



31 May 2019

Mr David Mosel  
Acting Chief Executive Officer  
Coorong District Council  
PO Box 399  
TAILEM BEND SA 5260

Dear David

As Presiding Member of Council, I wish to call a Special Meeting of Council on Tuesday 4 June 2019 commencing at 6:00pm at the Coorong Civic Centre Chambers, 95 – 101 Railway Terrace, Tailem Bend.

The purpose of the Special Meeting is to receive written submissions and hear verbal submissions from persons and organisations who wish to provide comment on the draft 2019-20 Annual Business Plan & Budget

Please make the necessary arrangements for this meeting to be held.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "PE Simmons". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Cr. Paul Simmons  
MAYOR

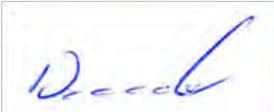
## COORONG DISTRICT COUNCIL

### NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

You are hereby advised that the Mayor has called a Special Meeting of the Coorong District Council to be held at the Coorong Civic Centre Chambers, 95 – 101 Railway Terrace, Taillem Bend on Tuesday 4 June 2019 commencing at 6:00pm to discuss the following items:

1. Apologies
2. Presentation of draft 2019-20 Annual Business Plan & Budget
3. Written submissions in relation to the 2019-20 Draft Annual Business Plan & Budget
4. Verbal submissions
5. Closure

An agenda for this meeting appears as follows.



David Mosel  
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL  
to be held at  
Coorong Civic Centre Chambers, 95 – 101 Railway Terrace, Tailem Bend  
on Tuesday 4 June 2019 at 6:00pm**

***Civic Prayer***

*Almighty God, help us to duly and faithfully carry out our numerous duties to the best of our judgement and ability for the advancement of this district and the benefit of all whom we are here to serve.*

*Amen*

1. Apologies
2. Presentation of draft 2019-20 Annual Business Plan & Budget
3. Written submissions in relation to the 2019-20 Draft Annual Business Plan & Budget
4. Verbal submissions
5. Closure



**2. PRESENTATION OF DRAFT 2019-20 ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN & BUDGET**

Council administration will present an overview of the 2019-20 Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget during the Special Council meeting.

### **3. WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS IN RELATION TO THE 2019-20 DRAFT ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN & BUDGET**

<b>SMP Objective 1</b> A caring, healthy and resilient community.	Strategy 1.7 – Achieve or implement the statutory and core responsibilities of Council.
<b>Other Document Reference</b>	Draft 2019-20 Annual Business Plan & Budget
<b>Statutory Requirement</b>	Yes
<b>Financial Implications</b>	As outlined in respective documents
<b>Author of Report</b>	Executive Assistant
<b>Officers Consulted</b>	Director Community & Corporate
<b><u>Recommendation</u></b> That: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Council formally receive the four (4) written submissions attached the agenda report in relation to the draft 2019-20 Annual Business Plan &amp; Budget, and any others tabled at the meeting.</li> <li>2. Council acknowledges any persons providing a verbal submission and thank them for their interest.</li> <li>3. Any amendments to the 2019-20 Annual Business Plan &amp; Budget arising from written submissions or verbal submissions be included in a report to be presented to Council at its meeting to be held on Tuesday 25 June 2019.</li> </ol>	

### **BACKGROUND**

At a Special Council meeting held on 7 May 2019, Council unanimously agreed that the draft 2019-20 Annual Business Plan & Budget be endorsed for the purpose of community engagement from 8 May 2019 to 4 June 2019. Further, that the Mayor and Executive Leadership team were authorised to make minor editorial amendments to the 2019-20 draft Annual Business Plan.

This statutory meeting is an opportunity to hear submissions in relation to the draft documents, and consider and written submissions received. The meeting must remain open for a period of at least one hour.

Council must consider all submissions made during the community engagement period before adopting its annual business plan and budget (with or without amendment) as required under Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1999 (“the Act”).

