELD SHIRE COUNCIL	
64.	
18 MAY 2017	
FILE NO.	2 3 10 P
E4653	

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MANSFIELD
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AUSTRALIA

TEL: +61 3 5775 1196
MOB: 0408 828 658
EMAIL: ag@mansfield.net.au

16 May 2017

Mr Alex Green,
Chief Executive Officer
Mansfield Shire 3722

Submission re Mansfield Shire's Draft Budget 2017-18 & Plan 2017-21

I strongly commend Council and the CEO upon the approach to the Budget 2017-18 and express my support for the difficult decisions to limit expenditure while minimising increases in rates. We must maintain a viable Shire, even at the risk of criticism and unpopular cut-backs.

Most importantly, Council must continue to freeze rates to the lesser of CPI or as limited by State Government. The Shire must live within its means and aim to reduce bureaucracy.

I support the sale of the Depot in Lakins Road as soon as possible. I emphatically oppose and disagree with the sale of the Old Saleyards site. This location is irreplaceable and once sold it will be lost for all time. Please, please take a long term view and do not sell it. It is a nonsense to say that the land is too valuable to donate; for it is too valuable to sell to yet another commercial venture which will ruin our beautiful entrance to Mansfield.

The Budget should provide \$5,000-10,000 for a study of the economics of installing parking meters in High Street with resident exemption stickers, as in say East Melbourne.

Charitable ventures that support the Shire's elderly residents should be granted a differential on rates, at least similar to differentials such as to sporting bodies and other bodies.

Shops, houses, homes and buildings that are empty for more than 12 months (other those of farms and for seasonal workers) should pay a significant premium on their rates.

Council should maintain full funding to the Botanic Park, to the entrance gardens and general landscaping because these greatly enhance the atmosphere and reputation of Mansfield.

The Shire's Planning Department has many problems and very serious consideration should be given to sub-contracting this function, such has been done at a neighbouring Shire. Many minor problems could be overcome earlier and at lower cost if the Planning personnel just spoke to the applicants. I am happy to expand in private on this.

I praise all Councillors and the CEO on their generous commitment to serving Mansfield.



Andrew Grimwade



Proposed 2017/2018 Fees/Charges for Waste Management

mansfieldskips to: council

17/05/2017 04:46 PM

From: "mansfieldskips" <mansfieldskips@bigpond.com>
To: "council" <council@mansfield.vic.gov.au>.,

Please consider the environment before printing this email

Â

We wish to make a submission in relation to the proposed 2017/2018 fees/charges for Waste Management at the Resource Recovery Centre

Â

As operators of the RRC we are asked each year, as per contract, to put forward what we feel the relevant fees should be increased to. Each year we do this, after looking at what the other "similar facilities" are charging (as per Contract Part 1 Page 2 Item 1.4.2) and come up with what we think is a fair price. Each year, Council increase by the bare minimum, not taking into consideration the cost of what it is costing for the landfill at Benalla and the cost involved with recycling commingled and cardboard.

Â

This year Council has chosen not to charge for Domestic recycling and cardboard.

Â

In relation to the charges for Cardboard, in our submission for the proposed fees for 2017/2018 we explained the cost of processing cardboard, we receive \$100 per tonne for cardboard, after it has taken 2 workers 2 hours to bale 1 tonne. Plus the cost of supplying and maintaining the equipment to process the cardboard into bales.

Â

If we take cardboard for free, all local businesses that have cardboard will bring it in to the RRC, the local businesses that pickup cardboard from businesses will bring in metres and metres of cardboard, one processor for instance would bring in 7 or 8 metres in a load, a couple of times per week he would charge his customer for the service and then dispose of it for free. If a domestic customer brings cardboard in, they are not charged as it is rarely over 1 cubic metre.

Â

The same applies to Domestic commingled, it is a very rare occurrence that a

domestic customer brings in over 1 cubic metre of commingled recycling at one time, why would they, (unless they were operating a business) maybe sometimes if there is a wedding or party, but it is mostly mixed with rubbish anyway so is therefore not recyclable unless they sort it on site, not a pleasant job!!

^

So we wish to have the charge of \$15 per cubic metre of cardboard accepted and we would be happy to keep the Domestic Recycling over 1m3 at the same price as last year, \$10 for over 1m3.

^

Please note, if we run the cheapest waste disposal facility you risk having customers from outside our district using our facility to save money, which is already happening.

^

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any clarification of the above

^

Regards

^

Peter Wooley

Mansfield Bins & Skips

0407 500 711

^

^

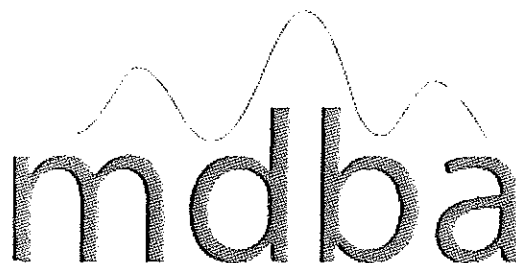
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Mansfield District Business Association Inc.

*President: Sarah Brennan 0439551330
Treasurer: Tim Ross 03 5775 2713*

*1 Chenery Street, Mansfield, VIC 3722
(PO Box 443, Mansfield, VIC 3724)*

Email: mansfielddba@gmail.com

Date: May 17, 2017

Mr Alex Green
CEO
Mansfield Shire
Council, 33 Highett
Street Mansfield 3272

Dear Alex,

Re: Council Budget and Council Plan

On behalf of the Mansfield District Business Association I would like to submit our recommendations for consideration by Councillors in respect of:

1: The Economic Development Strategic Plan.

Ensuring Mansfield Shire is a great place to WORK, LIVE & PLAY.

Currently, the development of the Economic and Development plan is not scheduled until 2018/19. MDBA believes that it is an imperative that this plan be developed this calendar year - for the good of the Shire - to build our economic sustainability and viability.

The previous Council Plan had a whole section (one of five) headed "a growing economy", while the current draft Council Plan puts most business-related items into a sub-section of the "financial sustainability" objective. In the past 20 years exceptional strategic initiatives have been implemented and Mansfield will benefit from this kind of focus again. Whilst we acknowledge that many of the planned actions are welcomed **MDBA recommends the Strategic Plan is developed by December 2017, as a priority not a subsection.**



The current draft council plan covers many key tactics however, the Shire has an opportunity to support and guide the burgeoning Mansfield businesses community into a community with an enviable reputation as being entrepreneurial, innovative, bold and creative.

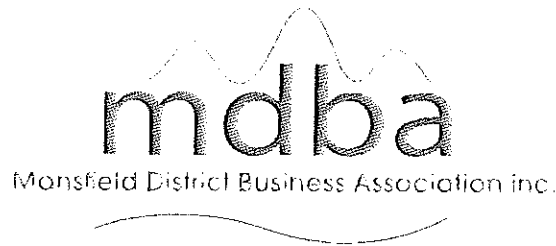
With a growing population of 8,067 (10,011 by 2031) and our stated economic drivers being tourism, agriculture, lifestyle living and retail PLUS the additional benefit of 1.2 million visitors per year Mansfield is well placed to build a viable and sustainable economy. A healthy and growing commercial profile will contribute to Council's earning through building commercial rates, enticing new businesses and attracting new residents.

Mansfield currently enjoys an employment base of 3,743 and an industry output of \$823m, 500+ (small businesses) however, the impact of tourism as an economic driver is estimated as 20% of total industry output and 25% of total employment. With changing environmental conditions it is important the Mansfield business community does rely on a single focus to build the economy but it builds a balanced, varied and vibrant business profile. The outcome will be our ability to attract new businesses to the Shire and to empower and encourage our developing entrepreneurs and new SME's.

