

Media Release

May Meeting Wrap

11 May 2018

The draft Annual Budget 2018/19, the draft Economic Development and Tourism Strategy, progress on the Victorian Local Government Women's Charter, use of Lake Wooroonook for a music and arts festival and the awarding of more work for the Flood Restoration Program were key agenda items at a very important May Ordinary Meeting of Buloke Shire Council.

Council has approved its draft Annual Budget 2018/19 for public exhibition and submissions. Amongst the budget highlights is the setting of a 2% rate rise, which is below the rate cap of 2.25% set by the Essential Services Commission. In addition, Council has moved to reduce the differential rate for farming land from 98% to 90% in order to fairly share the rate burden across the community.

Council has also approved the draft Economic Development and Tourism Strategy for public exhibition. The strategy was compiled on the back of extensive consultation and focuses on a range of measures to enhance the local economy and tourism outcomes.

Both the draft Annual Budget 2018/19 and the draft Economic Development and Tourism Strategy are available for inspection on Council's website or you can obtain a hard copy from Council's Wycheproof Office.

Council issued a notice of Decision to Refuse a Planning Permit application for the use of the land at Lake Wooroonook for a music and Arts Festival on the basis that there is no consent to use the land from the land owner, in this case the Department of Environment, Water, Land and Planning. At its April Ordinary Meeting, Council made a decision not to grant a license to use the land.

Council has noted its continued progress on the Victorian Local Government Association's (VLGA) Women's Charter. Council supports the VLGA campaign to increase women's participation in local government as citizens, candidates and councillors. Council also acknowledges gender inequity is a key consideration in discrimination, family violence and violence against women.

Finally Council has awarded a further contract worth \$1.14 million as part of the Flood Restoration Program to Avar Civil from Bendigo. The roads to be restored in this part of the program are Barrakee Road and Back St Arnaud road, Charlton.

Council's next Ordinary Meeting will be held on Wednesday 13 June 2018.

End release

For further information contact Team Leader Communications, Travis Fitzgibbon on 03 5478 0181 or tfitzgibbon@buloke.vic.gov.au