### **Community Engagement Strategy**

The engagement strategy process, which has met Council’s legislative responsibilities, incorporated the following:

- Public notices inviting public submissions on the draft documents were placed in the Murray Valley Standard on 14 May 2019, the Border Chronicle on 15 May 2019, and the Lakelander on 16 May 2019 (notices were not placed in the Tailem Topics or Coonalpyn Community Hub newsletter owing to the timeframes not lining up);
- Notification of engagement opportunity in the 'Coorong Connect' newsletter which was circulated to every ratepayer during May;
- Social media posts notifying of community engagement, which included:
  - Facebook post on 10 May 2019 (shared 10 times, audience reach of 1,972 people, no comments);
  - Facebook reminder post on 31 May 2019;
- Community information sessions were staged across the district where the community was invited to take advantage of opportunities to ask questions of Council Members and senior staff regarding the draft plan. Sessions were held at:
  - Coorong Civic Centre Tailem Bend, 13 May 2019
  - Peake & District Sporting Club, 14 May 2019
  - Tintinara Customer Service Centre, 20 May 2019
  - Meningie Customer Service Centre, 22 May 2019;Submission slips to be returned 'ballot box' style were made available at each information session. Two slips were received (refer to the written submissions below). Notes were also taken at these sessions and are collated below.
- Further, in accordance with Section 123 (5a) of The Act, an on-line question and answer facility was made available on Council's website, along with detailed information on the draft plan and the community engagement process.

Note – Council does not collate or record any feedback from social media that is not directly posted on Council's channels, i.e. shared posts or posts about council activities on individual or other group pages.

### Written Submissions Received

At circulation of this agenda on 31 May 2019, Council had received four (4) formal responses relating to the draft document. The responses received appear on the following pages. Any submissions received after circulation of this agenda will be tabled at the Special Council meeting on 4 June 2019.

### Written submissions:

1. **Mr Bruce Pennington – received 13 May 2019**  
(*Tailem Bend information session, ballot box style feedback*)
  1. Very Informative
  2. Understanding current problems with Council

3. Community input is important and should be further encouraged.

**2. Mr John Wicker – received 13 May 2019**

*(Tailem Bend information session, ballot box style feedback)*

If someone wants to complain they should be compulsory that they put their name to it. If there is no name the complaint should not exist. Thank you for a detailed explanation of rates, keep up the good work. Anything worth while is never easy. Well done people.

**3. Mrs Marianne Cunneen – received 22 May 2019**

*(Written submission via email)*

I was planning to be at the meeting in regard to the 2019-2020 Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget in Meningie tonight however last hour change of plans meant I did not get there. I have a couple of items that I was hoping to raise had I been able to attend, these include the following; Wadmore House: I have great concerns about the future of Meningie's Wadmore House. The house is the oldest existing building in Meningie and my interest in the town's history means I have an interest in its future. I am not sure what Council's intentions are, but I have a keen interest in its survival and that it is utilised in some way in order that it does not go to ruin. Lighting and power in the Lions Jubilee Park: I am on the Meningie Food Fair committee and also involved with markets held in the park. As Meningie does not have a large indoor facility such as a town hall, most of our events are held in the Lions Jubilee Park. Having limited power outlets is always a problem when holding these events. As the Food Fair runs into the evening adequate lighting is also a large problem. Roads: Being employed to deliver mail on many of the roads in the Lakes Ward, I am aware that many roads need much more attention than is currently available, but not being an expert on roads, I would not attempt to make any suggestions in that regard. I respectfully ask the Council keep these items on their agenda for future consideration. Regards Marianne Cunneen, Meningie.

**4. Mrs Sue Lewis – received 22 May 2019**

*(Written submission via email)*

Dear Nat,

I regret I am an apology for this evening's meeting in regard to the 2019-2020 Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget. I have appointments to attend made some time ago but I am putting my thoughts in 'print' and would appreciate them being read at the meeting if possible. Firstly, I would like to thank council for the improvements in the main street of Meningie. It is wonderful to be able to step out of my car when shopping and not have my feet in water when rain has fallen so the drainage problem is much improved. The flower boxes with art work and the crepe myrtle trees are visually impressive and overall we have a very aesthetically pleasing main street. With the lake and the green grass, it is visually attractive from the MENINGIE sign by the Flip Flop at the northern end of town through to the business area. The sign relating to the Riverboat Trail in Jubilee Park was moved as requested prior to this year's Meningie Food Fair in March and I think it is perhaps in a better place now. The efforts of council ground staff are so often appreciated as matters are generally attended to promptly. Meningie does not have a town hall for events encompassing hundreds of people so