MDBA is also concerned about the risk profile for the Shire with the potential for significant environmental 'events' impacting local businesses (past experience shows the community will be impacted by three significant events ie: low snow levels, bushfire and drought – within a ten year period). We have an obligation to build our resilience and mitigate risk – **a clear, visionary and inspirational economic and development strategy will help to mitigate this risk.**

2: In relation to the budget, the key issue is the timing of the Economic Development Strategy revision, and the loss of the Manager Economic Development role. The big picture thinking, strategic and proven nous is critical for the development of a plan that positions Mansfield Shire as an appealing place to work, live and play.

**In response to this MDBA recommends:
Council commits to delivering a robust, innovative and impactful Economic and Development strategic plan for the next 4-6 years by the end of 2017.**



Specifically Council considers either:

a) appointing an experienced, proven consultant to develop the Economic and Development strategic plan

Or

b) the formation of a Steering Committee, sourced from the cohort of local, experience, skilled ratepayers – who can bring real value to build a robust Economic and Development strategic plan.

Or

c) Council appoints a senior manager to lead, develop and deliver the Economic and Development strategic plan. This role is critical in providing skilled, insightful and experienced vision and leadership to the Shire and our business community.

For any of these options the brief should include community consultation - critical to a good result. Whilst the budget allocations for a Steering Committee may be kept tight (under \$15k) the budget allocations for an external and skilled consultancy team may reach \$80 - \$100k and the budget for a Senior Manager FTE would be up to \$150k.

MDBA is well placed to be a reference group to work with any one of these options and would welcome the opportunity.

This Submission will be presented in person to Council, by members of the MDBA Committee on Tuesday May 30 from 2.00 pm.

Yours sincerely,

MDBA committee

Mansfield Shire Proposed Budget 2017-18

Submission from:

Joan Tehan.
5092 Midland Highway
Mansfield.3722
PH: 57764247
Email: jatha@mansfield.net.au

**TO: Mr Alex Green,
CEO,
Mansfield Shire**

17th May 2017

My submission will address selected budget items which I believe are important issues for the shire and ratepayers.

Snapshot

The diversity of education facilities and services should be recognised as one of the major elements that underpin the Shire economy. For many decades both private and public education campuses have consistently provided significant employment, retail spending, innovative collaborations and have attracted people to live in Mansfield. Therefore, I believe that tourism, farming, diverse education facilities and lifestyle living underpin the economy.

Visitors Information Centre

Tourism is flourishing in Mansfield but it needs to be managed. The Visitors Information Centre premises in the railway precinct provides a strategic location for this to be achieved. Cost efficiencies could be gained by combining it with a compatible shire service such as the library. It has excellent parking facilities for big vehicles, something that is lacking in the town hub.

We recently visited Mildura and Kerang where library and tourism information services are managed effectively and efficiently under the one roof in a dynamic environment. Staff at both these centres confirmed it was a model of sustainability that works very well.

In Mansfield's case this could free up the library premises in Collopy Street which could be sold to help finance the combined library/tourist information service at the railway site.

Securing the railway land for the Mansfield Shire to manage for the Mansfield community was achieved decades ago by a sustained commitment of representative community groups and individuals seeking philanthropic grants. The shire was the beneficiary of this community initiative working and lobbying

with government departments to bring about the transfer of land back into the community.

SALE OF SALEYARDS

This proposal comes as a major surprise in view of community support for this land to be reserved for the benefit of the whole community. I believe any action to sell this key asset is short-sighted and is contrary to the spirit of Amendment C37 which attracted submissions to retain it for community use.

Amendment C37 designates the Saleyards site as a significant strategic site for 'appropriate development' facilitated by the shire. It attracted attention as part of the Mansfield Township Structure Plan.

Considering how controversial this move would be I am surprised the proposed sale is not prominent in the budget documents and is not supported by any rationale or specific figures to support its sale.

The location of the site in such a prominent position at the entrance to Mansfield needs to be discussed in an open forum with the community. It forms part of the major gateway to Mansfield and to be 'sold off' represents a rebuff to those of us who value and have worked to preserve the history and amenity of our township. It seems we have not been heard as the Council has promised to do.

In view of the Council's repeated stance on community consultation, participation and partnerships and council's 'job to listen to community sentiment' this action is contrary to these statements and undermines its goodwill and relationship with the community.

The saleyards precinct represents a significant landmark in Mansfield's pastoral and cultural history and I have made repeated written and verbal submissions to Council, at the same time requesting that we be kept informed of any proposals for its use. This has not been done and I am disappointed in the manner in which this has surfaced.

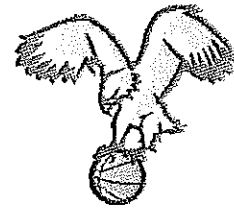
I believe the shire should remove the saleyards site proposed sale from the current draft budget and give this key asset the comprehensive consideration it deserves in open consultation with the community. It should not be treated as a short term fix that is dubious, unsubstantiated and ill-considered.

FESTIVAL CONTRIBUTIONS

I believe that the \$37.5k contribution to Targa should be reviewed and assessed urgently on a cost benefit analysis.

My concerns are:

- It is the major beneficiary for festivals from our shire budget
- Unlike the other local festivals it is not home-grown and does not represent any relevant cultural interests of Mansfield.
- It does not have any aim to promote or benefit Mansfield
- As a special interest event it is a major disruption to traffic, locals, visitors and businesses in the town
- Its website mentions Mansfield only once in a cursory manner. It promotes Mt Buller as its major base and for accommodation recommendations.
- It receives major funding without any public justification of its financial benefits to the town. To my knowledge it does not give back to Mansfield.
- It represents a significant and unacceptable ongoing cost to ratepayers in lean times.



68.
*Mansfield
Eagles*

Mansfield Basketball Association
P.O.Box 481
Mansfield Vic 3724

19th May 2017

Dear Alex Green CEO of Mansfield Shire,

The Mansfield and District Basketball Association is proudly the largest sporting club in Mansfield in terms of number of participants (currently 458 registered players). Competitions are run all year round with mens, ladies, mixed, juniors and aussie hoops divisions. It also represents Mansfield in competitions in the junior levels throughout the state attending tournaments in Benalla, Wangaratta, Shepparton, Wodonga and Bendigo.

The domestic competitions are held week nights and it is valued as a fitness and skills based complement to many other sporting pursuits that are enjoyed on weekends. Additionally it mentors the youth in the town through its refereeing, junior coaching and aussie hoops development program that teaches them responsibility, respect and also provides the reward of remuneration with refereeing for their hard work.

The club runs the majority of its competition over the summer months and we are concerned from an occupational health and safety point of view with the ventilation in the Mansfield Stadium. With our hot summers the temperature in the stadium can be stifling and we frequently open the doors nearest the court that adjoins an access road to the Mansfield Pool.

We see both the heat and the open doors as a danger to the players particularly the youth with the latter whom sometimes track the ball out the doors without regard for vehicles that may be driving past at the time.

We are seeking consideration in this years budget for fans and better ventilation in the Mansfield Stadium.

Yours sincerely

Michael Watson

President

69.

MANSFIELD SHIRE COUNCIL		
24 MAR 2017		
FILE NO. E4465	2	10 ✓

Felsted
 237 Rifle Butts Road
 PO Box 100
 Mansfield
 3724
 23 March 2017

Mayor Paul Volkering
 Mansfield Shire Council
 33 Highett St
 Mansfield
 3722

Dear Paul,

Thank you for attending the meeting of residents of Rifle Butts Rd on Sunday 5 March to discuss the many aspects of safety associated with our road. Since that meeting a sub-committee of residents has been formed which has been named the "Rifle Butts Rd Safety Committee". This committee has met and is writing to you to express our concern that someone will be seriously injured or killed on Rifle Butts Road unless action is taken to remedy the condition of the road. As you know, Rifle Butts Rd is over 7 km long and runs from Monkey Gulley Rd to the Woods Point Rd. It is identified by the Shire as a road of environmental significance and contains Rifle Butts Native Reserve and permanent and holiday residences on land zoned as farmland or rural living. There is also a proposed development of 20 extra residences at about 5 km from the Monkey Gully entrance.

