

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL MINUTES - 14 JUNE 2022

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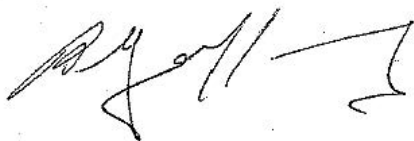
Indigo Shire - leading sustainable growth, community and cultural diversity, and climate action

HELD: Tuesday, 14 June 2022 at 6.30pm

LOCATION: Beechworth Council Chambers

ATTENDEES:	NAME	TITLE
	Cr Bernard Gaffney	Mayor
	Cr Peter Croucher	Deputy Mayor
	Cr Larry Goldsworthy	Councillor
	Cr Roberta Horne	Councillor
	Cr Sophie Price	Councillor
	Cr Diane Shephard	Councillor
	Cr Emmerick Teissl	Councillor
	Trevor Ierino	Chief Executive Officer
	Mark Florence	Director Community & Economic Development
	Greg Pinkerton	Director Planning & Corporate Services
	Ian Ellett	Director Infrastructure Services
	Jane Still	Senior Governance Advisor

Confirmed by the Council as a true and accurate record of the meeting on 28 June 2022



MAYOR CR BERNARD GAFFNEY

These Minutes are not a verbatim transcript of the discussions in the Council meeting; a recording of this meeting can be found on Council's webpage.

Responses given by Councillors and Council Staff are the opinion of the individual responders, and accurate at the time of response, to the best of their knowledge.

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1. WELCOME

The Mayor welcomed all to this meeting of Council and noted it would be live streamed and recorded, and the voices and images of those participating in the meeting, and in the gallery, captured as part of the recording.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE LAND

The Mayor acknowledged the original owners of the land on which the meeting was held and paid respects to their elders past and present and welcomed any descendants who may be there on behalf of all Councillors and those present.

The Mayor noted that Councillors have all taken an oath to carry out their duties in the best interests of the people of Indigo Shire and to do this in a fair and impartial manner. They are all committed to exercising the Council's powers and functions to the best of their skills and judgement.

3. APOLOGIES AND LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Nil

4. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

5. EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

5.1 SUBMITTERS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD

File No: 2022/464

Greg Pinkerton - Director Planning & Corporate Planning & Corporate Services
Services

For Information

It is noted that the following persons made submissions:

Alan Pleitner - Wahgunyah Progress Association

- Drainage in Wahgunyah, particularly roundabout on intersection of Ford and Victoria Street.
- Kerb and channel in Main Street rather than Distillery Road.

Herb Ellerbock

Addressed Council on his perceived bias of expenditure towards Beechworth, need to reduce spending on cycling infrastructure, and need to prioritise spending on drainage kerb and gutters. Believes improvements can be made in the format of the Budget and associated documents.

Lorraine Lucas – Beechworth History and Heritage Society

Advocated for a heritage and cultural advisor position to be staffed in Indigo Shire Council, to support business and tourism development in the Shire.

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Robin McLiesh

Requested improvements to capital works program regarding the reporting of carry-over figures and projects' progress. Took issue with the new capital projects reporting format. Requested reduction in reliance on natural gas by replacing Buller Gas fuel supply with a renewable fuel source, that Council commence landfill rehabilitation, and remove trucks from main street of Rutherglen.

Geoffrey Palmer

Took issue with perceived inconsistencies in the presentation of the Budget, around the Capital works monitor, Community facilities, Cash / carry forwards.

INTRODUCTION

At the meeting on 17 May 2022 Council endorsed a number of draft documents for community consultation:

- Draft 2022/23 Budget
- Draft 2022/23 10-year financial plan
- Draft 2022/23 Revenue and Rating Plan
- Draft 2022/23 Operating Income and Expense by Service

Council's Engagement Policy (2021) outlines the processes used for community consultation and, individually, each of these documents would normally have slightly different consultation methods. However, to save confusion with so many draft documents all published at once, it was determined that all documents would undergo the same consultation process. This is a higher standard than required for some of these documents, but this saved complexity and was the most pragmatic and consultative decision.

Therefore, all documents have been on exhibition since the 17 May meeting and all are progressing together to the June Council meeting for decision. As part of this process, this 14 June meeting has been scheduled to allow an opportunity for anyone who has made a submission (by the cut-off date of COB Tuesday 7 June) to be heard by Council in support of their submission.

The purpose of this report is to provide context to this process in preparation for the meeting.

BACKGROUND

Since the 17 May meeting 18 submissions and suggestions have been received on this suite of draft documents. Council thanks all the submitters for their contribution and all of the suggestions will be considered when the documents are being reviewed and prepared for the 28 June meeting.

This meeting is specifically focussed on only those submissions where the author has requested to be heard by Council in support of their submission.

At the time of this report being written for the meeting agenda the confirmation of submitters to be heard had not been finalised. It is therefore not possible in this report to provide details of the submitters that have requested to be heard on the night. Instead;

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1. A list of people speaking to their submissions will be tabled on the night of the meeting and recorded in the minutes.
2. A copy of the submissions that will be spoken to at the 14 June meeting will be circulated separately to Councillors in the briefing prior to the meeting.
3. The 18 submissions that were received by the 7 June cut-off date (including those that were spoken to at this meeting as well as the submissions that were not spoken to) will be included as attachments to the 28 June Council meeting agenda. Note that, in accordance with usual protocol, these attachments will have personal information redacted.

Each submitter will be allocated five minutes to speak in support of their submission. The role of Councillors in this meeting is to hear the submitters and there is an opportunity to ask clarifying questions as required.

Council will not be considering the merits of any submissions at this meeting, this is done at the 28 June meeting.

KEY IMPLICATIONS

Submissions to Council's draft documents is an important part of the consultation process and the right to speak in support of their submission allows members of the public to further elaborate or highlight a particular point or aspect of their submission.

RISK MANAGEMENT

There are no significant risks associated with the hearing of submissions to the budget and Council Plan.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The budget, Council Plan, and associated documents are a key part of Council's planning and control cycle. Whilst hearing submissions has no financial impact to council, the process of preparing the budget and Council Plan and inviting community input is a very important part of Council's good governance and public responsibility.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The opportunity for members of the community to make submissions was promoted throughout May and June through a number of channels including newspaper advertising, regular inclusion in Indigo Shire's Weekly Update e-newsletter, through social media channels and Council's website.

LEGAL/COUNCIL PLAN/POLICY IMPACT

The preparation of many of these documents is governed by a prescriptive process set out in the Local Government Act. Consultation is set out in Council's Community Engagement Policy (2021) and allows members of the community to make representations to Council on any area of the budget and Council Plan that they choose to. As discussed above, this process has, this year, been opened up to all documents that are included in this tranche of consultation.

CONCLUSION

Council has received several submissions with some submitters having already requested to be heard in support.

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A copy of all submissions requesting to be heard at this meeting will be circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting and a list of submitters speaking at the meeting will be tabled on the night.

Council will hear the submitters at this meeting, with formal consideration of all submissions scheduled for the Council meeting on Tuesday 28 June 2022, prior to decisions being made on each draft document.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Under section 130(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* and Governance Rule 24, the following officers declare that they have no interests to disclose in providing this report:

- Greg Pinkerton – Director Planning and Corporate Services
- Phil Garoni – Manager Finance

Attachments

Nil

Meeting Concluded: 7.10pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday, 28 June 2022 at 6.30pm