the Lions Jubilee park is the alternative and is a wonderful asset for the area. The lake on sunset is generally a magnificent sight and we as a community are appreciative of work undertaken in the park e.g. the ablution block, seating, playground etc. OR we certainly should be. The park, however does need better lighting and power distribution. The Meningie Food Fair is a twilight event on the Friday of the long weekend in March and those involved are very often packing up in semi darkness or worse. A better lighting supply would enable the park to be used more for large events and of course be much safer for all concerned. The power poles at the northern end of the park seem to lack the necessary wattage to accommodate vendors power source etc. and perhaps this was an inadvertent mistake upon installation. Whatever the reason or cause, those of us who organise events such as these would very much appreciate council's attention to the power and lighting in the park. I am not familiar with the workings of electricity but life is certainly more of a challenge without it. Therefore, I respectfully request council consider this appeal (and the necessary expenditure) for better lighting and power supply within Jubilee Park, Meningie. It will be for the benefit of thousands of people over many years. Yours Truly, Sue Lewis

**General feedback and questions captured at Council's community information sessions:**

General feedback and questions were also captured at Council's community information sessions, which were held across the district in Tailem Bend, Peake, Tintinara and Meningie.

While this feedback will not be considered as formal written submissions, it is considered pertinent information for preparation of the 2019-20 Annual Business Plan & Budget.

The notes from each session have been attached to this report on the following pages.



## 2019-20 Annual Business Plan & Budget Community Information Session

### Notes - feedback and questions from Tailem Bend, 13 May 2019

**Attendees:** Julie Barrie, Bruce Pennington, Greg Miller, Peter Wright, John Trueman, Margaret Trueman, Malcolm Piggott, Wayne Hamilton, Helen Bowering, Karen Zadow, Robert Zadow, John Wicker, Sandra Douglas, Fiona Paech (excluding staff & Council Members)

*John Wicker – What is the exact location of Dickson Reserve pontoon, and will visitors be able to access the Tailem Bend township from the pontoon.*

Nat Traeger clarified where the pontoon is to be situated at Dickson Reserve in relation to Princes Highway, and the main street of Tailem Bend, and confirmed that users will be able to access the township from the pontoon.

*Unknown - \$38k is listed for safety upgrades to the Tailem Bend Civic Centre; what is this for, and why this much?*

Nat Traeger stated that this work is the result of threats received to Council, and there has become a need to make safety upgrades to the entrance of the Civic Centre to ensure safety of those inside the building. Council is looking to install either bollards or planter boxes at the entrance of the Civic Centre.

*Greg Miller – Where is the cost shown for the Tailem Bend toilets redevelopment project in the 2019-20 budget?*

Nat Traeger noted that the project is currently still sitting in the 2018-19 budget, as Council is unsure on delivery of the project and awaiting further information, owing to notification of the contractor going into administration. It is looking unlikely however, that the project will be carried out in 2018-19. If this is the case, the project will likely be carried over to 2019-20.

*Julie Barrie – What is the current status of the Coonalpyn toilets drainage project?*

David Mosel confirmed that the project will be completed by 30 June 2019.

*Cr. Rowntree – Could it be explained how ratepayers can challenge the value of their land?*

Corinne Garrett and Nat Traeger responded that all information on how to challenge the value put on your property is attached to the back each resident's rates notice. Corinne then explained that if there have been no changes to a property, and that there has been a

substantial change to its valuation, residents can make an objection/challenge with the Valuer-General, who will assess the application and decide accordingly.

*Bruce Pennington – Bruce asked what the 3% is put on – is it general rates, or rates that were raised? Bruce made reference to 2017-18 Annual Report figures, and then asked why there was a \$15m figure in Annual Report financial statements, and there is a \$14m figure in Annual Business Plan. Bruce commented that it looks like Council is budgeting for more than its revenue.*

Corinne Garrett explained that Council only has control over raising rates, and that there is no ability to control any other aspect, including grants received, and setting/collecting statutory fees, therefore it is difficult to know for certain how much to budget for in any given year.

*Bruce Pennington – Voiced concerns over itemising grants when they shouldn't be treated as income and stated that you can actually see that the rates income is not meeting expenditure over the years. Bruce also claimed that in the last 10 years Council has payed total contractors and employees in excess of general rate revenue.*

Corinne Garrett noted that the information Bruce was referring to was from the Annual Report, not the 2019-20 Annual Business Plan and asked that Bruce keep his questions focussed on the ABP (Bruce moved on).