We realize that Council is facing severe financial restrictions this year so we have prioritised our requests for action by the Shire.

Priority 1: Items that are already in the budget or are very inexpensive to remedy.

- **Reduce the speed limit from 80 km/h to 50 km/h.** We find it incredible that the speed limit is 80 km/h along this narrow, dusty, poorly constructed unmade road. Council may not be aware that local residents, joggers, walkers, cyclists, horse riders and local and visiting schools use the road. The mountain bike track at the northern end of Rifle Butts Rd is very popular and there are regularly 20 or so vehicles dropping off cyclists at the end of the day when residents are returning home. The dust generated by vehicles travelling at 80 Km/h is enough to seriously reduce visibility to those on the road. As Rifle Butts Rd also offers some of Mansfield's best views, visitors often use the road. The current speed limit of 80 km/h and the poor condition of the road places all of the users in danger. You will recall that at our meeting on Sunday March 5, there were many anecdotal stories told about "near misses" that have occurred recently. **We would like the Shire to support our request that VicRoads reduce the speed limit along Rifle Butts Rd.**
- **Maintain the road properly.** Apart from the odd filling of potholes and work on drainage, little has been done to remove corrugations, maintain the surface and reduce the dust.
- **Remove a small number of trees that obstruct visibility or are very close to the roadside and are a traffic hazard.** Although all of the residents expressed their

displeasure at suggesting that a small number of trees be removed, they recognize the potential danger they pose to road users. At a meeting with Shire representatives, we would gladly identify these trees.

- **Signage.** Appropriate signage is positioned to indicate the speed (50 km/h) and the danger associated with native animals and deer. "Local traffic only" at McElroy's Crt would also discourage through traffic.

Priority 2: Items that are more expensive and should be considered when money is available.

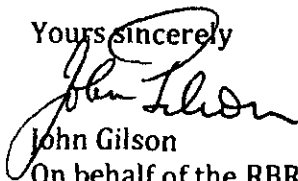
- Remake the road so that it has an appropriate base and, in sections, realign it to allow two vehicles to pass.
- As part of remaking the road, the dips and crests should be reduced to increase visibility.
- Seal the road from the intersection with Ogilvie's Rd to just beyond No. 126. To this point, the road rises steeply and readily deteriorates. The residences of this section are close to the road and have to endure unbelievably excessive dust during the drier months.
- Both the north and south entrances to Rifle Butts Rd have poor visibility.

Recommendation:

The committee recommends that any subdivision development along the road that generates increased traffic must provide adequate funding for road maintenance along the whole road. Every extra residence will probably have two vehicles and, during development, many trades people will be using the road. If this money was available to the Shire before development proceeds, road maintenance would not be such a financial burden.

In conclusion, the RBR Safety Committee would like to meet with you, the CEO (Alex Green) and the engineer to discuss these issues on site so that you can see how unsafe the road is at present.

Yours sincerely



John Gilson

On behalf of the RBR Safety Committee (Steve Adams, Adam Baker, John Gilson, Lindsey Jackman, Richard Plumb, Bronwen Wilson)

CC: Alex Green
Shire Engineer

18th May, 2017

Mr Alex Green
 Chief Executive Officer
 Mansfield Shire Council
 By email

Dear Alex,

Thanks for the opportunity to contribute to the Mansfield Shire Proposed Budget 2017-18.

1. The capital spending numbers are wildly at odds with Council statements

In the light of strong statements by Council about the tight fiscal environment we are operating in, it is somewhat surprising to see the Budget documents propose a massive program of capital work, specifically in the SRP Projections. The 'Statement of Capital Works' (p. 29) includes proposed capital works expenditure of \$26 million dollars in the three year period of the SRP. This is unprecedented planned capital expenditure when compared to SRP projections in at least the previous four Budgets, each of which proposed around \$15 million dollars of capital expenditure in the three year period of each SRP.

Within the budget SRP period, the proposed capital works include 'Asset Renewal' expenditure of approx. \$10m (which roughly meets the desired 100% asset renewal), **with a further approx. \$16m of new/ upgrade expenditure** over the period. While it is not possible from the budget papers to get a full idea of how this 'discretionary' capital spend is financed, it would appear that at least half (and quite probably more) is to be funded from Council's own resources.

Such budgeting is completely at odds with the clear position of the Council, both in public pronouncements and in the budget documents themselves, that capital spending beyond the requirements of 100% asset renewal will not be undertaken. For example, "until Council has improved its financial position, no significant new capital projects will be undertaken unless they are 100% funded by external parties" (p54).

While it may be thought that SRP projections one to three years into the future are relatively unimportant, the opposite is true. The budgeting large amounts of Council funds for discretionary capital works inevitably results in the rundown of Council cash assets over the period (see graphs on p.49 for a clear demonstration of what happens to cash balances when capital works spending gets out of control). Such massive capital expenditure results in significantly increased depreciation, leading to a deterioration in the underlying profit.

Taken together (plummeting cash reserves, deteriorating underlying position), the obvious conclusion is that Council finances are in a death spiral, leading to the pressure that is currently being exerted to 'cut services' lest we go broke/ have to call in the administrators/ amalgamate.

It is submitted that the inclusion of such a large capital program in the SRP years is an error in the budget documents, and that in the reality there is no intention by Council to actually fund these projects (except and unless external funding (capital grants) well above and beyond what has been

budgeted is received). Accordingly Council should reformulate the budget documents by removing such unfunded upgrade/ new capital expenditure (along with, of course, any currently budgeted capital grant income linked to those projects). This necessary change in the capital works budget for the SRP years will flow through the budget documents, leading to significant changes in projections for all of the key financial metrics.

2. What this means

When the current inaccurate and inflated capital budget is corrected, the apparent 'crisis' in Council finances suddenly looks more manageable.

In the terms of the 'Financial Sustainability' paper promoted by Council (accessed via Council Facebook page 18/05/17), once the inflated capital budget is removed, I believe that all the key financial metrics hurdles (100% Asset Renewal, Breakeven Underlying Result, Breakeven Cash Result, Cash Reserves over \$3, and low debt) are met over the four-year period of the budget/ SRP.

Over the four year period of the budget/ SRP;

- The Cash Position is significantly improved compared to the current budget (due to not spending in the order of \$8m of Council cash on discretionary new/ upgrade capital projects), to the point where it is no longer necessary to sell off community assets (notably the Saleyards site) in order to meet the minimum cash reserves considered prudent by Council.
- The underlying profit improves significantly (due to not having to bear increasing depreciation charges linked to massive capital spends), to the point where there is no pressing need to find \$700k in savings in order to be 'sustainable'.

Without the perceived financial pressure, hopefully the discussion over the Council budget can focus more on what role we want the Council to play in our community, and what services the community wants, rather than on a narrow focus on cutting operating expenditure and expecting the community to make arbitrary trade-offs.

Like all residents, I am a ratepayer and am keen to see Council operations run efficiently and effectively. As such I have no problems with thorough service reviews, and pushing back against cost-shifting by other levels of government. However, my minimum expectation is that any such process is informed by accurate financial projections. Unfortunately this is not the case at present, and I hope that this will be rectified before the budget process is completed.

I appreciate the opportunity Council has taken to promote wide community consultation on the Budget and Council Plan, and thank you for the opportunity to contribute.

Please contact me should you wish to discuss further.

Regards,



Tim Ross

IN17/13556

71.

oaksford@net-net.com.au

MANSFIELD SHIRE COUNCIL		
19 MAY 2017		
FILE NO. E4653	2	10 P ✓

Mansfield Shire

Submission to Draft Budget

Prepared by Graham Corless

On Behalf of Oaksford Pty. Ltd.

