

Media Release

June Meeting Wrap

18 June 2018



Buloke Shire Council heard submissions to its draft Annual Budget 2018/19, adopted the Year 2 Action Plan and noted the results of the Customer Satisfaction Survey at its June Ordinary Meeting of Council.

Council received 15 submissions to its draft Annual Budget 2018/19, most of which were around the issue of farm rates. Four residents spoke to their submissions. The submissions were on the back of excellent two way consultation on this year's budget. Council will now consider the submissions ahead of adopting the budget at a Special Meeting of Council to be held next Wednesday 20 June 2018.

Council has adopted the Year 2 Action Plan as part of the implementation of the Council Plan 2017-2021. Building on Year 1, the Year 2 Action Plan has a stronger focus on the delivery of programs and capital following the feasibility, planning, strategy development and grant seeking of the previous year. The Year 2 Action Plan and the Council Plan 2017-2021 are available for inspection on Council's website.

Council has awarded \$1.6 million in flood restoration road works to Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd as part of an expected \$11 million program. The works will be done on Narrewillock – Quambatook Road and Teddywaddy Road.

Council will submit funding applications to Sports and Recreation Victoria for a combined \$320,000 for four projects across Buloke. The four projects funding is being sought for are the Birchip Community Leisure Centre unisex toilets, Donald Skate Park and splash play parks for Birchip and Donald.

Council approved interstate travel for the Mayor Cr David Pollard and CEO Anthony Judd to travel to the National General Assembly of Local Government held in Canberra between 17 and 20 June 2018. The Program consists of keynote addresses, and panel sessions that are designed work through the challenges faced by all Councils. This is an opportune time to discuss Buloke Shire Council's ongoing challenges and other relevant issues Rural Councils are dealing with on a day to day basis. There will be opportunity to again push and regain momentum for the Rural Living Campaign.

Council has noted improving results in the annual Customer Satisfaction Survey. Customer service scores showed the highest improvement, whilst overall performance, community consultation, advocacy, making community decisions and sealed local roads all improved from 2017 results.

The top three performing areas according to the survey are waste management, recreational facilities and appearance of public areas. In contrast areas for improvement for Council remain sealed and unsealed roads. Council notes the results of the report for future strategic planning and to ensure it is being responsive to the evolving needs of the community.

Council has adopted a planning scheme amendment for Lake Tchum, Lake Watchem and Lake Wooroonook to reflect public ownership. The amendment assists in facilitating the protection of the significant environmental qualities of the land, as well as recognising that the land is used for recreational purposes by the community.

Council noted a report on the recently concluded 2017/18 pool season. Attendance figures were slightly up over Buloke's seven pools with Charlton having its highest attendance in 12 years, going against the industry trend of declining numbers.

The minutes from 13 June 2018 Ordinary Meeting are available on Council's website.

Buloke Shire Council will hold a Special Meeting of Council next Wednesday 20 June to adopt the Annual Budget 2017/18.

Council's next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on Wednesday 11 July 2018.

End release

For further information contact Manager Customer Engagement, Travis Fitzgibbon on 03 5478 0181 or tfitzgibbon@buloke.vic.gov.au