*Mr Pennington also noted that there was high cashflow in 2017-18 because of grants received, and stated that in 2019-20 there is a worse cashflow, and that Council should address it by putting rates up 15-20% to be sustainable.*

Council staff and members agreed that the Council is not currently in a long-term financially sustainable position, and that there is a long-term plan to bring it to a sustainable position (as evidenced in the Powerpoint presented at the community information session).

*Wayne Hamilton – Believes that Council spends too much money for the items that it spends money on, and asked if Council considers how it manages its expenditure? Mr Hamilton also voiced concern that Council is wasting money, and still increasing rates (and that this impacts negatively on residents).*

Corinne Garrett noted that Council is going to look at both income and expenditure processes and management, which are to be reviewed with the new Council. Corinne and David Mosel also noted that there are processes in place for procurement and purchasing which are governed by legislation and Council must follow. Corinne also noted that with major projects, they must be built for commercial use, which often increases the costs (in comparison to domestic use).

*Helen Bowering – Referred to the 'bucket' and capital value and asked whether The Bend Motorsport Park coming online would affect the bucket? Mrs Bowering also referred to rumours that the Motorsport Park is getting an Indenture, and would that mean that they*

*won't need to pay rates? Mrs Bowering also asked whether grants could be removed from the income statement to show a clearer picture?*

Corinne Garrett stated that it is unclear why some valuations have gone up, as is clearly the case with Primary Production land this year.

Corinne noted that grants could be removed from the income statement.

The Mayor elaborated on the possibility of an Indenture Act, noting that nothing had yet been confirmed.

*John Truman – Brought up the issue of State Government imposing further costs, statutory charges, fees and responsibilities onto councils, and asked what the Local Government Association can do to push back against these measures?*

The Mayor responded that in some ways councils are at the whim of the State Government, and must operate as directed, noting that occasional funding comes from the Federal Government, and confirmed that further functions are being imposed on councils (such as planning reforms). The Mayor confirmed that the LGA has lobbied the State Government quite heavily, but was not well received by the previous government. The LGA continues to lobby with the State Government on these issues.

*Bruce Pennington – Stated that budgeting can be difficult, and asked whether residents could rely on the figures budgeted for (Mr Pennington was comparing previous budgets to financial statements and Annual Reports of Council).*

Corinne Garrett noted that Council budgets for the grants that it should be getting, however the State and Federal Governments often choose whether they will bring forward payments (into different years than what was originally budgeted for), which affects the Council's budget and financial statements.

*Malcolm Piggott – Commented that he believes Council wastes money on consultants. Does Council consider there is no one within the organisation that can undertake those tasks which the consultants are carrying out?*

The Mayor noted that many amongst the community and even the council have differing views, and differing opinions, which can bring in multiple consultants (in reference to various projects and concept plans etc.).

*Greg Miller – Offered positive feedback, and commented that he believes that Council's decision to employ three patrol graders (double-shifted) is a great practice, and should be good for the roads in the district.*

*Bruce Pennington – Made a comment about taking grants out of the income statement, referring to research he has done on the matter.*

*Sandra Douglas – Noted that the CWMS fixed charge is going up \$10 in 2019-20, and asked what was spent last year on CWMS?*

Corinne Garrett noted that Council's Community Wastewater Management Scheme (CWMS) does not pay for itself, or make a profit. The CWMS fixed charge will be reviewed as part of the service review and rating review process to be undertaken in 2019-20.



## **2019-20 Annual Business Plan & Budget Community Information Session**

### **Notes - feedback and questions from Peake, 14 May 2019**

**Attendees: Geoff Bell, Darrell Lauterbach, Ian Farley, Jim Rowntree (excluding staff & Council Members)**

*Ian Farley – Commented that Council is now running 3 patrol graders double shifted, and that this was Council's practice about three years ago, prior to reducing graders. What happened to the savings made during that time by reducing the service level?*

David Mosel said that the savings would have gone into other expenditure (capital projects). Nat Traeger showed information on the 'Assets' Powerpoint slide detailing transport assets costs (2011-2017). David also made reference to costs increasing to carry out road work (including rubble royalties etc.).

*Geoff Bell – Commented on the high volume of traffic on some of the district's back roads/unsealed roads, and voiced concerns about B-Doubles moving at speed, especially at harvest time, and stated that the roads are not holding up under these pressures.*

David Mosel agreed, noting that the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator's (NHVR) decision to declare all of Council's roads as B-Double accessible has deteriorated the condition of the roads.