May 2017

I have read the draft budget and have reached the conclusion that the biggest opportunity for cost reductions is in the area of Wages and Salaries.

I believe that a reduction of 10% in this area would have a significant effect on the budget bottom line.

To achieve the above I believe that the middle and upper management levels is the area where the cuts would have the biggest impact on the budget bottom line. This would have the effect of reducing staff numbers by about 7% to 8%.

In regard to crossing supervisors, The Council could give consideration to using sponsors to offset the running costs. This could be done by installing permanent electronic signs which would allow a numaham Corlessber of different signs targeted at various audiences at different times of the day.

I trust these thoughts are helpful and would appreciate the opportunity to speak at the appropriate forum.

**Graham Corless
May 2017**



Budget Submission. Road maintenance costs

dandjmatthews to: council

19/05/2017 03:14 PM

From: "dandjmatthews" <dandjmatthews@bigpond.com>
To: "council" <council@mansfield.vic.gov.au>,,

Please consider the environment before printing this email

Introduction

All drivers contribute to VicRoads that pays for roads that bring traffic into Mansfield. VicRoads also pays for roads that take traffic away from Mansfield. Mansfield ratepayers fund maintenance of the linking roads through the town which appears very unfair. With tight budgetary restraints and no help from Spring Street sometimes an unusual problem needs an unusual solution.

Proposal

My 'unusual' suggestion toward financial income is a small levy - or even voluntary "Pay for a Pothole. Save Our Streets" collection. Local drivers exempt. How much would \$2 per car and \$5 for anything bigger raise over a holiday weekend?

If it's too difficult to try?

It might be true that other small towns may also like to spread, literally, the load caused by through traffic using towns roads. And if people get upset, and learn through publicity why the cash is needed, perhaps, Spring Street will listen.

Good luck and regards

David Matthews

MANSFIELD SHIRE COUNCIL

19 MAY 2017

FILE NO

E1653

2

10

✓

19th May 2017.

Dear Council / Mansfield Shire.

RE: COST-CUTTING SUGGESTIONS.

I continue to be astounded almost daily on the sudden number of roadworks that have been undertaken in the last few months by an Shire which is supposedly broke.

Just this week there is a curvy footpath being built between the Chicken Shop and Yencens, and I noticed last week works underway to create ^{ridiculous} traffic islands and consequently ^{much} less parking space in the area beside the Bowls Club.

Add to this the two maddening traffic islands either end of Greenvale Lane (the north one creates near-accidents daily and the southern one causes huge problems for trucks on what is supposed to be the new truck route) and the ridiculous amount of unnecessary extra signage that has popped up all around the Shire in the last 5-6 months — to say nothing of the huge expense gone into wrecking Ogilvie Rd — and I am at my wits end as to why a Council looking to save money is throwing so much into ^{totally} unnecessary projects.

Can we not stop paying for things we can't afford, for a start? If you are asking for suggestions from the public on how to cut costs, I suggest stopping all roadworks/extra signage that is not absolutely necessary until such time as it CAN be afforded.

Yours Sincerely,

Rose Gilder.



Fw: Submission Re Budget & Strategic Resource Plan

Alex Green to: Mandy Kynnersley, Dawn Bray

From: "Alex Green" <Alex.Green@mansfield.vic.gov.au>.

To: Mandy Kynnersley/Mansfield/au <CN=Mandy Kynnersley/O=Mansfield/C=au@Mansfield>., Dawn Bray/Mans

▼ 4 attachments



161207 Johnstone's Discussion Points for New Councillors 7 Dec 2016.pdf 170517 The Courier May 17 Mayor's Article.pdf

CEO Alex Green

Copy Mayor & Deputy Mayor

Submission Re Budget & Strategic Resource Plan

From Brian Johnstone with Assistance from David Butler

I have struggled with reconciling reports in the Courier and the Whitehorse Presentations and the Council Website Downloads due to the significant differences over time and media

To assist me, I have called upon the professional assistance of David Butler, ex Finance Manager of Mansfield Shire

Attached as part of this submission are documents that are relevant to my attempts to put correct and useful comments to assist the Council in its efforts to finalise the Budget, Council Plan and Strategic Resource Plan

As it is almost 5 pm on the close of submission day, I will email this submission with no further comments

Further comments will follow shortly

David and I would be pleased to present our comments in person in due course

I have some suggested changes to the Council structure and services and staff which I would prefer to discuss in confidence with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor

This submission can be made public

Regards

Brian Johnstone

Brian Johnstone

Issues for Discussion - Raised by Brian Johnstone - 7 December, 2016

Meeting with Crs Paul Volkenburg, Peter Olver, Harry Westendorp

Discussion Prompted By Mansfield Courier - 9 Nov 2016

Councillors continue their views on council's future

FURTHER to last week's article on Mansfield's incoming councillors, this week we publish the third and final answers to the questions put equally to all.

The Courier asked three defining questions on the views of each councillor, either new or returning, about the future of our shire and what they perceive as their role within council.

Q3: What do you see as the main issues/agenda/objectives for Mansfield Shire Council as a whole in this new term of office?

● **Paul Volkering (mayor - Mansfield Ward):**

We have to rebuild trust with the community so that they have a greater level of confidence in the work we do.

To do that successfully we've got to engage in constant dialogue with all members of the community so that we can better understand their concerns.

Trying to articulate a vision for the future development of Mansfield,

within limited budgets, will also present a huge challenge to all of us.

Ensuring that whatever we do is done to a high standard and that there is consultation and transparency around everything we do is also vital.

I'm particularly concerned about basic infrastructure, including drainage, footpaths and walking tracks, safe play areas for families and improved/safer access to our residential, business and commercial areas.

In my humble opinion we've somehow got to do more with less, but it's not beyond this community.

● **Peter Olver (deputy mayor - Mansfield Ward):**

Fostering two way communications between the community and council, genuinely using the skills and expertise of our community members and providing strong leadership and governance are the challenges for our councillor team.

Rate capping is an issue that Victorian councils are grappling with but I welcome and embrace it as I

feel it makes us evaluate/economise and be innovative in our approach.

● **Marg Atley (councillor - Tolmie Ward):**

■ Implications of rate capping now and into the future;

■ Community vision for the future;

■ Asset management and capital works/infrastructure provision with reduced budget allocation;

■ Management of sustainable development.

● **Paul Sladdin (councillor - Bonnie Doon Ward):**

The major issue facing Mansfield Shire (and other small rural shires) is that of rate capping.

Core services and facilities such as building and maintaining roads, bridges and sporting facilities are at risk given our small rate base, together with declining grants and recurrent funding from both the Federal and State Governments.

The previous council commenced

the conversation with the community regarding prioritising services and it is imperative that this conversation continues to determine which services are to cease.

● **Harry Westendorp (councillor - Jamieson Ward):**

The key opportunities for the incoming council will be to develop plans and strategies for increasing growth in a responsible and sustainable manner.

With the continued influx of new residents - (non-resident ratepayers making the 'tree change', and younger families and individuals seeking to build their lives here), council needs to work with the community to ensure that we have the infrastructure and the facilities to cope with this growth.

The challenge is to do this in an environment where our resources seem to be ever more constrained.

This requires us to look very carefully at how we operate more effectively.

The Mansfield Council, CEO & Senior Management should:

- Understand that certain ratepayers have very significant experience of what is likely to be 'good for Mansfield' and can be of great value in providing assistance to Council Management and Staff
- Promptly acknowledge and act upon all communications from ratepayers. e.g. email contact should immediately be responded to as received with an estimate of the time to address the matter
- Remember that the ratepayers and state and federal taxpayers fund the Council services and can reasonably expect value for their funding
- Be customer oriented & Serve the ratepayers, promptly, effectively & sensitively
- Should fully cost and benefit justify all projects before commencement and on-going. Project costs should include all sources of costs and revenues - e.g. staff & on-costs, consulting costs, state and federal grants, etc
- Regular cost/benefit reviews, quarterly and annually, to ensure that costs are minimised (including staff numbers) and objectives/outcomes are being achieved. These reviews should be available to ratepayers

- The cost/benefit reviews should cover:
 - Each Department (e.g. Planning, Tourism, Environment , Engineering, etc, etc)
 - Each project of significant interest or cost or outcome
 - Whether ratepayers think the departments and projects benefit them
- Projects prompted by government/political decisions should not automatically be proceeded with. Often, such projects may not be in Mansfield's interests. Further, any seed money provided is usually far less than the project cost that involves additional costs such as staff and on-costs, consulting costs, delays, etc
- Approved minutes of Council Meetings should correctly reflect resolutions passed
- Planning performance has been woeful, time consuming and stopping development and economic growth. Refer to latest State comparisons with similar Shires
- Tourism activities have often only been supported if they have been the "ideas" of the Tourism Manger and Council. Years ago, Mountain Bay ran several major Festivals, being the biggest and best ever held, all against the Officer & Council's desires. I spent \$50,000 at VCAT in one case just to have 10,000 attendees at Mountain Bay for a week with huge economic benefit to the Shire and at no cost to the Shire
- Consultants should only be employed when cost justified and preference should be given to Mansfield current or past ratepayers. Staff should be appointed that are experienced enough to do the work themselves, as should management
- What real cost-benefit has the Governance section really provided – e.g. Answer the phone, be responsive to ratepayers, etc – It often just does not happen!
- The Council should immediately appoint a Planning Committee composed of ratepayers with real planning and political experience and knowledge. Brian Johnstone would be pleased to be involved.

Particular matters of continuing concern are:

- The "secret" document that was declared secret by the CEO on behalf of Cr Sladdin must be released if the new Council is to have any credibility re future secrecy
- Management interest and responsiveness – Often no response to Planning related emails and follow-ups re Mountain Bay matters. Record is about 2½ years, including 6 months after CEO response this year
- Planning Scheme Review: Projects include PS Review, Highton Lane, Mansfield Township, Heritage, Merrijig – Total cost of all these studies around \$400,000 plus over several years
- Heritage Overlay recommended to be updated in Council adopted Mansfield Township Structure Plan – No action many months later

- Flood Overlay took a year to get to Panel. Management refused to confirm that it did not affect Mountain Bay despite Council and GBCMA Officers confirming this. Planning Panels Victoria advised Council by email that they must try and resolve issues and confirm in writing to the submitter. Johnstone and Mountain Bay wasted a year and much stress and aggravation. Panel was cancelled on day 1 with instruction to Council to provide written advice re Mountain Bay and Appleby properties
- Domestic Wastewater Management Plan: Six years and some \$400,000 wasted. Johnstone had in fact agreed with the Planning Minister and Bill Sykes M.P. that Lake Eildon Catchment could be exempt. Then Council advised the Water Minister that they could do the DWMP in 1 year if given \$50,000. Council eventually resolved to adopt a massive DWMP, but then did not do anything for a year. GMW & GVW got excited and forced Council to adopt an MOU that legally bound the Council to do the DWMP, as was required by the Planning and Water Ministers. Council still has hardly started the works required in the DWMP
- Schedules to Environment Significant Overlay (as required by the adopted DWMP) were prepared but (rightly) rejected by DELWP (State Planning). Again all this has been approved and rejected with absolute secrecy and no regard to DWMP obligations and cost
- Bushfire Management Overlay Maps & Schedule: DELWP (Planning) has prepared new BMO maps in “secret” from aerial photographs and has reviewed them in secret with Shire planning staff (Council Fire staff & CFA optional). The Maps and Schedules are to be incorporated in the Planning Scheme by the Minister with no involvement of Council and Ratepayers, despite these items being “local” items. The Mountain Bay permit free zone handles CFA BMO requirements through Section 173 Agreements to achieve the same result. Development Services are fully aware of the need for a Schedule to the BMO to specify rules for Mountain Bay, but I have no confidence or knowledge of what is happening.
- Environment Strategy: A fortune has been spent but is it cost effective or has it had any significant effect on the environment given the expenditure
- Road maintenance quality: Lousy so-called maintenance at Mountain Bay. A year or more ago the then Engineering Manager agreed to fix the problems at Mountain Bay, but it has been ignored
- The Development Services Manager recently advised me that the Mountain Bay Special Use Zone conditions, and especially permit free conditions, were no longer applicable after some 20 years. Lot owners and their consultants dare not object when they are hit with permit requirements. There is a process to change conditions that requires Ministerial approval of reasons, which do not include “I don’t like them”, or “they are too long standing”
- Ever increasing cost and staff increases. Little interest shown by Council or CEO
- Secrecy about project content, status, costs & benefits

A few other points to consider are:

- Many of the above matters have not been adequately addressed by the previous CEO or the current CEO during his year plus tenure.
- Many ratepayers and their consultants/assistants do not complain as they believe they cannot take the risk of exacerbating problems that their advice or criticism might prompt. And they almost never go to VCAT for retribution and action, especially on permit delays.
- New projects or major changes should not proceed without a cost/benefit analysis and Council approval. Ratepayers should be advised why the project or changes will be of benefit to them.
- The Council Plan may have a professional appearance, but is not always adhered to on a time, cost or benefit basis.
- Planning and Environment Act – Clause 197: Expedition

Where the Minister or any responsible authority, planning authority, referral authority, public authority, municipal council, panel, committee or officer is required to do any act, including making any decision or forming any opinion, that act must be done as promptly as is reasonably practicable, in any event within the time limits prescribed or any extension of those time limits allowed by or under this Act, so that loss or damage to any person from unreasonable or unnecessary delay is avoided

Mansfield Shire Planning Performance

Double Staff of 8-10 years ago - Plus Additional Consultants

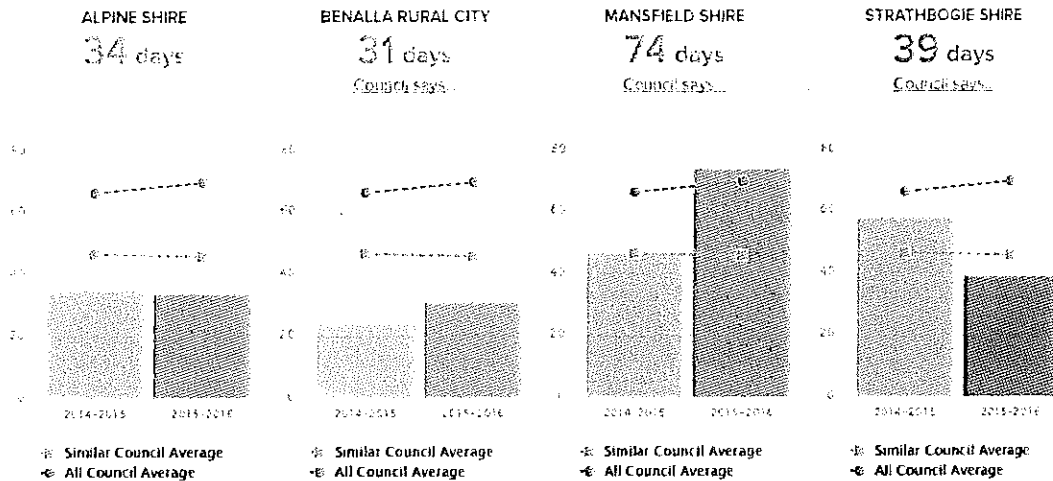
Strategic Planning performance – Projects take years

Domestic Wastewater Management Plan – 5 years and limited implementation

Planning Scheme changes take years or disappear

Ratepayers' suggestions largely ignored – Leave it to Panels

Planning Applications relative to other similar Shires:



Planning applications decided within 60 days

Percentage of planning application decisions made within 60 days



Real Cost Of Planning Scheme Update

C37: Mansfield Planning Scheme Review

Cost, as advised in Council Minutes, excluding Officer time:	\$70,000
Actual cost includes several studies over 3 or more years:	
Highton Lane Study	Say \$50,000
Heritage Overlay	Say \$30,000
C28: Merrijig Framework Plan	Say \$50,000
Mansfield Township Structure Plan (Consultant: TPG)	\$100,000
Mansfield Township Structure Plan (Consultant: ISIS)	Say \$50,000
C37: Mansfield Planning Scheme Review (Consultant: ISIS)	\$70,000
Total - Approx:	\$350,000
Plus staff cost - Say one for 1.5 years @ \$100,000 p.a.	\$150,000
Estimated Real Total Cost	\$500,000

Note: The Planning Scheme Update following the many Reviews ended up as largely an Update of the Municipal Strategic Strategy and the Local Planning Policies - Hardly a comprehensive Update, given the Ratepayer's funds expended

Council 'not broke', not amalgamating

By PAM ZIERK-
MAHONEY

A RECORD number of submissions to Mansfield Shire's draft budget for 2017-18 have been received with two days still left for further comments to be submitted.