*Geoff Bell – Referred to the new Council's plan (after Council election in 2018), noting that the Council needs to manage fiscally to operate successfully, and to reduce expenditure, and make savings.*

Cr. Rowntree noted that Council is going to address this by undertaking further service reviews.

*Ian Farley – Why doesn't Council just cut the Community Development budget and make a \$340k saving?*

Nat Traeger explained that while farmers may not see value in those services, many other ratepayers within the district do. 2% of the operating expenditure being cut will not address the overall issue of over-expenditure/large deficit. Nat also made reference to employee costs which sit under operational in the budget, and then further general discussion occurred about employee expenses.

Jim Rowntree – *Would grants offered to Council change if there is a change in Federal Government?*

The Mayor described the nature of grants already received by Council, and said that it looks as though there may be further commitment from the government for undertaking road sealing projects etc. The Mayor stated that State Government does not contribute very much to Council's in grants, but occasionally the Federal Government offers grant funding. The Mayor doesn't see any big movement in receiving funding from the State or Federal Governments in the near future.

Geoff Bell – *How is the Peake Water Scheme working currently, and what are the plans for the Scheme upgrade?*

David Mosel noted that there is an issue with receiving water through the system when the pump isn't in action (problems with the gravity-fed system). Council plans to change this, and will build a separate tank which will provide a constant supply. David confirmed that a contractor has been engaged to start works in the next week or so and the upgrade should be completed by 30 June 2019.

Gary Hanson (not at session) – *Where are we in terms of providing more roads which can be accessed by bigger vehicles?*

David Mosel responded, explaining that Council needs to look at the road network and identify priorities for demand, through discussion with residents etc. The issue also needs to be looked at from a regional approach (through the MRLGA) so that Council can leverage funding to make upgrades and carry out projects. The Mayor and David also noted that the NHVR has put pressure onto councils to approve heavy vehicle routes. The Mayor also noted that junctions are a prime area to be addressed for improvements and upgrades, particularly for safety reasons.

Ian Farley – *Are we going to see three repair graders on the roads during winter this year?*

David Mosel confirmed funding has been allocated to the 2019-20 budget for three double shifted patrol graders, so that it is anticipated that service levels will return to what they have been in the past (prior to reduction of graders).

Geoff Bell – *Made reference to the high cost of living for people (which is a big issue highlighted in the lead up to the Federal election), and that Councillors should keep this in mind when looking at the Council budget, so if cuts need to be made, then they should be made.*

David Mosel then further elaborated on road safety.

Geoff Bell – *Commented on the lack of notification of the community information meeting held at Peake and suggested popping notices into post boxes or putting up a paper notice somewhere in Peake (post office maybe).*



## **2019-20 Annual Business Plan & Budget Community Information Session**

### **Notes - feedback and questions from Tintinara, 20 May 2019**

**Attendees: Bev Webb & Melody Twelftree (excluding staff & Council Members)**

*Cr. Arthur – With regard to external funding received from the Murray Darling Basin Economic Development Program for the Meningie North Jetty upgrade (\$500k) and the Murray Coorong Trail extension (\$500k), Cr. Arthur requested further details on:*

- *How the Indigenous tourism traineeship will be funded*
- *Construction of the Murray Coorong Trail into the Raukkan township*
- *The Commonwealth funding agreements (i.e. timelines, milestones)*
- *In-kind contributions that Council will make to the respective projects*

Director Community & Corporate advised that the indigenous traineeship is funded from within the \$500k grant, there will be 6km of trail and related infrastructure as well as other tourism related items, it is expected that the project will be completed within two years and Council's in-kind contribution is project management, employee hosting etc.

*Bev Webb – How does Coorong's proposed rate increase for 2019-20 compare with other councils?*

Finance Manager noted that Council will increase its net general rate revenue by 3%. Cr. Arthur stated that Tatiara Council have budgeted a 2.5% increase and Murray Bridge are not increasing their rates for a second successive year.

*Bev Webb – How long will the rate increase remain and at what point will it drop back?*

Finance Manager responded that the long term plan forecast 3%-4% for the next few years but that was dependent on operational savings between \$250k-\$340k per annum being realised.