Shire chief executive officer Alex Green said some 13-14 submissions had been received up until May 12 and more were expected - a record number to date.

He said normally around three to four submissions would be received by council on any

annual budget proposal.

"It has been a controversial budget this year and people are speaking out and giving us their views, which is excellent," Mr Green said, in reference to the well publicised financial challenges.

Shire Mayor Paul Volkering last week re-affirmed that Mansfield Shire Council is not broke.

"However, unless we take steps now, and I stress now, that we may end up going broke, but we owe it to the community to be responsible and authentic in taking a considered and measured approach, so that we

maintain the services that people have come to expect," he said.

"The budget repair will be over the four year term of this current council.

"As a council throughout the budget process we have attempted to engage with the broadest cross section of the community in an honest, forthright and timely manner.

"Just like the state and federal budgets, we too as a small rural council are having to make do with dwindling and diminishing resources, but we can't just raise taxes and don't want to incur further debt, which is at

prudent levels at the moment.

"We (council) are wanting the State Government to step up and accept their responsibility to pay for and not shift them onto local councils, as has been the trend in recent years, and was also evident in last week's state budget once again.

"Everyone has been encouraged to have their say and still can through a budget submission up until deadline which is close of business this Friday, May 19."

The last of the shire's community budget consultation meetings was held for non-

resident ratepayers in Melbourne last Wednesday.

Cr Volkering said at that meeting many people thanked councillors for their honesty and integrity and for having explained in detail where council is at in terms of financial performance and the preparation of the 2017-18 budget.

The draft budget has identified savings of more than \$460,000 to date - but realistically needs to find around \$700,000 in savings to balance the deficit between asset maintenance and operational costs.

Continued page 2

From page 1

"Someone in the non-resident ratepayers meeting asked whether or not amalgamations had been considered and we said it isn't a panacea and that before we head in that direction, that it would only be as a last resort and not without broad ranging community consultation and support for the move," Cr Volkering said.

The point of amalgamation has been raised at several community consultation meetings held over the past four weeks - but at this stage is not an option.

"I have tried to be as measured, fair and as honest as possible, but the one undertaking we will not waiver from is to listen to the broader community," Cr Volkering said.

Ratepayers who have made submissions to the draft budget will be invited to address council further at a scheduled meeting on May 30 - however, this will not be an open meeting.

From: David Butler
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 11:13 AM
To: Brian Johnstone
Subject: RE: Mansfield Council Sustainability 2018-2021

Hi Brian,
I could not believe the figures in the attachment you sent me.

I went to the MSC website and looked up the same document and found the following.

The Version you have has been updated.

My concerns in your version were that Cash at bank was increasing to over \$9m and Fixed assets were remaining constant.

In the updated version on the website, it looks more realistic – ie Cash at bank is now decreasing to \$2m in 4 years time and Fixed assets are increasing.

My suggestion to Council is to re send the document to residents as the document you have is very misleading and does not indicate any financial problem.

My take on the commentary in the document is this:

- 1 – Recognition of Financial unsustainability unless something is done.
- 2 – No recognition that you do not have to simply cut staff to fix the issue – Pay cut for Senior Managers to reflect the size of the Organisation is the most appropriate course of action – effectively rolling back the massive increases they have received of the past years. If the current managers don't like it, they can leave. Others will take their place. New Managers can't do any worse than the current group have done.
- 3 – Contradiction – Not replacing the Tourism manager, yet increasing the Compliance officer.

The appropriate staff to cut when faced with Insolvency is to cut staff who do not add to the service of the community. The Compliance office is NOT required and is a nice to have. Rather than flag the Compliance officer for Termination – the CVEO has increased the Cost of this role – Poor judgement.

4 – The Environment Department has always been made up of staff who have too much time on their hands and do little to add to the service to the community. Flag this role for redundancy.

5 – The Depot staff would not reduce their service level with the redundancy of 2-3 staff.

6 – Q. Is Overtime being strictly managed by Managers – Week managers tend to let overtime build up. Good Managers minimise it.

7 – Job share roles cost much more than if a full timer was performing the role. Job share is a waste of resources and extremely inefficient. Fixing this issue across the Council will result in fulltimers getting through a week of tasks performed by 2 job sharers in approx. 3 days. Allowing the Fulltimer to take on extra work and enabling other roles to become redundant.

Council must recognise the biggest cost item is wages and this is where the solution lies.

But I don't see any real attempt to address it.

Kind Regards

David Butler CPA MBA - ACCOUNTANT
P (03) 9730-1128 F (03) 9730-1601 E davidb@lilydaleinstantlawn.com.au
W www.lilydaleinstantlawn.com.au

From: Brian Johnstone [mailto:auric@bigpond.com]
Sent: Thursday, 18 May 2017 9:11 PM
To: David Butler <davidb@lilydaleinstantlawn.com.au>
Subject: Mansfield Council Sustainability 2018-2021

David:

Attached is the Strategic Resource Plan 2017-21 from the end of the new Draft Council Plan

Note the front page – a great early spring photo from the best development in the Shire – Mountain Bay (from the Dress Circle)

The Strategic Resource Plan appears to be the new approach to presenting long term (4 year) sustainability information and costing

It shows net debt going down, presumably by reducing capital expenditure and essential maintenance

It shows there is no need to drop EFT and staff costs

Surely a casual observer, even VAGO, will say that is O.K. – even though staff numbers from the top down and so called essential services could be cut

Certainly I do not agree with the Council/Shire that their range of services are all essential services

But how many people even know what the services really are and why anyone should consider them essential or non-essential