*Bev Webb – How will vacant land be classified?*

Finance Manager advised a differential rate 120% above the base rate applies to vacant land and the proposed 2019/20 increase is to be advised, but likely to receive a 3% increase.

*Bev Webb – Who will develop Council's next strategic management plan?*

Director Community & Corporate advised external consultants will be engaged for this area of expertise. Ratepayers and the community will be consulted in various formats such as road shows, surveys, formal submissions etc.

*Bev Webb – What actions are in place to transport water for future management of the Coorong and Lower Lakes?*

The Mayor and Cr. Hill stated that an environmental impact study should be undertaken first and foremost, as this will outline options for water quality management. The Mayor also highlighted the downstream allocation from other states in the Murray-Darling Basin system.

Cr. Hill advised the Federal Government has not reaffirmed their commitment to enacting the Murray-Darling Basin Plan to date despite the recent Federal election.

Cr. Arthur noted the current Murray-Darling Basin Authority implementation timeframes are likely to extend beyond 2024.

*Bev Webb – When does Council expect to be debt free?*

Director Community & Corporate responded that Council was focussing on maintaining an even trend on its debt ratio, rather than becoming debt free. It is good financial management in local government for ratepayers of tomorrow to pay for services made available today and this is known as intergenerational borrowing, i.e. borrowed funds are invested today in infrastructure projects, future generations will benefit and therefore should pay for them through loan repayments.



## 2019-20 Annual Business Plan & Budget Community Information Session

### Notes - feedback and questions from Meningie, 22 May 2019

**Attendees:** Pamela Gillen, Vic Woolston, Kate Andre, Bronwyn Kirkman, Dianne Henshall, Rosa Hillam, Judy Applekamp, Mick O'Hara, Emma Swan, Stephen Paech (excluding staff & Council Members)

*Kate Andre – (Goolwa Regatta/Yacht Club), raised a query about the Meningie North Jetty in relation to the quality of the structure and procurement process. Kate also commented on how important this project is to many in the boating community.*

Cr Leng responded that the proposed pontoon would be of wave attenuation design, which is done by Bellingham.

*Pam Gillen – Does LAP still give out funding for trees?*

Nat Traeger replied that she did not believe that they did, but all programs are available on a page located on Council's website (Coorong Tatiara Local Action Plan).

*Vic Woolston – What is the \$21k Jetties and Boat budget for?*

David Mosel responded that it is for renewal on all jetties and boat ramps in the area, and in accordance with the asset management plans, for example Narrung, Meningie Sailing Club & Lions Park jetties.

*Kate Andre – Commented that Narrung jetty is important to the community, being the only point of access on the southern side of the lake.*

*Pam Gillen / Emma Swan - Spoke about new footpaths required for Jallarah, extension of the hospital to West Tce / Bonney Street.*

David Mosel responded that new footpaths (and infrastructure in general) are only considered upon request and public demand.

*Di Henshall – What is the \$25k irrigation renewal budget for, specifically mentioning the memorial/croquet area)*

David Mosel responded that consideration to this request would be made when the 2019-2020 budget allocation is made.

Stephen Paech – *Could wider comparison on assets (mostly roads) to Council alike/neighbouring councils be made?*

Nat Traeger concurred that the sample provided during the presentation was of one like neighbouring Council and that the state average was of all councils. Nat also confirmed that she has obtained the grants commission data to undertake a more detailed comparison.

Mick O'Hara - *Asked a question relating to rates growth, also commenting on the lengthy delay in planning and building approvals potentially causing delays in valuation increases.*

Nat Traeger commented that she wasn't aware that the team responsible for approvals was causing any delays in this regard.

Vic Woolston – *Does Council, in comparison to others, rate high?*

Nat Traeger indicated that it is difficult to compare council from council as this is invariably a variance around minimum rate v fixed charge, the amount of services that are levied directly on the rate notice, some council areas do not have CWMS, differentials and land use codes vary etc. However, if you compared a rural council like this one, which has a large road network to maintain and a small ratepayer base, to a metropolitan council, then yes, ratepayers may feel they are rated highly in comparison to services received.

Stephen Paech - *Will the rate cap continue over to the next year?*

Nat Traeger explained that the cap was applied from the previous year to the current year so it does not continue into the next year.