Comment please

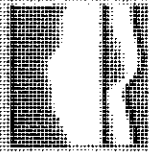
Regards

Brian Johnstone

Brian Johnstone
16 Molesworth Street
Kew, Victoria, 3101

Tel: 0437-777-444

Strategic Resource Plan



2017-2021

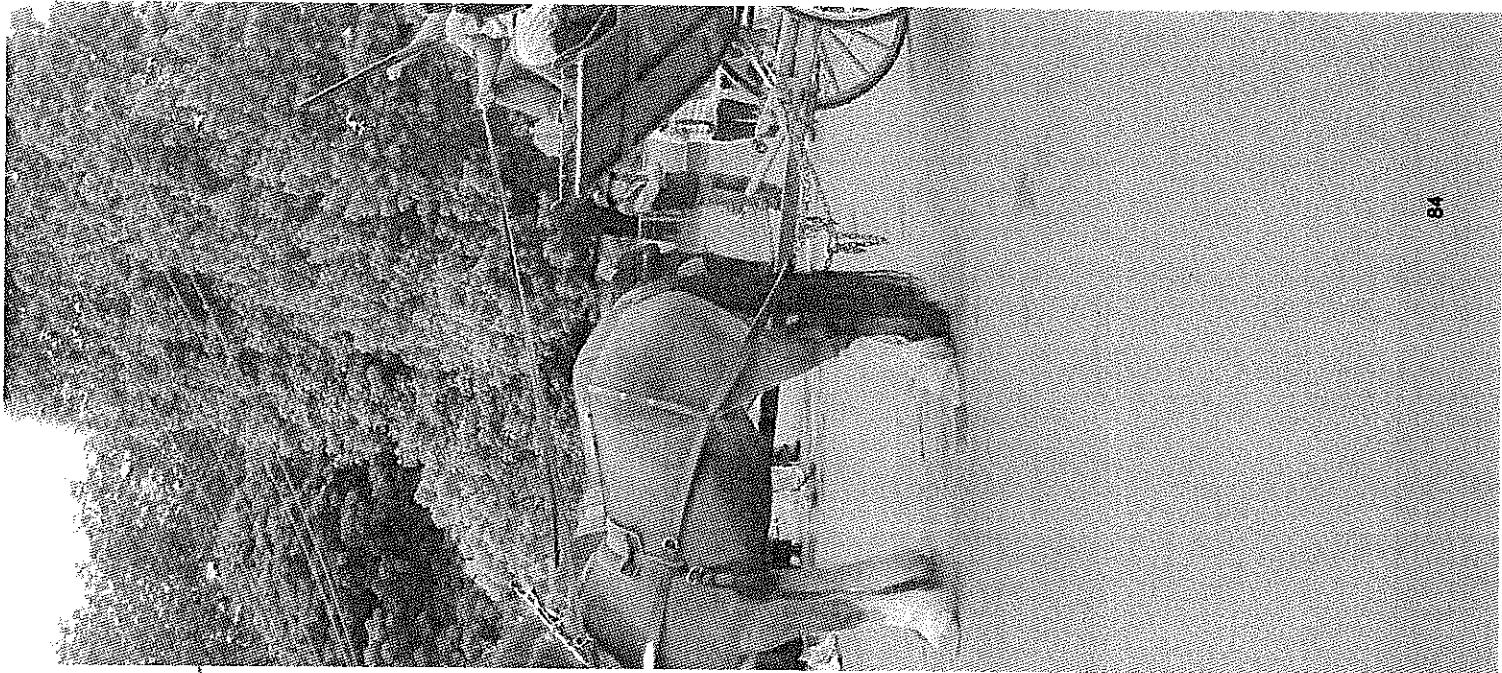
BALANCE SHEET VARIATIONS

MANSFIELD
STATE COUNCIL

Targets / Project Outcomes continued

Balance Sheet for the four years ending 30 June 2021 - Downloaded 18 April 2017

	2017-18 \$'000	2018-19 \$'000	2019-20 \$'000	2020-21 \$'000
Assets				
Current assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	7,253	7,822	8,765	9,094
Trade and other receivables	1,097	1,097	1,091	1,097
Other financial assets	216	216	216	216
Other assets	66	66	66	66
Total current assets	8,632	9,201	10,138	10,473
Non-current assets				
Trade and other receivables	103	32	18	11
Property, infrastructure, plant & equipment	110,802	110,915	110,357	111,052
Total non-current assets	110,905	110,947	110,375	111,063
Total assets	119,537	120,148	120,513	121,536
Liabilities				
Current liabilities				
Trade and other payables	906	906	906	906
Trust funds and deposits	651	651	651	651
Provisions	1,512	1,551	1,583	1,613
Interest-bearing loans and borrowings	265	173	183	193
Total current liabilities	3,334	3,281	3,323	3,363
Non-current liabilities				
Provisions	326	322	316	311
Interest-bearing loans and borrowings	2,236	2,113	1,930	1,737
Total non-current liabilities	2,612	2,435	2,246	2,048
Total liabilities	5,946	5,716	5,569	5,411
Net assets	113,591	114,432	114,944	116,125
Equity				
Accumulated surplus	43,213	44,059	44,571	45,752
Reserves	70,378	70,373	70,373	70,373
Total equity	113,591	114,432	114,944	116,125



Targets / Project Outcomes continued

Balance Sheet for the four years ending 30 June 2021 - Downloaded 19 May 2017

	2017-18 \$'000	2018-19 \$'000	2019-20 \$'000	2020-21 \$'000
Assets				
Current assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	7,253	5,356	3,070	2,160
Trade and other receivables	1,097	1,097	1,091	1,097
Other financial assets	216	216	216	216
Other assets	66	66	66	66
Total current assets	8,632	6,735	4,443	3,539
Non-current assets				
Trade and other receivables	103	32	18	11
Property, infrastructure, plant & equipment	110,802	116,913	121,959	125,536
Total non-current assets	110,905	116,945	121,977	125,547
Total assets	119,537	123,680	126,420	129,086
Liabilities				
Current liabilities				
Trade and other payables	906	906	906	906
Trust funds and deposits	651	651	651	651
Provisions	1,512	1,551	1,583	1,613
Interest-bearing loans and borrowings	255	173	183	193
Total current liabilities	3,324	3,281	3,323	3,363
Non-current liabilities				
Provisions	326	322	316	311
Interest-bearing loans and borrowings	2,266	2,113	1,930	1,737
Total non-current liabilities	2,592	2,435	2,246	2,048
Total liabilities	5,916	5,716	5,569	5,411
Net assets	113,521	117,964	120,851	123,675
Equity				
Accumulated surplus	45,218	47,591	50,478	53,302
Reserves	70,376	70,373	70,373	70,373
Total equity	115,594	117,964	120,851	123,675

MANSFIELD SHIRE COUNCIL			
22 MAY 2017			
FILE NO.	2	10	P
E4653		✓	

Submission on the Proposed Mansfield Shire 2017-18 Budget

Prepared by: Michael Lamin, Tolmie, 18 May 2017

The following is a submission in relation to the proposed Mansfield Shire 2017-18 budget. Though there are several areas that deserve comment, I have decided to focus on the largest expense item of the budget, Employee Costs.

Table 1: Analysis of the Financials of Mansfield, Alpine & Strathbogie Shires

	Mansfield 16-17 *	Mansfield 17-18 *	Alpine 16-17 *	Strathbogie 16-17*
Total Income	\$20,762,000	\$19,733,000	\$25,671,000	\$27,886,000
Total Expenses	\$18,212,000	\$18,577,000	\$23,658,000	\$26,966,000
Employee Costs (Operating)	\$8,172,000	\$8,586,000	\$8,215,000	\$8,862,000
Total Staff EFT	97.4	96.3	101	99
Employee Costs/Total Income	39.4%	43.5%	32%	31.8%
Employee Costs/Total Expenses	44.9%	46.2%	34.7%	32.9%
Average Income per Staff Member (Total Income/Total Staff)	\$213,000	\$205,000	\$254,000	\$282,000

*The data tabled is sourced from each council's published financial statements.

Analysis:

- Mansfield Shires Employee Costs are significantly higher than those of Alpine & Strathbogie Shires in terms of both Total Income & Total Expenditure.
- Specifically, Mansfield Shire 17-18 Budget Employee Costs are at least 11.5% more expensive in terms of both Total Income & Total Expenditure when compared to Alpine & Strathbogie Shires.
- Average Total Income per Staff Member in the Mansfield 17-18 Budget is 81% that of Alpine Shire & 73% that of Strathbogie Shire.

Conclusion:

- The table & analysis above show that there is significant scope for Mansfield Shire to improve the efficiency & effectiveness of its employees, as well as reducing the staff head count. Mansfield Shire Council should be aiming to achieve or exceed the employee cost percentages achieved by Alpine & Strathbogie Shires in the above table. The result of such action would free up significant funds to the overall financial benefit of the shire & its ratepayers.

Paxton's Hill
376 Mt Battery Road
Mansfield
Victoria
3722

Budget Submission on the Mansfield Shire Council 2017-18 Budget
By Robert Graves

I am making this submission in my capacity as a ratepayer and resident of Mansfield.

I am heartened to see that the Council recognises the need to spend money on renewal of existing assets. The Council has indulged in a frenzy of new capital projects over the past few years, which has resulted in a significant renewal and maintenance requirement and expense. This is a burden for all ratepayers, and it is important to keep Council assets in functional condition.

I would encourage the Council to continue its current responsible attitude to capital works, and resist the urge to build new assets or seal new roads.

As part of this responsible approach, the Council should not be selling the old saleyards and Lakins Rd sites. Once gone, the Council will never be able to repurchase these or similar sites. The sale reduces options for the Council and community into the future, without a defined need to sell these assets now.

Although the budget preamble commits to quarantining the proceeds, this is not a guarantee. Once sold the Council has considerable latitude to do as it wishes with these funds. I am particularly concerned that it will be treated as an easy way of avoiding the fiscal responsibility that is required of Council over the next few years.

Any new capital expenditure projects should be firmly based on cost-benefit analyses, and replace or upgrade existing assets – not create new assets. Any analysis should be done before any effort is made to raise funds (such as by selling land) or applying for grants. Additional assets are not required, and building them would be irresponsible in the present circumstances. New assets put burdens onto ratepayers in the future in renewal and maintenance costs.

While there are no identified projects, the Council should retain these sites, enjoying the capital growth that all land around Mansfield manages. This capital growth will exceed the amount of interest the Council can earn on any cash it receives from the proposed land sales.

When specific capital projects are identified, and after a cost-benefit analysis is undertaken, the Council should then consider what funding opportunities are available, including the sale of these lands, and gain community approval for the project at that point.

Robert Graves
0412 455 149



Mr. Alex Green
CEO
Mansfield Shire
Private Bag 1000
MANSFIELD 3722

Dear Alex

SUBMISSION TO THE 2017/18 BUDGET

1. INCREASE IN OVERALL COSTS

Given the public was advised both verbally and through the press that Council's finances were in need of an overhaul why are Council's staff costs and general costs projected to increase as indicated in the 2017/18 draft budget? This increase is above the projected savings described in the budget documents.

At the public meeting held in Mansfield to discuss the draft budget we were advised a report had been commissioned into Council's financial security. We were also advised the report indicated that if financial repair was not forthcoming the Mansfield Council would be broke in the short term (2-4 years).

This is not new, as a past Councillor I wrote in the Mansfield Courier (2015) about the need for Council to *cut its cloth accordingly* because of the internal and external influences affecting Council's finances. I am very disappointed to see that this same scenario is still playing out and costs are still increasing.

- **When will Council create a financial strategy to ensure the Mansfield Shire remains viable?**

2. STRATEGIES AND PLANS AS OUTLINED IN COUNCIL PLAN

1. Community Engagement Strategy
2. Stakeholder Engagement Plan
3. Active Ageing Strategy
4. Local Policy on housing provision covering issues such as the type, mix, subdivision, design and best practice environmental design - **underway**
5. Strategic plan to optimise economic benefits from cycling based tourism
6. Agri-tourism Alliance growth plan
7. Review Economic Development Strategy
8. Information Strategy
9. Youth Strategy and Action Plan
10. Sports Facility Strategy - **underway**

11. Public Health and Wellbeing plan update
12. Mansfield Shire Environment Strategy – Review
13. Human Resource Strategy

- **Given the hard economic times why is Council undertaking so many Strategies?**
- **What is the estimated cost of these Strategies, including current staff time and where has the money been allocated for in the budget?**
- **Will these Strategies be completed in house or outsourced to Consultants?**

3. SALE OF THE SALEYARDS

The proposed sale of the saleyards was tucked away in the budget with no reason for its sale and what would happen with monies raised. The projected monies from the sale were included in the budget figures.

I do not believe we should be selling this parcel of land just to park the funds in an account without full consultation with the community and more importantly what would happen with the proceeds.

I also understand that a further process of public notice/consultation is required under the Local Government Act prior to the land being sold where public comment will be sought.

- **Which will take precedent the approval of the budget with the sale included or public consultation prior to the sale?**

4. SAVINGS VARY IN BUDGET DOCUMENTS eg. Internal influences

Savings from non-replacement of **Tourism Economic Development Manager** varies between-\$92k to 119k in budget papers and \$121,838 – in the excel spreadsheet on Council webpage – what is the actual figure to be saved?

Extra costs associated with the **Tourist Information Centre** states the estimated increased costs to Council are 12k during 2016-17 and a further 15,000K for 2017-18.

In the excel spreadsheet the 2016-17 Total Original Budgets the figure was 118,496.00 for the tourist information centre. Under the 2017-18 Total Budget the figure is \$144,550.00. There is a variation between these two figures of \$26,054.00.

- **Why the variation and which is the correct cost to Council, 12-14k or 26K or more?**
- **Has the modelling for the Information Centre changed to warrant only a 12K-15K increase required to keep it operating?**
- **What was the cost to Council prior to Mt. Buller leaving the information centre model and what will be the actual cost to Council for this financial year?**

GENERAL COMMENT

It would be very beneficial if ratepayers could be provided with a general ledger of each area of Council (profit and loss statement) and then we could see where income is allocated/derived and costs incurred. This would assist to clarify my query above about the variations throughout the budget papers.

At a previous budget, a submitter provided examples of this level of reporting that is included in the Shepparton budget papers. This level of detail is explicit.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Hogan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ellen Hogan

P.O. Box 658
Mansfield 3723

THE BIG SQUEEZE (OR THE PERFECT STORM)

In my capacity as an independent councilor of the Mansfield Shire I wish to express the following views about the financial viability of local government, specifically the Mansfield Shire.

A recent story (*Councils in crisis amid merger calls as rural funds run dry* – Weekly Times April 8, 2015) about the possibility of councils merging due to the financial status of many small rural Councils named the Delatite Shire as one of the councils considered to be financially stretched. The name of the council has since been corrected; the reference was to the Mansfield Shire.

I believe councils are about to be impacted by the ‘perfect storm’ which potentially will undermine their very viability.

Councils are about to feel financially squeezed with the State Government capping local government rate increases at Consumer Price Index (CPI currently 1.7%)

At the same time there are cuts to government financial assistance relied upon by rural Councils.

There is a three-year freeze in indexation of the Financial Assistance Grants (Federal) and the removal of other funding streams including the Country Roads and Bridges program, Putting Locals First Program and the Local Government Infrastructure Program (State). These monies are heavily relied upon by rural Councils to provide projects and infrastructure.

The State Government has stated funding for country roads will continue but to date the allocations have not been committed and Councils are in the midst of preparing their next budgets.

Very soon our Council will have to negotiate a new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) with staff. If this Agreement is higher than CPI more pressure will be placed on the ability of the Shire to remain financially sound.

Council has no control over the annual price increases of its suppliers. These will be unknown to Council when putting the budget together, so a conservative approach will be required because there is no guarantee that supplier costs will increase with CPI.

The squeeze will not only impact on maintaining roads and bridges, it may seriously affect capital projects that grow our community.

Council will need to ‘cut its cloth’ accordingly or find itself in a position where the only way to finance its operations is to sell Council assets. This would be a short-term tactic and not address the financial squeeze occurring throughout all levels of government.

In light of a deteriorating financial setting, council urgently needs to address financial viability and start an open conversation with its ratepayers that until now has been mute. We need a clear financial strategy otherwise we will face the consequences of being forced into an unwanted merger and the obvious ramifications.

Cr Ellen Hogan



8. OTHER REPORTS

8.1 Such Other Business Admitted by the Unanimous Resolution of the Council

Nil.

9. MEETING CLOSURE

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 7.24pm.

CONFIRMED this **twenty seventh** day of **June** 2017.

Mayor