Pam Gillen - *Suggested that if Council needed to increase rates by 3-4% why didn't they increase them 4% every year to lessen the pressure of having to make significant operational savings over the next four years.*

Nat Traeger explained that the two scenarios provided during the presentation was to indicate to the community the level of savings that would need to be found if either a 3% or 4% general rate revenue increase was applied for the next four years. If 3% was applied, Council would need to find approximately \$360k per year, compared with \$250k per year with a 4% rate revenue increase. Nat also commented that Council needs to balance the community's willingness or appetite for rate increase with their service expectations.

Pam Gillen - *How will Council achieve savings?*

Nat Traeger outlined Council's plans for a service review across all of council's services, both external and internal. Nat also mentioned that whilst Council will be reviewing all services, a priority would be on those things costing council the most, i.e. infrastructure and asset services and operations.

Cr Sharon Bland - Asked Nat Traeger to explain the process of rate capping, e.g. by application and 60 days from issue of rates notice.

Nat Traeger indicated in order to assess the eligibility criteria relating to capping, an application process is required:

Applications are considered subject to:

1. the increase is not as a result of building improvements made to the land (regardless of when undertaken); or
2. the increase is not as a result of change of land use of the land; or
3. the increase is not as a result of rezoning of the land; or
4. ownership of the land has not changed since 30 June 2018.

Pam Gillen – When would the rating review be done?

Nat Traeger responded that it would need to be done within the first half of 2019-2020 to enable the outcome to be implemented in the 2020-2021 year.

Pam Gillen - How many cars does Council have, plus those who use a car to go home in each night?

Nat Traeger advised that she didn't have the exact number on hand, but that a report on all vehicles available for both private and commuter use was tabled at the April 2019 Council meeting.

Kate Andre – extended positive feedback to Council of the following points:

- for getting the grants for Raukkan & Meningie Jetty
- Indigenous trainee and development of council assets going forward
- Works undertaken on Narrung Road – Positive to Narrung (Road Verge)
- The Murray Coorong Trail

Pam Gillen – How much do we put in to Libraries \$ per year?

Nat Traeger indicated that she was unsure of the actual figure but thought it was in the vicinity of \$50k.

Pam Gillen - What is being done from Council's perspective in regard to access to libraries on school grounds?

Mayor Paul Simmons responded that Council has been contacted by the MAS Governing Council & Principal in relation to potential capital investment in the community library when the time comes for this stage to be developed.

Stephen Paech – What is Council doing in relation to the minute from the 2018 Audit Committee in relation to financial sustainability? (Note, the minute Mr Paech is tabled below)?

*“A more aggressive financial strategy be developed to address the ongoing shortfall in budgeted operating revenue as identified in the operating deficit reported in the budgeted statement of comprehensive income for 2018/19 financial year.”*

*“The ongoing operating deficits and continually increasing net financial liabilities indicate Council is not operating in a financially sustainable manner under the current financial strategy that underpins the Long Term Financial Plan”.*

*“Consequently it is recommended management develop and implement a framework to create a financial strategy that will move Council into a financially sustainable position over time.”*

Nat Traeger acknowledged the request and former Audit Committee recommendation to Council, confirming that the new Council was also aware and putting strategies in place, such as the service and rating reviews to address the issues identified in the long term financial plan.

*Bronwyn Kirkman* - *Asked about the boundaries of wards/population and potential for amalgamation?*

Nat Traeger advised that council would be commencing an electoral representation review in the 2019-2020 financial year. This is required to occur at least every eight years with the last review completed in September 2013. The purpose of a representation review is to determine whether our community would benefit from an alteration to its composition or ward structure. If the community considered amalgamation a viable option, it would during this process that the suggestion could be made.

#### 4. VERBAL SUBMISSIONS

Members of the gallery who would like to provide a verbal submission will be invited to make a submission to Council during the Special meeting, not exceeding a period of five (5) minutes.

The public hearing format will be as follows:

- Persons making a verbal submission will be given 5 minutes to present their case to Council.
- A reminder signal will be given just prior to the expiry of 5 minutes.
- Following each verbal submission, Council Members will be given the opportunity to ask questions or make comment of those making a verbal submission through the Chair.
- Following their presentation, the person making the verbal submission will resume their seat in the gallery.

At the time of circulating the Special meeting agenda Council had received no requests to make a verbal submission, however members of the public will still have the opportunity to make a verbal submission at the Special meeting (and will be asked to print their name on a sign-in sheet).